

**PALMYRA**



**PANTHERS**

**School District OR-1**

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
  
**Local  
Postal Customer**

*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 contributed 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

February, 2015

District OR-1 Public Schools  
425 F Street  
Palmyra, NE 68418  
<http://www.districtor1.org>

"Tell everyone you know: 'My happiness depends on me, so you're off the hook.' And then demonstrate it. Be happy, no matter what." -Abraham-Hicks

## High-Way 3: Full Responsibility



Serving the Communities of  
Bennet, Palmyra, and Douglas.

### Special points of interest:

- Notes from the Superintendent
- Pink Panthers Reach Milestone
- Teammates News
- Kindergarten Roundup

## Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

As we are near the mid-point of the third quarter I would like to welcome our students back to the second semester of coursework for the 2014-2015 school year. We were blessed with good travel weather over the December break, and I sincerely hope that you had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Each New Year provides an opportunity to look to the future. I would like to remind our parents and students that we will once again be preparing for NeSA testing in the spring. It seems that we discuss assessments more and more in the world of education. Not just K-12, but also a wide array of assessments that our students will be taking when they enter the professional world and seek licensure in post-secondary professional employment. In District OR-1 our students are assessed annually using both NeSA (as the statewide assessment) and MAP or Measures of Academic Progress. While NeSA provides data in regards to specific Nebraska standards, the MAP assessment provides norm referenced information that allows staff and parents to track student progress and growth in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Language Usage. The tests are adaptive, meaning that if a student answers correctly the questions become more difficult. If a student answers incorrectly, though, the questions become easier. The assessment measures each child's academic growth from year to year. Each year some Nebraska schools are also chosen to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress or NAEP. This is often referred to as the "Nations Report Card". Established by Congress in 1969 the NAEP provides a measure of student progress on a national scale by drawing a sample of students in grades 4 and 8. The results are reliable, but they are not reported to



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...Continued on next page.

## Pink Panthers reach \$10,000



The Palmyra High School Volleyball and Football teams once again hosted their annual Pink Panther Week Oct. 23-28th to help raise funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The Panthers had raised \$7,775 for contribution since starting the event in 2010. The football game was played Thursday, Oct. 23rd, against Southern. The volleyball game was played the following Tuesday, Oct. 28th, a triangular against East Butler and Louisville. The teams sold Pink Panther T-shirts along with other various fund-raising activities. Both nights' fundraising activities included raffle and auction items, and concession stands with all proceeds going toward donation. A huge thank you to the many people who donated items for auction, raffle, money, and time working the events; with all your grateful donations the Pink Panthers were able to raise the \$2,225 we needed to bring our total donation mark to \$10,000.

individual parents or students or school districts. While we become more familiar all of the testing we do, including the ACT, COMPASS, NeSA and MAP tests, we continue to balance the important information regarding student progress with the ever-increasing distraction such testing imposes upon the normal instructional process. In short, we must be careful to avoid adding continuous layers of testing at the risk of losing valuable instructional time. As we approach NeSA testing I would like to include the following five tips for parents as provided by the Northwest Evaluation Association:

Association:

### Tips for Parents

Ways to help your child prepare for testing



1. Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students.
2. Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
3. Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
4. Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
5. Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's school about a suggested outside reading list.

### Legislation:

I recently had an opportunity to attend a legislative update sponsored by the Nebraska Association of School Boards. Rather than focusing on specific legislation, I would like to share a brief list of the priorities that impact OR-1 for the session as established by the Governor, Speaker, and Education Committee chair.



### Governor Ricketts:

1. Create jobs for our future both short and long term.
2. Lower taxes to help create jobs by addressing prop-

erty taxes increased with relief by 60 million to 400 million total dollars.

3. Lower agriculture land valuations to 65% from 75% noting that this will require a 30 million dollar increase for state aid or 10 million a year over a three year period.
4. Reduce unfunded mandates.
5. Reform the Department of Corrections and Health and Human Services.
6. Increase Career and Vocational Education curriculum and funding.

