



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

SINGLE SCHOOL CULTURE © INITIATIVES
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October 9, 2013
Bulletin #P-14721-TL/SSCI

Contact:

Susan Knight, PX 81472
knight@palmbeachschools.org

Action By:
Information Only

TO: All Principals

FROM: Cheryl C. Alligood, Chief Academic Officer 

**SUBJECT: CHARACTER EDUCATION: SUNSENTINEL CHARACTER COUNTS!
STUDENTS RECOGNITION PROGRAM**


Florida Statute § 233.061 Legislature requires that all public schools offer character education in all grades. The goal of character education is to help students develop socially, ethically, and academically by infusing character development into every aspect of the school culture and curriculum (Education Commission of the United States, April 2001).

For the ninth year, the District is partnering with the *Sun Sentinel* to recognize and support students who demonstrate exemplary character. Each month, classroom teachers, guidance counselors, afterschool staff, and/or other school staff select students who best exemplify good character. Each of these students receives a **free** certificate and recognition from their school. From these honorees, the school chooses one student per month to receive the school's **SunSentinel Character Counts!** Award which includes a **FREE SunSentinel Character Counts!** plaque and certificate. Each participating school receives **one free** plaque per month. In May 2013, the *Sun Sentinel* will have a special Sunday Character Counts! article highlighting students showcased throughout the school year.

In order to participate, your school must complete the attached **SunSentinel Character Counts! School Participation Request Form**. Detailed instructions are included. Single School Culture © Initiatives will assist you in the required development and implementation of your Character Education efforts. We encourage all schools to participate in the 2013-14 Character Counts! Student Recognition Program.

EWG/CCA/KO/KCW:gv
Attachments

Approved: _____


E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent



SunSentinel Character Counts! **Newspaper Appearance Release 2013-14**

Student Name: _____
(Print student name)

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Date: _____

Program Announcement: SunSentinel Character Counts! in Palm Beach County

The undersigned does fully realize that he/she may appear in newspaper, print, video, or electronic production of the above account. Programs or announcements for the aforementioned account may be used in newspaper on an unlimited or unrestricted basis.

The undersigned does further realize that he/she will receive no compensation for this appearance. At no time will **SunSentinel** be in any way responsible for the liability arising from such appearance or statement or both.

The undersigned further acknowledges that Consent and General Release has been read and understood and that he/she is 18 years or older.

In witness thereof, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature:

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

If the above is not of legal age, this release is hereby signed by:

Parent or Guardian: _____
(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

Parent or Guardian Printed Name: _____

Who is the _____ **of said person.**
(Relationship to student)

Home Telephone Number: _____ **Cell Number:** _____

Email Address: _____

Witnessed for the Sun Sentinel by:

(School Character Coach/Teacher Signature and Title) **Date:** _____

(Printed name and title)

October 9, 2013

Hello Character Contacts,



The SunSentinel Character Counts! Program begins its 10th year this fall!

Welcome back, or welcome aboard, the team. **We thank all those who have contributed to the program's success in the past** and ask your continued help to identify kids to showcase in the *SunSentinel* for outstanding demonstration of one or more of the district's character traits: *Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness or Citizenship*.

This year will be virtually the same as last year, except we have a **new writer, Beth Feinstein-Bartl**, a *SunSentinel* contributor for more than 15 years. As always, **it's an honor for the students, and your school, to be featured as we publish only about 30 of these student stories during the school year.**

Please continue to make the program more effective by helping with:

- **Steady, and especially early-year, nominations of students performing outstanding good deeds** (see examples below). Please offer these as quickly as possible. We publish as many of your nominations received as possible, up to the 30.
- **Initial submissions should be sent starting Wednesday, October 9, 2013**, and should be received no later than Friday, October 18, 2013. This is important for us meet our first set of deadlines – we start publishing the stories on Sunday, October 27, 2013.
- **Once again we handle story submissions by email** (specifically, Word attachments or email body type) as this has proven to be most efficient and effective for everyone. (Email Beth at beth1fl@aol.com).

The **focus is on specific ONGOING, OCCASIONAL or SINGLE outstanding acts of character by a student(s)** (NOT academics), in any instance or time period. The acts do NOT have to be tied into a particular month's pillar and you do NOT have to wait until the end of the month to email a nomination.

