



Palmer Public School



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

PO Box 248, Palmer, Nebraska 68864
Phone 308-894-3065

Board of Education
Kathy Wolfe, President
Todd Weller, Vice President
Jennifer Kunze, Treasurer
Ashley Wissing, Secretary
Brian Friedrichsen
Daniel Hake

Superintendent's Newsletter – April/May, 2018

Sophomores and juniors recently visited the Career Pathways Institute (CPI) in Grand Island. It is a former warehouse that was remodeled into an amazing facility for instruction in five career pathways: Construction, Auto Mechanics, Manufacturing, Computer Drafting/Design, and Information Technology. All areas are hands on with real world applications. For example, students in the computer drafting pathway design actual blueprints for a house, which the construction pathway students then use to build the house, and the information technology pathway students use to install an internet-connected “smart home” system. The finished house is sold – the one they’re currently building will sell for over \$300,000. People bring cars and trucks to the students in the auto mechanic pathway for students to practice all types of repair and maintenance work. The manufacturing pathway students design and fabricate many different parts that are requested and used by Hornady, Chief, Dramco Tool, and other area industries.

The administrator at CPI said that students attending there have employers waiting to pay for their schooling (no student loan debt!) and hire them immediately, in many cases starting over \$30,000 right out of high school. We have had students attend CPI in the past, but I think more students who are interested in vocational pathways could take advantage of this opportunity for a fast track to careers that are good paying and in high demand. Students generally attend Palmer in the morning for their core classes then go to CPI in the afternoon. Contact the school if you would like more information on how your child can apply to attend.

On another topic... I’ve written before about school activity participation. Being able to participate in many activities is one of the big advantages of attending a smaller school. One of our goals over the last few years has been to increase student participation in extra-curricular activities. Decreased participation in school activities is a trend in many schools across the nation. Here in Nebraska, for example, there are a number of schools playing down a class in football due to a lack of students going out. Palmer’s overall participation has been steady the last few years, with high school participation this year at: Freshmen 83%, Sophomores 88%, Juniors 83%, and Seniors 78% of the class participating in at least one school activity. This includes athletic and non-athletic school activities. Participating in school and/or community activities is beneficial for students, school, and community. Over the next few months, we’ll be looking into a community service/activity participation requirement for graduation, similar to a requirement many other schools have. If you have any feedback on this topic, please feel free to contact me. Here’s looking forward to spring and a successful fourth quarter of the school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Bohlken



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With another successful school year sliding under our belt we continue to focus on finishing out strong with the school year learning as much as we can these last couple of months! April and May is loaded with end of the school year state and district assessments that validate all the hard work that has been put in this school year. As the days get longer please make sure your children are sticking to their school year routine and getting to bed on time! It is hard to believe that quarter 4 is well underway and summer is knocking on our doors! Also, with spring Nebraska weather we never know what the temperature and weather will bring so please continue to send your child with jackets!

We are already working on transitioning the Coolidge center to our ***Tiny Tigers Early Learning Center***. It is exciting to expand our current services to the students and families of our district. If you are interested in learning more about it or know a student who is of preschool age please contact us! We are already registering students and it helps us gauge the needs of the program the earlier we have registrations. Since our programming is transitioning we will not host a Preschool round up this fall but we will have something similar in the fall to showcase our new center and the program. Kindergarten round up will be April 26th at 6:30.

Get on your calendar that May 1 is the elementary spring concert. May 11 is a busy day for the elementary as we have the 5th and 6th science fair kicking off the morning, followed by elementary awards and ending the day with the elementary track meet. It is a very busy day but we have had feedback from parents that it works well with their schedules. We look forward to seeing you!

May 16th is the last day of school for the 2017-18 school year. It will be an early out for students. It will be here before you know it! We will have summer school/jump start this summer. Information on that as well as the summer reading program will come out closer to the end of the school year. Just a reminder that our library does have summer hours for the public so come on out and check out a good summer read! With our preschool moving to the new building we will also be expanding our library so that will be another exciting expansion to better meet the needs of the families in our community.

