



P.O. Box 42
Monterey CA 93942

Non-profit 501 (c) 3
Corporate Tax # 77-0310237

respect@cpy.org
www.cpy.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 170
Monterey, CA 93942

*It Takes Everyone to
Build a Community*

The CPY Standards are behavior guidelines that all CPY staff and students must memorize and demonstrate.

The CPY Standards are founded upon the principles of Integrity and Respect.



CPY STANDARDS

1. In CPY, we greet each other everyday with a smile and a handshake to strengthen the relationship between us.
2. In CPY, we honor and respect each other so we address one another with the proper language and speech.
3. In CPY, we value the space of ourselves and others and are careful not to intrude or injure each other.
4. In CPY, we are mindful of what is true and strive to be honest in word and deed.
5. In CPY, we treasure our rich heritage and hold the cultures of all people in high regard.
6. In CPY, we strive to reflect our beauty both inwardly in our understanding and outwardly in our appearance.



CPY Storyteller



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH NO. 4, NOVEMBER, 2002

Building or Shaping a Community One Child at a Time

"Building Community" was the theme of the CPY summer intersession, which we brought alive to the 229 children who joined us on a daily basis (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). It was an opportunity to **review the important life lessons** that we have emphasized this past year: the importance of community, selflessness, and "true" priorities, while making it relevant to their own lives. These concepts are the backbone of CPY as displayed in our standards, however the concept of **"Building Community"** allowed the children an additional opportunity to recognize the meaningfulness of **"living the CPY Standards"** not only in CPY, but also out in their community.

CPY used every opportunity to incorporate our theme of **"Building Community"** into the structured activities. The focuses allowed us a week to learn and live each new idea, including: "Getting to Know Your



Neighborhood", "Being Safe in Your Community," "Helping Others," "Being a Responsible Citizen," and "Being Kind and Respectful to Others." **Many of these ideas came from the children's own definition of what "Building Community" meant to them.** Their responses were then incorporated through journals, small group discussions, stories, real-life examples, service-learning trips, and other experiences to aid in their understanding.

An extra emphasis was placed on the **necessity of community service.** As giving back to the community is a critical component of building community, the children were encouraged to give of themselves in many different ways:

- A group of fourth graders spent several afternoons at the Monterey Pines Residential Community **reading and working on arts and crafts projects with some of the elderly residents.** The residents and the girls thoroughly enjoyed building relationships with one another, while the girls reaped the intrinsic rewards felt from helping others.
- The **Middle School Junior Leaders** were given the opportunity to **volunteer in organizing and working game booths at the City of Seaside's Fourth of July celebration, "The Parade of Champions."** The students



worked on creating games, making decorations, and face painting. They then donated their time to work at the booths to help raise money for CPY while providing fun activities for the community.

- **Trash clean up** in the school and in the community was one good deed that took the participation of the entire CPY family. The **children learned that in order to take pride in their school and their community, they must strive to keep that area clean.**
- The California State University of Monterey Bay (**CSUMB Service Learning Center**) organized two **service-learning days on the university campus.** All students had the opportunity to learn about the special needs of the Fort Ord community and **assist in planting, weeding, etc.** For some, it was the **first time visiting a college campus.**
- The **CSUMB Service Learning Center** and the **California State Park Rangers** assisted CPY by incorporating a **community service component** into our annual Toro Park field trip. The children arrived at the park eager to help with **painting, raking, weeding, and clean up.** After volunteering all morning, the children worked up an appetite for the wonderful BBQ lunch. CSUMB also arranged special scavenger hunt hikes for the children, where they were able to **appreciate the beautiful attributes of nature.**

A group of aspiring journalists spent several afternoons conducting interviews and putting together articles for the newsletter. We hope you enjoy it!!!

FROM THE *Executive Director*

This summer we surveyed a cross section of our CPY students, (225) from Marina, Monterey and Seaside. The survey showed that in a world where a large majority of our children do not feel safe, ninety-nine percent of the children felt **safe at CPY** and the majority felt **that the leaders listened and cared for them.**

The survey indicated that thirteen percent had been homeless and that sixty-eight percent had lived with friends or family. Sixty-two percent are living with more than five people in their home: twenty one percent—six to seven; ten percent—eight to nine people; **and ten percent with over ten or more people living together.**

One of our young leaders was struggling. He shared that it was difficult because of the friction in his home. Sixteen people are living under the same roof. **Many of our young people do not have a space to call their own.** This school year we have had more uncoordinated children and more "little" accidents. It seems they have no place at home to run, climb and jump.

