



February 2, 2017

Dear Parents,

This school year, we chose a nationally recognized character education program called **CHARACTER COUNTS!** The Six Pillars of Character is a framework for teaching good character and is composed of six ethical values (characteristics) everyone can agree upon: Trustworthiness; Respect; Responsibility; Fairness; Caring; and Citizenship. The **CHARACTER COUNTS!** Program uses six character traits to help instill a positive learning environment for students and a "culture of kindness" making schools a safe environment for students to learn.

Your child will be involved in learning-activities designed to develop good character and empower them to make good choices. He or she may be asked to complete several tasks at home. Your cooperation with these activities will support our overall goal.

For the month of February we will focus on the **Fairness Pillar**. Students will participate in group activities and discussions about being caring, and about the personal benefits of making responsible choices.

Here are some things you can do to support us in teaching our students about being a fair person:

What is Fairness?

- ✓ A fair person is consistent.
- ✓ A fair person listens and is open minded. Fair people are careful making judgments about others.
- ✓ A fair person treats people equally and follows fair procedures.
- ✓ A fair person plays by the rules and takes turns and shares.
- ✓ A fair person doesn't take advantage of others or blames others carelessly.

4 Ways to Treat People Fairly

- Find ways to share, take turns, and feel less jealous.
- Ask people what you can do to help make things fairer.
- Include others in games and activities. Don't leave people out.
- Respect people who are different from you.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

- ❖ When you hear, "It's not fair!" ask your child to define what is unfair about the situation. Usually when you hear this, it means your child didn't receive something he/she thinks was deserved or an expectation hasn't been met-whether real or imagined.
- ❖ Discuss the question "Does fair mean equal?" with your child. Talk about situations in school, home or the community where the answers may sometimes be "yes" and sometimes "no".
- ❖ Set family goals. Have each member of the family complete the following sentence and post it where it will serve as a reminder: I will show fairness by:_____.

PARENTS CAN PROMOTE FAIRNESS

- ❖ Create a democratic family environment by providing opportunities for each family member to provide input on appropriate family topics and decisions.
- ❖ Embrace the uniqueness of each family member without making comparisons of specific areas of competence.
- ❖ Consistently apply pre-determined rules. Make expectations clear and predictable.
- ❖ Advocate and help others who are impacted by adversity.
- ❖ Involve children in developing rules they are to follow.

We look forward to working with you this school year because at Miner, **CHARACTER COUNTS!**

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Noakes
Dean of Students