



PANTHERS

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 Hoelt
Elementary Principal: Linde Walter
50 Dogwood ST
Bennet, NE 68317
402-782-3535 Fax: 402-782-3545

www.districtor1.org Twitter: @OR1_Panthers

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District OR-1 Newsletter
District OR-1 Public Schools
November, 2015

*****ECRWSS*****

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

Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

2014

Compare the Foundation For Knowledge with other charities you may be considering

111% Yes that is what YOUR CONTRIBUTION is worth!!
That is right your contribution of \$100 was worth \$111 to your community, after all expenses.

Since our beginning in December of 1998 -

\$509,000 – Contributions you have made to The Foundation For Knowledge.

\$151,000 – Income the Foundation For Knowledge has earned investing your contributions.

\$156,000 – Scholarships – 158 students from your community have been assisted with their post-secondary educations.

\$70,000 – 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.

\$11,000 – School Support – assisting school programs, and support for students representing District OR-1.

\$325,000 – 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 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

November, 2015

We were all doing our best with the tools and information we had at the time
--MK Mueller 8 to Great Quote for Highway 6, "Forgiveness of the Past".

- Superintendent Notes
- Foundation for Knowledge
- Veteran's Day Activities
- Classroom News
- Changes to PowerSchool
- Speaker on Bullying Prevention

Flipping in 1st Grade

Teachers and students in first grade have taken on a new model for some of their classroom instruction this year. Maybe you have heard the term "flipped classroom" and wondered what that is or what does that mean? Well the formal definition of the flipped classroom is a pedagogical model in which the typical lecture and homework elements of a course are reversed. Short video lectures are viewed by students at home before the class session, while in-class time is devoted to exercises, projects, or discussions.

Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Dowding worked over the summer trying to figure out a way to incorporate a variance of a flipped classroom into their first grade classrooms this fall. Using QR codes, we created lessons on an app called Educreations that teaches the phonics skill for the upcoming week. Students take these homework pages home on Friday and then have the weekend to watch the video over the skill. They then write down 5 words that follow the phonics pattern they learned about.

This flipped classroom model has really helped not only the students to be more prepared for Mondays skill and spelling words, but it also provides an important link for the parents to be involved in their child is learning at school. We have been really excited and pleased with how this transition has gone and have hopes to expand some flipped lesson into math in the future.

For more information and research about Flipped Classrooms please visit <https://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eli7081.pdf>

Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

The start of the 2015-2016 school year has progressed quickly with the first quarter already completed, and the second quarter well under way. I would like to thank all of our parents for your hard work and diligence as those 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 sponsors, 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. Students have been busy with traditional coursework and a wide array of additional opportunities both off and on campus as the year unfolds. We have already had the pleasure of hosting Demoine Adams in both Bennet and Palmyra. Demoine delivers a powerful message to students. You can learn more about Demoine at <http://www.demoine-adams.com/#!/about-me/clktj>



In August the Board of Education affirmed four goals for the current school year. I wanted to share those goals with you and provide some exciting news in regards to their implementation.

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

...Continued on next page.

Fiscal 2015-2016 Budget

Continue to implement and expand character education programs.

Increase emphasis on technology programs.

Develop and expand personal finance programs.

Increase community involvement through communication and public relations initiatives.

Goal implementation highlights include but are not limited to:

A continuation of K-12 Guidance with full implementation of Second Step, reorganization of 8 to Great team with Mr. Chaffee, grades 3-6 anti-bullying curriculum and a K-12 student body presentation in September and another in November made possible through our partnership with Partners for Otoe County.

Pre K-12 Staff training for suicide prevention and awareness through the Department of Education.

Year four of Personal Learning Plans progress and monitoring.

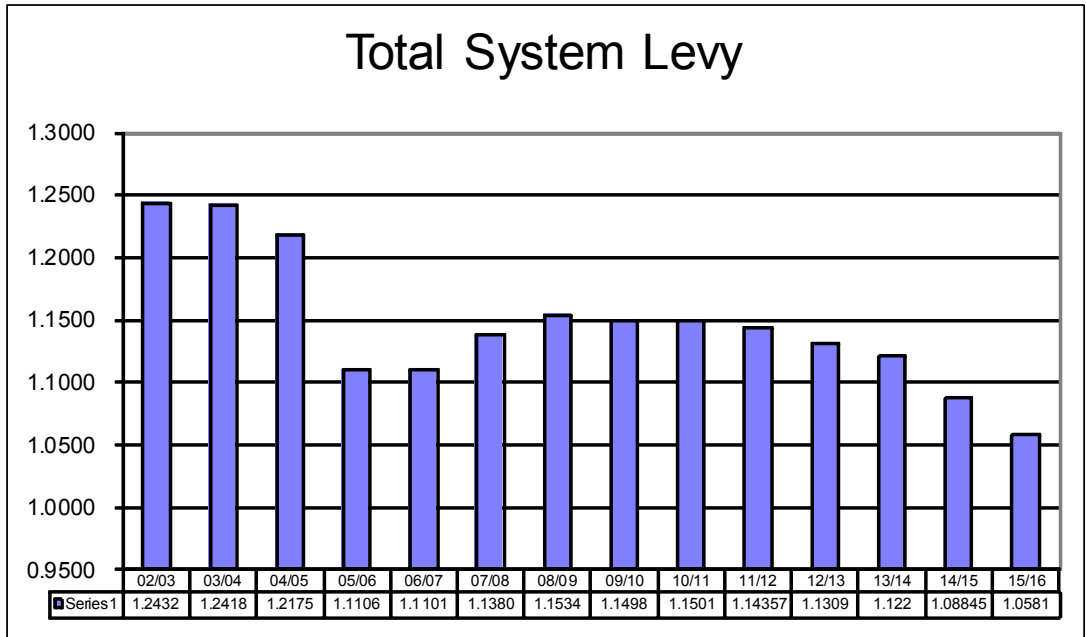
Continued technology updates to computer labs, iPad initiative, wiring additions including projectors and wireless connections, new internal wiring and replacement one gigabyte switches.

Growing Partnerships with NECC, SECC, Peru State and Odyssey ware for course augmentation and credit recovery.

