



# Palmer Public School



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

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**Board of Education**  
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## Superintendent's Newsletter – February/March, 2024

About 18 months ago, the board began discussing future facility needs and subsequently contracted with Carlson, West, Povondra Architects to conduct a Facility Study. This included a number of meetings with stakeholder groups to gather public input on facility needs. Following completion and review of the Study and Master Plan from CWP, the board contracted with BD Construction and First National Capital Markets to develop the facility needs into a project to present to the community. Last October, a Building Committee of community members was organized and met several times to narrow the scope of the project. The Building Committee's goal was: "Get the project and the bond amount right the first time to avoid the time and expense of multiple bond elections, and to get construction underway before prices increase." The final recommendation from the Building Committee addressed three key needs:

1. Safety and Security
  - Positions new, secure front entrance adjacent to parking with a well-planned drop-off flow.
2. Capacity and Activities
  - Additional classrooms for both the elementary and secondary sides through new construction, and relocating the current library. Gym space for elementary and secondary P.E. classes, indoor recess, school and community events, and various group practices.
3. Water Drainage and Maintenance
  - Paved parking lot for better water drainage. New storm shelter (locker rooms) with adequate space for all students and staff.

For more information visit [PalmerProgress.org](http://PalmerProgress.org). You can also get information during these events:

- February 8 – Open House at Palmer Public School 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- February 11 – Town Hall meeting at Palmer Public School 1:00
- February 19 – School Building Tours 8:00-3:30
- February 27 – School Building Tours 8:00-3:30



What a wild transition to the second semester with all of this crazy weather! We are finally settling back into our 'normal' routines at school, as much as possible! Hopefully mother nature got all of that out of her system and we are on our way to a pleasant spring. We are getting some warmer weather but please continue to send your child with layers as we never know what weather will be thrown our way.

Parent teacher conferences will be February 8th with PK-6 going all day. Therefore, there will not be school that day to accommodate for those meetings. In previous years, when we get to March we are working on completing spring MAP testing followed by state testing in April. This year we decided to push MAP testing to follow state testing. March will be typical classroom instruction, followed by April state testing and once that is complete district MAP testing. MAP testing is nationally normed so it does not matter when your testing window falls as the data is comparative to students across the nation that take it during that same window time frame.

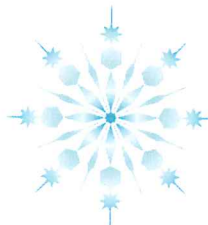
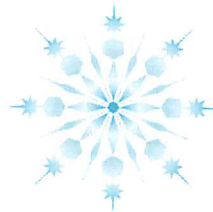
Other dates to note: February 14th-early out, NHS scholastic competition, February 16th-no school, February 29th-early out, March 1st-no school, March 8th-early out, inservice, end of quarter 3, March 11th-no school, March 13th-early out, inservice, March 29th-no school.

Please let us know if you wish to visit your child's classroom or take a tour of the school. We would be happy to accommodate you in doing so. Have a healthy and safe rest of the school year!

Sincerely,

*Sherise Loeffelbein*

PK-6 Principal  
Special Education Director





Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on Thursday, February 8th, starting at 2:30 pm for the Secondary and 8:00 am for the Elementary. We always encourage parents to come visit with their respective teachers so they can hear first-hand how their child is doing in school.

The High School Winter Sport Seasons are nearing the end of their seasons. Wrestling will go to

districts, starting on February 9th at Weeping Water. The Girls Basketball team will go to Districts on February 12th with the site to be determined. The Boys Basketball team will go to Districts on February 19th with the site to be determined also. The Junior High Boys Basketball team will finish their season on February 7th. Please come out and see our athletes in action!!

On February 23rd we are having our 1st Winter Ball and Junior High Dance. The Junior High Dance will start at 6:00 pm and the High School Winter Ball will start at 8:00 pm. This is a new adventure here at PHS, with both initiated by the students. We're looking forward to seeing how they all turn out.

Greg Morris  
Secondary Principal  
Activities Director



## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

\*When informing the school that your child will be absent, it is important that you call the office and let us know the reason for your child being gone -> even if you have already informed their teacher.

\*If there is a bus change for your child in the morning/afternoon, it is important that you call/email the office 30 min before their pickup time and before 2:30PM and let us know.

