

School District OR-1

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District OR-1 Newsletter
District OR-1 Public Schools
November, 2018

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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.



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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, 2018

- Follow District OR1 at www.districtor1.org
- Download the app for iOS and Android
- Follow student progress on PowerSchool
- Superintendent Notes
- General Fund at Historic Low
- Tips for a successful year
- Follow District OR1 on Twitter @OR1_Panthers
- Make sure your school has your e-mail and phone
- Follow official weather at www.1011now.com
- FFA News
- Elementary Field Trips
- Anti-Bullying Month is November

Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

The start of the 2018-2019 school year has progressed quickly with the first quarter of academic work, parent/teacher conferences, and regular season fall activities completed. The second academic quarter is now 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 students at District OR-1. 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, boosters, and so much more. It continues to be a pleasure to work in such a supportive and caring environment. At this time it is also appropriate to offer thanks to the Olson Foundation once again for the tremendous gift to the Village of Palmyra and District OR-1. On August 29th District OR-1 hosted a joint board meeting in which the Village Board and the Board of Education ratified acceptance of the gift and the associated inter-local agreement. As of this writing the work is progressing through the design phase, site survey and prepping the area for construction that will take place with the overall goal of having the football surface ready for the fall of 2019 season. Again, we express our gratitude for such an unbelievable gift to our communities, patrons and students. Thank you Olson Foundation!



Palmyra FFA participated in the State Land Judging Contest, Oct. 23 at Wahoo, Nebraska. There were 151 individuals and 30 teams from across the State of Nebraska that qualified in area contests to participate. Students determine what the land use or class is and how to care for the land from information given to them and measuring soil texture, slope and erosion.

Lilly Calkins placed 2nd as an individual in the state and the Team of Lilly Calkins, Kaleb Kempkes, Daniel Frey and Briley Luff place 2nd overall in the State. The team qualifies to participate in the National Land Judging contest held in Oklahoma City the week of April 30, 2019.

Below: left to right- Briley Luff, Lilly Calkins, Daniel Frey, Kaleb Kempkes and Ken Malone.



Completing the facilities construction process at the Palmyra campus has been a worthwhile experience for the District OR-1 Board of Education, staff and student body. The Palmyra High School construction and renovation has moved past substantial completion. Much of that work is now readily visible in the form of the new gym, stage and west commons area already seeing use during football, volleyball, and a myriad of other activities. This process included major upgrades to infrastructure including electrical, plumbing, technology wiring, intercom and life safety upgrades including a new fire alarm panel, smoke and fire detectors. The ability to combine construction with additional funding from E-rate and the REAP program have enabled the district to manage upgrades effectively. I applaud our staff in both Bennet and Palmyra for their patience and hard work without which none of this would be logically 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 the design and delivery of construction an efficient process.

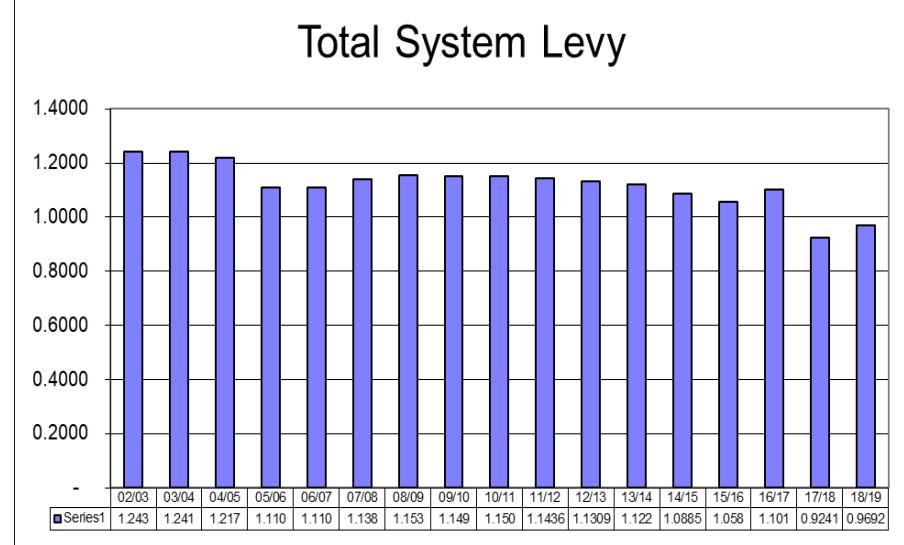
The Board of Education has set the strategic action plans for District OR-1 in motion by ratifying the work completed under the guidance of Dr. Larry Dlugosh. In August the BOE ratified action plans developed from groups representing OR-1 parents, employees, students and business leaders. The goals for our strategic plan are available at: <http://www.districtor1.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/District%20OR1%20Public%20Schools%7C2018%20School%20Improvement%20Plan>.