Curriculum review to examine graduation requirements, grading scale and community service.

I would like to thank the Board of Education for their continued support of our students and faculty.

At the September meeting the Board approved the budget for the current fiscal year. The current budget has a General Fund Levy set at 0.9504 and the Building Fund Levy at 0.0504. The Bond Fund Levy is currently set at 0.0573. This represents a reduction of 0.030 from the 2014-2015 fiscal year and a reduction of 0.064 in the last two fiscal years. The Chart below shows the total levy history for District OR 1 from 2001 to date.



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 17th lowest spending in the comparison cost group and has consistently remained in the bottom tier for the past six years.

As a part of the General Fund budget the district will receive \$486,555.00 in State Aid. This represents an increase of \$49,108 from the amount received during fiscal 2014. Over time as the District OR-1 valuations increase State Aid will begin to decrease as the formula is based on needs vs. resources. This year the district valuation increased 11.66%.

Mr. Malone invites you to help save up to seven lives by donating blood on Tuesday, November 10th from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the high school in Palmyra. E-mail Mr. Malone (Malone.ken@districtor1.net), or call him at 402-310-5289 to schedule an appointment. Childcare will be provided while you donate. **HELP SAVE A LIFE on November 10th.**

Additional grant funds available to the district include but are not limited to \$35, 047 Title I, \$6,380 Title IIA, \$34, 772 Rural Education Achievement Program and an Early Childhood grant of \$35,801. The district will also receive approximately \$110,068 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.

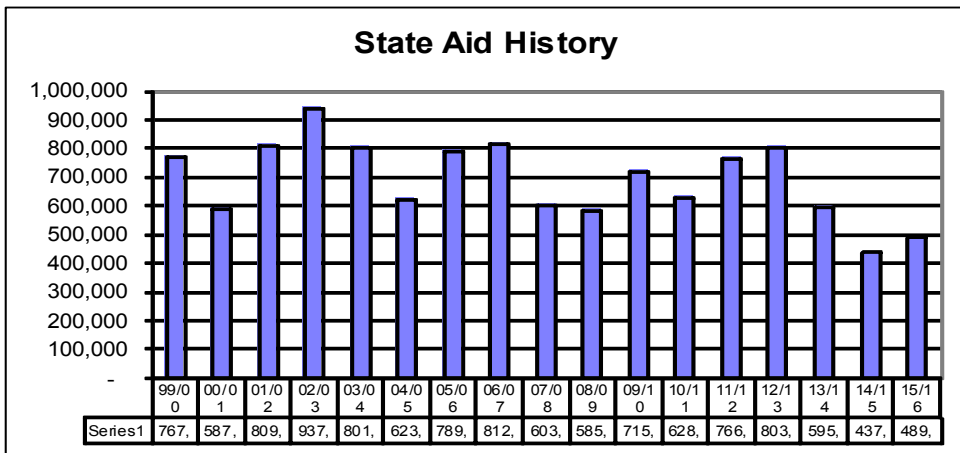
scores:

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 No Child Left Behind. 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.

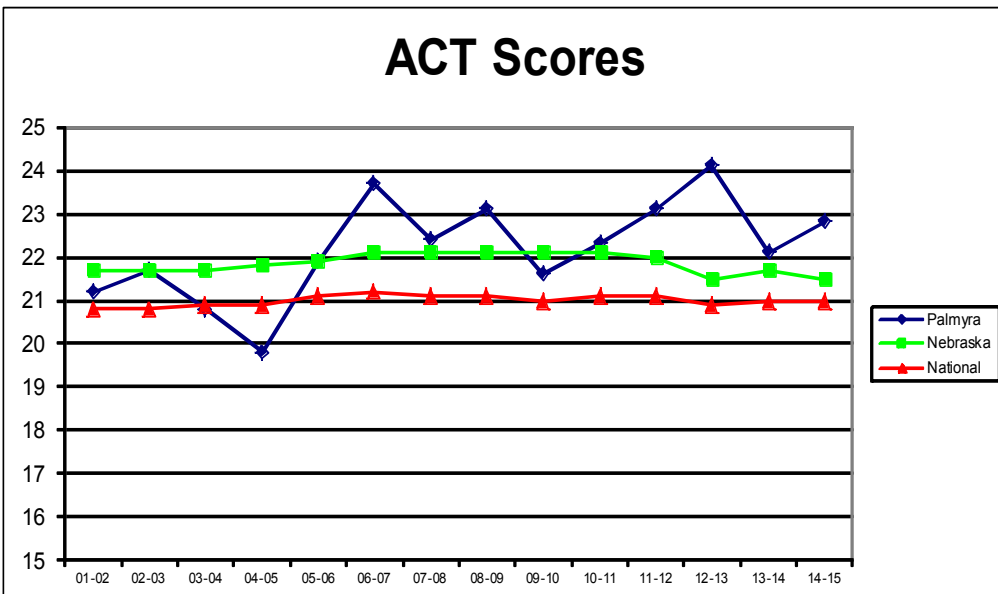


The chart below shows a sixteen year history of State Aid received by District OR-1.

ACT scores as released the third week of August show Palmyra students have scored well in comparison with state and national score averages. The Chart below shows a thirteen year history District OR-1 ACT

School Closing and 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 cancelled 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 quick-



ly 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.

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: to allow the buses to go out when it is light and they can more safely see the road, 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.



October

is 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, and 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 5th-12th grade students and staff will hear Brooks Gibb speak in Palmyra on Wednesday, November 4th. Gibbs will speak on anti-bullying to give students the confidence and courage to report bullying as a strategy for reducing bullying.

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

I will not use my hands

Or my words

To hurt myself

Or other people.



Weather NOTE:

When you receive a call from the school regarding inclement weather, the application routing the call will give you a choice to accept the call by pushing a number on your phone or by waiting. Please use your phone to accept the call as waiting sometimes triggers errors in the software.

How Strong And Supportive Is Your Family?



