



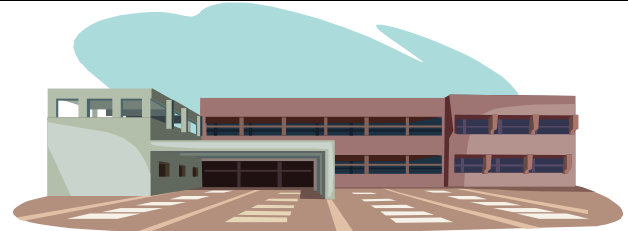
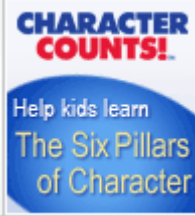
The Panther Preview!



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Character Counts Corner

Establishing a Culture of Kindness

Though intensive media attention on bullying has died down, the problem persists in many forms, and it continues to diminish the lives of tens of thousands of young people every day. According to a recent survey, roughly half of all high school students said that in the past year they were bullied in a manner that seriously upset them. A similar number said they had bullied someone else.

That's an awful lot of meanness.

Trying to eliminate the problem, schools are scurrying to develop new anti-bullying programs and legislatures are writing new laws to criminalize bullying. Sadly, neither of these strategies is likely to make a serious dent unless they are part of a much broader effort to create a positive school climate that discourages all forms of hurtful or demeaning words or acts.

Anti-bullying strategies seek to crack down on bullying, hoping to deter abusive behavior by threats of punishment. They often create legalistic procedures that put a heavy responsibility on schools or courts to prove the conduct occurred.

A better strategy is to instill, reinforce, and reward the values of empathy, compassion, and acceptance. Instead of anti-bullying programs, we need a pro-kindness strategy. Kind people don't bully or look the other way when someone else is bullied.

We need to create a "culture of kindness," encouraging a spirit of generosity and love where differences are accepted and celebrated, rather than targeted. In a culture of kindness, students stand up for and next to one another, all for one and one for all.

A dedicated effort to teach, advocate, and model kindness will work much better than efforts to punish meanness.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

School and Community Events

Fire Safety Week Art Project. Need Paper Towel Tubes and Toilet Paper Tubes!

Fire Safety week is approaching in October. This year, the Bennet Fire and Rescue Department will be using a theme of looking for fire and safety hazards in the home. They would like to have each of our students construct fire hazard binoculars or telescopes to help spot those potential fire hazards. To do these we need cardboard toilet paper tubes and paper towel tubes! This will require a lot of tubes! So, we are requesting that you save your toilet paper tubes and paper towels tubes the next two weeks and send them to school with your students. We have a big collection box in the cafeteria! Just drop those tubes in the box!

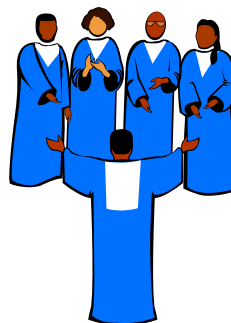
4th Grade YMCA Boys Basketball Sign-Up in Progress

For any family with a 4th grade boy interested in playing in the Recreational League through the YMCA, please visit ymcalincolorg for sign-up information. You may either print off the registration form, fill it out and send it in or you may register online. Please note Bennet Elementary as the team and request Bruce Kempkes as the coach. If you have any questions, please contact Bruce at 402.304.0751 or bruce.kempkes@yahoo.com. Registration will go through the end of October, however the sooner you send in the registration the cheaper it is. The first registration deadline is October 7th. The second registration deadline is November 4th.



Nebraska Children's All-State Choir

Bennet Elementary's own Abbie Frazee and Grace Leuschen have been accepted, and Abby Leif has been accepted as an alternate to sing on the Lied Center stage in Lincoln, on November 17th for the Nebraska Children's All-State Choir. They will sing with over 250 students from



around the state, and work with guest clinician John Jacobsen. The concert at the Lied Center is free, and starts at 4:00 p.m. Please feel free to come hear them sing on Nov. 17th! Congratulations to these ladies on their fine singing talents!

Cooler Weather Arrives, Jackets Needed!

With the arrival of cooler weather, students need to start bringing a jacket or coat to school in the morning. We will go outside if at all possible and students will need a jacket with them.

Also, please remember to put your child's name in their jacket. If there is a name in the jacket we can get it back to its owner!



FREE FOR ALL!!

On November 12th, at 9:00 a.m., the Bennet Elementary Gym will open up to the public for clothing free for all!

Anyone is welcome to come and pick up clothing and shoes.....for FREE!!!!



There will be infant to adult sizes. There will also be a place to donate to Cedars if you would like to – but not necessary!

We are still in need of any sizes of clothing – especially teen boys' sizes and infant hangers.

Please call Lillie at 402-440-2871 with any questions or

if you would like to donate. Hope to see you all there!!!!

****Please bring your own bags to stuff full of goodies.*****

Palmyra Post Prom Committee Fund Raiser

The Palmyra Post Prom Committee is selling T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Beanies, and Cinch Sacks as a fundraiser to make money for Post Prom Activities in April. An order blank is included with this week's newsletter. You may also pick up order forms in the school office.

October Lunch Menus

The October Lunch Menus are being sent out along with the newsletter today. It is also posted on the school web-site.

Palmyra Fire and Rescue Cookout!

Palmyra Fire and Rescue will hold their annual cookout fundraiser at the Weeping Water Football game Sept. 30. They will be serving



hotdogs, hamburgers and chips and operating the concessions. It is one of the annual fund raising opportunities for community members to support their local volunteer organizations. Without community support, our volunteer organizations would not exist and there would be no fire or rescue dept. to help the community. At halftime the Community Blood Bank will present checks to the Palmyra and Bennet Rescue departments for the Hometown Heroes Blood Drive the Palmyra FFA conducted in August. Please come and say thank you to the individuals who volunteer their time to protect your community.

Accelerated Reader Program in Full Swing



John D., a third grader in Mrs. Bell's class, takes an Accelerated Reader Quiz in the Library Media Center. The A.R. Program is in full swing this year at Bennet Elementary. More than a dozen students are already on the AR Wall in the Library, with more going up each day.