



# BUILDING CHARACTER

SEPTEMBER

Dear Parents,

We not only want our students to have strong minds, but also strong morals. This is why each month throughout the school year, we highlight a different character trait. We would like to pass along some ways you can further discuss the trait at home with your family. Let's face it, as parents we are our children's greatest influence. That's why when it comes to building good character...*there's no place like home!*

## RESPECT AT HOME

1. After a family meal, take turns having family members share something they respect and appreciate about each other. Next, you may want to think about extended family, friends, and neighbors and the qualities they have that you appreciate.
2. Take a cup full of uncooked rice and dump it on a plate. Then ask family members to take turns retrieving each grain using chopsticks. Compare this difficult task with "picking up" unkind words that have spilled from our mouths.
3. Establish a no "put-down" policy in your home. For example: Anyone who says something unkind to another family member must make that person's bed!
4. On the next trip to the grocery store with your child take the opportunity to point out ways to show respect to others. While waiting in line, let someone with fewer items go ahead of you or allow someone who has been waiting longer than you to move over to the check-out lane that just opened. Be polite to the cashier and take your cart back to the corral when you are finished. Explain to your child that actions like these show that we value and respect others and their property.



## THE GOLDEN RULE:

*Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.*

## The Rewards of Respect

- We develop effective social skills and habits.
- We make other people feel good.
- We earn the respect of others.
- We establish good relationships.
- We are treated better by other people.
- We improve our feelings of self worth.
- We build a solid reputation.

from *Life's Greatest Lessons: 20 Things that Matter* by Hal Urban

*"100 years after you die it won't matter what car you drove or what house you lived in. But it will matter how you raised your kids."*

A bumper sticker in Charlotte, NC

BUILDING CHARACTER...THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

