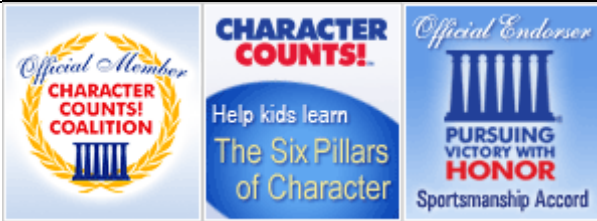


The Blazing Pillars Post

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Character Counts Corner Getting Through To Kids

A listener wrote to say she was selecting some of her favorite commentaries to put into a notebook for her 12-year-old son. She said she was going to underline portions she thought were particularly pertinent.

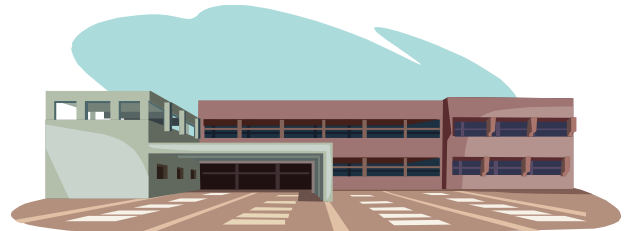
I love it whenever someone wants to share my thoughts, especially with children, but I've come to realize how difficult it can be to successfully pass on what we think is great wisdom, especially to our own children.

I hope you'll write with your ideas, but drawing from lots of unsuccessful efforts with my own children, I have some thoughts:

1. While it's a parent's job to positively influence attitudes and behaviors of their children, any form of preaching with a "you should" message or tone is generally ineffective. It invites an attack-the-messenger tactic: "You don't live your life perfectly, so what makes you qualified to tell me how to live mine?"
2. Most young people get very defensive very quickly when they think advice is simply disguised criticism. And when they get defensive, they don't process advice in a constructive manner.
3. Though it's easier said than done, the most effective and rewarding method is to convey or elicit information and insight in the setting of a discussion. Ask an open-ended question as to what the child thinks, knows, or has observed about issues raised in a news event, movie, or a comment. Be sure the question is not just another masked way of conveying a criticism.
4. Don't try to convey the encyclopedia of wisdom in one sitting. Break up your "lesson plans" into small pieces and be very selective as to the time and place you begin the discussion.
5. If you want real progress, tell the child about your own shortcomings and challenges both

past and present. Moral humility invites reflection

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



School and Community Events

Newsletter Contest Winners

"The Blazing Pillars Post," 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 Matthew Hobelman, a fifth grade student in Mrs. Bahm's class.

Our second place winner was Brandon Martin from Mrs. Linke's sixth grade class, and third place went to Corby Vrbka in Mr. Goodrich's sixth grade class. All three students received prizes for their submissions. Thanks to all those students who submitted entries! There were a lot of creative and clever ideas submitted this year.



Pictured above are Matthew H, Brandon M and Corby V, winners in this year's "Name the Newsletter Contest."

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 sandwiches and all the neat handouts that they had at their booth!



Clifford the Big Red Dog was a big hit with most of the students at Open House. Above, Erynn and Trystin S. pose with Clifford at the Open House Tuesday night.

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 21st from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call the school at 782-3535.

Awana Club at Country Bible Church

Please join us on Wednesday, September 1st from 7-8:30 p.m. to register your kids, 4 years old - 8th grade, for the upcoming Awana year! Awana will be held throughout the school year on Wednesday evenings starting September 8th. For nearly 60 years, Awana has been a leader in children's ministry, helping churches and parents worldwide raise children and youth to know, love, and serve Christ. Country Bible Church is located at the corner of 148th and Roca Road just outside Bennet. The registration fee is \$30 per child (maximum of \$60 per family), handbooks are \$5, and uniforms are \$10. Scholarships are

available. The registration fee helps to pay for expenses throughout the year. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Jesse Thies at 402-540-0200. We hope to see you there!

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, resident; 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.

Cub Scout Pack 334 Set To Met

The first meeting of the Bennet/Palmyra Cub Scout Pack 334 will take place on Monday, August 30th, 7:00 p.m., at the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Palmyra. All interested parents and their children are encouraged to attend. Contact Jim Reed at 780-6305 or Todd Zedicher at 1-800-278-7402 ext. 222 for more information or if interested but cannot attend.

Hunter Safety Course

Roger Smith will be conducting a Hunter Safety Class this fall on the following dates; Sept. 7, 9, 14, and 16. You must attend all classes to be certified. Classes are from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. The classes will be held at Smith's D & D Offices, 415 Main Street in Palmyra.

Anyone who will turn 12 by February 1st. can attend the class. Parents are welcome to attend with kids or even take the class. There is no charge for the class. If you have any questions or want to register, contact Roger Smith at 402-780-5346.

Bennet Backpack Program

The Bennet Backpack Program will be off and running Friday, September 3rd. If you qualify for free and reduced lunch you are able to sign up for the Backpack Program. If you haven't already indicated that you want to participate in the Bennet Backpack Program, call Mr. LaPointe at 782-3535.

What is the Backpack Program? The Bennet Backpack Program provides a backpack of food each Friday during the school year to qualifying families. The idea of the program is to assist families who may need help in stretching their food budget. To participate you must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program. Along with the food purchased from Food Bank of Lincoln, two pieces of fruit are included in the backpack as well as a milk voucher twice a month.

Thanks to the generosity of local churches, community groups and individuals in the Bennet, Palmyra, Douglas and surrounding area, we are able to provide 20 backpacks of food to 20 qualifying families for the 2010-2011 school year.