

The Bennet Elementary Express

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Character Counts Corner

The Blue Stone and the White Lie

When my daughter Abrielle was 4, she came running down the hall screaming. "I don't want to die! I swallowed a stone!" I immediately determined that nothing was obstructing her throat, but she was still in a panic.

"It's okay, sweetheart," I tried to soothe her. "You're not going to die."

She thought I didn't understand. "But I swallowed a stone! It was a blue one!" she emphasized, as if I should realize that was a particularly deadly one.

Apparently a babysitter, to discourage her from putting things in her mouth, had told her she could die if she swallowed the wrong things. To Aby, that included some polished stones I'd given her.

I assured her that she was in no danger that the stone would come out in the morning when she went poo-poo.

She ran to the toilet, hollering, "I want it out now!" She began pushing so hard, it looked like a blood vessel would burst. She was frightened and desperate.

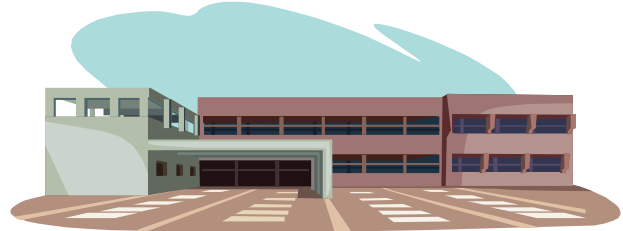
Moments like this test and refine your values. Truth and reason weren't working. So I lied. "I know what to do," I declared. I got a spoonful of maple syrup and brought it back. "Here, swallow this," I told her. "It will melt the stone."

"Will it be gone?" she looked up in wonder. "Absolutely."

She swallowed it and announced triumphantly, "Daddy melted the stone! I'm not going to die!" The emergency was over, but I hated lying to her. A few weeks later, I sat down and told her the truth, worried that she would never trust me again. Funny, she trusted me even more.

Truth is important, but trust is the ultimate treasure.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



School and Community Events

Fine Arts Pizza Delivery Tomorrow

Fine Arts Pizza Delivery will be tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 31st. at Palmyra High School from 7:00 – 8:00 am. If your son, daughter or family member is unable to pick-up their order, please make other arrangements to get the items picked up on Saturday, October 31st. We are unable to store the frozen foods. This pick-up is for sellers not the buyers.

BackPacks Available!

The Bennet Backpack program has backpacks available for qualifying families. Just a reminder of what the Backpack Program does: It provides a backpack of food each week to qualifying families. Qualifying families are those participating in the free and reduced lunch program.

We currently distribute 16 backpacks of food each week. We have four more that could be sent home. If you qualify, but do not currently participate in the Bennet Backpack Program, please contact Mr. Robb, Mr. LaPointe or Laura at 782-3535 and let them know you want to participate.

Golden Glow! - November is Respect Month!

A golden glow will be radiating from Bennet Elementary as students and staff work on developing their second Pillar of Character this year – RESPECT. During November we'll be practicing respect as we treat people the way we want to be treated using respectful language. We'll kick off RESPECT on Monday, November 2nd, by wearing yellow or gold. The color is to remind us of the Golden Rule: "Treat others the way you want to be treated", which represents being respectful.

Remember to wear YELLOW or GOLD on Monday, November 2nd, to show your Character Counts Colors!

November Menus Sent Home

The November Lunch and Breakfast Menus are being sent home today. If you need an extra, there are more in the office. Or you may check out our website for a pdf copy of the menus.



Daylight Savings Time Ends

This weekend will mark the switch back to standard time for the winter months. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday!

Red Ribbon Week at Bennet Elementary

Red Ribbon Week activities had a jump start on Monday at the elementary school with a program provided by Palmyra's PARTY group. The students gave a brief history of Red Ribbon Week and offered various ways to remain drug-free. They answered questions from the students before leading a cheer to "stomp out drugs". Red balloons were popped to reveal a name from each classroom. Small prizes were presented to those students. Treats for each classroom were provided by the PARTY group later in the day.

Check out the article and pictures on our school web page! www.districtor1.org

Bennet Elementary Preparing for Response to Intervention Implementation

What is R.t.I.?

What is new in education right now? Teachers and schools are always looking for new ideas and strategies in order to help the education of our students. One of the hot topics in education right now is a process called (RtI) Response to Intervention. RtI is a multi-tier process in which we identify students who are struggling in certain areas, and then we develop individual plans to help the student. In simple terms, we feel like we have students that are slipping through the cracks. On the outside it looks like these students are doing okay, but really some students are falling behind. The RtI process is being set up to hopefully identify these students and set up individual strategies in order to help them.

This year Bennet Elementary is in the beginning of setting up our RtI process. We have a committee who has been meeting and going to conferences to learn how to get RtI in place. As a school, we have decided to focus on reading in our RtI process. One of the first steps this year was to test our students in their reading ability. All of the students at Bennet Elementary were given a standardized reading test called DIBELS. Each student will be tested three times a year in order to identify students who need additional interventions and support.

Once we have identified students we are able to start the RtI process. RtI is divided into three tiers. Tier one involves the core curriculum and includes all students.

Interventions, if needed at this level, include the parent and teacher. The parent and teacher work together to develop a plan to try to help out the student. Tier two is developing a group plan. The RtI team, parent, and classroom teacher will meet at this level in order to develop an academic plan for the student. In tier two, the group will work together to develop strong interventions for the specific student. Tier two is only necessary if the student does not succeed in Tier one. In tier three, the RtI group, parent, teacher, principal, and any other teachers that could help out come together and try to decide what is best for this student. This group of teachers will develop stronger more intense interventions. Tier three is only necessary if the student is not successful in Tier two. If students are not finding success in the RtI process or with reading interventions the final possibility will be assessment for a learning disability and possible inclusion in Special Education.

Looking for a Used Trumpet

Susan Hoover is looking for a good used trumpet. If you have one please contact her with price at shoover@factsmgt.com.



Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!

Be Careful on the streets and sidewalks as you Trick or Treat tomorrow!

Don't Forget to set your clocks back this weekend!

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday Morning!