Speaker Hadley, emphasized that this session has 18 new senators in which 13/15 are new committee chairs all due to term limits. The legislature is becoming a partisan body and that is not good for Nebraska.

### Education Committee Chair Kate Sullivan:

The Education Committee has five new members. Priorities include promoting the visioning process and forming the new council for educational success, property tax relief, and new money in the State Aid formula for the 2016-2017 school year. There was also a discussion about property tax relief and formula changes including lowering the Local Effort Rate.

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As we enter the cold and flu season I would like to pass on the following information:

"CDC advice to fight the Flu"

Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people also may have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.



### Tips to Avoid the Spread of the flu:

- \* Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- \* If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- \* While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- \* Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- \* Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an [alcohol-based hand rub](#).

- \* Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- \* Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

For more information check out the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>

In closing, I would like to thank our staff for taking care of our students on every level. On behalf of all of us at District OR-1, I want to wish you the best for 2015.



### Science Happenings ...Mr. McChristian

In fifth grade science, an on-going topic of conversation throughout the school year has been *change*; as students have noticed so far, the spectra of change are wide and varied from the noticeable morphing of the bare-

ly visible butterfly egg to the gorgeous mature butterfly that emerges from its chrysalis to daily microscopic changes that our skin cells undergo to replace the body's epidermal layer.

As we approach the study of the *Rock Cycle*, students have been reading and watching videos about geological changes that have been shaping our planet for millions of years and continue to do so. Although we humans don't always see the tremendous changes, we do see and feel their effects: earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.

To demonstrate some of the examined geological processes that are being studied, fifth graders will be making a geode from an egg and some alum. The two day project will have students hollow out their eggs, cut them into two pieces, brush glue in the eggs' inside, sprinkle alum in them, and let them dry. The following day we'll place the prepared eggs into a bowl of hot water with added food coloring and stir in more alum into the mixture.

This project will help students better understand some of the geological terminology used in the textbook, such as *sedimentation* and *deposition*, and contrast those terms with *erosion* and *weathering*.

With bated breath, crossed fingers, and gentle handling, your child should bring home your normal egg that has changed into a geode egg by project's end.

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child."



March 2<sup>nd</sup> is NEA's Read Across America day. Bennet Elementary will be celebrating all week long. Read Across America is a reading program that asks every child in every community to celebrate the love of reading. District OR-1's Education Association is sponsoring activities and supplying birthday cake for Dr. Seuss's birthday in celebration of this event. Teachers at the elementary will be planning classroom/school-wide activities, along with contacting people from the community to read in their classrooms. For more information about Read Across America, visit [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross).

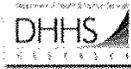
### FCCLA S.T.A.R Award Winners

Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) traveled to Elmwood-Murdock, January 21, for S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Action with Recognition) District 1 competition. The following students chose to compete in one of forty categories: Vanessa Knutson, Job Interviews; Janell Doran and Jessica Hicks, Life Event Planning; and Heather Beckman, Focus on Children. Janelle, Jessica and Heather received a Silver Award for the category. Vanessa received Top Silver in Job Interview. She will represent Palmyra at FCCLA State Leadership Conference at the Pinnacle Bank Arena in April.





Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK**  
**Advisory**



TO: Primary care providers, ERs, Pulmonary, Pharmacies, Labs, Infectious Disease, Student Health, Urgent Care, and Public Health

FROM: Joseph Acierno, M.D. J.D.                      Thomas J. Safranek, M.D.  
 Chief Medical Officer                              State Epidemiologist  
 State of Nebraska                                      402-471-2937 PHONE  
 402-471-8566 PHONE                                402-471-3601 FAX

