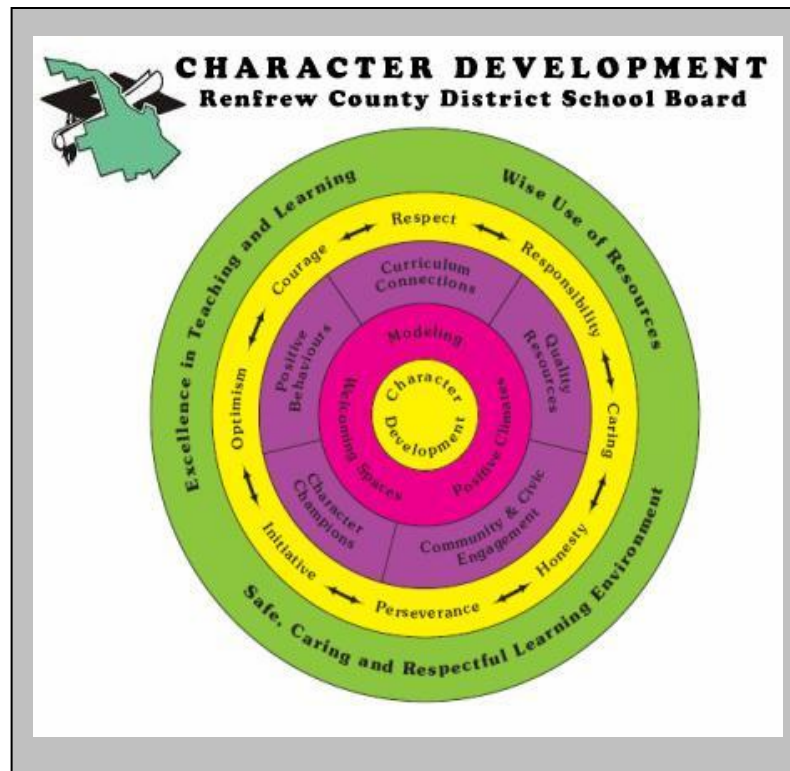


Board-wide Action

Character Champions Day ...

About the program ...

For the past two years, the Renfrew County District School Board has hosted annual character development energizing sessions for their “character champions” – staff and students from each school in the board. The sessions are designed to build capacity to help the character champions promote the [board’s character virtues](#). The sessions start with an inspirational message, followed by students and staff sharing ways to advance the board’s eight virtues within the context of its three key outcomes: excellence in teaching and learning; safe, caring and respectful learning environments; and wise use of resources. At these sessions, students and staff have also provided input and ideas about board plans, such as the 2008 Character Development System Poster Contest, and collaboratively plan next steps for advancing character development in their own schools. Participants at the 2009 *Character Champions Day*, including several trustees, heard an Ontario Provincial Police officer’s first-hand account about the importance of making good decisions relating to cyber-safety. As in the previous year, participants indicated the sessions were powerful and motivated them to take action back at their schools.



Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students and staff reinforced the importance of being responsible and respectful and, especially, of maintaining a welcoming learning environment.
- The 2008 Poster Contest resulted in hundreds of student posters being created and posted in schools. These posters continue to promote the board character virtues and help teachers and students maintain the focus on good character.
- When they returned to their home schools, the character champions modelled activities they learned at the energizing sessions.
- Student and staff champions were further motivated and inspired to begin new character development projects in their schools and across the board.
- Students and staff at the sessions gave input into the current year’s board multimedia character contest.

“The transformational work of character development is foundational in supporting the board’s three key outcomes.”

– Roger Clarke, Director of Education

To find out more, contact ...

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