

If you're not failing now and then, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative (Woody Allen)

Positive Change Core (PCC)

www.positivechange.org

PCC is an international network of those who are passionate about strength-focused approaches in their work with children and youth. As explained on the site:

The Positive Change Core is a leading provider of innovative services for the transformation of educational communities and systems. We are change agents responding to the irresistible invitation to co-construct a positive future for young people and those who influence their lives.

Central to our work is the role of all members of the community in the conversation – including young people.

Including you.

Our mission is to partner with schools and youth to build on the best of what already exists and create the brightest, most imaginative future possible. We are dedicated to producing rapid, sustainable, contagious transformation.

As a member of PCC, as well as webmaster for their site, I can vouch for the generosity of spirit and passionate commitment of PCC colleagues around the world. Why not drop by the site and consider joining us or sharing a story? Cheers, Sue



Sustained: People, Planet, Profit

www.sustained.com.au

If you are interested in sustainability, this website is a must-visit. It houses a wide range of reports, news and other resources related to sustainability in many forms, across different sectors of the community.

The website is undergoing some transformation this year – a 'new look' website and newsletter are due to be launched in March 2010, until which time the site won't be updated. However it will certainly be worth bookmarking and returning once the transformation is complete!

World's First Social Responsibility Standard

<http://bit.ly/aAzRqK>

This article on the Pro Bono website reports on a presentation by Jonathon Hanks, Convenor of the ISO Working Group on Scope, Social Responsibility Context and Social Responsibility Principles.

He was speaking at the 4th annual ACCSR conference in Melbourne about ISO 2600, which is due to be launched in 2010 and is "billed as the world's first social responsibility standard".

He said this standard will have "huge potential in mainstreaming socially responsible business practice around the

world" and that it is an "important development for understanding global social responsibility expectations".

Use the above link (shortened from a much longer URL) to read the full story.

While the standard will be voluntary and act as a guide for businesses and corporations, rather than be a formal certification or accreditation standard, it is a promising start.

Visionary companies will use it as a foundation to 'walk the talk' in terms of corporate social responsibility.

And of course there are many companies already leading the way, even before such a standard was developed. :)

For example the Business as Agent of World Benefit movement has been highlighted in previous issues of Starlink. Take a look their website and you will find many examples and inspiring stories of such ventures:

<http://worldbenefit.cwru.edu/>

It is encouraging to know a new global standard is underway to assist other companies around the world to follow their lead.



In nature we never see anything isolated, but everything in connection with something else which is before it, beside it, under it and over it. (Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe)

Gimundo - Good News Stories



<http://gimundo.com>

We've highlighted Gimundo before in Starlink – but the site is definitely worth mentioning again! They've a fresh, new-look website, jam-packed with great stories to inspire you or make you smile.

Here are a few recent samples for which you'll find links on their home page:

Aki Ra: Former Khmer Rouge Soldier Disarms Landmines By Hand

Inspiring story of a former child soldier, who is teaching others how to disarm landmines safely by hand. As the Gimundo article says, he also founded the Cambodia Landmine Museum in 1999 – *a non-profit group that provides education and resources regarding the country's landmines, and allows visitors to view hundreds of disabled landmines. The museum also serves as Ra's home, where he cares for more than 20 children who have been injured or disabled by landmines.*

Beyond MySpace: Social Networking for Good

You'll find this article in a list under "Stuff We Like" from the main menu of the Gimundo site.

It contains links and descriptions for several social networking sites that are dedicated to self-growth or social change. If you thought social networking was a frivolous pastime, you may well find you'll change your mind! ☺ There are several sites listed – be sure to check them out if you drop by.

Phantom Bread Maker

A heart-warming story to make you smile, about a mystery man who is delivering freshly baked loaves of bread to folk in the village of Foley in the UK.

The Dog with Human Hands

You'll laugh out loud at this one. A new take on an old trick, it's very silly but great fun! Even the guy taking the video couldn't help laughing as he filmed it.

Ashoka

<http://www.ashoka.org/>

Ashoka is a global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs. On this website you'll find stories, news and resources about the work of social entrepreneurs around the world.

Ashoka's vision is to create "*a world that responds quickly and effectively to social challenges, and where each individual has the freedom, confidence and societal*

support to address any social problem and drive change".

The site is well worth exploring!

You might also like to read this Huffington Post news article, *Innovators for the World: Ashoka Goes Global* at:

<http://bit.ly/bMtDnl>

Social entrepreneurs often seem to be possessed by their ideas, committing their lives to changing the direction of their field. They are both visionaries and ultimate realists, concerned with the practical implementation of their vision above all else.

(Ashoka.org)

Mathematics in the Movies

<http://bit.ly/aJbeUJ>

Developed by Oliver Knill, from the Department of Mathematics at Harvard University, this website houses a wide range of movie clips featuring aspects of mathematics.

If you are interested in mathematics or you are a maths teacher looking for a little inspiration for your students, these short clips show many examples of how maths is used in real life. A site worth visiting and bookmarking.

For more about Oliver Knill, see his website at:

www.math.harvard.edu/~knill/index.html

There are several other fascinating snippets accessible from links on his pages.

You might enjoy watching the clips from a short movie about four mathematicians who get trapped in a room with the walls closing in on them.:



Changemakers

There are many, many folk around the globe who see their role in the world as 'changemakers'. Folk who are passionate about making this world a better place.

