



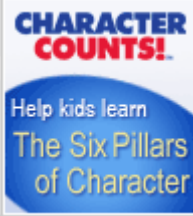
The Panther Preview!



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Character Counts Corner Stars Above and Stars Within

According to an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, two-thirds of the world's population, including almost everyone in the continental United States and Europe, no longer see a starry sky where they live.

The reason: City lights prevent us from seeing much more than a canopy of gray shadows. What a pity. In rural or remote areas with little or no artificial lights, about 2,000 stars can be seen on a clear night, and the experience can be breathtaking.

Whether we credit God or physics, how can we avoid the conclusion that our cosmos is governed by forces that dwarf anything our simple species can muster? How can we not feel like transitory snowflakes in a universe that measures time in billions of years and space in trillions of miles?

At the same time, a star-filled sky can be both empowering and inspiring. It can cause us to ponder the meaning and purpose of our lives, and it has ignited the imagination of poets, philosophers, theologians, and scientists for centuries.

It's bad enough that the technology of contemporary civilization prevents us from seeing the extraterrestrial stars. It's worse when we allow the shallow values and frenetic pace of modern society to prevent us from seeing and following the aspirations and principles that are our own internal guiding stars.

Every day we're challenged to rise above petty office politics, senseless family conflicts, negative emotions, and unbridled ego so that we can live our lives large and be worthy of our place in the universe.

We may not be able to see the stars by looking up, but if we close our eyes and look inward, we can find and follow the best within us.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

School and Community Events

Welcome Back!

Welcome back for the Second Semester. We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday break. It was nice to see everyone's bright and smiling faces back in school this week.

This is our first newsletter since the break. I, along with the staff, would like to take this time to thank all those parents and students for the many gifts and treats that we received before the holidays. While we don't expect anything in the way of gifts, we do appreciate the items that we do receive. On behalf of the staff and myself, thank you. We enjoy working with your students.

Report Cards Sent Home Today

This is just a reminder that report cards were sent home with students today. If you don't see your child's report card, you might want to quiz them about it. If it is not with your student, please give the school a call we will gladly send another one home to you.



Parent Access to Power Grade

Report Card time is a good time to remind parents of students in grades 4 – 6 that they have the power to check their student's grades on Power School, with Parent Access to Power Grade. You may log on daily to check your students current progress in each of their classes. You may also check on attendance and receive daily, weekly or monthly e-mail reminders about your child's progress. It only takes a moment to sign up. If you are interested, just contact Mr. Robb at school (782-3535) or e-mail robb.ste@districtor1.net.

No School January 16th! Staff In-service Day!

There will be no school on Monday, January 16th, 2011, which is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This will also be a teacher in-service day for staff members at both schools.

Please make sure that you have day care arrangements made for that day.

Elementary Boosters Meet Tuesday

The regular meeting of the Elementary Boosters is set for Tuesday, January 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Election of officers for the next year is on the agenda. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Cheer Camp Coming to Palmyra

The Palmyra Cheerleaders will host a Cheer Camp at Palmyra High School on Saturday, January 21st, 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 13th. Extra registrations are available in the office.



PEP Conference in March

What is PEP? The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. A major objective of the weekend is to help parents realize that each is doing the best he/she can do at this time. By the end of the conference, parents will go home with a renewed energy, spirit of hope and desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child with the disability must have either an active IFSP or IEP.

The conference is scheduled for March 15 – 17, 2011, at the Midtown Holiday Inn, Grand Island, NE. Registrations are available at the elementary office or with Mrs. Goodrich or Mrs. Engelhardt.

New Student Teacher in First Grade

Hello!

My name is Kelli Wilhelm. I am student teaching for Mrs. Dowding during the spring semester. I am from Hickman, and graduated from Norris High School. I plan on graduating from UNL with a degree in Elementary Education at the beginning of May. Throughout college I was employed at St. Marks Preschool Kidzone. I mainly

worked with four and five year olds, and got the opportunity to plan lessons and implement them in the classroom there. I have met most of your friendly faces, and will hopefully have names down by the end of next week. My family consists of my parents, two sisters, and I (the youngest). I love cooking, and spending time with my many nieces and nephews. I am excited to be student teaching in a small town, and hope to find a job outside of LPS in a small community as well. Thank you for all the warm welcomes and hello's throughout the hallways!

Ms. Wilhelm



Ms. Kelli Wilhelm got right to work with students in Mrs. Dowding's First Grade class this week. Ms. Wilhelm will be here for the second semester as a student teacher from UNL.

Warm Weather Gets Students Outside for Recess!

The unusually warm weather we have experienced has meant our students are getting outside for recesses much more than normal during the winter season. We are taking advantage of the spring like weather, as we know that "old man winter" will return before too long.



Kailyn McMann, Morgan Mullenax, Charlie Luff, Luna Hinkley and Jenna Rempel, enjoy crawling on the climbing wall, on the playground. The warm weather has been a bonus for outside recess this winter.