



Ed's Word for June is...

COOPERATION

Definition: To be helpful, to work with others for the common good, and to be a willing and productive team player.

"A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."

Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian playwright (1828-1906)

"Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the thing we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Thirty-Second U.S. President (1882-1945)

"It is probably not love that makes the world go around, but rather those mutually supportive alliances through which partners recognize their dependence on each other for the achievement of shared and private goals."

Fred Allen, radio comedian (1894-1956)

Mt. Cooperation

Achievement is like a mountain rang. To aim for excellence is to aspire to climb to the crowning point. The endeavor requires each climber to be equipped with essential skills, knowledge, determination and will power. However, no climb should be undertaken without the most indispensable piece of equipment: the safety rope of cooperation.

Cooperation ensures equanimity, empowerment, easiness and enthusiasm. Cooperation helps each climber to take a step, no matter how small, and for those steps collectively to reach the pinnacle.

Adapted from Living Values Education

Old Warwick

One summer evening a man got lost while driving through the countryside. As he tried to read a map, he accidentally drove off the road and landed in a ditch. Although he wasn't hurt, his car was stuck deep in the mud. The man walked to a nearby farm to ask for help.

"Warwick can get you out of the ditch," the farmer said, pointing to an old mule. The man looked at the haggardly mule, then looked back at the farmer, who repeated, "Yep, old Warwick can do the job."

The man figured he had nothing to lose. The two men and Warwick made their way back to the ditch.

The farmer hitched the mule to the car. With a snap of the reins he shouted, "Pull, Fred! Pull, Jack! Pull, Ted! Pull, Warwick!" The mule pulled the car from the ditch with very little effort.

The man was amazed. He thanked the farmer, patted the mule and asked, "Why did you call out all those names before you called Warwick to pull?"

The farmer grinned and replied, "Old Warwick is just about blind. As long as he believes he's part of a team, he doesn't mind pulling."

James W. Moore

Cooperation is...Working together to do more than you can do alone. Recognizing that every person has a unique contribution to make. Helping others understand that success is gained when everyone works together.

Cooperation is about getting along with others. It starts with the parent-child relationship.



Block 36:

Seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

www.commpartnership.org



Led by the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, **Character Education** is a community-wide initiative working to create a culture of character.

www.characteredspringfield.com