

PALMYRA



PANTHERS

School District OR-1

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Secondary Principal: David Bottrell
Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft

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District OR-1 Newsletter
District OR-1 Public Schools
February, 2018

*****ECRWSS*****

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Postal Customer**

*Together, we prepare our students to successfully meet
the challenges of the future.*

Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

2017

Since our beginning in December of 1998

With your contributions of over \$600,000 we have:

- Given back to your community over \$375,000 supporting:
 - Post-Secondary Education
 - Staff Development
 - Athletics
 - Theater
 - Band
 - Elementary and Secondary Education
- While maintaining Foundation-sustaining account balance of over \$400,000

In 19 years \$600,000 of your contributions has turned into over \$775,000 for your community.

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Enclosed is my/our individual gift corporate gift _____

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-OR-

I/We pledge \$ _____, Enclosed is my/our payment of \$ _____.

Balance paid by _____, 20 ____.

To validate your pledge, your signature is required _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

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If an alumni of Palmyra/Bennet School, please list year _____

Please make checks payable to - Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1

Thank you for your investment in the future.



PANTHER NEWS

NEWS

District OR-1 Public Schools
425 F Street
Palmyra, NE 68418
<http://www.districtor1.org>

Serving the Communities of Bennet, Palmyra, and Douglas, NE

February, 2018

- Follow District OR1 at www.districtor1.org
- Download the app for iOS and Android
- Follow student progress on PowerSchool
- Superintendent Notes
- Flu Season
- Tips for testing
- Follow District OR1 on Twitter @OR1_Panthers
- Make sure your school has your e-mail and phone
- Follow official weather at www.1011now.com
- Blood Drive
- TeamMates Happenings
- 2018-2019 Calendar

Athletics and Activities Reminder:

The NSAA May 1 transfer deadline is rapidly approaching. This is intended to provide a reminder and some information about student transfers from one Nebraska school to another Nebraska school. May 1st is the deadline for students transferring within the state to make the transfer decision and for schools to place the student's name on the NSAA transfer list so that such student can be immediately eligible in the fall at the transfer school.



NSAA Bylaw 2.7.8 specifically states, "Eligibility will be considered for Nebraska transfer students who have transferred from one Nebraska member high school to another Nebraska member high school when there is not a change of domicile by the legal parents. This would apply to Nebraska students who transfer: (1) from public school to private school; (2) from private school to public school; (3) from private school to private school; (4) from public school to public school; and (5) transfers from Nebraska school to Nebraska school within a multi-school district.

2.7.8.3 Such Nebraska transfer students may transfer under this rule one time during their high school years, unless there is a change of domicile by the legal parent. Such Nebraska students who transfer a subsequent time without a change of domicile by the legal parent shall be ineligible for varsity competition for 90 school days."
—by Mr. Hoefl

Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

One of the most rewarding aspects of working in K-12 education is the opportunity to form a wide array of partnerships with our community organizations and groups. We benefit greatly from our affiliation with Partners for Otoe County. You may have seen the recent addition of the kindness banners at our school buildings and other locations in the community. They serve to send a recurring message to our students that character education is a strong foundational portion of the educational landscape at District OR-1. In addition I would like to thank the Foundation for Knowledge for providing so many opportunities for our staff and students. Their continuing efforts in addition to scholarships, include funding for an additional clear touch monitor, computer, and software for our first grade staff. This brings the total inventory of clear touch systems in our district to three with more on the way. We are deeply appreciative of the Foundation support we receive. Thank You!



As we move into February the recent weather pattern is worthy of a reminder that we need to maintain an accurate database of contact information available to the school so that each parent is able to receive messages regarding school closures, schedule

changes, late starts etc. One contact feature we are using has the ability to send an email as well as a phone message and text message. We also communicate via twitter and those feeds are automatically uploaded to the district app as well. These measures are only effective if we have current and up to date contact information for you. In short, it's a good time to add our Twitter feed and district app as manageable ways to ensure we are able to contact you during weather events.

We all know that assessments are here to stay. With that thought, each spring as we prepare for a new round of NeSA and MAPS assessments for District OR-1 students, we provide a few tips that

...Continued on next page.

Superintendent: Rob Hanger
Palmyra Principal: David Bottrell
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parents and students can put into practice at home that will be of assistance on test day:

1. Meet and or communicate with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students.

2. Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home, and offer assistance with homework on a regular basis to foster good study habits and to ensure that homework is being completed.

3. Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test. Many teachers report that children who do not test well have not had enough sleep on a regular basis.

4. Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind and a student that is ready to learn.

5. Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new vocabulary words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's school about a suggested outside reading list.

6. Know and understand the NeSA test. You can review information at the following web site:
http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA_Math.htm

**Please note the following from the CDC:
"CDC advice to fight the Flu"**

Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people also may have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

Tips to Avoid the Spread of the flu:

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)



- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an [alcohol-based hand rub](#).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

For more information check out the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>

Panthers PK

During FY 2017-2018 District OR-1 successfully complete the expansion grant process for additional funding for the Little Panthers Preschool. District OR-1 also received a continuation grant to provide assistance for the existing preschool room in operation since 2007. The amount of the continuation grant totaled \$20,876 and is augmented by state aid to qualifying formula students. The expansions grant award totaled \$75,000 for a grand total of 95,876.00 that District OR-1 will utilize to assist with furnishings, play equipment, technology and staffing costs associated with operation of the state approved Rule 11 preschool program. Along with construction of the new pre-k classrooms these funds have allowed us to provide the necessary staffing and equipment to expand and maintain a high quality preschool curriculum and staff.

In closing I would like to thank our staff for taking care of students on every level. On behalf of all of us at District OR-1 I want to wish you the best for blessed and happy 2018.

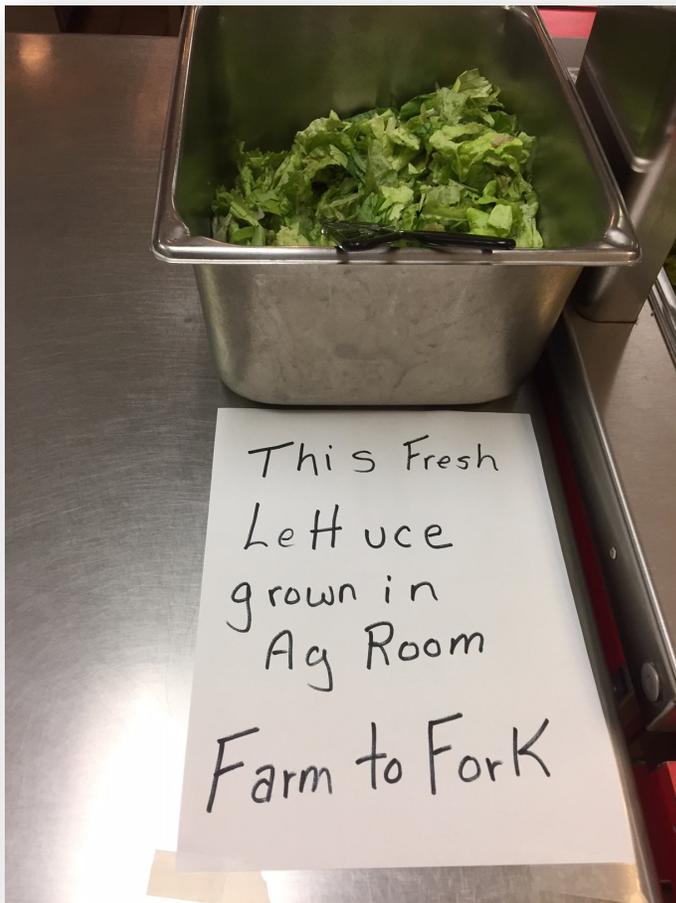
Building Project

Construction continues at the Palmyra High School site. Construction of the east career classrooms and renovation of the existing building is nearly complete pending the installation of flooring. That process has been difficult with a specific amount of curing time required for the flooring prior to being utilized or walked on. The construction of the new gym, computer lab, music room, green room and stage is moving forward hampered somewhat by the rain we experienced in October and the extreme cold in December. Pre-cast walls are in place and with the addition of structural steel the space will be enclosed soon. We anticipate substantial completion of the new building areas in late May or early June.

Ag Class Promotes Farm to Fork in School

Palmyra Agriculture Science Classes have been studying plant germination, pollination, and growth using the Tower Gardens purchased with the HYVEE, Farm Credit Services, and Monsanto #GrowingRuralEd grants we received this summer and fall. Students are in charge of monitoring the growing solution and the pH of the water so the plants grow to their full potential.

