

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 Twitter: @OR1_Panthers

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District OR-1 Newsletter
District OR-1 Public Schools
November, 2017

*****ECRWSS*****

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Postal Customer**

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

Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

Since our beginning in December of 1998 -

\$567,000 – Contributions - you have contributed to The Foundation For Knowledge.

\$192,650 – Scholarships – 165 students from your community have been assisted with their post-secondary educations.

\$74,550 – 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.

\$12,600 – School Support – Assisting school programs, and support for students representing District OR-1.

\$326,000 – 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, 2017

- Follow District OR1 at www.districtor1.org
- Download the app for iOS and Android
- Follow student progress on PowerSchool
- Follow District OR1 on Twitter @OR1_Panthers
- Make sure your school has your e-mail and phone
- Follow official weather at www.1011now.com
- Superintendent Notes
- Pink Week
- General Fund at Historic Low
- Ag Science receives \$10,000 Monsanto Grant
- Tips for a successful year
- X-Country/Golf go to State

Spread Kindness EVERYDAY

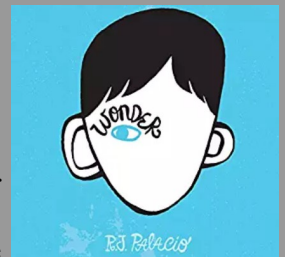
Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

The start of the 2017-2018 school year has progressed quickly with the first quarter of academic work, parent/teacher conferences and fall activities completed. The second academic quarter is now well under way. It is the time of year that I would like to thank all of our parents for your hard work and diligence in helping us educate our students. Your efforts and support make our work as educators rewarding both personally and professionally. 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/sports, the 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.



Moving forward with the facilities process has been a challenging and rewarding experience for the District OR-1 Board of Education, staff and student body. The Palmyra High School construction and renovation has moved along at a very fast pace with a majority of the renovation of existing spaces taking place over the course of the summer. Much of that work took place in areas not readily visible to the average observer. This process includes major upgrades to infrastructure including electrical, plumbing, technology wiring, intercom and life safety upgrades including a new fire alarm panel, smoke and fire detectors. During the first quar-

Mrs. Malone's fifth grade class started off the year by reading the book, Wonder, by R.J. Palacio that is soon to be released as a major motion picture. The book is about a fifth grader born with facial deformities, and he



has been home schooled all his life, until now. Sadly he has some major challenges to face due to the cruelty of his peers. The story teaches kindness, patience, love, acceptance, compassion, how to overcome adversities, and so much more! We all know a person like the main character in this book and they need us to stand up for them and show them kindness!

As a result of reading this book, we have become a certified #choosekind classroom and strive to spread kindness every day. A couple weeks ago we started spreading kindness by delivering notes to students in every grade. Each Wednesday throughout the year each student in Mrs. Malone's classroom will get to hand deliver notes to others. Our goal is to give at least one to every student in the school, including administration and teachers!

The note has something nice to say about that person and states to "spread kindness today"! A sort of "pass it on" mentality because making the world a kinder place starts with us! We also have a Twitter account if you're interested in following what other fun things we do throughout the school year. Visit us at: @mrsmalone050716

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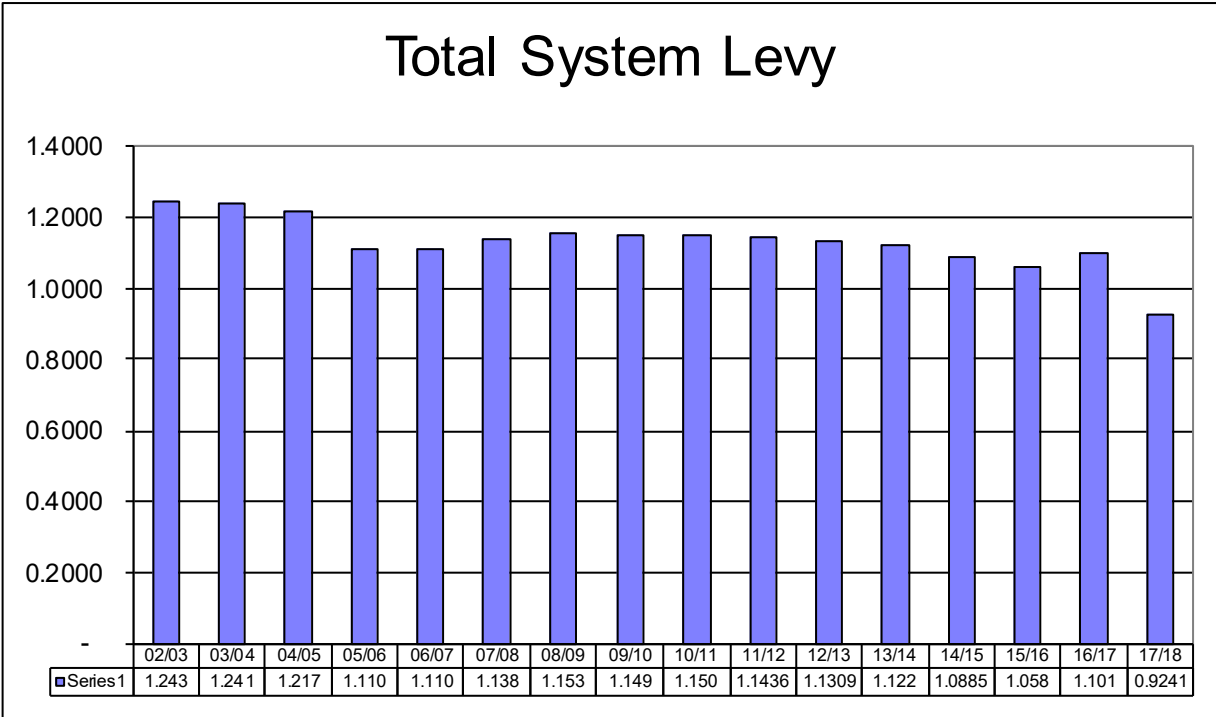
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ter of the school year work continues in order to complete installation of the flooring specifically the resilient tile in hallways and commons areas. Due to the manufactures requirements for tile installation that work will need to be started during a break to allow the flooring to cure properly prior to normal traffic. Other completed or nearly completed renovations include new ceiling tile in areas of new construction, interior paint and restroom finishes, and the installation of at least a portion of the casework including repurposing a large percentage of casework from the old building. New construction at Bennet is nearly complete with the metal work at the building entrance being a final touch added to both the Pre-K and Elementary entrance areas. I applaud our staff in both Bennet and Palmyra for their patience and hard work without which none of this would be logistically possible. I wish to thank our Board and personnel from Clark Enersen and Owner’s Representative Rayme Fauss for their many hours of work in order to make all of this possible. The next phase taking place at Palmyra High School includes the placement of precast walls for the new gym, stage, music room, green room and computer lab. The current schedule calls for those areas to be enclosed in very early December. Thanks to all of our patrons for your continued support and patience during the construction phase of the project.

