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STAYING FOCUSED

■ "In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years." — Jacques Barzun

IN THE NEWS

■ British Children to Get Happiness Lesson

From: Agence France Presse
—Some 2000 students at British schools are to have special classes in happiness. The 11-year-olds will take self-esteem classes to raise standards and cut crime.

[Read More >>](#)

■ Dress Code for Students and Teachers

From: Teacher Magazine —A new, small-scale study of schools in Ohio has found that schools requiring uniforms have higher graduation rates and fewer disciplinary problems. To address the blurring standards of professional dress, school districts in Northern Texas have implemented new guidelines on teacher attire.

[Read More >>](#)

■ Bill Cosby's Urgent Plea to Teachers

From: Teacher Magazine— Bill Cosby made headlines in early November after giving a speech in Los Angeles about education, with news outlets reporting that he had criticized teachers and parents for not doing enough to help kids. In a follow-up interview in *Teacher Magazine*, Cosby says his plea for teachers to be more passionate about their career was taken out of context.

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RECOMMENDED LINKS

■ [National Disabilities Rights Network](#) - An organization dedicated to the protection and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

FEATURED CONTENT: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



"What'll it be, Tyler—your lunch money or heaps of verbal abuse?"

© The New Yorker 2006 Danny Shanahan from cartoonbank.com.

FEATURED PROGRAM: BECOOL



"In 30 years of teaching I've never seen anything that deals as effectively with teaching the skills of coping with everyday conflict situations as the BeCool series."

— Carol L. Sodon, Teacher

You COULD be **HOT** and BLOW up...



You COULD be **COLD** and GIVE up...



Or You Can **BeCool** and IN CONTROL!



Programs for all levels:

- [Lower Elementary](#)
- [Upper Elementary*](#)
- [Upper Elem. / Middle School*](#)
- [Middle School 1](#)
- [Middle School 2](#)
- [High School*](#)

- Suspensions down by 50%
- Time-out citations down by 66%
- Student reports of bullying down by over 300%

* New 2006 Updated Edition for Upper Elementary, Upper Elem. / Middle School, and High School

■ [The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators](#) - A professional organization for writers and illustrators of children's books.

■ [Howard Hughes Medical Institute](#) - A fun and entertaining web site where students can learn about health and biology.

MISS MS. Demeanor



■ This month, I would like to address the topic of politeness. In one sense of the word, politeness is the showing of consideration, tact, or courtesy to others. I find it truly annoying when young people rudely shove their way past people without saying 'sorry' or 'excuse me'. A simple display of politeness goes a long way in avoiding conflict with others.

Therefore, don't fail to apologize if you tread upon or stumble against anyone, or if you inconvenience one in any way. Being polite is a proactive way of maintaining control of a situation.

EXCERPTS FROM "THE ONION"

■ 10th-Graders Watch *Ben-Hur* For Two Weeks

SALEM, VA—For the eighth straight world-history period, sophomores at Riverside High School watched the 1959 classic *Ben-Hur* Tuesday. "The chariot races were pretty cool," Michael Bower said of the 211-minute film he and classmates have been watching in 25-minute segments, between roll call and free-reading.

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SAVE \$100 ON YOUR NEXT ORDER

■ Mention the following coupon over the phone or on your PO/Order Form.

Coupon Code: V1N9



BeCool is the first program developed specifically to nourish the key elements of emotional intelligence: impulse control, empathy, and self-awareness. Within the context of teaching how to be assertive, **BeCool** teaches kids specific reflective techniques to promote self-control and interrupt the tendency to act out.

[Read More](#) about our **BeCool** Series!

Feedback from Educators

"I use the BeCool series to teach conflict resolution skills to second graders. The feedback I have received from teachers, students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive. The curriculum is instructor friendly, informative and fun for the students. I have also had great success with the BeCool video series in small guidance groups." – Judith Herman, L.P.C, Elementary School Counselor, Boise, ID

"Kids teaching kids is a powerful concept that James Stanfield employs to great effect in the BeCool videos. I am please to be able to endorse them." – Michael T. Brown PhD, Professor, University of California

HUMOR IN THE CLASSROOM

"At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities."
—Jean Houston

The link between humor and learning is not merely a *casual* one. A vast amount of research shows a *strong* correlation between humor and students' interest and attention levels. Students enjoy and appreciate a teacher's ability to bring out the lighter side of learning. Humor in the classroom, along with lively student-teacher interactions, helps to minimize the listlessness often felt by students in routinized class lectures. In short, humor can be used to help students maintain a sense of perspective and inspire students to develop creative ideas.

The benefits of incorporating humor with instruction are many and should be considered whenever designing instruction. That's why this newsletter, and many of the programs we produce, are full of "instructional humor."

For example, getting your attention and holding your interest in our newsletter is more likely if we augment our content with humor. If we can make you laugh, especially out loud, the good feelings that come with that laugh (laughing triggers the release of endorphins) will likely become associated with the newsletter itself. You will also likely want to return to our site for more laughs and more endorphin highs. Eventually these endless return visits will result in an addiction to the Stanfield Newsletter and you will live for nothing else.

James Stanfield, EDD

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