



Palmer Public School



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

202 Commercial Street
Palmer, Nebraska 68864
Phone 308-894-3065

Board of Education

Kathy Wolfe, President
Todd Weller, Vice President
Daniel Hake, Secretary
Brian Friedrichsen, Treasurer
Heather Shotkoski
Brett Santin

Superintendent's Newsletter, October/November 2022

Friday, November 11 will be our Annual Endowment Pancakes and Play fundraiser from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m., with the one-act play performance at 6:30. The Endowment Fund provides around \$10,000 every year for additional supplies, student trips, etc. to support Palmer students and staff, so we thank you for your generous support during this annual fundraiser!

As a part of our House system, all students in grades K-12 have the opportunity to earn a Leader of the Pack shirt. Staff and students who observe someone demonstrating behavior that goes above and beyond normal expectations can award that person a Leader of the Pack t-shirt. Teachers and staff members will focus specifically on the behaviors exhibited by a student that causes our culture to stand out above the rest.



One of the sayings at the Ron Clark Academy is, "Not everyone gets a cookie." In other words, there are no awards for just participating. The Leader shirts have to be earned and everyone may not get one - they have to do more than just show up. Students receiving their shirts will be posted on our website www.palmerigers.org.

If you haven't yet, please ask your child what House he/she is in, and if they know this information about it:

House of Integritas - Integrity - Green - Soundness of moral character.

House of Virtus - Courage - Blue - Strength in the face of adversity.

House of Spirare - Aspire - Yellow - Ambition to achieve a goal.

House of Optimus - Noble - Red - Reveal talents through generosity & forgiveness.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bohlken

A Community that prides itself on Commitment, Growth, & Achievement!



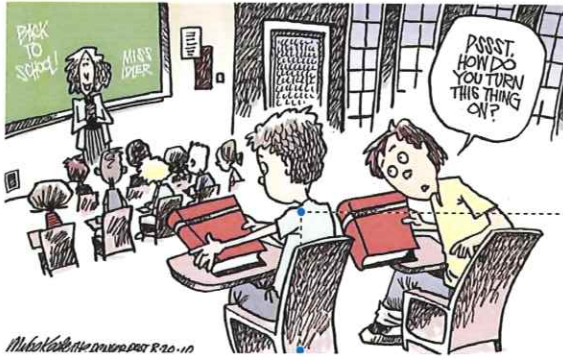
Fall greetings to all of you! We are rounding out the end of the first quarter (October 14th) and are figuring out the ins and outs of the new English reading arts curriculum. You may have heard your child talk about CKLA or mCLASS. CKLA is our main reading curriculum and mCLASS is an intervention piece that we are using to coincide with that instruction. Through mCLASS students are progress monitored and grouped at their specific ability levels.

Teachers completed training this summer with CKLA and continue to learn how to best implement the curriculum into the classroom. With this new curriculum we are noticing a change in how we typically assess children formatively. Formative assessments are assessments that we complete while students are in the learning process. End of the unit assessments that we use are characterized as summative assessments. As we work through this transition you may notice a change in how we are reporting grades in the gradebook. We ask for some patience as we navigate this change.

Fall weather always requires layers of clothing! For little ones, it is sometimes hard for them to keep track of all of their shed layers. Please check into our lost and found if you are missing something. Also, continue to have your child wear layers as the mornings are quite chilly.

Some upcoming events will be taking place soon! If you are available October 21st we will be having our fall caroling at the legion uptown. November 11th will be our Veterans Day program at the school. Look for more details coming soon! We hope to see you there!

Mrs. Loeffelbein
Pk-6 Principal/Special Education Director



We are off and running with the 2022-23 school year. So far, the school year has been excellent. With a new counselor and two new teachers on the Secondary side of the building, we've gotten off to a surprising smooth start.