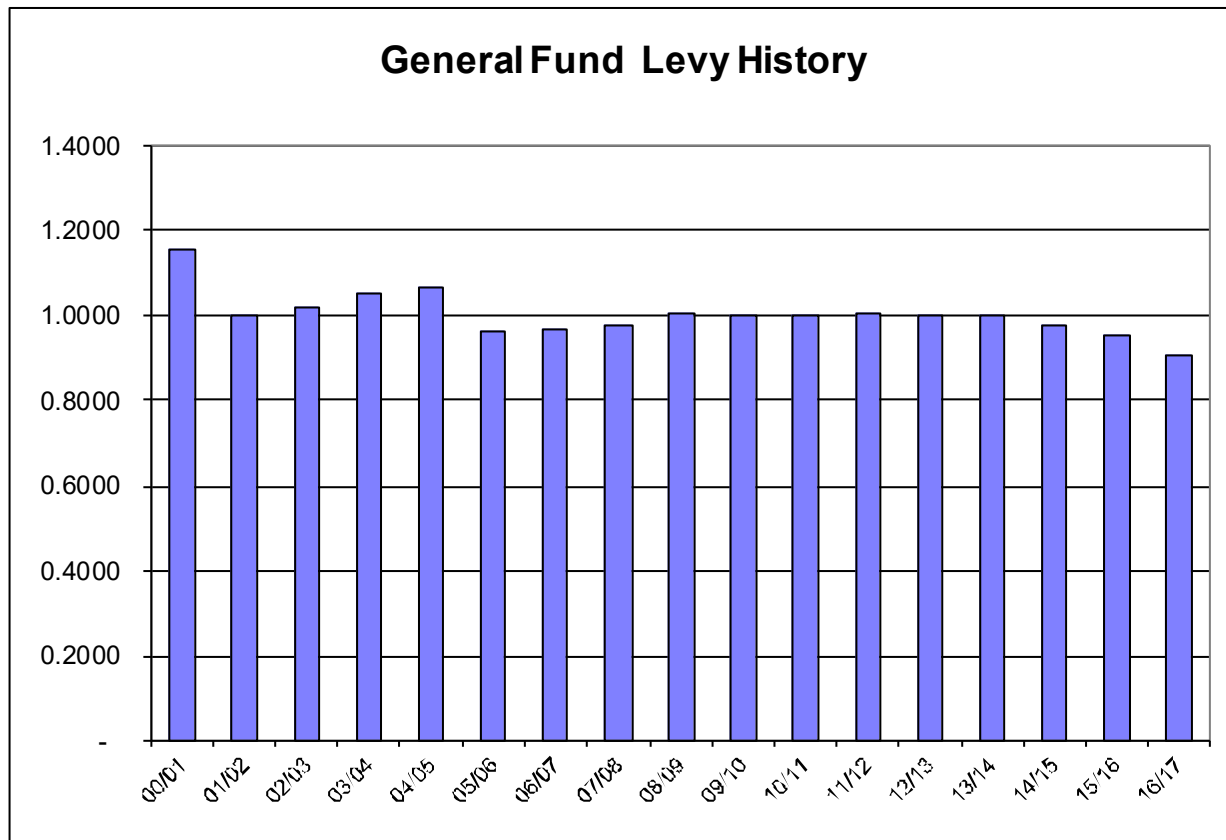
The Board of Education has set the next strategic plan for District OR-1 in motion by authorizing that work to begin under the guidance of Dr. Larry Dlugosh. In September, Dr. Dlugosh met with focus groups representing OR-1 parents, employees, students and business leaders. Those meetings were followed by two days of detailed planning sessions with an advisory group of 28 additional individuals whose goal was to augment information gathered from the focus groups and develop a series of goals to present to the Board of Education. The end goal being a blueprint designed to meet the challenges of what lies ahead during the next five years. The group worked diligently to envision where we want to be, and decide how to get there. District OR-1 Public Schools is grateful to our participants for helping us to engage in a collaborative strategic planning process that will result in a long-term plan to provide a bright future for our students.

Fiscal 2017-2018 Budget

At the September meeting the Board approved the budget for all funds for the current fiscal year. The current budget has a General Fund Levy set at 0.746, the Building Fund Levy at 0.050. The Bond Fund Levy is currently set at 0.127. This represents a decrease of 0.177 from the 2016-2017 fiscal year with the decrease in direct correlation to the increase in State Aid. The Chart below shows the total levy history for District OR-1 from 2002 to date. As reflected in the chart the decrease in the total levy shows a total system levy less than in preceding years.



The chart below shows the trend of a reduction in the General Fund levy currently set at a historic low.



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 20th in spending in the array of twenty schools and has consistently remained in the bottom tier for the past seven years. As a part of the General Fund budget the district will receive \$1,269,640.00 in State Aid calculated including prior year data. This represents an increase of \$1,106,150 from the amount received during fiscal 2016. The large increase is the result of the district receiving the “New School Adjustment” to assist with the overall cost of construction of new facilities and educational space as well as continued student growth. This also means that District OR-1 has moved to needs based budget calculations which will open the possibility of needs stabilization in the future. I would like to thank our Board members past and present who through careful preparation and foresight planned the correct timing for the issuance of bonds, passage of budgets and the facilities construction process. The equalization formula remains based on needs vs. resources pending any potential changes in the upcoming legislative session. This year the district’s valuation increased approximately 5.1%. Additional grant funds available to the district include but are not limited to \$26,400 Title I, \$8,000 Title IIA, \$45,722 Rural Education Achievement Program. The district will also receive approximately \$110,886 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.

