



# Palmer Public School



Dr. Joel Bohlken, Superintendent  
Sherise Loeffelbein, PK-6 Principal  
Greg Morris, 7-12 Principal  
Rob Wegner, Activities Director

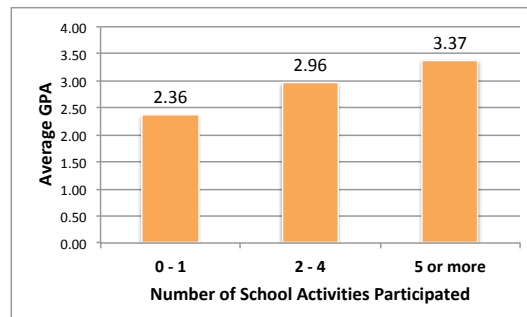
PO Box 248, Palmer, Nebraska 68864  
Phone 308-894-3065

**Board of Education**  
Kathy Wolfe, President  
Todd Weller, Vice President  
Ashley Wissing, Secretary  
Brian Friedrichsen, Treasurer  
Heather Shotkoski  
Daniel Hake

## Superintendent's Newsletter – April/May, 2019

Palmer Public School District recognizes that community service enriches the learning experiences for students and serves to enhance school-community relations. To help students gain these experiences, all 9-12 grade students are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service for each year of attendance at Palmer Public School. Giving more than 10 hours per year is allowed and encouraged, however, students cannot carryover any hours in excess of 10 to the following year. Hours must not be done during the school day, for immediate family members, for any compensation, as part of a court ruling, or as part of the individual service project for NHS. Students are required to turn in documentation of these hours by April 30. Students who have not completed the community service requirement will not receive a diploma and will not be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.

The school recognizes that participating in school activities requires a commitment of time and effort, and that these students serve as representatives for the school and community, so participating in school activities also counts toward the community service requirement. In fact, many students have met their service hour requirement just by participating in several different school activities. Besides meeting the service requirement, students who participate in school activities generally have a higher GPA. Many research studies have shown this connection, and as the graph below shows, it is true for Palmer students as well.



If your child will be three years old on or before July 31, 2019 and you have not yet done so, please contact school to get on the list for attending Tiny Tigers Early Learning Center this fall. Preschool Roundup will be on Thursday, April 25.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bohlken



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The Secondary part of the building is finishing up MAP testing in the subject areas of Math, Language, Reading, and Science. These tests are for all 7-10 graders with the 11th graders taking the ACT Pre-Test. The MAP tests are strategically scheduled during the month of March as they allow the school district to immediately view the results. As an example, if a class is low in one subarea of a subject, this would allow the teacher to reteach units that can bring up the students in that particular area.

The state-mandated NSCAS tests are scheduled to start the week of April 8th. Our 7-8 graders will be tested in Science, Math, and Language Arts. These tests will not only grade our students in these subjects but they will also allow us to compare PHS with other state schools. To say these subjects are important is an understatement!! As a parent/grandparent, please communicate with your child about the importance of these tests. As a school district, we base many 2019-20-district decisions upon the results of those tests.

We would like to congratulate all the students who participated in the school's Shake Contest during March. All the students were put through a 10-minute interview with a stranger with questions about themselves and our school. I noticed quite a few students who found themselves "nervous" when it was their time to interview as it's always that way when students step out of their comfort zones. Then approximately 30 students advanced to the second round where they were one of five who had to "sell" the school district to a prospective staff member. From there it was down to the final four students who were transported to Grand Island to interview in front of a team of business professionals. This event is quite important to PHS and we thank all the people who helped us with the event. This year winner was a senior, Laura Frei. Runner-ups were senior Payton Placke, junior Roy Guzman, and sophomore Chet Wichmann.

## Fun Facts

The tallest man in this world was Robert Wadlow, who was 8'11" tall!  
Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, was actually afraid of the dark.

Greg Morris, 7-12 Principal



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As I write this letter we are all again reminded that Nebraska weather is unpredictable and powerful! This has definitely been a spring to remember. While the outside variables are clearly out of our control let's take a peak at what will be sure to happen inside our building for the remainder of the fourth quarter. Assessments. While I can't say it is my favorite part of quarter four it is a necessity for us to undertake and participate. While the actual process of testing can be daunting we have in the past had very positive results. We are hopeful that once again that will be the case.

