



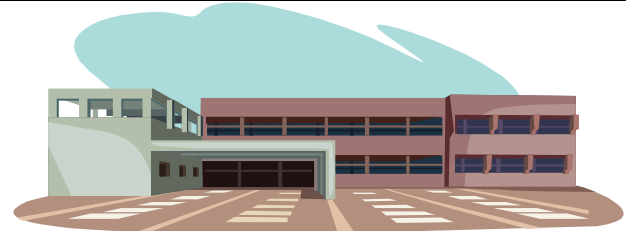
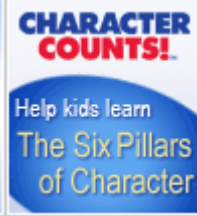
The Panther Preview!



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Do Bad People Think They're Good?

When she was six, my daughter Carissa asked, "Do dumb people think they're smart?" Answering her own question, she added, "They probably do because they're dumb."

This made me think: "Do bad people think they're good?"

I wouldn't be surprised if most do. In fact, I think all of us are ethical in our own eyes. The human tendency to rationalize, to justify our conduct in our own minds, provides a powerful anesthetic to our conscience. Think of all the athletes, politicians, religious leaders, and business executives who've been caught in wrongdoing and who feel more like victims than villains.

Self-interest has a powerful tendency to disable our objectivity and befuddle our commitment to live up to moral principles.

The higher the stakes, the more likely it is that we'll persuade ourselves that what we want to do, or what we've already done, is justified. When our financial or physical security is at stake, even the best of us are vulnerable to reason-crippling self-delusion that allows us to defend our positions with self-righteous ferocity – as if the mere intensity of our convictions makes them more valid.

One way to fortify our integrity is to be on the lookout for our tendency to rationalize and to remember that we don't have a moral right to get what we want. Necessity isn't a fact; it's an interpretation.

Living an ethical life isn't easy. It requires us to do the right thing even when it costs more than we want to pay.

Perhaps the best antidote to rationalization sickness is to rigorously and faithfully follow the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

School and Community Events

P-T Conferences February 7th for Elementary and High School

Early Dismissal at 1:10 on the 7th

This is just a reminder that Winter Parent-Teacher Conferences have been set for Tuesday, February 7th, from 2:00-8:00 p.m.

You should have received a note from your child's classroom teacher last week with the time for your conference. If you did not get one, or the time selected will not work, please contact the school immediately and we will try to work out a time for you.

School will dismiss at 1:10 on Tuesday, February 7th, for P-T Conferences at the Elementary and at the High School. Please make sure that you have daycare arrangements made for that day. **The After School Rec Program WILL be operating until 5:30 that day.**



'Dinosaurs and Disasters' Feb.

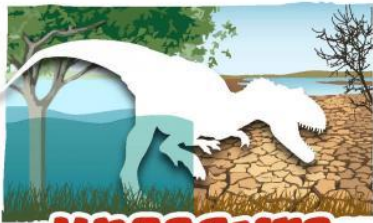
4 at Morrill Hall

The University of Nebraska State Museum and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences will host the eighth-annual "Dinosaurs and Disasters" family fun day from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 4, at Morrill Hall, south of 14th and Vine streets on the UNL City Campus.

"Dinosaurs and Disasters" provides a day of discovery and hands-on activities throughout the museum with more than 20 stations staffed by UNL scientists, and graduate and undergraduate students. This year's theme is droughts and floods. Interactive activities will help visitors better understand planet Earth by exploring flooding and drought throughout time. Sometimes we have too much water; sometimes we don't have enough. Learn about streams, flood control, tornadoes, fossils, dinosaurs, diatoms and more. Bring a rock or fossil for a scientist to identify. Also, bring canned food items for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Student Chapter's Canned Food Drive. The food will be donated to a local shelter.

This event is made possible through the support of US Bank. Regular museum admission charged. Parking is free in front of the museum.

