

Title of Session: School Counselors - Multicultural Issues

Moderator: Barbara Muller-Ackerman

Title of File: 20041215schoolcounselors

Date: December 15, 2004

Room: On Tap Café

BJ: ok, Barbara. Let's start with introductions, OK?

BarbaraMu: I have been a school counselor, at the elementary level, for the past 13 years, in NJ. Tonight's topic is multicultural education and resources for teaching about diversity.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a fan of Barbara's wonderful resources and ideas.

BarbaraMu: Thanks BJ

BenitaV: I'm a pre-service teacher attending University of Houston

BarbaraMu: I thought that the topic would be a timely one- since most educators will do lessons on diversity and cultural awareness around holiday time.

BarbaraMu: Thankfully, this kind of one-shot - or relegating these issues to a given time of year- is not the norm anymore.

BJ agrees

BarbaraMu: Most of the teaching of respect and appreciation of similarities and differences can be found in integrated full year character education programs.

BarbaraMu: But since we have talked about that topic and added resources for it many times this year, I wanted to offer others specific to this subject.

BJ: Benita hopes to do early childhood, Barbara

BenitaV: yep

BarbaraMu: Great! Then my resources will be right on target!

BenitaV: thanks

BJ . o O (Benita, you can also read the archived transcripts from Barbara's past discussions at www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

BarbaraMu: One of the best generic education sites is Education World. Filled with themes and lessons, they have an archive of holiday specific information- Hanukkah- Christmas- Kwanzaa at

<http://www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/december.shtml>

BarbaraMu: If you take a look, there are some wonderful resources for you there.

BJ . o O (you may have to hold down your ctrl button on your keyboard)

BenitaV: wow..

BenitaV: thanks

BarbaraMu: Let me know when you are back and ready for others.

BenitaV: ok..back..I saved them for later reads

BenitaV: great site

BarbaraMu: Sue LeBeau, who has terrific compilations of resources on the web, has an area of monthly celebrations that you will love in your work with kids but she also has an area specifically for multicultural themes at

BarbaraMu: <http://www.suelebeau.com/multicultural.htm>

BenitaV: ok

BJ: I like the connection between the culture and the values

BenitaV: me too

BarbaraMu: At this site she goes into cultural awareness and then a theme which goes with it. This page also allows you to back into the monthly celebrations site as well as other curriculum areas she has collected resources for.

BenitaV: now Barbara...how can one integrate this into a bilingual class setting?

BarbaraMu: Integrate what exactly, Bonita?

BarbaraMu: the values? the lessons? the thematic approach?

BenitaV: the values and lesson...mainly...I have a Spanish bilingual class which I'm observing and my other non bilingual class uses some of these lessons ..I was just wondering if one can use these lesson in a bilingual classroom

BarbaraMu: I would think that there is a lot of cultural richness which bilingual kids can bring to these lessons- and a lot they can contribute to the non bilingual classes as well

BenitaV: yeah you're right

BarbaraMu: giving them a sense of leadership and value by sharing what they can contribute to the whole

BarbaraMu: that the others may have been unaware of.

BenitaV: agree

BenitaV: good information Barbara...I'm loving all of this

BarbaraMu: I am thinking even in a traditional class here- in a preschool, where parents come in at this time of the year, who are Jewish, and they make latkes and tell the story of the dreidel, etc. And at Chinese New Year, how the parents come in and lead the class in making red money envelopes

BarbaraMu: these sound trite but at preschool level you are talking about awareness

BarbaraMu: of other cultures, of people who are the same and also different from us

BarbaraMu: the bilingual kids have their gifts to offer as well

BenitaV: now Barbara....how pre-school are you reaching....Pre-k...K. or older

BarbaraMu: I work with 4-10 year olds; pre-k to grade 4

BenitaV: wow...interesting...