RE: **U.S. Multi-state Measles Outbreak, December 2014-January 2015**

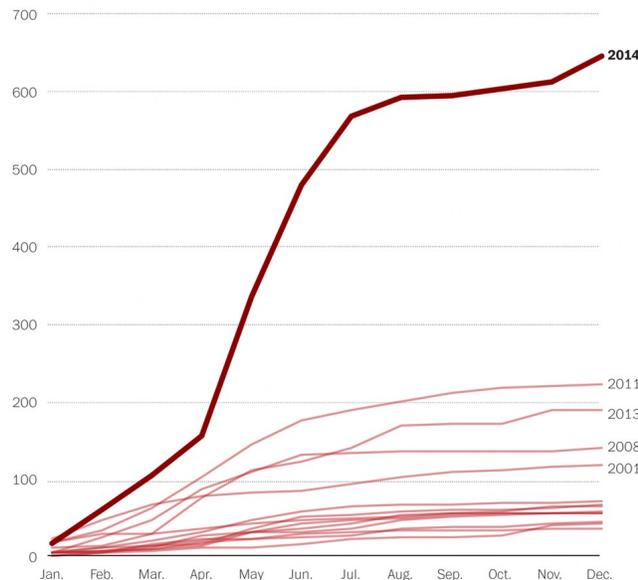
DATE: January 23, 2015

Nebraska is experiencing measles cases as a result of travelers with exposure to Disneyland-related measles cases. We urge all Nebraska medical providers to aggressively pursue age-appropriate MMR vaccination in their patients. **Individuals lacking appropriate measles vaccination become high-risk targets when measles begins circulating in our population. Any febrile illness** in non- or under-vaccinated individuals raises concerns about measles under these circumstances, and results in extraordinary and resource-intensive efforts on the part of patients, health care providers and public health staff. The measles vaccine has an excellent safety profile and a high degree of efficacy when administered according to public health guidelines. The Advisory Council on Immunization Practices has published (June 24, 2013) an excellent and definitive resource on the use of measles-containing vaccines:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6204a1.htm>

Measles resurgent

New U.S. measles cases, cumulative, by month of rash onset, 2001 to 2014



[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2015/01/22/the-devastating-impact-of-vaccine-deniers-in-one-measles-chart/?tid=trending\\_strip\\_2](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2015/01/22/the-devastating-impact-of-vaccine-deniers-in-one-measles-chart/?tid=trending_strip_2)

# 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PALMYRA FIRE/RESCUE SOUP SUPPER

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

4-8 pm

PALMYRA SENIOR CENTER



Chili Soup/ Chicken Soup

Cinnamon Rolls

And maybe some hotdogs

**Support your Community Volunteers**

**We Volunteer To Take Care of YOU 24/7**



Mark your  
Calendars to  
**Blast**

June 8<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00-12:00

Open to incoming  
Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
students.  
Registration \$50

### Kindergarten 2015-2016

District OR 1 is registering students who are eligible for Kindergarten during the 2015-2016 school year. Children who will be five years of age on or before July 31, 2015 are eligible to attend Kindergarten as stated by Nebraska state law.

Kindergarten Roundup will be held on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 AM. Parents are encouraged to attend an orientation meeting held at Bennet Elementary on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM.

If you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall, please call Bennet Elementary at 782.3535.



## DISTRICT OR-1

PALMYRA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL--BENNET ELEMENTARY  
402-780-5327 [www.districtor1.org](http://www.districtor1.org)

Robert Hanger  
Superintendent

David Bottrell  
Secondary Principal

Linde Walter  
Elementary Principal

Aaron Hoeft  
Activities Director

### District OR 1 Kindergarten Roundup

#### Pre-Registration Form 2015-2016

Child's Name (First Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female

Birth date (mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please return this form at your earliest convenience to:**

