

The Bennet Elementary Newsletter

Volume 1 No. 2

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August 26th, 2011



Character Counts Corner

The Power of Responsibility

It's been said that the line between childhood and adulthood is crossed when we move from saying, "It got lost" to "I lost it." Indeed, being accountable and understanding and accepting the role our choices play in the things that happen are crucial signs of emotional and moral maturity. That's why responsibility is one of the main pillars of good character.

Many people have been seduced by the Peter Pan philosophy of refusing to grow up and avoiding the burdens implied in being accountable. Yes, responsibility sometimes requires us to do things that are unpleasant or even frightening. It asks us to carry our own weight, prepare and set goals, and exercise the discipline to reach our aspirations. But the benefits of accepting responsibility far outweigh the short-lived advantages of refusing to do so. No one makes his or her life better by avoiding responsibility. In fact, irresponsibility is a form of self-imposed servitude – to circumstances and to other people.

Responsibility is about our ability to respond to circumstances and to choose the attitudes, actions, and reactions that shape our lives. It is a concept of power that puts us in the driver's seat.

The grand panorama of the potential of our lives can only be appreciated when we begin to be accountable and self-reliant. Responsible people not only depend on themselves but show others that they can be depended on. This breeds trust, and trust is a key that opens many doors.

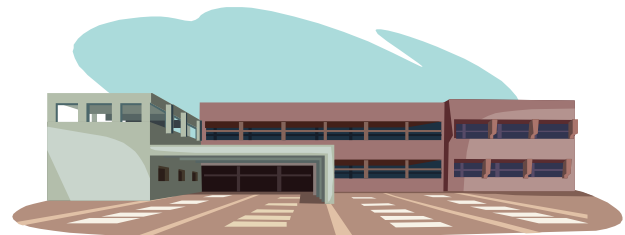
If you want more control over your life and the pleasures, prerogatives, and power of freedom and independence, all you have to do is be responsible.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts

Notes to the Office

It really helps us out in the office if you make notes up in advance about early pick-ups and changes in after school routines. We have had a lot of students coming in after school telling us they are supposed to get picked up by parents or go home on another bus, without notes. Then we end up making frantic last minute phone calls to parents to make sure that we get the students going to the right

places. PLEASE SEND NOTES OR CALL THE SCHOOL WITH CHANGES IN AFTER SCHOOL ROUTINES FOR YOUR CHILDREN.



School and Community Events

Open House Night

We had a great turn out for Open House on Tuesday night. We would like to thank all who attended this year's Open House. It's nice to see and visit with all of the parents and grandparents. It is also a great time to meet the parents of our new students! We hope you had an enjoyable time during the Open House.

There were a lot of parents and students shopping at the Book Fair! Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to help out at the Book Fair.

Thank you also, to our Bennet Elementary Boosters, for the ice cream bars and all the neat handouts that they had at their booth!



P-T Conference Sign-Up

If you weren't at the Open House on Tuesday or did not sign up for a time for P-T Conferences, please call the school or stop in and sign up for a 15-minute time slot for each of your children's teachers. P-T Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call the school at 782-3535.

Fine Arts Boosters Selling Activity Calendar

The Palmyra Music and Fine Arts Boosters have again put together an activities calendar for the District OR-1 schools. The calendar has always been an excellent fund raiser for the Music and Fine Arts Boosters; however, due to the expense of the process this year, we are asking \$5.00 for the flip calendar and \$5.00 for the pocket calendar. The money raised always applies toward the music and fine arts students in the forms of a scholarship for a graduating senior, camp scholarships, band uniforms, etc. The calendars will be available from any booster member (Jackie Bremer, Calendar Coordinator; Denise Knutson, President; Jill Jones, Vice President; Diana Poskochil, Secretary; and Sonja Bartels, Treasurer). Please patronize our advertisers whenever possible and thank you for your support. Jackie 402-432-1410.

Hunter Safety Class in Palmyra

The hunter safety class will be in Palmyra, Nebraska at 415 C. Street on these dates:

Sunday September 11 @ 6:00 – 9:00

Monday September 12 @ 6:30 – 9:30

Sunday September 18 @ 6:00 – 9:00

Monday September 19 @ 6:30 – 9:30

Anyone who is 12 years old by 2-01-12. The class is Nebraska Game and Parks Certified. There is no charge for the class

Contact Roger Smith at 402-780-5326 or 402-429-3339 if you have questions.

Morning Arrival Times

We are trying to alleviate some confusion and chaos at the beginning of the day by adhering to the following arrival times; **Bennet town kids that are eating breakfast are not to arrive before 8:00 a.m. Bennet Town kids that are not eating breakfast should not arrive before 8:15 a.m.** Please help us out by following these arrival times. If you need to drop your children off earlier, we have the before and after school program available for your use.

No Parking in Circle or Preschool Lot

The circle drive in front of the school is for bus pick-up and drop off. During loading and unloading times before and after school, please do not pull into the circle. It is for buses only. This is an important safety issue. Please help us out by not pulling into the circle drive from 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. and from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. **We ask that you use the driveway south of the school for drop-offs in the morning and exit through the south parking lot. If you are picking up your child, please park in the south parking lot. Do not park on Dogwood Street.**

The preschool parking lot east of the school is to be used for drop off and pick up for preschool students

only. Bennet Elementary students are to be picked up and dropped off in the parking lot to the south of the elementary school. Thank you for your cooperation in these areas.

Bennet Students Selected for All-State Choir

Congratulations to the following students for being selected for the Nebraska Children's All-State Choir:

Abbie Frazee

Grace Leuschen

Abby Lief

Everyone who auditioned did an AWESOME job!

Thank you for taking a risk and auditioning!!!

-Mrs. McCreight

Bennet Singers

Bennet Singers forms were due today (Friday, August 26, 2011). Get those forms into Mrs. McCreight by Monday. Our first practice is Tuesday, August 30th at 7:45 a.m.

Music Room Goes Digital

The music class students have been checking out some fun games and songs at these kid friendly websites. Feel free to check them out at home.

MusicK8.com (EGBDF Face Songs)

Classics for kids.com/games (hi/low and note name games)

Panther Stadium Seats

Palmyra Athletic Boosters are selling stadium seats again this year. They cost \$40 and come in red or blue. If you've already seen these seats in the stands, you're probably a little jealous. They are mighty comfortable for long afternoons and evenings in the bleachers. They also serve the purpose of announcing to opposing teams that.....THE PANTHER FANS HAVE ARRIVED!

Order forms are available at the school offices.

Forms need to be returned to Laura at the Elementary or Jane at the High School by September 2nd.

Bennet Backpack Program

The Bennet Backpack Program provides a backpack of food each Friday during the school year to qualifying families. If you participate in the free and reduced lunch program you qualify for the Bennet Backpack Program. The first backpack of food will be sent home on Friday, September 2, 2011. We have 20 backpacks of food to distribute this year. If you participate in the free and reduced lunch program and want to participate in the backpack program this year please contact the school office at 782-3535.