Please, as much as possible, continue to keep your child on a regular routine in the evenings. The days get longer and the itch for summer gets stronger a consistent bedtime is very crucial to a student functioning the next day at school. Think about yourself at daylight savings time when we spring forward. That first Monday can be a bit rough and students are no different.

Kindergarten round up is being held a little earlier this year on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Preschool round up for all eligible preschool students next year who will attend out Tiny Tigers Early Learning Center will be held April 25<sup>th</sup>. Information on both of these nights is available in the office or by contacting the respected teachers. Email addresses for them are [whester@palmer.esu7.org](mailto:whester@palmer.esu7.org) for Kindergarten (Mrs. Hake), [eshotkoski@palmer.esu7.org](mailto:eshotkoski@palmer.esu7.org) for preschool 4 year olds (Mrs. Shotkoski) and [dtedmon@palmer.esu7.org](mailto:dtedmon@palmer.esu7.org) for preschool 3 year olds (Ms. Tedmon). We will round out the end of April with enjoying the elementary spring concert on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.

The month of May will continue to be busy with preschool 4 year olds graduating on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in the main school building. This will also be the last day for preschool 3 year olds so please plan accordingly. We will have daycare available through the last day of school. If you are planning to utilize that please let us know as soon as possible so we can plan on our end as well. May 10<sup>th</sup> will be our 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade science fair, elementary awards(K-6) and elementary track meet(K-6). A rain date for the track meet will be the following week TBD if needed. The last day for students is set for May 16<sup>th</sup> with an 11:30 dismissal.

Enjoy the remainder of your spring!

Sherise Loeffelbein  
PK-6 Principal  
Special Education Director  
Daycare Director

# Quarter 4 – Senioritis Has Begun!!!

By Mrs. Bruland

I read the following Blog by Suzanne Shaffer, and it rings so true that I needed to share:

The Urban Dictionary defines senioritis as a crippling disease that strikes high school seniors. Symptoms include: laziness, an over-excessive wearing of track pants, old athletic shirts, sweatpants, athletic shorts, and sweatshirts. Also features a lack of studying, repeated absences, and a generally dismissive attitude. The only known cure is a phenomenon known as graduation.

All kidding aside, however, senioritis is a very real problem for most high school students. They are coming into the home stretch and it's only natural for them to try to rest on their laurels, so to speak.

Most high school seniors exhibit signs of senioritis. Its onset might be hard to recognize because it starts innocently. But once the disease has taken hold it can have a devastating effect on a senior's future from graduation to [college admission](#). As with any disease, knowing the symptoms is the key to an early diagnosis and treatment.

## **What Are the Symptoms?**

Senioritis usually sets in as high school graduation approaches. The symptoms are obvious: lack of study, underachievement, skipping classes and lack of interest in school related activities, especially academics. They may be slight at first—a low grade, a lackluster composition, or an unwillingness to study for a test. These academic behaviors might be exacerbated by slight depression, an unmotivated attitude, and various forms of laziness.

## **What Is the Diagnosis?**

Senioritis is something students feel they deserve. They've worked hard and most likely have completed all their college applications. Why not skate through the last few months? Why not skip a few classes and not study as hard. After all, the colleges already have their grades. No harm. No foul. Or so they think!

## **What Are the Consequences?**

One of the most important lessons students should learn before college is that actions have consequences. Knowing the consequences of senioritis should help you avoid the disease:

- Falling grades affecting your final transcript
- School discipline, detentions and possibly suspensions
- Loss of credits that could affect graduation
- The college rescinding your offer of admission
- Less financial merit aid

## **What Is the Cure?**

It's simple: a reality check and ultimately graduation. Unfortunately, the reality check may come too late. Seniors shouldn't let senioritis bring their opportunities to a close. Reality check is this: is seniors need to keep working hard and keep that finish line in view.