Happy spring!
Sherise Loeffelbein
PK-6 Principal
Special Education Director
Daycare Director



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We are a little over half-way done with the school year and our athletic teams have been in full throttle mode the whole year. We haven't always come out on top but the athletes here have shown their true character in never giving up during a "dog fight". The football team qualified for the state playoffs with another excellent season. The Volleyball team made dramatic improvements by winning sub-districts but losing out in districts. They were quite fun to watch and if you have a chance to see them next year please put it on the calendar! The cross country team almost had a state qualifier and for such a young group, showed tremendous improvement throughout the season.

Now that we are into the winter sports of basketball and wrestling, our athletes have still represented us with a first class effort. The wrestling team has been placing in the top three of most of the meets they've been in so far and they've had three wrestlers that have been rated in the top 10 in the state. Congrats to Connor Donscheski, Spencer Wichmann and Ruger Reimers for those state rankings!! It is quite a special group of athletes with a special congrats to Coach Glause and his staff for leading such a fine group of young men. The basketball teams have struggled with consistently although always giving a 100% effort. They have made improvements throughout the season and we look forward to their continued advances.

Finally, our school district has Parent-Teacher Conferences coming up on February 6 and 8. The conferences will start at 4:00 pm and end at 8:00 pm. This is an excellent opportunity for parents/guardians to set down with their child's teacher and hear how your son/daughter is doing in class. It is a proven fact that when families get involved with the student's education, they perform better. Every child wants to know that their successes are important and I encourage all parents/guardians to make it a priority to come hear from the teachers themselves how their youngster is performing. We hope to see you there!!

To All in TigerNation

Greg Morris
Secondary Principal
Curriculum Director

End of Year Information for Grades 8-12 – Mrs. Bruland

Fourth quarter is in full gear, and the high school is getting ready to end another school year. For some, it marks the end of 13 years of education. For others, it means it's time to prepare for the next year of secondary school. Following are important things that all grades in high school are doing, should be doing, or will be doing, before the end of the year.



Seniors

Take a deep breath because in less than two months you will be walking across the stage to receive your diploma – the official invitation to start “the rest of your life”. Whether you plan to go on to college or into the work force, there are some things that you need to keep in mind before you get to this epic event.

- Keep working hard – now is NOT the time to slack off and let the “senioritis” take control. Light is at the end of the tunnel – keep pushing forward.
- If you are planning to go to college, make sure you have completed the FAFSA. Your time is running out and so is the financial aid, so get this done if you haven't! See Mrs. Bruland if you have questions.
- Get your housing deposits taken care of if you are living on campus next year. If you have questions, see Mrs. Bruland.
- Make sure you are looking at scholarship deadlines. Get those scholarships done!! The Palmer Community Scholarships have been given to all seniors. If you lost your copy or if you are a parent who would like copies, they can be found on my web page on the Palmer Tigers web sight (www.palmertigers.org).
- Graduation is May 12 at 2:00. A letter will be sent home in the near future to parents regarding graduation.

Juniors

- All Juniors will be taking the ACT on April 3. This ACT is free, and scores will be used in place of the NeSA. All juniors that plan to go to a 4-year college should take the ACT again in June or July. You can register for the test at www.actstudent.org. The deadline to register for the June 9 test is May 4. The deadline to register for the July 14 ACT is June 15. Other opportunities to take the ACT during senior year will be in September, October and December. Dates for these tests will be announced at a later date. If you have any questions or need help to register, see Mrs. Bruland.
- Juniors have two college visit days during junior year...they need to visit campuses they are interested in!! They will have two more college visit days senior year as well. If they missed the two junior year visits, they can take all



four senior year, but should do so early in the fall. Mrs. Bruland will be taking them on a group college visit in the fall –location TBA.

- Juniors can start scoping out scholarship opportunities. Most applications do not open until the fall, but it is good to be prepared. Getting a summer job and doing volunteer/community service would good on scholarship and college applications!!
- If you would like to take English Composition (College English) or College Algebra or College Statistics next year, you need to have a cut score on your ACT or Accuplacer test. Check with Mrs. Bruland to see if you have achieved the scores required for this.
- Not too late to improve that Grade Point Average (GPA)!! Keep working hard!
- Keep taking challenging classes – don't slack off senior year!! Slacking off will not prepare you for college!!!! And colleges do not like slackers.

