



# Palmer Public School



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

202 Commercial St. 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, December ‘19/January ‘20

Something I hear from time to time from high school students is that we should have more elective classes from which to choose. Some of the electives offered may change from year to year depending on teacher endorsements and schedules, but the last few years we have offered the following high school elective classes:

Accounting	Band	Drama	Psychology
Advanced Math	Chemistry	Family/Consumer Science	Shop
Agriculture	Choir	Journalism	Sociology
Anatomy/Physiology	Creative Writing	Literature	Spanish
Art	Digital Media	Physics	Strength Training

We are also able to offer a wide variety of other courses upon request via the Distance Learning network from other schools, as well as several career area classes from the Career Pathways Institute (CPI) in Grand Island. We are interested in hearing what other elective classes you think would be beneficial to offer Palmer High School students, as that will affect staffing decisions made for the upcoming year. Please feel free to email your comments to me.

On another topic, each school district hosts an accreditation visit every five years from the Nebraska Department of Education. Palmer Public School will host an NDE visit on March 2, 2020. We will be seeking some district and community stakeholders to participate in interviews during this visit. We appreciate your assistance with this, and if you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bohlken  
jbohlken@palmer.esu7.org

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



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Greetings! This fiscal year, weather wise has been an interesting one to say the least and hopefully 2020 will be smoother! We never know what Nebraska weather will throw at us. Please make sure to send a heavy coat, hats and gloves with your child daily. If this is a challenge, communicate with your child's teacher and we will find a way to assist you with this. While talking about clothing we have acquired a plethora of lost and found items and will be thinning that out over Christmas break so if your child is missing something please check it out!

December 16th at 7:00 will be our K-12 music program. Please let your family know as our students have so many musical talents they won't want to miss out! Although Santa couldn't fit this night into his schedule he is planning on coming December 19th so if you have children that are not school age you can bring them up to share their lists with him that day. A time has not been set yet so you will need to contact the school when it gets closer to that date.

In our beginning of year newsletter we had information on childfind. I wanted to include this information again in case anyone missed it:

The Palmer School district is looking for unidentified children with special needs as it participates in "Nebraska Childfind". This is an ongoing statewide search for all unserved handicapped children, age's birth through 21. Children who would benefit from special education services may not be receiving them because parents may not know of available programs or because they do not recognize the handicapping condition(s) of their children. Special programs are available through public school for handicapped children whose impairments pose restrictions on learning. These impairments include: Speech/Language disorders; Hearing/Visual impairments; Specific Learning disabilities; Retardation; Behavioral disorders; Physical handicaps and severe or multiple handicaps. Nebraska law guarantees a free appropriate public education to all children. Parents who feel their children should be receiving special education services are asked to contact the Palmer School District. Nebraska Childfind provides information also through their toll free number, 888-806-6287.

Enjoy your holiday break with your family and friends. Here's to a wonderful second half of the school year! Stay warm!

Sincerely,  
Sherise Loeffelbein



With the flu and cold season upon us, I thought it would be appropriate to remind parents that we need to have doctor notes for all absences that they want excused. The Palmer School Policy is to allow students to miss 9 days of school for each semester in which they are not excused. A student can have an excused absence for school activities, medical reasons that include a doctor note, college visits and funerals. Class credit will be reduced if the student goes over 9 absences without proper paperwork. Something to be aware of so that students can continue to progress through school.

PHS will be hosting the Conference Play Production Contest on November 26th at the Central City High School Arts Auditorium. The contest starts at 9:00 am and will showcase the conference schools One-Act performances. My experience has been that you see some outstanding acting and displays of overall talent from the Goldenrod Conference.

I've personally worked in 7 different school systems and it never seems to amaze me how totally awesome this school is. Not that we don't have our challenges but they're minimal compared to other schools. I just found out that the FFA chapter, led by Mrs. Juliana Kroeger, qualified a team for state and Natalie Wegner won the High School Division with over 100+ other contestants. In the Junior High Division, Kyleigh Muller placed 2nd. A big congrats the team and these two fine students!!