Please take a moment to review the 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 to determine how we 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. As you will no doubt notice the action plan associated with goal number one is largely complete thanks to the gift from the Olson Foundation.

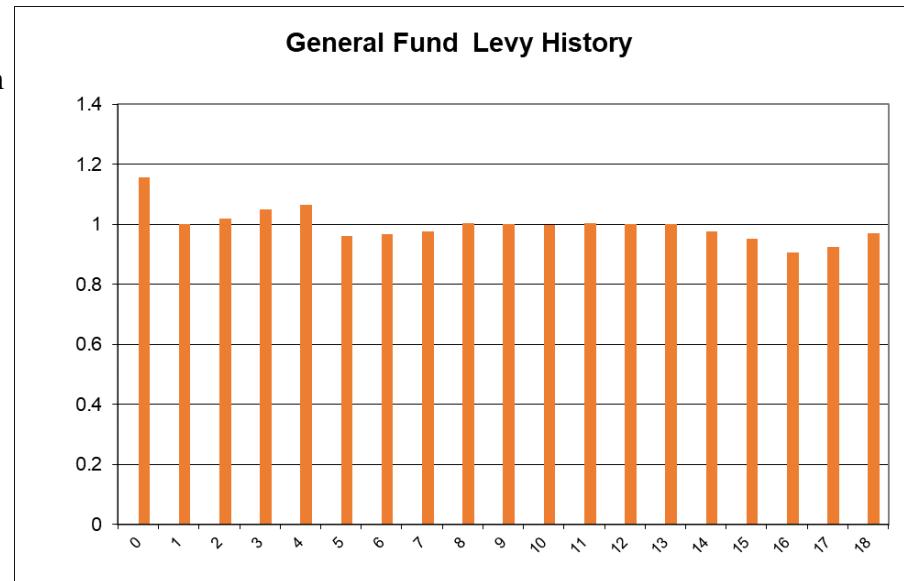
Fiscal 2018-2019 Budget

At the September meeting the Board approved the budget for all funds for the current fiscal year. The present budget has a General Fund Levy set at 0.771, the Building Fund Levy at 0.090. The Bond Fund Levy is currently set at 0.125. This represents a slight increase of 0.629 from the 2017-2018 fiscal year relates to the decrease in State Aid and a slight building fund increase necessary to complete parking projects at both campus locations. The Chart below shows the total levy history for District OR-1 from 2002 to date. As reflected in the chart the total levy is the second lowest in our current history.

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 near the lowest in spending in the array of schools and has consistently remained in the bottom tier for the past ten years. As a part of the General Fund budget State Aid for the current school year is set at \$949,876.00 and includes Poverty Grant Funds. This is a decrease of \$319,764.00 from fiscal 2017-2018 due primarily to a valuation increase last fiscal year. Currently District OR-1 budget authority reflects a needs based budget calculation which

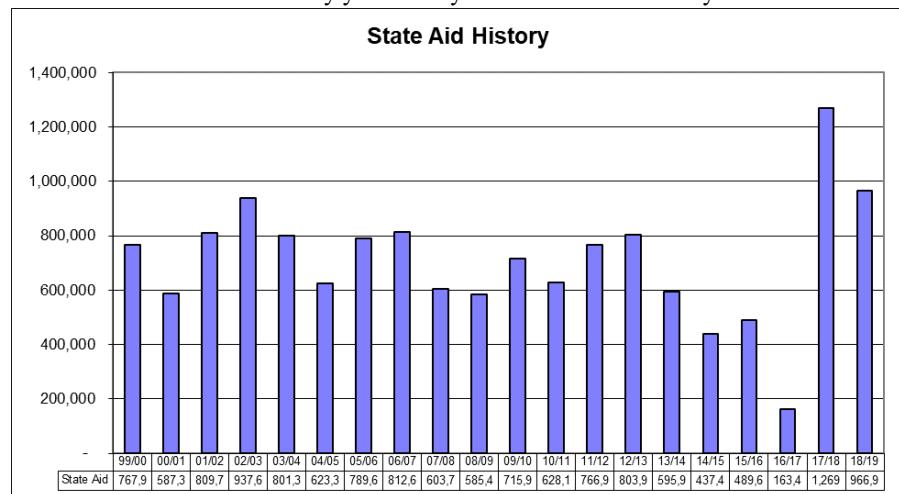


The chart below shows the General Fund levy history from 2000 through 2018.



will open the possibility of continued 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 responsible budgets, and the facilities construction process all of which has saved tax payers in the district a significant amount of dollars. 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 2.47%. Additional grant funds available to the district budget include but are not limited to \$36,400 Title I, Title IV, \$8,000

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



Title IIA, and \$46,972 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 network 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.

