



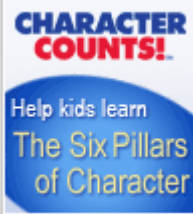
The Panther Preview!



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Character Counts Corner The Power of Kindness

I've mentioned before that, despite my great admiration for people who are instinctively and consistently kind, kindness does not come naturally to me. Yet the older I get, the more I agree with Abraham Heschel, who said, "When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people." Henry James was more emphatic when he said, "Three things in human life are important: The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind."

In 1994, Dr. Chuck Wall, a professor of human relations and management at Bakersfield College in California, came up with a concept that turned into an influential movement. Weary of hearing about "senseless acts of violence," he began to teach and talk about "random and senseless acts of kindness." The idea was simple: the best response to a world coarsened by selfishness and cruelty was individual acts of kindness.

In 1999, Catherine Ryan Hyde wrote a novel called *Pay It Forward* (later adapted into a movie) that builds on Dr. Wall's initial inspiration. It starts with a teacher's assignment to "THINK OF AN IDEA FOR WORLD CHANGE, AND PUT IT INTO ACTION." Trevor, the 12-year-old hero, comes up with an idea. If he does something "real good" for three people and asks in return that instead of them "paying him back," they "pay it forward" by doing a good deed for three other people, who are in turn asked to pay it forward, the math quickly shows that he could change the world.

Whether acts of kindness are random or spontaneous as advocated by Dr. Wall or premeditated as proposed by Ms. Hyde, acts of kindness are certainly not senseless. To the contrary, they're the best possible proof of good sense. Every single person can send forth ripples of kindness and compassion simply by being nice.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



School and Community Events

Movie Matinee Planned for Bennet Elementary Students! Listen for weather related postponements!

Mr. Brown, Mr. Robb and members of the Elementary Boosters are planning a **Movie Matinee for the afternoon of Sunday, December 4th**. Activities and movies are planned from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Elementary School. It will make a great afternoon for parents to get away for holiday shopping. We are once again asking that parents only provide a drink and a can donation for the area food banks for admission to the movie. We will be providing Hot Dogs and Popcorn for treats. **There will be three movies shown at the same time. We will be showing Rio for grades K-3 in the cafeteria. Grades 2-4 may watch Cars 2 in the Library. Grades 4-6 may watch Captain America in the Art Room.** If you



have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Dawson or Mr. Robb at 782-3535.

Please have students bring a pillow or mat to lie on as we will be using the floors in the cafeteria, library and art rooms.

With the possible Winter Storm coming through this weekend, please stay tuned to the front page of the school web-site, and messages from our first alert system about possible cancellations and postponement of the Matinee.

Bennet Winter Music Program a Success

A full house was on hand Tuesday, November 29th for the annual Bennet Elementary Winter Music Program. Students in grades K-3 performed seasonal tunes from The K-8 Music Magazine, while grades 4 – 6 performed a variety of winter and holiday pieces. In addition, the Bennet Singers, a group of fifth and sixth grade students, sang two seasonal tunes, and of course the fifth and sixth grade bands performed several holiday songs.



The kindergarten class was a big hit as always when they sang "Mittens and Gloves." The sixth grade did a great job with their number, "Everlasting Fruitcake." The Bennet Singers brought the gym to absolute silence with the tune "Will You be Here This December," a tribute to those serving in our armed services. What a beautiful song and performance by the Bennet Singers.

Thanks to all the parents, grandparents and patrons who attended the programs. And finally, to all the students: GREAT JOB! Check out the pictures in this newsletter.

NO Basketball practice for 4th grade boys on Saturday, December 3rd

Please plan on attending the first practice on Saturday, December 10th. Coach Bruce Kempkes will be in touch with each family this week to touch base about our first practice and our upcoming practices. In the mean time, if you have any questions, please contact Bruce 402-304-0751.

Bennet Cub Scouts to host Eagle Eye Scout Display

The Bennet Cub Scouts and the Cornhusker Council of Scouting will present Eagle Eye, a display of pelts, animal bones, and other outdoor adventure items at Bennet Elementary on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Join your friends at Pack 334 with representatives from the Nebraska Game and Parks Dept and Lindsay Rogers from

PROJECT WILD. Call Eric Rempel at 402-416-0420 or Todd Zedicher at 1-800-278-7402 ext. 222 for more information.



The second grade sang the "Turkey Woogie!"



The First Grade sang "Under the Tree."

Pictures from the Winter Musical Program



Members of the Kindergarten Class performing "Mittens and Gloves."



Justin H (on right) delivers the "Everlasting Fruitcake" to Meghan V. in front of the rest of the sixth grade class.