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MUTT-I-GREES® CURRICULUM FEATURED AT YALE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Social and Emotion Skills Taught to Children Through the Use of Animals

NEW HAVEN – Yale School of the 21st Century will be holding its 2010 National Conference at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale University on July 19-21, 2010. This year's focus will include the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum, a new and innovative component on social and emotional learning for children.

The Curriculum, which was developed by Yale 21C in collaboration with the Pet Savers Foundation and funded by the Millan Foundation, aims to enhance children's self- and social-awareness, relationship skills, and ability to make ethical decisions that benefit people, animals, and the environment.

The focus on dogs provides a unique context within which to teach children compassion, empathy, and social responsibility. Lessons involve role-play using the Mutt-i-grees Puppet (a plush hand puppet used as an instructional aide), arts and crafts projects, and/or games and activities that emphasize a dual focus on skill relevance for children and animals

The 2010 National Conference will include various workshops and plenary sessions on emotional intelligence, social and emotional learning, children and pets, health and education, and community collaborations.

Members of the Curriculum development team and educators from several states who pilot-tested and implemented the Curriculum will share information on implementation basics, as well as innovative strategies to adapt the Curriculum to reflect/match school-community needs.

Mutt-i-grees Curriculum Highlights:

Monday, July 19th

- 10:00 am – 11:45 am
Panel Presentation Featuring Ilusion Millan, Co-Founder of the Millan Foundation - *Teaching Social and Emotional Skills: The Mutt-i-grees Curriculum*
- 1:10 pm – 2:00 pm and 2:10 pm – 3:20 pm
Seminar Session – *The Power of Pets in Children's Lives*
- 2:10 pm – 3:20 pm
Workshop Session – *Therapy Dogs and the Mutt-i-grees Puppet: Instructional Options with Special Education Students*

Tuesday, July 20th

- 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Training Session – *Train the Trainers*
- 10:15 am – 11:30 am
Panel Presentation Featuring Cesar Millan, Host, *National Geographic Channel's Dog Whisperer - The Mutt-i-grees Initiative: A Road Map for Change*
- 11:40 am – 12:55 pm
Workshop Session - *Connecting Schools, Communities and Shelters*
- 2:40 pm – 3:50 pm
Workshop session – *Teaching kids to Care: Using the Buddy System with the Mutt-i-grees Curriculum*

Wednesday, July 21st

- 8:00 am – 9:15 am
Workshop Session – *A Partnership Approach to Curriculum Implementation*

The leadership and staff development conference is held for educators interested in Schools of the 21st Century (21C), Family Resource Centers (FRCs), education and health, social and emotional learning, and child-pet interactions, among other topics.

For more information on the Yale Educational Conference or the on the Mutt-i-grees Curriculum, please visit www.yale.edu/21c/current_conference.html or www.Muttigrees.org.

About the School of the 21st Century

The 21C program transforms schools into multi-service centers offering guidance and support for parents; all day, year-round preschool; before and after school and vacation care for school age children; health education and services; training for child care providers, and information and referral services for families. .

About the Pet Savers Foundation

The Pet Savers Foundation has been an industry leader and innovator in the field of companion animal welfare. Operating as the development arm of The North Shore Animal League America, The Pet Savers Foundation has a history of creating mission-driven, groundbreaking programs that are piloted and then adopted by shelters nationwide

About the Cesar and Ilusion Millan Foundation

The Millan Foundation promotes the adoption of abused dogs at shelters and rescue organizations. The foundation also provides direct funding for spaying and neutering programs and the humane education of children of all ages.