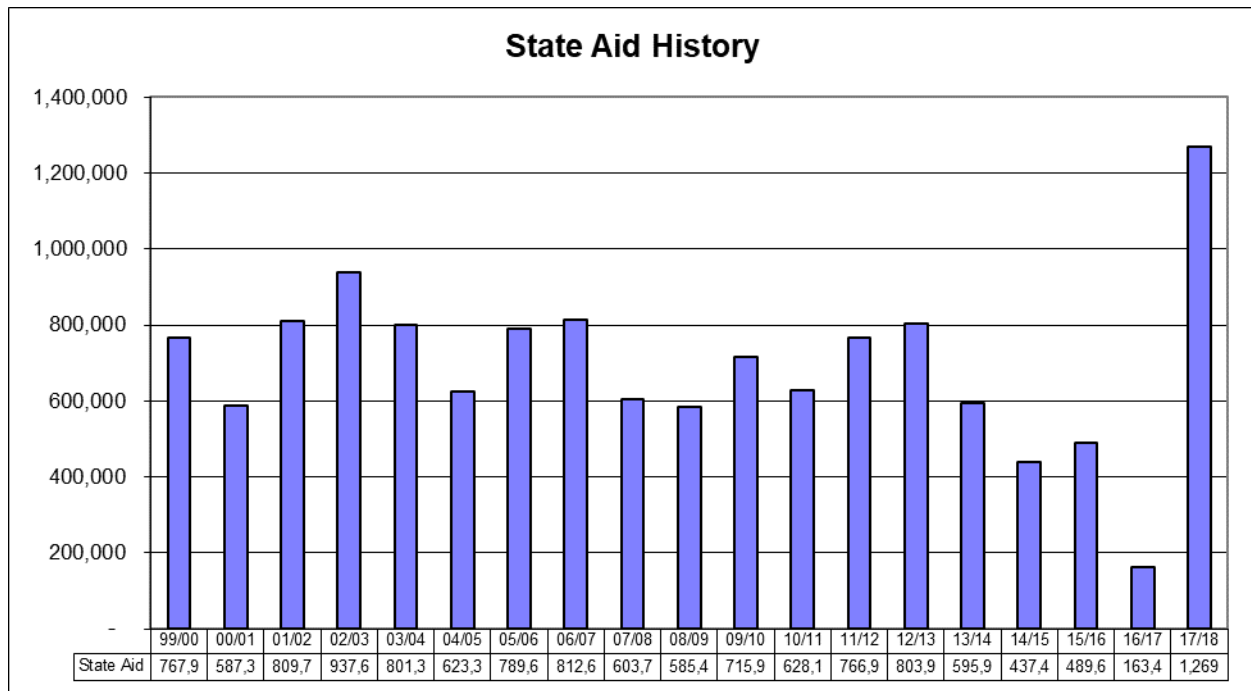
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Come hear our fine Panther musicians by checking out one of our performances:

- *November 18th – Band performs at the Nebraska Music Educators Conference – 10:30 am @ Kimball Hall on UNL campus. Free to the public.
- *November 28th – Elementary Winter Concert @ PHS. K-3rd at 6:30 pm; 4-6th at 7:45 pm
- *December 4th – Jr/Sr High Winter Concert @PHS – 7:00 pm

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



Nebraska Education Profile Information:

Access is now open to the Nebraska Education Profile 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 state and federal guidelines. I encourage you to review the information available for our district so that you are familiar with the excellent work in which we are engaged. Information is available at <http://nep.education.ne.gov>.

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.

School Closing Due to 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 canceled 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 School District 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, mobile app and Twitter feed as quickly 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 the following purposes:

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



On Friday November 10th, the Palmyra High School Student Council would like to invite our former and current military members for breakfast, an honorary assembly, and a guest speaker at Palmyra High School. Breakfast will take place in the cafeteria at 8:15 am, and the assembly will take place in the gym at 9:00 am. Thank you to all the men and women for their service.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jon Davenport, Student Council Sponsor, with any questions or concerns. [\(402\) 780-5327](tel:4027805327), davenport.jon@districtor1.net

Veteran's Day Luncheon

Bennet Elementary would like to invite Veterans of *District OR 1* families to join us for lunch on Friday, November 10th at 11:15. Lunch will be served at 11:30 with special music by the Bennet Singers at 11:15 AM. Please share this information with family and community members and call the Bennet Elementary office at 402-782-3535 to reserve a lunch.



The Palmyra volleyball team hosted "Pink Week" October 2-6. All proceeds raised are donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Pink out games were held for both volleyball and football matches during the week. Pink t-shirt sales and a silent auction helped raise funds for donation. This year \$1,000 was donated to the foundation. The pink week fundraiser was started in 2010, and to date PHS has donated around \$12,200. Thanks to everyone who helped make this week a success!

A special thank you to the following people who donated items for the silent auction; Tara Dillon, Diane Waltke, Tonia Smith, Kristi Steward, Jodi Malotky, Karen Stoner, Sara Allen, Gale Poe, Kent & Amanda Malone, PHS Volleyball Team.

NOMINATIONS FROM LOCAL FARMERS HELP DISTRICT OR 1 SCHOOLS WIN AG SCIENCE \$10,000 GRANT

District OR 1 School Ag Science program is just one of the many success stories of the Grow Rural Education program.

To qualify for a Grow Rural Education grant, school districts had to be nominated by farmers in eligible counties to compete for a merit-based grant of either \$10,000 or \$25,000. Nominated school districts then submitted a grant application describing their STEM-focused project. The program's Farmer Advisory Council, consisting of approximately 30 farmer leaders from across the country with an interest in agriculture and education. It then reviewed the finalist applications and selected the winning school districts, including District OR 1 Ag Science Program. "The America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program works with farmers to help make their local communities a better place by preparing their students for successful careers," said Al Mitchell, Monsanto Fund president. "The schools we've worked with tell us that the grants they receive through the Grow Rural Education program have real results. In many cases, students seem more excited and interested in what they're learning and the programs funded by these grants have resulted in higher student engagement in STEM."



- District OR 1 Schools will use the Grow Rural Education grant to develop Palmyra Agriculture Leading to Science and Technology program. The program will upgrade the Ag science curriculum, equipment and skills to meet Agriscience Standards. The program will also purchase five Tower Garden structures to be shared in the Ag Science room, Biology room and the Elementary School. Ag science students will develop curriculum and lesson plans to Mentor elementary students and community about growing their own food and healthy nutrition lifestyle choices.

- Since the Grow Rural Education program began in 2011, the program has awarded more than \$14 million in grants to rural public school districts.