Good luck to all Palmer seniors....it has been a pleasure seeing you grow from kindergarten through graduation. You started out as my first kindergarten class, and you're finishing as my last senior class. You'll always have a special place in my heart.

# KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Is it really the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter already?! Where did the school year go? I have 20 wonderfully different students in my room this year! I have 9 boys and 11 girls in Kindergarten this year. They all have great personalities and are constantly making me laugh! The second semester is quite busy for us as it includes the: 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, Read Across America week, Kindergarten Round Up, our field trip to Stuhr Museum, Kindergarten Café, elementary track and field day and the awards program. My students are quick learners who amaze me everyday in their work ethic and eagerness to learn! I asked them to do the following, "Tell me something you have learned in Kindergarten or your favorite part." Here are their responses:

Brayden- I have learned to color nicely.

Braxton- My favorite part of school is recess.

Macie- I have learned to count to 100.

Ezrah- I have learned to count to 100.

Morgan- I have learned to read sight words.

Kynsley- I have learned to count by 5s.

Melissa- I have learned to count by 10s

Reid- I have learned to read.

Oliver- My favorite part of Kindergarten was the 100<sup>th</sup> day.

Bexley- My favorite part of Kindergarten was the first day of school

Max- My favorite part of Kindergarten is recess.

Ziggy- My favorite part of Kindergarten is centers.

Kadynce- My favorite part of Kindergarten is learning.

Artina- I have learned to count to 117.

Scarlet- I have learned amazing words.

Tripp- I have learned to count to 100.

Will- My favorite part of Kindergarten is calendar.

Kamry- My favorite part of Kindergarten is centers.

Hensley- My favorite part of Kindergarten is doing AR.

Audrey- My favorite part of Kindergarten is doing the parachute in PE.

I am so fortunate to be a part of a school and community that helps me make Kindergarten such a memorable experience! Thank you! Mrs. Hake



# **Life Skills in the Social Sciences World**

**By Luke Thompson**

The year has flown by, I cannot believe that we are already in the fourth quarter. So far, the year has gone swimmingly. We have continued chugging along in the Social Science world and there haven't been too many changes from last year.

With that being said, I did embark on a new journey of teaching a new Life Skills class to our Seniors. We started off Life Skills right after Christmas break and just finished our first quarter. The class has learned a fair amount about becoming an adult. I was able to find an online curriculum that has been working really well for us. The class is going slower than I had hoped, but I also figured that we wouldn't be able to go as fast as I would like because it is a new content area and a new curriculum. However, our Seniors have gained some valuable insight into what life is going to look like once they leave school.

We covered three chapters in our first quarter of work. The first chapter was kind of an introduction to our course where we covered a myriad of topics. We discussed the cost of college, the cost of having children, mortgages, and the hidden costs of owning a home.

Our second chapter was focused on getting a job. The class discussed how to find a job and what many first-time jobs looked like. We also filled out a mock job application, created résumés, wrote cover letters, created a LinkedIn profile, and had an interview tournament. The tournament had a total of three rounds and was won by Brooke Bruland.

The third chapter that we covered discussed taxes (very exciting stuff). Our students learned what is taken out of our paychecks and where most of our federal tax dollars are spent. The Seniors also learned about the minimum amount of money earned that requires one to file taxes, the different forms used when filing taxes, how to file taxes, and what the deadline is for filing one's taxes.

The Seniors have gained invaluable insight into some very important areas of life. I look for us to continue to learn valuable lessons as we continue into the fourth quarter and finish the school year.



## News from Mrs. Reimers' Science Classroom.....

We have been acclimating ourselves to the new Science standards in the Physical Science classroom. Other grades that implemented the new standards this year were Kindergarten, Third and Sixth Grade. The new standards will be introduced over a three year period. Next year, grades 1,4, 7 & 10 will experience the new standards. In 2020, grades 2, 5, 8 & 11 will be implementing the new standards. This is definitely a transition period for our students as the new standards are more rigorous than previous standards. A major difference between

the new standards and previous science standards is three-dimensional learning. 3-D learning refers to the thoughtful and deliberate integration of three distinct dimensions: Scientific and Engineering Practices (SEPs), Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs), and Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs).