Finally, the Nebraska Department of Education has awarded the Palmer Middle School an Excellent rating. This is only awarded to the top 10% of the districts. A huge thank you should go out to our amazing faculty and the wonderful students who have worked so hard for Palmer Middle School to get this award. A banner will be put up in the school cafeteria so that future students can view the accomplishment. Great job everyone who was involved in this honor!!!!

To All in Tiger Nation!!!

Greg Morris  
Secondary Principal

**December/January**

## **Guidance vs. Independence- Finding the Balance**

Beth Wilke, Counselor

One of the biggest challenges of parenting teens is knowing when to loosen the rules and when to tighten them. In my own experience, I seem to tighten when loosening would have been the better choice, and vice – versa. No parent is perfect, so it's best to learn from mistakes and go on. The goal is to help your teen grow into an adult who's responsible and can make decisions. Try the following suggestions for balancing freedom and control.

**Decide** which rules can't be compromised. For example, you can probably accept your high schooler deciding his own bedtime. But will you accept him driving 20 miles over the speed limit? Set clear rules and consequences for those areas you won't budge on.

**Negotiate** flexible areas. Listen to your teen's input and pick rules you both can live with. *Example:* She can have her girlfriends sleep over as long as they clean up any mess the next morning. Also, listen to her side of a situation. You don't always have to change your mind, but be willing to listen and think it over.

**Allow** your child to make more decisions as time goes by. Start with smaller matters (hairstyles, clothes) and work up to larger issues (choosing classes, managing money). Try granting a new right and responsibility every couple of months. *Example:* a later curfew along with cooking dinner for the family once a month. If your child abuses new freedoms, you can go back to stricter rules until she knows she can be trusted.

These are just a few suggestions. As stated earlier, parenting a teen can best be done by trial and error, and learning from your mistakes. The ultimate goal is raising a responsible individual who will be a contributing member of our society.

## **It's Never Too Early (or Too Late) for Career Planning**

When I was six years old, I was an aspiring artist. Never mind that I couldn't draw a stick person or that people had to ask, "What is it?" every time I created a masterpiece. I was going to be an artist when I grew up. Luckily I changed my mind to ballerina by the time I was nine. Do your children have high career aspirations at a young age? At school, I hear that boys want to be firefighters and astronauts; and girls want to be, like me, ballerinas and actresses. Maybe such careers are way out of

reach, but at least they are thinking about their future and realizing that they will have to do something career related when they become adults.

It's never too early to start thinking about what you want to be when you grow up. If your kids are talking about anything career related, it means that you have instilled in them a work ethic – even if they don't realize it yet. Kids are like sponges – they soak up everything around them – so when you talk about “work” or “my job”, your kids are taking all of that in. Think of this the next time you had a bad day at work and decide to bring that home with you – what kind of message are you sending to your kids about work when you gripe and complain? Instead, bring home the good days at work – the ones in which you felt a sense of accomplishment and worth. This is the message we want to send to our kids.

At Palmer School, we start as early as kindergarten with career planning. In every grade in elementary, the students get exposure to different careers and are constantly learning important job skills (reliability, responsibility, respect, honesty, good communication skills, etc.). Research shows that not every child will go on to a formal education after high school – some may go right to work. It is because of this that we teach these important skills – skills that our students will need to take with them wherever they end up after high school.

In junior high, kids are exposed to more technology-based education. This is definitely career related. Anymore, you can't work anywhere without some sort of computer-based knowledge. Students are introduced to many different applications that they will need to know in the future – guaranteed. We are fortunate that our school can offer such curriculum to our students – not all schools can.

It's never too early (or late) to think about what you want to be when you grow up. Some of us are in our 40's and still don't know what we want to be, or are finally just figuring it out. Wouldn't it be nice to have the conviction we had when we were six years old and wanted to be an artist, astronaut, or ballerina? There's a lot of choices out there, and a lot to learn about – so whether you're young or old, time's-a-wastin'. The time to plan is now.

## First Grade October Fun!

By Sheryl Norman

First Grade Teacher

The Palmer First Graders enjoyed two fun-filled days of learning, laughter, and memory making during the month of October! On October 17th, the First Grade class attended two sessions at the Stuhr Museum. During the morning, students learned about Fall on the Farm during the olden days. Students participated in many activities, including shucking corn, pumping water from the well, to washing clothing with a washboard and hanging it on the line to dry. In the afternoon, students learned about the Pawnee children. Students were able to build a teepee, see a buffalo, and play many games the Pawnee children played.