- Thanks to the local farmers who nominated District OR1 for the grant application.

- #GrowRuralEd



Join Mr. Malone, PHS students, and your neighbors to save a life. The District OR1 FFA will sponsor a **blood drive** to be held at PHS on November 9th from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Contact Mr. Malone to set up your reserved time at Malone.ken@districtor1.net. Walk-ins are also welcome.

PHS Students Earn Biliteracy Certificates. Mrs. Gill

The Nebraska International Language Association is pleased to announce that the following students have met the requirements for attaining the Seal of Biliteracy. This honor is awarded to students who demonstrate proficiency in both English and a second language on a standardized assessment in the areas of speaking, reading, and writing. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award recognized in 26 States throughout the United States. This is the inaugural year of the award in the State of Nebraska.

Congratulations to the following Palmyra High School students and recent graduates: * Shalin Benes * Sarahi Barajas * Jacob Furtwangler * Jessie Grieser * Marcus Kinney * Miguel Barajas * Carly Poskochil * Sarma Rutmanis * Olivia Versaw * Rebeckah Taylor * Kris Phillips * Abbi Steiner * Wesley Steward * Madisen Jones

We are proud to recognize their achievements, wishing them much success as they use their language skills.

Industrial Tech Benefits from Cheever Donation. Mr. Gabriel

The Industrial Tech and FFA areas would like to take the time to thank the Cheever Construction Company in their efforts in gathering up scrap pieces of metal in order for the students to use for practice welding. This becomes a great deal of help and relief for students and instructors in the preparation time for getting started and progressing in a fashion that will allow the student to get the most out of their time working on developing good welding skills.

Cross Country—By Coach Michael Trausch

Highlights of the XC season:

Varsity: We had a lot of firsts this year. This was the first time I had a 1st place varsity winner, and that honor goes to Sarah Davis-Kovarik, and in the same race, Sarah Vorderstrasse placed 2nd. Zach Hartwick became the first boy under my leadership to qualify for state. Sarah Vorderstrasse became the first ever girl or boy Palmyra Cross Country runner to qualify for state 3 times. For the first time, the PHS cross country team sent more than 2 runners as a non-team: 9th- Liz Harder, 11th-Sarah Vorderstrasse, and 11th-Zach Hartwick.

Sarah Davis-Kovarik had a strong start to the season. Liz Harder had a strong finish to the season by medaling in the District Race with a Personal Record. Both Abby Lewis and Sarah Vorderstrasse were very consistent throughout the season. Abby Lewis was able to drop almost 5 minutes off her times from last year. Sarah V has medaled in 23 straight regular season meets and 26 out of 27 meets.

Zach Hartwick medaled in all but one race this year. The race he didn't medal, he still ran despite being sick. Kris Phillips was a valuable leader for the team. Sam Fitzpatrick joined the team this year and I saw a lot of improvement from him. Danny Versaw completed a successful 2nd year of cross country, and really had a strong finish to the season. Chris Bonifont has always kept things light - every team needs a kid like that. Isaac Thomas had his best race of the season at Districts. I saw a lot of improvement from Terry Versaw throughout the season.

Jr high: 8th grader Nima Faunce earned her first ever top 10 finish at the Milford Meet. 7th grader Drew Moyer had a great year. He medaled twice but finished every meet as one of the top 7th graders in each race. Oscar Thomas was able to drop his time from his first meet to his last by over 2 minutes. Saryah Freeman had a slow start to the season but really finished strong.

Most improved runner-Sr. Abby Lewis. It was a close vote for most improved. Both Danny Versaw and Abby Lewis improved a lot. Abby was able to drop her time from last year to this year by almost 5 minutes. She showed that working hard during the summer will pay off!

Most valuable varsity girl-Jr. Sarah Vorderstrasse. Sarah has been an invaluable leader and a dedicated teammate. She is always relaxed, but always has that competitive side.

Most valuable varsity boy- Jr. Zach Harwick. He set the school record for the fastest time. Zach is the hardest worker I've ever been around.

Varsity Letter Winners: Kris Phillips, Zach Hartwick, Sam Fitzpatrick, Sarah Vorderstrasse, Sarah Davis-Kovarik, Liz Harder, and Abby Lewis.



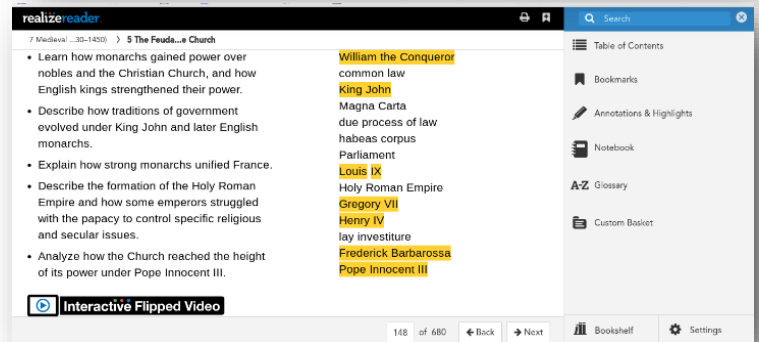
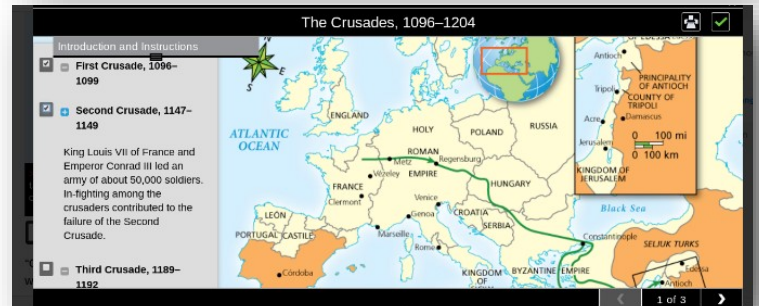
The Digital Textbook Finds its Way into PHS

The digital revolution continues to surround us. Every day we all make choices of how we interact within our digital world. Some of us are very adept at applying digital tools in our everyday lives, others wish we had never been interrupted by the digital age. Nevertheless, it is here, and will likely continue to grow. This does not replace “hard copies” by any means, this simply offers us an additional resource and means of conducting our business.

In the case of school and education, we here at Palmyra High School, have been privileged to engage in one-to-one digital usage via Chromebooks. To help students navigate the discipline of world history through technology, I was able to purchase a site license from Pearson (our affiliated textbook company) to replace our dated physical textbooks.

