

**PALMYRA**



**PANTHERS**

**School District OR-1**

425 F Street, Box 130  
Palmyra, NE 68418  
402-780-5327 Fax: 402-780-5349  
Superintendent: Rob Hanger  
Secondary Principal: David Bottrell  
Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft  
  
Elementary Principal: Linde Walter  
50 Dogwood ST  
Bennet, NE 68317  
402-782-3535 Fax: 402-782-3545

[www.districtor1.org](http://www.districtor1.org) Twitter: @OR1\_Panthers

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District OR-1 Newsletter  
District OR-1 Public Schools  
November, 2016

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

# Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

2015

## Since our beginning in December of 1998 -

**\$567,000 – Contributions - you have contributed to The Foundation For Knowledge.**

**\$192,650 – Scholarships – 165 students from your community have been assisted with their post-secondary educations.**

**\$74,550 – Staff Development – helping to make District OR-1 one of the highest ranked and best trained teaching Staff's in the state of Nebraska.**

**Graduation Rate – District OR-1 has achieved one of the highest graduation rates in the State.**

**Post-secondary Education – the vast majority of District OR-1's students go on for further education that will help them for the rest of their lives.**

**\$12,600 – School Support – Assisting school programs, and support for students representing District OR-1.**

**\$326,000 – Invested Market Value – For endowed commitments.**

**With your help The Foundation For Knowledge's investment account ensures that your contributions will be available for the future of your community.**

**With your support we will continue our work for the future of your community**

**Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1 - P. O. Box 130, Palmyra, NE 68418**

Enclosed is my/our  individual gift  corporate gift \_\_\_\_\_

(corporate contact person)

of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1

-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 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 PANTHER

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

November, 2016

- Superintendent Notes
- Teammates
- Guitars Hit Palmyra



## Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

Notes from Mr. Hanger:

The start of the 2016-2017 school year has progressed quickly with the first quarter of academic work and fall activities completed and the second academic quarter well under way. I would like to thank all of our parents for your hard work and diligence. Your efforts make our work as educators rewarding personally and professionally with the support we receive from home. I would also like to extend a thank you to the greater OR-1 community. This includes all of the supportive and caring individuals that take time from their busy schedule to work with our youth in wide array of settings that include but are not limited to youth groups, TeamMates, youth activities/sports, the backpack program, school volunteers, the Foundation for Knowledge and so much more. It continues to be a pleasure to work in a supportive and caring environment.



Moving forward with the facilities process has been a rewarding experience for the District OR-1 Board of Education, staff and student body. The Bennet Elementary construction and renovation has moved along at a very fast pace with a majority of the renovation of existing spaces taking place over the course of the summer. During the first quarter of the school year work continues in those areas in order to complete installation of the flooring specifically the resilient tile in hallways and commons areas. Completed or nearly completed renovations include new ceiling tile, life safety code upgrades, interior paint and restroom finishes, and the installation of at least a portion of the casework. New construction at Bennet addition has been mov-

District OR1 has the vision that all students will have a district-owned technology device in their hands (high density computing) to facilitate the following strands.

(1). We foresee the ability of teachers to utilize devices, with a premium focused on mobile devices, to incorporate 21st century skills into lessons. Furthermore, teachers will have the ability to utilize devices to assign asynchronous, media-rich learning sessions designed for completion during unscheduled sittings, extended school hours, or during traditional homework hours. This strand will ensure anytime, anywhere education.

(2). We foresee the ability of teachers to utilize devices, with a premium focused on mobile devices, to formatively assess students throughout each period in a method that allows for flexible, student-centered lessons.

(3). We foresee the ability of the District to utilize devices, with a premium focused on mobile devices, to summatively assess students multiple times each year in a method that allows for District personnel to measure growth within a year and growth over the longitudinal span of the educational career. (

4). We foresee the ability for students to collaborate and communicate on a wide variety of applications/platforms, with a premium focused on mobile devices, and to be able to use video conferencing to engage with experts in any field of study. We plan to incorporate the use of video technology to any device, regardless of size and operating system. This strand will allow for anytime, anywhere mentoring.

In our effort to support the technology needs of the students of District OR1, Chromebooks with touchscreen technology will replace the current 1:1 iPad project. Keep up-to-date on the Panther 24/7 Project by visiting the district web site.

**Superintendent: Rob Hanger**  
**Palmyra Principal: David Bottrell**  
**Bennet Principal: Linde Walter**  
**Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft**

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ing forward simultaneously with the positioning of the pre-cast concrete wall panels and subsequent work for electrical, plumbing and roofing. I applaud our staff in both Bennet and Palmyra for their patience and hard work without which none of this would be logistically possible. The project in Palmyra has been just a little more challenging as the initial bids as submitted in May 2016 were higher than anticipated by the Board. I wish to thank our Board and personnel from Clark



