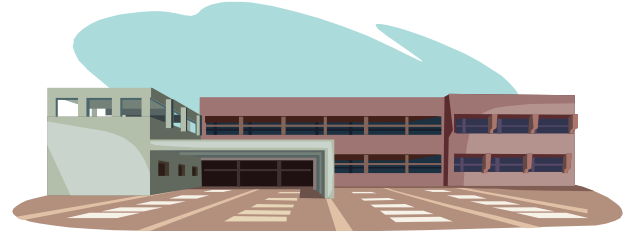


The Bennet Elementary Express

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Oct. 2nd, 2009



Character Counts Corner Put the Big Rocks in First

There's a well-traveled story about a teacher who showed his class a one-gallon jar and a dozen large rocks.

After a little rearranging, he got all the rocks into the jar, filling it to the top. He then dumped a bag of gravel into the jar until the spaces between the rocks were filled. Next he poured sand into the jar, shaking it so the sand filled the spaces between the rocks and the gravel. Finally, he emptied a pitcher of water into it.

"What does this demonstration prove?" he asked.

One student said, "No matter how full your life seems, you can always take on a little more."

Another said, "Sequence and planning is important to maximizing productivity."

A third said, "It's about setting priorities. If you don't deal with the big rocks first, all you'll end up with is a jar of wet sand and gravel."

There's validity to each response, but the idea of identifying and dealing with the big rocks first is a particularly valuable insight.

We will live fuller and more fulfilling lives if we set our priorities – not only at work but in our life as a whole. Our relationships, work, spiritual life, hobbies, and charitable causes all claim our attention. We have to decide what's really important.

Too often we surrender control of our days, even the direction of our lives, by letting circumstances or other people determine how we spend our time. Thus, we deal with what comes at us in the order that it comes or with squeaking wheels and demanding people.

Unless we distinguish between the rocks, gravel, sand, and water in our lives, we're likely to neglect or forget the things that truly matter.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

School and Community Events

Bennet Fire and Rescue Department to Host Open House/Breakfast

The Bennet Fire & Rescue Department will be hosting an Open House and Breakfast Feed at the Department Fire Station located at 480 Fir St. in Bennet, Nebraska, on October 3, 2009, beginning at 7:00am, with a free-will donation breakfast. The Open House will conclude at 10:00am. The Waffleman will be on hand serving up waffles!

The purpose of the Open House is to recognize National Fire Prevention and Awareness Week and allow the department an



opportunity to discuss with the community ways they can better prepare their homes to be safer from fires and other emergencies. The StarCare Air Ambulance will be on hand along with representatives from the St. Elizabeth Burn Unit and the Nebraska Sports Council.

The Bennet Fire and Rescue Department will also conduct a Fire Safety Drill, followed by an assembly at Bennet Elementary School on Wednesday, October 7th at 8:45 in the morning.

End of 1st Quarter Thursday October 15th. No School on Friday, October 16th! Report Cards Sent Home October 23rd.

October 15th will mark the end of the first quarter. **There will be no school on Friday, October 16th. Enjoy a fall break day.** Report Cards will be coming home on Friday, October 23rd.

Sixth Grade YMCA Basketball Team Being Organized

Chris Juilfs is putting together a YMCA Boys basketball team for sixth grade boys. If interested, please call him @432-8513 or Zach at 432-0389. The first registration deadline is October 9th. Games usually start the first weekend in January.



Girl's Third Grade YMCA Basketball Team Being Organized

Vickie Thomsen is putting together a YMCA Girl's basketball team for third grade girls. If interested, please call her at 499-7954

The Office Closet Needs Smaller Clothing

Laura is in need of boys and girls pants in smaller sizes for the primary grade levels (K-2). If you have any pants that your children have outgrown, please consider donating them to the school. If you have any questions, call Laura at school, 782-3535.

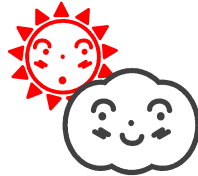
Coats for Folks

The VOICE NEWS is now accepting CLEAN and NICE, blankets, coats, stocking hats, gloves, mittens, snow suits & long sleeved shirts for men, women and children and any other clothes you wish to donate by Tuesday, November 3rd. This year, we are also accepting food donations! Place all coats in sacks or boxes and bring to the Voice News in Hickman or Bennet. Clothing items will go to the Lincoln Action Program and the People's City Mission. Food donations will go to the Douglas Food Bank and the Norris Area Food Bank. If you have any questions, call 782-6060 or 792-2255.

Bill and Linda Bryant would like to thank everyone for your support of the Coats for Folks program.

Cooler Weather Arrives, Jackets Needed!

With the arrival of cooler weather, students need to start bringing a jacket or coat to school in the morning. We will go outside if at all possible and students will need a jacket with them. **Also, please remember to put your child's name in their jacket. If there is a name in the jacket we can get it back to its owner!**



Skate Night Schedule

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 15th. It's not only the end of the first quarter, but also the first Bennet Elementary Skating Party! Skate Zone will host Bennet Elementary students and their parents for a night of family fun! The evening gets underway at 6:00 and lasts until 8:00. Student prices are \$4.00 with attending parents getting free admission and skates. So come on out to Skate Zone on 48th street just north of "O" on Thursday, Oct 15th.



Bennet Elementary Going Green Begin Own School Wide Recycling Program

Bennet Elementary School students and staff members are taking part in a school wide recycling program started in September. Three times each week selected students in grades 4-6 go around to each room in the school to collect recyclable materials. Each classroom has a recycle box or basket that is designated for recycle materials such as paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum, or glass. These items are transferred to two carts, which are then taken outside to our "local" recycle collection site; the old white school van! Students then separate the various materials that they have collected into bins for each type of recyclable item. When the bins are near full in the van, which has been about once each week, Mr. Williford, our school custodian, takes the van to the recycle center in Bennet for transfer of all of our recycle items to their recycle bins.

In addition to all of the classrooms, our school kitchen has jumped on board and is recycling all of the tin cans, cardboard, glass and plastic materials that they receive, which is considerable. Our school dumpsters, which last year, were constantly overflowing with "trash" that was headed to the landfill, are now hardly ever full. What a difference this has made. The students and staff have readily adapted their habits and are now "recycle conscious." Thanks to the efforts of everyone, Bennet Elementary is taking big strides towards being a "Green School!"



Students from the 4th grade sort out recyclable materials from school to be placed in the white van. When the van is full, it is taken to the Bennet Recycle Center for transfer to their recycle bins.