

Dr. Joel Bohlken, Superintendent Sherise Loeffelbein, PK-6 Principal Greg Morris, 7-12 Principal Rob Wegner, Activities Director PO Box 248, Palmer, Nebraska 68864 Phone 308-894-3065 **Board of Education** Kathy Wolfe, President Todd Weller, Vice President Jennifer Kunze, Treasurer Ashley Wissing, Secretary Brian Friedrichsen Daniel Hake

Superintendent's Newsletter, October/November 2018

The Coolidge Building was remodeled and opened in August as the Tiny Tigers Early Learning Center for preschool students. This has been a great new space for our students to learn as our preschool has continued to grow. There are three classrooms in one wing – one each for the PreK 3, PreK 4, and Daycare. There is a large multipurpose room in the other wing that preschool students will use for indoor play during inclement weather. We can also fit mats in the multipurpose area for wrestling practice. We applied for grant funds from the Department of Environmental Quality and Walmart for the preschool facilities. We are also applying for an Early Childhood grant from the state. In addition to grant money, we covered much of the costs by doing the remodeling with volunteers and our own staff. The Tiny Tigers Early Learning Center will be a great asset for many years to come, providing Palmer students with a positive start down their educational path.

Friday, November 2nd is the annual Endowment Fund Pancake and Play fundraiser. The One-Act Play will perform and items will be auctioned, raffled, and drawn for. This is the major fundraiser for the Endowment Fund, so if you'd like to donate money or items to auction, please contact the school. Over the last year, the Endowment Fund has supported students with the following purchases:

National FFA and Washington D.C trips – \$100 per student Classroom equipment – \$1,200 Educational Software – \$2,000 Library Activities/Supplies – \$3,575 Athletics/Activities – \$3,200

Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

A reminder that scheduled activities sometimes get changed, so check our website <u>www.palmertigers.org</u> for the most up to date calendar of activities, or "Palmer Public Schools" on Facebook for any changes. Also, check out the website throughout the year for pictures of students being honored as a "Leader of the Pack."

Sincerely.

Dr. Bohlken

A Community that prides itself on Commitment, Growth, & Achievement!



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Greetings! Students and staff alike are settling into the school routines. It does always seem that there is no such thing as a 'typical' week since there is so much packed into them! That being said, we know even as adults, that routine is very important. It is not always EASY but it is important. It is even more important for our students!

Very soon High Ability Learners (HAL) letters will be going home. This will be done following MAPS testing this fall. MAP and NSCAS scores qualify students. Qualifying students will have academic extension activities weekly that will vary depending on the month. Letters will be hand delivered to elementary students.

October 15th-17th will be parent teacher conferences from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and will run, at the elementary level, 15 minutes each. Our classes are quite large this year so please be on time and be mindful of the time restraint so we can get all parents in and communicated with. If you feel you need more time with your child's teacher please communicate a time and work with the teacher on finding a date that works for both of you. Teachers will be working to schedule a time with you prior to parent teacher conferences.

We have some new faces again this year and I encourage you to reach out to welcome our new families at events! It has been a privilege to work with your child so far this school year and I am excited to see how much they learn and grow this school year. Thank you for choosing us to work with you and your child!

Sincerely,

Sherise Loeffelbein PK-6 Principal Special Education Director Daycare Director





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The school year if off and running!! We have 140 students this year in the Secondary part of the building. To accommodate those students we have 15 teachers and 3 full-time paras. They are kept very busy as you can imagine. We started school off with shortened periods on the first day. After lunch all of K-12 met on the softball field to put the new students in their "houses" and then to play a game that requires teamwork. They performed beautifully, if I may say so myself. They then finished the first day off with class meetings while the elementary students played games/activities in stations. It was a very smooth first day to the start of 2018-19!!