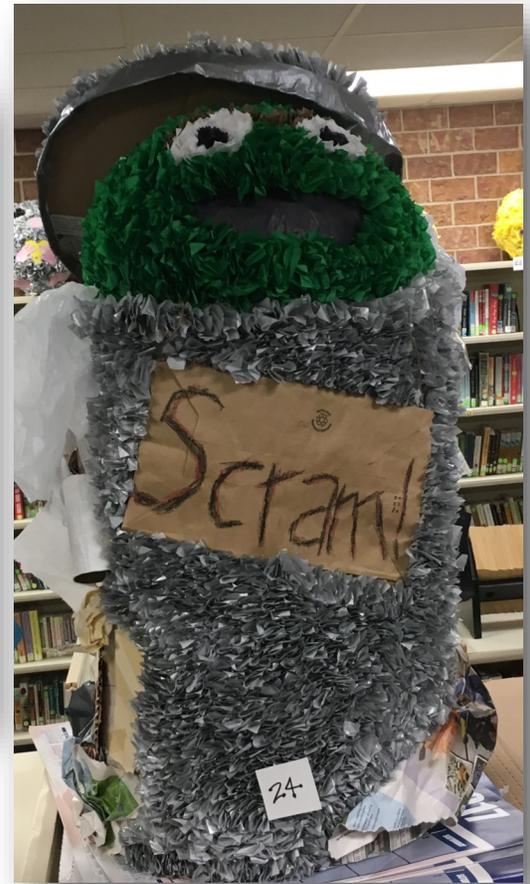
The ag classes were able to enjoy the produce of their work eating lettuce, kale, and basil salad in the classroom with the first crop that grew. The second crop that we have produced was shared with school students by providing fresh lettuce salad in the School Lunch room for the Farm to Fork program. The students commented that they enjoyed the fresh, amazing taste of the salad produced from the Ag Room. We are experimenting with cucumbers and tomatoes but those are a whole different process and will take an extra effort by the students.



Farm to Fork ...

It's All About Communication

As anything today, there is change. Education is always flowing, always moving with the next greatest method. Change, however, can be exciting and make so much more sense than the technique that came before it. Language has always been about communication: reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture. For years, language study has focused on verb conjugation and repetition of phrases, the more vocabulary, the better. And while these are important concepts, language instruction for true communication is by all means more important and more meaningful. For the last two years, the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages has directed it's attention towards proficiency. Students' focus must be on listening and speaking. When students can speak and listen, then the reading and writing will follow.



PHS Proudly Presents...

Disney's

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Sunday March 25th – 3:00 pm

Monday March 26th – 7:00 pm

Tuesday March 27th – 7:00 pm

All performances in the HS Gym

Admission \$5 per person

Upcoming Music Events:

February 27th – Freshmore Honor Choir @JCC – 6:30pm – admission \$1.00
February 28th – 6th Graders to the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra - @ Lied Center
March 15th – Malcolm Music Contest –Elementary Students @ Malcolm
March 16th – Malcolm Music Contest –JH Students @ Malcolm
March 20th – Mudecas Music Contest @ Sterling – HS Students (+JH Band)
March 24th – Class C All-State Band @ Kearney HS
March 25th – *High School Musical* – 3:00 pm @ PHS – admission \$5.00
March 26th – *High School Musical* – 7:00 pm @ PHS – admission \$5.00
March 27th – *High School Musical* – 7:00 pm @ PHS – admission \$5.00
April 9th - Jr/Sr High Spring Concert – 7:00 pm @ PHS
April 11th - L Street Invitational – Show Choir - @ Geneva Rialto Theatre
April 20th – District Music Contest @ Auburn - HS Students (+JH Band)
April 27th – Elementary 4-6 Spring Concert 7:00 pm
May 7th – ECNC Band @ Conestoga



FCCLA News

Five FCCLA members will represent Palmyra at state competition in April. District FCCLA (Family, Career, Community Leaders of America) S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Action for Recognition) competition was held at Peru State College on Friday, January 19th.

Zack Hartwick and Rylehe Wobig competed in Interpersonal Communication. They did a project to better communication in Show Choir. They received top gold to go on to state competition. Esther Steiner, Harmony Wheeler, and Alyana Baker competed in the Focus on Children competition. They planned and carried out a Holiday Fun activity with different age children to help with literacy. They received top silver, which allows them to go on to state competition. There is a national competition for state winners. Good luck at state.
—Sponsor, Mrs. Cunningham



Libraries: More Than Books! By Jen Whyman

Now that we are in the digital age, our local libraries offer much more than just books! Many of these don't even require a visit to the library. Instead, you can access them from wherever you are!

