

Christmas - The Season of Giving

Developed by: by Jane Blaile 2008 TOTT™

Discipline / Subject: community service/character education/service learning

Topic: generosity

Grade Level: 4-8

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs: List of mushers and the charities they support.

Lesson Summary: Students will learn that many mushers in the Iditarod take the commitment of the race an extra step by supporting a charitable organization or illness research project through their race efforts. Some students may choose to participate in service learning or supporting charitable organizations in their communities.

Standard's Addressed:

Although there are no character education standards, the Character Education Partnership, which sponsors the Schools of Character Awards Program, states Principle 1: Schools of character are those that promote core ethical values as the basis of good character and Principle 2: Students grow to understand core values by studying and discussing them, observing behavioral models, and resolving problems involving the values.

Learning objectives:

The students will:

- understand that many mushers in the Iditarod reach out to others in need (knowledge)
- list charitable organizations which mushers support (knowledge)
- write letters to mushers thanking them for their philanthropy (evaluation)

Assessment:

Students can describe a charitable organization, name one in their community, and tell some ways to support it.

Procedural Activities:

1. Ask students what illness research or charitable organizations they are familiar with. If possible, have them identify the organizations as local, national, or worldwide.
2. Share a list of mushers and the causes they support.
3. Have the students research the organization and what it does, and ask them to present it to the rest of the class.
4. Encourage them to write letters of thanks to mushers for supporting good causes.

Materials Students Need:

Internet for research, paper and pencil for letter writing

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning: Internet access

Other Information:

Students may want to contact mushers through their individual websites and ask them about the causes they support.

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

Brainstorm ways they might become involved in the same or similar organizations such as manning a water table at a race fundraiser.