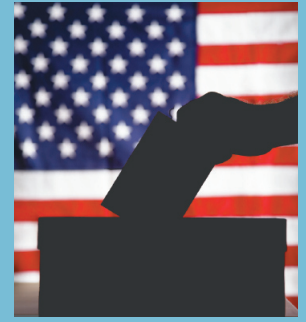


BALLOT BOX BULLETIN

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF KIDS VOTING USA OCTOBER 2011



BOOK CLUB

The September/October book is Strengths Finders 2.0 written by Tom Rath. All the details are listed at the end of the newsletter. This book will be used during the leadership training at the annual conference!

OTHER NEWS

New Executive Director

Curtis Windham is the new executive director of Kids Voting Minnesota. Born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, Curtis (more commonly known as Chipp) is the son of retired Salvation Army Officers Majors George and Violet Windham.

For 20 years, Chipp served as a Salvation Army Officer in five appointments across the Midwest both as a commanding officer in three locations and as part of the Divisional Headquarters staff in Eastern Michigan and Northern Divisions.

"I believe in significance. I believe that within each of us, we want to do something that will make a difference. Being part of KVUSA (KVMN) is significant. Here, we have the opportunity to have our voices be heard and our children be shaped into contributing members of society. I believe that is what KVUSA is all about," said Curtis Windham.

If you would like to welcome Mr. Windham, send an email to windham.curtis@yahoo.com.

Election 2011 in Mesa County

Election 2011 is in full swing in Mesa County - and for Kids Voting. While the general election is mail-in ballot only, students in School District 51 are busy learning about the issues, interviewing the candidates and planning for their own computer-based election.

Students will be voting on many of the same items found on the adult ballot and Kids Voting has resources available to help kids (and adults!) prepare to vote.

New this year, students and teachers will be using DoubleClick Democracy for the actual voting process. KVMC Executive Director, Martha Graf, is excited to see what this will provide.

"We are trying out the KVUSA version to save money and hopefully expand projects in our schools. This year is a test year. We hope we get lots of feedback from teachers who use it and make a decision about what to use next year during the BIG election," explain Ms. Graf.

Additionally, the affiliate is teaming up with the League of Women Voters to offer a candidate forum. Students will run the evening, as school board candidates make their statements, and the pros and cons of the two different educational funding issues are presented by local residents.

Finally, the Daily Sentinel is supporting an activity titled, "Student Reporter Project" which is a series of articles written by students about issues and candidates.



October

Educator of the Month

KVUSA is pleased to announce that **Kenton Lee** is the October

Educator of the Month. Mr. Lee is the Assistant Principal for Blendon Middle School, which is part of Kids Voting Central Ohio. Even though he is an administrator in the district now, the legacy of voting that he started at Westerville Central five years ago continues evidenced by the fact that of the three high schools in the district, Central always has the largest number of voters. In 2009, Mr. Lee joined the KV CO Education Advisory Board and, in this role he has been able to share information about Kids Voting with teachers throughout the district.

Kids Voting USA truly appreciates the work and passion Mr. Kenton Lee demonstrates for our program.



Making an Impact Contest

Deadlines

- Entries must be postmarked by January 1st.
- Contest winners will be announced during the week of Jan. 16-20th.

Guidelines

- 6th – 12th grade students are eligible to participate in the contest.
- Students can work in groups of no more than 4.
- There are two categories: 6 - 8th grade and 9 - 12th grade. A winner will be selected from each category.
- Students must submit a three-page essay that explains their service learning or civic engagement project.
- Videos and pictures are highly encouraged as supporting documentation of project.
- “Entry Form”, “Parental Consent Form” and at least 2 reference letters must accompany every essay. Entries that do not have this information will not be accepted.
- All submissions become the property of Kids Voting USA and may be reproduced in its publications or merchandise.
- Offensive or inappropriate projects will not be accepted.

Judging

- Projects will be judged on originality, need, impact, collaboration with other groups, communication and adherence to contest guidelines.

Prizes

- Grand prize is a trip to Washington D.C. (One winning group for the 6 – 8th grade category and 9 -12th grade category) The winning groups (with one sponsor each) will be flown to Washington D.C. on March 28th. They will participate in the “Engaging Today’s Youth for Tomorrow’s Civic Leadership” symposium and luncheon on March 29th, and then they will spend the day touring the nation’s capital on March 30th. The winners will depart Washington D.C. on March 30th.
- Winners will be featured on the Kids Voting USA Web site and newsletter, Ballot Box Bulletin.

Resources

- Toward a More Perfect Community – KVUSA classroom activities
- Service-learning Action Plan – KVUSA classroom activities
- Learn and Serve – KVUSA classroom activities
- What’s the Problem – KVUSA classroom activities
- Destination Democracy – KVUSA 9th-12th grade service learning activities

Visit www.kidsvotingusa.org/EYT2012 for all the details!!

*A special thanks to our sponsor,
the Gannett Foundation.*



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KVUSA is managed by **KPA.**





Kids Voting USA Book Club

Join KVUSA Affiliates in the KVUSA Book Club. We will pick one book every two months and discuss it on the KVUSA Book Club Discussion Board or via the KVUSA Affiliate list serve (log into the new website to post to the discussion board).

September/October 2011

Book Title: *Strengths Finder 2.0*

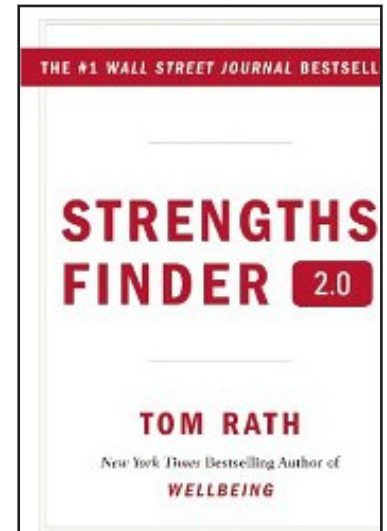
Author: Tom Rath

(<http://www.gallup.com/speakersbureau/18562/tom-rath.aspx>)

Website: <http://strengths.gallup.com/110659/Homepage.aspx>

Cost: Amazon - \$13.70; Kindle - \$12.55.

(Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/StrengthsFinder-2-0-Tom-Rath/dp/159562015X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1314819516&sr=8-1)



About: Do you have the opportunity to do what you do best *every day*? Chances are, you don't. All too often, our natural talents go untapped. From the cradle to the cubicle, we devote more time to fixing our shortcomings than to developing our strengths. To help people uncover their talents, Gallup introduced the first version of its online assessment, StrengthsFinder, in the 2001 management book *Now, Discover Your Strengths*. The book spent more than five years on the bestseller lists and ignited a global conversation, while StrengthsFinder helped millions to discover their top five talents. In *StrengthsFinder 2.0* Gallup unveiled the *new and improved* version of its popular assessment, language of 34 themes, and much more. While you can read this book in one sitting, you'll use it as a reference for decades. Loaded with hundreds of strategies for applying your strengths, this *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, and *USA Today* bestseller will change the way you look at yourself -- and the world around you -- forever.

"Building a Stronger Affiliate Community"