The Palmyra Memorial Library has many big city services that they offer. Anyone can obtain a library card at no cost. Along with that card, you are able to not only check out materials from the library, but also, are able to access Nebraska OverDrive which features many digital books and audio books. It is an app that you can download on your smart phone, tablet, or iPad. This is a great service especially for our younger students or students who struggle with reading, but enjoy hearing a book read to them. A nice feature of checking out books and materials through Nebraska OverDrive is that you don't have to remember when a book is due. It will automatically be returned on time! Along with this, the library serves as a site where our students are able to test for our Accelerated Reader program. There are many activities for all ages planned each month as well.

The Lincoln City Libraries are also another option. The services and cards are



free to anyone residing in Lancaster county, but is also open to those outside of the county for a small fee. They also have access to digital books and audio books. There is a wide selection on the various apps they offer for digital media. In addition to OverDrive, they also have a great app called Hoopla, in which you can also check out digital books and audio books for no charge. One great feature, is that you are able to check books out, and if you take longer than the time allowed, the next time you check them out, it will have saved your place for you! Lincoln libraries also have events scheduled each month for all ages. They also have a summer reading program where, students can receive prizes for reading throughout the summer months.

Palmyra Memorial Library hours: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday 3:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Lincoln City Libraries hours vary by location, please check their website at Lincolnlibraries.org.

TeamMates Truly Makes a Difference

by Michael Chaffee, PBD TeamMates Coordinator

process known as formal mentoring. Kind, caring, compassionate adults, mentors, are matched with students, mentees, who come from families where mentoring is valued and appreciated. Currently, we have 20 matches in District OR 1 Public Schools, several in each building. Spending time each week, the matches play games, listen to music, go over homework, talk, or anything the mentee chooses to do. Over time a bond forms, relationships are nurtured and both the mentor and mentee grow and develop.

Research on strengths-based matches shows a positive influence on student engagement with school. For many TeamMates youth academic performance improves or stays the same, school attendance improves and disciplinary referrals are reduced when involved with mentoring.

Most mentors will tell you they learn more than the kids! But the students in TeamMates really notice the value. Before writing this article I asked our matches to send me quotes I could use in this article:

"I feel that the most important and meaningful thing that teammates have helped me with was to become more social by strengthening my social skills with staff and other students. It has helped me gain more confidence in myself in what I can do and accomplish. Teammates have helped me grow as an individual and as a student. Thank you, Teammates!" Jayden, 8th-grade TeamMate mentee

*"What I like most about TeamMates is that I get to sit down and talk to someone every week."
...Drake, 7th-grade TeamMate mentee*

"I always look forward to my weekly meetings with my mentee. I have really connected with her and we enjoy sharing life experiences with each other. It is exciting to see my mentee grow and make good choices. I like to have the time to work with students as they move forward with school and on to college."

Sally Smith, TeamMates mentor to Samantha, a 9th-grade mentee

Our Philosophy in the Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas TeamMates is simple. We believe each and every student needs a positive role model to help provide guidance and wisdom. Our goal is to help each young person reach their full potential and encourage them to graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. The parents/guardians are the primary support and a mentor's role is to provide additional support and encouragement. Our mentors can influence youth in a positive way by building assets and helping youth with ongoing support and opportunities for growth. Mentors are volunteers from the community who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the life of a young person. Mentors give youth a sense of hope, purpose and vision.



(Pictured above: Recently retired Tom Gillaspie drives to Palmyra twice each week to meet with each of his mentees: Drake and Dustin.)

But what does it mean to mentor? Webster's New World Dictionary defines a mentor as "a person looked upon for wise advice and guidance." Though a mentor may be a role model, a true mentor does not ask another person to "be like me." A mentor says, "I will help you be whoever you wish to be." Mentoring relationships have been in existence for centuries and may be informal or formal in nature. In informal mentoring relationships, youth gravitate toward adults such as relatives, teachers or coaches for advice or guidance. In formal mentoring relationships, a specific person is designated to be a role model.

Are you interested in becoming part of our TeamMates Mentoring program in District OR 1 schools?

- Mentors are thoroughly screened, trained and supported to ensure the best possible relationship with the child.
- Mentors meet their students one time per week at the school during school hours.
- Mentors and mentees play games, do crafts, learn new things, and talk together.

The mentoring relationship is a developmental relationship.

As the PBD TeamMate Coordinator, I provide direct support and guidance for the mentors and mentees.