Sophomores

- Keep working hard and getting those grades up!! Your Grade Point Average (GPA) is a work in progress and the better it is, the better your opportunities for scholarship money for college!
- Sophomores will be visiting Southeast Community College in Lincoln on April 13.
- Keep getting involved in school and community activities. This makes a well-rounded student, and that's what colleges are looking for!!
- As juniors, students are able to take college courses through Central Community College. Mrs. Bruland will be giving all students the Accuplacer test later this spring so that if students decide to take a college course, they will have the testing scores they need to do so. Students and parents should be having a conversation about the possibility of taking college courses junior year. If you have any questions, notify Mrs. Bruland.



Freshmen

- Freshmen recently visited the UNL campus. It was a great experience for these students to see a college campus first-hand. They visited classrooms, saw a dorm room and ate in the dining hall. They also had sessions about college admission and financial aid. A student panel ended the day. They told about their personal experiences as college freshmen and answered questions.
- WORK, WORK, WORK on your grades!!! If you want to attend a college such as UNL, you need to have a good GPA!!

Eight Grade (you'll be Freshmen next year so there are some things you should know.....)

- Freshman Orientation will be April 10 at 7:00 p.m. All 8th graders and their parents are invited. If you know of some families outside of our district that are interested in checking out Palmer High School, invite them to come as well. Notify Mrs. Bruland of their names and addresses and we will send them an invitation!



Kindergarten

Is it really the 4th quarter already?! Where did the school year go? I have 11 wonderfully different students in my room this year! I have 6 boys and 5 girls in my section of Kindergarten this year. They all have great personalities and are constantly making me laugh! I have just returned to school from maternity leave and we are quickly getting back into the swing of things! The second semester is quite busy for us as it includes the: 100th day of school, Read Across America week, Kindergarten Round Up, Kindergarten Café, elementary track and field day and the awards program. They are quick learners who amaze me everyday in their work ethic and eagerness to learn! I asked them to do the following, "Tell me something you have learned in Kindergarten or your favorite part." Here are their responses:

Leah- Writing

Lexi- Recess and Mrs. Hake being my teacher

Micah- Recess and learning with Mrs. Hake

Parker- Lunch

Maya- Recess and Math

Degun- Playing with my friends

Isaac- Being the teacher helper

Riya- Reading

Ella- Math and Recess

McKrey- Having Mrs. Hake back

Rocco- Doing Lexia on the iPad

My favorite part of Kindergarten has been watching these students find a love for learning. Kindergarten is the year that these students will make tremendous progress and growth as learners and children! I am so fortunate to be a part of a school and community that helps me make Kindergarten such a memorable experience! Thank you!

Mrs. Hake



5th Grade
Brandon Rolf



We are over half way with another school year! We have sixteen students in our classroom this year, ten boys to only six girls. We've covered a lot of topics already and we still have a lot more to cover. We have written both real and imaginative

narratives, expository text, and biographies. We will still try to get in compare/contrast and persuade before the school year ends.

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

We had the opportunity to attend the state fair this year and we will go to the Stuhr Museum at the end of March. We will have a March Madness competition, field day, science fair, and of course state testing all still to come.

Our biggest accomplishment is trying to get real world ready at a young age. Taking pride in their work and trying their best at all times. Learning from our mistakes and treating others how we want to be treated is another life long goal we trying to master. It will be fun to watch these youngsters continue to grow together into junior high, high school and beyond!

Physical Education Newsletter

Coach Wegner

It is March and typically that means Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for us.

Our Jump Rope for Heart Day took place earlier than usual this year though. On February 14, 5th and 6th grade students had the opportunity to participate in Jump Rope for Heart. Students, who chose to participate in Jump Rope for Heart, collected donations from friends, family, and the community in general. Money raised was then given to the American Heart Association. Students that participated will receive gifts corresponding to the amount of money they raised. These prizes include t-shirts, jump ropes, key chains, etc. This year we had six participants in grades 5-6. Those six students raised a total of \$223. Thank you to all that chose to participate and thank you to all that made a donation.