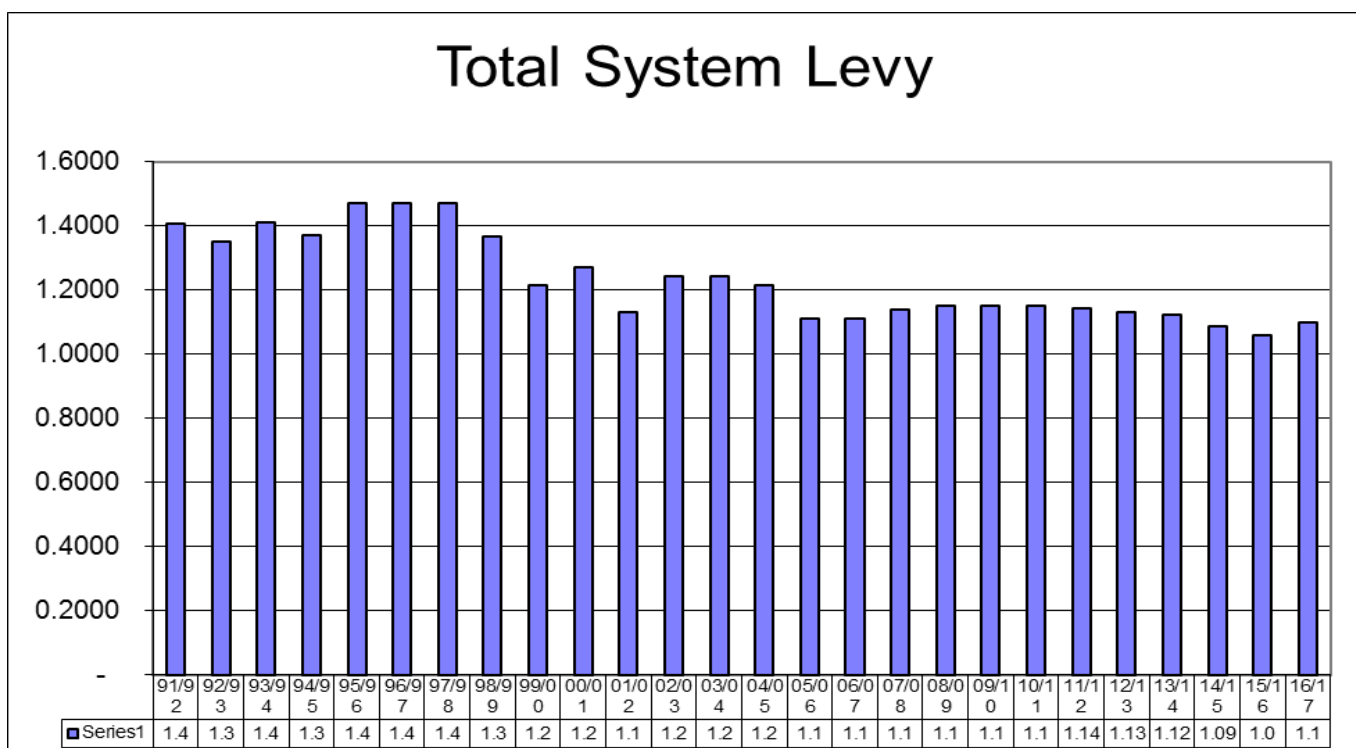
Enersen for completing a timely re-design of the project that did not compromise the integrity or scope of

construction focusing on modifications and not specification changes. The Board has spent many hours of work in order to make all of this possible. Palmyra bids were received for a second time on August 11, 2016 with the Board awarding the contract to Cheever Construction. In that process the Board accepted the base bid and all alternates as the total cost was under the final number established earlier in the design phase. What that means is that all aspects of the project will move forward with the difference being a traditional bottom loading gym configuration as that design aspect eliminated costs associated with excava-

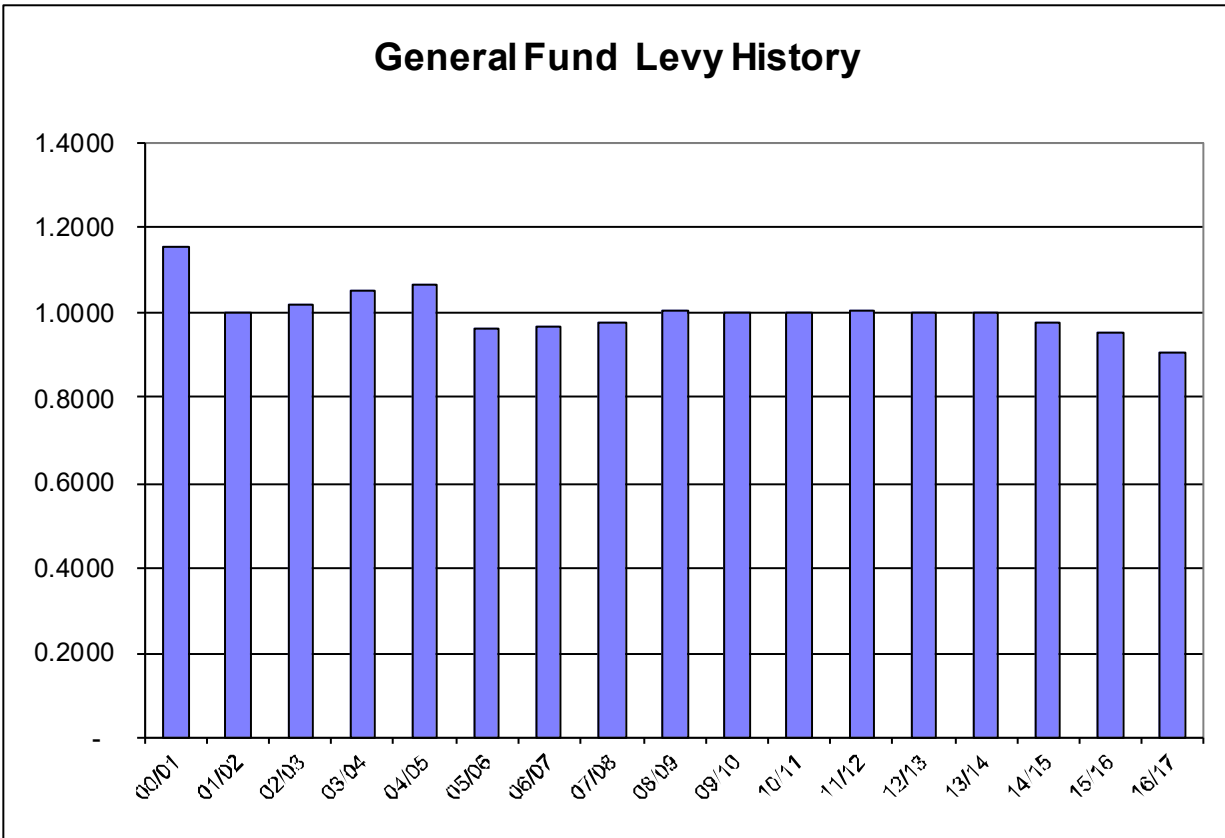
tion and shoring of the existing building structures as well as numerous changes to the construction schedule and phasing. The new plans have expanded the size of the new music classroom and stage areas and include a gym sound system, stage lighting and midnight blackout shades for the gym windows, as well as increasing the total space that will provide safe shelter during storms. The first phase of construction will consist of building the three new career classrooms and commons area expansion on the east side of the existing high school. The existing building in Palmyra will also receive renovations similar to those in Bennet including upgrades to life safety code items, flooring, paint and restroom finishes as well as the addition of air conditioning in the existing gym and commons area and new bleachers in the existing gym. The redesign kept other elements from the previous plans intact including the addition of three career classrooms, expanded commons area, new concessions and a remodel of the existing space to move language arts into the academic wing of the 1990's building. Thanks to all of our patrons for your continued support and patience during the construction phase of the project.