In my last newsletter article I shared some very interesting information concerning how a school culture can be transformed through Developmental Relationships. Search Institute, the research group promoting the 40 Developmental Assets, has authored this ground-breaking study on Developmental Relationships. I am including their document, the “framework”, in this newsletter. Initially, I thought the primary application of this study would be in the teaching, coaching, mentoring and peer relationships students so readily experience in school, but new research suggests an even more powerful venue—the family.

Are you a married or single adult raising a family? Please read through the framework and think. Ponder the interactions you have with your children or grandchildren. Are they healthy and supportive? May this framework give you useful tools to put into practice to form relationships of strength and support with the youth in your family and extended family.

The Developmental Relationships Framework

Express CARE

Show that you like me and want the best for me.

- **Be Present**—Pay attention when you are with me.
- **Be Warm**—Let me know that you like being with me and express positive feelings toward me.
- **Invest**—Commit time and energy to doing things for and with me.
- **Show Interest**—Make it a priority to understand who I am and what I care about.
- **Be Dependable**—Be someone I can count on and trust.

CHALLENGE Growth

Insist that I try to continuously improve.

- **Inspire**—Help me see future possibilities for myself.
- **Expect**—Make it clear that you want me to live up to my potential.
- **Stretch**—Recognize my thoughts and abilities while also pushing me to strengthen them.
- **Limit**—Hold me accountable for appropriate boundaries and rules.

Provide SUPPORT

Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.

- **Encourage**—Praise my efforts and achievements.
- **Guide**—Provide practical assistance and feedback to help me learn.
- **Model**—Be an example I can learn from and admire.
- **Advocate**—Stand up for me when I need it.

Share POWER

Hear my voice and let me share in making decisions.

- **Respect**—Take me seriously and treat me fairly.
- **Give Voice**—Ask for and listen to my opinions and consider them when you make decisions.
- **Respond**—Understand and adjust to my needs, interests, and abilities.
- **Collaborate**—Work with me to accomplish goals and solve problems.

Expand POSSIBILITIES

Expand my horizons and connect me to opportunities.

- **Explore**—Expose me to new ideas, experiences, and places.
- **Connect**—Introduce me to people who can help me grow.
- **Navigate**—Help me work through barriers that could stop me from achieving my goals.

Practical strategies and activities to build developmental relationships in families are available at Search Institute’s website for parents, www.ParentFurther.com.

Bully via the Cyber

We, the Intro to Human Services class, have been working on communication, ethics, and leadership. After completing a unit on bullying, we decided to apply our newly-developed skill to the issue of cyberbullying. We started by creating the following definition of cyberbullying: **Everyone that uses the Internet to harass others because they are different.** After discussing consequences from cyberbullying, we decided to make a list of possible effects of bullying:

- * Suicidal
- * Mentally unstable
- * Isolation
- * Depression



Finally, we developed a list of ways to prevent cyber bullying:

- * Accept people for who they are.
- * Don't take your problems out on other people.
- * Learn to deal with your own problems.
- * Talk to people you trust your problems with.
- * Don't take or send pictures.

Using the information from what you have read, we need your help to prevent cyber bullying in our community/society. One person can make a difference, but a group can change the world.

Submitted by: Alayna, Callie, Esther, Jessie, and Timmin

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 Wednesday, November 11, 2015. There will be a reception following for veterans and spouses with coffee and cookies.

During the week of November 9th-13th, 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. If you have questions, need a form, or if special accommodations are required in order to attend the ceremony, please contact one of the following:
FrankieJo Dowding – Student Council President – dowding.fra@districtor1.net
David Bottrell – Principal – bottrell.dav@districtor1.net
Jane Powell – Principal's Assistant – powell.jan@districtor1.net

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

Coming to Palmyra on Wednesday, November 4



In the summer of 2015 Partners for Otoe County working in conjunction with Nebraska City Public Schools, District OR-1 Public Schools and Syracuse Public Schools was able to secure funding to assist schools in delivering an important message from Brooks Gibbs. Brooks will speak in Palmyra on Wednesday November 4th and we want all of our parents and students to stay tuned as you are invited.

Gibbs will conduct school anti-bullying education assemblies for students, parents, teachers and administrators in each city he visits. The campaign aims to give students the confidence and courage to report bullying as a strategy for reducing bullying. Gibbs' "treat everyone like friends – even your enemies" philosophy enhances One Direction's message of "Live Nice."

"We couldn't be more proud of what we have created and look forward to inspiring hundreds of thousands of students to live kind, love everyone and move together against bullying." Brooks Gibbs.
<http://www.brooksgibbs.com/#aboutbrooks>

SENCAP Education Students Tour The Lighthouse After-School Program

Through Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership (SENCAP) our students are able to earn college credit through coursework from SCC. Part of the SENCAP experience is completing a “Portfolio” of experiences and learning. On Tuesday, September 29th, three of our students in the Education Academy went on a tour of The Lighthouse After-School Program in Lincoln. The tour was very informative as the leadership and staff at The Lighthouse explained all they do to equip “at risk” students with the tools and nurture to succeed in school and beyond.

The Lighthouse After-School Program offers middle and high school aged-youth academic support, evening meals and enrichment/recreational activities during non-school hours, Monday through Friday, twelve months a year. It is vitally important for youth to have a safe harbor during the high risk after school hours. The Lighthouse After School Program goal is to “Increase the likelihood of high school graduation of middle and high school-aged youth by providing high quality programming.”

Lighthouse provides the unique combination of a free, spiritually inclusive, education-focused program for middle and high school students. Students thrive in their pursuit of a high school education through tutors and technology while building social skills and a nourished and healthy body.

Lighthouse staff and students strive to live the following values:

- Love
- Respect
- Diversity
- Education
- Personal Responsibility
- Honesty
- Belonging

Program eligibility requirements are:

- Youth must be actively attending school or working on a G.E.D.,
- Youth cannot be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and
- Youth must demonstrate unconditional respect to the people and property of Lighthouse.

Pictured are Education Academy students Olivia Wensel, FrankieJo Dowding, Mariam Alhachami and School/SENCAP Counselor Mr. Chaffee.