We finished Homecoming week off with a bang. The Football team won over Fullerton with a hard fought battle, 14-12. The week then concluded with the Homecoming Dance. I gotta say, these teenagers have a lot of energy!! The days of the week were divided into dress up days: Monday, Anything BUT a Backpack Day; Tuesday, White Lie T-Shirt Day; Wednesday, Waterboy Dress Up Day; Thursday, Let Freedom Ring Day; and Friday was Orange & Black Day. Homecoming Royalty was Joslynn Donahey, Hannah Siwinski, and Gwen Brown for the Girls and Jacob Stromberg, Johnny Ruvulcaba, and Leo Guzman for the boys. The High School students voted Hannah Siwinski as the Queen and Leo Guzman as the King. Congrats to both as it was no doubt a very exciting week at PHS.

A big change was initiated this school year with the students made to keep their cell phones in their lockers. It had become too much of a distraction during class time and the faculty overwhelmingly requested the change. The students obviously weren't thrilled with this change.

Mrs. Green and Mrs. Gregoski have started to "team teach" 7th & 8th grade English/Reading. This is a growing trend in education that highlights teachers splitting up teaching duties to greater accent their teaching abilities. Big praise to them for embracing this idea.

Greg Morris, Secondary Principal

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

Hello everyone!

Whether you are in 2nd grade, a senior in high school, a parent, or a teacher, we all benefit from healthy sleep habits. Sleep promotes a strong memory, facilitates learning, recharges our mental and physical batteries, and generally helps us make the most out of our days. With quality sleep, we improve our mental and physical health, reduce stress, and can maintain a routine that is critical to having a healthy day. The ideal amount of sleep needed for each person may vary, but generally research suggests we need between 7-9 hours of sleep each night.

For both children and adults, sleep plays a critical role in helping our bodies and minds recover. As a result, sleep contributes to improvements in learning and promotes regulatory functions such as emotional and behavioral control that are important for each and every day. Since sleep plays such a crucial role in human functioning, lack of sleep can lead to a number of consequences including irritability, hyperactivity, poor impulse control, difficulty multitasking, impaired memory, and poor calculation skills.

Are you having trouble sleeping or staying asleep? There are many aspects that can affect our ability to fall asleep and stay asleep. If you are experiencing either of these, try reflecting on that amount of screen time allowed right before bed, the sleeping atmosphere (noise, temperature, light), caffeine intake, and the consistency of bedtime throughout the week and weekend. Changes you can make to optimize your sleep schedule can include: participating in relaxing activities before bed (taking a warm bath, listening to music, reading a book), keeping your bedroom cool, dark, and quiet, exercising during the day and not close to bedtime, maintaining a consistent sleep routine all seven days of the week, and adjusting your schedule to allow for enough time to sleep.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at cvalasek@palmer.esu7.org or call 894-3065.

Carissa Valasek



COUNSELOR'S



CORNER

Asia Trout
7-12 School Counselor



College Readiness

Mark your calendar

Education Quest Resources

- + **Financial Aid Process:**
To learn more about the financial aid process please check out this website: <https://eqf.org/3DDNCjV>
- + **22-23 FAFSA checklist:**
<https://bit.ly/3Sc85Rh>
- + **FAFSA Tutorial:** Provides user-friendly clarification for each FAFSA question.
<https://bit.ly/3UR3q99>

October 5th: Juniors & Seniors

Academically eligible juniors and seniors will go to St. Paul from 2:00-3:30 pm.

October 27th: Seniors & Family Only

I will be hosting a virtual FAFSA Night at 6:30 PM at the school. I will be sending home a list of materials that you will need to bring with you for that night. If your child can't attend due to being at National FFA convention that is okay we can still get it completed without them there.

Scholarship Information For Seniors

I have a comprehensive list of scholarships on my website that you can find under the secondary staff on the palmertigers.org website. I am constantly updating this as the information comes in. I also have a spreadsheet that I am working on that will eventually have that full list of scholarships on there as well but I am still in the process of updating this. I have put the spreadsheet on the school website for students to make a copy of and they can add their own outside scholarships that they are applying for on it as well.

Tiny Tigers Preschool-Mrs. Tayma Rasmussen

Hello Tiny Tigers! I am so excited to welcome 31 total preschool friends to our program this year! Here are a few helpful pieces of information about the Tiny Tigers Preschool program.



Location-All preschool classes will be located at our Tiny Tigers Early Learning Center, across the street from the K-12 building. This facility is equipped with classrooms for 3 preschool groups. It has its own cafeteria, indoor recess space, library, lunchroom, and a fenced outdoor play space.

