

Damascus Christian School Chalkmarks



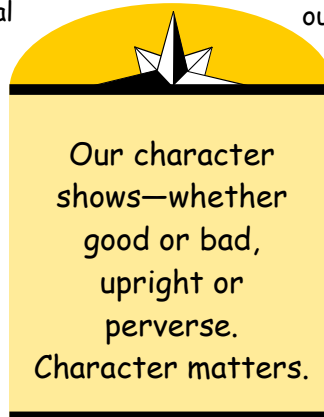
A Weekly Newsletter for DCS Family and Friends

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Volume 3

Does Character Matter?

Webster's New World Dictionary defines "character" as "...the pattern of behavior or personality found in an individual; moral constitution; moral strength; self-discipline; fortitude, etc." Scripture says, "It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself, if his conduct is pure and right" (Prov. 20:11 NASB). The Living Bible says it this way, "The character of



even a child can be known by the way he acts - whether what he does is pure and right."

Does character matter? God's Word clearly indicates that it does and it is apparent to those who observe us over a period of time. Our character shows - whether good or bad,

upright or perverse. Character matters. Not too many years ago, we were told that the actions of a recent past President did not matter - those were his personal choices and it did not cross over into daily decisions made from the White House. How foolish to believe that we can be one way in our "personal life" and a different way in our daily, professional life. It does not work that way. We are who we are and sooner or

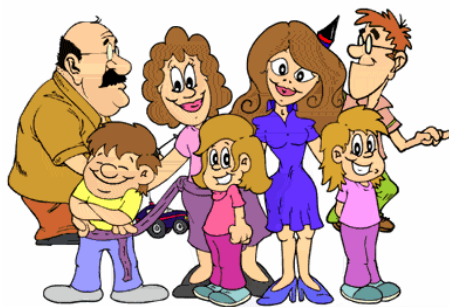
later our true character surfaces.

How is strong, positive character formed? Through the diligent training, teaching and modeling of committed parents, extended family, teachers, coaches, and others of significance in our lives. As Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 says in part, "...and you (parents) shall teach them diligently (real effort) to your sons (and daughters) and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." In other words, character training is to take place every day in common, around-the-house, on-the-way situations.

Moral character training presumes that we, as parents, are people of good character - that our word is our bond, that we treat others fairly and justly, that we are upright in our business dealings, that we regularly attend and serve in our local church, that we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and strength, and that we desire to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, day-in, day-out. We lead by example.

George Barna in his book *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions* says there are three levels of influence in American culture today. "The first and most dominate agents of influence are contemporary music, movies (including videos and DVDs), TV programming, the Internet, publications

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(dominated by books but including magazines and newspapers), laws and public policies, and parents. The second tier of influence agents includes peers, schools, radio, mentors, colleges and universities and siblings. The lower tier of influence encompasses churches and faith communities, adult education, counseling and therapy experiences, and extended family" (p. 58). Barna goes on to say that the relative influence of these elements varies according to a person's age and other factors. Bottom line - "... parents are well advised to maximize their influence while the child is young. The older a child gets, the more distracted and vulnerable he or she becomes to non-family influences."

Does character matter? In God's economy it certainly does. Good character doesn't just happen. It takes focused, purposeful, daily, diligent effort, primarily on the part of parents. Need some help and encouragement? Read on...

Parenting Seminar Coming

Many parents feel inadequate when it comes to raising children. George Barna, research expert, recently wrote, "A majority of the parents surveyed

are going it alone in the vital and challenging task of raising children and teenagers." Parents have searching and sometimes urgent questions. They want answers that will provide them with insight, guidance and support.



Enter - *The Shepherding Parents Seminar*. This one-day seminar is coming to Damascus Community Church Saturday, October 21st, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, and is designed to help equip churches to equip parents for discipleship (character training). The cost is \$15 per individual or \$25 per couple. This includes a workbook (two for couples) and lunch.

For further information, please contact DCC at (503) 658-3179 or pick up a registration form in the foyer or school office.

Chalkmarks On The DCS Website
www.damascuschristianschool.org

SCRIP Winner!

Last week's *Scrip* \$25 Your Choice gift card was won by Sheri, parent of a 7th and 10th grader. Congratulations! How to get in on the fun? Simply purchase *Scrip*! Place your order on Tuesday and get your *Scrip* cards on Friday. Got *Scrip*??? Due to the ACSI Teachers' Conference October 5th & 6th, there will be no *Scrip* orders next week.



WaMoola For DCS

Washington Mutual Bank is offering DCS triple points from September 15th to October 31st, for those school families using the Washington Mutual Debit MasterCard. Simply designate Damascus Christian School as the recipient school when you use your debit card. Cardholders enrolled in the *WaMoola for Schools* program must click on the *Raise Your School's Spirit* icon at wamoolaforschools.com and then enter the following code when prompted: RYSS3P3. If you are not enrolled, go to wamoolaforschools.com. Thanks!

Recycled Paper - Who Gets The Proceeds?

A question has arise - "Who gets the money that is generated



through the school paper recycling program?" Good question! Those funds are designated to the Washington, DC trip fund and divided evenly between the two classes scheduled for the trip. In this case, this year's freshmen and sophomores will be benefiting from any paper deposited in the blue

recycle bin near the gym. To date, each class has \$124.70. Please, bring your newspapers and other recyclable papers to DCS to help our high school students head to DC.

The next trip will be June 2008. The parents of our current ninth and tenth graders have already met with trip coordinator Mrs. Urbanowski for an orientation and information meeting.