Not just anyone can be a mentor in TeamMates. For safety and screening requirements, all mentors must, complete the TeamMates Application Form and Mentoring Agreement, be at least 18 years old, be a high school or GED graduate and be willing to provide information to complete the screening process including:

- Criminal Background Check
- Health and Human Services Adult/Child Abuse and Neglect Registry
- Three character references

For more information about TeamMates Mentoring contact Mr. Michael Chaffee, 402.780.5327 Ext 2018, or email at: Chaffee.Mic@districtor1.net.



Class Dojo

Mrs. Sullivan & Mrs. Ourada

After Christmas, we decided to change up how we do things in the classroom a bit. For our behavior management system, we have recently switched to a more technology based system, Class Dojo. This is a free online app that can be used to track positive and negative behavior. Each student has a monster that represents their name and they can go in and change it however many times they wish. The wonderful thing about this system is that it allows parents to connect to our class and they can see how their student is doing throughout the day. Class Dojo also can act as an instant message system, which has come in handy if a parent has a question about something.

If a student is behaving in a positive way, they can earn a Green Dojo. Once they reach five Green points, their name goes into a pool for a drawing at the end of the month for a free pop or candy bar from the teacher as well the opportunity to eat lunch in the room with the teacher. If a student is making poor choices, they will receive a Red point. If they reach five Red points, a think sheet will be sent home for them to discuss with parents. These Dojo points are shown to the students periodically throughout the day so the student is able to keep track of how many they have earned so far. We have had a great response from both the parents as well as the students. If you ask them, they would say the best part is being able to change their monsters!



Box Tops

Bennet Elementary is collecting Box Tops! If you have Box Tops at home, bring them in and turn them into the office. Our school can earn cash for the Box Tops turned in. We are then able to use the cash with-in our school to buy the items we need. Every Box Top helps!

KDG Round Up

Bennet Elementary is registering students for Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year. Kindergarten Roundup will be held on Friday, April 13th from 9:00-11:00 A.M. Parents are encouraged to attend an informational meeting held at Bennet Elementary on Monday, April 9th at 6:30 P.M.

If you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall, please call Bennet Elementary at 402-782-3535 or complete the attached registration form and return to Bennet Elementary.

Little Panther Preschool

Little Panther Preschool is currently taking registrations for children who are interested in pre-school. Please call the Bennet Elementary office to place your child's name on the list.



Be on the lookout!

Many teachers from grades five through twelve utilize eBackpack as their classroom Learning Management System. Be on the lookout in upcoming weeks for a note from your student with login information for the ebackpack parent portal!



FACTS ABOUT COCHLEAR IMPLANTS



- * A cochlear implant is a device that provides stimulation directly to the auditory nerve, bypassing damaged parts of the ear that are preventing sound from reaching the auditory nerve. An implant does not result in "restored" hearing, but does allow the person to perceive sounds.
- * Cochlear implants are not indicated for all hard of hearing or deaf people. They are not recommended for people who function well with hearing aids. Other people are unable to get a cochlear implant due to other health conditions. Other people choose not to get a cochlear implant for personal reasons.
- * Approximately 96,000 Americans have cochlear implants.
- * Cochlear implants were first FDA approved for adults in 1985 and for children in 1990.
- * Insurance generally covers the cost of cochlear implants; cochlear implant surgery is one of the most cost-effective procedures ever reported.
- * Cochlear implants can be in one ear or both.
- * Children can be provided cochlear implants as young as 12 months old.
- * Children who use cochlear implants can listen, talk, and connect with the world around them.
- * When children are identified with hearing loss early, receive hearing technology early, and have family centered support, they can develop language on par with their peers.
- * Children who consistently use their cochlear implants and do not have other concurrent learning disabilities can develop literacy skills on par with their peers.
- * Less than 500,000 (less than 1%) people in American use sign language as their primary way to communicate. Most of these sign users are deaf. But not all cochlear implant recipients use sign language.
- * There is a wide variety of communication modes used by people with cochlear implants. Some cochlear implant users use only spoken communication, others use spoken communication with sign language support, others primarily use sign language with only some spoken communication. It all depends on the individual and how much access to sound their own cochlear implant can give them. Many children start out using sign language support when they are first learning spoken language and the sign language support is faded out as they become more efficient spoken communicators....Emily Buddenberg, Deaf Educator and Speech-Language Pathologist

References: <https://www.asha.org> <http://www.agbell.org/> <http://hearingloss.org/content/cochlear-implants> <http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/doc/sign_language.htm <http://www.audiologyonline.com>



The Bennet Backpack Program is ten years old!