### Fiscal 2016-2017 Budget

At the September meeting the Board approved the budget for all funds for the current fiscal year. The current budget has a General Fund Levy set at 0.905, the Building Fund Levy at 0.048. The Bond Fund Levy is currently set at 0.1475. This represents an increase of 0.042 from the 2015-2016 fiscal year with the increase due to the construction projects. The Chart below shows the total levy history for District OR-1 from 1991 to date. As reflected in the chart the increase in the bond levy still reflects a total system levy less than fiscal 13-14 and the preceding years.



The chart below shows the continuing trend of a reduction in the General Fund levy.



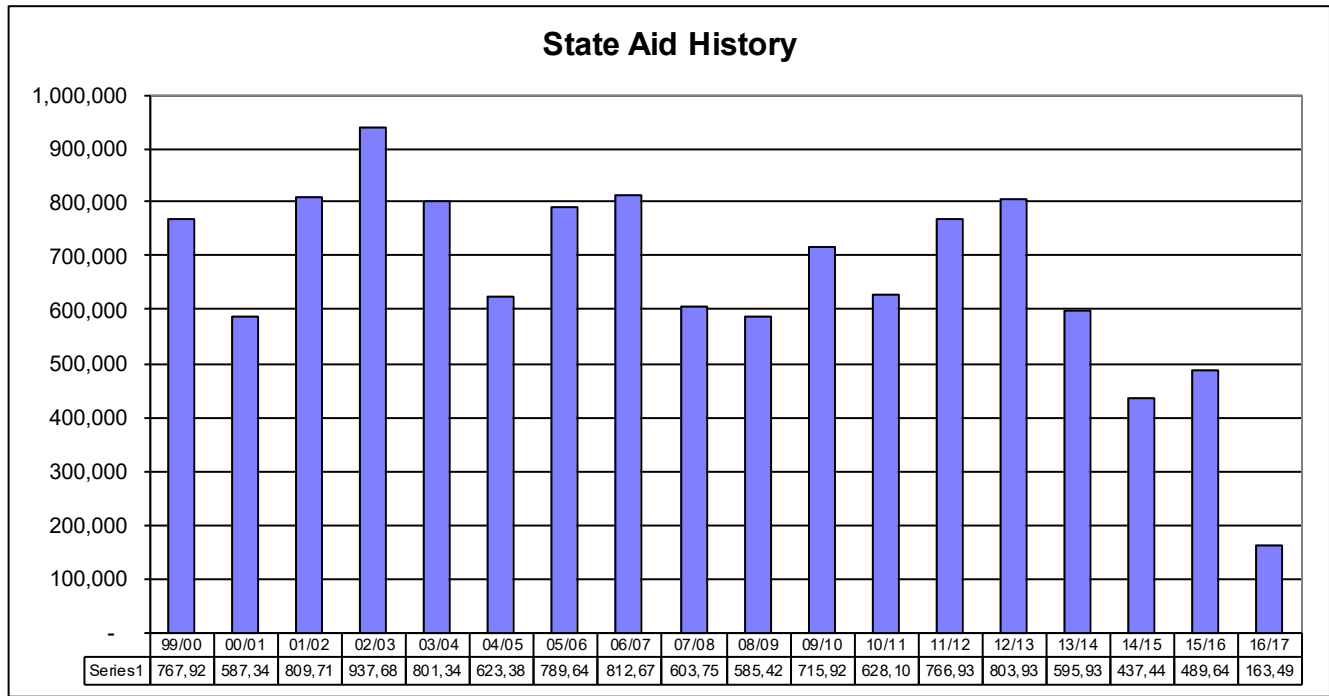
The District continues to be low spending in comparison to the cost group of 20 schools with enrollments closest to District OR-1. The District ranks 18<sup>th</sup> lowest spending in the comparison cost group of twenty schools and has consistently remained in the bottom tier for the past seven years. As a part of the General Fund budget the district will receive \$163,490. in State Aid. This represents a decrease of \$323,065. from the amount received during fiscal 2015. Over time as District OR-1 valuations increase State Aid will decrease as the equalization formula is based on needs vs. resources. This year the district's valuation increased approximately 4.7%. Additional grant funds available to the district include but are not limited to \$29,279 Title I, \$6,154 Title IIA, \$36,722 Rural Education Achievement Program. The district will also receive approximately \$110,158 in IDEA funds. That

amount will be finalized prior to December when the IDEA grant process is completed. District OR-1 also receives a large financial commitment from the Universal Service Fund to provide reimbursement for internet and telecommunication service fees at a rate of 60% of the total charges. All of these dollars are welcomed as they assist us in keeping the local tax levy rate at a much lower level than would otherwise be necessary to fully fund the district. In the current fiscal year our school is impacted by the Continuing Appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 and the Zika Response and Preparedness Act (FY 2017 continuing resolution), which includes a 0.496 percent across-the-board reduction in the amount of funds provided through the FY 2016. This reduction therefore affects the portion of Title I-A and Title II-A funds that became available to the district on October 1, 2016.

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**Blood Drive: November 10 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.  
Contact Mr. Malone at [Malone.ken@districtOR1.net](mailto:Malone.ken@districtOR1.net), or  
402-780-5327 to sign up to save a life.**

The chart below shows an eighteen year history of State Aid received by District OR-1.



### State Report Card

Access is now open to the State of the Schools report card for District OR-1 Public Schools. At the Department of Education website you will be able to view our latest scores in Reading, Writing, Math and Science as well as information concerning staff endorsements, and data related to state and federal guidelines. I encourage you to review the information for our district so that you are familiar with the excellent work in which we are engaged. Information is available at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us>.