Patron Newsletter March, 2018

Nathan Glause

The High School wrestling team had a successful season. The team ended in 4th place at State with 64 points. Ruger Reimers finished 3rd at 120 lbs. with a record of 53-7. Ruger set the Palmer Freshman win record and tied the season win record. Connor Donscheski finished 3rd at 152 lbs. with a record of 53-2. Connor set the Palmer Senior win record and tied with Ruger for the season win record. Senior Spencer Wichmann finished 3rd as well at 160 lbs. with a record of 49-5. Garrett Jensen (106 lbs. 23-12) and Justin Kuta (182 lbs. 32-23) qualified for the state meet and each won a match by pin to add points to the team total.

The Palmer Wrestling Club is in full swing and will continue until late March. K-2nd grade have been practicing on Tuesdays at 5:30 and 3rd-8th grade have been practicing Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30. Competitions take place at many various locations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday each weekend. We had over 160 competitors at our annual Palmer Kids Wrestling Meet, which was held on February 25. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Palmer Kids Meet.

It is hard to believe the end of the school year is approaching! We have had a sensational year in Mrs. Reimers' Science Room...

Physical Science: These students have been extremely busy being chemists and physicists this year, and there are so many of them that we had to split their class into two periods! They have been scrupulous in their studies of atoms, elements, electromagnetic waves, forces, vector quantities and scalar quantities. The students will soon be able to explain why certain chemicals behave the way they do when they are put together. They will also learn about the periodic table before they end their year with acids and bases.

A&P: These future doctors and/or nurses have been cutting into the heart of the structure and function of the human body. The students have been diligent in finding out how the body's systems work together and how intricately those systems work together to perform even the simplest of tasks. The students have dissected eyeballs, brains and hearts to get a closer look at the systems they are studying, and they will soon be dissecting this pig to further learn about the central nervous system, the senses, the cardiovascular system, the respiratory system and so much more!

Biology: These biologists have been very motivated to learn about life...the history of earth, cells, the cell cycle, DNA, RNA, mitosis and meiosis to name a few. The students have just begun to learn about genetics. They will unwind their way through genetic mutations that will lead them into the human reproductive system and pregnancy. Soon after, they will be maneuvering their way through populations, communities and ecosystems.

Chemistry: The chemistry students have had a real blast learning about all of the in's and out's of the periodic table and chemicals! They have scrutinized every part of the periodic table to develop an understanding of the elements. The students have adhered to their studies about chemical bonding and chemical reactions. They will soon be digging into the mole and stoichiometry and will end their year with acids and bases.

Life Science: These biologists have been keeping their nose to the grindstone! They have studied cells and their processes. They have discovered how cells, tissues, organs and organ systems work together to perform many miraculous functions in our bodies. Most recently, they have discovered what ecology has to offer them. They will soon be studying the animal kingdoms where they will be dissecting a worm, crawdad, squid and a frog!

Physics: These female physicists have been discovering how everyday phenomena works, the science behind the scenes, so to speak. They have manipulated a wide variety of materials to surmise why your stomach flip-flops in an elevator or why objects behave the way they do when they are put in certain situations. The students just wrapped up a unit on centripetal acceleration and will be studying the behavior of fluids, temperature and heat to round out their year!

**Online Textbooks for the Social Sciences Department
Mr. Thompson**

Can't believe it's already the start of the 4th Quarter, where has the school year gone? Not much has changed here in the Social Sciences world at Palmer Public School, except for the addition of brand new textbooks. These books are different in that they are online textbooks that students access with their computers, so there is no actual book. I feel that these new books have the potential to greatly increase our students' education.

We are just getting to know the different caveats of these new books, but there are numerous enhanced materials that we can use. These books have various visual aids to supplement our educational experience. There are many short videos, maps, outlines, and primary sources found in every section that we cover. Students have the ability, with relative ease, to explore the topics that we cover in greater depth. This gives them even greater detail over material than our previous books.

These online books have been a great addition to our Social Sciences Department. I look forward to continuing my education into these books and how to implement this new technology into the classroom.

**SAVE THE DATE !
2018 SPRING POST PROM
ONE-DAY PLANT SALE!
SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018
1pm-4pm**

Geraniums, Petunias, Coleus, Lobelia,
Marigolds, Zinnias, Spikes, Sweet Potato
Vines, some vegetables and more!

Plants were locally grown!

(Contact the school after the 15th to see if there are plants
left over if you can't make it to the sale....894-3065)

