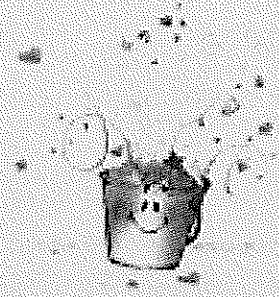


SANTAPOGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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December 2016

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Our Santapogue school community recognizes the importance of character development for all students. It recognizes that the work of parents/guardians at home, in instilling core values, should also be supported at school. To address this issue, the West Babylon School District is emphasizing a character education program based on the nationally recognized and acclaimed **CHARACTER COUNTS!** The program focuses on core ethical values called the "Six Pillars of Character". These universal values include **trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship**. Development OF these traits defines good character and leads to positive conduct, productive citizenship and academic excellence.

Our character education program will include a continuation of our "bucket filling" message, lessons in character, class lessons and activities, school assemblies, special events and recognition programs. You, as a parent/guardian, will be continually updated on this school-wide initiative. This month's pillar and book of the month is shown below. We look forward to your support in our continuing efforts to build a strong school community comprised of individuals who demonstrate trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship every day. *Character Certainly Counts!*

Sincerely,

Santapogue *Character Certainly Counts* Committee

December – Caring

Book of the Month:

Owen & Mzee The Language of Friendship

By Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff & Dr. Paula Kahumbu