Thank you for supporting and sustaining the Bennet Backpack Program for the past ten years. I'm passionate about the Bennet Backpack Program because I know that in order to learn kids need basic necessities like food. A hungry child isn't too concerned about grammar and math. As a classroom teacher I've seen first-hand the benefits of the Bennet Backpack Program.

A few years into the program, during our Extra Mile Walk Fundraiser, Mr. Robb, our principal then, came to me one morning. He had me open my hand and dropped some change into it. He said one of our backpack students came running to him that morning, so excited to bring his contribution to the Extra Mile Walk Fundraiser. That 87 cents in change brought tears to my eyes (still does). That student was in my class that year. I knew what a sacrifice it was to share that money. That child was one of those students who came to school hungry every day. That student was sad when there was no school and when summer break came. The Bennet Backpack Program is for students like him. By the way, I put a dollar in the Extra Mile Walk fund and kept that 87 cents as a reminder of why we need the Bennet Backpack Program.

The Extra Mile Walk Fundraiser kicks off in April. The Extra Mile Walk is Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 1:30 at the Bennet Park. The money raised purchases the food for the backpacks from the Food Bank of Lincoln, milk vouchers from Decker's Grocery, and fresh fruit through the school lunch program. We need \$5,400 for the 2018-2019 school year. Please consider making a financial donation to the Bennet Backpack Program. Donations can be made out to the Palmyra Presbyterian Church with a note in the memo to the Bennet Backpack Program, and sent to 1297 G Rd, Palmyra, NE 68418....Becky Hall, Bennet Backpack Program Coordinator



“Around the World” in Preschool

By Brittany Draeger and Erin Formanek

Recently, all three preschool classes participated in an “Around the World” unit of study. Preschool students are given many opportunities to learn about other cultures through the group instruction, exploration, and play.

- The students learned about food from other cultures through books and play food that represented items from Japan, China, Mexico, and



Italy. Grayson and Lena learn about food from China.

- During a small group lesson, students were asked to use building blocks to create a representation of various structures from around the world such as The Colosseum, Great Wall of China, and Golden Gate Bridge. Here is Brigham and Bryson creating the Eiffel Tower.

- The preschool classrooms also included new dress up clothes that represent clothing from other countries. Mexico, Japan, China, Nigerian, India, and Ghana.



Above is pictured Ian, Sadie, Mabel, Charlee, Blair, and Avery.

- Preschool students were able to explore and experiment with instruments from other cultures. Pictures above: Hudson is using a Chilean Rainstick. Natalie is using a Chinese gong. Mikah is holding an Asian Frog Rasp. Ava is playing the Ghanaian woven rattles. Weston and Tucker are using rhythm sticks. Paxton is using the Peruvian gourd maracas. Ryker has the Japanese Den Den.



100 Days of Kindergarten

This group of kids has sure come a long way in just 100 days. January 19th was the 100th day of school for students at Bennet Elementary. Kindergarten spent the day celebrating with activities centered around 100. We took some time to see how many letters and numbers we could write in 100 seconds and did ten different exercises, ten times. After reading some books about the 100th day of school,

Kindergarteners rotated through various centers. Those centers included Stamping to 100, making 100 gumballs for our gumball machine with dot markers, coloring a 100th Day Necktie, making a necklace with 100 Fruit Loops, and played Race to 100. This day was a highlight for many of us as several kiddos stated, “This was the best day ever!”





Hello District OR-1 Families,

I am thrilled to introduce myself, as I am student teaching at Bennet Elementary for the 2017-2018 Spring Semester. My name is Kristi Lamb, also known as Miss Lamb, and I am a senior at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Currently, I am in First Grade with Mrs. Wusk and her amazing group of students! I have also had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Dowding, Mrs. Hall, and the entire First Grade class. At the beginning of March, I will transition into the pre-kindergarten classroom with Mrs. Draeger, to fulfill my Early Childhood Education endorsement. I live in Bennet, and have enjoyed getting to work with families in this wonderful community. Prior to student teaching and attending the University, I taught preschool at a private program in Elkhorn. It guided me to my career in teaching, achieving my first Early Childhood degree, and, eventually, to expanding my own educational experiences. I plan to graduate this coming May after my student teaching experiences are complete. I have enjoyed being at Bennet Elementary so far, and am looking forward to the remainder of the semester!

