



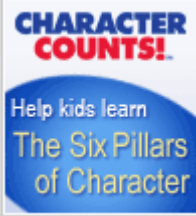
# The Panther Preview!



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## Character Counts Corner

### Parenting Modern Kids in a Modern World

A hit number in the 1960 musical *Bye Bye Birdie* was a classic parent's lament starting with, "I don't know what's wrong with these kids today! Why can't they be like we were?"

The answer, of course, is they're just like we were, but many of us aren't like our parents were. Sometimes that's good, often it's not. Every generation of kids coping with raging hormones and a need to express independence and individuality will use language, wear clothes, listen to music, and dance in ways that offend their parents. And most will engage in conduct that their parents think is wrong or unwise. Should modern parents, therefore, just relax and let kids do their thing, confident that no lasting harm will come of it? I don't think so.

Sure, we should recognize the inherent limitations of parenting and the futility and impropriety of trying to control every phase of our children's lives, but that doesn't justify passive or permissive parenting. Although we can't control our kids, we can influence them. And when necessary, we can confine their options by saying no and backing it up with whatever tools we have.

Parents may disagree on where to draw the line when it comes to sloppy or sexy clothing, Internet use, loud music with crude lyrics, and body piercing and tattoos, but lines must be drawn somewhere and enforced. This is much more important regarding issues regarding alcohol, drugs, and sex. Kids need and deserve guidance and boundaries.

Our children won't necessarily accept our views of right and wrong, but if we state them clearly and continually, they're much more likely to consider them.

What do you think?

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

### **End of Second Quarter/First Semester Approaching. Winter Break Starts December 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

School will dismiss at 1:10 on Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup> for Winter Break. There will be no classes from December 23<sup>rd</sup> through January 4<sup>th</sup>. School will resume on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

There will be no newsletter next week.



## School and Community Events

### **End of Second Quarter/First Semester Approaching. Winter Break Starts December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

School dismissed at 1:10 on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, for Winter Break. There will be no classes on Friday of that week and the week of December 26<sup>th</sup>. School will resume on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

### **Report Cards Sent Home January 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Second Quarter Report Cards will be sent home on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Santa Claus is Coming to Bennet!**

Santa will arrive in Bennet on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Bennet Elementary Gym. Adam Schmidt, The Juggler, will present a program. The event is sponsored by the Bennet Builders and S.A.L.

### **Palmyra Jr/Sr High Winter Music Concert**

The Palmyra Jr/Sr High Winter Music Concert will take place on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> in the Gym. There will be a Spaghetti Supper, sponsored by the Fine Arts Boosters, starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by the music program at 7:00. The Jr/Sr High Band, Jr/Sr High Choir, Show Choir, Jazz Band, Winter Guard, Strings and Drum Line will perform.

### **No 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys B.B. Practice**

The 4th Grade Boys Basketball will NOT have practice this Saturday, December 17th.

### **Cheer Camp Coming to Palmyra**

The Palmyra Cheerleaders will host a Cheer Camp at Palmyra High School on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Your cheerleader will learn cheers, jumps, and a routine for their age group. They will make signs and posters, enjoy a snack and prepare a cheer to be performed at halftime of the Boys



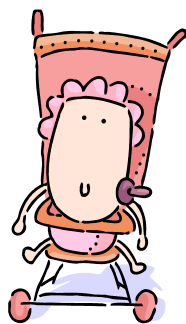
varsity basketball game. The cost of the cheer camp is \$25, with registration due by Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Extra registrations are available in the office.

### Baby Sitter's Training offered by Red Cross

The American Red Cross – Cornhusker Chapter will be offering a Baby Sitter's Training on Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The training will take place at 220 Oakcreek Drive in Lincoln. Participants will learn how to:

- Supervise children and infants
- Perform basic child-care skills such as diapering and feeding
- Choose safe games and toys
- Handle bedtime and discipline issues
- Identify safety hazards and prevent injuries
- Care for common injuries and emergencies, such as choking, burns, cuts, and bee stings
- Communicate effectively with parents
- Find and interview for babysitting jobs

The cost of the class is \$85. And students are asked to bring a sack lunch and drink. For more information or to register, call 1 – 800- RED-CROSS or visit: [www.redcross.org/takeaclass](http://www.redcross.org/takeaclass)



### Bennet Elementary Hosts Kindness Retreat

Students in grades 4 – 6 took part in a Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat helps build a more caring school community by engaging students in activities that demonstrate the painful effects of bullying and emphasize the value of kindness. Elementary school students experienced the positive effect of the kindness boomerang during a high-energy day with classmates. Students learned that, like the golden rule, if they want to catch kindness, they've got to throw the kindness boomerang out there! The retreat also taught students how to be a hero by treating others with kindness and challenged them to reduce bullying in their school.

Presenters, John Sandahl and Kesiah "K.K." Kolbow led students on a day long adventure of music, dancing, story presentations, small group discussions and self reflection. With help from 17 peer leaders from Palmyra High School, our students talked about unkind behaviors that they have experienced and ways to replace unkind behavior with kindness, respect and caring. Students filled out pledge cards at the end of the day expressing how they were going to throw the kindness boomerang to others. It was a very engaging and exciting day for the students and staff.



K.K and John explaining "3 Ways to be a Hero" with help from Josh J., Kobe J., and Drew B.



One of the large group exercises that students did with the help of our peer leaders was the "Soul Train."



During one of the three small group sessions, students came up with ways to show kindness and be a hero with their peer leaders from the High School. Pictured above are (top and to the right) Eli J., Henry I., Peer leader Stephanie V., Faith P., Abbie S., Josh J., Peer leader Nolan F., and Macy R.