



She has Wings

The WINGS Creed reminds kids that “working together is a must.” Daniel Ziff put that lesson into action by helping to bring high-speed rail to California and reduce energy consumption, traffic congestion and air pollution.

A graduate of the University of Colorado in Denver, Daniel (pronounced Dan-yell) was the Berkeley campus coordinator who worked for passage of the California ballot proposition known as 1A that will raise \$9 billion for construction of a rail line from Sacramento and San Francisco to the Los Angeles area.

The bond measure was approved by the voters in the Nov. 4 election after

a massive effort that involved face-to-face conversations with more than 120,000 voters. President-elect Barack Obama has said this type of transportation offers enormous benefits: “We are the only advanced country in the world that doesn’t have high-speed rail.”

For over a year, Daniel helped lead the grassroots effort by the student chapters of California Public Interest Research Group, known as CALPIRG, to educate the public and build support for the massive project. Among their efforts were online, phone and door-to-door campaigning, a spring break tour to raise visibility and educational forums on campuses around the state.

With leadership and determination, Daniel worked with others to make this happen – and make the world better.

Daniel has WINGS.



More Diplomas for WINGS Kids

The rate of WINGS kids who graduate from high school on time is an astonishing 17 percent higher than for kids who lack a comprehensive social and emotional education from our program, according to preliminary staff analysis.

A preliminary analysis of the high school graduation rate of WINGS kids shows that a comprehensive social and emotional education helps kids stay in school and succeed.

Only now in 2008 are we able to obtain even preliminary information on WINGS graduation rates. That’s because the first WINGS class of 4th-graders who attended the program at Memminger

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Elementary reached graduation in May – if they graduated on time.

Out of a group of 20 of those 4th-graders, WINGS reached 7 boys and 7 girls using Charleston County School District records. Of that number, 57 percent graduated from high school on time in May, and 21.5 percent have dropped out of school.

For comparison, the on-time graduation rate at Burke High School was 40 percent. Memminger feeds into Burke High School.

Another 21.5 percent of WINGS kids from that first class remain in school, still headed for graduation but retained at some previous grade level. For a look at the hopes and dreams of one such determined student, [check out the success story of Richard White](#).

We can't be sure, but our staff contacts with these WINGS kids give us reason to believe that many if not all of them will graduate from high school – driving the graduation rate much, much higher than the rate for non-WINGS kids at Burke and throughout this district.

“This small sample of kids does not meet standards for scientific rigor, but the findings match what Yale researchers found when they evaluated our program,” said WINGS CEO Ginny Deerin. “This is an early indicator of what we do expect to prove with outside evaluators at the end of our 5-year Flight Plan –WINGS strengthens attachment to school.”



Amid the hustle and bustle of the season, here's a fun way to take time out to tell family members how much you care. We call this Give it – Get it, and it's a big hit with kids.

Give it – Get it

We all know it's important for our family to know how much we love and care for them. Unfortunately sometimes life gets too crazy to stop and do it. This activity called Give it – Get it is all about giving and receiving love and appreciation.

Here's how it works:

Give everyone a separate sheet of paper for each member of the family. Write the names at the top. On this paper, the family member writes 3 compliments or things they love about the person whose name is at the top. It's important to be specific!

Examples:

- I love how when I wake you up in the morning, you jump right out of bed with a smile.
- Thanks for always taking out the garbage on Mondays without being asked.
- Thanks so much for helping your sister with her homework. She loves the attention and it has helped her get better grades.

Each family member can designate a place for their mailbox for delivery at a later time. Fold the pieces of paper and put them in the designated location. Some good spots: inside a school lunchbox, on a pillow at bedtime, under the cereal bowl at breakfast. Each person now has several pieces of positive feedback from every member of their family. What a great feeling!

“A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.”

- Nelson Mandela



The Girl Effect, Giving Girls WINGS – Watch Video



The Wings Creed

I soar with WINGS. Let me tell you why. I learn lots of skills that help me reach the sky.

I love and accept who I am on the inside and know my emotions are nothing to hide.

Life's full of surprises that make me feel different ways. If I can control myself, I will have much better days.

I understand the choices I make should be what's best for me to do, and what happens is on me and not any of you.

I understand others are unique. I want to learn more about everyone I meet. I want to step into their shoe and see what they are going through.

I am a friend. I support and trust. Working together is a must.

Kind and caring I will be. I listen to you. You listen to me.

I soar with WINGS. I just told you why. All of these things are why I fly high.

wingsforkids.org



Meet Cashmere

Fourth-grader Cashmere Brown is the fifth member of her family to attend the WINGS program. She's known for a great sense of humor, high energy and she loves to dance. And she can recite The Creed from start to finish!

This is Cashmere's fourth year at WINGS and she is a Dove in the nest led by Ms. Alexis. Her three older sisters, Ambre, Ashley and Ebony, and her brother, Darryl, were all in Wings for two years or more. Sister Ambre was a member of the original WINGS camp. Cashmere, who always seems to be smiling or laughing, has had lots of fun in Choice Times like "Play Ball," "Game Day" and "Tone it Up." She's a joy to have around.



What fits your wallet? Giving opportunities in the WINGS Gift Catalog include everything from a box of school supplies to a month of healthy snacks or a fun field trip. Choose the gift that's right for you. If you care about kids, WINGS offers good value and true impact.

[Take action, Donate now](#)