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 several 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 adequate 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. Your drivers will provide you with the adjusted time for late start days. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

With all of that said, I would remind you to update your contact information with the school. This 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.

Prepping Our Seniors For What Awaits Them...

This year's senior class is comprised of a fabulous group of individuals. Already, they have one quarter completed of what has become a crazy, fast-paced senior year. They've waited all their lives for this year to arrive, and yet with the snap of one's fingers, it's gone and has faded to a mere memory! So, what do they need to be doing yet this year to get ready for their next step in life's journey? Well, I suppose some of those first choices would be which college to attend, what are my living arrangements going to be after graduation, can I join the military, or simply enter the work force? In any case, there is much to do and no time to waste.



Right now our seniors are working on just these things. They have been taking final college visits (some first time visits, which is okay too), prepping for those final ACT exams to raise their scores, completing resume's for future and current job opportunities, and some have been making their way to MEPS for military preparation. For those individuals who are trying to raise their ACT scores, they have two testing options left: October and December ACT tests! The December test is generally the final test colleges will take toward admissions and especially scholarships. Perhaps some can take a later test, but not generally, or only under special circumstances. So seniors...keep studying your ACT prep work!

"But I can't afford the cost of another ACT test." Yes, you can, as the ACT is an investment in a student's future. Realize that every point one's score increases, puts more money in his or her pockets for college! A fifty dollar test can pay back thousands! I know this from experience with my own children, as it was an investment well worth my money and their time! Additionally, if your student is on free or reduced lunch, you can get his or her fees waived or reduced from ACT! If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to schedule a meeting with our fabulous counselor at PHS, Mr. Chaffee.

Seniors, now is the time to raise your sails and set your course for the remainder of your senior year! Don't procrastinate! Study hard and finish the journey you had long ago set forth for yourself. Fulfill your destinies and continue making us proud of you, for when you exit the doors that final time next May at PHS graduation, you will truly be missed! Mr. Pollock

VETERANS DAY: HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

On Friday November 9th, 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 be served out of the concessions stand by the new gym at 8:15 am, and the assembly will take place in the new gym at 9:00 am. Parking in front of the West entrance will be reserved for veterans. Thank you to all men and women for their service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jon Davenport at davenport.jon@districtor1.net.

FFA

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FFA

The Palmyra FFA in cooperation with Midwest Farmers Cooperatives, provided Hamburgers, bottle of water and goodie bags to farmers as they delivered grain to the Palmyra and Bennet Farmers cooperatives. Thanks to the Farmers for the long hours and hard work.



Far Left: Ty Hays and Kaleb Kempkes prepare hamburgers.

Left: Briely Luff takes lunches to truck drivers.



Left: Lane Glanz and Lilly Calkins on a delivery mission to the CO-OP.

Far Left: FFA prepares for the big lunch.



Far Left: left to right – Morgan Mullenax, Maggie Broening, Elli Jung, Charlee Luff, Madi Busch, Briley Luff

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 8th 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.



Bennet Elementary Kindergarten Field Trip

Submitted by: Angela Nitzsche

On October 17, the Kindergarten classes from Bennet Elementary spent half of their day at Roca Berry Farm. Students and parent volunteers enjoyed the many activities the farm has to offer. Some of their favorite spots were the Jumping Pillows, Corn Pit, Ninja Warrior course, Spider Web, Candyland, the Giant Rocking Horse, and of course the hayride out to the pumpkin patch. Each student was able to choose the perfect pumpkin to take home.



Pictured above left: Gage Bohaty prunes the tomatoes.
Pictured above right: Lily Calkins holds the water test tube to check the Ph level. Briley Luff, behind, explains why checking the water is important.

Thanks to Monsanto and Mr. Malone at PHS, Bennet Elementary students are benefiting from and experiencing tower gardens in the classroom. Through a grant written by Mr. Malone, the school received funding to purchase two tower gardens to be used at the elementary. They are circulating through the classrooms every few weeks. The ag students from the high school periodically come over to educate the elementary students about what's growing in the towers. Meanwhile, the students get to watch the plants grow, check the water, and add solution when necessary. The past two weeks the tower gardens have been in the 6th grade classrooms and students have been busy with monitoring and watching the growth of the vegetables.