1st Graders Are Published Authors ...By Lisa Dowding, Becky Hall, and Carrie Wusk

If you give first graders an iPad, they're going to want to make a picture of what they want to be when they grow up. When they make that picture, they are going to want to write and tell you all about it. So what's a teacher to do, but find a publishing company to tell their story!

First graders used the Felt Board App to create pictures showing what occupation they wanted to be when they grow up. After creating their picture, they wrote about what they wanted to be and why. Then we sent their work to a publishing company who then turned their creations into a class book. While we awaited the arrival of our books, we recorded the students reading their pages using our Clear Touch Panel and created a video showcasing their work.

Before Christmas break we celebrated the success of being authors with a publishing party. Parents were invited to preview the published books and watched the video showcasing the students work while enjoying some yummy refreshments. Students were extremely proud to show off their work and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their books to take home! If you would like to view the video please check out our district website!



Make it Multi-Sensory: An Approach to Helping with Spelling and Writing Homework

By: Shannon Ruzicka OTR/L, MOT Occupational Therapist at District OR-1

You sit down at the table with the list of spelling words in your hand, "Spell baseball". "Mom I don't want to". "Spell base-b-aaa-lilll". It's the same song and dance every week; but yet it doesn't get any easier and that spelling grade is not budging despite the constant practice.

"Let's do some writing, write a lowercase b for me". "Ok!" You look down to see a lowercase d. "That's a d sweetheart, turn it around." "No that is a b!" You can't help but think to yourself, why can't she seem to get this figured out?

Writing and spelling homework are generally not a student's favorite. However, writing and spelling are two very important skills that require practice for mastery. Children are more likely to learn and retain this information when they engage with materials using a variety of senses! Using a multi-sensory approach to homework is a powerful tool. Multi-sensory means you must tap into all your child's learning modalities. Can they see it (visual), feel it (tactile), hear it (auditory) and move with it (kinesthetic)?

Multi-sensory instruction is extremely beneficial. How so? Think of your eyes, ears and hands as the information collectors for your brain. Your senses gather information and send it to your brain. The brain determines if it is important or not. If important, your brain stores it away into short term memory. The more receptors that are involved, the greater the likelihood your brain is going to think the information is important and retain the information past your short term memory bank. Using a variety of senses simply opens up more doorways into the brain!

Each sense that is engaged while learning, the brain has more opportunities to ask itself, "Is this important?" Imagine the brain only has input from the ears. It hears the word and spelling of "Baseball. B.a.s.e.b.a.l.l.". The saying "it goes in one ear and out the other" is a true testament to using only the auditory system. Now imagine, your brain hears AND WRITES the word and spelling of "Baseball". Your brain begins to think "this

word baseball.....it must be important". Now imagine, your brain hears the word "Baseball", writes the word "Baseball" with a pen, and your body spells the word "Baseball" using your entire arm. "Baseball, Baseball, Baseball!" Your brain is alerted and paying even more attention. With each sense that is engaged, the brain is given an additional opportunity to decode and keep that information so it is available for the future.

Generally, we all have a pathway to the brain that is stronger than the others. Some people are visual learners, some auditory and some learn better by doing. It makes sense we prefer one way of learning over another, because our brains retain the information better when learn through the strongest pathway.

Naturally, we often don't know which pathway is the strongest in children. We can begin to notice patterns and habits, but until a child matures and establishes a concrete learning style, it is important to tap into all their senses!

Now that you know it is important to involve all your child's senses in learning, how do you do this? It's simple. And fun! Below, I'll provide a list of some easy ideas you can incorporate into helping your child master their writing and spelling homework. The majority use sight, touch, sound and movement. None of them require expensive materials or a lot of prep time. Don't overwhelm yourself and make it fun for the whole family!

- * Write their letters or spelling words on your back, you have to guess which letter or word they wrote. Switch turns.
- * Write on the carpet using two fingers.
- * Jump with each letter spelled in the word.
- * Bounce a ball to each letter in the word or clap your hand to each letter in the word.
- * Fill a 9x13 or cookie tray with salt or sugar. Write in the salt or sugar and then shake it clean for the next.
- * Use playdough to shape letters and spell words.
- * Use chalk and chalkboards or your driveway.
- * Use scrabble tiles or magnetic letters to spell the word.
- * Put letters on sticky notes and spell from your sticky notes – kids love stickies!



