

The Bennet Golden Rule Gazette

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Character Counts Corner

Teaching Our Children to Make Good Decisions

Two young men in Florida removed a stop sign and brought it back to their fraternity house as a trophy. Shortly afterward, a fatal accident occurred at the sign-less intersection. The students were convicted of manslaughter.

In Tennessee, two teenagers were in a high-rise building. One dared the other to slide down a trash chute. His friend did so – right into a trash compactor. The one who egged him into the fatal accident was traumatized, possibly for life.

Four college fraternity students in California were charged with manslaughter when a pledge they were hazing died after they forced him to drink gallons of water.

What makes these stories all the more tragic is that we're not talking about bad kids. We're talking about fundamentally decent ones who made really bad choices.

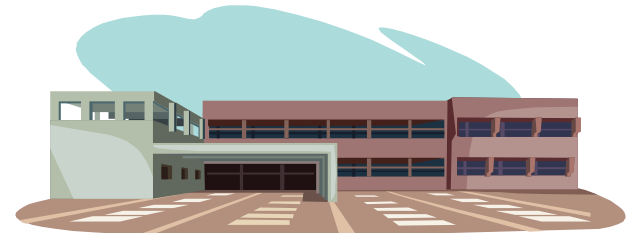
The recurring nightmare of caring parents is that, during the course of growing up, their children will seriously damage themselves or others by an unwise decision. An endless array of bad consequences can result from reckless conduct to impress friends, thrill-seeking, or giving in to the temptation of drugs, alcohol, or sex. When kids get involved with irresponsible, manipulative, cruel, selfish, or simply stupid people who call themselves friends, there's no telling what dumb things they can do.

All youngsters make foolish mistakes, as we did. Still, we can equip them with reasoning tools that can help them see and avoid really big, bad choices.

We can improve their decision-making skills by talking to them often about the importance of acting rationally, even when everyone around them seems overtaken by impulse. We can tell them stories

to help them evaluate situations and anticipate potential consequences.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



School and Community Events

P-T Conference Sign-Up -

If you have not signed up for a time for P-T Conferences, please call the school or stop in and sign up for a 15-minute time slot for each of your children's teachers. P-T Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, September 25th from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. If you have any



questions, please call the school at 782-3535

P-T Conferences will be held on **Thursday, September 25th from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Call the office and we will be glad to schedule your times over the phone. If we don't hear from you, we will be contacting you this week. **Reminders about your student's times will be sent home on September 19th.**

Change in Date for Preschool Pictures!

Individual Student Pictures on September 19st.

Individual student pictures will be taken on Friday, September 19th. **Picture Packets for ordering pictures are being sent home today.**

Oops! Last week we said that a time would be set aside for students in the preschool to come over for their pictures. Boy did we make a mistake! We don't have preschool on Friday! We have rescheduled preschool pictures to the makeup and group picture day. This day has been rescheduled to **Wednesday, October 22nd, 2008.** Please **make note of this on your calendars.**

Preschool students not enrolled in the Little Panthers Preschool should plan to be at the school between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. next Friday.

Busing Notes

We are still having some problems before and after school with parents entering the circle drive when

buses are loading or unloading at both Bennet and Palmyra. Please do not drive into the circle and leave your car parked during loading and unloading times. Only buses are to be in the circle drive at that time.

Parents are walking with their students between the buses and across the circle during loading and unloading. Please walk around the circle drive on the sidewalks to your vehicles. The bus driver's vision is restricted when they are in the bus. They cannot see children or adults walking between buses. We are looking at safety issues and just want to make sure that we don't have any tragic accidents.



Accelerated Reader Kicks Off! New Updated Version This Year!

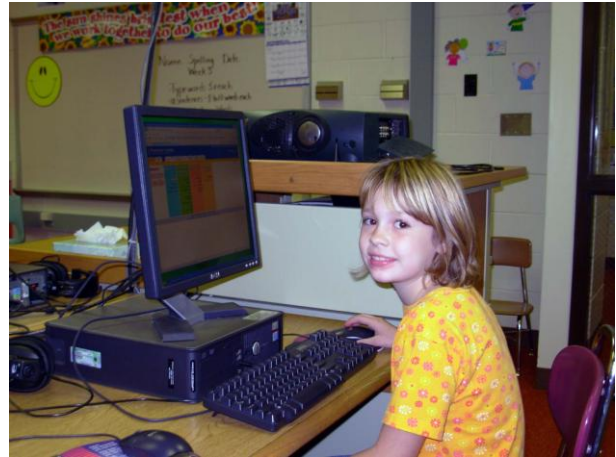


Students began taking AR Quizzes today for this year's AR Program.

New for our students and school this year is the updated web version of Accelerated Reader. The new version of Accelerated Reader is known as

Renaissance Place. Students will now log on to a secure web site hosted by Renaissance Learning to take quizzes and view reports. The biggest advantage of the Renaissance Place version of Accelerated Reader is the expansion of available quizzes from the 5,000+ in our current system to over 110,000 titles hosted on the Renaissance Place web site! This will greatly expand the number of quizzes our students can take in Accelerated Reader. Teachers have access to new reports to chart progress and monitor student performance on Accelerated Reader. There are many other features in Renaissance Place, including a Home Connection component that will allow parents and students to view reading records from home, via any computer with an internet connection. This feature has not yet been activated. We plan to activate it later this year after we get established with the new version of Accelerated Reader.

Our theme for the Accelerated Reader Program this year is "Leap into a Heap of Good Books." Once again students will be able to get their marker on the AR Wall by reading books, passing reading quizzes and gaining points in the AR program. This year students will receive point level charms or medals that will be attached to displays in their rooms. These charms will have the point level that the



Shelby E. gets ready to log on to the new Accelerated Reading Web site to take a quiz. Many students were able to access the new site on Friday

students have attained in Accelerated Reader. At the end of the year the students will be able to take all of the charms that they have received home with them.

The quarterly comprehension awards will be continued also. Each quarter, those students who have reached a minimum of twelve quizzes and maintain an 80% average on their quizzes will be eligible for the Comprehension award. There will be some interesting prizes for this award.

Granny's Comfy Closet Trade Day

The next trade day for Granny's Comfy Closet in Panama will take place on Saturday, September 20th, from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. Another great selection of fall/winter clothing and shoes is on hand. This is free clothing, no cash is allowed.

You may sort and mark gently used clothes, by gender and season, to bring to the trade day. If you have any questions, call Barb at 430-7842 or Jane at 799-2067.

Day Care Openings in Bennet

Vickie Thomson has day care openings available at her day care. Please contact her at 499-7954

Michelle Bruce has day care openings available in her home. Contact her at 416-3702.

Free Kittens!

Patty Sterns has two free kittens to give away to a good home. Contact her at 416-1208.

Picture Day is next Friday, September 19th!

Picture Order Packets were sent home today.

Please return the order forms along with a check made out to Life Touch Studios by next Friday!

We cannot supply money for your order if you forget!