Seventy-six percent have had a family member die, twenty-two percent have had family members killed and eighteen percent have had friends killed. Sixty percent **know someone in jail or prison.** Forty-six percent indicated parents, five percent siblings and thirty-four percent a relative or friend.

One of our young man's mother died of an overdose his father is in prison, his grandparents are now raising him. A young lady, father doing life sentence for murder, mother out of the picture—lived with sick grandfather—now with foster parents. A young man found his father who hung himself. One young man has already been "written off," his father is in prison, and his mother just got out, but is sick with alcoholism. He has not been attending school on a regular basis—no one gets him up in the morning. **He is angry, frustrated and confused and seeks attention in inappropriate ways.** When he is not suspended from school he comes to CPY each day hungry and **seeking love and affirmation.**

When asked about guns, fifteen percent indicated they had touched a gun, many at home; twenty three percent have seen someone use a gun, other than in the movies or on TV. Forty-



five percent have seen someone use drugs, many indicated at home. When asked if they had tried to smoke, six percent said yes, and only three percent have tried to use drugs. **Prevention is working!!!**

When asked if they had any family members who had graduated from college seventeen percent indicated yes, and eighty-eight percent indicated that they plan to go to college. We know that our students are going to need help to get ready for the high school exit exam starting in 2004. **Our work is cut out for us.**

In CPY we stress what it means to be a role model and discuss to whom in our community we look up to. In the past when asked what do you want to be when you grow up a large majority answered football/basketball player or singer. This year there was a big change from the past, the majority answered **vocations that were helping others** such as: doctor, lawyer, teacher, police officer, fireman, nurse, dentist, veterinarian, and artist. Only 2% said NFL and 4% NBA and 4% Singer.

So often it is difficult to know if our prevention programs truly are working. We do know that our children require a great deal of love, affirmation, listening ears and open hearts and a willingness for adults to see the big picture and look past judgment. **Life is not equitable or fair!**

The children are decorating angels that you will see around town during the holidays. As I spoke with a Site Coordinator who has been with CPY since the very beginning, she spoke of our "little angels" with broken wings, rusty halos but big hearts. **Our young people are very resilient and want to be successful.** CPY is blessed to be working with our wonderful children and our young people who have grown up through the program and are now learning to be role models. **Sometimes it is overwhelming to see the hardships our little ones are challenged with as they grow up.**

As you read of our Summer Intersession be aware that the **Fall intersession was cancelled**, the first time in twelve years, that we were not able to have our all day intersession **because of funding.** As the students returned after the break we heard comments like.

- We had to stay in the house all day long while mommy was working.
- We were bored – nothing to do.
- I really missed the leaders.
- I went to another program – but they did not know about respect.
- I was sad – I enjoy working on homework with the leaders.

CPY cannot do it alone. A German proverb states: "When one helps another, both are strong." Please consider a gift that will invest in the life of a child as well as our future. **Thank you for caring!!**

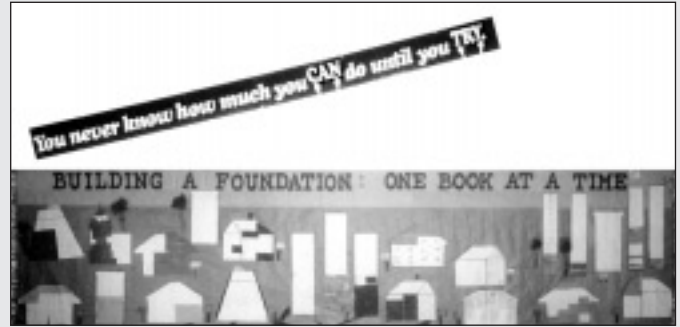
Janeer Straley

Academic Support

The daily practice of writing thank you letters to the supportive friends of CPY is important for the children, as it teaches them to possess an "attitude of gratitude" while continuing to work on the improvement of their vocabulary and writing mechanics. The children seemed to have a greater appreciation for the help that we received this summer, as they were able to make a connection between the gifts from so many different members of our community and how that contributes to "Building Community".

With nearly two months away from the classroom, CPY understands that without constant practice, the children's Language Art skills will begin to regress, which is why we consistently keep our standards high. Therefore, we continued our practice of rewarding those children who did an exceptional job in writing their thank you letter: used proper grammar, correct spelling, and thoughtful content, with a "star letter". The star letter was hung on a bulletin board entitled "Shining Stars of our CPY Community", and children were recognized during our large circle each morning.