Veteran's Day Luncheon

Bennet Elementary would like to invite Veterans of ***District OR 1*** families to join us for lunch on Wednesday, November 11th, from 11:15-12:00. Lunch will be served at 11:15 with special music by the Bennet Singers at 11:30 AM. Please share this information with family and community members and call the Elementary office at 402-782-3535 to reserve a lunch.

Palmyra FFA competes at Area and State Land Judging Contest

Palmyra competed at the Southeast area Land Judging contest Oct. 14 at Beatrice in the Lower Big Blue NRD area. Students examined the texture, slope and erosion of the field site to determine the class and treatments for the land. There were 160 individuals and 40 teams. The team of Marcus Kinney- 11th place, Clayton Lewis-24th place, Garret Talcott – 38th place and Ryan Hoover was the 4th place school and qualified to compete at the State Contest in Scottsbluff. Other individuals were Drew Huxoll 18th, Christina Lamica 25th, Alex Broening 31st, Trevor Cox 34th, Lyle Lovell 52th, Lilly Calkins 56th and Briley Luff 60th.

The State Team competed in Scottsbluff with sand, rocks and rattle snakes the main theme of the contest. There were 130 individuals and 31 teams. Clayton Lewis placed 37th, Marcus Kinney 62nd and Garret Talcott 82nd. The team placed 16th in the State a good job being in a totally different area for soils.



POWERSCHOOL HAS CHANGED!

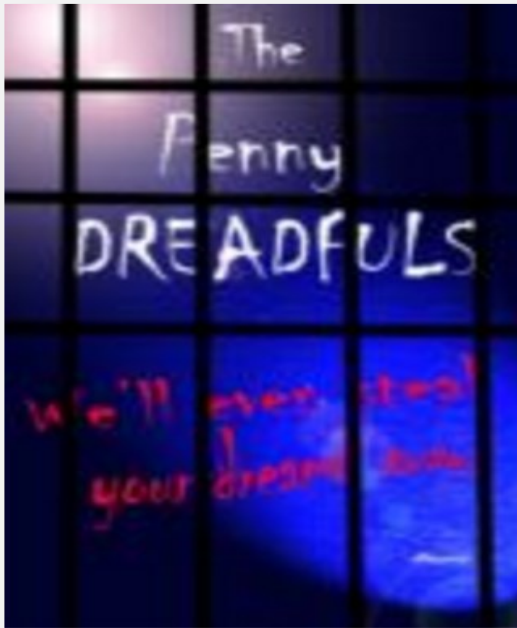
Single Sign On (SSO) has recently been introduced to parents of District OR1. If you have not yet registered your students on PowerSchool's SSO, please consider doing so BEFORE December 1. SSO will allow better organization of student data for families with more than one child, and it will allow for parents to access PowerSchool via mobile device. Additionally, this process will ready the families to utilize an important new feature of PowerSchool that will be introduced throughout second semester. The upcoming rollout highlights include enabling parents to make demographic changes online and to digitally sign documents required by the school district. **Please contact your principal's office if you need your username and password.**

***THE NEW ADDRESS OF POWERSCHOOL IS THE FOLLOWING: ps.districtor1.org/public

All the World's a Stage!

By Cassidy Buescher

PHS drama will present *The Penny Dreadfuls* by Ray Sheers on Tuesday, November 10th in the PHS gymnasium. In the bleak 1930s, a group of orphans and runaways, led by the bandit Scuttlebutt, spend their days as pickpockets and thieves. Their wares earn them keep at a corrupt pawn shop run by three contemptible ladies and the dastardly Professor. Business has been profitable until Mad Aggie, the town “wacko”, arrives on the scene seeking revenge. And revenge has never been sweeter! A corrupt police officer, a secret potion as a cure for baldness, an arrest, and an angry, demanding girlfriend all have the Professor ready to tear out his hair! In the end, will the villains get what’s coming to them?



The students have been rehearsing for this dark comedy since August, and will travel to The Loft Theatre in Manley, Nebraska to compete in the ECNC one-act competition on Saturday, November 7th. In order to make the show travel, the cast and crew must create, build, and maintain the set, costumes, and props in a way that can be loaded into a trailer and set up on a new stage. At competition time, the students have only 15 minutes to load their set in, set it up, prepare lights and sound, and get ready to begin! The show must remain under 30 minutes and is evaluated by three judges, who write comments and score the production in several different categories. After the performance as the crew loads the set back into the trailer, the judges speak with the cast and give us feedback so we can improve for our next performance. The students then get to spend the day watching shows from all of the other ECNC schools. It is a full and satisfying day of fine arts! The home performance follows, and then our NSAA district competition, also taking place at the Loft Theatre, will be on Monday, November 30th. Wish your students luck, and join us on Tuesday, November 10th, in the PHS gym for an admission price of only \$3!

Activity Calendar

A new calendar program is currently being used for all activities. Below are a few steps to follow to gain access and updates to the schedule.

1. Go to <http://www.eastcentralnebraskaconf.org/>
2. Click on the Member Schools tab
3. Under School Calendar on the right side click on Palmyra Junior-Senior HS

Here you are able to access the calendar by month or day and by specific activity.

4. At the top of the page click on “Notify Me”
5. Select which activities you would like to be notified about and any other notifications you would like to have by clicking continue.
6. Finish registering on the last page by adding your email address and/or cell number for notifications.
7. Additionally you can add this calendar to your google, yahoo or Outlook account. Follow the above steps 1-3 and on step 4 you will select the “Subscribe” button on the top right of the screen. Follow the directions for adding the calendar based on your preference.

Additional information on accessing this calendar can be found on our district website www.districtor1.org and searching “PHS Activity Calendar”.



By Mr. Trausch

I didn't field a full girls cross country team, but I did have three hard working girls. Sr. Elizabeth Robi-

nett, Fr. Sarah Vorderstrasse, and Fr. Isabelle Thomas that made huge improvements as the season went along. Elizabeth showed the most improvement by dropping her race time from a 32 minute 5k to a 24 minute 5k. She came within one spot of earning her very first cross country medal. Isabelle also did very well, as she placed 8th in a meet and set a personal best of 23:42. Sarah had a amazing season. She set a school race record in every meet along with running the fastest 5k time in school history (22:06). She placed in the top 15 in 8 of the 10 races she ran. One of the races she placed in was at Districts. This allowed her to be the first PHS girl 5k cross country runner to attend the State Meet. Even though the Sarah did not run as well as she would have liked at state, placing 80th out of 141 runners, she still can look back at this season and be very proud of her accomplishments.

