

Happy Autumn to All!

The leaves on our schoolyard trees' are turning and it is hard to believe that the first month of school has come to an end. With one month down, our students have settled in to their new classrooms and routines well, and have been working hard on instructional goals. This year we kicked off our new character education program, The Positivity Project throughout the month of September. You may hear your child(ren) commenting on this initiative, as we are all very excited about our school's participation in this movement!

We are dedicating this edition to the Panther Press to the "P2" Project so that our community can support its students with the awareness and development of Character Strengths. We believe that parents and community members can help to reinforce the importance of these skills, and help students recognize their own strengths.

What is The Positivity Project?

The Positivity Project is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to helping America's youth build stronger relationships by recognizing the character strengths in themselves and others. Their vision is to create citizens and leaders who will enhance our communities and country by internalizing the belief that "Other People Matter." Positive psychology's scientifically validated 24 character strengths serve as its foundation. Positive psychology teaches that people have all 24 strengths within them – and that character is not just skills or behaviors, but rather an intrinsic part of each of us.

The Positivity Project is not a program with strict guidelines. Instead, it educates teachers or the character strengths and relies on them to teach in a way that best meets their students' needs. It is a school-wide endeavor, grounded in the consistency of daily classroom instruction. Their model is holistic; it incorporates students, educators, and parents through regular interaction with character strengths vocabulary and concepts.

The project will help educators instill vocabulary and the meaning of the strengths through explicit teaching of each strength for 10 minutes per day. Schools will dedicate 1-2 weeks to each strength to help students understand them through definition, examples, discussions, and exercises. Schools and educators are encouraged to tailor the materials for their own best use, as they know their students and curriculum better than anyone else.



What are the benefits of implementing The Positivity Project?

The Positivity Project ideals evolve throughout a student's whole school career. The 24 character strengths develop and gain more meaning for students as they grow. Once students learn the meaning of each strength and what it looks like, they can then be embedded into the curriculum in every subject area. The character strengths become a part of a common language and they will see them in everything that they do.

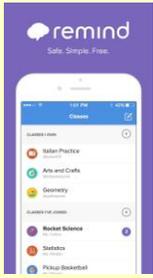
The Project teaches children by acknowledging that the 24 character strengths are already a part of who they are as people. It helps them to realize that each and every one of them have these strengths. There is no system in place to reward students who demonstrate "Good Character". Rewards are fun to earn but they are finite because they are external. We want children to internalize the traits that society honors. Acknowledgement to oneself and realizing that you have the power to affect others in a positive way is much more meaningful and rewarding.

Positive character strengths can and should be acknowledged in the classroom, as it gives students a richer understanding of what the character strength looks like in their peer group. Students understand that they have their own "Super Power" and they will be acknowledged and valued for their own character strengths.

How can you help?

We would love for you to take an active role in your child's character strength education. By using the character strengths vocabulary and having discussions about the concepts, you will help your child understand the character in themselves and others in a different light. You can follow our social media handles to see what we're doing each day – and please feel free to reach out for more information or visit www.posproject.org

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On another note, I have set-up a **Remind Group messaging system** for parents to receive text messages regarding emergency school closings and special school events. Please refer to the directions for being included in this group provided in this edition of the Panther Press. It is as simple as texting an access code to a specific number. It only takes a minute to sign-up! Just text the message **@8h7d6** to the number **81010** or use the steps outlined on the included "directions page" to sign up for updates from Ms. Reid.

In closing, please note that on **Thursday, October 12th** we will host a school-wide **OPEN HOUSE** in the evening. Elementary classrooms will be open from **5:30-6:30 p.m.** and we hope all parents attend! Our students love to show off their classrooms!

With Sincere Positivity,
Brooke Reid
Elementary Principal



September Birthdays!

- Emma Malette
- Wilton Eldridge
- Chloe Molella
- Grayson Cook
- Madelynn Barr
- Mallory Taylor
- Quinton Harrigan
- Sophia Sullivan



Our Very Important Panthers!

Curiosity:

Karson Caringi-Deshaw, Eli Weeks, Brianna James, Jake Lamphere, Fiona Snell, William Oosterman, Dominic Molella, Leo Kelly, Jayda-Jo Page, Noah Phippen and Bastien Cutler

Open Mindedness:

Dayna Sullivan, Ailee Scovil, Nate Phippen, Niccoli Butcher, Wilton Eldridge, Jacob Phippen, Lilianna Clark-Vallance, Tyler Bruno and Alexis Klinegardner

5th Graders READ to Earn Free Books!

Fifth graders at PHCS are becoming voracious readers!

Our elementary school bought in to a wonderful program called AR last year. Accelerated Reader is a program where students can log on to their Chromebooks, go online, and take comprehension quizzes on books as they finish them. Students earn points according to the reading level and length of the book, as well as the score on the quiz. The more points students earn, the higher the possibility for prizes, and of course, increased reading ability, fluency, and comprehension. On the twelfth day of school, Ms. Rose awarded a book to each student who had completed and passed 12 books—one for each day.

Another surprise contest was given a few days later for students who had gone above and beyond. If he or she had read double the number of books as there were days of school already, and passed the AR quizzes, they were awarded a second book.

A few students even earned third books!
23 out of 35 students have earned at least one free book.
A total of 29 free books were awarded so far this year!
Great job to the "Go-Getter-Readers" in fifth grade!