A web search for 'changemakers' produced 555,000 hits! :) Here is just a small handful of them.

Changemakers

(Based in the US - a division of Ashoka)

www.changemakers.com

Changemakers® is a community of action where we all collaborate on solutions. We know we have the power to solve the world's most pressing social problems. We're already doing it, one project, one idea at a time.

How do we do it? We talk about the issues, share stories and mentor, advise, and encourage each other in group forums, even engage in friendly competition. We form surprising connections and unexpected partnerships across the globe that turn the old ways of problem solving upside down. We try things that have never been tried before.

Creative Change Makers

(Based in Australia)

www.creativechangemakers.com.au/

Creative Change Makers is an interactive web-based magazine providing high-quality content to empower and inspire individuals to make positive change happen.

The stories and articles show the positive and powerful outcome of the creative imagination employed in service to humanity and the soul.

Global Changemakers

(Based in Switzerland)

www.global-changemakers.net/

Global Changemakers will create and support a large global network of future young activists and social entrepreneurs aged between 16 and 25 and develop them into Changemakers. It builds on the existing Road to Davos and Learning from the Future projects. ...

The aim is to create a powerful global network for action that provides opportunities to share experiences and help young people make practical and visible differences in their communities, countries and regions.

Changemakers

(Based in the UK)

www.changemakers.org.uk/

Changemakers are young people who lead positive change in their world. The Changemakers Foundation exists to discover, inspire, develop and connect these Changemakers. We also clear their path in the world by changing the culture of organisations and the direction of policy. We're creating a world in which young people have the confidence to lead and everyone understands we need them to.

Changemakers was founded in 1994 by a coalition of educationalists and NGOs and was an early champion of young people leading their own social action and change. Over the past sixteen years more than 50,000 young people have become Changemakers and hundreds of organisations have adopted our youth led philosophy and approach.



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☆☆ **What is a Changemaker?** ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Make change happen:** You roll up your sleeves and take practical action to change things for the better. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Talk and do:** Action is important but so is the ability to express your plans in words. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Challenge existing thinking:** You are prepared to be unpopular in the pursuit of finding better ways of doing things. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Collaborate:** You find ways to work together with other people to achieve your goals. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Take risks:** You are brave, willing to make mistakes and learn from them. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Facilitate:** You empower rather than direct other people. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Influence:** You take people along with you to ensure the changes you make have real impact and are long lasting. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Motivate:** You can get other people excited about your ideas and working with you to achieve your objectives. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Entrepreneurial:** You are imaginative, creative, ingenious, seizing opportunities and taking the initiative. ☆☆☆
☆☆ **Integrity:** You are honest, open, consistent and courageous in your relationships with other people. ☆☆☆
☆☆ (From Changemakers in the UK) ☆☆☆
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Communities and Network Connection

<http://cc.fullcirc.com/>

An aggregate site, gathering a wide range of information and opinions about all kinds of communities and networks. It is a collaborative effort that was started by Nancy White and Tony Karrer.

Communities and Networks Connection is a collection of blog posts and articles all around communities and networks. It uses the Browse My Stuff technology to create this topic hub:

www.browsemystuff.com/

Topic Hubs are sites that aggregate content from a variety of sources, organize that content around keywords in the topic domain, and support both manual and social curation of that content.
(Thank you to Viv McWaters for this link)

One great, strong unselfish soul in every community could actually redeem the world.
(Elbert Hubbard)



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- ... inspiring and connecting people

Starfall

<http://www.starfall.com/>

Opened in 2002 as a free service to motivate children to read with phonics, the Starfall website has a wonderful collection of fun, educational activities suitable for preschoolers, lower primary students and special needs students.



There are special sections for educators and parents, and they also have a range of products for sale in their online shop.

If you are a parent, grandparent or teacher you may like to visit this site and share it with the children in your life.



Poetry In Motion



Reflections

CHRIS BENNETT

We recently visited a primary school in country Victoria, Australia.

The Assistant Principal greeted us and we leisurely walked through the school grounds and in and out of various classrooms.

Students scampered around the school-yard and in class they were busily involved in playing with Cuisenaire blocks, drawing, writing, working on projects, chatting and showing off their new paper eyeshades on which they'd written words to describe themselves and things of which they were proud.

I watched the AP in amazement as she engaged each student she spoke to with humour, advice and a smile.

Her ease of manner and genuine concern for her students made it an experience I will not forget.

She knew every student's name, which was impressive for a school of over 400 children.

Each student she engaged with for those fleeting seconds felt connected and listened to. You could see it in their eyes and body language.

I've been to many primary schools over the years running our 'Positive Kidz are happy kidz' program and have seen hundreds of teachers in action.

And it always impresses me when I see truly professional teachers who not only teach but make their students feel special.

Search Starlink Archives



We have recently installed a new Google search function on our website, which enables searching of all the site pages AND other files including the pdf Starlink issues.

Some of our readers may have a fully archived and annotated collection of old Starlinks - but for everyone else, the new search engine may be useful for finding that particular article on a specific topic that you just KNOW you spotted in Starlink a while back. ☺

As it's a Google search, it does come packaged with ads at the side, but its usefulness we hope will compensate for that. Please do drop by and test it out - and we'd love to hear how you go!

Learning is finding out what you already know.

Doing is demonstrating that you know it.

Teaching is reminding others that they know it just as well as you.

You are all learners, doers, teachers.

(Richard Bach)