On October 18th, the First Graders joined the Kindergarten and Second Grade classes at Helgoth's Pumpkin Patch. Students had a fantastic morning going through the Haunted House, playing on the zipline, riding the train, face-painting, picking pumpkins and so much more!



# 5th Grade

**Brandon Rolf**

***We are almost half way with another school year! We have twenty-seven students in our classroom this year, seventeen boys to ten girls.***

***We've covered a lot of topics already and we still have a lot more to cover. We have written both real and imaginative narratives. We will still try to get in expository text, biographies, and compare/contrast before the school year ends.***

***We are zooming along in Social Studies, Math and Reading. In reading we are really focusing on context clues and sensory details.***

***We had the opportunity to attend the state fair and Merrick County Ag Day this year and we will go to the Stuhr Museum April 16th. We will have a March Madness competition, field day, science fair, and of course state testing all still to come.***

***Our biggest accomplishment is trying to get real world ready at a young age. Taking pride in their work and trying their best at all times. Learning from our mistakes and treating others how we want to be treated is another life long goal we trying to master.***

***It will be fun to watch these youngsters continue to grow together into junior high, high school and beyond!***

# K-6 Special Education

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of the Second Quarter already! We have had a great start to the year with a lot of accomplishments being made. Mrs. Bennett and I have been working hard on getting our schedules filled in to make sure we are serving all of our student needs. Our students have started the year strong and are working very hard towards their goals. They have truly made great growth in their learning.

I also benefit from working with the Preschoolers at the Tiny Tigers Early Learning Center. It has been fun watching all the learning taking place in the preschool classrooms. They all have such an eagerness to learn!

I look forward to seeing and celebrating all of the achievements that will be made throughout the remainder of the year.

Melissa Kriz  
K-6 Special Education Teacher



# Mrs. Green's World

Hello, Everyone. Hope everyone is having a Positive Year. This year I am focusing on I get to instead of I have to with my students. It is easy to get in the mindset of focusing on everything we have to do, but we should see what we get to do. I get to be your child's teacher, coach, advisor, or whatever and I am very grateful for that.

This year I have the 8th grade class twice. It is the first time since I have come to Palmer, that I have had an entire class for two periods of the day. Let me tell you, they are different kids 3rd period than they are 6th period right after lunch! :) I love this class because they are the first class where a majority of them said they enjoyed *My Antonia*. Although, I love this book...it is very descriptive and takes a great deal of mental focus to get through it. So, wonderful discussion took place during the reading.

Creative Writing has been fun this year. We have had rant Fridays and blessed with the best Fridays in our writing adventures. With only five students in there, we are taking all different paths with writing this year.

Next semester I will be introducing Intro to Lit where the students will get to help decide the reading curriculum. I truly believe Mrs. G has created a reading culture at our school, and I am looking forward to seeing where this class will go.

As for the kids, Kyler and Kynsley are rocking 2nd and 1st grade! They both love their teachers, music, PE and all the pride that comes with being a Palmer Tiger. They are anxiously awaiting the completion of our forever home. (Sometime 2020) Kyndrek is loving "his school"-Tiny Tigers Preschool. He is sad on Fridays when he doesn't get to go.

The One-Act Team has performed once at the St. Ed invite a Columbus Community College and will perform for The Endowment Fund Pancake Feed, The Elba Invite, Goldenrod Conference, and Districts. Please come out and support the Drama Department. Also look for great aspirations from the Speech team as many are looking for a chance to make it to state this year!

Jaime Green  
8, 10, 12 English  
7 and 8 Reading  
Speech  
Drama

# Spanish is Off and Running (Er, Singing and Dancing and Videoconferencing)!

Hola! Spanish classes are off and running with one hundred eight eager students, this year, from five different school districts. Besides regular classroom activities, students have been offered opportunities to participate in extra activities. On August 23, four students attended the stage presentation "México en el Corazón" at Grand Island Senior High. Students were enthralled by the attention to detail of the dances and costumes, as well as by the simulated sword fights that occurred on stage, as they were taken through Mexico's history and culture via music and dance.