### Know the Rules on School Bus Stops:

When a school bus engages the red stoplights and stop arm a driver must stop and remain stopped until the bus driver retracts the stop arm and deactivates the red warning lights. The only exception occurs when approaching a school bus in the opposite direction on a roadway divided by a median. At a four-way stop with no median, drivers are required to stop in all directions. A simple rule to keep in mind is to always stop "all ways." A driver should come to a complete stop at a reasonable distance from the bus keeping in mind that they will need to safely cross the street. When approaching a bus drive cautiously and slow down knowing that they may stop.

### School Closing Due to Inclement Weather

Each winter we have school days when we are faced with the dilemma as to whether school will start on time, start late, or should be canceled altogether. This decision is never easy to make, but I want you to know that we have our students' safety foremost in mind. With that said, be aware that we will monitor road conditions closely and will use that information to make the determination about a school closing or late start.

We will check roads beginning at 4:30 A.M. so that we can arrive at a decision by 6:15 A.M. If a decision is made to close school or to have a late start, we will notify families via the District School notification system and KFOR radio 1240 AM as our primary contacts with the late start or closing information. In addition we will notify channel 10-11 television for the Lincoln market and Channel 6 television in the Omaha market as well as our website and Twitter feed as quickly as we can in order to get information out in timely fashion.

If the snow begins in the evening and is only a light accumulation, then a decision will not be made until the next morning. When the snow is heavy and the wind is a factor in terms of drifting then the decision may be made that evening. If snow begins during the school day the administrative staff will monitor road conditions and watch to make sure we can get students home safely. If road conditions deteriorate during the school day and we are to dismiss early we will again notify radio and television contacts with closing information and in addition we will attempt to contact parents with the School Messenger system to let them know we are dismissing early, as we understand that closing school early when it was not planned requires some parents to make arrangements for the care of their children.

### Keep in the know about school closing due to inclement weather...

- \* <http://www.districtor1.org>
- \* <http://www.1011now.com>
- \* Follow District OR1 on Twitter

\*\*Make sure your school secretary has current numbers to receive automated messages from District OR1.

When school does start late due to road conditions, school will begin at 10:00 a.m., but we ask that students do not arrive prior to 9:30 a.m. The late start is designed to serve several purposes:

1. to allow the buses to go out when it is light and they can more safely see the road,
2. to allow you to have more time to clear driveways, and allow more time for students who drive to school to arrive safely.

On late start days the buses will run later than normal and pickup times will be adjusted accordingly. We appreciate

your cooperation and patience.

With all of that said, I would remind you to update your contact information with the school. This includes your email, home phone and mobile phone information. If our information is incorrect or missing we will be unable to contact you via the District Notification system in case of a weather closure. You may also want to download our mobile app from the app store by searching for District OR-1.

We sincerely hope your holiday season is a safe and happy one.

### Veteran's Day Luncheon



Bennet Elementary would like to invite Veterans of **District OR 1** families to join us for lunch on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30-12:15. Lunch will be served at 11:45 with special music by the Bennet Singers at 11:30 AM. Please share this information with family and community members and call the Bennet Elementary office at 782-3535 by Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> to reserve a lunch.

## School Psychologist Joins District OR-1 Staff

My name is Tracy Pella and I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and tell you more about my role as your School Psychologist. My main goal at District OR1 is to ensure that all children and youth thrive in school, at home, and in life. The field of School Psychology has evolved to meet the needs of today's youth. In the past, School Psychologists main expectation was to complete testing for Special Education and be involved in more severe cases of student's needs. Today, we are trained to have expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior. This allows us to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally.

One of my main focuses here at District OR1 is to partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create a positive and supportive environment within our buildings. On a daily basis, I am able to provide direct support and interventions, along with, consulting with teachers, parents, and other team members to improve support strategies. I often work with administrators to improve school-wide practices and policies to help maintain special education legal standards.

All children and youth may face problems from time to time and my role is to help them understand and resolve any issues students may face. I am an available resource to all students and will collaborate with school and home to support the student.

My education background includes a Masters of Arts in Counseling from Doane University and an Education Specialist Degree in School Psychology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and a Licensed Mental Health Therapist in Nebraska.

I am no stranger to the area of District OR1. I grew up in Southeast Nebraska, near Sterling. My husband, Jesse, and I farm near St. Mary and have three children. Our twin sons were born extremely premature in June, 2011. Our son, Cooper, survived, and our son, Cohen, passed away. We also have a daughter, Frannie, who is 18 months.

I feel privileged to be part of District OR1 and look forward to serving the stakeholders within our district.

Tracy Pella, LMHP, NCSP

# District OR-1 Students Surpass State Averages On Reading, Math and Science Tests

During the 2015-1016 school year Nebraska students met or exceeded state reading standards by 82%, in math 73%, and in science 72%. Students at Bennet Elementary and Palmyra Jr./Sr. High School, 88% of students met or exceeded standards in reading, 81% of students met or exceeded standards in math, and 88% of students met or exceeded standards in science. As a whole, District OR-1 students' scores are well above state averages. Students and teachers have worked very hard in recent years toward NeSA testing success, and this past year's scores are indicative of that effort. Everyone should be proud of this accomplishment, and look forward to continued success in this arena for all students at District OR-1.

The following chart is a breakdown of score and performance by grade level of District OR-1 students compared to the state average..

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Science</b>
	% MEETS OR EXCEEDS STANDARDS	% MEETS OR EXCEEDS STANDARDS	% MEETS OR EXCEEDS STANDARDS
<b>GRADE 3</b>			
State Average	84%	79%	
OR-1 Students	94%	91%	
<b>GRADE 4</b>			
State Average	86%	78%	
OR-1 Students	95%	86%	
<b>GRADE 5</b>			
State Average	85%	77%	74%
OR-1 Students	86%	88%	86%
<b>GRADE 6</b>			
State Average	83%	75%	
OR-1 Students	76%	77%	
<b>GRADE 7</b>			
State Average	85%	71%	
OR-1 Students	87%	71%	
<b>GRADE 8</b>			
State Average	82%	68%	68%
OR-1 Students	93%	81%	84%
<b>GRADE 11</b>			
State Average	72%	62%	74%
OR-1 Students	87%	74%	95%
<b>DISTRICT TOTALS</b>			
State Average	82%	73%	72%
OR-1 Students	88%	81%	88%

If your home address, phone numbers, or e-mail address has changed,  
please contact the office of your child's school to ensure notifications  
continue to reach your family.