The new digital copies of world history text allow our students to interact with the text as opposed to just reading it. They can unclutter historical maps by clicking on areas for single display of movement or settlement. Other interactions allow the students to listen to other teachers explain an overview of each chapter and ask them an *essential question* for that particular chapter. Key terms and vocabulary are a click away. Students can click on the term to show the text immediately or type it in a digital glossary. Assignments can be completed and submitted directly in the text. For students that may struggle with reading or reading comprehension, the digital textbook can read the text aloud to them. (This is a strategy that a quality, multitasking student could effectively use as well.) The World History digital text is also an effective way for students to simply lighten the load of their backpacks.

Books, movies, music, news, and even television shows are wrapped up in the digital revolution. It has become clear that the digital age dominates the world around us for its light, quick, and easy access. No more are the days of the five pound textbook, boom-box, Walk-man, or VHS player. Digitized media is in! It is part of our responsibility as teachers of this generation to embrace this new revolution and grow with it. The sophomores and I have offered our patience to each other as we continue to learn from this new medium and apply it in education. Ask your sophomore student to see what this new tool can do. By, Mark Kotik



Mikayla Roeder qualified for the Girls State Golf Tournament this year and was a 2 time State Tournament qualifier in her high school career. Mikayla finished 8th in her district to qualify. At State held in North Platte at Lake Maloney Golf Course, Mikayla shot a 105 on day one. Cold and windy conditions were a factor on day one and contributed to her higher than average round. On day two she was able to rebound and fired a personal best 96. That secured a finish of 39th out of 97 golfers and about 15 places higher than her previous year State Tournament appearance. Mikayla plans to attend Hastings College next year as well as compete on the golf team.



Seventy-four children attended cheer camp this year. With the impending weather we had to change things up a little, but still had great attendance. The kids were bused from Bennet and greeted by the the PHS Cheerleaders. They were then served a snack before getting started. Once they had snack we all went to the gym to watch the Cheerleaders perform the cheers they were going to learn. Groups were put together and the fun began. After working on their cheers for a bit, everyone went to the lunch room and worked on signs for the football team. At halftime of the football game, the weather was good enough for everyone to be able to go outside and cheer on the team as they came into the locker room. There was a chant of "Go Big Blue" and high-fives from some of the players.

More cheer time and games came next until time for hot dogs and chips. The cheer moms help serve dinner. Parents began to arrive and filled the bleachers for the performance. Everyone looked great in their cheer camp shirts and cheered loud and proud. The PHS Cheerleaders are Wesley Steward, Mikayla Roeder, Anna Whyman, Madi Jones, Macy Reynoldson, Marissa Waltke, Reagan Bowlin, Alexa Blackman and Clara Whyman. They were assisted by Megan Vaughn and Sam Fitzpatrick.



Follow District OR1 news and activities by downloading our iOS or Android app, follow us on twitter @ OR1_Panthers, or at www.districtor1.org. Please notify the office if you get a new phone number (or delete one) to ensure we get you called in case of weather or emergency. Finally, keep up with the news by looking for a newsletter in your mailbox four times a year.

The SENCAP Opportunity at Palmyra High School

In order to compete for jobs in today's world, students will need to be both college and career ready. The Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership (SENCAP) is an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors (sophomores can participate if approved by a school administrator and Southeast Community College) to take dual credit classes which earn both high school and college credit.

Through a unique partnership and collaboration with Southeast Community College, SENCAP works with area school districts, health care providers, business, and industry to provide career exploration activities and real-world learning experiences.

SENCAP academies are geared to prepare students for high-wage, high-skill, and high-growth occupational areas. Academies combine rigorous classes with relevant experiences, helping students become ready for a career.

In SENCAP, students explore a career field and get a first-hand look at what goes on in the workplace by taking field trips, job shadowing, listening to speakers, conducting research on careers of their interest, and participating in other career exploration activities, many in their own communities.



Kyra Palm and Sarah Vorderstrasse meet with other SENCAP students to explore the Criminal Justice program at SCC.

Presently SENCAP offers ten academies: Agriculture, Business, Computer Information Technology, Construction, Criminal Justice/Emergency Services, Early Childhood Education, Education, Health Sciences, Manufacturing-Energy, and Manufacturing-Welding. Many of the courses are offered online and in some cases face-to-face. Students are placed in a study hall during the school day to complete online courses.

To assist with the cost of Career Academy, SCC covers half of the tuition cost for every student participating and District OR 1 covers the cost of textbooks. The out of pocket expense for students is about \$150.00 per course, a significant savings in college tuition! All courses at SENCAP transfer to SCC, while most transfer to other Nebraska colleges and universities

Registration for SENCAP takes place two times a year, November and April, and is coordinated by the school counselor.

For those who are struggling to answer the question, "What am I going to do when I finish high school?" the Career Academy offers opportunities and answers while gaining valuable college credit.

Contact Mr. Chaffee at Chaffee.Mic@districtor1.net if you are interested or have questions. For more information on SENCAP go to www.southeast.edu/SENCAP

After spending three weeks reading a novel, participating in group discussions, answering questions in a study guide, learning vocabulary, and taking quizzes and tests, our sixth graders were ready for a short break. On Friday, October 13, we skipped a reading lesson and had a little fun. All 38 sixth graders and both teachers folded papers, assembled the pieces to create an octagon, and with great patience, which included refolding and lots of pressing of edges, were able to transform each octagon into a star. The short break was an enjoyable experience and helped ready our students for the next challenges.

—Mr. Goodrich & Ms. Wolfgang



Elementary Student Council —by, Mrs. Hanger

This year Bennet Elementary is happy to announce our new 6th grade Student Council members. This is the first year Bennet has had student council. The 6th grade Student Council is made up of 12 students that have volunteered their time to help plan events within the elementary. Each student is responsible for two events. They help plan the event and work during it. Students, at times, spend recesses and free time helping prepare for these elementary activities.

Over the past 5 years, the 6th grade has been in charge of the Caring Project in February. However, there are many more activities at Bennet that require help. Some of these projects are Homecoming, Red Ribbon week, Kindness week, Veterans Day, and Elementary Awards. With the help of these students, the elementary events will be even more fun.

Thank you to our 6th grade volunteers!

Below are our first 6th grade Student Council Members.