Teachers-Ms. Dawn Tedmon is our PreK 3 teacher. This year in PreK 4 students will be split into two groups between myself and Ms. Whitney Hubbard. We are all so excited to spend this year helping our community's littlest learners grow!

Classes-PreK 3 is for students who are age 3 prior to August 1st. There is a morning session, and an afternoon session of PreK 3. Sessions run from 8:00-11:30 and 12:00-3:30. PreK 4 is for students who are age 4 prior to August 1st. PreK 4 has one session running preschool focus hours from 8:00-1:00 and supplemental activities until the end of the school day. If families wish to pick up their child after focus hours are concluded they are welcome to do so.

Transportation-All preschool students are welcome to ride the AM and PM public school bus routes. A midday route will run to and from eligible daycare centers for PreK 3 students. Transportation will not be provided by the school at the conclusion of PreK 4 focus hours at 1:00.

Schedule-The preschool program will operate Monday through Thursday. There are no preschool classes on Fridays. We follow the same schedule as the K-12 students in terms of late starts, early outs, and days off. The first day of preschool is set for Monday August 22nd. This is NOT the same date as the start for K-12 students.

Curriculum-We follow a play based curriculum...yes our students play most of the day! Learning through play is what is developmentally appropriate for preschoolers. As preschool teachers we provide hands-on play experiences that foster development in academic, emotional, social, physical, and language skills. These activities are themed based off of our students' interests - like dinosaurs, farming, and more!



At Tiny Tigers Preschool we are committed to teaching through play and student discovery. We believe that a caring mutually respectful atmosphere promotes the learning process. We feel families are a vital partner in the education of their child and strive to make those home connections strong. We cannot be more excited to get this school year underway, see you soon!



Tiny Tigers PreK 3



We have gotten off to a great start here at Tiny Tigers Early Learning Center. I have a total of 9 students this year, which is a big change for me. I am enjoying having a smaller group of students in the morning and the afternoon class. I feel I can provide more one-on-one attention to each of my students and I can differentiate activities more individually as well.

The last week of September is a very busy week for us at the TTELC. We will have Parent Teacher Conferences as well as our field trip to Helgoth's Pumpkin Patch. I am looking forward to meeting with the families for conferences and sharing how much the students have progressed already in just a month's time. The field trip is always a favorite for our students and the teachers.

I am working hard on assessments and taking data for the assessment tool that we use each year and have quite a bit of data already. I think I am finally getting the hang of the assessment part of my job and feeling more confident in the data that I gather. They have added a family piece to the data collection process and I am looking forward to figuring out how to implement that as well.

I can't believe that this is my fifth year of teaching here in Palmer! It has flown by and I love my job as much today as I did my first year, even with the pandemic happening and all. I feel so blessed to get to be our student's very first teacher outside their home and I can't wait to see what the rest of this year will bring.

Dawn Fedmon



6th Grade News

Mrs. Samuelson

The 6th graders are off to a great start so far this year! We have 23 students in our class, and they have been very busy learning! We have a new Language Arts curriculum called *My Perspectives*. It requires the students to do a lot more higher-level thinking when they are reading and writing. It offers many different varieties of text for the students to read and analyze. The class has read a poem, memoir, and comic strip so far. We will be working on nonfiction narrative writing, and continue to read different genres of text. The theme of this first unit is Childhood. The essential question is: What are the difficulties and triumphs of childhood? This has been an excellent theme that the students have had great success making connections to.

In Social Studies we are currently learning about the Israelites, their culture, conflicts, and religion. We are studying Thermal Energy in Science and the Microbiome will be next.

Our class was fortunate enough to attend the 5th Annual Ag Showcase at the Merrick County Fairgrounds again this year. This is a fantastic field trip put on by the Merrick County Extension and the UNL Extension, as well as the many generous donors that make it all possible and provide lunches for all that attend. This year we learned about pork production, popcorn, egg production and safety, harvest equipment and safety, water resources and irrigation, as well as the beef animal nutrition where the students all were able to put their hand inside a live heifer's stomach and feel what it ate, the walls of the stomach, and the heartbeat of the animal. It was an amazing, educational trip!

