



LEADERSHIP

INNOVATION

VISION

ENGAGEMENT



WHY DID THE TIGER CROSS THE ROAD?

The answer ... Palmer Pride.

Palmer, Nebraska. Population 500 enrollment 320. A town with tremendous community support.

Enter the new home for 37 Tiny Tigers.

With the growing need for childcare in the past few years, Palmer made space in their current school building which housed all of their K-12 students.

And then an opportunity came up that the district could not pass up. Right across the street from campus, a facility that started as a nursing home in the mid 70's, and eventually became a mental health facility was being shut down and would be for sale.

Joel Bohlken, Palmer's Superintendent, said the facilities committee had discussed that if ever that building was to come up for sale it could be an asset to the district. The current campus is not only full, but fairly land locked, so building a new facility for the preschool was not really an option. Sure enough, that day came, allowing Palmer to begin the plans for their expanded Early Learning Center for the community's three and four-year olds.

The 12,000 square foot, T-shaped building, with three separate wings has undergone incredible transformation to become what it is today. What were formerly individual rooms for residents now house larger, open classrooms in one wing, a kitchen, cafeteria and district offices in another, and a large, open-air multi-purpose room in the third, perfect to lay down wrestling mats, house indoor

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OCTOBER 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT WEEK!

FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP
October 30 | Kearney

100TH ANNUAL
STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE
November 14-16 | La Vista



"Recognizing Our Roots & Reaching Beyond"

100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY
November 14 | 6:00 PM

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
November 16 | 8:00 AM

NEW BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOPS

- November 27 | Gering
- November 28 | North Platte
- November 29 | Grand Island
- December 4 | Norfolk
- December 5 | La Vista



10 PALMER PRIDE: EARLY LEARNING CENTER (CONTINUED)

Nebraska Association
SCHOOL BOARDS

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recess on cold and rainy days, or even be rented out by community members for parties and events.

We mentioned Palmer Pride, and tremendous community support, right? Well, the majority of the demolition and rebuild for the Early Learning Center came from students, and community members.

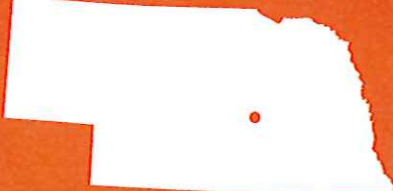
Today, 37 preschoolers come every Monday through Thursday. Licensed daycare is also provided Monday through Friday when school is in session, from 7:20 AM to 5:30 PM for working families who need care outside of the preschool hours.

During our visit, we walked into an empty building, greeted only by Superintendent Bohlken, school board president Kathy Wolfe, and Sherise Loeffelbein, who serves as PK-6 Principal. Moments later, we hear sirens getting closer, each truck carrying students from the Early Learning Center, who had been on a morning field trip to the Fire Station.



Once coats were off and hung up, we got to observe the students both in the classroom during learning time, and also at lunch, where part of the curriculum is not only to serve themselves the meal, but to wait to eat until everyone has their food. Extremely impressive!

Just one more example of Palmer Pride, and that tremendous community support. Seeing an opportunity, and making it happen.



Palmer Public Schools

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

Joel Bohlken - Superintendent

Home of the Tigers

Enrollment = 320
NASB Region #12

www.palmerigers.org