All actions should be:

- **Student-generated actions**, not teacher-generated projects or activities.
- **They should be specific acts or deeds.** For instance, a student assists a challenged student in his daily routine; a student regularly helps another with language challenges or sticks up for an unpopular or bullied student; a student performs outstanding volunteer work at school or in the community; or in general commits any singular, noteworthy act of kindness such as finding and turning in a sizable amount of lost money or some valued personal article

We require:

- **Specific bullet-point information** is preferred. Don't worry about how you write the nomination.
- **Please follow up as directed when your nominee is selected.** This has been a challenge at times. When we receive very good nominations but cannot get follow-up information the story goes unpublished. Forms you will be emailed will explain the process step-by-step.

Your **school district contacts** are Susan Knight and Kim C. Williams. They can be reached at knight@palmbeachschools.org or 561-494-1472 OR kim.williams1@palmbeachschools.org or 561-731-2823 for certificates, plague ordering or program questions. The ***SunSentinel* contact** is Beth Feinstein-Bartl. Contact Beth for specific story questions, submissions and information at beth1fl@aol.com or 954-559-2226

Thanks again for helping to showcase students with outstanding character!

John W. Chace, *SunSentinel* Character Counts! Founder on behalf of this-year's writer, Beth Feinstein-Bartl



SunSentinel Character Counts! Student Recognition Program



School Participation Request Form for SY2013-14

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School Name	
Principal Signature	
Printed Name of Character Education Contact	
Email Address for Contact	
Telephone Number	

Certificates

Certificates can be obtained in one of the two following ways:

1. Contact Susan Knight at knight@palmbeachschools.org or by telephone 561-494-1472 or PX 81472
2. Order on-line from EDCO at www.edco.com

Plaques

Each school is entitled to **ONE free** plaque per month at no cost to the school or the School District. Plaques can only be ordered on-line from Edco at www.edco.com. Certificates can be ordered with plaques.

Posters

SunSentinel posters to display in prominent areas of your school will be available for *free* by contacting Susan Knight @ knight@palmbeachschools.org or by telephone 561-494-1472 or PX 81472

Additional comments/needs of the school:

Please pony form to
Susan Knight, Single School Culture © Initiatives
c/o Lincoln Elementary School
or fax to 561-494-1470 / PX 81470
If you have any questions, call 561-494-1472 or PX 81472
or email knight.palmbeachschools.org



SunSentinel Character Counts! Program Instructions



We encourage all schools to participate in the 2013-14 Awards Program.

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1. Complete the **SunSentinel Character Counts! School Participation Request Form**. Select a **SunSentinel Character Counts!** designee, who may be your Character Education Contact.
2. Fax the completed Participation Request Form to 494-1470/PX81470. Or pony mail the document to Susan Knight, Single School Culture © Initiatives, Lincoln Elementary School.
3. Each month, classroom teachers, guidance staff, after school staff or administrators select one student from each class who best exemplifies one or more of the six character traits: *Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness and Citizenship*. Each of these students receives a *SunSentinel* certificate. Schools are asked to do the following: mention these students' names on the morning broadcast, on Edline, list them in the school newsletter along with the **SunSentinel Character Counts!** logo, and/or distribute the certificates at an awards assembly, parent assembly or open house.
4. From these honorees, **ONE student per month is chosen** to receive the school's **SunSentinel Character Counts!** plaque. **ALL CERTIFICATES AND PLAQUES ARE FREE. One free plaque is available to each school, each month from Edco.** Schools order plaques online at www.edco.com (scroll down main page to bottom right and click on the CC! Logo). Monthly honorees should also receive acknowledgement via morning broadcasts and/or assemblies, a profile in the school newsletter, and their photo displayed on a **SunSentinel Character Counts!** school bulletin board to be prominently placed in a centralized high visibility location. A Character Committee, the Character Education Contact, student leadership groups, or other existing school committees may select the monthly honorees.
5. The Character Counts! designee should also send submissions throughout the year for students to be recognized in the paper's Community News and Society sections and online site. **All story submissions should be emailed to Beth Feinstein-Bartl at beth1fl@aol.com** for consideration. A signed Student Appearance Release Form, attached, should be kept on file at the school.
6. The **SunSentinel Character Counts!** logo should be prominently included in all related printed material, including, but not limited to: back pack flyers and school newsletter articles. Schools are asked to prominently display the *SunSentinel* "Partners in Education" poster that is provided by the *SunSentinel*.
7. If you have any questions regarding this student recognition program, contact Susan Knight at knight@palmbeachschools.org or 561-494-1472 or PX 81472.

Thank you for participating in this FREE Student Recognition Program!