

JDC NEWSLETTER

A Critical Community of Practice Inspiring an Empowering Culture of Thinking

- Community service (go to PAL and help out with the after-school program.)
- Be good influence and teach them (kids) legal things.
- Neighborhood watch.
- Not go into people's houses.
- Lead friends the right way.
- Build a youth soccer league.
- Commit less crimes.
- No guns.
- No drugs.
- Stop violence.
- Stop bullying.
- Meeting my girlfriend.

***“Thinking of
different ways of
thinking. What
you think is what
you DO!”***

THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING

The power of positive thinking was discussed with a group of young men residing at the Miami-Dade Regional Detention Center. The participants came together as part of the Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program. Aspiring to create an empowering culture of thinking through a critical community of practice, the young men composed a list of challenges and resolutions that would impact their community with positive outcomes. The list of initiatives created at the meeting is printed in the column to the far left along with the groups' thoughts on an empowering culture of thinking in bold font in the middle column.

Maya Angelou

April 4, 1928-
May 28, 2014

I'VE LEARNED THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, OR HOW BAD IT SEEMS TODAY, LIFE DOES GO ON, AND IT WILL BE BETTER TOMORROW. I'VE LEARNED THAT YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A PERSON BY THE WAY HE OR SHE HANDLES THESE THREE THINGS: A RAINY DAY, LOST LUGGAGE, AND TANGLED CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS. I'VE LEARNED THAT REGARDLESS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PARENTS, YOU'LL MISS THEM WHEN THEY'RE GONE FROM YOUR LIFE. I'VE LEARNED THAT MAKING A LIVING IS NOT THE SAME THING AS MAKING A LIFE. I'VE LEARNED THAT LIFE SOMETIMES GIVES YOU A SECOND CHANCE. I'VE LEARNED THAT YOU SHOULDN'T GO THROUGH LIFE WITH A CATCHER'S MITT ON BOTH HANDS; YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO THROW SOME THINGS BACK. I'VE LEARNED THAT WHENEVER I DECIDE SOMETHING WITH AN OPEN HEART, I USUALLY MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION. I'VE LEARNED THAT EVEN WHEN I HAVE PAINS, I DON'T HAVE TO BE ONE. I'VE LEARNED THAT EVERY DAY YOU SHOULD REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE. PEOPLE LOVE A WARM HUG, OR JUST A FRIENDLY PAT ON THE BACK.



Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program

'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

*You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.*

*Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.*

*Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.*

*Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.*

*Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard,
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.*

*You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.*

*Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?*

*Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise*

*I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise*

*Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise*

*Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.*

I rise

I rise

I rise.

Thank you...

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