The importance of literacy is constantly stressed at CPY. This summer we were fortunate to continue our partnership with America Reads. Seven America Reads tutors spent valuable time reading one-on-one with twenty-seven children. Progress over the six-week period made the children very proud of themselves.



All students were encouraged to read throughout the summer. In accordance with our theme, a giant bulletin board displayed a community with several homes, buildings, schools, churches, police stations, etc. and a title that read "Building a Foundation – One Book at a Time." Each structure was assigned to a different small group, who had to read a book together in order to receive a brick. After completing their structure the group was able to celebrate their accomplishment by having their own private party or going on a field trip together. Incentive points were also given to children who read a book to someone or listened to someone read to them.

Children have the opportunity to earn points throughout the day in several different areas, including: having a good attitude, being willing to participate, following the standards, having good table manners, and learning a new game or skill. Parents are also encouraged to aid their children by participating in an activity or checking-out parenting videos. The use of incentive points helps to teach that "hard work, done well, feels good".



Each week, we declared that a specific day was dedicated to dressing according to the theme. "Crazy Hair Day" was especially funny as children and leaders came with hair from every color of the rainbow, some with bizarre hairstyles, and others who simply had an excuse to not brush their hair. The children had a great time - their creativity and participation really made it worthwhile.



The Seaside Police and Fire Department, through the assistance of a grant from the California State Office of Traffic and Safety, organized a Bike Rodeo for the children. The day began with the Chamber of Commerce conducting a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the Safety Mural, which our children had recently completed. The children were then educated on the importance of bike safety and each one was then tested on their ability to ride a bike properly and stop safely. The fire and police officers noted that a large majority of our children lacked the basic ability to ride a bike.

DAYS FULL OF FUN

This summer intersession was definitely not short on fun. Many members of the community came to CPY **to ensure that the children had a memorable summer.** One of the most exciting aspects of this intersession was to see that every afternoon was filled with a ton of activities that included arts and crafts, singing, dance, drama, Rally Ball, Tae Bo, sports, sign language and a Harry Potter read aloud.

A youth group from Minnesota, hosted by the Carpenter House Church, entertained the children with puppet shows, educational theater, balloon animals, face painting, basketball games, and most importantly, an opportunity to spend time with young people from a very different region and background than their own.



A few special women came to us from the **Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS)** to lead our children in Yoga. A group of **Japanese students** visiting MIIS also joined us for a couple of afternoons to spend time with the children and conduct research projects. The three students had only been in the country for less than a week, but were **embraced immediately** by the children.

Several of our older boys had an opportunity to attend the **Herm Edwards Football Camp.** The weeklong camp held at CSUMB, offered training from professional football players
(over)



DAYS FULL OF FUN (continued)

and coaches **in life skills and values along with football.** It is always a special time, as it allows even our smaller guys an opportunity to feel special and play as part of the team. One of our boys even played on the winning team that brought back the "Super Bowl" title!

There were various **Visual Art projects** that were conducted under the instruction of our Visual and Performing Art Director. Incorporating the theme of building community a group of students decided to construct several giant seahorses (the mascot for the City of Seaside.) The children first conducted research on the seahorse, then constructed three enormous paper mache replicas. Another group worked on the second safety mural. This recent work was put onto moveable pieces of wood so that they could be featured in different places and events. Other art projects included stepping stones, a colossal aquarium with "junk-art" inhabitants, and at least **three daily arts and crafts projects open for all children.**



Talent Show



The children decided that they would like to hold another talent show this summer. Organized by a talented, high school leader, eight small groups of **children selected their own music, choreographed their routines and "coordinated their "costumes."** Although they chose the song for their performance, they had to first write down all of the lyrics and read them aloud to the Head Leader. Many discovered that their first selection (and sometimes even their second or third) was not acceptable because of the violent, obscene or derogatory language. It was surprising to them that they sing along to the songs on the radio without really comprehending the meaning of the words. After much hard work and determination, the acts came together to produce the **Third Annual CPY Talent Show.** The afternoon event was attended by parents and proved to be a big hit.

Some of our reporters asked the question:
How does it feel to be in the talent show?

"It feels as if we were regular kids, but it feels a little different because we are junior leaders and it has to be tight."

Denise, Age 13

"It feels ok. I'm not nervous at all, but this year it is a little more important because we have more of a chance of winning."

Walter, Age 11

"It is really fun because we get to be with our friends. I also like it because we get to show off all of our hard work."

Careé, Age 11

"It feels great. We get to be with our friends and we get to accomplish something together. It also makes us feel proud of ourselves."

Marissa, Age 11

"It feels good. I like being the center of attention. I also like entertaining people with my voice."

Patricia, Age 11