

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARACTER COUNTS AT MCAULEY

Mother McAuley has proudly adopted the Character Counts! Program for the 2008-2009 school year. Character Counts! is a national character education movement designed by the Josephson Institute that uses a common language of core ethical values. The program integrates six pillars of character into the existing curriculum to help students focus on using good judgment and build a framework for ethical living. The six pillars are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

A kick-off event for Character Counts! was held on November 7 at Mother McAuley introducing the students to the Character Counts! Program. Led by members of Student Council, the assembly included skits, songs, and spirit-building activities.

The student council officers drafted the McAuley Declaration of Character Counts, the theatre students performed skits demonstrating ways of incorporating the six pillars of character into everyday experiences, and the chorus students sang character-themed songs. Members of the Lady Macs Dance Team, the McAuley/Brother Rice Band, and the McAuley Liturgical Dancers also performed during the assembly.

In addition, the assembly included six steps to conflict resolution. Juniors Grace Cortes of Bridgeview, Paige Travis of Morgan Park and Ellen Webb of Beverly performed the lively skit, "Little Red Riding Hood," using the six steps to conflict resolution: 1) Agree to mediate; 2) Gather points of view; 3) Focus on Interests; 4) Create win-win options; 5) Evaluate options; and 6) Create an agreement.

President/Principal Dr. Christine Melone, who was instrumental in bring the Character Counts! program to McAuley, gave each student a bracelet with one of the six pillars engraved on it to reinforce the use of these positive character traits in their decision making process.



Members of the McAuley Student Council organized the Character Counts! kick-off assembly and decorated the gym with the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.



McAuley juniors Paige Travis and Ellen Webb used the classic tale “Little Red Riding Hood” to teach the six steps of conflict resolution.