

better wwWorld

power of one

www.nfhs.net

february 2001

Power of One @ Niagara Falls High School

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focus group report

Last November, 5 groups of students came together to share their ideas. The focus groups held in November gathered suggestions on improving the learning environment & reducing risky behaviors. On January 4th, a report was presented to Administration for their review.

Many themes surfaced including nearly all students stating that each "house" in the new high school needed to become more distinct. A plan emerged to form 4 new house teams. Each team would be trained in leadership teams and will take on a house specific action project, designed from the focus group ideas.

getting paid

Power of One members can now get paid when they accept and complete special "field assignments." Current assignments involve researching & writing short articles on visionary social leaders, like Mahatma Gandhi, Susan B. Anthony and Martin Luther King, Jr. These articles, along with our December interview with Superintendent Mr. Granto and Board President Mr. King will be part of the on-line magazine being planned for the website.

These extra tasks help advance our VISION:

- Δ Commitment to Creative Solutions -
*think "outside the box";
- Δ Desire for Learning;
Excellence in Performance;
- Δ Friendship, Peace & Unity;
Community = Unity

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

On February 22, all students are invited to a new member orientation in the 3rd floor Amphitheater from 3 - 3:30 PM. During that meeting, students will have the opportunity to learn more and to sign up for 4 new Power of One project teams.

A short TV/video spot has been produced and will be broadcast into each classroom.



Power of One leaders pose for photo with a group student participants following a Focus Group meeting on the learning environment @ NFHS

POWER OF ONE TRAVELS TO ALBANY CD-ROM IN PRODUCTION

On March 7, members of Power of One will be traveling to Albany, NY at the request of the New York State Center for School Safety. During that visit, a group of Project Coordinators & State Education Department reps. will be trained by our team in a leadership & team building exercise. This will introduce others to Power of One in an experiential and "hands on" way.

During February, LEAD TEAM members will receive special "trainer training."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Power of One was originally designed to help the safe merger of LaSalle & the old Niagara Falls High School and now trains youth & adults in Leadership, Teamwork, & Community Service Projects.

Since our earliest activities, we have been gathering video footage of the project in action. In December, that footage, along with member interviews being taped during the November retreat, will be sequenced and edited in "post production."

We plan that, by May 2001, the initial violence prevention and project-focused efforts of Power of One will be captured for a CD-ROM documentary and made available to others and for our members to add to their personal resumes.

in the NEWS again

Power of One students were interviewed on January 4th as part of **New York Times** article on NFHS. The article was published on January 24 with the title *School Gets Help From Honeywell*.

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Anyone interested in joining the new teams can attend our orientation on February 22nd or email us @ the website.

"Optimism is a strategy for making a better world.

Because unless you believe that the future can get better, it's unlikely you will step up and take responsibility for making it so. If you assume that there's no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. But if you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, there are opportunities to change things, there's a chance you may contribute to making a better world. The choice is yours."

- Noam Chomsky