The boys competed as a team with Jr. Marcus Kinney, Soph. Kris Phillips, Fr. Chris Bonifont, and Fr. Zach Hartwich.

Chris Bonifont started out having an up and down year, but finished the season with his 3 fastest times.

Kris Phillips ended the season by running in the 19's at the last four meets of the year. He also place in the top 15, 3 times. Marcus also ended the season strong, by placing in one meet and came within one spot of placing in another. Zach ended the season in disappointment at Districts. He ran an 18:51 which placed him 18th overall and 3 spots short of making it to state. However, he has much to be proud of this season. He placed in the top 15 in 7 of 9 races, and in 3 of those medaling races he placed in the top 5. Zach also set a school race record at three meets.

Jr. High School

Many of the Jr. high races had different distances. Some races would be a 1.2 miles while others would be 1.5 miles, and the longest race was 2 miles. Each runner was up to the challenge of improving and achieving his or her team and individual goals.

Even though at times the Jr. High runners would drive me crazy, the improvements and effort shown by these runners made up for it. Teagan Bogle, Jake Pracht, Reese Calkins, and Issac Thomas, all 7th grade boys, did very well this season. 7th graders Zoe Rose and Liz Harder helped push 8th grader Sarah Davis Kovarik.

Teagan place 3 times in the top ten, while Jake placed twice in the top ten. Sarah placed 4 times and Liz place 3 times in the top ten.

Sarah is a very hard worker and will help next years girls team by push them to become better runners. Teagan and Jake are both very competitive. Their race times are very comparable to Zach's times when he was a 7th grader. This shows if they keep working hard, in two years when they become Freshmen they will help the varsity team and also

Below you will see a break down comparing students at District OR-1 with their peers across the state. All students in public schools throughout Nebraska in grades three through eight, and eleven take NeSA assessments each spring in reading and math. Students in grades five, eight and eleven were also assessed in science. Students in grade four, eight and eleven were assessed in writing. The following table displays the percentage of students at District OR-1 who were proficient compared to the percentage of students in the state that were proficient.

2015 NeSA Testing	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11	All Grades
% Proficient OR1/ State	OR-1/ State	OR-1/ State	OR-1/ State	OR-1/ State	OR-1/ State	OR-1/ State	OR-1/ State	OR-1/ State
Reading	88/82	90/81	79/83	89/81	90/82	85/79	75/69	86/80
Math	91/78	79/77	79/76	97/72	76/73	85/68	67/61	83/72
Science	*	*	76/73	*	*	73/70	88/73	78/72
Writing	#	61/70	#	#	#	82/71	83/76	74/72

* - not tested in Science

- not tested in Writing

Areas of strength:

- On average, 80% of students at District OR-1 are proficient in R-M-S-W state testing.
- Students in all grades tested surpassed the state average in Reading, Math, Science and Writing in 2015.
- Students met, or surpassed, the state average at all grade levels but one in Reading, Math, Science and Writing.
- NeSA Science testing continues to be an area of strength, surpassing the state average in all grade levels for the 3rd year in a row.



PHS Juniors and Seniors Tour Peru State Campus

On Monday, October 26th, nearly 30 juniors and seniors took a trip to Peru State College to explore the campus and discover what college life is like. The students boarded the Bobcat Spirit Bus at 9 am and were in Peru by 10. While there they were greeted by several administrators and took tours of several campus buildings. A great deal of information was shared during the visit.

Peru State's "Campus of a Thousand Oaks," a member of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, is nestled in the hills of historic southeast Nebraska on the Missouri River.

The College offers a mix of innovative online and traditional classroom undergraduate and graduate programs, including online graduate degrees in education and organizational management. Nebraska's first college, established in 1867 as a teacher training school with one building and 60 students, has transformed over the past century and a half into a state-of-the-art institution offering diverse, multifaceted educational programs to around 2,400 students, most of whom take courses online. The campus hosts nearly one thousand students on campus. Peru State has long been a wellspring of leadership, an invaluable resource for communities and businesses, and a source of accomplished graduates known for their excellent education and professional competence.

The College has enjoyed considerable support from the State of Nebraska, with more than \$60 million of campus renovation projects funded over the last decade. It serves students from around the globe, but retains a special commitment to serve the residents and needs of the southeast Nebraska community through education, research and public service programs.

Peru State seeks to instill in students:

- effective communications skills;
- computer and information literacy;
- independent critical thought and intellectual capacity for change;
- preparation to assume social and civic leadership roles;
- the ability to pursue intellectually, ethically, aesthetically and physically rewarding lives.



Engaged educators and learners seek to understand and respect multiple perspectives in the search for solutions to problems through inquiry and research. This process facilitates the discovery of new ideas and better practices. These discoveries, along with continuous reflection and a commitment to service, foster a culture of innovation resulting in progressive change that benefits society.

The Palmyra students capped their time on campus with lunch in the college cafeteria and time to play in the Student Center game room. Most were surprised by the low cost of Peru State. Estimated cost of tuition (\$4590), fees (\$1807), books (\$1,000), & housing (\$3727), and Meal Plan (\$3678) is about 14,802. Compare that to a comparable private school (Doane is about \$38,000 a year) and it is a great value.