# Mourning HOPE

grief center

## Mourning Hope Helps Children, Teens and Families in Grief.

By Michael Chaffee, K-12 School Counselor

Often in our school system and community we become aware of those who are experiencing grief and loss. When that happens it is important to seek appropriate counsel and services. One such resource available to students and families in our community is Mourning Hope.

Located just west of Nebraska Wesleyan University, at 4919 Baldwin Avenue in Lincoln, Mourning Hope is a grief support network for children, teens, young adults and their families who have experienced the serious illness or death of someone special to them. Support groups serve youth in kindergarten through young adults and their families.

Mourning Hope is able to help anyone when grieving the death of anyone significant in a child's life -- a parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle, or close friend.

Mourning Hope was founded in 1994 and is dedicated to providing emotional support for grieving youth and helping caregivers and the entire community understand the unique needs of grieving youth and families. Funded by the generosity of many in our community, Mourning Hope does not require payment for any services.

Mourning Hope's name is significant - it's through mourning that we find hope to live, laugh and find joy in life again. Grieving is the hardest work there is.

Mourning Hope *companions* grieving children, teens, young adults and their families when someone significant in their lives has a serious illness or has died.

Mourning Hope provides support groups, community education, grief resources and referrals.

A definition of "companionship:"

Companionship is a philosophy of working with the bereaved developed by Alan Wolfelt, Ph.D. It refers to "walking along-side" each grieving child and family in their pain, without urgency or judgment.

Companionship is not about imposing order or logic, leading, "fixing the pain" or stopping its expression at our own discomfort.

Companionship is being fully present to another's grief; being willing to "go into the wilderness of their pain with them."

Companionship is accepting the reconciliation each individual can find with his or her loss.

Mourning Hope envisions a society where all grieving children are embraced, listened to, understood and effectively supported by their families, teachers,

caregivers and others significant in their lives.

Mourning Hope works with each grieving family, parents and caregivers to model healthy grieving strategies, while understanding the unique needs of their youth.

Mourning Hope encourages healthy grieving practices such as openness to talking about losses, embracing the pain of loss, remembering those who died, searching for meaning and giving and receiving ongoing support. Through best practices, education and innovation, Mourning Hope seeks to improve the lives of individuals in the communities. Knowing that bereavement practices vary in profound ways depending on cultural backgrounds, The Center creates an environment that honors the culturally distinct mourning rituals, traditions, and behavioral expressions of grief experienced by program participants.

With patience, empathy, openness and a willingness to listen with our hearts and minds, Mourning Hope humbly companions each person who seeks support.

For more information:

Phone (402) 488-8989

Fax (402) 486-0288

E-mail [crunestad@mourninghope.org](mailto:crunestad@mourninghope.org)

Website: <http://www.mourninghope.org>



Mourning Hope companions grieving children, teens, young adults and their families when someone significant in their lives has a serious illness or has died.

## First Graders Go Wild: by Becky Hall & Lisa Dowding

What if you woke up one morning with polar bear hair (it would keep you really warm on a cold winter day), an anaconda snake tongue (you would be able to smell even if you had a stuffy nose) and mountain goat hooves (you wouldn't slip on the ice)? You would be totally wild!



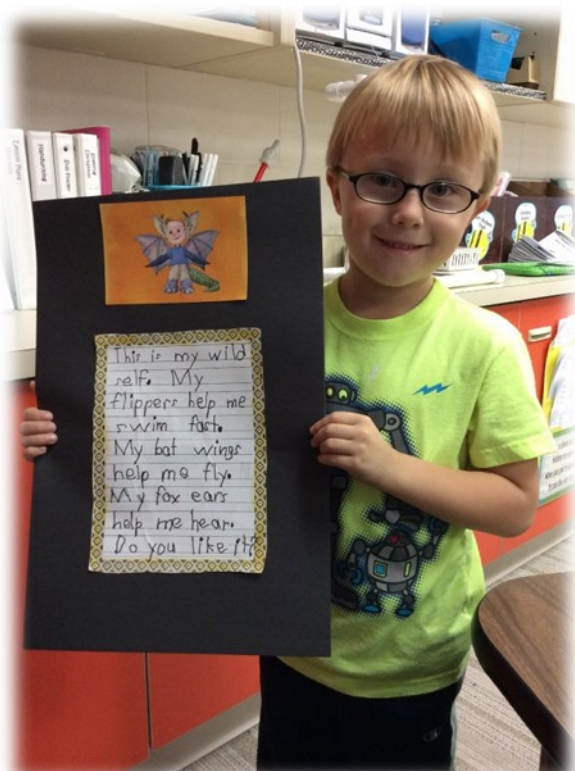
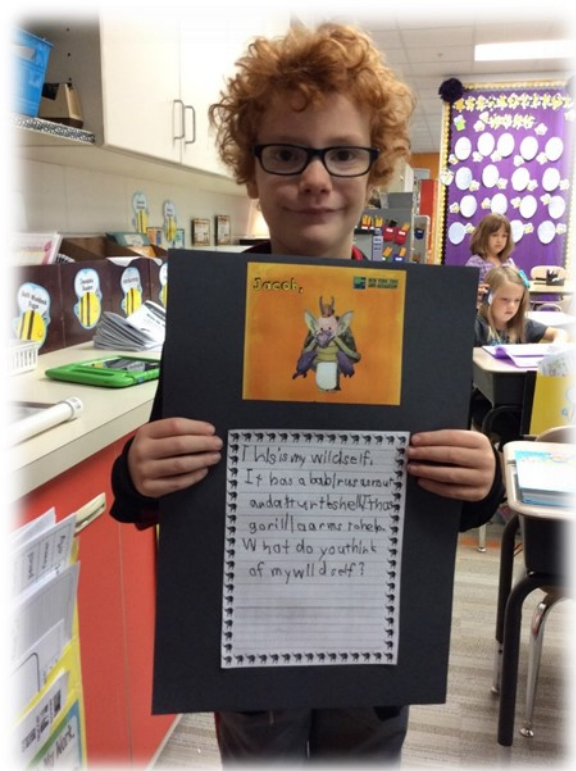
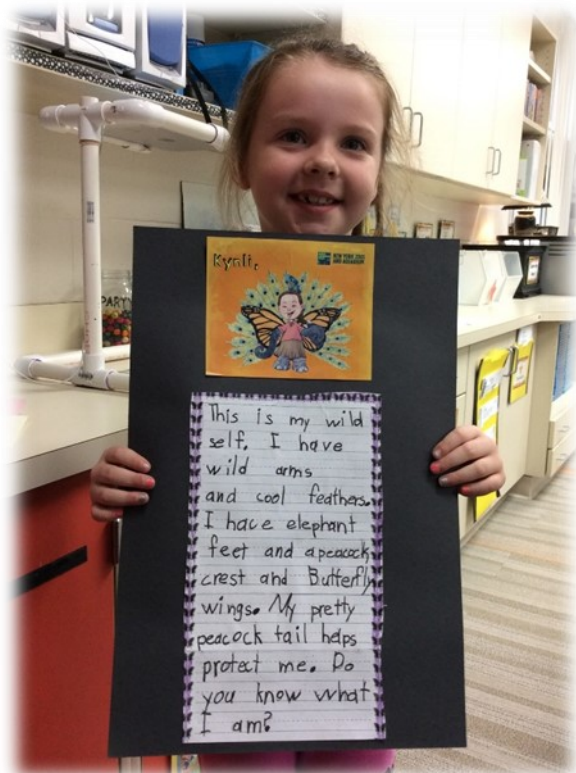
First grade finished reading unit one and it was all about animals. The unit started with tame animals like our pets and concluded with wild animals that you find at the zoo or you know - in the wild! Students were invited to create their *wild self*