Be

Be Be Responsible, Be Be Be Respectful, Be Be Be Safe, Be An Active Learner! This is the phrase students chant to remind themselves of the 4 B's of Bennet Elementary. But, do students know what falls under each of those 4 B's in each area of the school and their day? First graders spent the first weeks of school diving into those 4 B's and talking about what proper procedures and behaviors for all areas of the school look like. After our wonderful discussion over the 4 B's, students were divided into small groups and given a challenge. They were challenged with creating a model of the rules in an designated area. Areas students were given included the lunchroom, recess, bathroom, classroom, and hallway. The other big part of the challenge was that they were given specific and limited supplies to create their models so they had to do some pre-planning to make sure they had what they needed to complete their ideas. We had amazing models and we were in awe of the first graders imaginations and creativity. It was a fun way to learn more about following the rules at school. The models will be on display in the elementary library, so make sure you take a peek if you are in the building! Mrs. Dowding's Class Creating their models



Below: Mrs. Hall's Class Creating their models



Veteran's Day Luncheon

Bennet Elementary would like to invite Veterans of **District OR 1** families to join us for lunch on Monday, November 12th, from 11:00-12:15. Lunch will be served at 11:15 with special music by the Bennet Singers at 11:00 AM. Please share this information with family and community members and call the Bennet Elementary office at 782-3535 by Wednesday, November 7th to reserve a lunch.

Book Buddies

Every Friday, Miss Kepler's and Mrs. Conn's class go to Mrs. Dvorak's and Mrs. Wusk's class for book buddies. Each 3rd grader is paired up with a kindergartener to read with. The 3rd graders love being role models for the younger kids and enjoy helping them learn to love to read. The rooms are full of laughter from the stories and big smiles. This is such a great way to get our 3rd graders interacting with the kindergarteners to help them learn and grow. Our students are always excited for Friday's because that means BOOK BUDDIES! ~Miss Kepler and Mrs. Conn



Busy as Beavers: Second Graders Research Animal Homes

The last two weeks have been busy for our second graders! In our new reading series, students read "Animals Building Homes", which talked about homes of animals such as beavers, weaver birds, humming birds, mice and gophers. The story shared the types of materials those animals used for their homes. Students also learned how some animals, such as bees and ants, work together to build their homes.

Students then had the opportunity to research an animal of their choosing and write a research report about their animal. They learned where their animals live, what they eat, what predators they may have, and some fun facts that they may have not known before. Then, students had to plan for and create a model of their animal's home. They had a great time being creative, and their homes turned out great!



First Grade Apple Tasting Party

Apples in the attic,

Apples in the hall.

Apples in the summer,

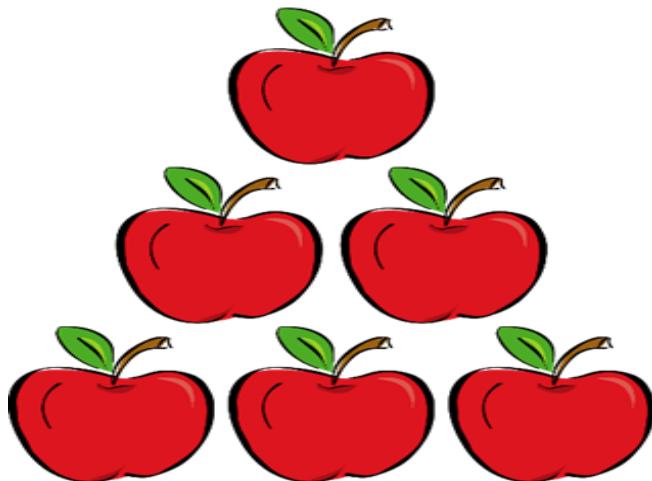
Apples in the fall.

Apples make you healthy,

Apples make you tall.

I will eat some apples,

I will eat them all.



Poem used by Mrs. McCreight in music.

First grade celebrated John Chapman's (a.k.a. Johnny Appleseed) birthday on Wednesday, September 26th with an apple tasting party! It was a fun day with birthday hats and all things apple to taste!

First, students were given a red, green and yellow apple slice to taste. They needed to decide which they preferred. Once they made their decision they graphed their choice on the Clear Touch. And the winner is----the yellow apple. Students liked it because it was sweet and softer than the red and green apples.

Next, they lined up to fill their plates with delicious apple pie, apple cake, apple bread, apple muffins, and apple cookies. There were apple chips, apple straws, and apple jacks to taste.

Apple butter on bread and applesauce were available to sample too. First graders sipped on apple juice and apple cider, then they went back for seconds and, in some cases, thirds.