4th Grade Soybean Presentation

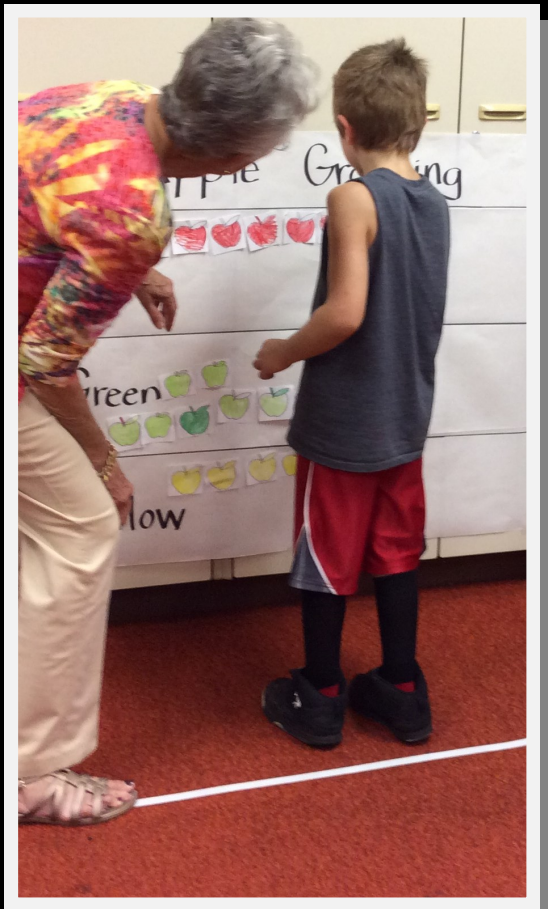
How many times would all of the soybeans harvested in the state of Nebraska in one year fill Memorial Stadium? If you guessed 25, you are right! Students learned this answer along with many other facts about soybean production in Nebraska in September. Joy Olstrom, a representative from the Nebraska Soybean Board, visited Bennet and gave a presentation to students about soybeans produced and harvested in Nebraska. She also brought in everyday products made with soybeans so the students could see how useful soy meal and soy protein really are. This was a great opportunity for the students to learn about agriculture and the impacts it has on our state economy.



Johnny Appleseed and First Grade!

September 26 is the birthday of John Chapman, also known as Johnny Appleseed. First graders read about how John Chapman helped pioneers by giving them apple seeds and apple seedlings to plant as they traveled west into the wilderness of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

First graders host an apple tasting party to celebrate Johnny Appleseed's birthday and taste some of the ways apples can be used. First, we graph whether they like red, green or yellow apples the best. This year red won! Then, following the graphing, we taste some delicious things made with apples. Apples with peanut butter, apple licorice, apple cider, apple juice, apple turnovers, apple sauce, apple butter, apple pie and more!! Parents of first graders provided the delicious food and served it to the students! We ate until we were full. Thank you Johnny Appleseed for sharing apples so long ago with pioneers and settlers heading west, so we could enjoy them today.



Kindergarten Field Trip

Jumping pillows, pumpkins, and slides, oh my! These are just some of the things that Kindergarteners enjoyed on their annual field trip to Roca Berry Farm on Wednesday, October 21st. This field trip is a special time for the students, parents, and teachers to navigate our way around the farm. We played, investigated where pumpkins grew, and spent quality time outdoors. A special thank you to the Bennet Boosters who helped with the admission cost. Also, thank you to the parents who were able to help chaperone.



Preschool News

Students from Little Panthers Preschool at Bennet Elementary worked together to complete a service-learning project this fall. The students raked leaves for one of their school neighbors, Mr. Wayne Nelson. Preschool students found the work of raking leaves to be very rewarding. "Raking leaves is good hard work" said Grant Wheatley. "It was special when my friends held the bag so I could put the leaves in" added Kenli Peterson. "Mr. Nelson will be so proud" claimed Kimberleigh Field.



Morning Preschool Class starting in the front row: Olivia Mulhair, Summit Springer, Blake Bartek, Chloe Weatherl, Alex Buddenber, Katherine Roby. Middle Row: Braxton Tramp, Kenli Peterson, Landen Ganger, Wyatt Ostrander. Back Row: Maisie Randall, Austin Jensen, Ethan Beccard, Grant Wheatley, Alivia Gee, Ryker Kosch.

Afternoon Preschool Class. Starting in the front: Tucker Chambers, Lily Green. Second Row: Anthony Perdue, Meme Versaw, Kylie Moore, Serena McPherrin. Third Row: Matthew Dvorak, Trent Bennett, Eli McIntosh, Bentley Shinaut, Lilliana Prescott, Jack Norman. Back Row: Fletcher Rixen, Caiden Strauss, Kimberleigh Field, Taryn Moyer, Mckenna Harms.



Music News!

Bennet Elementary

The Bennet Singers (pictured below) have had a busy fall. The 34 member group that meets before school on Tuesdays & Thursdays sang the National Anthem in honor of September 11th into the schools PA system for the whole school to hear. It was very well received. On Veterans Day, they will be singing patriotic songs during the luncheon on November 11th. Feel free to come hear them sing and honor our local Veterans. The Bennet K-3 & 4-6 Winter Concerts will be held in the HS gym on Tuesday December 1st. The K-3rd grade concert is at 6:30 pm, and the 4-6th grade concert is at 7:45pm. Come and get your holiday spirits soaring!



Not pictured: Samuel Iwan

Palmyra Jr./Sr. High

The Junior Senior High Fall Concert was held on Monday October 26th. The fall "Pops" concert was well received and well attended. The concert featured the Jr. and Sr. High Choirs, Show Choir, and the combined Panther Bands.

The Junior and Senior High Musicians are gearing up for their holiday music season as well. Their winter concert is December 14th, 7:00 pm in the HS gym. Our traditional grand finale of the concert is the Hallelujah Chorus. Join us in singing or playing the Hallelujah Chorus at the conclusion of the concert.

You can also catch us singing Carols at the Douglas & Palmyra Senior Centers in December!

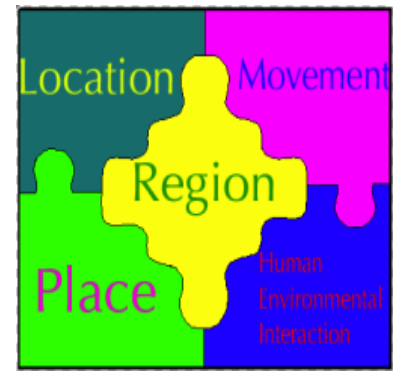
Come hear our fine Panther Musicians!

Mrs. Beth McCreight
K-12 Vocal Music

Classroom Happenings

By: Mark Kotik

One of the greatest challenges as a teacher is getting students to connect with the material on a personal level. All too often students ask, "How is that relevant to me?"



