The Bennet Elementary Express

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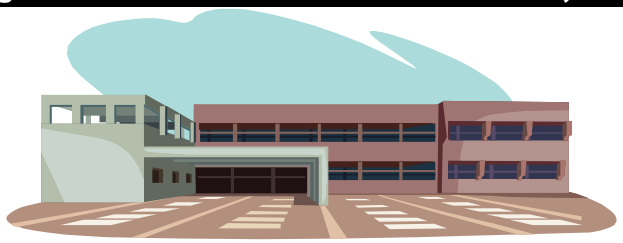


Character Counts Corner

Motive, Tact, Tone, and Timing

Trustworthiness is essential to good relationships, and honesty is essential to trustworthiness. Being honest isn't simply telling the truth, though. It's also being sincere and forthright. Thus, it's just as dishonest to deceive someone by half-truths or silence as it is to lie.

But what if honesty requires us to volunteer information that could be damaging or hurtful?
For example, should you say something when a coworker begins to dress or act in a way that's generating ridicule and damaging his or her credibility? What if you discover your friend's husband is having an affair? Do you tell your brother bad things you know about a woman he's getting involved with?

It's easy to rationalize silence in such volatile situations because it's less dangerous for you. Telling hard truths, however well-intended, can seriously damage relationships. On the other hand, silence can be viewed as a betrayal of trust if it's later discovered that you withheld information.

When considering conveying a hard truth, and the principles of honesty, respect, and caring are in conflict, there's no single right thing to do. In such moments, heed these four critical factors:

Motive. Be sure and pure about your reasons. Your intentions must be honorable, and you must have the well-being of your friend at heart. It's not about you.

Tact. Choose and prepare your words carefully. If necessary, rehearse to lessen the chance that you'll speak impulsively or inappropriately.

Tone. When speaking, avoid self-righteousness or accusations.

Timing. Pick a place and time that will lend itself to a frank interchange.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

Bennet Elementary Boosters to Meet

Please plan to attend the next Bennet Elementary Booster meeting Monday, October 12th at 7:00 pm in the Elementary Library. We will be planning the Oct. 15th skating party and talking about other fall plans.

School and Community Events

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.

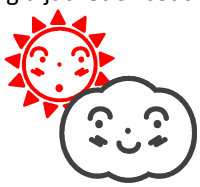
Skate Night on Thursday October 15th

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.

Cooler Weather Arrives, Jackets Needed!

With the arrival of cooler weather and **some snow this weekend,** 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!**



Show Your Colors for Character Counts

Just a reminder, on Thursday, October 15th, staff and students are asked to wear BLUE to show our "true blue" colors for TRUSTWORTHINESS. Every day we strive to be Character Counts Champions and to practice the Pillars of Character : Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Wednesday, October 15th,

is another day to show our colors and be CHARACTER COUNTS CHAMPIONS! Wear BLUE!

Bennet Fire and Rescue Department Pays Visit to Bennet Elementary

Members of the Bennet Fire and Rescue Department were at Bennet Elementary early Wednesday, October 7th, as part of activities for Fire Prevention Month in October. After a fire drill at 8:45, students returned to the cafeteria for a program on fire safety. Following the assembly at the elementary, firefighters paid a visit to the preschool.

The theme for this year is "**Learn Not to Burn.**" Students received a packet of materials from fire department members detailing many common fire hazards in and around the home. Fire Department members had many household items on display that could cause house fires. Students learned about being careful when they cook. They learned about not overloading electrical outlets, keeping space heaters away from combustible materials, not leaving candles burning when they leave the room, testing smoke alarms regularly and making sure that smokers smoke outside the home. Students were given a home safety activity booklet and encouraged to complete some of the activities in the booklet at home with their families.

Of course, the neat looking fire fighting vehicles outside of the school, were a big hit with our students also. Students in the kindergarten and preschool got a special tour of all of the fire fighting vehicles.

Bennet Elementary would like to extend a big thank you to the Bennet Fire and Rescue Department for conducting Fire Safety Activities during October. Each year, members of the department take time out of their busy schedules to help conduct fire safety programs. They supply our students with many materials and activities that they can take home and review with their families. Thanks, members of the Bennet Volunteer Fire and Rescue for a job well done, again!

Fireman Eldon Schroder shows students an example of an overloaded electrical outlet and why you shouldn't use light weight ungrounded extension cords.

Fireman Tim Norris demonstrates hazardous microwave use in the home. He showed the students several examples of common kitchen fire hazards.

End of 1st Quarter is Thursday, October 15th.

No School on Friday, October 16th.

Report Cards will go out Friday, October 23rd.