

Counselor's Corner
June 2016

As my own children get older, I try to be very conscious of being in the moment. Being present for the *good* and the *less good* (trying to minimize the bad 😊.) As summer approaches, it is naturally the end-of-year crunch time... Study for a final test, finish that last project, plan activities for the last day of school party, chaperone the class trip, shop for the perfect 6th grade graduation dress ... oh and it's tournament weekend, too. Yup – I've been there (am still there.) Yes, it's overwhelming but **oh, so FUN** if we just focus on today... on now... on this party, this test, this game (yes – I'm a planner, but sometimes the color coded calendar takes a back seat to the moment.)

Our kids are *this* age only for *this* moment and this too shall pass. My challenge to all our parents and care givers out there this summer? Maybe dinner isn't grilled organic chicken with corn from the farm and perhaps the laundry is clean but unfolded in a lump on the floor – but did you get to see your child's last lacrosse game? Proudly sit in the auditorium watching your soon to be middle school student walk across the stage? Choose toes in the sand, collecting shells over grocery shopping? I'm really going to try to choose now, this moment, this memory, this summer– let me know how it goes for you (email me 😊.)

On another note – great news about our Washington Township School District **Habitat for Humanity** fundraiser! This spring, staff and students at both Brass Castle and Port Colden schools were introduced to the wonderful Habitat organization. They learned that one of our own Township families is currently having a house built. Each grade was provided a huge water jug to fill with spare change (pennies were positive points and silver/bills were negative points.) You would have loved the energy surrounding this activity – the strategizing was fabulous!

Recently, our students were able to present a grand total check to Mr. Eskow, Executive Director of Warren County Habitat for Humanity... drum roll, please... our pennies added up to a donation of \$2,337! This money will go directly into the building fund for our local family's home. What a great lesson to us all – we accomplish great things when we work together and every little effort, every penny COUNTS!

As we wind down the academic year, I would like to thank you for sharing your children and a small piece of your lives with me. Congratulations to our sixth graders who are preparing to leave our safe haven (some with excitement, some with trepidation.) Remember to be kind and think about 'what you stand for' – what personal values matter to you? Over the summer, I can be reached via email at dtierney@washtwpsd.org. Congratulations on another successful year – enjoy the time with your family this summer and **remember to be in this moment – this particular time won't come again** 😊

JUNE 2016 - Positive Character Counts

Sun	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Sat
			1 Practice positive character every day!	2 The right choice is not always the easiest one to make...	3 Encourage your friends to be their best - surround yourself with positive people	4
5	6 A positive attitude leads to better self control - believe in yourself!	7 Be strong and make your actions POSITIVE ones!	8 Believe in yourself - you got this - finish the year strong!	9 Be patient with yourself - you are learning to make good choices each day!	10 One week to go - what are your positive plans for the summer?	11
12	13 Be kind and work hard - these traits will help you become a successful and well like member of your community	14 Practice positive character everyday... it matters!	15 When you know you have done your personal best - be happy with your accomplishments	16 Thank your teacher for something specific he/she taught you this year!	17 Make a positive difference in someone's life this summer... and then come tell me about it in September ☺	18
19	20 CHALLENGE: <i>Fill in the rest of the days this month with your family - then share your thoughts with me in the fall... I will use them in future calendars!</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Each day is filled with the opportunity to make positive choices. This summer, remember 'what you stand for' - are you a bucket filler? Would your grandma be proud of your actions? Are your words kind and appropriate?