Dear Students and 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.

Each year the district celebrates a Character Counts Week to begin the school year. This year Character Counts! Week is September 6th to September 9th. The CC District Committee has been planning activities for the students based around this year's theme **"Have You Filled Someone's Bucket Today?**" The following activities will be taking place at each K-5 building sometime during the week:

Character Counts Week

Introduction September 6th: Introduction of Character Counts! Week by Dr. Guy Schumacher, District 70's Superintendent. Dr. Schumacher will present his welcome and introduction to Character Counts! via a district wide podcast. Timing of the podcast will be planned by individual schools.

Character Visibility Day: Each classroom to create a poster, decorate their classroom door, or create a classroom bulletin board. This activity is to introduce to students to the Bucket Filling Program and each teacher will share strategies how to use the program in their classroom.

Picture Literacy Day: Today classrooms can take class pictures for their posters/buckets.

Team Building Day: Classes will have an opportunity to participate in team building activities.

These activities are to provide an introduction to the program for new students and awareness of each of the pillars for all students. Be sure to read your school's newsletter to learn about their activities.

Character Counts Assemblies:

We are excited to announce that our CC assemblies will take place Wednesday and Thursday, October 5th and 6th. Details about times and locations will be announced shortly. The assembly will be presented by the Bucket Filler Program. These assemblies will take place in the K-5 buildings on October 5th and 6th.

Pillar Friday

Beginning on November 4th all schools will begin to highlight the Pillar of Caring. As each pillar is celebrated parent information will be available.

District Service Activity

The district committee has once again decided that a district community service project will be making lunches for the PADS program. This is an outreach program for families and individuals in Lake County who are homeless. This has been well accepted and we feel that it reinforces support for our very own community. More information regarding specific dates and needs will be coming after the school year gets underway.

Please contact your school's district committee representative or your principal if you have any questions or concerns.

2011-2012 Character Counts! District Committee

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