



BUILDING CHARACTER

MAY

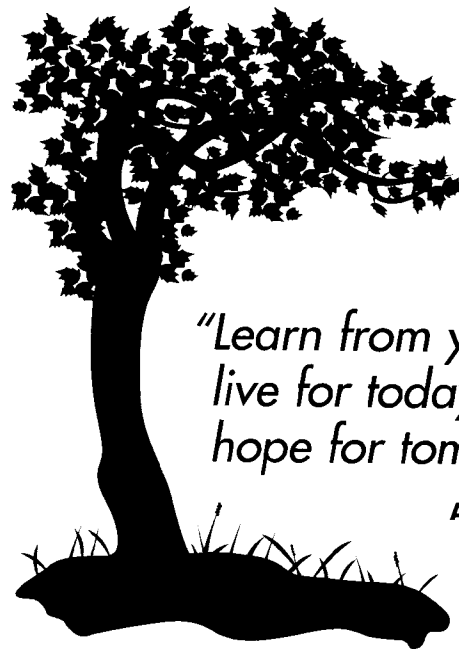
Imagine living in a world without hope—a place where no one believes they can succeed or dream about their tomorrow. This month as we focus on the character trait *hope*, we will teach students that their dreams are possible with hard work, perseverance and a positive attitude. In addition to focusing on having hope in their own lives, we will also learn about the importance of giving hope and encouragement to others, of being a light in the darkness.

HOPE AT HOME

1. Listen to the lyrics of your child's favorite songs. Determine whether or not they are words of encouragement and hope, or messages of despair and hopelessness. Talk about them with your child and discuss how words in music can influence our thoughts and actions. Encourage your child to turn off the negative influences and tune into the positive ones.
2. During a family meal have everyone at the table share something they have really hoped for. It may be as simple as a certain gift or a passing grade on a test to something as involved as healing for an ill loved one or peace in Iraq. Either way, discuss how in each situation that family member demonstrated hope. If it is something yet to happen then talk about ways to continue to keep their hope alive.
3. Have your child name at least three things that he/she can do to inspire hope and encouragement in a brother, sister, or friend who may be struggling with a difficult situation.

If we do not teach our children hope, then who will dream for a better tomorrow? The ups and downs of life are much easier to take when we believe that what we desire is possible and that we have the power to make a difference.

Thank you for taking the time this school year to read these monthly letters and follow through in your home with character development. You are giving your child a gift of character that will last a lifetime.



*"Learn from yesterday,
live for today,
hope for tomorrow."*

Author Unknown

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