### Science and Engineering Practices

1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

### Crosscutting Concepts

-  Patterns
-  Cause and effect
-  Scale, proportion, and quantity
-  Systems and system models
-  Energy and matter
-  Structure and function
-  Stability and change

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

#### Life Sciences

- LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
- LS2: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
- LS3: Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- LS4: Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

#### Earth and Space Science

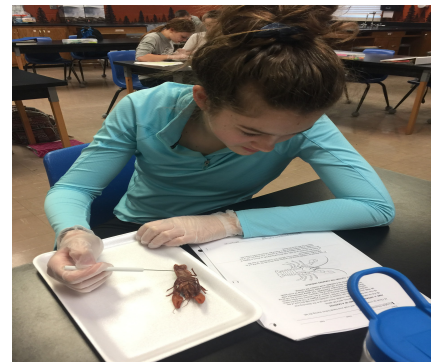
- ESS1: Earth's Place in the Universe
- ESS2: Earth's Systems
- ESS3: Earth and Human Activity

#### Physical Science

- PS1: Matter and Its Interactions
- PS2: Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
- PS3: Energy
- PS4: Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer

#### Engineering, Technology and the Application of Science

- ETS1: Engineering Design





The High School wrestling team had a successful season. Ruger Reimers finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at 126 lbs. with a record of 51-4. Ruger set the Palmer Sophomore win record. Chet Wichmann, Justin Kuta and Chad Samuelson qualified for the state meet.

The Palmer Wrestling Club is in full swing and will continue until late March. PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade have been practicing Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30. Competitions take place at many various locations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday each weekend.

We had over 165 competitors at our annual Palmer Kids Wrestling Meet, which was held on March 2. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Palmer Kids Meet.

Coach Nathan Glause



# BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

The Palmer Activities Banquet will be held on May 2nd at 6pm. The Booster Club will be sending out more information at a later date about the meal that will once again be available. A letter will be sent home with the oldest sibling in the family grades 7-12. The letters will be sent home around the second or third week of April so ask your child about it then!



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February 28, 2019




As we near the end of another year, we are already looking ahead to next year! It is also the time of year that we begin putting business signs back up on the fence for summer baseball and football in the fall. The Palmer Athletic Department would like to thank those businesses that have generously donated and advertised their business with us in the past and encourage any other businesses that would like to begin advertising to please consider doing so. Advertisement signs have assisted us in making improvements to the school weight room, community weight room, and have also enabled us to provide our students with the necessary items to keep our Activities Programs running functionally. The Athletic Department has received numerous compliments on the improvements to our facilities from not only our patrons, but from visiting teams and fans as well over the past several years.



To renew your advertisements please make checks payable to Palmer Public Schools for \$250, and note on the memo line: Sign Advertisement. Upon receipt of your check, we will hang your sign for the 2019 Baseball and Football Seasons. If you are a first time advertiser with us, please contact Rob Wegner at the school (308.894.3065) for details on purchasing and hanging a sign for your business!


Thank you again for your support of Palmer Athletics!!