In our freshman Geography class we continuously answer this question with each new topic. Our opening topic, the Five Themes of Geography: location, place, movement, human/environment interaction, & region, sets the stage for the rest of the year. It is important for students to understand the Five Themes are consistently around us and very relevant. For them to understand this concept, we applied the Five Themes to their personal space... like their bedroom.

I asked students to measure a PLACE, their bedroom. They measured this in feet and then converted these to one inch on their paper by scale and draw in a grid. In each place they found that when they applied measurement it was very simple to identify the absolute LOCATION of items in their rooms, not just relative LOCATION. The students were able to notice that their rooms were broken down into REGIONS. Each region has a different function or INTERACTION within that area. Some regions were for studying, gaming, storage, or sleeping. Finally, the class concentrated on their travels. Where do I go in my room? Apply arrows to a map of the space and *voila!* We have MOVEMENT.

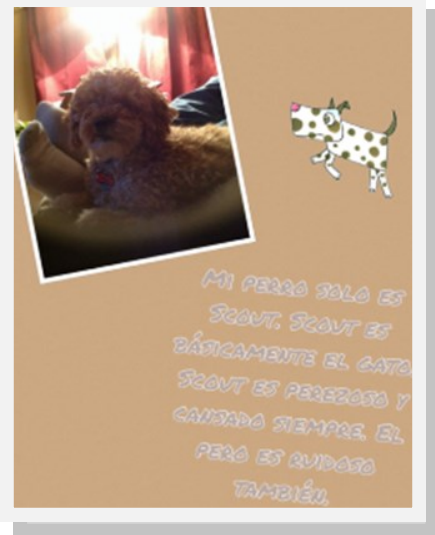
Students want to make connections with something they already know about and feel comfortable with. Teachers want students to learn something new. When we work to link these two we come up with success.



First Quarter Spanish: Here and Gone!

It has been one busy first quarter, but we are just getting started. Fortunately for me, Spanish class brings tons of fun and games, creative opportunities and the chance to practically use our language skills.

Spanish I students always have a “Fun Friday” or at least we feel that’s the case. We have danced to several songs to enhance our verb skills and listened and sang along with other songs for practice of reading comprehension. We have colored to create people and practice adjective usage, as well as adjective agreement. We have played game after game to practice our spelling skills and even performed poetry to describe ourselves. There is never a dull moment. We are currently working on describing our schedules to one another, discussing who teaches the classes we have. Students can also describe their many classes and say whether or not they have homework.



Spanish II is having just as much fun. We are currently studying “Dia de los Muertos” (Day of the Dead festivities) and family. We plan to honor a loved one or famous person this week by constructing a virtual altar full of beautiful “ofrendas”. They will be directing me and explaining to me their reasoning for such traditional offerings and doing so all in Spanish. These cultural assignments.

Students have also recently published stories about their families. They were able to describe the person relationship to them, describe their personalities and age, as well as what the individual enjoys doing. Each student was interviewed and asked to discuss their family with me.

In Spanish II, there is a large emphasis on speaking and communicating about themselves and daily activities. Students have carried on telephone conversations and invited others to do things with them, such as attending the movies or a dance. Our next goal is to order an entire meal and ask for the check. Wish us luck!

Our theme has been nothing but school in Spanish III. We have discussed school rules and if we agree with them. We even made up our own rules, realistic or not, sharing our own personal thoughts and reasoning. It is very important that Spanish III students do not use notes when presenting, but rather focusing on speaking about what they know and can say. Being able to speak around the words we do not know is perhaps the most valuable skill in language learning. We have had fun creating websites for various school clubs, teams and classes. Students have incorporated technology and vocabulary, while having shared the activities that have meant the most to them. During this chapter, we managed to have also incorporated the old grammar concept of comparisons and used art to help understand and record written statements about comparisons and equality. This group makes being creative rather easy.



Un día, al amanecer, Pickle fue yX comió helado



We have also created and published books in Spanish IV. Some of our “novelas” were disastrous adventures! Some of us made friends in our stories, while other enemies. There were happy and sad endings with some major events for sure. Either way, we made our way around

a couple of National Parks, traveled along the "Camino de Santiago" (a great pilgrimage in Spain), and reviewed the past tenses.

Our huge chapter has focused on the visual and performing arts. We have managed to create our own masterpieces in the style of uniquely different periods in Spanish and Latin art. We have watched a telenovela as an art form, listened to top 40 music in Spanish and critiqued its sound, and completed a podcast. Level IV is currently developing an art exhibit focusing on one visual artist and outlining his or her most famous work. These will later be used as the listening portion to the chapter test.



It is never a dull day in Spanish class!

Happy Red Ribbon week from Bennet Elementary! Red Ribbon week has been nationally celebrated in our country since 1986. The National Family Partnership's Anti-Drug Campaign is held each year on October 23rd-31st. This week is to not only "Say No To Drugs!" but to honor Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) special agent who was killed by drug traffickers in 1985. His actions and beliefs while alive are the foundation upon which the Red Ribbon Campaign



is based. Red Ribbons are worn to recognize and honor Enrique and all our police and other special agents that work hard to prevent drug use in our country. They also help us remember to stay drug free!

During Red Ribbon week we want to get information out to our students about the dangers of drug use and about making good choices. We

hope parents and families are also taking the time to have conversations about those behaviors at home. It is a week designed to get people taking with others and working on activities that will help build sense of community and common purpose. We want this week to be fun and positive for our students- two things necessary to maintain good mental health.

Red Ribbon week started with an announcement from a few 6th grade students. They announced the theme for the week "Respect yourself! Don't Do Drugs!" They let the students know what our dress-up themes were and about the Red Ribbon pencil they all received that day. Some of our dress-up days were: "Respect yourself! Don't Do Drugs!" everyone wore Red, "My futures so bright, I don't need drugs!" students wore hats and sunglasses, "Stomp out Drugs!" students wore crazy socks and "Scare drugs away!" students wore their Halloween costume at the Halloween Parade. This year to go along with our dress-up theme was a class competition. We had four dress-up days. If a class was 100% involved they put the class name in a jar in the office for the drawing. Each class had chances to win a free 15 minute recess for the next week. We also had Amy Merritt, Lancaster County Sheriff Deputy, in our school talking to each grade separately. She spoke to them about peer pressure, making good choices, and ended with tips to be safe on Halloween.