\*High School students are not allowed to call themselves out as tardy/absent!

\*High School students are responsible for filling out a sign out sheet if they know they are going to be gone at any point in the school day for an appointment/school activity/vacation/etc. They are to turn in their sign out sheets to the office 1 day prior to being gone.

\*If you move, please call the office and give us your updated address. Or update your information on PowerSchool.

\*You can add funds to your child's lunch account online through efunds, or by sending money to the front office. If you need help setting up efunds, you can call us!

\*If your child has a temp of 100.0 or higher, they will need to leave school and be 24 hour fever free without medication before returning.

\*If you are visiting the school, check in with the office and let them know what you need. They can notify whomever you would like to see/speak with. You can drop off birthday treats/forgotten items/etc with them to deliver to your student.

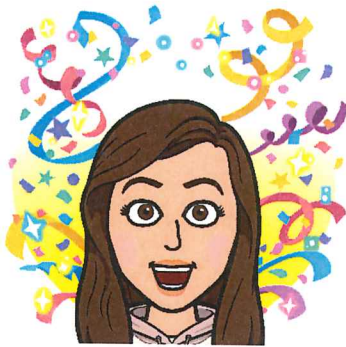
*Thank you thank you!!! ♥ Mrs. Forbes / Mrs. Lane*

[office@palmer.esu7.org](mailto:office@palmer.esu7.org) - 308-894-3065



# Counselor's Corner

National School Counseling Week Feb. 5 - 9



In celebration of National School Counseling Week, let's walk through what the occupation is all about and how it has evolved over the last 100 years. School counseling is now designed to facilitate student achievement, improve student behavior and attendance, and help students develop socially. School counselors support students who are experiencing personal or academic challenges, help students choose careers and plan for college, and intervene when students face behavioral, physical, or mental health challenges.

## HISTORY OF SCHOOL COUNSELING

In the early 20th century, as industrial centers grew throughout the United States, secondary schools began to increase their focus on courses that would help prepare students to enter the workforce. This movement gave way to school counseling (then called guidance counseling).

- 1917: Specific legislation is drafted to provide funding for vocational guidance programs.
- 1920s: New York becomes the first to develop certification requirements for school counselors.
- 1930s: Urban elementary schools begin to offer school counseling services.
- 1950s: The humanistic psychology and person-centered psychology movements gaining traction lead the focus of school counseling to undergo a significant shift.
- 1970s: School counseling incorporates wider goals of helping students develop socially, personally, and academically.
- 1990s: A nationwide shift toward standards-based education and the adoption of legislation such as the No Child Left Behind Act make it necessary for school counselors to find increasingly innovative ways to serve students.
- 2010s: American School Counseling Association (ASCA) reissues Code of Ethics to ensure all students receive access to K-12 counseling programs.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [cvalasek@palmer.esu7.org](mailto:cvalasek@palmer.esu7.org) or call 894-3065.

Carissa Valasek

# HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE



## SENIOR NEWS

Mrs. Trout 7-12 School Counselor

### Scholarships

#### February 1st Deadlines

- Susan Buffett
- Merrick County Foundation

Seniors: To apply for local scholarships please see Mrs. Trout for the applications.

Letters of Recommendation:  
Don't forget to give your counselor and teachers at least 2 weeks notice when requesting letters of recommendation.



### Community Service Hours

Don't forget that every school year 9th - 12th grade students need to have 10 hours of community service hours completed.

### Upcoming Events

#### February

- 5th - Navy Recruiter
- 8th - Parent Teacher Conferences & 1:30 pm dismissal
- 14th - Army Recruiter
- 16th - No School
- 29th - 1:30 pm dismissal
- TBD: CCC Recruiter

# THIRD GRADE NEWS

august/september

Our class was so excited to come back to school! We spent the first week getting to know each other, sharing fun things about our summer, and learning new routines. Some of the topics our class was most excited about learning in third grade were: multiplication and division, cursive, and new art projects. Mrs. Santin started her 9<sup>th</sup> year of teaching this year!