Top left: Alysa Myers, Addison Boyte, Brylie Vollman, Callie Beeck, Dorian Castillo, Katrina Siefken, and Josie Deeke.
Bottom left: McKenzie Ptacnik, Lexi Kment, Elle Kerkman, Christian Jensen and Zackery Phillips.

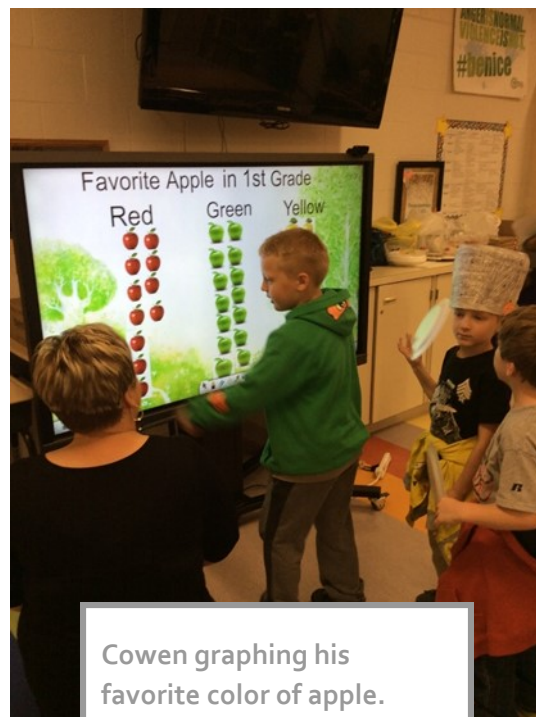


1st Grade Apple Day

What is your favorite apple? Do you like red, green or yellow apples best? Read on about Apple Day in first grade and find out what apple Bennet Elementary first graders prefer.

Students of Mrs. Dowding, Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Wusk's first grade classes studied John Chapman, aka Johnny Appleseed. They read about John Chapman's life and tracked his journey from Massachusetts, his birth place, through Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois where he shared apple seeds and seedlings with pioneers as they headed west. As a culminating activity we celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday on September 26th with an apple tasting party.

The vote is in, and Bennet Elementary First Graders prefer green apples. Students each received a slice of red, green, and yellow apples. They were encouraged to taste each slice and decide on their favorite. We used our new interactive white board to create a graph. Students moved an apple of their favorite color onto the graph to create a picture graph. Once the data was collected, students were invited to try the delicious apple by-products that parent's donated! Students were able to taste applesauce, apple butter, apple muffins, apple cookies, apple pie, apple donuts, apple cider, apple juice, and even apple pie Oreos.



Cowen graphing his favorite color of apple.



First Graders enjoying all kinds of apple foods!

The food was delicious and the students were able to see the many uses of an apple! Happy Birthday Johnny Appleseed!



First Graders enjoying all kinds of apple foods!

PHS Football Concludes Season at 5-4

Palmyra Football showed throughout this past season that strength and resiliency can be found within small groups. The 2017 Panthers started the season 0-3, with three close losses to quality opponents. They lost by one touchdown, on the road, to playoff bound Logan View to open the season. A six point loss, again on the road, to 5-4 Bergan followed. The losing streak was capped by a valiant 14 point loss to #1 ranked Centennial.

The Panthers, who were physically outnumbered in each contest, kept working hard in practice and ultimately witnessed the fruits of their labor during the second half of their season. The Panthers finished the season winning five out of their last six games. The highlight of this stretch included a win on the road at 6-1 Freeman. The only loss occurring during this stretch was to Top Ten ranked Wilber-Clatonia, who is the defending Class C2 State Champion.

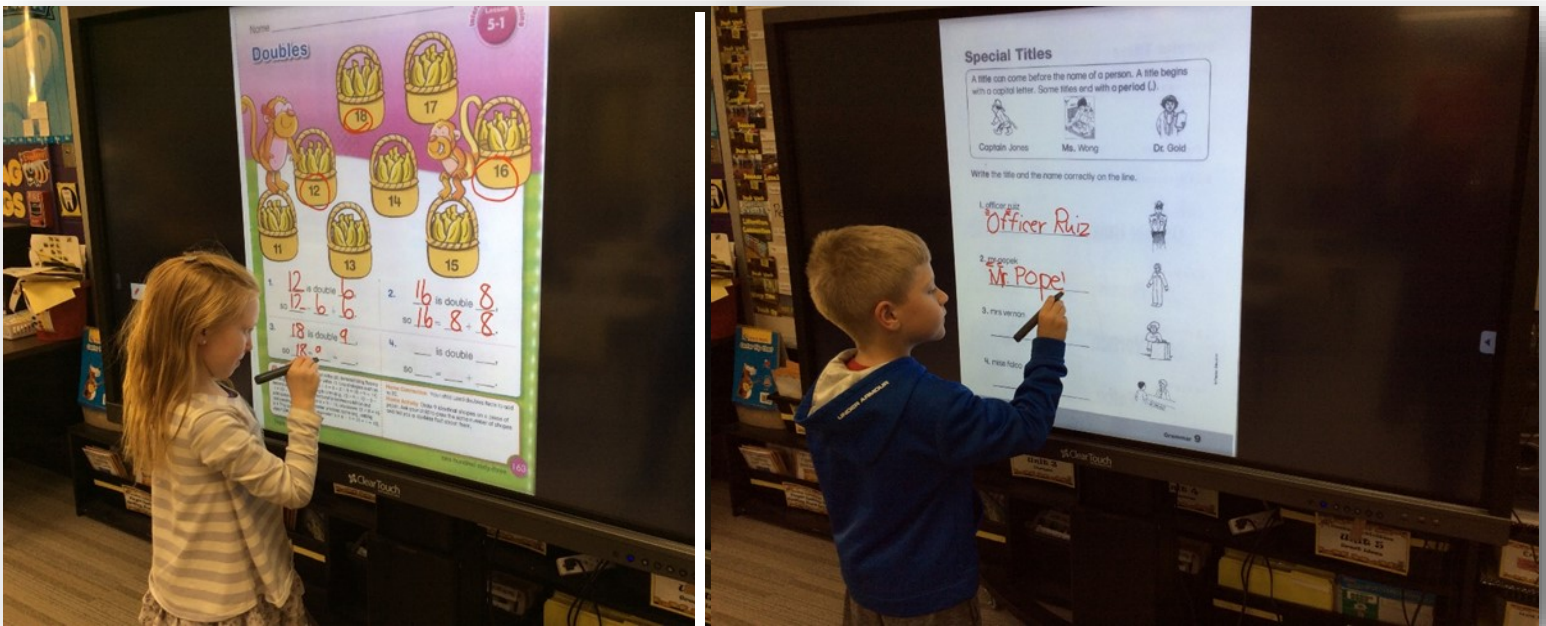
The Panthers failed to make the 16 team playoff field this season by 9/10's of a wildcard point. Many individual and team accomplishments were earned during the season, and these will be recognized once the State Football Playoffs conclude.

