

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction
Arizona Department of Education



Character Connections

RESPONSIBILITY

February 2008

For Teachers

Instant Messaging? Cyber-bullying? Netiquette? Online safety? Help students learn and practice **responsible use of technology**. Click [HERE](#) for free worksheets and lesson plans, grades K-8.



Pigsty by Mark Teague

A great, funny story about what happens when we neglect our responsibilities!

Click [HERE](#) for a searchable list of books that teach good character!

For Parents

Feel free to copy and paste the following excerpt to share with parents... Responsibility is doing what you are supposed to do. Responsible people think ahead, set reasonable goals, control their tempers and always do their best. They don't give up easily, especially when others are counting on them. They are accountable for the consequences of their choices; they don't blame others for their mistakes. You are teaching responsibility to your children when you:

Think before you act. Consider the consequences for yourself and others.
Be accountable. Take responsibility for the consequences of your actions.
Be reliable. Always perform your duties.
Set a good example in what you say and do.
Do your best! Make everything you do worthy of pride.
Stick to it! Meet your responsibilities even when it is difficult.

Click [HERE](#) for more information to share with parents!

What's New?

Character Challenge

5K Run/Walk

March 2, 2008

Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix

Come see the

Six Pillars Band!



For more information or to register, click [HERE](#)!

Continuing education credits in Character Education are now available through the University of Phoenix.

Managing Character Education in the Classroom
February 22-24

Call **480-557-2555** to register

Purchase

"A State of Good Character" license plate.

Click on Plate to order!



Contact Us

Arizona Dept. of Education
Character Education
and Development

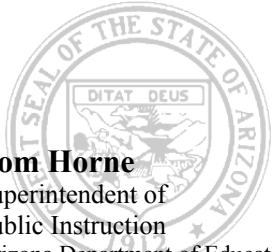
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ade.az.gov/charactered



azcharacteredfoundation.org

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NEXT PAGE!**



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What T.R.R.F.C.C. Schools!



Talk about "hands-on" learning! Students at **Desert Sun and Horseshoe Trails Elementary Schools**, in the Cave Creek Unified School District, are learning

the Six Pillars of Character through a remarkable program involving rescued horses. In partnership with the Arizona Equine Rescue Organization (AERO), teacher-nominated students at both schools participate once a month in a small group lesson about each pillar. Then, students have an opportunity to demonstrate this pillar as it relates to interacting with the horses (i.e. students show caring by helping to groom the horses). Finally, each student responds to a writing prompt using the Six Traits in a journal to reflect on the day's lesson and pillar.

Developed by Desert Sun fourth grade teacher Liz Gilkey and Soliel Dolce of AERO, this program has been taking place since 2006. Teachers are encouraged to nominate students for the program that may be struggling emotionally or socially and can benefit from the life skill and confidence-building nature of the program. Program leaders, teachers, and parents have seen life-enriching changes within students as they work through the equine facilitated Character Counts

Program. A student who bullied others became aware of the harm in his behaviors as he completed an interactive lesson with the horses on Respect. An extremely shy student developed the confidence to give a presentation on what she loved about the program. A highly active student realized he had the ability to control his actions and calm himself down to better interact with the horses and his peers. Interacting with the horses, journaling, and talking with teacher led peer groups helps students to gain personal growth in areas including inner-peace, self confidence, and respectful behaviors. What a terrific program...What T.R.R.F.C.C. Schools!



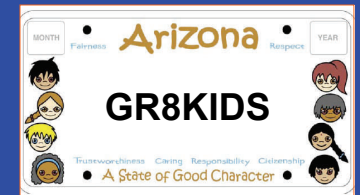
Congratulations!

Congrats to the 2008 Promising Practices in Character Education Award Recipients!

Alhambra District
Bales Elementary
Catalina Ventura School
Humphrey II Elementary
Ironwood Elementary
Sycamore Elementary

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the many unique ways these schools are developing character in students!

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Free Training and
Materials Available!