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The Good Project

Newsletter: February 2014

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Dear Friend of The Good Project,

Happy 2014 to you! In this issue, we highlight several of our toolkits: the [Good Work Toolkit](#), [Our Space](#), and the [Good Collaboration Toolkit](#). For the Good Work Toolkit, we showcase how The Global Education and Leadership Foundation (tGELF) and Good Work-Certified teachers in India have used the toolkit and good work concepts in K-12 schools. Under our "Good Idea of the Month", we discuss a concept from the Our Space toolkit: digital ethical fault lines. For the Good Collaboration Toolkit, we feature the work of Mark Braun, Project Manager at Boston University and an Organizational Development Consultant. If you have ideas for future newsletters or would like your work to be highlighted, please email Paromita De at paromita_de@harvard.edu. Thank you and we hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter!

Sincerely,
The Good Team

tGELF and Good Work-Certified Teachers Promote Good Work in K-12 Schools in India



In November 2011, Lynn Barendsen and Wendy Fischman of The Good Project teamed up with The Global Education and Leadership Foundation (tGELF)

to deliver a Good Work-certification course to secondary teachers in India. Upon completion of the course, teachers at different schools across the country not only implemented Good Work into the classes they teach and the extracurriculars they advise, but also have shared their knowledge of Good Work with their colleagues.

Good Project researcher Paromita De recently got to visit schools in the cities of Delhi and Gurgaon

and to speak with teachers, students, and administrators who engage with Good Work concepts. The range of ways in which the teachers apply Good Work was of particular interest to the Good Work Team. At Delhi Public School, Sector 45, Chemistry teacher Archana Singh uses the value-sort activity and narratives from the Good Work Toolkit to help her students think about how they may handle similar ethical dilemmas in their lives. She also has worked with other teachers to found the "Good Work Club" at her school, which allows students from different service clubs across the school to collaborate with each other on street plays and other community outreach projects. At Apeejay School, Biology teacher Ritesh Sharma incorporates discussion of values and the rings of responsibility, among other good work concepts, into lessons on natural resources, utilizes different elements of Good Work for the school's prefectorial (student advisory) group and for "The Buddy Project", a peer mentoring program. In addition to teaching about Good Work in the classroom, middle school math teacher Geeta Bedi and her colleagues at Scottish High International School advise a group of students who perform street plays around Delhi/Gurgaon to spread awareness on various social issues. Ishita Mukherjee, a high school Math teacher at Tagore International School, was inspired by the collaboration project she participated in as part of the certification course and followed suit by starting an LGBT awareness group. Students serve as peer educators on issues of sexuality and sexual orientation and also advocate for LGBT rights.

Further, tGELF is currently developing a training on leadership for teachers, grounded in the 3 E's, to be delivered in 2015. It was impressive to see the various ways in which tGELF and their member schools are engaging with good work, and we commend them for their endeavors!

Good Idea of the Month: Digital Ethical Fault Lines



In the Fall of 2013,
[Julie Culp](#), a school



guidance counselor in Tennessee, gained fifteen seconds of internet fame when she publicly posted a picture of herself on

Facebook, asking anyone who viewed the picture to click the "like" button for the teacher. Culp intended to teach her students about internet safety, illustrating how large one's audience could be when they posted a picture online. Culp was able to convey this message to her students, with the picture receiving 4 million "likes" (and counting). But that was not all that happened; the picture was shared on multiple sites beyond Facebook, and was even subject to various changes - such as having her head replaced by that of a famous actor's - via Photoshop! This instance, in which a perception of online privacy was shattered, illustrates the extent to which the new frontier of digital media raises a number of ethical dilemmas.

The GoodPlay Project team identified five "digital ethical fault lines", or areas in which ethical dilemmas commonly arise in digital life. In the toolkit, [Our Space: Being a Responsible Citizen of the Digital World](#) (a collaboration with Project New Media Literacies at USC), the main ethical fault lines explored include: Participation (defined as "ways in which people conduct themselves online"), Identity, Privacy, Credibility ("trustworthiness of people"), and Authorship and Ownership.

These digital ethical fault lines serve to guide the kinds of questions that we need to ask about our use of digital media. As outlined in the "Our Space" toolkit, some of these questions include but are not limited to:

- How should norms of online behavior be established, maintained, or respected?
- When does "identity play" cross the line and become identity deception?
- What are the boundaries of sharing information about yourself and others online?
- How do you know when you can trust online information sources?
- What is the difference between being "inspired by" someone else's work and plagiarism?

- To whom are we responsible in our online conduct?

With the new ethical dilemmas that have surfaced with the advent of digital media, it is necessary for us to reflect on the implications of our online choices for ourselves, for others, and for our communities.

Mark Braun Fosters Connections with Good Collaboration Toolkit



Collaborations can provide opportunities for different groups to work with and learn from each other in ways that they may not be able to if they were working independently.

However, given that a collaboration's participants bring in their various backgrounds, knowledge, roles and responsibilities with them, learning how these different pieces can link together for participants to become part of a team is no easy task. It is a process that requires communication skills, flexibility, and a sense of vision for the collaboration. Many groups may rely on the resourcefulness of organizational development consultants to lead them through this process. Here, we feature the work of one such consultant in the Boston-area, Mark Braun.

Mark Braun works as a Project Manager at the Boston University School of Medicine, and also works as an independent consultant in organizational development. He is working with the Good Collaboration team at The Good Project on piloting and developing the Good Collaboration Toolkit. The Good Collaboration Toolkit is a set of activities designed to help groups through different stages of collaborative work. Understanding the challenges that come with working in a collaboration, Mark uses different pieces of the Good Collaboration Toolkit, along with other organizational development approaches, to guide different groups in this process. Whether it's getting a

group to define a mission statement, creating awareness of what collective skills a group has, or honing participants' problem-solving abilities, Mark is adept at helping groups and partnerships reach their collaborative goals. Some of the groups that Mark has used the toolkit with include but are not limited to the Susan Vogt Fellows, the Boston University School of Medicine and School of Public Health, the Boston Medical Center, and the Berklee College of Music. Further, as the toolkit is currently in the pilot phase, Mark has been instrumental in offering feedback to enhance the Good Collaboration Toolkit and inform other professionals and group about the Toolkit. **If you or your colleagues are interested in helping us to pilot our newest Toolkit, please be in touch: paromita_de@harvard.edu.**

Recent Blogs

[Success vs. Meaning](#)

(December 12, 2013)

Tom Olverson, Head of The Rivers School in Weston, MA, takes an interesting perspective on excellence.

Also of Interest

[Questions to Ask for New Year](#)

(December 27, 2013)

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, William Damon, Howard Gardner, and Lynn Barendsen of The Good Project collaborated with Eric Liu, Founder of Citizen University, to create a list for CNN.com of "Questions to ask for a New Year".

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