- * Build letters and words with dry beans.
- * Fill a zip lock bag with paint and use your fingers to write on the bag.
- * Shaving cream on the table is always a favorite – use a finger to write in the shaving cream!
- * Drive a hot wheel car through paint and ‘drive’ the letters on paper.
- * Trace letters or words with your finger on sandpaper.
- * You can purchase Bendaroos or Wikki Stix – kids can shape the letters using these or an inexpensive alternative is pipe cleaners
- * Use glittery glue to write or spell, when it is dried you can trace over it with your fingers.
- * Dirt and a stick – it can’t get much simpler!



Bennet Elementary and United Against Violence presented Omegaman and Friends to Bennet Elementary Friday, February 2nd. These superheroes utilized feats of strength to send a positive message to the elementary students. They delivered an Anti-bullying/ Character Development message through a superhero theme, an image that the kids can look up to.



The superhero brought excitement and enthusiasm to the students through a fun filled message of **HERO, Helping Everyone Respect Others**. It was a fun, and at times loud, presentation that the Elementary students enjoyed. Classes also welcomed the Superheroes by wearing their own superheroes dress up clothes for the day.



Congratulations to the Palmyra High School Choir members on being selected to represent district 1E at the State Capitol on March 8th as part of *Music In Our Schools Month*. The choir will sing in the rotunda on Thursday March 8th at 12:30 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend the performance. Bravo Panther Choir!



DISTRICT OR-1

PALMYRA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL--BENNET ELEMENTARY

402-780-5327 www.districtor1.org

Robert Hanger
Superintendent

David Bottrell
Secondary Principal

Linde Walter
Elementary Principal

Aaron Hoeft
Activities Director

District OR 1 Kindergarten Roundup

Pre-Registration Form 2018-2019

Child's Name (First Last) _____ Male Female

Birth date (mm/dd/yy) _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

(Cell) _____

***Please return this form at your earliest convenience to:**

Bennet Elementary

50 Dogwood

Bennet, NE. 68317

402-782-3535

Save the Date for Summer Enrichment June 4th-21st.

Summer Enrichment will run Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and is offered to all students entering KDG through 6th grade.

Save a LIFE

The next FFA Blood Drive will be March 13th from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. Contact Mr. Malone at 402-780-5327 to reserve your time.

DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018 Adopted

August 2017

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2017

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2017

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2017

- 7-Aug Start of Fall Practice
- 9-Aug Faculty In-service-8:00-4:00 .
- 10-Aug Faculty In-service-8:00-4:00 .
- 11-Aug Faculty In-service-8:00-4:00 .
- 14-Aug First Day of School

September 2017

- 4-Sep NO SCHOOL -Labor Day
- 19-Sep Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.

October 2017

- 16-Oct Start 2nd Quarter
- 19-Oct 1:30 Dismissal Fall Break
- 20-Oct Fall Break; NO SCHOOL

November 2017

- 13-Nov Start Winter Practice
- 22-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 23-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 24-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

December 2017

- 21-Dec End of Second Quarter
- 21-Dec Dismiss at 1:30 for Christmas
- 22-Dec Winter Vacation December 22-January 2
- 23-27 Dec Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

January 2018

- 1,2 Jan Winter Vacation
- 3-Jan School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter
- 15-Jan Martin Luther King Day Teacher In-service No School

February 2018

- 5-Feb Teacher In-Service No School
- 6-Feb Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
- 9-Feb NO SCHOOL Winter Break
- 21-Feb NO SCHOOL ECNC Speech
- 26-Feb Start of Spring Practice

March 2018

- 2-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 8-Mar End of Third Quarter 1:30 Dismissal
- 9-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 12-Mar Start 4th Quarter
- 29-Mar Everyone Dismissed at 1:30pm for Easter Break
- 30-Mar NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

April 2018

- 2-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

May 2018

- 12-May Graduation
- 16-May Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg. Dis. **178**
- 17-May End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal H.S. **185 total for teachers**
- 18-May Teacher Work Day

Note: Early dismissal times of 1:30 will result in an elementary dismissal time of 1:10.

January 2018

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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February 2018

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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March 2018

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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April 2018

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Elementary End of 2nd Semester

Teacher days

Vacation Days

Parent Teacher conf.

Early Dismissal

DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR 2018-2019 Proposed

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- 25-Feb Start of Spring Practice

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- 1-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 7-Mar End of Third Quarter 1:30 Dismissal
- 8-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 11-Mar Start 4th Quarter

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179 student days

185 total for teachers



2018-2019