BarbaraMu: at preschool level, so much of the curriculum centers on holidays and seasons and cultures...as well as socialization - respect, taking turns, acceptance, compliments, etc

BenitaV: right

BarbaraMu: Here is a beautiful 35 page early childhood resource with art and poetry and activities is available at civil rights.org in a pdf file at <http://www.civilrights.org/publications/reports/alltogethernow/atn.pdf>

BarbaraMu: I have this one printed off and kept in a binder as a resource I share with teachers.

BJ: now it's my turn to say wow!

BenitaV: double wow

BarbaraMu: A free magazine, Teaching Tolerance, and wonderful resources and lesson plans can be gotten from <http://Tolerance.org> If you click on the teachers area, you can order free kits, you can call up grade specific lesson plans, and order the magazine- all of which are free.

BJ agrees. Teaching Tolerance is a great resource, Benita

BarbaraMu: And they continue to develop new free resources. The preschool book and video is called Starting Small and has many good ideas. They also came up with a free kit for encouraging friendship building through songs that they wrote and made available to early educators.

BarbaraMu: You just need to request these resources on a school letterhead and then they are willing to keep the materials free for you.

BarbaraMu: The Jefferson County (Colorado) Counselors have wonderful resources online. They have a specific area of multicultural lesson plans designated as K-4 or 5-8 at <http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/passport/lessonplan/lessonindex.htm>

BJ: Barbara, may I interject a comment here?

BJ: Benita, I know you were required to join a discussion as part of your class...

BenitaV: yes

BJ: but Tapped In is a community of practice. It's designed to be a place for professional development and collegial support throughout an educator's career

BJ: so please think about joining other discussions even if they aren't part of an assignment!

BarbaraMu: The K-3 Resource group is certainly one to consider!

BJ . o O (where else would you get all this great information?)

BarbaraMu: The resources Sue shares are awesome!!

BenitaV: right...and I'm teaching a dual language 1st grade class...I'm on my masters

BarbaraMu: Congratulations! My daughter is also going for her masters in teaching

BarbaraMu: Sue also has a K-3 resource room where all her resources are stored and you can visit anytime.

BarbaraMu: I am back to the topic.....For those wanting terrific lesson plans and resources, Paul Gorski started the Multicultural Pavilion at <http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/>

BenitaV: thanks.. I will..

BarbaraMu: Along with going into the educators area, there are some serious resource forums and listservs that you can join at this site. These really keep you talking with other educators interested in nurturing and growing diversity education in the schools

BarbaraMu: This source gives you access to many different aspects of multicultural education. There are other sites that may promote a specific program. One, The Anti-Defamation League has a program called "A World of Difference". Within that area, is a K-6 bibliography of children's books

BarbaraMu: <http://www.adl.org/bibliography/default.asp?whichCat=1>

BarbaraMu: These are all listed with specific grade levels to make it easier to select a book to work a lesson around.

BarbaraMu: Another great program we have spoken about before is championed by dosomething.org They run the Kindness and Justice Challenge every year- 9 days of programming beginning with the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Once you register at their site, you can download really excellent curriculum. They are also grade level specific, including Pre-K/K

BarbaraMu: I am wondering if either of you have any resources you use or have that would work well for others in this category?

BarbaraMu: We actually were just about to end...I am sure that BJ can send you the transcript with all the resources we have shared. What level are you working with?

BJ: I think you've given us some great stuff to look at Barbara. I was familiar with some of it, but some is new. Thanks so much for taking time from your hectic schedule to share with us.

BenitaV: thanks Barbara

BenitaV: and also BJ for all your help and info

BarbaraMu: Thanks BJ- look forward to kicking off the year next month with great resources for counselors and counseling themes.

BJ: happy holidays everyone...hope you all get some well deserved rest!

BJ: sounds excellent, Barbara.

BarbaraMu: Same to you!

BarbaraMu: G'night all.

BenitaV: same

BJ: January 27 is the next session

BJ waves goodnight