We have introduced a new assignment system to PHS. This is only for the 7-12 students at this time. This has came about because our biggest concern has been students getting assignments turned in when due. Those of us in the workforce are quite aware that we have work that "must" be done by a certain time. We felt at PHS that the students were very lackadaisical in this regard. Therefore any student who doesn't have their assignments completed on time will be required to attend either an Academic Assistance class directly after school or the next morning before school. If they fail to arrive for these classes then there are progressive consequences that will be applied. So far, the system seems to be working. The 2nd week of September had 25 less students on the downs list than the same time last year. Our thoughts to the students has been if you're going to have to stay after school to finish the assignment, why not finish it in the first place?

Homecoming this school year will be September 28th with a football game with Fullerton. The week will have plenty of activities for the students topping off with the football game and coronation of the king and queen. Palmer Fall Festival is on Saturday, the 29th, so we continue the tradition of homecoming and fall festival being the same weekend. Come out and support the school students as we will have the annual walk to the downtown on the afternoon of the 28th.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on October 15th and 17th. They will start at 4:00 pm and end at 8:00 pm each day. This is always a great time to speak directly with teachers about your child's education. We encourage all parents/guardians to make this a priority in the education of your child.

Greg Morris 7-12 Principal Curriculum Director



ATTENDANCE ALERT !!!

We are half-way through our first quarter at Palmer Public School for the 2018-19 school year!! Time is flying and students are learning important information every day. Because of this, school attendance is very crucial. We are already seeing substantial absenteeism in our building, and teachers and parents need to work together to increase attendance and bring our students one step closer to realizing their UNLIMITED potential!!

Studies show that chronic absenteeism is a RED ALERT that students are headed for academic trouble and eventually for dropping out of high school. Chronic absenteeism is students who miss 20 days or more for the entire school year.

Fact: Only 17% of students who are absent 10% or more of the school year during kindergarten and 1st grade can read at grade level after the 3st grade. This fact is startling. Reading is the most important skill students need to succeed in school!

Here are some helpful tips you can use to help your child come to school on time every day:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.

• Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick (vomiting and/or temp above 100).

· If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, the school counselor, or other parents for advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable.

- · Develop some backup plans for getting to school if something comes
- up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Let's work together to ensure your child is attending school regularly so that we can watch them become the successful student they are destined to be!!!



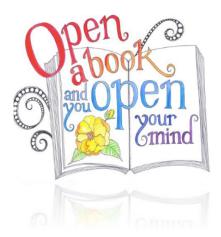


TINY TIGER EARLY LEARNING CENTER

As I embark on my first year of teaching, I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of the Palmer family. I received my degree at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, through their online education program. I majored in Early Childhood Inclusive. A large part of my teaching philosophy is my belief that all children deserve to receive an education in a setting with their peers, in a way that works for them. All students learn in different ways and I have the responsibility of finding out what that looks like for each of my students. I also believe that parents are their child's first teacher and that they know their child better than anyone else. That is why I feel it is very important to work as a team with the parents of my students. I value the insight that each parent brings.

I am looking forward to getting to know each of my students and their families better as we move forward. I have lots of fun activities and projects planned for this year. Each week we will focus on a theme, such as apples, a color, a shape, and a number. We will work on learning to write names and recognizing the letters in our names. My goals for my students for the year are very basic. I want each of my students to finish the year having an understanding of the routines and procedures we follow in preschool. I want them to have learned to interact with their classmates as well as myself, by expressing their needs and wants, using their words in a positive manner. I also want each of my students to develop a love of learning and school. These first years have an enormous impact on the attitudes and beliefs students hold throughout their academic careers. Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children and show them how fun learning can be.

Dawn Tedmon



6th Grade News Mrs. Samuelson

The Palmer 6th Grade Class is off to a great start! We have eighteen amazing students that are

eager to learn. We have started the year with literary skills such as character, theme, setting, plot, as well as cause and effect. The awareness of these skills will allow the students to be better readers and fully comprehend what they are reading. We have also been practicing our writing skills with personal narratives and thank you notes.