by going to [buildyourwildself.com](http://buildyourwildself.com). The site allows students to select every aspect of their *wild self* from the tip of their head to the tip of their toes. The result? We have some really wild first graders so beware when you come for a visit.

Once the students created their *wild self* on the site a copy was printed off and students wrote about their *wild self*. These pictures and descriptions are on display at Bennet Elementary on

the south windows if the library. Come check out our wild first graders!

If you want to create your wild self, go to [buildyour-wildself.com](http://buildyour-wildself.com). Have fun and go wild!



Top-Left: Colton Walter.  
Above: Kynli Portwood  
Far-Left: Jacob Hippen  
Left: Landen Malotky

Jessie L Myles to speak to PHS at 8:30 am Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Jessie L. Myles has been the Coordinator of Diversity/At Risk Programs at the [Midwest Equity Assistance Center](#) in Manhattan, Kansas. He was one of the first to become a certified national trainer in a program called Project REACH (i.e., Respecting Ethnic and Cultural Heritage). The program intent is to increase knowledge and understanding related to cultural diversity in America. As a REACH trainer, he has conducted workshops in Nebraska, Florida, New York, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kansas, Missouri, Washington, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi. He is also a certified trainer for “A Framework for Understanding Poverty”.



Myles served as the Multicultural/Urban Education Project Director for the Nebraska Department of Education, Equal Opportunity Education Programs for twenty years. As Director, he traveled throughout the state of Nebraska conducting workshops, seminars and/or in-services on multicultural education, cultural competency, race relations, and other diversity related issues. In addition, he was employed as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for four and half years. There he taught such courses as Introduction to Sociology, Nationality and Race Relations, Social Problems, Criminology, and Death and Dying.

Myles holds B.A. and M.A. in Sociology with degrees both from Grambling State University and Graduate Studies (ABD) from Washington University in Sociology. Jessie Myles, is the founder and Pastor of No Greater Love Christian Fellowship Church, a non-denominational, racially diverse congregation, located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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### ~The beat goes on~

I, Jacob Furtwangler, was asked to write a short article telling you about the Palmyra Marching Band season. If you were not there to experience it, let me take a second to recap: a 3rd place finish at the Apple Jack parade in Nebraska City, a tie for 10<sup>th</sup>/33 place in the street marching performance at Harvest of Harmony, the first Superior Field Marching at Harvest of Harmony under Mrs. Murphy-Robb, and finally not only a Superior at the Oxbow Field Marching competition, but tied for 2nd place finish for overall points out of 16 total schools in class A, B, C, and D. Needless to say, it has been a historic year for the Panther Marching Band.

Throughout the year, we have faced different types of adversity that needed to be overcome. Most of our Jr. High students only marched every other day during a week or sometimes even once a week, depending if they are absent or had other activities. Not only did we not let that get to us, but it pushed us to work harder. This group has bonded with each other and rallied behind a phenomenal director to be at our best when we perform.

These students are some of the hardest-working people I have ever seen, and I couldn't have been given a better group for my senior year and my senior peers feel the same way. We could not have done it without the support of our students, staff, or band parents. Thank you for your continued support throughout the years. It takes a lot of moving parts to be successful, and without any one of these things, we would not be in the same position to succeed.

-Jacob Furtwangler



# BAND



Our Panther Band had

great performances this marching season and put out a sound that inspires many directors around the state. All of the students' hard work showed up on the field and in the stands. It was great to see the acknowledgment our students showed; as the Cedar Bluffs, the smallest band and in it's second year of marching, went off the field; and stood up, showing our appreciation for their hard work.



Nobody understands how much time you spend in class, after school, before school, on an eight-minute show. You have to have the dedication and put in the hard work. "They're not hungry for better scores," they say. They just want to put on their best show, so every hour spent on the

most meticulous step, phrasing or tuning is directly tied to the success of the performance.

Marching band is a love-hate relationship; we are happy saying goodbye to the early morning practices and the nuances that can only be found in marching band — but in a few months, students will start asking... "What are we going to do for next year's show theme?"

