“Have You Filled Someone’s Bucket Today?”

Dear Parents,

Character Counts! (CC!) is a nationally based program promoted in District 70 for over eleven years. District 70 strongly believes that character is taught at home and can be practiced in school and other places outside the home. Throughout the school year, students participate in activities focusing on the six pillars of Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. The common language of these six pillars helps to improve classroom and school climate.

April 5th begins of our in-depth focus of the Pillar Trustworthiness. We will continue to highlight this pillar throughout the month of April. In each school, teachers will promote the pillar of Trustworthiness by identifying and discussing the language and behaviors of being a trustworthy individual.

In the Character Counts! program the color blue is associated with the pillar of Trustworthiness. A Trustworthy person is honest and truthful. A Trustworthy person has integrity. This means that one has the courage to do what is expected, to speak about what is unexpected, and to try new things even when they are difficult. Parents please notice the times your child is Trustworthy when is it is difficult and show how proud you are of his or her choice! Together, let’s help our children understand this important character trait and its affect on both your life and that of your children!

Steps to follow for being a Trustworthy individual:

- **T**ell the truth
- **R**ole play before you act
- **U**nderstand the other person’s point of view
- **S**peak out about what you think is wrong or unexpected behavior
- **T**ry new things even when they are difficult
- **W**illing to do the right thing when it is a tough choice
- **O**ther people will trust you more when you tell the truth
- **R**elationships take work to build, but are easy to destroy if you are not trustworthy
- **T**hink before you give a dishonest answer
- **H**onesty is important in building friendships
- **Y**ou are in charge and responsible for your actions

On **Thursday April 5th** the district will have a **Trustworthy Pillar Thursday**. On this day we encourage everyone to wear his or her blue for Trustworthiness. Classroom teachers are encouraged to engage their class in meaningful activities that will reinforce the pillar of Trustworthiness.

Thank you for reinforcing the Character Counts Pillars at home and being Bucket Fillers!

2011-2012 Character Counts! District Committee

Adler Park: Sue Warfel
Butterfield: Conna Rech, Kim Zilch
Copeland Manor: Gwen Travelstead, Janet Chickey
Rockland: Dale List
Highland: Mara Battaglia, Alan Esser, Michele Hernandez
Administration: Kathy Dinger