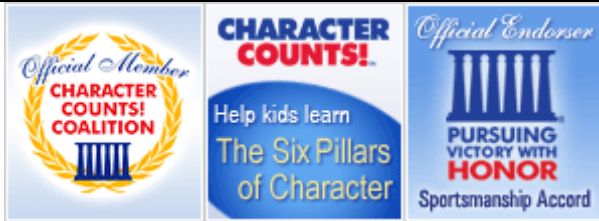


The Bennet Elementary Express

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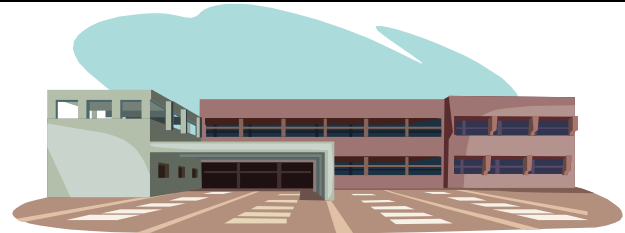
Character Counts Corner

Eighteen Random Rules of Life

I love maxims, those concise capsules of worldly wisdom. I collect them and write them and, of course, love to share them. Here are 18 random rules of life worth posting on your mirror or, better yet, using as dinner-time discussion starters.

1. Find the lesson in every failure and you'll never fail.
2. The likelihood that you're right is not increased by the intensity of your conviction.
3. Real friends help you feel worthy and make you want to be better.
4. When you're in a hole, stop digging.
5. Don't confuse fun with fulfillment or pleasure with happiness.
6. Refusing to let go of a grudge is refusing to use the key that will set you free.
7. Hating hurts you more than the person you hate.
8. Counting on luck is counting on random chance. Your odds are much better when you plan and work.
9. Being kind is better than being clever.
10. Don't underestimate the power of persistence.
11. The easy way is rarely the best way.
12. It's much easier to burst someone else's bubble than to blow your own.
13. You can't avoid pain, but you can avoid suffering.
14. Self-pity is a losing strategy. It repels others and weakens you.
15. Shortcuts usually produce short success.
16. Control your attitude or it will control you.
17. It's more important to be significant than successful.
18. The world is waiting for you to heal it.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



School and Community Events

P-T Conferences Approaching

P-T Conferences February 9th for Elementary and High School

Early Dismissal at 1:10 on Tuesday

Conference Time Slips Sent Home Today

This is just a reminder that Winter Parent-Teacher Conferences have been set for Tuesday, February 9th, from 2:00-8:00 p.m.

You should receive a note from your child's classroom teacher today with the time for your conference. If you did not get one, or the time selected will not work, please contact the school immediately and we will try to work out a time for you.

School will dismiss at 1:10 on Tuesday, February

9th for P-T Conferences at the Elementary and at the High School.

Please make sure that you have daycare arrangements made for that day. **The After School Rec Program**

WILL be operating until



5:30 that day.

Babysitting Service during P-T Conference @Palmyra and Bennet

For the February 9th parent/ teacher conferences, the Palmyra High School National Spanish Honor Society will be providing free will donation babysitting at the High School in Palmyra and **Elementary in Bennet from 2pm until 7pm**. We will have games, movies, and stories for the kids while parents speak with teachers. Any age of child is welcome!

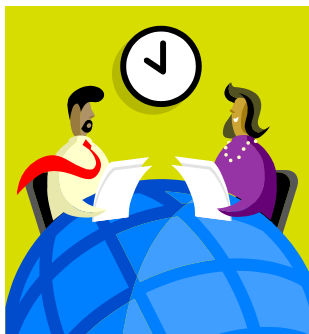
2010 Statewide Parent Involvement Conference

On Saturday, March 27, 2010, the 2010 Statewide Parent Involvement Conference will be held at Westside Middle School in Omaha, NE, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for parents to gain parenting skills for a lifetime, from professional educators,

counselors, law enforcement officials, and more. The Keynote Speaker will be Scott Butler. Scott is an assistant principal in the Millard Public Schools. He will talk about parent/child interactions and how assets can impact those interactions in positive ways. The cost of the conference is \$25 per participant if pre-registered, \$30 registration the day of the conference. Free child care is provided but you must be pre-registered. Registration forms are available online at the Conference Web Site: www.westside66.org, or at the school office in Bennet.

The Importance of the Parent-Teacher Conference

A parent-teacher conference may initially be uncomfortable for both the parent and the teacher. However, a well-conducted conference will move beyond grades or problems that the student may be experiencing. It might be a time for the parents to share their knowledge of their child, including their hopes for the child's future. It could also be an opportunity for the teacher to increase the parents' awareness of their child's classroom experience and how the child relates within the school environment. There are several things that both parents and teachers can do that may help make conferences more successful. Some of those include:



Before the conference:

- * Plan ahead; schedule a time that is convenient for both of you and have the conference in a location where you will not be distracted.
- * Limit concerns; decide to discuss only two or three areas.
- * Clarify who will be present; let everyone know who will be at the conference and why (e.g., perhaps the principal, or special education teacher, or student should be involved).

During the conference:

- Be polite, personable, and positive—remembering the three P's may help everyone relax and adjust to the other person's communication style.
- Avoid lecturing—keeping comments brief will give everyone present an opportunity to share information.
- Give examples—providing specific examples or anecdotes of the child's work or behavior helps everyone to understand the concern.
- Develop common goals—acknowledge what each person can do to support the child in the areas of concern.

After the conference:

- Follow-up—following up with either a written or oral communication or "thank-you" is important for an ongoing supportive relationship.

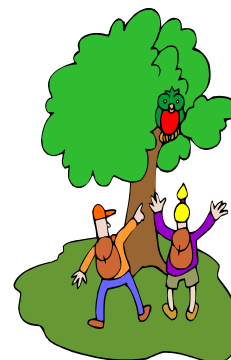
As parents and teachers grow in their ability to work together, respecting their mutual roles as equal partners on the child's educational team, then conferencing and communication will become easier.

Elementary Boosters Meet on February 9th

The Elementary Boosters will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the computer lab. They will be doing planning for the Fun Night in April and a Special AR Reading Night in March. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend the meeting.

Kindergarten Round-Up Date Set

Kindergarten Round-Up for the 2010-2011 School Year will be held in two sessions on **Friday, April 23rd**. If you have a youngster that will be starting school next fall or know of someone with an eligible student, please contact the school. We need to record names, phone numbers and addresses, so we may send out future information to all families that need to know.



Please Note:

Early Dismissal on February 9th for P.T. Conferences.

P.T. Conferences will be held from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m.

There will be After School Rec. Program that day.

Free Will Baby Sitting Service will be available in Library sponsored by the Spanish National Honor Society