



## MAKE YOUR DAY

A SCHOOL-WIDE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS  
TEACHERS TO TEACH AND ALLOWS STUDENTS TO LEARN

### Earl's Corner

The original idea for points was initiated by the boys in my classroom over 25 years ago. They were seeking a system that allowed them to take credit for exceptional work and behavior, while accepting responsibility for any problems that might have occurred during that class period. This version remained very much intact as I consulted in the area of special education. Teachers felt there was significant value in allowing students the opportunity to introspect and discuss their strengths and weaknesses. Many felt that the value in this experience superseded much of the academic subject matter. The net result of allowing students the opportunity to essentially compliment themselves 6-8 times daily translated into a higher level of performance in academics, while we saw a pronounced difference in their behavior. Although, there was no formal measure for self-esteem, it was noted that attitude, body language and social interactions dramatically changed.

When first consulting with Make Your Day as a schoolwide system in the regular education setting, I constantly battled with some teachers as to the value of doing points. Thus it was important at the time to compromise the integrity of the event by eliminating, perhaps, the truest piece of affirmation in points. Schools that have struggled with the perception that points focus only on the negative have returned the original format. Classrooms that have given equal time for students to discuss something that went well for them during that period have seen dramatic changes - behaviorally and academically.

Several classrooms have formatted points so that a student who reports their values must state what he/she did to earn the value established by identifying one of the following: what I learned; what I was proudest of; what behavior I changed. A rote answer of 'I did what I was supposed to do.' is not accepted. When students have identified something they specifically learned that period, it has given the teacher greater insight on how their lesson was internalized or not. The additional time that students take to validate how they earned points has reduced classroom conflict and increased attending behavior. When students know they must validate the points earned they are not simply looking at how many times they chose steps or how many times they talked out, but they know in advance they are expected to reiterate a portion of that lesson. Students, themselves, report that complimenting oneself is initially very difficult, but cumulatively it makes them feel "better about themselves." Future trainings will always be presented with this format and I apologize to those of you who have struggled to find this element. In hindsight, my kids taught the best way to do it and I compromised my own students, what could have been given to you as teachers and the students currently using Make Your Day. Give this a try. Talk to your students about implementing this within your system. You may be surprised at the results. For those of you who are already doing this, I applaud you for spending the extra time on self-esteem. If you are already doing this, please let us know so that others may use you as a resource.

Next month, I will share with you what some schools have done to strengthen the program in common areas.

### Make Your Day Conference February 5, 2005

Nearly 90 people attended the first Make Your Day Conference, which was almost capacity for the site. There was representation from **Arizona, Washington and Connecticut**. Earl reminded the participants in his opening remarks to use this day as an opportunity to "shoplift" ideas from each other.

**Joel Davidson**, a retired Principal and Special Education Director in Washington School District, Arizona, was honored as the first person to recognize the potential of using this model on a school-wide basis. Without his vision, Make Your Day would not have moved beyond special education. **John Gordon**, Superintendent of Cave Creek School District, Arizona, was recognized for his role in the expansion of Make Your Day beyond Arizona. When he was an Assistant Superintendent in Wenatchee, Washington, he observed Make Your Day in action in Arizona and felt it would have a positive impact on the learning environment in his district. Make Your Day spread throughout Washington and Alaska based on the effectiveness with which Wenatchee School District implemented the program.

The keynote speaker, **Dr. Tacy Ashby**, reminded the participants about the effectiveness of a school-wide approach and the importance of an educator's role in the life of a student. As always,



**Earl welcoming those attending the first Make Your Day Conference. John Gordon and Joel Davidson are just about to be recognized for the impact they had on Make Your Day.**



**Dr. Tacy Ashby, the keynote speaker and master educator, spoke to the group about using their**

- H - Hope for all students**
- E - Everybody using the program**
- A - Always being consistent**
- R - Be reasonable**
- T - Transparency, imbed the program into your curriculum**

**We heard from many people who immediately used this at their schools. Using Make Your Day with HEART will be the theme for the upcoming conference.**



**The Administrative strand, facilitated by Dr. Gail Fleming and Ann Spratt (Washington Middle School Principal of the Year) allowed administrators collaborate and share ideas about how they support MYD at their school. Chad Foltz, Assistant Principal at Park Middle School, presented on the**

...her time appreciation and responsibility of an educator from another state community. Her energy she left the audience feeling inspired and wanting more.

**positive impact that the MYD Student Committee has had at his school**

We appreciated the willingness of the attendees to share ideas about the strengths and weaknesses of the conference. Based on the evaluations, the Seattle conference will allow more time for collaboration and answering specific questions. The Learning and Implementing, Maintaining and Updating, and the Administrative Role strands will consist of break-out sessions that will be rated as Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced to help participants determine what will meet their needs.

Looking forward to seeing you in Seattle!

## »Upcoming Events

✓ August 1-2, 2005

**Make Your Day Training - Arizona**

- Designed for staff working at a school using Make Your Day who have not attended a full training or would like a review
- Location to be determined

✓ August 22-23, 2005

**Make Your Day Training - Washington**

- Designed for staff working at a school using Make Your Day who have not attended a full training or would like a review
- **Best Western Alderwood**  
19332 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue W.  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

✓ August 24-25, 2005

**Make Your Day Training - Washington**

- Designed for staff working at a school using Make Your Day who have not attended a full training or would like a review
- **Best Western Kennewick Inn**  
4001 W. 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Kennewick, WA 99337



**The Maintaining and Updating strand was designed for MYD Committee members and was facilitated by Susan Countrymen and Carol Sargee. TI participants appreciated being able to learn and share ideas about work with their staffs in a variety of settings as they provide support with implementing MYD. After hearing the presentation on student committee many went back to their schools eager to take advantage of their student expertise.**



**Teachers, parents, and students (yes, we had students attending) participated in a one-day training designed for those who wanted a refresher or hadn't been formally trained. Bonnie Hiemstra was challenged to squeeze two days of training into one day, but participants felt that it was a beneficial review and reminded them of what they were doing well and some areas of improvement. The students brought their perspective and were not afraid to jump right in and participate. We hope to see more students in Seattle.**

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**Annual Conference**  
**September 16-17, 2005**  
**Seattle, WA**

- Information and registration will be available on the website by March
- **Washington State Convention & Trade Center**  
800 Convention Place  
Seattle, WA 98101-2350

✓ Fall 2006

- Make Your Day Conference - Arizona
- There will be a Call for Presentations. Start thinking about sharing what your school does that is innovative and supports best practices.

## Websites:

[Parents](#)

[Schools](#)

[Our school would like to use MYD.](#)

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