Mueller Planetarium will debut the new National Geographic full dome show "Forces of Nature," which showcases



**dinosaurs
& disasters!**
A Fun Family Day with Scientists
Morrill Hall • Sat., February 4 • 9:30 am-4:30 pm

the science behind natural disasters like volcanoes, earthquakes, and tornadoes (40-minute running time). Show times are 11 a.m., noon, and 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

Established in 1871, the University of Nebraska State Museum is the state's premier museum of natural history. Hours

are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday; 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays; and 1:30-4:30 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$5 for adults (19 and over), \$3 for children (5-18 years, 4 and under are free), and \$10 for families (up to two adults and children). UNL staff, faculty and students are admitted free with valid NU ID. There is an additional charge for planetarium shows. Planetarium tickets are sold at the museum's front gate the day of the show. Parking is free in front of the museum. For more information, visit www.museum.unl.edu. For more information on Mueller Planetarium, visit www.spacelaser.com.

Elementary Boosters Meeting

The Bennet Elementary Boosters will meet on Tuesday, February 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Computer Lab at school. We are doing a lot of the planning for Fun Night to be held on April 27th. All interested parents and patrons are welcome to attend.

Kindergarten Round-Up Date Set

Kindergarten Round-Up for the 2012-2013 School Year will be held in two sessions on **Friday, April 20th**. If you have a youngster that will be starting school next fall or know of someone with an eligible student, please contact the school. We need to record names, phone numbers and addresses, so we may send out future information to all families that need to know.

Little Panthers Preschool Accepting Requests for 2012-13 School Year

Little Panthers Preschool in Bennet is taking requests for the 2012-13 school year. Our enrollment is limited and we have a number of prospective students on the list already. If you are interested in having your 3 - 4 year old be on the list of prospective students for the 2012 - 2013 school year, please contact Mrs. Cheney at Little Panthers Preschool, phone number 402-782-3035. We will be sending out acceptance letters in April.

Our enrollment procedure used to determine the preschool class list each spring is based on the following list of criteria in order of priority.

- Students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), living in our school district will have first priority for

acceptance. The State of Nebraska set up the preschool program to help those children with the highest needs.

- Those students living in our school district who will turn four by July 31st, oldest to youngest by birth month/day/year.
- Those students living in our school district who will turn three by July 31st, oldest to youngest by birth month/day/year.
- If there are still open spots, non-district students will be chosen based on the criteria listed above.

We do wish we could enroll every child. Being filled to capacity with a waiting list tells us there is certainly a need within the district for the youngest members of our student population. A quality early childhood program keeps the teacher/pupil ratio low and matches enrollment to the physical size of the facility. Those two factors are also a limiting factor in our enrollment numbers and have to be taken into account.

Miscellaneous Information

- Our program meets Monday – Thursday each week. There are two sessions each day. Session one meets from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Session two meets from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Selection for morning or afternoon sessions is based on a number of factors and we cannot guarantee which session your child will attend.
- Price for a full month of Preschool is \$125. Short months are pro-rated by the week. Payment is expected by the first of each month. Meals and snacks are included as part of this fee.
- Students must be potty trained! No pull-ups are allowed.
- We offer limited transportation for students getting picked up or dropped off between the morning and afternoon sessions at designated day care facilities in Bennet and at the High School in Palmyra. Parents are expected to provide all other transportation.

Please contact Jean Cheney at the preschool (402-782-3035), cheney.jea@districtor1.net, or Steve Robb, at the Elementary (402-782-3535), robb.ste@districtor1.net, immediately, if you want to have your child placed on our list of prospective preschool students for the 2012-13 school year.

New librarian for Palmyra

Applications are now being accepted for Librarian at Palmyra Memorial Library. We desire a friendly, outgoing, creative, self-starter, with good communication and organizational skills. Ability to work well with people of all ages is necessary. Applicant needs to work some days, evenings, and weekends. Wage \$7.50/hour up to 17 hours/week. Applications are available at the library, Village office, or by contacting Lisa at [402-540-4352](tel:402-540-4352). Please return completed applications to the library by Feb 20th.

Girl Scout Cookies Available at P-T Conferences

Bennet Daisies and Brownies Troop will be hosting a Cookie Booth. Girl Scout Cookies will be offered for sale during parent teacher conferences, February 7th, in the lunch room.