

Building Character

Carroll County Public Schools

March 2009



In March, we celebrate the character traits of Self-Discipline and Dependability in Carroll County Public Schools. These characteristics are described:

Self-Discipline - Correction or regulation of oneself for the sake of improvement.

Dependability - The quality of being capable of being depended on; being worthy of trust.



Self-Discipline and Dependability in Cartoons



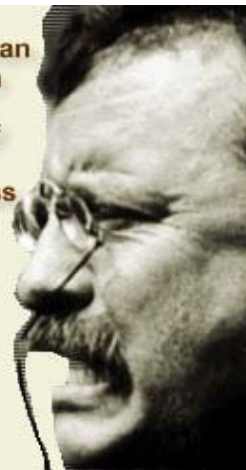
We can learn a lot from cartoons! The Disney character, Aladdin, shows great self-discipline and dependability throughout the cartoon movie, *Aladdin*. He shows self-discipline when he shares his bread with the starving children. Even though he is hungry himself, Aladdin gave food to others. He shows dependability when he asks Jasmine if she trusts him and then proves himself worthy of that trust. And last but not least, he shows both of this month's character

traits when he chooses to use his last wish not for himself, but to keep his word by setting the genie free.

"The one quality which sets one man apart from another—the key which lifts one to every aspiration while others are caught up in the mire of mediocrity—is not talent, formal education, nor intellectual brightness—it is self-discipline.

With self-discipline, all things are possible. Without it, even the simplest goal can seem like the impossible dream."

Theodore Roosevelt



Quote Me!

We become just by the practice of just actions, self-controlled by exercising self-control, and courageous by performing acts of courage.

~ Aristotle

Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There's plenty of movement, but you never know if it's going to be forward, backwards, or sideways.

~ Jackson Browne, Jr.

Mastering others is Strength.

Mastering YOURSELF is true power.

~ Lao Tzu

How do WE show our character?

South Carroll High School student mentors work with **Winfield Elementary School** students, and quickly learn that their young students *depend* on them in numerous ways.

SCHS Peer Facilitators must be *dependable* so that other students know the peers will be there if needed. They also must have *self-discipline* to keep confidences and be good role models.

Mt. Airy Middle School's Green Club, in a spirit of *cooperation* and *service* to our planet, started a school-wide recycling program, built a recycling station for our local community, created an energy conservation program, began the construction of a campus rain garden, and publish monthly environmental bulletins to educate our school community about the importance of being *self-disciplined*, *respectful*, and *responsible* stewards of our planet.

At last month's Character Education/Discipline Committee meeting, Assistant Superintendent Steve Guthrie presented facts and figures regarding energy usage and costs in our school system. Ms. Maria Meyers, Carroll County Recycling Manager, also presented ideas and initiatives for schools to get involved in recycling. Currently, **Northwest Middle School** is engaging students in a pound-for-pound competition to collect and recycle magazines and paper. **Francis Scott Key High School** is conserving energy and "going green" by turning out building and classroom lights where it is feasible to do so. Small acts of energy conservation and recycling demonstrate respect for oneself, your home and community, and respect for the world. Commit to **GO GREEN !!**

This month's Building Character newsletter was produced by the Peer Facilitators of South Carroll High School with the assistance of their advisors, Ms. Stephany Seargeant and Ms. Jennifer Brauer.