Our school has purchased a subscription to a leading online classroom product, eBackpack. eBackpack makes it easier to move files between the school and home and also lets students turn in their homework electronically to their teachers. The teachers can review the work and send it back to your child. This process facilitates a “paper responsible” workflow by reducing the number of printed pages in handing out materials as well as reducing the number of printed pages required to be turned back in at grading time. Moreover, this model begins to ready our students to engage in practices of the new digital age.

Using eBackpack from Home

eBackpack is completely web-based, which allows students to access the program from any computer with an internet connection and a standard web browser. Students may use eBackpack as much as you’d like for school purposes with our school subscription.

Follow the instructions below to use eBackpack:

Go to: <https://districtor1.eBackpack.com>

Enter your username and password and click “Sign In”

Now you can easily create folders, upload and download files, and submit files to your teachers.

When you are done with eBackpack, click “Log Out” to ensure that your information stays safe.

Fourteen FCCLA (Family, Career, Community Leaders of America) members attended the District 1 FCCLA Leadership Conference in Weeping Water on October 26th. There were about 150 individuals attending from Falls City, Nebraska City High School, Nebraska City Junior High, HTRS, Palmyra, Weeping Water, Elmwood Murdock, and Springfield Platteview.

The day started with icebreakers by Nebraska City High School and greetings from the Weeping Water High School Principal Mr. Wockenfuss. Statements from State FCCLA Officer Tara Stelling from NCHS, State FCCLA Peer Ed Team member Hannah Groth, and the State FCCLA Advisor Allison Kreifels were all morning highlights.

The keynote speaker for the day was Josh Hanes, Extreme Weight Loss Contestant. He shared his "Moments". During the lunch rotations the students participate in a Sports-O-Rama. Then, the District 1 FCCLA participated in a service project to make smile bags for Children's Hospital of Omaha.

The afternoon was made up of breakout sessions, as students had the opportunity to choose two of the following sessions:

1. Josh Haynes - Extreme Weight Loss Contestant- "Overcoming Obstacles".
2. Linda Cox - Owner of Butterfly Bakery, Lincoln, Nebraska - Cupcake Decorating.
3. Katie Skinner - Southeast Community College - Garnishing.
4. Allison Kreifels - "Your Strategic Plan".
5. Kara Stelling - "Lead the Way".
6. Macy Neumeister - All About FCCLA".
7. Hannah Groth - "The Better You".
8. Icebreakers - NCHS.

A great time was had by all, and much was learned from all of the great sessions provided.





ANGER IS NORMAL. VIOLENCE IS NOT.

LOCAL DATA:

- In Otoe County, 70% of students have stated that bullying is seen as a large problem at their school or 72% of students nationally.
- Eighty-five out of 668 students or 12.7% have reported they have attacked someone to hurt them between the age of 10-17.
- When asked the question if it is OK to beat someone up if they start the fight: 256 of 652 (39.3%) students said yes it is OK to beat up someone if they started the fight.

All four Otoe County schools are working with United Against Violence in Southeast Nebraska (UAV) to reduce reported incidents of youth violence including bullying, assault and physical aggression among youth.

The goal is to teach students skills that strengthen their ability to manage emotions, have empathy and solve problems to reduce youth violence in Otoe County. We are using the *Second Step - Student Success through Prevention Curriculum* in your child's classroom to teach these critical lifelong skills. The *Second Step* program works with students from Kindergarten to 8th grade and focuses on the following four areas:

Skills for Learning: Students gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, use self-talk to stay on task and be assertive when asking for help with schoolwork.

Emotion Management: Students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.

How to Calm Down

***STOP**- use your signal

***NAME** your **FEELING**

***CALM DOWN:** breathe, count, use positive self-talk

Empathy: Students learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings. Students also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.

Problem Solving: Students learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way.

Problem-Solving Steps

S- Say the problem (without blame)

T- Think of solutions (safe & respectful)

E- Explore Consequences (what could happen if ...)

P- Pick the best solution (make your plan)

For more information on bullying or cyber bullying visit www.P4OC.org or contact your school.



United Against Violence



DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR 2015-2016 Adopted

August 2015

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 2015

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27	28	29	30			

October 2015

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November 2015

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29	30					

December 2015

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27	28	29	30	31		

August 2015

- 10-Aug Football Practice begins. Faculty Inservice
- 11-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 12-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 13-Aug First Day of School
- 17-Aug Start of Fall Practice

September 2015

- 7-Sep NO SCHOOL -LABOR DAY
- 22-Sep Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.

October 2015

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

November 2015

- 16-Nov Start Winter Practice
- 25-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 26-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 27-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

December 2015

- 22-Dec End of Second Quarter
- 22-Dec Dismiss at 1:30 for Christmas
- 23-Dec Winter Vacation December 23-January 5
- 23-27 Dec. Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

January 2016

- 1-5 Jan Winter Vacation
- 6-Jan School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter
- 18-Jan Martin Luther King Day Teacher Inservice No School

February 2016

- 8-Feb Teacher In-Service No School
- 9-Feb Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
- 12-Feb NO SCHOOL Winter Break
- 29-Feb Start of Spring Practice

March 2016

- 4-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 11-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 14-Mar Start 4th Quarter
- 24-Mar Everyone Dismissed at 1:30pm for Easter Break
- 25-Mar NO SCHOOL; Easter Break
- 28-Mar NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

April 2016

- 18-Apr Dismiss at 1:30 Staff In-Service-Quiz Bowl

May 2016

- 7-May Graduation
 - 19-May End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal
 - 20-May Teacher Work Day
- Note: Early dismissal times of 1:30 will result in an elementary dismissal time of 1:10.

January 2016

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2016

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March 2016

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

April 2016

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

May 2016

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				

179 student days

185 total for teachers

Teacher days

Vacation Days

Parent Teacher conf.

Early Dismissal