On November 5 and 6, students from Palmer and Sandhills high schools were treated to Spanish pop concerts in North Platte and in Central City. Edgar René is a musician from Puerto Rico who travels through the United States to put on motivational concerts for students of Spanish. About 480 students from sixteen Nebraska schools filled the Edwin and Bernice Lock Theater in the Central City Performing Arts Center to sing and dance, and to participate in an atmosphere of respect and learn about creating a life of action.

During November and December, Spanish 1 students from Fullerton and Palmer high schools are connecting with a U.S. traveller in the Canary Islands. Students have already videoconferenced with Cierra, a person who grew up in Montana, and, at 23, has already completed two trips abroad, currently working as an English Teacher Assistant on Tenerife. Our students have learned that this group of islands off the African coast is a part of Spain, and are getting first-hand information about studying and living in another country -- the challenges, the cultural differences, and the joys of getting involved with people and places of a geographically distant location.

Through videoconferencing, student trips, and other means, the world continues to become a much smaller and closely-acquainted place.

Jim Chvala - Spanish Teacher

Calendar Events December 2019




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 <p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>B-Pancakes</p> <p>L-Hamburger, pink applesauce, &amp; smiley fries</p>	<p>3</p> <p>B-Cereal</p> <p>L-4th Grade Meal-Super Nachos, glazed bananas, corn, &amp; brownie</p>	<p>4</p> <p>B-Breakfast Sandwich</p> <p>L-Cream Chicken On A Biscuit, Strawberry Cup, Peas</p>	<p>5</p> <p>B-Cheese Omelet</p> <p>L-Hot Ham &amp; Cheese Croissant, Peas, Scalloped Potatoes</p>	<p>6</p> <p>B-Breakfast Pizza</p> <p>L-Hamburger Soup, PB &amp; J sandwich, mandarin oranges, &amp; carrots</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>B-Soft Pretzel</p> <p>L-BBQ Rib Sandwich, pineapple, potato triangle</p>	<p>9</p> <p>L-Laasagna Casserole, Pink Applesauce, Green Beans, &amp; Garlic Bread</p> <p>B-Cereal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>B-Fruit Turnover</p> <p>L-Macaroni &amp; Cheese w/ Ham, Peaches, Peas, &amp; Rice Krispie Bar</p>	<p>11</p> <p>B-French Toast</p> <p>L-Pizza, Strawberry Cup, Corn, &amp; Ice Cream Cup</p>	<p>12</p> <p>B-Egg Tac-go</p> <p>L-Chicken Noodle Soup, Muffin, Grapes, &amp; Carrots</p>	<p>13</p>	
<p>15</p> <p>B-Donut</p> <p>L-Chicken Sandwich, Peas, Green Beans, &amp; Cookie</p>	<p>16</p> <p>B-Cereal</p> <p>L-Beef &amp; Noodles On Potatoes, Mandarin Oranges, &amp; Dinner Roll</p>	<p>17</p> <p>B-Biscuits &amp; Gravy</p> <p>L-Chicken Nuggets, Pink Applesauce, &amp; Corn</p>	<p>18</p> <p>L-Pork Patty On A Bun, Glazed Bananas, &amp; Baked Beans</p> <p>B-Pancakes</p>	<p>19</p> <p>B-Breakfast Pizza</p> <p>L-Chili Soup, Cinnamon Roll, Peaches, &amp; Carrots</p>	<p>20</p>	
<p>22</p> <p>Menu is subject to change without notice.</p> <p>This institute is an equal opportunity provider.</p> <p>All Meals Served with choice of Milk.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