Touch, Write, Swipe, Play: 1st Grade Welcomes New Technology

Our world is ever changing with the new additions and inventions of technology, and education is no exception. To help meet instructional needs, 1st Grade teachers have been actively researching interactive whiteboards for a couple of years. Interactive displays are powerful educational tools that support whole-class instruction, student-led discussions, small-group collaboration, and individual learning. At the beginning of this school year, Mr. Brown, our technology coordinator, found a tool that met all of requirements needed for integration—the Clear Touch Interactive Whiteboard Panel.

This interactive board has fabulous image quality, upgrading us from the blurry picture from our projectors, it's very easy to use, has 20 points of simultaneous touch, allows us to connect to about any device, and comes on a stand allowing it to be used as a screen for whole class presentation or lying flat like a table for individual student interaction and learning. The district will be purchasing two of these panels, one for each building, to use in their commons area so all teachers have access and can utilize it.

The first-grade teachers knew this technology would improve their teaching and wanted them in their classrooms to use on a daily basis. So, they started the fundraising process. Thanks to past first grade class fundraising, help from the district, and other donations first grade was able to purchase one panel! Then in September, this year's first grade families helped at a concession stand and did a bake sale earning over \$700 starting us toward our second panel. At the beginning of October, Mrs. Dowding and Mrs. Hall presented to Foundation for Knowledge hoping to seek a donation towards the second panel. Graciously, the Foundation for Knowledge was willing to fulfill the needs to purchase the second panel! We are hoping to have both panels in our classrooms and utilizing them daily before Christmas! First-grade teachers and students would like to thank everyone who supported us in this process with a special thank you to the families and Foundation for Knowledge for their generous donation and continuous support! Thank you! By Mrs. Dowding, Mrs. Wusk, and Mrs. Hall



First Graders Go Wild

What if you woke up one morning with shark teeth in your mouth, frog legs to help you stick to the window, or a lion's mane for your hair? You would be totally wild!

First graders got to see what they would look like if this happen to them when they were invited to create their wild self by visiting the website buildyourwildself.com. The site allows students to select every aspect of their wild self from their head to the tip of their toes.

In their first unit of reading, First Graders read and learned all about animals. The unit started with tame animals like our pets and concluded with wild animals that you find at the zoo or you know – in the wild! We also

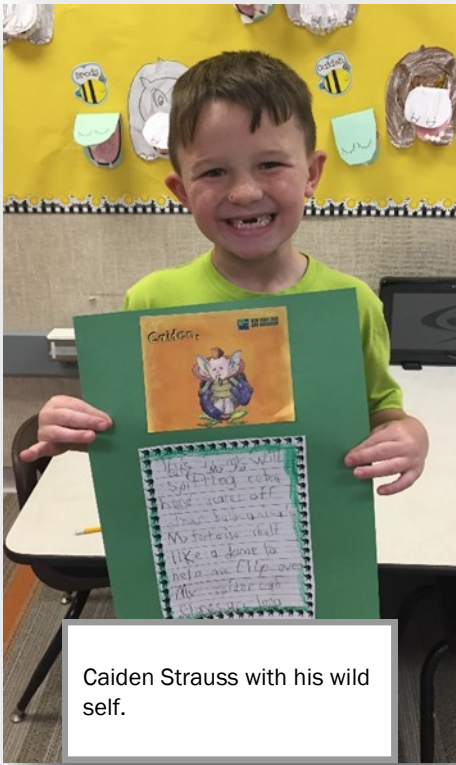
learned in science about animal classifications and what kind of animals are carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores based on what they eat.

To finish this unit up students got to create their wild self on the computer. Once the students created their wild self on the site a copy was printed off and students wrote about their wild self. These pictures and descriptions are on display at Bennet Elementary on the south windows of the library. Come check out our wild first graders!

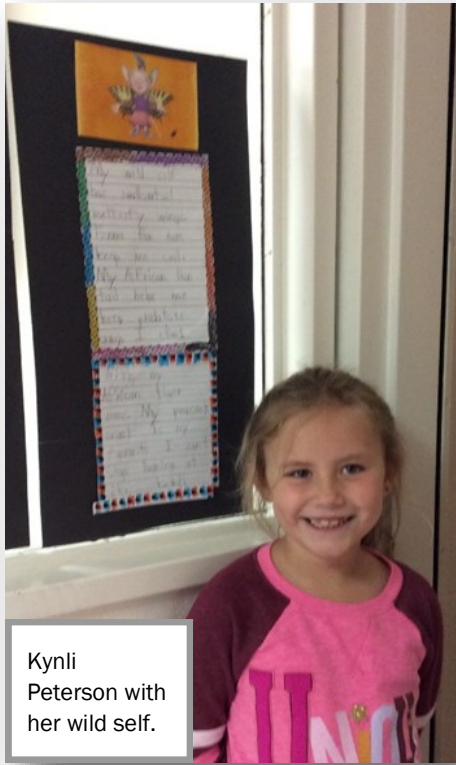
If you want to create your wild self, go to buildyourwildself.com. Have fun and go wild!

