

THE MORALE FAIRY'S NEWSLETTER

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December 4th through December 8th is **Employee Learning Week 2006**. We encourage everyone to recognize the importance of employee learning and development and the value of lifelong learning.

This installment of The Morale Fairy's newsletter features part three of the series, "Putting S.P.R.I.N.G. in Their Steps Puts a Spring in Yours." We've looked at SMILE and PRAISE. This month the focus is on RESPECT.

RESPECT

Respect for ourselves and others used to be a hallmark in our society. The word, 'pride,' meant a great deal in our personal and professional lives. Just as many other characteristics have undergone dramatic changes in the past thirty years, RESPECT has lost much of its importance and has declined dramatically.

This is not an improvement! We are suffering with the effects of the lack of respect. The 'me – generation' demanded rights without responsibility. Our children have watched TV programs designed to be sarcastic humor for adults and have patterned their behavior after the characters on the shows. Ridicule and harassment are considered funny. Everyone is fair game – from the president of the United States to our senior citizens to anyone who makes an honest mistake. Bart Simpson is 'cool' and Lisa Simpson is a 'nerd.' We complain about the road rage and rudeness we experience daily. In many homes children as young as two years old are running the show and parents seem powerless to draw the line of appropriate behavior. Is it any wonder morale is negatively affected?

There's hope for the future though! More and more people are realizing that 'doing your own thing' may not be constructive behavior in our society. We're becoming aware that total tolerance of 'anything goes' is unproductive.

Guidelines are being established and followed. Sexual harassment and 'put-downs' (even disguised as humor) are no longer being tolerated. How we dress definitely affects our behavior and it shows respect for others. Dress codes again provide guidance on appropriate attire for school/work environments. The study and practice of manners is seeing a revival. We now realize that it helps to know how to behave correctly in social and business situations. Be polite and encourage your coworkers and family to do the same.

According to Steven Covey, “Most people respond to being treated with respect by elevation of their thoughts and actions to the same level of respect they are given – or beyond.” One of the best ways to show people that we respect them is to LISTEN. This is especially important when you don’t agree or don’t think the opinion has value. By listening, without prejudging or offering solutions, we show people we value them.

And, perhaps just as important, treat yourself with respect. Think before you act and strive to only do those things that boost your self-respect.

QUOTES

“Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he can and should be and he will become as he can and should be.” Johann Goethe

“Leadership is communicating people’s worth and potential so clearly that they are inspired to see it in themselves.” Stephen Covey

“For those who are always courteous and respectful of elders, four things increase: life, beauty, happiness and strength.” Buddha, The Dhammapada

“A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone.” Billy Graham

“Any time you give a man something he doesn't earn, you cheapen him. Our kids earn what they get, and that includes respect.” Woody Hayes (1913-1987) US football coach

“One of the beauties of being polite is that you are showing respect for the other person, customer, or coworker. You can never go wrong by being sincerely polite.” Holly Stiel

”. . . what women want is what men want. They want respect.” Marilyn vos Savant

“No one is happy unless he respects himself.” Jean Jacques Rousseau

”Respect yourself and others will respect you.” Confucius

“That you may retain your self--respect, it is better to displease the people by doing what you know is right, than to temporarily please them by doing what you know is wrong.” William J. H. Boetcker

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Building Your Company’s Good Name (Davis Young)

Everyday Greatness (Stephen Covey)

RESOURCE

<http://careerplanning.about.com/od/bosscoworkers/a/respect.htm>

SMILES

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Snowflakes.

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?
Because he had low elf esteem.

Which of Santa's reindeers needs to mind his manners the most?
"Rude"olph

Why is it so cold at Christmas?
It's in Decembrrrrr.

What happened when the snowgirl broke up with the snowboy ?
She gave him the cold shoulder !

What do elves learn in school?
The Elf-abet!

What do angry rodents send at Christmas?
Cross mouse cards.