A Glimpse into Palmer Agricultural Education



Oct./Nov. 2022

The Palmer FFA Chapter is off to another great year! To say members have been busy is an understatement as August and September have been packed full with meetings, practices, and events. To start September, members gathered for their first chapter meeting to eat breakfast, assign committees, and discuss upcoming events. It was fun to see all of the new faces joining us this year! That same week, 48 students had the opportunity to compete in the St. Paul Range Judging contest. Students were tasked with naming 24 plants correctly, listing each plant's pedigree, judging 3 ecological sites, and completing a range map. The chapter had a lot of success and it was a great learning experience for all who participated! A week later, 45 students attended Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island to learn more about the various aspects of the agricultural industry. Focused quickly switched back to range judging as students prepared for the Area contest held in Weisert, NE. At Area, 28 students represented Palmer; of those 28, Gus Gusman, Taylor Kurz, Erik Samuelson, and Makenna Mottl all received green ribbons! As September comes to close, we look forward to what the rest of the year has in store for the chapter!

Ms. Woodruff

Agricultural Educator / FFA Advisor



Upcoming Dates:

October 3-18th: FFA Fruit Sales

October 4th: Chapter Meeting

October 12th: NC Land Judging

October 19th: State Land Judging

October 26-29th: National FFA
Convention

November 8th: Chapter Meeting

November 9th: District Livestock
Judging

Current Classroom Topics:

Advanced Shop: Woods Projects

Animal Science: The Dairy Industry

Plant Science: Land Judging

Intro to AFNR: FFA Basics & Land Judging

Ag Leadership/Agribusiness: Job Interview
Skills

Exploring AFNR: FFA Basics

Foundational Shop: Woods - Shelf Projects

Keep Moving Forward

The English classroom is experiencing lots of change this year. An English class and a reading class for junior high students are no longer offered; however, these two classes are combined and are now called Middle School Language Arts II and III. Mrs. Green and I team teach these two classes. The junior high students now have 100 minutes of English/Language Arts each day. It is a new adventure for us, and we are hoping to see positive results for both the students and the teachers.

This year new textbooks are also being implemented for English students in grades 6-11. The team selected myPerspectives by Savvas. The series uses a variety of learning strategies from whole-class learning to small groups to independent work. The text selections allow students to struggle with support, which is excellent to prepare our students for the next grade level, the ACT, and college reading. We are working as a team to determine which strategies are best to use and how the strategies are impacting student learning. We are having great conversations!

Because of the new textbooks, we now have new novels to include in our lessons. I look forward to the challenge of finding quality texts that interest students. Seventh-grade students are reading *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz-Ryan. We haven't read very much of this text, but several students are saying they really enjoy it. Ninth-grade students will read *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston. I look forward to learning students' reactions to both of these novels.

I am grateful for the ELA team and the selection of a new series. It was time to move forward since new standards were introduced in 2021. As Walt Disney said, "Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious...and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

-Mary Gregoski



MEET MR. MCCLELLAN



I may be a new face to some and an old face to others, as I am a former Palmer graduate from 2014. I am so excited to be back but as a teacher. This will be my 5th year of teaching as I have been teaching at Grand Island Senior High for the last 4 years.

I obtained my teaching degree from Hastings College in 2018, and my masters degree from Northwest Missouri State earlier this year in 2022.

MY FAMILY

- My wife: Alexa
- My two dogs: Comet & Rebel
- My two cats: Frank & Nova

UPCOMING EVENTS

- My wife and I are expecting to have a baby girl in November.