Bennet Elementary

50 Dogwood

Bennet , NE. 68317

402-782-3535

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

Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas

# TEAMMATES<sup>®</sup>

MENTORING PROGRAM

**Together We Transform Lives**

Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas Teammates Mentoring Program recognized their mentor/mentee matches at the Palmyra vs. Conestoga basketball games January 20<sup>th</sup>. January was Mentor Appreciation Month and a great time to say thank you to those individuals who are meeting with their mentees one hour each week during the school year. Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas TeamMates Mentoring Program currently has 14 mentor/mentee matches. Thanks to our mentors Tammy Beecham, Michael Chaffee, Andrew Conn, Mark Ekstrom, Tom Gillaspie, Becky Hall, Kristi Kempkes, Larry Kramer, Sharon Kramer, Mike Schell, Roger Smith, Sally Smith, Wil Tewes, Mary Wallen. We appreciate your commitment!

Along with meeting weekly we plan activities to do as a group. The next group outing is Burgers & Bowling February 7<sup>th</sup>. A bus will leave Palmyra High School at 3:00 on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, stopping in Bennet for pick-up at 3:15 and then head to Parkway Lanes for bowling and burgers!



The banquet for Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas TeamMates Mentoring Program is scheduled for Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. We will host the event at the Palmyra High School at 5:30 with a catered meal, recognition of our graduating senior and a speaker. Our speaker for the evening is Demoine Adams, former Husker defensive player. Demoine currently works for TeamMates in Nebraska encouraging students to continue their education after high school. Tickets for the event are \$12 and can be purchased from Michael Chaffee, local TeamMates Mentoring Program coordinator. He can be contacted at [chaffee.mic@districtor1.net](mailto:chaffee.mic@districtor1.net) or 402-780-5327. Everyone is invited to come for a fun evening of recognition and inspiration! Please support Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas TeamMates Mentoring Program by purchasing a ticket to our banquet. Thank you.

Technology is a great tool to use in the classroom. First grade received five iPads through a Nebraska Education Technology Association (NETA) grant last year. District OR1 matched that grant and we started the year with ten iPads to use in our classrooms. Since ten iPads don't go far with 48 students, first grade teachers signed up for two concessions stands at Palmyra High School to raise money to purchase more iPad minis.

Thank you to our awesome parents for donating buns, plates, spoons, chips and brownies. Thank you to Keith and Linda Schomerus for donating the Arby's meat. Special thanks to our students for making signs and working the concession stand. All your hard work paid off and we raised about \$1400! We should be able to purchase four more iPad minis with this money!



First Grade Technology Drive

## First Grade makes edible butterflies:

Recently first grade finished the third unit in their reading series. This series of stories covered the topic of change. The study included stories about children growing and changing from babies to school age; what it is like to move to a new home and new school; seasons changing; seeds changing into plants and the lifecycle of animals.

Our last story in the unit was I'm a Caterpillar. We made caterpillar plates that showed the four stages of the caterpillar's life. Our final activity was to make an edible butterfly. Thanks to our parents, we were able to adapt the recipe and have ingredients all students could enjoy and not worry about food allergies. The project was fun AND delicious!



## **Little Panthers Preschool Accepting Requests for 2015-16 School Year**

Little Panthers Preschool is currently in the process of accepting enrollment requests for the upcoming 2015-16 school year. Our classroom space is limited and we have been contacted by a number of prospective students/parents already. If you are interested in having your 3- 4 year old added the list of potential students for the 2015 – 2016 school year, please contact Mrs. Draeger at Little Panthers Preschool, phone number 402-782-3035.

Our enrollment procedure used to determine the preschool class list each spring is based on the following list of criteria in order of priority:

1. Students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), living in our school district will have first priority for acceptance. The State of Nebraska set up the preschool program to help those children with the highest needs.
2. Those students living in our school district who will turn four by July 31<sup>st</sup>, oldest to youngest by birth month/day/year.
3. Those students living in our school district who will turn three by July 31<sup>st</sup>, oldest to youngest by birth month/day/year.
4. If there are still open spots, non-district students will be chosen based on the criteria listed above.

