



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AUSTELL/KIDSHOPE USA

# Cobb Mentoring Matters

## News Tips and Updates for Mentors

IN THIS ISSUE

## CMM Partners with area Churches

by Maryellen Gomes

Cobb Mentoring Matters (CMM) the districts school-based mentoring program is excited to be working with several churches in the county. CMM in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of recruiting, screening and placing mentors in our schools. The caliber of mentors continues to exceed our expectations. Dr. Marvin Bynes, Principal at Austell ES was approached by the First Baptist Church of Austell. The church had a group of 8 members that were trained through KIDS HOPE USA wanting to serve at the school.

KIDS HOPE USA is a national faith-based organization that seeks to develop one-on-one relationships through the creation of church-school partnerships that pair church members with at-risk kids in supportive, mentoring relationships. The premise of Kids Hope USA was a perfect fit with CMM.

CMM worked with the church leaders, provided additional training and orientation to the volunteers to ensure compliance with district policies and procedures. The CMM Mentor Coordinator worked with the teachers to identify the students, and coordinate the logistics for a smooth matching process. A group match was conducted at the schools Media Center in October with some very excited students.

Other churches to "Join the Movement" have been, HopeBridge Fellowship Church in North Cobb, they were matched with students at Blackwell ES, Faith United Methodist Church of Smyrna at King Springs ES, New Friendship Missionary Baptist Church working at TAPP MS and Lutheran Church of the Resurrection at Wheeler HS. What is equally as exciting is that the pastors of several of the churches have set the example for their congregants and were matched with our students.



HopeBridge Church/Blackwell ES



### Griffin Middle School

This year CMM has worked in matching our students in some unique situations. Christian Jimenez was recently matched with two brothers with limited English at Griffin MS.

We hope to do more of these kinds of matches to meet the needs of our students.

# Mentoring Tips

## A Research Update from Search Institute: Developmental Relationships

Both researchers and practitioners have long embraced the idea that interaction with caring adults is central to young people's development.

Search Institute has adopted the term *developmental relationships* to describe the broader conception of relationships that is the focus of our new research and development agenda.

They have identified 20 actions that make a relationship developmental, and organized those actions into a framework.

Search Institute confirms that conviction, but we are also finding that both *caring* and *adults* are necessary but not sufficient strands in the broader web of relationships that kids need to succeed.

To read the 20 action steps visit....

<http://www.search-institute.org/>

## DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

*Hope that you enjoy these articles and mentoring tips and find them useful with your matches!*



## What Do You Think?: Teasing the Smart Kid

Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Lidia just entered 9th grade and has always done well in school, enjoys reading, and likes to think about things in new ways. People tend to assume she is older than she is and she often feels as though she is not "on the same page" as her friends. Her school smarts and unique way of thinking make her a target for teasing, even from her own friends. A few of her classmates call her names like stupid, weird, and spacey, and ridicule her good grades. She laughs it off but secretly wonders if she really is weird or crazy and wants nothing more than to be accepted and liked by her classmates. The teasing makes her feel isolated, angry, and recently has caused her grades to slip from A's to C's. She has also started making older friends and engaging in risky behaviors with alcohol and boys because she is trying to fit in and be "cool."

- Smart, or "gifted," youth are often teased by classmates because they are perceived as different. A 2006 study of almost 500 gifted 8th grade students showed that 67% had experienced teasing or bullying from their peers, and many think its closer to 90%!
- Gifted youth tend to be more sensitive to others and can experience intense reactions to teasing and bullying. Potential consequences are emotional withdrawal, depression, intense anger, or even violence against self or others. Many of the kids involved in school shootings were gifted children who were reportedly teased and bullied regularly.
- Most gifted youth that are teased don't tell anyone or ask for help because they think it reflects poorly on them, are ashamed they can do nothing to stop it, and/or think telling an adult is "tattling". Common symptoms of being teased are lowered academic achievement, trouble sleeping or eating (especially during the school week), unexplained aversion to school/ditching, headaches and stomach aches before and during school, and emotional flatness.

## What Can Mentors do to Help Prevent This?

1. Clarify the problem with your mentee (who, where, when, and why).
2. Brainstorm other ways your mentee could respond the next time the situation arises
  - Postpone judgment on suggested responses: their answers can be inappropriate, vindictive, silly etc.; just let them explore and don't be afraid to joke around a little bit.
  - While you let them get out emotions and be silly in this exercise, be sure to include appropriate responses: walk away, be assertive, go for help etc.
3. Think through the consequences of each suggestion on the list and pick one to try.
4. Make a plan, role play to practice, and have them try it out.
5. Evaluate what happened, and try another option if necessary
6. If you are teaching them how to be assertive, practice these tactics:
  - Look people in the eye
  - Stand up straight, with feet slightly apart
  - Keep your hands in your pockets
  - Move closer to the person rather than backing off as you talk
  - Speak loudly enough and use a firm and determined voice

To read more visit: <http://mentor-center.org/>



CMM Partners with Cobb County Bar Association

14th Annual Sleighbells on the Square event.

Saturday, December 13, 2014

7:00 Am – 11:00Am



### School Closings for.....

November, December & January

### Thanksgiving Holidays

November 24- November 28

### Christmas Holidays

December 22, 2014 – January 5, 2015

Students Return on Tuesday January 6, 2015

We want to hear from you. Tell us what you think about our newsletter. If you have a story lesson learned or match activity you would like to share for our next Mentor Corner Newsletter please send it to .....

[cobbmentoringmatters@cobbk12.org](mailto:cobbmentoringmatters@cobbk12.org)

### For More Information Please

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**Q. What to do I do if I'm with my Mentee and there is a Fire Drill or any other Safety Drill at the school?**

**A. Staff is fully aware of the protocol, drills are run periodically.**

If you are in the Media Center follow the instructions of the Media Specialist.

If you are in any other location, immediately return the child to their classroom.

If it is a **Code Red** (Severe Risk) precede immediately to the front office. Teachers are instructed to close and lock the classroom door and not allow anyone in.

Teachers will know that their student is with you and reflect their attendance.



Meet Some of Our New Matches!

## Updates, Events and Important Information!

### Activity for Matches

Sleighbells on the Square is an annual 5K Run/Walk 1K and Tot Trot and A PEACHTREE QUALIFYING RACE. Cobb Mentoring Matters has been the beneficiary of the services for our families that is offered by the Cobb County Bar Association. All Proceeds benefit the Cobb County Bar Children's Emergency Fund.

The Children's Emergency Fund assists Cobb County School District and Marietta City Schools Students and their families with emergency financial needs.

This year if you and your Mentee would like to participate by either volunteering to help out with the race, please contact Maryellen Gomes, Mentor Coordinator at [Maryellen.gomes@cobbk12.org](mailto:Maryellen.gomes@cobbk12.org)

Or if you and your mentee would like to participate in the race please go to [www.Active.com](http://www.Active.com) type in "Sleighbells on the Square 5k" to register.