

The Bennet Elementary Express

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Character Counts Corner

History of the Olympics

Legends differ on the exact reason, but it's pretty certain that the first Olympic Games were conducted in Greece in 776 B.C. Thereafter, they were held every four years (called an Olympiad) for nearly 12 centuries.

During the Games, a temporary global truce was declared so athletes from warring countries could compete. Only male athletes participated, and they competed in the nude. Victors were crowned with wreaths from a sacred olive tree thought to have been planted by Hercules (Heracles) behind the temple of Zeus. They were also given substantial cash rewards.

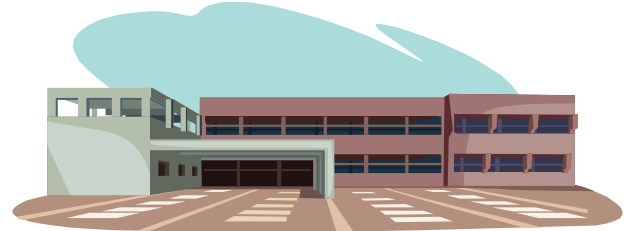
The games were abolished in 393 A.D. by Emperor Theodosius I who thought they were remnants of pagan worship.

Fifteen hundred years later, in 1894, a Frenchman named Pierre de Coubertin organized the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to revive the tradition. The first modern Olympic Games opened in 1896 in Athens.

De Coubertin had more noble ambitions than his ancient predecessors. He embodied in the founding documents the notion of Olympism as a philosophy of life. His concept was built on core principles including the Greek ideal of the well-rounded person with physical, moral, intellectual, and artistic qualities and the belief that international athletic competition can uplift and inspire the character of the world and generate cross-cultural friendships and understanding as a basis for world peace.

In 1908, he introduced the Olympic Creed that defines the Olympic spirit. To this day, this statement is the guiding star for those who see and want to pursue the ennobling potential of sports: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



School and Community Events

Douglas/Palmyra Children's Softball and Baseball Sign Up

Sign up for all children interested in playing softball or baseball for Douglas and Palmyra will take place on Sunday, February 28th, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Palmyra Community Center. There will be a prize drawing for Scheel's Gift Certificates. If you can't be at the sign up, contact Nicole Ragon at 560-5563 by March 14th. You may check out our school webpage for a copy of the flyer with all of the coaches for this year's teams. It is posted in the Elementary Staff section of the web site

Bennet Elementary Family Readathon Planned!

Mom and Dad, Daughter and Son.

Come and join us Everyone!

To read, and read, and read, and read some more

To watch our AR numbers soar.
Reading, reading is the way

To celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday.
Families here. Families there.

Families reading everywhere!

Parents and children yes indeed, deed, deed

How many books can we read, read, read?



Who? Bennet Moms and Dads, Sons and Daughters

What? Family Dinner & Reading Night

Where? Bennet Elementary School

When? Tuesday, March 2nd from 5 - 7 p.m.

How? Many AR points can we get?

Bennet Elementary Boosters invite you to Dine and Read.

Spaghetti Dinner will be served from 5 - 6 p.m. Free will donation with proceeds following expenses to go to the Jeremy and Michelle Bruce Family.

Stay to AR read and test with your child. Let's see how many AR points we can earn in 2 hours!

Checking for Accelerated Reader Titles On Line

If you have ever wondered if a book title is part of the Renaissance Learning Accelerated Reading Catalog there is a way to find out online.

Simply go to the Renaissance Learning site at:

www.renlearn.com

Once you are there, click "store" on the top toolbar.

After that, clic on quiz search and enter the title of the book you are looking for.

This is a great way for you to check out A.R. titles from home.

Support Our School!

Bear Fair Magazine Fundraiser for Library to Kick-off

Our "BEAR FAIR" Magazine Fundraiser is coming up! Your support will be greatly appreciated! We will be kicking off on Thursday, February 25th, so be on the lookout for your packet coming home!

However, you can get started now!

If you want to *Support Our School* today, shop online and renew or buy new subscriptions.

Visit QSP.com and make your selections! It's that simple!

Our school code is 425051686.

Your support allows a substantial portion of the subscription price to stay at our school to help fund our wonderful Library! If we can count on your support this year, we are sure to have a successful campaign!

How can you support our school more?

- ◆ Consider giving magazine subscriptions as gifts this year!
- ◆ Purchase subscriptions for the school!
- ◆ Let friends and family know about our fundraiser and ask them to save their orders for our program!

Dodge Ball Tournament

The Palmyra Post Prom Committee will be hosting the 5th Annual Dodge Ball Tournament on Saturday, March 20th, 3 p.m., at the PHS Gym. There are two divisions: elementary-8th grade and 9th grade-adult. Teams consist of 6-10 players with a \$60.00 entry fee. This will be a single elimination tournament. Registration and team entry forms are available at the Bennet or Palmyra School Office. Registration deadline is Thursday, March 11. You may drop them off at the school office or mail to Lisa Poppas, 35 Switchgrass Lane, Bennet, NE 68317. If you have any questions, please call David or Lisa Poppas at 782-2079.



Friday, March 5th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Bennet Gym. The following Wednesday, March 10th, the sixth grade will play at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Wergin has both grades busy working on their basketball skills in P.E. classes. The staff meanwhile is still trying to get organized! We seem to be getting older and slower. Who

knows, this could be the year of the upset! Is the staff ready for the challenge again this year, or are they going to succumb to the younger athletes?

Hawaiian Day Next Tuesday! Who cares about Winter Weather!

Students at Bennet Elementary are encouraged to dress up for a Hawaiian Luau on Tuesday, February 23rd. The lunch room will be all decked out with tropical themes for a day at the beach! Students should wear Hawaiian Shirts, sun glasses, sandals, and shorts for a beach dress up day. We will eat picnic style on the floor.

Bennet Elementary Plans to READ ACROSS AMERICA Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

In 1998 the National Education Association created Read Across America as an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss.

If you would like to read aloud to student's at

Bennet Elementary call the office at 782-3535, and leave your name and number, and Becky Hall will return your call to make arrangements for March 2nd.

Just a reminder: "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child."



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Staff v. Fifth and Sixth Grade Basketball Games Approaching

It's time for March Madness! Yes, the annual fifth and sixth grade v. staff basketball games are fast approaching. The fifth grade will take on the staff on