

'Give Where You Live Niagara: The Caravan of Character'

Dear Parents:

We are writing to inform you that your son/daughter has shown an interest in participating in an exciting learning opportunity for the students of Niagara!

Give Where You Live Niagara: The Caravan of Character is the name of a project which was developed in order to encourage elementary, secondary, college and university students to learn about the non-profit/charitable agencies and organizations in Niagara. We are hoping to provide them with a chance to '**give where they live**' and spend some time learning about volunteering at a variety of community organizations throughout the region of Niagara.

We are sure you will agree that the more our students know about the needs and the opportunities in their own community, the greater the chance of them devoting their time, concern and passion when they are older!

The time line for the project is as follows:

November 30th, 2010:

On November 30th, students will be given the opportunity to "pick their passion" by visiting a "Carousel of Community" organizations at Collegiate Secondary School. This will take place from 10am to 2pm. A permission form will be sent home in November. Children must bring their own peanut free lunch to eat. They will be given a Resume/Application package to complete once they have chosen their favourite organization. Applications will be collated and groups will be developed.

January 11th, February 23rd and March 31st, 2011:

During this time we are hoping that the students can spend up to three days volunteering at the organization of their choice. They will be in groups comprising of students from elementary and secondary schools, as well as college and university students.

April 28th 2011:

The groups will come back together for a day to develop a media display/presentation and reflect on their time at the Community Agencies.

May 27th 2011:

All of the students will 'caravan' together to a site (to be determined) to share their learning from their volunteer experience/organization and celebrate their community service learning.

More information and permission forms will be sent home in the months to come. Today we are asking that you become aware of the project and sign the bottom portion of the page to allow your son/daughter to participate.

The deadline to return this form: **Monday, November 8, 2010.**

We hope that your son/daughter will benefit greatly from participating in this experience!

Sincerely,

Kim Barton and Lisa Osborne, Sheridan Park School, on behalf of:

Deb McLean, Connaught Public School

Jennifer Jinks, Quaker Road Public School

Marty Mako, Niagara Region

Co-Chairs, Give Where You Live Niagara: Caravan of Character Committee

I have read the above note and understand that my son/daughter will be committing to participate in the **Give Where You Live Niagara: The Caravan of Character** project from November 2010 until the end of May 2011.

I also understand that parent volunteers will be transporting my son/daughter to and from the events.

I give permission for _____, in _____'s
(students name) (teacher)

class to participate in the Give Where You Live Niagara: The Caravan of Character.

Parent Signature

Date

*** * Completion and return of this form indicates interest but will not guarantee a spot.**