In Science we have been learning about classifying living things as part of our life science unit. We will be learning about cells and genetics in the weeks to come. We are also doing Health class each week using Health Studies Weekly newspapers. This will cover all types of health issues that are relevant to students at this age.

In Social Studies class the 6th graders are exploring what social studies really is and why the people and events of the past are important to us today. We will be learning about ancient civilizations, as well as working on globe and map skills through out the year.

We had the opportunity to participate in the Largest Classroom at the Nebraska State Fair. The students had a fantastic time and learned many new things about our state. We will also be attending the Ag Day in Merrick County in the next couple weeks. We are excited that we have been invited to this event and are looking forward to all it will have to offer.

Sixth Grade is the gateway to Junior High, so I try to prepare my students for what they will encounter next year in 7th grade. One of the most important factors of a successful Junior High student is to be responsible and organized so they can effectively get their assignments completed and turned in on time. I try to teach my students responsibility, respect, and organization skills all year long. I find the assignment notebook that students fill out every day and have parents sign is a good tool to use in order for the students to keep track of their assignments each day.

This is a great class of students. I thank you all for allowing me to teach and enrich your children's lives. As always, if you have any questions/ concerns please call or email me at school.



What do you know about Title 1?

What is Title 1?

Title 1 is a program that helps students who are struggling in reading and math to perform to the best of their ability. Title 1 targets reading and math performance, however we also work on other curricular areas if they relate to reading or math. (Sometimes we read out of a science or social studies book to work on reading comprehension.)

How do students qualify for Title 1?

Since Palmer is a small, tight-knit school, teachers are usually able to identify students who struggle through their classroom performance. Also, we keep a close eye on all of our students through persistent standardized testing. In addition, since we are considered a school wide Title 1 program on a daily basis I am able to select the students who seem to be struggling the most and assist their learning.

What if my kid struggles during the year?

I meet with all classroom teachers multiple times each month. During these meetings we talk about students who may be struggling now that weren't previously. If we see a need arise, we will change our groupings to best meet the needs of your child.

What if my student no longer needs assistance?

Great! We will change groupings so that your child is getting just the instruction they need, saving the specialized groups for the students showing the greatest need.

What do I do if I have more questions?

Contact Danielle Killinger at the school and I will be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Danielle Killinger 308 894-3065 dkillinger@palmer.esu7.org

Royle's Classroom

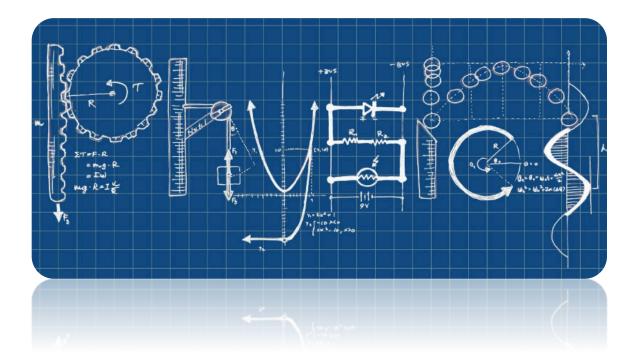
It's been a great start to my second wonderful year here at Palmer! My students and I have been enjoying some fun activities.

In Physics we collected data, found an equation to model our data, and generated a hypothesis to predict how many rubber bands it would take to have Barbie bungee jump safely off the top of the slide at the park. It was a blast. The winning group got 3 inches from the ground!

8^e Grade Math, Pre-Algebra, Integrated Math I, and Business math students are enjoying "fishing" for their homework. They get "fish" (a problem on an index card) and can only take one from the "pond" (table). They then take it back to their table and work it out before releasing their fish back in the pond and catching another. It is creating great math conversations and movement throughout the classroom.

I am really enjoying teaching Integrated Math III this year. It's been great to gain experience with an upper level math class.