We do wish we could enroll every child, being filled to capacity with a waiting list tells us there is certainly a need within the district for the youngest members of our student population. A quality early childhood program, following Rule 11 guidelines keeps the teacher/student ratio low and matches enrollment to the capacity of the facility. These requirements are a limiting factor in our enrollment numbers and have to be taken into account.

### **Miscellaneous Information**

Our program meets Monday – Thursday each week. There are two sessions each day. Session one meets from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Session two meets from 12:00 - 3:30 p.m. Selection for morning or afternoons session is based on a number of factors and we cannot guarantee which session your child will attend.

Price for a full month of Preschool is \$125. Short months are pro-rated by the week. Payment is expected by the first of each month. Meals and snacks are included as part of this fee.

Students must be potty trained! No pull-ups are allowed.

We offer limited transportation for students getting picked up or dropped off between the morning and afternoon sessions at designated childcare facilities in Bennet and at the High School in Palmyra. Parents are expected to provide all other transportation.

Please contact Brittany Draeger at the preschool (402-782-3035), [draeger.bri@districtor1.net](mailto:draeger.bri@districtor1.net), or Linde Walter, at the Elementary (402-782-3535), [walter.lin@districtor1.net](mailto:walter.lin@districtor1.net), immediately, if you would like to have your child placed on our list of prospective preschool students for the 2014-15 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact our preschool or elementary school at the phone numbers listed above.

## A Word About Speech Development

Many children go through a period of nonfluency (stuttering) during normal language development. However, this often leaves parents wondering if their child's stuttering will be persistent. Children between the ages of 1 ½ and 5 may experience times of normal nonfluency. These stuttering moments occur when the child is going through a developmental language burst. They focus more on the new vocabulary and concepts being learned, leaving their motor ability struggling to keep up. At this point, the child is concentrating more on what is being said rather than how they are saying it. This normal nonfluency may occur when they attempt to think of a word or phrase. According to The Stuttering Foundation normal nonfluencies may include:

- \* repeated syllables or words once or twice
- \* hesitations and the use of fillers such as 'uh', 'er', 'um'
- \* nonfluent moments tend to come and go, disappearing for several weeks and then returning as they go through different stages of language learning

There are some warning signs to be aware of if your child begins to stutter. According to the American Speech Language and Hearing Association, the following may be risk factors that could be associated with persistent stuttering:

- \* family history of stuttering
- \* stuttering that persists over 6 months
- \* presence of other speech or language disorders
- \* fears or concerns about stuttering by the family or child
- \* tension or struggle when the child speaks

If your child does start to experience some nonfluent moments it is important to allow them the time they need to finish their thought. It is important not to interrupt, try to finish their sentence, or suggest they 'slow down', 'relax', or 'take a deep breath'. These things only increase the child's sense of time pressure. Instead, be patient and give the child your undivided attention. Provide your child with an example of slow, relaxed speech when you respond to your child. Help all family members learn to take turns listening and talking without interrupting.

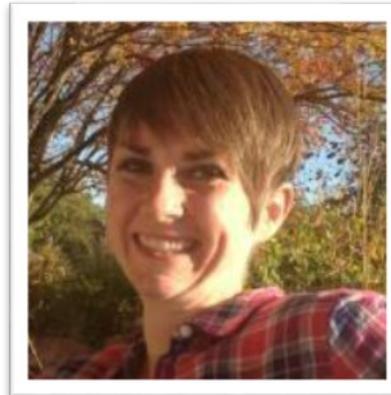
If you have concerns regarding your child's fluency please contact Jiree Wilson, Speech Language Pathologist.