Some September highlights included mastering multiplication facts, reading folktales in ELA, and starting our writing/art portfolios. We LOVED Spirit Week and our class was very proud to have the winning cheer at the Homecoming Pep Rally (along with the 4<sup>th</sup> Graders of course!)



october/november

October went so fast for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class – we had lots to look forward to!! We continued our work with multiplication in Math, but added in some division strategies as well. Our new reading unit was an informative unit all about animals and their characteristics (definitely made this class full of animal lovers very engaged!). We also had a great time with Fall Caroling and our Halloween Party! We did a Halloween "Escape Room" that we used to review the content we have learned so far along with some cool black lights, witch's brew, and some creepy music!

One of our favorite projects we did in November was our Turkey art with oil pastels. We learned how to make a "portrait" using directed drawing techniques. We learned how to blend with oil pastels as well – the turkeys turned out great! We also made Thankful Turkey books that we were able to share with our families over our Thanksgiving break!

# THIRD GRADE NEWS

december

We spent a lot of time in December discussing different cultures in Social Studies. We followed up with some great discussions about different countries and their traditions in our Holidays Around the world unit. Some other December highlights included making gifts to give to our families, making ornaments, and our Christmas Program. Another favorite was the AR Party when Mrs. Santin brought her six baby puppies to play with the class for the afternoon!



january

We returned in January with a "Countdown to 2024" – our countdown included random acts of kindness, math review, a "top ten" for returning to school and more! We set goals for ourselves at home and at school by decorating New Years balloons.

Things to look forward to...

- Graphing Project
- Superbowl Day
- Valentine's Day Party
- Roman Empire Market
- Stuhr Museum Field Trip
- Henry Doorly Zoo Field Trip



# 4TH GRADE

MRS. THOMPSON

**WHAT A BUSY YEAR IT HAS BEEN! WE HAVE COMPLETED MANY EXCITING LESSONS, ACTIVITIES, AND THERE IS MANY MORE TO COME! THERE ARE 19 4TH GRADERS THIS YEAR READY TO LEARN AND TO CONTINUE TO OVERCOME THEIR CHALLENGES AND MEET THEIR GOALS!**

## READING

**WE ARE ON YEAR 2 WITH OUR NEW READING CURRICULUM! I REALLY ENJOY SEEING HOW THE STUDENTS ARE MAKING CONNECTIONS ABOUT HISTORICAL AND READING STRATEGIES FROM THE YEAR BEFORE. IT'S ALL TYING TOGETHER JUST ON YEAR TWO! THERE ARE SO MANY FUN THEMES, READING STRATEGIES, AND CHALLENGES. WE HAVE 8 UNITS,**

**EACH UNIT HAS A THEME:**

**UNIT 1: PERSONAL NARRATIVES**

**UNIT 2: EMPIRES IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

**UNIT 3: POETRY**

**UNIT 4: EUREKA**

**UNIT 5: GEOLOGY**

**UNIT 6: CONTEMPORARY FICTION**

**UNIT 7: AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**UNIT 8: TREASURE ISLAND**

## NEBRASKA HISTORY

**OUR NEXT EXCITING ADVENTURE IN THE CLASSROOM, IS LEARNING ABOUT THE OREGON TRAIL IN NEBRASKA HISTORY! WE WILL BE CREATING COVERED WAGONS IN THE CLASSROOM AND WILL COME UP WITH FAMILY NAMES FOR EACH WAGON. WE ARE SO EXCITED TO BEGIN THIS JOURNEY DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS!**



Stuhr  
Museum Trip  
on the Civil  
War

# SCIENCE

**IN SCIENCE WE LEARNED ABOUT ENERGY CONVERSIONS. THE STUDENTS USED SOLAR PANELS TO LIGHT UP AN LED LIGHT AND TO START UP THEIR MOTOR FOR THEIR FAN. THEY ALSO LEARNED ABOUT DIFFERENT ENERGY OUTPUTS, ENERGY SOURCES, AND HOW TO SOLVE THE BLACKOUT OF ERGSTOWN. OUR NEXT UNIT, WE ARE CURRENTLY LEARNING ABOUT VISION AND LIGHT. IN THIS UNIT THEIR BIG PROJECT WILL BE CREATING AN EYE MODEL AND EXPLAINING HOW THE LIGHT WORKS WITH OUR EYES. OUR MISSION FOR THIS UNIT, IS TO LEARN WHY THE TOKAY GECKOS ARE DECREASING IN POPULATION!**

