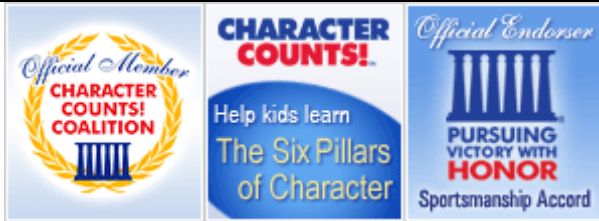


The Bennet Elementary Express

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Character Counts Corner

The Power of Words

“Sticks and stones may break your bones, but names will never hurt you.” Really? Insults, teasing, gossip, and verbal abuse can inflict deeper and more enduring pain than guns and knives.

Ask anyone who as a kid was fat, skinny, short, tall, flat-chested, big-busted, acne-faced, uncoordinated, slow-witted, or exceptionally smart. In schoolrooms and playgrounds across the country, weight, height, looks, and intelligence are the subject of more taunting and ridicule than race or religion.

And it doesn't get better. Unkind words, tasteless jokes, criticism, and ridicule don't lose their sting when we become adults.

There's nothing new about this. But if we trivialize how damaging words can be, especially to youngsters, the ethical significance of verbal assaults can be lost. When we say words can't hurt anyone, we negate the feelings of those who are genuinely hurt.

Instead of minimizing the importance of words, we should encourage parents and teachers to demand a higher level of respect and greater sensitivity precisely because words can be so powerful.

Yes, we should try to fortify our children's sense of self-worth so they can bear insults and sarcasm better. And we should urge them not to take what others say too seriously. But it's just as important to teach them that words have the power of grenades and must be used carefully.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

**End of Second Quarter/First Semester Next
Friday.**

Winter Break Starts December 22nd.

School will dismiss at 3:20 on Friday December 18th for Winter Break. There will be no classes during the Week of December 21st, or December 28th. School will resume on Monday, January 4th at 8:30 a.m.



School and Community Events

Big Storm Leaves Lots of Snow in Area!

A large snow storm that moved through the area earlier this week, left Bennet and the surrounding area with 10+ inches of snow. When the wind picked up and blew that snow around, it made for a king sized mess!

Students enjoyed a three day vacation while everyone dug out! Thanks to Scott Willeford and Dennis Boell for getting the snow cleaned up and piled out of the way so we could resume school today!



There's lots of snow piled up around Bennet Elementary!

Santa Claus to Stop in Bennet!

Santa will make his visit to Bennet on Saturday, December 19th, at 10:30 a.m. He will be making his stop at the Bennet Elementary School Cafeteria in a horse drawn hayrack. There will be rides for the kids. There will also be a magic show presented by a 14 year old magician, treats and lots of fun for everyone! The Bennet Builders are hosting Santa's visit to Bennet.

Santa Claus Coming to Douglas

Santa will be at the Douglas Community Center on Saturday, December 12th from 10:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. There will be cookies, crafts and candy for all. The Douglas Village Board, the Fire and Rescue Squad, and community organizations and businesses are helping sponsor his visit.

Palmyra to Host Visit by Santa Claus

The Senior Center in Palmyra will be the place to see Santa on Saturday, December 12th from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. His visit is sponsored by the Palmyra Action League.



PANTHERS Hooded Sweatshirt

We plan on ordering hooded sweatshirts again this year. They will be identical to the red hooded sweatshirts many students have been wearing around this past year (panther print on the front with "PANTHERS" written above it; last name on the back). Order forms are available in the elementary or high school offices. If interested, please fill out the form and return it with payment (\$30/sweatshirt) to Dave Baasch, Julie Baasch, elementary office, or high school office **BY DECEMBER 18th**.



Any profits from the sale of these sweatshirts will help support the Panthers Youth Wrestling Program. Orders without payment will not be processed! Make checks payable to Dave Baasch.

Bennet Elementary T-Shirts

The Bennet Elementary Courtesy Committee is selling T-Shirts for a fundraiser to help the Bennet Elementary Boosters defray the costs of landscaping in front of the school. It has been a long time since we have done school T-shirts and we are really excited to show our school spirit.

A flyer with details about the t-shirts and an order form is being sent home with the newsletter today.

Granny's Comfy Closet Trade Day

The next trade day will be December 12th from 10:00 – 1:00, at the Countryside Alliance Church in Princeton. There will be a great selection of clothes and items for Christmas. No donations will be accepted at this trade day. If you have any questions, contact Barb at 430-7842 or Jane at 799-2067.



Elementary Cheer Camp Set for January

The High School Cheerleaders will sponsor a cheer camp for elementary students. The camp is scheduled for January 23rd, from 9:00A.M. – 12:00P.M. Flyers

with information and registration forms are available in the office.

Bennet Elementary Movie Day Nets Large Donation for Area Food Pantry

As you can see from the picture below the annual Bennet Elementary Movie Matinee brought in a large donation for the local food pantry. Students were asked to bring in a canned food item as admission. Over 125 students were present for the two movies. Thanks to all the students and families for your donations. Thank you also to the Bennet Elementary Boosters for all their help and food donations for the students at movie day.



Pictured Above are: (back row lft – rt.) Annysia Kennell, Saleta Randall, Mason Maahs, and Braden Doran. (Front Row lft. – rt.) Tara Bisesi, Kailey Phillips, Kailey Randall, and Kyla Davis.

Responsibility Day Next Week

On Tuesday, December 15th, students and staff will once again be wearing green to remember to practice the Pillar of RESPONSIBILITY. Being a person of character means being responsible. Wear green and celebrate RESPONSIBILITY on Tuesday.

Basketball T-Shirt Orders Extended to Monday

Orders for Basketball T-shirts will be accepted until Monday, December 14th. Order forms are available in the school office and on the school website. They will also be for sale at the Mead v. Palmyra B.B. games tonight at Palmyra.