\* = Event displays only in this view

Calendar Events December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
 <b>1</b>	<b>2</b> PP (A) District Meet	<b>3</b> PP (A) District Meet 5:00pm JH/GBB (A) Burwell 5:00pm JH WR (A) Twin River Invite	<b>4</b> Juniors College Visit PP (A) District Meet	<b>5</b> PP (A) District Meet 4:00pm VB/GBB (H) Central Valley	<b>6</b> 4:00pm VG/BBB (H) Humphrey St. Francis 4:00pm JH GBB (A) Trinity Lutheran	<b>7</b> 9:00am WR (A) Friend Invite		
<b>8</b> Partner Of Fashioned Christmas	<b>9</b> 4:00pm JH GBB (H) Nebraska Christian 5:00pm JH WR (A) Central City Invite 7:00pm School Board meeting 7:00pm Board mtg	<b>10</b> 4:30pm JH GBB (H) Elba 6:00pm VG/BBB (H) Elba	<b>11</b> State One-Act Play Dist. LDE's District Leadership Contest	<b>12</b> State One-Act Play 4:30pm JH GBB (H) Fullerton	<b>13</b> 4:00pm VB/GBB (A) St. Edward	<b>14</b> 8:30am WR (A) Osceola Invite 10:00am JV G/BBB (A) Gilmer Tournament		
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 2:30pm JH GBB (A) St. Edward 7:00pm K-12 Christmas Concert	<b>17</b> 4:00pm VB/GBB (A) Spaulding Academy	<b>18</b> 2:30pm JH GBB (H) Central Valley	<b>19</b> 5:00pm WR (A) Centura Quad	<b>20</b> 1:00 PM Dismissal 4:30pm G/BBB (A) Osceola	<b>21</b> 9:30am WR (A) Elgin Pope John Invite		
<b>22</b> NSAA Moratorium	<b>23</b> NSAA Moratorium No School - Christmas Break	<b>24</b> NSAA Moratorium No School - Christmas Break	<b>25</b> NSAA Moratorium No School - Christmas Break	<b>26</b> NSAA Moratorium No School - Christmas Break	<b>27</b> No School - Christmas Break 2:00pm G/BBB (H) Heartland	<b>28</b> No School - Christmas Break		
<b>29</b> No School - Christmas Break	<b>30</b> No School - Christmas Break	<b>31</b> No School - Christmas Break						

Calendar Events January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	B-Cheese Omelet L-Chicken Sandwich, Pears, Baked Beans, & Cookie	L-Mini Corn dogs, Mandarin Oranges, Baked Beans, & Apple Chip B-Cereal	B-Donut L-Chicken Alfredo, Peaches, Green Beans, Garlic Bread	L-Chicken Fried Steak, Pears, Whipped Potatoes & Gravy, Dinner Roll B-Pancakes	L-Hamburger Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Strawberry Cup, & Carrots B-Biscuits & Gravy	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	B-Cheese Omelet L-Chicken Sandwich, Pears, Baked Beans, & Cookie	B-Fruit Turnover L-Third Grade Meal-Flastada, Glazed Bananas, Green Beans, & Chocolate-Vanilla Ice Cream	B-Cereal L-Walking Taco, Pink Applesauce, Corn, Brownie	L-Tenyaqi Chicken on Rice, Pineapple, Broccoli B-Soft Pretzel	L-Chicken Noodle Soup, Muffin, Mandarin Oranges, Carrots B-Breakfast Pizza	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	B-Egg Taco-go L-Hot Ham & Cheese Croissant, Pink Applesauce, Scalloped Potatoes	B-Cereal L-Spaghetti, Peaches, Green Beans, Garlic Bread	B-Pancakes L-Chicken Fajita, Rice, Pineapple, Corn	B-Donut L-Mini Corn dogs, Pears, Baked Beans, Rice Krispie Bar	B-French Toast L-Chili Soup, Cinnamon Roll, Strawberry Cup, Carrots	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	B-Soft Pretzel L-Hamburger, Pineapple, Fries, Ice Cream Cup	B-Cereal L-Stromboli, Pink Applesauce, Green Beans	L-Crispitos, Spanish Rice, Strawberry Cup, Corn B-Cheese Omelet	L-Chicken Nuggets, Pears, Whipped Potatoes & Gravy, Dinner Roll B-Biscuits & Gravy	L-Sandwich Bar, Grapes, Carrots, Cookie, & Chips B-Breakfast Pizza	
						

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Calendar Events January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						
						
5	No School - Teacher In-Service	7	No School - Christmas Break	9	No School - Christmas Break	11
12	Alton Choral Day 7:00pm School Board meeting 7:30pm Board mtg	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	