

March 2018

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GrandAM March Newsletter

Grand Area Mentoring / (435) 260-9646

Special Delivery



Agui & Meg



Britta & Landen



Advanced Mentor Training:

Understanding Poverty w/ Nan Marquardt

March 22nd
4:30-5:30pm

HMK Elementary School
Room 141

Did you know?

One of the most important middle class rules is that work and achievement tend to be the driving forces in decision-making. For those living in poverty, though, the driving forces are survival, entertainment, and relationships. For those in the middle class, prison is viewed as unlikely and terrible. For those in poverty, prison is often seen as an inevitability.

These are only a few of the rules that illustrate a vital point: **mentors, who often hail from the middle class, do not know the hidden rules of poverty.** Likewise, students raised in poverty simply do not know the middle class's hidden rules.

In this training, Nan will share many of the insights found in Ruby Payne's book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*. Dr. Payne's work provides a wide range of tools and resources for working with children and families who have limited financial resources.

Understanding your mentee may start right here.



This Month in Mentoring

- o **March 2nd:** Staff dvmt. No mentoring.
- o **March 22nd, 4:30-5:30, HMK Elementary Room 141: Understanding Poverty!** Have you ever wondered why your mentee makes befuddling choices or says surprising things? Want a window into his/her psyche? Join us for this critical training that promises to let mentors in on the hidden rules that operate under the surface of many mentees' lives.
- o **March 26-30: Spring break.** No school. No mentoring.

Save the date: Mentor Roundtable!

April 12, 5-6pm

Grand County Public Library Large Meeting Room

You're not alone.

Join us to talk about the mentoring experience, discuss your hurdles & successes, learn from others about how they have handled tough situations, and reflect with staff on best practices. This is an opportunity to talk about mentoring with people who have been there.

Grand Area Mentoring

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NEW Propeller Questions –

Fly into a meaningful conversation!



Which of your friends encourages you to make good decisions? How do they encourage you?

If you had one million dollars, what would you do with it?

How important is it to do your best on a job? Why?

Policy Reminder: Turn phone OFF

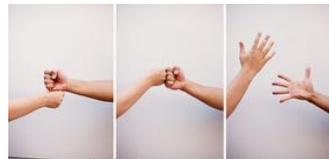


For the good of the mentoring relationship, a mentor offers full attention during sessions. **THEY TURN THEIR CELL PHONE OFF.** Please: no texting, no talking, and no distractions. Thank you!

Mentoring Idea of the Month #1: Create a tradition!

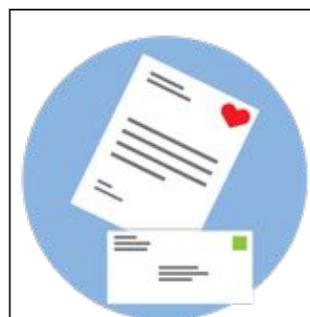
Whether it's a handshake or special way you say goodbye, a ritual can help give kids a sense of stability. They like knowing what to expect. Rituals can also help children feel supported and close to their mentors. And they're fun!

One of your fellow mentors came up with a poem she recites to her mentee. Another sings a song to her mentee – *You Got a Friend in Me*. It doesn't need to be repeated at each session, or even every month; some mentors and mentees decorate holiday cookies annually and involve other matches in the joy.



Mentoring Idea of the Month #2: Tout Your Mentee!

Think about how your mentee has grown or improved. Pay particular attention to any non-cognitive skills he or she has practiced recently. Look for things like: perseverance, curiosity, conscientiousness, grit, self control, stress management, goal setting, empathy, appreciating diversity, teamwork, and reflecting. Maybe your mentee no longer cheats at games. Maybe she is better at sharing a snack with others. Perhaps he sticks with difficult tasks longer or has gotten better at saying hello and goodbye to bookend mentoring sessions.



A letter to your mentee's parent can open a door!

Once you're identified a domain of improvement, draft a card or letter to your mentee's guardian(s). Tell them about the growth you've seen and the ways in which your mentee is maturing. Before you deliver it to your mentee's guardian, read it to your mentee.

This is a great way to strengthen your mentoring relationship, the relationship between child and parent, and the connection you have with your mentee's guardian – all while focusing on a place where your mentee has shown improvement! Whoa!