

## LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parent,

To help us work together in strengthening the character of our students, we want you to be aware of the values we will be encouraging and learning about as we use CHARACTER COUNTS!

National CHARACTER COUNTS! week is a celebration of the values that form the core of this program: The Six Pillars of Character plus effective decision-making.

**Trustworthiness.** Be honest. Be loyal—stand by your family, friends and country. Don't deceive, cheat or steal. Be reliable—do what you say you'll do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build a good reputation.

**Respect.** Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule. Be tolerant of differences. Use good manners, not bad language. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone. Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

**Responsibility.** Do what you are supposed to do. Persevere: keep on trying! Always do your best. Exercise self-control. Be self-disciplined. Think before you act—consider the consequences. Be accountable for your choices.

**Fairness.** Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Don't blame others carelessly. Listen to others. Don't take advantage of others.

**Caring.** Be kind. Be compassionate. Show you care. Express gratitude. Forgive others. Help people in need.

**Citizenship.** Do your share to make your school and community better. Cooperate. Stay informed; vote. Get involved in community affairs. Be a good neighbor. Obey laws and rules. Respect authority. Protect the environment.

We encourage you to follow the TEAM strategy at home. It is the same one we will employ at school.

**Teach** children that their character counts.

**Enforce** the Six Pillars of Character.

**Advocate** character.

**Model** good behavior.

We also encourage you to offer opportunities for students to act in accordance with these values and to experience them in a meaningful way to help shape their character and strengthen their abilities as learners.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rudy Williams