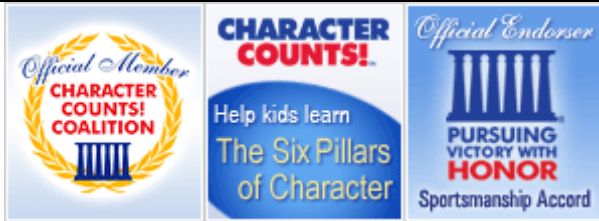


The Bennet Elementary Express

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Character Counts Corner

I'm Hooked on Technology

Many of my contemporaries are either technophobic or blissfully ignorant of the brave new world at our fingertips. These old codgers are missing out on so many new ways to learn, communicate, and entertain ourselves.

Sure, technology can be abused and not everything is great, but how can you not love the Internet, laptop computers, smart phones, and all the apps that make your phone magically accomplish an astonishing array of useful tasks?

I've already told you I use the Kindle to read electronic books, but did I tell you I can select and send passages to my computer for later use? I also told you I prefer to listen to books on my iPhone, but did I tell you that I listen at double speed – people talk too slow anyway – and that I've listened to more books in the past year than I read in the previous five? For example, in just the past 30 days I finished two extensive biographies of Lincoln, a Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the Civil War, Malcolm Gladwell's brilliant *What the Dog Saw*, and three sports books.

The audio system in my Prius connects wirelessly to my iPhone so I can handle hands-free calls as well as listen to my music and books. And the car's satellite-connected GPS flawlessly guides me wherever I want to go. If I ask, it will take me to the nearest gas station, restaurant, or Starbucks.

I could go on, but one of my kids just texted me and I have to check my e-mail to read my Google Alerts. Yikes, I haven't communicated with my Facebook friends and fans for hours.

If you don't have a smart phone with apps (I love my iPhone), you have no idea what you're missing. And if you aren't on Facebook, you really ought to try it. It will surprise you.

If you *are* on Facebook, please join the [CHARACTER COUNTS! community here](#) and the [Commentary community here](#). Let me know what you think.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



School and Community Events

End of Third Qtr. Today. No School on Friday, March 12th!
Today marks the end of the third qtr. Report cards for third qtr. will be coming home on Friday, March 19th.

There will be no school tomorrow, Friday, March 12th. Please enjoy a Spring Break Day!

Malcolm Elementary Music Contest Approaching.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Band students will be performing in the **Malcolm Music Contest on Thursday, March 18th in the afternoon and evening. The sixth grade band will perform with the 7th and 8th grade band on Friday afternoon also.** Information about departures and performance times will be sent home with students today. There are extra copies available in the office. **On Thursday, fifth and sixth grade students will load at 2:00 p.m. and leave for Malcolm at 2:15. On Friday, sixth grade band will load at 2:35 and leave at 2:45.** If you have any questions about the Malcolm Music Contest, please contact Ms. Murphy or Mrs. McCreight at 782-3535 or 780-5327.

Citizenship

Students are learning what it means to be good citizens during the month of March. On Monday, March 16, 2010 we will be wearing PURPLE and having lessons on citizenship. To be a good citizen means to do your share to make your school and community better. Wear PURPLE on Monday and be recognized as a good citizen.

Bennet Summer Ball Sign-up

Bennet Ball Club Sign-up will be held on Tuesday March 16th from 6:30 - 8:30 at the Bennet Elementary School for the following groups:

- Bennet T-ball
- Bennet Player Pitch
- Bennet/Palmyra/Douglas Little League
- Bennet Girls Softball

Little League and Girls Softball only if you miss sign-up please contact Cheryl Ryan at 782-2119 or e-mail bennetballclub@windstream.net

This will be the only sign-up held.

Dodgeball Tournament Registration Deadline

Just a reminder – All registrations, team entry forms and entry fees are due today, Thursday, March 11th, for the 5th Annual Dodgeball Tourney, sponsored by the Post Prom Committee. Registrations and team entry forms are available at Bennet or Palmyra High School Office. The Dodgeball Tourney is Saturday, March 20th at the PHS Gym, starting at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Lisa Poppas 782-2079.

Shrine Circus Tickets Available

The Shrine Circus will be making its stop in Lincoln on March 17, 18, and 19th. The school office has coupons that may be redeemed for a free reserved seat ticket to the circus. These coupons need to be taken to the Pershing Center to be redeemed for a ticket to the circus. They are good for children ages 12 and under. Stop in the office and check with Laura or call us at 782 – 3535 to request your coupons.

New Food Pantry In Bennet

Mom's Pantry located at 695 Monroe St. in Bennet is accepting donations for dry goods and toiletry items during March, in hopes of opening the Pantry on April 4th!

Examples of acceptable items are:

- Canned Veggies and Fruit
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Dry goods –mac and cheese, pancake mix
- Laundry soap
- Paper plates, napkins
- Juice
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
- Dry noodles and pastas
- Baby food

Please drop off items at 695 Monroe St during the following times; Monday 5:30 – 7:30, Tuesday 5:30 – 7:30, Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30.

Mom's Pantry will be open to those in need – no questions asked. Please call 402-440-2871 if interested in finding out how you can help raise items for Mom's Pantry or if you have any questions about the program.

Fifth and Sixth B.B. Games Completed

The annual Fifth and Sixth Grade vs. Staff BB games are in the history books. The staff was able to make a sweep of the games again this year defeating both the fifth and sixth grade squads. Last Friday, the fifth grade made the game a close scoring affair until the very end when the staff made a few baskets to pull out a win. Yesterday, the sixth grade did battle with the staff, and the staff team was hot, making the baskets seem easy. The sixth grade had a hard time getting on track and the staff

won going away. The scores weren't important, as sportsmanship and fun were the main objectives of the day. Nice job both teams for your good displays of sportsmanship and effort.



Jaci and Sarahi get last minute advice from Mr. Wergin



Kristen B. (in middle) waits for her shot to drop in the fifth grade game.



Brandon M. heads up the court after passing off to Trent F. during the sixth grade game.