Marching and playing at the same time is challenging, and marching band members meet the challenge of marching at one tempo while playing at another. The neuronal connections grown in marching band will benefit the students throughout life, for multi-tasking through college and in the workplace, and for multi-tasking as a parent. Understanding proprioception, the awareness of your body and what needs to be done is also essential. Marching backwards, marching sideways while facing straight ahead without checking your neighbors' locations requires you have a good sense of where you are in space and helps students experience and grow in this area.

When you're marching backwards, or sideways, you must trust your bandmates are doing what they're supposed to do so you don't crash into them on a trek across the football field during your precision marching.

Discipline. Long rehearsals. Memorize drill. Memorize music. Early is on time; on time is late. The discipline you experience and practice is a foundation for discipline later, through college, in the workplace, or even as a parent. The discipline of being a part of a team like a marching band is an experience that you'll take with you through life. Every part of a team is important. Every part contributes. There is amazing satisfaction in coming together with a team, working hard alongside and with a team, to perform a show. The teamwork is very different from that of a sports team, where the goal is to defeat opponents in games. In sports, teams try to go after an opponent's weakness and to shut down an opponent's strong scorer. The teamwork in marching band is about individual and group self-improvement, competing with self, comparing results with self over time.

Band gives our students practice and experience in skills that reach far beyond musical notes and instruments. The students don't realize they are getting experience in so many non-musical life-skills that will have positive impacts, as they become adults. Band goes beyond trophies, titles or perfection. Band is about making best friends, or what they now consider their family. Growing up together and combining individual talent into something greater is what band is all about.

The best thing about these kids and their music is that they can enjoy playing their instrument and making music all their lives. Building camaraderie, hard work, pride, memories and friendships that last forever!  
-Mrs. Murphy-Robb



## Guitars Hit Palmyra

The new guitar exploratory class consists of a group of Jr. High students, gaining a basic understanding of acoustic guitar technique, playing songs, and jamming. Guitars are rarely included in the traditional band in our school system, and guitar class is the solution for guitarists looking to expand their musicianship.

We study proper playing technique, chord and single-note playing, and ear training. The guitar class will provide students with the opportunity to not only read music in a group but also to learn practical and fun ways to use the musical tools that a guitar player needs to perform all styles of music.

Students will complete several small performance projects throughout the quarter, alone and in a small group. A larger final project is completed at the end of the quarter to show the knowledge students have gained. ---Mrs. Murphy-Robb



October was National Bullying Prevention Month. District OR 1 takes an active stance against bullying to create a climate that prevents bullying before it begins. Bullying is when a child tries to hurt another child physically or emotionally. Kids who bully use their power (like being popular or physically strong) to control or hurt others. Bullying usually happens over and over again. There's more than one type of bullying. Bullying can be:

Verbal - such as name calling

Physical- hitting or pushing

Social -spreading rumors or leaving someone out on purpose or through social media.

Bullying can be done in person, online, or with cell phones. Talk with your child about bullying before you see signs of a problem.

All Bennet Elementary students participated in the Purple Hand Pledge. This pledge is posted in the lunchroom for all to see and is reviewed with the students to remind them to take a stand against Bullying.

### Purple Hand Pledge

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Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas

**TEAMMATES**<sup>®</sup>  
MENTORING PROGRAM

Together We Transform Lives

Contact Mr. Chaffee at PHS  
to become a Panther  
**TEAMMATE**

## Veteran's Day

The Palmyra Jr/Sr High School Student Council would like to invite all Veterans and their spouses to a Veteran's Day assembly in the High School Gymnasium at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 11, 2016. There will be a reception following for Veterans/spouses with coffee and cookies.

The speaker for this year is SFC Brenda Erickson. SFC Brenda Erickson has served 12 years with the Nebraska National Guard. She enlisted as a 68W (Medic) in 2-135<sup>th</sup> Charlie Company out of Lincoln, NE, and was deployed to Iraq as a flight medic on a UH60 Blackhawk helicopter. Currently, SFC Erickson is a recruiter for National Guard serving southeast Nebraska, including Palmyra.

SFC Erickson grew up on a farm in Ericson, NE, a small town of 99 people in Central Nebraska. Both of her parents and one of five siblings still live there. She comes from a long line of military service. Her grandfather served in WWII, dad served 20 years in National Guard, her brother has been Active Duty Army for 18 years, and a sister is currently in the National Guard.

During the week of November 7th-11th, daily announcements will include recognizing any Veteran or current member of the armed forces who are part of the PHS family. A form to have your Veteran recognized during these announcements will be sent home in the weekly bulletin and is available on the district website at [www.districtor1.net](http://www.districtor1.net). If you have questions, need a form, or if you/your spouse need special accommodations on the 11<sup>th</sup> please contact one of the following:

Carly Poskochil – Student Council President – [poskochil.carly@districtor1.net](mailto:poskochil.carly@districtor1.net)

Jon Davenport- Student Council Sponsor- [davenport.jon@districtor1.net](mailto:davenport.jon@districtor1.net)

Jane Powell – Principle's Assistant- [powell.jan@districtor1.net](mailto:powell.jan@districtor1.net)

Or call the Principal's office at 402-780-5327

## Fire Safety

Students from Little Panthers Preschool took part in fire safety learning activities during fire prevention week. Firefighters from the Bennet Fire Department visited Bennet Elementary and Little Panthers Preschool on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Preschoolers learned about emergency situations and how to get help. "If we left our pets, we can't go back in. Only the firefighters," says Lili Harms. "I know about fire safety. You need to stop, drop, and roll," explains Selisha McPherrin. Korbin King learned that "Fire can burn. Firefighters will use a hose to shoot water from the sides of the building."



Little Panthers Preschool Afternoon Class. Front Row- Makenzie Ringland, Sadie Woodson, Kylie Moore, Karson Brooks, Selish McPherrin, Morrison Scheel. Back Row- Tucker Chambers, Braelyn Kaufman, Raven Fischer, Marshall Donald, Deagen Barrett, and Lillian Bryan-Aldrich.