Every day I am reminded of how amazing this school is. The students here are incredible! I love going home every day with a smile on my face because of how well a lesson went, how funny a student's story was, and the fact that we are a big family.



~~~ Check It Out! ~~~

Literally. If you haven't yet, you need to check out the new addition to the library. This summer was an exciting time and also a challenging time. Many of you may have stopped by the library on Palmer Pride Night to see the added space. I am ecstatic that my dream for our library finally came true. I am sure there a few people who are glad about too -- I have been asking for a few years now to have a bigger library. Wow!

The elementary students are now able to move around an entire room not just one half. Also, the lower elementary students have better access to the picture books rather than standing on chairs and stools to find the books they want to read. Of course, it is great to have all of the young adult/adult books in one room. It is much easier to direct students to the right books.

Mrs. Happ and I have had to relearn the location of many of the favorite books, but this challenge is definitely welcomed with the added space. All of the 15,000+ were moved over the summer; some of these were moved more than once. Just ask Rebecca Schrock who signed onto this project as her Individual Service Project for National Honor Society. I am grateful to her and her family as they did 95% of the work -- painting, moving bookshelves, moving books, and moving books again. I also need to send out a big THANK YOU to Vicki, Elwin, Karen, Ami for any and all help in preparing the preschool classroom for the addition.

I can't say enough how thankful and grateful I am to those individuals who made this happen! Please take time to stop by the library during Parent-Teacher Conferences. We will be hosting our Fall Book Fair during this time as well.



BEFORE



AFTER



Mr. Mottl

Agricultural Education/FFA

People are often confused about the difference between Agricultural education class and FFA. This includes students. They are not the same and have differing goals and hoped-for outcomes.

An explanation of each and their differences:

Agricultural Education, called Ag Ed class, is the formal teaching of agricultural topics that may include plant and animal science, natural resource management, business ownership and management, various shop related topics, agribusiness, career exploration, resumes and leadership development. An attempt is made to sequence classes in such a way that there is logical understanding of the



opportunities available in Nebraska agriculture. Orientation to the FFA as a national youth organization is presented in Ag Ed class. There are over 180 Ag Ed programs in Nebraska and more schools are recognizing the benefits of having an active Ag Ed and FFA program in place.

FFA is the largest youth organization in the United States. The primary goal of FFA is leadership development. There are over 650,000 FFA members in every state plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA is available as an integral part of the total Ag Ed class experience. Ag Ed students pay dues to be an FFA member, but are not required to be a member. Palmer has a large and active FFA Chapter with annual membership between 50 and 60 members. The chapter has activities related to leadership development plus community service, personal development and community service. Leadership activities include public speaking, Parliamentary Procedure and career development preparations. Palmer FFA members are proud of and getting prouder of their tradition of success.

Some interesting facts:

**** Agricultural education began as a class called Vocational Agriculture in 1917 as a result of the Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act.

**** FFA began in Virginia. In 1928 the 1st National FFA Convention was held in Kansas City, Missouri with 33 members from 18 states were in attendance. Nebraska was the 6th state to have Vocational Agriculture and start FFA. Beatrice was the chapter in Nebraska.

**** Girls were not allowed as FFA members until 1969. Today 52% of FFA members are female.

**** President Jimmy Carter's 1st elected office was as a chapter officer (Secretary) in his Plains, Georgia FFA Chapter

**** The national headquarters of the FFA is in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**** The National FFA Convention typically is attended by approximately 55,000 FFA members. The convention has been held in just 3 cities – Kansas City, Missouri, Louisville, Kentucky and Indianapolis, Indiana.

**** The Nebraska State FFA Convention is held in April in Lincoln. Over 6000 FFA members attend each year.

**** Google, then watch this video by Paul Harvey. It is a tremendous tribute to agriculture and farmers. Video title: <u>"So God Made a Farmer."</u>

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