## 4TH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

PJ Party Before Christmas Break



All dressed up for Christmas Concert

Creating an Electrical Grid



## News from Room 103...

In the Doggett math world, we are pushing through too many snow days and trying to get back on pace. This semester's first period I have 4 different college math classes going on simultaneously. It gets a little crazy getting everything going for them at the beginning of the course, but they are settling in nicely. The high school CPM classes are getting to some of the tougher content so kids are having to think more and apply the skills they have acquired along the way to solve some difficult problems. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are just finishing a deep dive into solving all kinds of equations and inequalities. They really caught on pretty quickly, even with the snow days. Advanced Math is cruising through the content quickly because of the increased rigor in the CPM courses.

Quiz Bowl and Math Counts are in the heart of their season. We are practicing every week in anticipation of our upcoming competitions. Math Counts will go to Kearney on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Conference Quiz Bowl will be at Heartland Lutheran on February 13<sup>th</sup> and our NHS will be hosting a Middle School Scholastic competition on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be a super crazy fun challenging week.

On the assessment front, we have completed MAP testing for the fall and winter. This year we have once again been selected for the federal NAEP test. So our 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking an extra math or reading test on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Next up is the ELPA21 test for our English language learners, followed by the ACT, spring NSCAS growth, and finishing up with MAP testing in May. We have decided to move our MAP testing to after NSCAS in the hopes of not burning out our kids before they take the big state test (NSCAS).

Cindy Doggett

Math Instructor

Assessment Coordinator

Happy New Year from the second grade crew here at PHS! We have had quite the year as we are a school family of 31 in the two split classrooms! With that being said, we have had a lot of obstacles and challenges, but way more successes and praises that make it worth it!

We are beyond proud of each and every one of these kiddos as they each have improved on their Winter MAPS Reading test, with half already meeting their SPRING projected score! As a teacher you couldn't ask for anything more with how hard they continue to work.

We also have had the opportunity last month to take our 2nd grade crew on a virtual "Holidays Around the World" tour. They were able to learn how different countries celebrate Christmas, along with trying new foods from each (A huge shout out to Mrs. Herrick for making this possible)! A few of the countries we visited were: France, Germany, England, Israel, Russia, and Mexico. At the end we were able to have each student make their own Gingerbread house to take home. They used a variety of goodies and each reflected upon their creative ability!

We hope you all have a great 2024!

Mrs. Hinrichs & Mrs. Norman

# 2024

# February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>HAPPY Valentine's DAY</b>		1	2
B: Pancakes L: Crisпитos, Rice, Peas, Corn	B: Cheese Omelet L: Spaghetti w/ Twist, Strawberry Cup, Green Beans, Garlic Bread	B: Fruit Turnover L: Cream Chicken on a Biscuit, Peaches, Peas	B: Donut L: Meal in a bowl, Pineapple, Dinner Roll	B: Pizza L: Hamburger Soup, PB&J, Oranges, Carrots
B: Donut L: Hamburger, Oranges, Smiley Fries, Sherbet	B: Cereal L: Beef & Noodles over mashed potatoes, peaches, dinner roll	B: French Toast L: Cheese Pizza, Strawberry Cup, Corn, Rice Krispie	No Breakfast NO PK-6 L: Fiestada, Pink Applesauce, Corn, Ice Cream Cup	B: Biscuits & Gravy L: Sandwich Bar, Grapes, Carrots, Cookie/Chips
B: Pancakes L: Chicken Alfredo, Peas, Green Beans, Breadstick	B: Cinni Minis L: Pork Patty on a bun, Peaches, Baked Beans, Cheese Its	B: Cereal L: Walking Taco, Pink Applesauce, Corn, Brownie	B: Scrambled Eggs L: BBQ Rib Sand, Pineapple, Potato Triangle.	NO SCHOOL
B: French Toast L: Meatball Sub, Pineapples, Potato Triangle	B: Soft Pretzel L: Chicken Sand, Pink applesauce, Peas, Cheetos	B: Cereal L: Stromboli, Strawberry Cup, Green Beans, Fruit Snacks	B: Soft Pretzel L: Teriyaki Chicken on Rice, Pineapple, Broccoli, Fortune Cookie	B: Donut L: Cheese Calzone, Oranges, Peas, Cookie