ROLES

- I am the 7-12 Math and Physics Teacher
- Assistant JH Football Coach
- Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
- Head JH Boys Track




FOR MORE INFORMATION

My email is:
hmcclellan@palmer.esu7.org

October Lunch Menu

2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | B: Pancakes L: Pizza, Glazed Bananas, Green Beans, Cookie | B: Cereal L: Chicken Fajita, Rice, Pink Applesauce, Corn | B: Cheese Omelet L: Mini Corn Dogs, Peaches, Baked Beans | B: Soft Pretzel L: Meatball Sub, Pineapple, Potato Triangle | B: Breakfast Pizza L: Salisbury Steak, Mandarin Oranges, Whipped Potatoes, Dinner Roll | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | B: Donut L: Fiestada, Pink Applesauce, Corn, Rice Krispie Bar | B: Waffles L: Hamburger, Pears, Green Beans, Cookie | B: Cereal L: Chicken & Noodle Casserole, Peaches, Peas, Breadsticks | B: Scrambled Eggs L: Meal in a Bowl, Strawberry Cup, Dinner Roll | B: Cinni Minis L: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Mandarin Oranges, Potato Triangles | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| | B: Fruit Turnover L: Pork Patty on a Bun, Pineapple, Baked Beans, Cheese Its | B: French Toast L: Chicken Fried Steak, Pears, Whipped Potatoes, Dinner Roll | B: Soft Pretzel L: Lasagna Casserole, Pink Applesauce, Green Beans, Garlic Bread | B: Cereal <i>6th Grade Meal</i> L: Pig in a Blanket, Mandarin Orange, Corn, Refrigerated Dessert | B: Breakfast Pizza L: Sandwich Bar, Grapes, Carrots, Cookie/Chips | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | NO SCHOOL | B: Pancakes L: BBQ Rib Sandwich, Mandarin Oranges, Smiley Fries | B: Cereal L: Walking Taco, Pink Applesauce, Corn, Brownie | B: Biscuits & Gravy L: Teriyaki Chicken/Rice, Pineapple, Broccoli, Fortune Cookie | B: Breakfast Sandwich L: Chicken Sandwich, Peaches, Scalloped Potatoes | |
| 30 | 31 |  | | | | |
| | B: Cereal L: Pizza Witch, Pink Applesauce, Green Beans, Ice Cream | | | | | |

November Lunch Menu

2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|---|--|---|--|---|-----------|
| | | 1 B: Cheese Omelet L: Mini Corndogs, Mandarin Oranges, Baked Beans | 2 B: French Toast L: Pizza, Strawberry Cup, Corn | 3 B: Donut L: Beef & Noodles on Whipped Potatoes, Pineapple, Dinner Roll | 4 B: Scrambled Eggs L: Hot Ham & Cheese Croissant, Peaches, Scalloped Potatoes | 5 |
| 6 | 7 B: Soft Pretzel L: Sloppy Joe, Pears, Fries | 8 B: Cinnamon Roll L: Cream Chicken on a Biscuit, Pink Applesauce, Peas | 9 B: Cereal L: Chicken Tenders, Mandarin Oranges, Green Beans, Apple Crisp | 10 B: Breakfast Burrito L: Crispito, Rice, Pineapple, Corn | 11 B: Breakfast Pizza L: Hamburger, Peaches, Baked Beans, Chips | 12 |
| 13 | 14 B: Donut L: Chicken Sandwich, Pineapple, Scalloped Potatoes, Rice Krispie Bar | 15 B: Pancakes L: Fiestada, Glazed Bananas, Corn, Ice Cream Cup | 16 B: Cheese Omelet L: Macaroni & Cheese w/ Ham, Pink Applesauce, Peas | 17 B: Cereal L: Turkey & Stuffing, Strawberry Cup, Whipped Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Pumpkin Dessert | 18 B: Fruit Turnover L: Chicken Alfredo, Peaches, Green Beans | 19 |
| 20 | 21 B: French Toast L: Meatball Sub, Pineapple, Potato Triangle | 22 B: Scrambled Eggs L: Chicken Fried Steak, Pears, Whipped Potatoes, Dinner Roll | 23 B: Cereal L: Pork Patty on a Bun, Pink Applesauce, Baked Beans | 24 Thanksgiving Day NO SCHOOL | 25 NO SCHOOL | 26 |
| 27 | 28 B: Soft Pretzel L: Spaghetti, Pears, Green Beans, Garlic Bread | 29 B: Cereal 5 th Grade Meal Super Nachos, Strawberry Cup, Smiley Fries, Refrigerated Dessert | 30 B: Waffles L: Chicken Fajita, Rice, Pink Applesauce, Corn |  | | |