Sincerely,

Rob Wegner  
K-12 Activities Director

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 10:00am TR (A) Fullerton Invite	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00am JHTR (A) High Plains Invite	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00am TR (A) High Plains Invite	<b>11</b> 12:30pm JHTR (A) Heartland Invite	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00am TR (A) Palmer Invite	<b>17</b> 9:00am JHTR (A) Fullerton Invite	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	9:00am JHTR (A) St. Edward Invite 10:00am TR (A) Shelby- Rising City Invite	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00am TR (A) GRC Invite	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00am JHTR (A) GRC Invite	<b>30</b>				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30am VTR (A) St. Edward Invite	2	3 Ladies Tea All School Play	4 All School Play
5	6	7	8	9 VTR (A) District Meet	10	11 Graduation
12	13	14	15	16	17 VTR (A) State Meet	18 VTR (A) State Meet
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28 Masonic Band	29 Masonic Band	30 Masonic Band	31 Masonic Band	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	<div>1</div> <div>           B-French Toast            Catch Kids Family Celebration            L-Chicken Nuggels, Peas, Scalloped Potatoes, Applecrisp.            3:00pm NSCAS pep rally            6:30pm CCC College Registration         </div>	<div>2</div> <div>           ACT Test (ALL Juniors)            B-Cereal            L-Chicken Alfredo, Peaches, Green Beans, Garlic Bread.            3:00pm NSCAS pep rally            6:30pm CCC College Registration         </div>	<div>3</div> <div>           FFA/Ag (A) NE State FFA Convention            HAL-Math 3:30-4:15            B-Fruit Turnover            L-Chicken Fried Steak, Pineapple, Whipped Potatoes &amp; Gravy, Dinner Roll.         </div>	<div>4</div> <div>           FFA/Ag (A) NE State FFA Convention            B-Breakfast Pizza            L-Hamburger, Mandarin Oranges, Baked Beans, Cookies.            6:00pm Kindergarten Round Up         </div>	<div>5</div> <div>           B-Soft Pretzel            L-PBJ Sandwich, Pink Applesauce, Potato Wedge.            FFA/Ag (A) NE State FFA Convention         </div>	<div>6</div> <div>           6:00pm            Prom         </div>
<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>           District Quiz Bowl (A) Fullerton            B-Scrambled Eggs            L-Chicken Fajita, Rice, Pineapple, Corn.            7:00pm School Board meeting         </div>	<div>9</div> <div>           B-Pancakes            L-Mini Corndogs, Peaches, Green Beans.            7:00pm 7-12 Spring Concert         </div>	<div>10</div> <div>           B-Donut            L-Cream Chicken on a Biscuit, Strawberry Cup, Peas            HAL-Math 3:30-4:15         </div>	<div>11</div> <div>           B-Cereal            L-Walking Taco, Pink Applesauce, Corn, Brownie.            Palmer FFA Banquet            3:30pm 3-6 Grade After-School Outdoor Skills Program         </div>	<div>12</div> <div>           District Music Contest            B-Cheese Omelet            L-Cheese Pizza, Mandarin Oranges, Baked Beans, Cookie.         </div>	<div>13</div>
<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>           B-Biscuits &amp; Gravy            L-Popcorn Chicken, Pineapple, Whipped potatoes &amp; Gravy, Dinner Roll.            6:30pm Freshman Orientation         </div>	<div>16</div> <div>           B-Cereal            L-Kindergarten Meal-Stromboli, Peaches, Green Beans, Ice Cream.         </div>	<div>17</div> <div>           B-Donut            L-Chicken Sandwich, Pink Applesauce, Baked Beans, Cheese Its.            3:30pm 3-6 Grade Afterschool Outdoor Skills Program         </div>	<div>18</div> <div>           Freshman College Visit (UNL)            B-Breakfast Pizza            L-Spaghetti, Peas, Corn, French Bread.            6:30pm 7th Grade Orientation         </div>	<div>19</div> <div>           No school         </div>	<div>20</div>
<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>           No school         </div>	<div>23</div> <div>           B-Cereal            L-Pork Patty on a Bun, Mandarin Oranges, Baked Beans, Rice Krispie Bar.         </div>	<div>24</div> <div>           K HATS            B-Breakfast Sandwich            L-Crispitos, Spanish rice, Strawberry Cup, Corn            3:30pm 3-6 Grade Afterschool Outdoor Skills Program         </div>	<div>25</div> <div>           L-Fiesta, Pink Applesauce, Green Beans.            PreK Roundup            B-Soft Pretzel         </div>	<div>26</div> <div>           B-Donut            L-Sandwich Bar, Mixed Berry Cup, Carrots, Cookie/Chips.         </div>	<div>27</div> <div>           Naligh-Oakdale Honor Band         </div>
<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>           B-Breakfast Pizza            L-Hamburger, Pink Applesauce, Corn, Cookie.            6:30pm Dance Tryouts         </div>	<div>30</div> <div>           L-Beef &amp; Noodles on Potatoes, Pineapple, Dinner Roll.            3rd HATS            B-Cereal            6:30pm Booster Club Meeting            7:00pm Elementary Spring Concert         </div>	