### Resources:

- \*The Stuttering Foundation. (2015, January 30). If You Think Your Child is Stuttering. Retrieved from <http://www.stutteringhelp.org/if-you-think-your-child-stuttering>
- \*American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2015, January 30). Stuttering. Retrieved from <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/stuttering/>

We have begun a partnership with Doane College in Crete toward providing mental health services for our student body. Initially, we will be providing this service through Ms. Kate Venter all day Friday at Palmyra Jr./Sr. High School. As the case load increases Ms. Venter will also be available all day on Wednesday. We are exploring how we might include Bennet Elementary in this internship program.

Kate Venter is a Practicum student from Doane College in Lincoln working on her Master of Arts in Counseling degree. She is a graduate of Pius X High School and attended the University of Nebraska - Lincoln where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in music. Kate was a member of the Staplehurst Livestock 4-H club for seven years, where she showed cattle, sheep, and hogs as well as competing in archery and baking. She is looking forward to serving the Palmyra school system as a Practicum counselor.



Students may seek out a counselor for a variety of reasons: anxiety, relationship issues, grief, lack of self-confidence, conflict resolution, family struggles, etc. Talking things out with a trained professional is an effective way of getting direction, finding hope and experiencing peace. It also is known to increase academic improvement as students become more encouraged and self-directed.

To access the counseling service provided by Ms. Venter, a referral or request from parents, teachers, or the student will need to be made through Mr. Chaffee. A *Student Informed Consent* form is then sent home to the parents or guardian. Once that is signed and returned, an appointment is then made with Ms. Venter. She will be available all school day on Friday and will meet with students in the counseling office. Ms. Venter is supervised by Dr. Donald Belau, PhD, Dean of Graduate Studies in Counseling at Doane.

For further questions please contact Mr. Chaffee.

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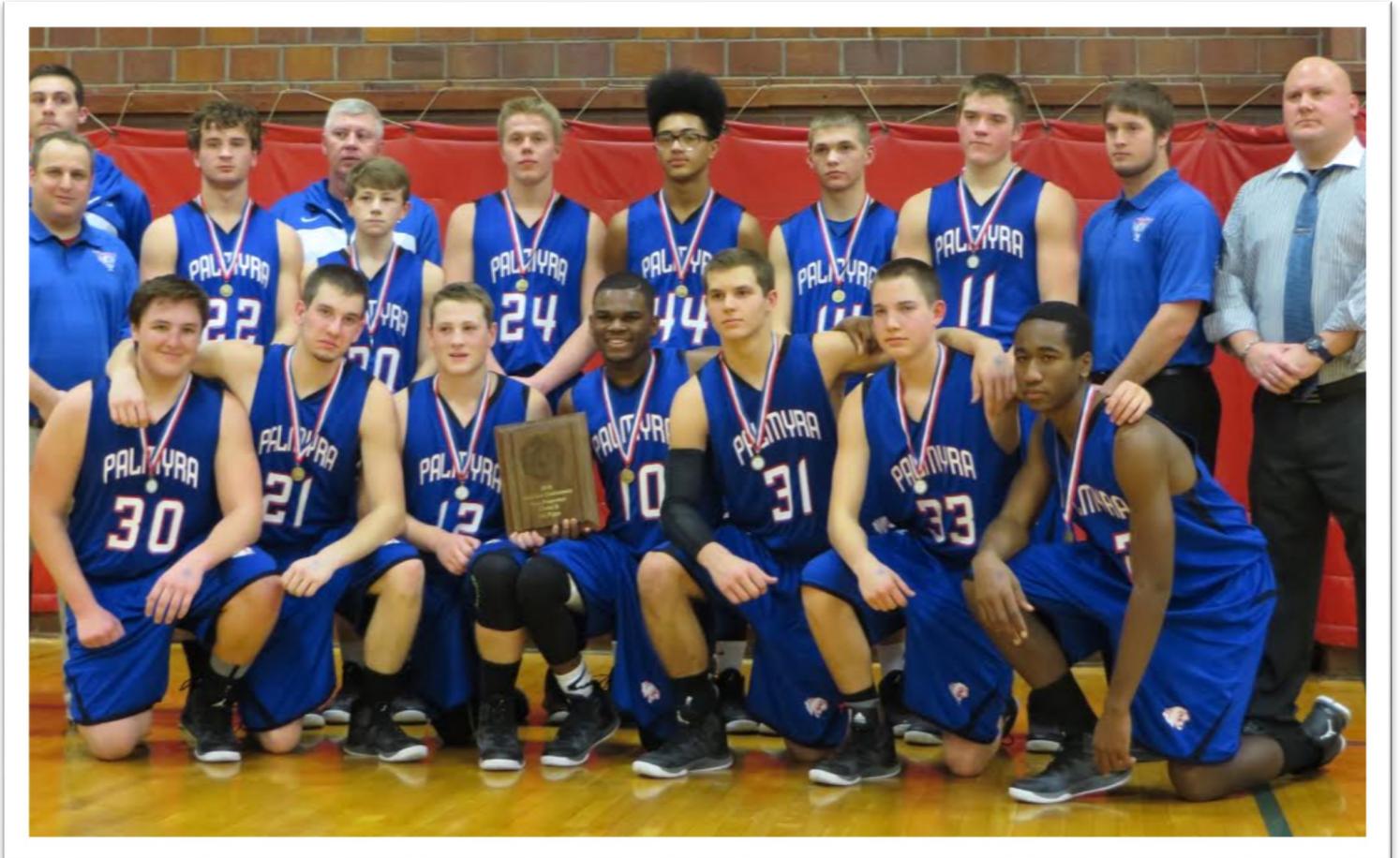
**Students with Mrs. Goodrich** took the opportunity to celebrate "100 Days of School" across the curriculum on January 23rd. Using their new division skills, third graders calculated how many links each student would have to make in order to build a paper chain to 100. The students used their writing skills to create 100 wishes which they shared with their classmates. Here is a sample of one student's writing:

I wish I had 100 birds,  
I wish I had 100 horses,  
I wish I had 100 turtles,  
But I'd never want 100 mice!!!

The day was an enjoyable change of pace!

## Palmyra Boys Basketball Enjoying 2015

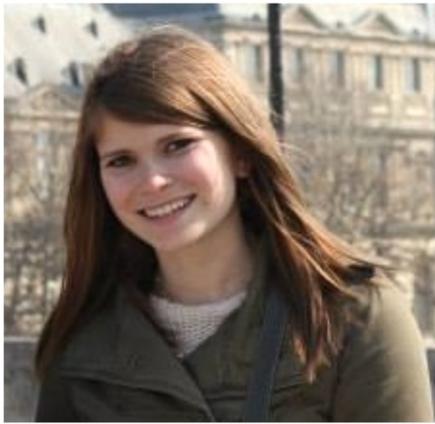
As of the newsletter submission deadline, the Panthers remain undefeated in 2015 – going 9-0 in the month of January, which brings their overall record to 12-5 on the season. Included in their success has been a three game championship run through the MUDECAS B Tournament, a 40 point performance by Marquis Buchanan against East Butler, as well as beating four Class C1 schools in the month of January. Four Panthers were named to the MUDECAS All-Tournament Team, these individuals were: Marquis Buchanan (3<sup>rd</sup> leading scorer in the tournament), Cole Becker, Riley Reynoldson, and Ryan Juilfs.



## FFA Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive on  
March 11 from 1:00-6:00 p.m.  
at Palmyra High School.

Please call 402-780-5327 to reserve  
your spot to save a life.



### **Hola, soy Emily Smallcomb.**

I am a senior Spanish Secondary Education major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am from Broken Bow, NE and I enjoy the small school atmosphere. This is why I am so excited to spend my semester in Palmyra. I spent a semester abroad studying in Bilbao, Spain at the Universidad de Deusto where I familiarized myself with Spanish and Basque culture. I have enjoyed taking my teaching methods courses and look forward to putting the research into practice. I have done practicums at Lincoln East High School and Scott Middle School and worked with a wide variety of students. After graduation, I hope to continue teaching in a rural community.

