



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce a new school wide character education program that will begin Monday, February 1, 2010. **A demonstration on this program will be presented at the Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Parent Power Hour meeting beginning at 7:00pm.** We believe that this school wide program will dramatically change the way the children behave, interact and communicate with each other. There are two components to the program that addresses communication skills and promote positive interactions amongst peers.

The first program is called **“A Bug and a Wish.”** Students will be taught to utilize this language to express their feelings. For example: “it bugs me when you keep kicking my chair. I wish you would stop kicking my chair.” This language enables the students to deal with confrontational situations in a positive manner. Overall, students are taught to use their words to resolve conflict instead of becoming physically aggressive or shutting down.

The second program is called **“Have you filled your bucket today?”** Each student will have a “bucket” that they are responsible for filling each day. Students can either be a “bucket filler” or a “bucket dipper.” A “bucket filler” fills their bucket by being a good citizen, making good choices and helping others. “Bucket dippers” do not fill their buckets because instead of making positive choices they are engaging in negative choices. One of the great goals of this program is that it teaches children to be accountable for other people’s feelings as well. For instance, children can fill their buckets by helping another student or being a teacher helper.

Both programs teach students how to reach out and express love, respect and appreciation for others. They help students become other-centered rather than self-centered. In addition, it helps students to express their feelings (good and bad) in a healthy manner. The overall goals are to create a safe, positive and nurturing school.

We encourage you to utilize the **“Bug and a Wish”** and the **“Have you filled your bucket today?”** language with your children. By using the language both at school and home we believe that the students will become more familiar with the program; where it becomes second nature for them. Our goal is to

teach the students that we are all linked to each other as a community and we are accountable for our actions.

Please speak with your child(ren) about this new school wide character education program. This will be one of the topics that we discuss in our Parent Power Hour on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for this meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Hunter at ext: 2245 or Mrs. Branker at ext: 2234.

As always, thank you for your cooperation and support. The Riverhead Charter School would not be as successful without your involvement.

Best Regards,

Dorothy Porteus, RCS Principal