



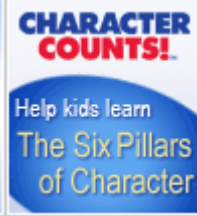
The Panther Preview!



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September 2, 2011



Character Counts Corner It's Not Easy

Let's be honest. Ethics is not for wimps.

It's not easy being a good person.

It's not easy to be honest when it might be costly, to play fair when others cheat, or to keep inconvenient promises.

It's not easy to stand up for our beliefs and still respect differing viewpoints.

It's not easy to control powerful impulses, to be accountable for our attitudes and actions, to tackle unpleasant tasks, or to sacrifice the now for later.

It's not easy to bear criticism and learn from it without getting angry, to take advice, or to admit error.

It's not easy to feel genuine remorse and apologize sincerely, or to accept apologies graciously and truly forgive.

It's not easy to stop feeling like a victim, to resist cynicism, or to make the best of every situation.

It's not easy to be consistently kind, to think of others first, to judge generously, or to give the benefit of the doubt.

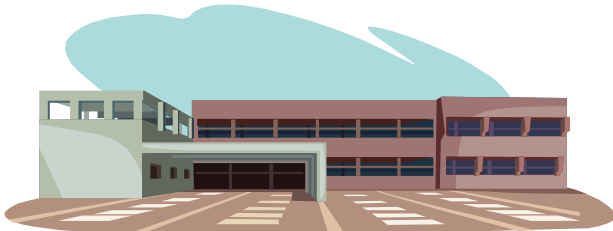
It's not easy to be grateful or to give without concern for reward or gratitude.

It's not easy to fail and still keep trying, to learn from failure, to risk failing again, to start over, to lose with grace, or to be glad of another's success.

It's not easy to look at ourselves honestly and be accountable, to avoid excuses and rationalizations, or to resist temptations.

No, being a person of character isn't easy. That's why it's such a lofty goal and an admirable achievement.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



School and Community Events

Labor Day Break!

There will be no school on Monday, Sept. 5th, 2011. School will not be in session in observance of Labor Day. School will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 6th at 8:30 a.m. Enjoy the Labor Day Weekend!

Newsletter Contest Winners

"Panther Preview" Name for This Year's Newsletter

"The Panther Preview," is the name for this year's newsletter. It was the winning submission in the Name the Newsletter Contest this year! This year's winner is Sophia Bonifant a fourth grade student in Mrs. Sullivan's class.

Our second place winner was Wesley Steward from Mr. Goodrich's sixth grade class, and third place went



to Tommy Childers in Mrs. Linke's sixth grade class. All three students received prizes for their submissions. Thanks to all those students who submitted entries! We had more entries this year than ever before! There were a lot of creative and clever ideas submitted and it was very hard selecting the finalists.

P-T Conference Sign-Up

If you weren't at the Open House or have not signed 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.



Please contact the school by Friday, September 9th to arrange a conference time. Again, P-T Conferences will be held on **Tuesday, September 20th from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Call the office and we will be glad to schedule your times over the phone. Reminders about your student's times will be sent home on September 16th.

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.

NeSA-R State Reading and NES-A-M State Math Results Show OR-1 Students Continue to Perform Well on State Assessments

NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) the statewide reading and math tests were administered to all students in grades 3-8 and 11 during the spring of 2011.

	Avg. Scale Score	% Below	% Meets	% Exceeds
Dist OR-1 3rd Grade	118	19	47	33
STATE AVG.	101	32	47	20
Dist OR-1 4th Grade	127	10	55	34
STATE AVG.	104	30	48	22
Dist OR-1 5th Grade	116	13	63	25
STATE AVG.	101	33	48	19
Dist OR-1 6th Grade	123	9	53	38
STATE AVG.	101	32	48	20
Dist OR-1 7th Grade	118	20	48	32
STATE AVG.	104	31	48	21
Dist OR-1 8th Grade	110	16	68	16
STATE AVG.	102	30	48	22
Dist OR-1 11th Grade	116	9	55	36
STATE AVG.	101	32	48	20

The multiple choice tests consist of 55-60 test items with scores reported at both the State and Federal levels.

District OR-1 Students met or exceeded the state average scores in the statewide reading test and math test, as indicated by results recently published by the Nebraska Department of Education. Each grade's "Performance Level" tells if a specific grade level is below the standards, meets the standards, or exceeds the standards. The "Highest Possible Scale Score" tells the total possible points that a child could achieve. It is usually 200.

The "State Average Scale Score" is the average for all students at this grade level across the state of Nebraska. The test results indicate that our current reading and math initiatives, including a curriculum that maintains rigorous instructional standards supported by lesson planning and high teacher expectations in each classroom, continues to produce positive results related to reading and math skills.

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The scores indicate we are on target in addressing student needs related to reading and math instruction and we are excited to continue building on that success.

District OR-1 is aware that NeSA is just one indicator of these skills. We will continue to use other methods throughout the school year to assess and monitor individual student progress in reading and math.

Individual student scores and a detailed parent letter will be mailed home in the next week. We hope you find this report informative. If you have questions, please contact any teacher or administrator. More information can be found on the Nebraska Department of Education website at www.education.ne.gov
 Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education.

Parent Access on Power School for Fourth –Sixth Grades



Did you know that you can gain current grade information on your child's grades through Parent Access on Power School? By

setting up an account for parent access, you can check on current grade status, attendance information and other items daily on Power School. You can receive e-mail reports weekly as well as send e-mail messages to your child's teacher.

To get started, just contact Mr. Robb at Bennet Elementary. Our phone number is 782-3535. If you want a demonstration just stop in the school office and we'll be glad to show you what information is at your finger tips. Parent Access for Power Grade is available for parents and guardians of students in grades four through six.

New Hours for Palmyra Library

The Palmyra Public Library has new hours effective now. They are as follows:
 Sundays 1-5
 Mondays 1-8
 Thursdays 1-7

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. Thanks!