I'm still not positive how I ended up falling into the teaching profession, but I couldn't imagine my life any other way. I guess I have my high school Spanish teacher to thank for sharing her passion with me and showing me what a caring teacher looked like. She prepared me with the necessary tools to use my new language in college and in the real world. I hope someday to have half the impact on my students' lives as she had on mine.

As a student, I don't have much time for hobbies. I work part-time and obsess over fantasy football. My real passion in life is spending time with my two yorkies, Zsa Zsa and Rocco. They unfortunately live in Broken Bow with my parents, but they come to visit me as often as possible so we can take them shopping for new clothes.



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Hello everyone! My name is **Mr. Eric Williams**, and I am student teaching this spring at Palmyra with both Mr. Pollock and Mrs. Buescher! I am attending the University of Nebraska-Kearney through their online Transitional Certification Program and will graduate in May. I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln way back in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in English. After graduation, I was offered and accepted a job as an Assistant Golf Professional, and have been in that field ever since. I decided to leave the golf business and pursue a career as an English teacher due to my love for literature. I've heard it said that teachers teach middle school because they love the students, they teach high school because they love the material, and they teach college because they love their opinions on the material. I certainly love the material, and I look forward to opening the minds of students here at Palmyra to the wonderful world of literature. For fun, I like to run, I've finished the Lincoln half marathon the past two years, watch movies with my family, and obsess about the Huskers and the Atlanta Braves. I'm excited to be here at Palmyra and I feel blessed to teach such a great group of kids!

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### **Piñata Winners 20014-2015**

#### **The Results are in!**

The holiday season may be over, but the library and Spanish room are still reaping the benefits of the Spanish/Latin Culture. Each year, once semester projects and work has been completed in the Spanish classroom in December, students dive into culture, crafting and constructing awesome piñatas. This years work was certainly creative. Students spend one day on paper mache, thanks to the art room. They then build on to the basic shape and let their imaginations go wild. The third step is applying the tissue paper and Olé! Finished project done and ready to be on display. This year, like all others, staff takes the time to visit the library and vote for the best three pinatas. Winner are rewarded with prizes based on staff votes. Many of these piñatas will be taken home and cherished, while others will meet their demise in the spring for a "Cinco de Mayo" piñata party. The holiday season may be over, but the library and Spanish room are still reaping the benefits of the Spanish/Latin Culture. Each year, once semester projects and work has been completed in the Spanish classroom in December, students dive into culture, crafting and constructing awesome piñatas. This years work was certainly creative. Students spend one day on paper mache, thanks to the art room. They then build on to the basic shape and let their imaginations go wild. The third step is applying the tissue paper and Olé! Finished project done and ready to be on display. This year, like all others, staff takes the time to visit the library and vote for the best three pinatas. Winner are rewarded with prizes based on staff votes. Many of these piñatas will be taken home and cherished, while others will meet their demise in the spring for a "Cinco de Mayo" piñata party.

2014-15  
Piñata  
Winners



*¡Felicidades!  
Congratulations!*

# **LET THE BALLS FLY!!!!!!!**

## **Palmyra Post Prom Annual Dodge Ball Tourney**

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Palmyra High School Gym**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Doors open at 12:00**

**Come Hungry and ready for food and fun!**

**PRIZE for the BEST Team Costume!**

**\$1.00 admission**

**EARLY Registration: \$60 per team before February 29th**

**After: \$70 per team**

**Deadline: March 20th**

**Registrations can be left in school office or**

**Mailed to: Calfee's**

**12701 Roca Rd.**

**Bennet, NE. 68317**

**Jalml 402.432.6672 or Todd 402.610.1723**

**2 Divisions!**

Download forms at the District OR1 Website:

<http://www.districtor1.org>