—by Mrs. Dowding, Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Wusk

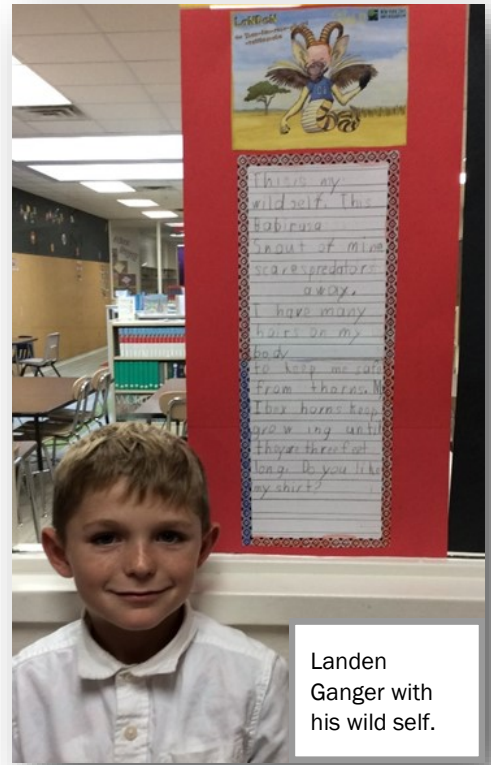
**Wild Self Pictures on Following Page



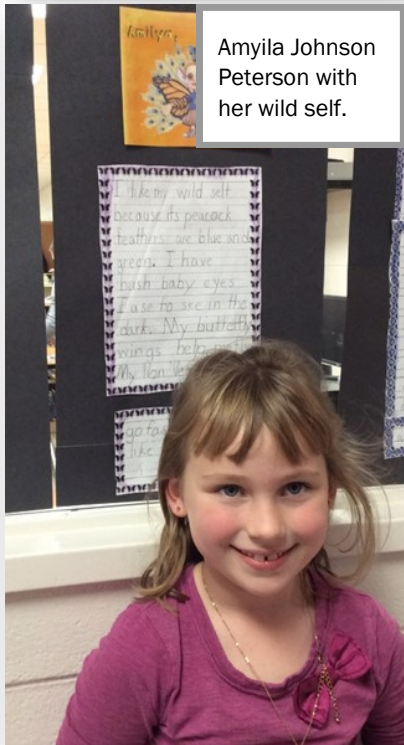
Caiden Strauss with his wild self.



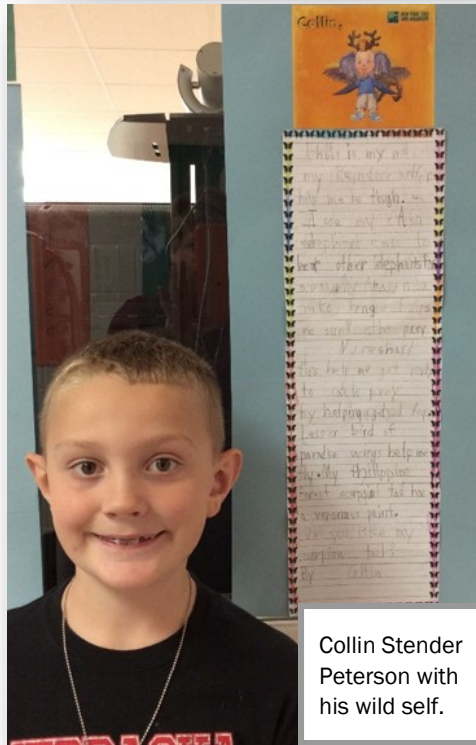
Kynli Peterson with her wild self.



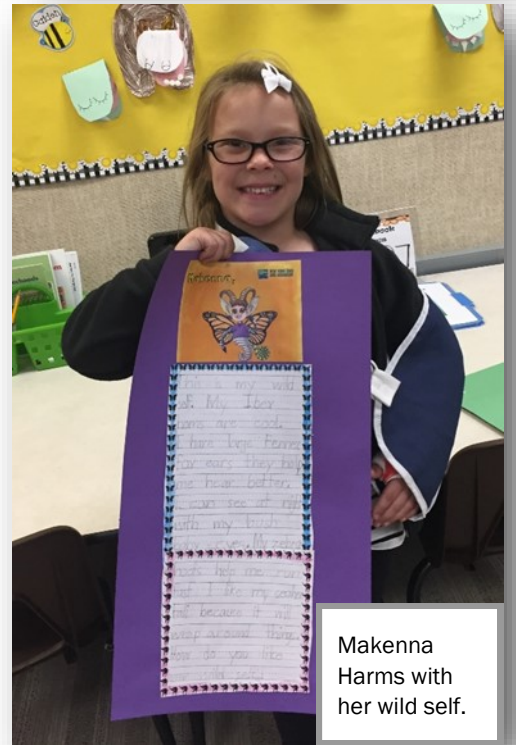
Landen Ganger with his wild self.



Amyila Johnson Peterson with her wild self.



Collin Stender Peterson with his wild self.



Makenna Harms with her wild self.

Wild Self



Brea Watson with her wild self.



Mila Sabatka Peterson with her wild self.

**DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL
CALENDAR 2017-2018 Adopted**

August 2017

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 2017

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

October 2017

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				

November 2017

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		

December 2017

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						

August 2017

- 7-Aug Start of Fall Practice
- 9-Aug Faculty In-service-8:00-4:00 .
- 10-Aug Faculty In-service-8:00-4:00 .
- 11-Aug Faculty In-service-8:00-4:00 .
- 14-Aug First Day of School

September 2017

- 4-Sep NO SCHOOL -Labor Day
- 19-Sep Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.

October 2017

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

November 2017

- 13-Nov Start Winter Practice
- 22-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 23-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 24-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

December 2017

- 21-Dec End of Second Quarter
- 21-Dec Dismiss at 1:30 for Christmas
- 22-Dec Winter Vacation December 22-January 2
- 23-27 Dec Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

January 2018

- 1,2 Jan Winter Vacation
- 3-Jan School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter
- 15-Jan Martin Luther King Day Teacher In-service No School

February 2018

- 5-Feb Teacher In-Service No School
- 6-Feb Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
- 9-Feb NO SCHOOL Winter Break
- 21-Feb NO SCHOOL ECNC Speech
- 26-Feb Start of Spring Practice

March 2018

- 2-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 8-Mar End of Third Quarter 1:30 Dismissal
- 9-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 12-Mar Start 4th Quarter
- 29-Mar Everyone Dismissed at 1:30pm for Easter Break
- 30-Mar NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

April 2018

- 2-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

May 2018

- 12-May Graduation
- 16-May Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg. Dis. 178
- 17-May End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal H.S. 185 total for teachers
- 18-May Teacher Work Day

Note: Early dismissal times of 1:30 will result in an elementary dismissal time of 1:10.

January 2018

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			

February 2018

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			

March 2018

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

April 2018

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					

May 2018

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		

No School Bennet Elementary
 Teacher days
 Vacation Days
 Parent Teacher conf.
 Early Dismissal



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. 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 Bennet Elementary students participated in the Purple Hand Pledge. This pledge is posted in the commons area 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.