

Character Community



E-News



A Town of Richmond Hill initiative.

A Town of Richmond Hill Character Community monthly e-letter

November is Fairness

*I will treat others in a just,
equitable and unbiased
manner.*

November 2006

The Emperor's Seed

Author Unknown, Source Unknown

Once there was an emperor in the Far East who was growing old and knew it was coming time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or one of his own children, he decided to do something different.

He called all the young people in the kingdom together one day. He said, "It has come time for me to step down and to choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you." The kids were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today. One seed. It is a very special seed. I want you to go home, plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring to me, and the one I choose will be the next emperor of the kingdom!"

There was one boy named Ling who was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the whole story. She helped him get a pot and some planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown.

After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept going home and checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by. Still nothing.

By now others were talking about their plants but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. Six months went by, still nothing in Ling's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends,

however. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she encouraged him to go, and to take his pot, and to be honest about what happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed



at the variety of plants grown by all the other youths. They were beautiful, in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other kinds laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey nice try."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the emperor. "Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. "The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!"

When Ling got to the front, the emperor asked his name. "My name is

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Town of Richmond Hill Character Community Organizations

Arts Richmond Hill Inc.

The Curtain Club

Girl Guides of Canada York South Division

Helpmate Community Information

Hills House Hospice

Ja'fari Islamic Housing

Learning Disabilities Association of York Region

Lions Club of Richmond Hill

Music For Young Children

My Canada! Integration Settlement Services

Optimist Club of Richmond Hill

Richmond Hill Aquatic Club

Richmond Hill Canoe Club

Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce

Richmond Hill Community Food Bank

Richmond Hill Rams Hockey Club

Richmond Hill Social & Bocce Club

Richmond Hill Training Centre

Richmond Hill Winter Carnival

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #375

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Richmond Hill

St. Matthew's United Church Health Cabinet

Stroke Recovery Network
The Amici Centre

Wilderness Lifeskills of Youth Inc.

FAIRNESS and Optimization in Sports: Can We Do Better?

President: Yuanlong Liu, Western Michigan University

Fairness and optimization in sport competitions became a public concern at the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games. The Canadian figure skaters Jamie Sale and David Pelletier were granted another set of gold medals because of an alleged judging scandal. This scandal brought to light the need for greater discussion on how to improve scientifically fairness in sport competitions.

Optimization in sports may be defined as determining the "best" solution to the issues in every aspect of sports that may include fairness and optimization in competition structure, optimization of athletic performances, prediction of athletic performances, optimal strategies in sports competitions, optimization in sports management and marketing systems, etc. The research on fairness and optimization in sports has experienced considerable growth in operational research and science fields in the last two decades.

Source:

http://aahperd.confex.com/aahperd/2005/preliminaryprogram/session_26065.htm



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Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quiet down. He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!" Ling couldn't believe it. Ling couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor?

Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds which would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

Source: <http://www.inspirationalstories.com/5/524.html>

What is FAIRNESS?

- FAIRNESS is being consistent.
- FAIRNESS is listening and being open.
- FAIRNESS is being careful making judgments about others.
- FAIRNESS is treating people equally and equitably.
- FAIRNESS is following procedures.

I Will:

- Play by the rules.
- Take turns and share.
- Be open-minded and listen to others.
- Treat people equally.
- Not blame others carelessly.



RH Rams A Force In New GMHL

The Richmond Hill Rams (www.ramshockey.com) are one of the top contending teams in the newly formed Greater Metro Hockey League (www.gmhl.net).

The Rams are a Junior A team that feature elite hockey players from 16-20 who wish to develop their skills in preparation for college hockey and beyond. The team has signed two players from Richmond Hill and have several others who reside in York Region. In addition, the team has an international flavour with two British players, four Americans and one New Zealander.

After the first six games of their 42 game season the team is 5-1 and firmly in second place in the seven team league.

The Rams play their home games at Elvis Stojko Arena on Saturday nights with game time at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and up and are available at the door or online at www.ticketweb.ca. For more information you can call (905) 884-0726.

Fairness "Quote"



"Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back in the same box."

-Italian Proverb

Next Month's Attribute:
December is Humour



Mayor William F. Bell and Members of Council pose with Errol Lee and his dance team at Hillcrest as part of Character day held on October 18, 2006.

Character Community E-News is a monthly e-mail newsletter to share information about upcoming events within our organization and beyond. If you would like to contribute upcoming Character Community event information, story ideas or photos, please forward it to the Editor, Michelle Lipkus, at mlipkus@richmondhill.ca.