## Panther Wrestling

Twenty years ago in November, the Palmyra Panther Wrestling team had its inaugural practice. The team started practice on a borrowed mat until their new mat appeared. The team ran halls in the “old” part of the building and practiced in the gym on what is now the weight deck. The wrestlers and basketball team learned how to work through one another’s whistles and coaches directing athletes. Nobody ever went over the rail, but there might have been a couple close calls.

Over the last 20 years some things have changed. Coach Panko’s hair has gone from red to more of a whitish color. Some things have stayed the same. Wrestlers still run the halls, and still complain about running halls. The most important thing that has stayed the same—the desire to win. The understanding student-athletes have that without hard work in practice, dreams and goals can’t be reached. Along with that, sometimes comes disappointment. Life isn’t always fair, but if you’ve given it your all, then one has nothing to be ashamed of. Over the last 20 years, the Panthers have sent 12 wrestlers to the State Tournament and three of them have returned with medals.

This November marks the 20<sup>th</sup> season of Palmyra Wrestling. Come out and support the team for their only home event this year on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> as the team duals Lincoln Christian. By Mr. Panko

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### Family and Consumer Science Day

Commit to “Dining In” on Family and Consumer Science Day, December 3, 2016. I would like to encourage everyone to commit to preparing and eating a healthy meal together as a family on Dec. 3. Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

District 1 FCCLA had installation of District Officers on Oct. 12 at Elmwood/Murdock.

Pictured are the district members that hold a State Office in the black shirts. Zachary Hartwick holds the office of Public Relations from Palmyra.

At this meeting they completed the plans for the District 1 FCCLA Leadership Conference to be held Monday, October 24. Zach will be conduct a session on Yoga.



### First Rotation Boxer Shorts

The seventh graders completed their boxer shorts in Family and Consumer Science class. The rotation class is a nine week class in the vocational areas. Topics emphasized in this sewing unit were following directions and time management. As students made their shorts, and we talked about sewing techniques and how they look on purchased garments. These skills will make them better consumers of clothing in their lifetime.

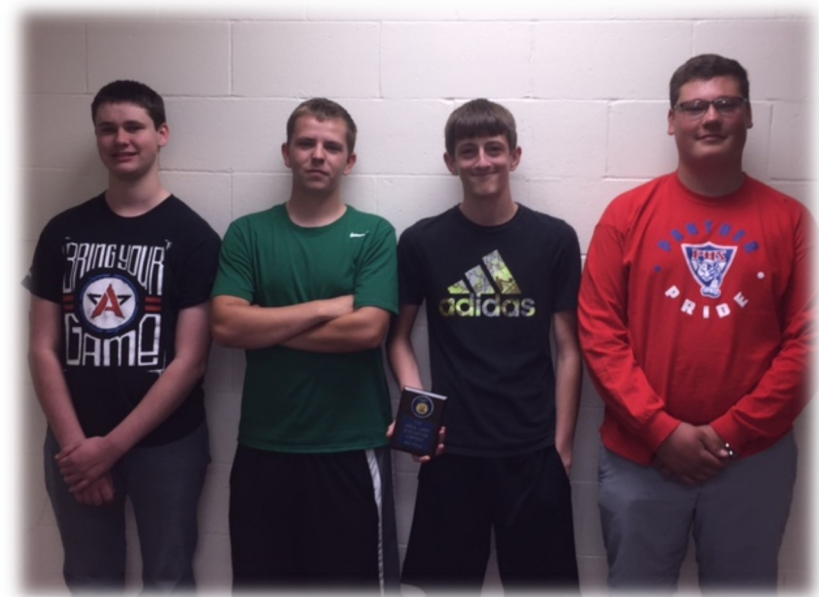




Ken Malone was awarded the Nebraska Association Resource Districts Educator of the Year, Sept. 26 at the NARD luncheon in Kearney. The award was presented by Orville Gigstead, of the Nemaha NRD Board of Directors, the Nemaha NRD submitted Malone's nomination. Starting his 41st year of teaching agriculture and natural resources, Malone has been at Palmyra 29 years. Mr. Malone has provided natural resource education in his classes with water sensors, soil testing, land use, water conservation and issues, farming practices and plant resources. Malone has served on the State Land Contest Committee for 28 years and has been the State coordinator 18 years. He has sent 25 teams to the State Land Judging Contest with one team qualifying to compete at the National Land Judging contest in Oklahoma. Malone also teaches long distance classes to Elmwood Murdock schools and includes them

in the natural resource and land judging training.

After 13 years of greeting people at the front of the Palmyra High School the Panther Head has been taken down until the new construction project is completed at Palmyra. It was during Ryan Cheney's Junior year that he came up with the idea to build the Panther Head for the front of the school as a welding project. Ryan along with Duane Parrish of Bennet and at that time a welding instructor at SCC planned and constructed the panther head. They used a plasma cutting computer program (at that time the latest technology) at SCC to cut the metal shapes and completed the head in the shop. Ryan, Duane and his parents put it on the front of PHS the summer of 2003, so it would be in place for his senior year. Ryan will now keep it at his shop, put a new finish on it and bring it back to Palmyra High School when the construction is finished.



The Palmyra Land Judging Team of Logan Newell, Kyle Lovell, Trevor Cox and Kord Haight placed 4th at the South east Area Contest in Tecumseh, Oct. 5. This qualifies them as one of the 28 teams across the State to compete in the State Land Judging contest in Kearney, Oct. 26. Logan Newell placed 9th overall, and 18 of the 33 students participating placed high enough to receive ribbons. Palmyra received 25% of the ribbons awarded to the top 45% of the participants. There were 170 participants at the contest from schools covering the southeast area of Nebraska. Land judging involves students determining the texture of the soil, slope of the soil, erosion, how to use the land and what land practices to use.

FFA Pancake Feed and Member Auction has been moved to Saturday December 3, 4-7 p.m. at the Palmyra High School. The Harvest Lunch for Farmers

will be Saturday October 29th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Farmers may stop in at the Palmyra and Bennet Midwest Coop and pick up a lunch while you work.