



# Chalk Talk

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### Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

As I write this, Canada has just won its 19th medal of the [2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy](#), and tied Austria and the U.S. for second place overall. As in the past, these Olympics have been full of many memorable, dramatic and surprising moments. The coverage has been brimming with stories of these amazing athletes and their childhood dreams of becoming an Olympic champion. Stories like that of Canada's Cindy Klassen, who has won four medals in these Games in speed skating. And who can forget the Canadian Women's Hockey Team shedding tears of joy as the flag was raised and its veteran player who held her small son in her arms while she sang 'O Canada'?



These fierce, disciplined competitors, no doubt, all started out as kids kicking a ball around in the school yard. At their core, these Games are about *play*, an activity most of us take for granted. Every two years, the Olympics brings together athletes from all around the globe who have excelled at play and creates a village dedicated to sport.

This week's issue features **Right To Play**, an organization that knows that child's play can change the lives of kids living in war torn, poverty stricken countries. Right To Play went to the Olympic Games to raise awareness of its programs and promote the power of *play*.

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*Mary Korach*

### When Kids Play, The World Wins!



**Right To Play** is an athlete-driven humanitarian organization using sport and play programs to promote opportunities for development, health and peace for children in the world's most disadvantaged places. Guided by the philosophy — **Look After Yourself, Look After One Another** — Right To Play is launching its first-ever Canadian School Program for the promotion of educational play and awareness of global issues among Canada's schoolchildren.

Recently, your school received a postcard (pictured above) about the Spring launch of **Learning To Play, Playing To Learn**. Elementary teachers of grades 4 to 6 can obtain the kit and participate in workshops that are currently being arranged through school boards and at educator conferences across Canada. Right To Play believes that youth have the right to learn to play, and that play has an essential role in teaching important life lessons. If you would like to join the hundreds of teachers who have already ordered the kit and to find out more about upcoming workshops in your area, [click here](#).

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK



A decade after Johann Koss' three Gold Medals in Lillehammer, he returns to the Olympics to ensure all children have the right to play.

Have your students been inspired by the Turin Olympics? Send your Olympic stories and photos to [maryk@coedcomm.com](mailto:maryk@coedcomm.com) and we may feature your class in an upcoming issue of *Chalk Talk*.

"I remember being on the podium thinking how fortunate I was to have the opportunity to reach the pinnacle of sport accomplishments, especially while there were so many children in disadvantaged areas of the world who didn't even have the chance to play," said [Johann Olav Koss](#), President and CEO of *Right To Play*, and four-time gold medalist in speed skating.

"But, just over 10 years later, it's amazing to see that *Right To Play* is changing that. **Now we reach over 500,000 children on a weekly basis.**"

[Source: [Right To Play Online](#)]

## The Story of the Red Ball

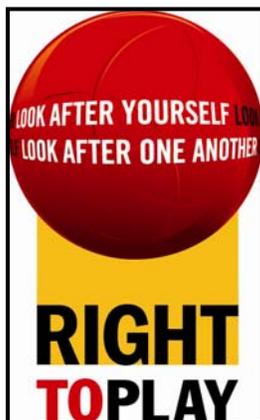
The **Red Soccer Ball** symbolizes the humanitarian potential of sport to promote health, development and peace. The idea behind the symbol was the brainchild of social marketer Ric Young. His first meeting with the **Right To Play** organization triggered a memory of a story he had heard years earlier from his tailor about growing up in a small village in southern Italy during the war years. The village was extremely poor. There was hardly enough money for food, let alone any extras. But at Christmas the parents of the village did a brilliant thing: they scraped together enough money to buy a single ball. And that was the gift for all the children.

"This story shows the genius of community," says Ric. "Tom (the tailor) says there never was a better gift. The ball was everyone's. And everyone could play. I understood that this simple ball had become a catalyst and a symbol, and a powerful connecting force in the community. Such a simple idea with such amazing impact. I realized that **Right To Play** could have this same impact in communities around the world."

[Source: [Right To Play Online](#)]



## Facts & Figures



- **Right To Play** programs are currently implemented in 18 countries including Ethiopia, Ghana, Israel, Kenya, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Thailand and Uganda
- Led by four-time Olympic gold medalist, Johann Olav Koss, founder of **Right To Play**, it is supported by over 230 Olympic, Paralympic, and professional athlete ambassadors including Wayne Gretzky, Silken Laumann, Lance Armstrong, Martina Hingis, Donovan Bailey, Steve Podborski, Cindy Klassen and the 2006 Canadian Women's Hockey Olympic Team
- Headquartered in Toronto, **Right To Play** has national offices in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Norway, the U.S.A., the United Kingdom, Italy and Canada

[Source: [Right To Play Online](#)]

## Human Rights Links

[ABC - Teaching Human Rights: Practical activities for primary and secondary schools](#)

*ABC: Teaching Human Rights* aims to serve as a user-friendly tool for human rights education and a multi-coloured umbrella covering a number of basic human rights areas.

[World Programme for Human Rights Education](#)

"The World Conference on Human Rights considers human rights education, training and public information essential for the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among communities and for fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace" (Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Part II.D, para. 78).

To view the entire document select the following link from the United Nations Web page:

To view the entire document select the following link from the United Nations Web page:  
***Revised draft plan of action for the first phase (2005-2007) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education***

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[United Nations - Message on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2005](#) - The Secretary-General

Fifty-seven years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibited all forms of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, torture remains unacceptably common. Recent times have witnessed an especially disturbing trend of countries claiming exceptions to the prohibition on torture based on their own national security perceptions.

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