Finally, when their tummies were filled with good apple treats they lined up for a First Grade picture. Thanks Johnny Appleseed for telling the pioneers about the benefits of apples and for planting so many apple trees!



Greetings District OR-1!!

My name is Mr. Wemhoff and I am the new PE teacher here at Bennet Elementary. I come here after teaching and coaching for seven years up in the small northeast Nebraska town of Allen. At the beginning of the year we did different activities where I was able to get to know the awesome students that we have, and they were able to learn a little about me. We then jumped right into our fitness testing to get our baseline scores for the year. Some of these tests include the standing broad jump, vertical jump, and a shuttle run as well as a couple others. The thing that we focus on with these tests is improvement throughout the year and working to have better scores at the end of the year than at the beginning. We then moved into our throwing and catching unit. Obviously these activities changed from each grade level but carried the same concepts. We are also trying to get outdoors and enjoy some of the fresh air, when the weather cooperates. We have had a great 1st quarter of PE and have seen great improvements through our first few units and look forward to the rest of the year.

Go Panthers! Mr. Wemhoff

Elementary Student Council

This year Bennet Elementary is happy to announce our new 6th grade Student Council members. This is the second year Bennet has had student council. The 6th grade Student Council is made of nineteen 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 six 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. We just finished Homecoming week and are starting to prepare for Red Ribbon at the end of October and Veterans day in November. We have also added a 6th grade bake sale to our list of activities. Thanks to our 6th grade families, the bake sale in September raised over \$400 for the Bennet Back Pack Program!!

Way to go Bennet Elementary.
By Jen Hanger

Right: Sixth Grade Student Council Members.

Top left: Izaiah F.
Collin H. Jayden F.
Gage B. Maddison D.

Emily M. Haylie V.
Emma R. Erin C.
Daisa S. Baylie D.

Middle row: Emily V. Mya R. Mattie S.

Bottom left: David U. Matthew BA.
Rylie W. Kayley T.
Bettie C.
Evelyn B.



Zones of Regulation ...Mrs. Engelhardt

Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. - Charles Swindoll

Self-regulation is something everyone continually works on whether we realize we are or not. We all encounter trying circumstances that test our limits from time to time. If we are able to recognize when we are becoming less regulated, we are able to do something about it to manage our feelings and get ourselves to a healthy place. This comes naturally for some, but for others it is a skill that needs to be taught and practiced. This is the goal of The Zones of Regulation (or Zones for short).

Zones is a curriculum we use here at Bennet to help meet the needs of those students who may struggle to regulate emotions. In order for students to be successful in school, home, and the community they need the ability to control unexpected responses, read facial expressions, and recognize a broad range of emotions. Teaching students perspective taking, learning their own triggers, and having a toolbox of strategies that help to regulate their emotions better prepares them to be college and career ready.

The **Blue Zone** is used to describe low states of alertness and down feelings such as when one is sad, tired, sick, or bored.

The **Green Zone** is used to describe a calm state of alertness. A person may be described as happy, focused, content, or ready to learn when in the green zone. This is the zone where optimal learning occurs.

The **Yellow Zone** is used to describe a heightened state of alertness and elevated emotions; however, one has more control when they are in the yellow zone. A person may be experiencing stress, frustration, anxiety, excitement, silliness, the wiggles, or nervousness when in the yellow zone.

The **Red Zone** is used to describe extremely heightened states of alertness and intense emotions. A person may be elated or experiencing anger, rage, explosive behaviors, devastation, or terror when in the red zone.

Zones teaches students that it is normal to feel different emotions; however, there are appropriate ways to react to our emotions. Zones give a foundation for solving problems in a calm and organized way. This prepares students for conflicts they will encounter throughout life. For more information about helping your child better regulate emotions, check out Zone of Regulation or Social Thinking online. There are many great resources to try out at home.

Little Panther's Science Experiment!

Sink or Float?

"Will your toy sink or float?!". This was the question preschoolers were asked on their special science experiment day. Before the preschoolers put their items into the water tub, they made a prediction after being asked; "Do you think your toy will sink or float?". The preschoolers were able to have a turn with their own toy that they were able to bring from home. Once they put their toy in the tub they were able to see what happened next, then were able to share the exciting news with their friends.

When the science experiment was over, they had more activities waiting to reflect on the experiment. During table groups, they were asked to draw what happened during their science experiment. At each table, there was an image of a tub similar to the one during the experiment. Students were able to draw if their item sank or if it was floating. The preschoolers were able to show their peers their final result!



PHS One-Act Performance

The PHS Drama department will be presenting a play in one act about the life of the notorious magician Harry Houdini. *The Last Illusion*, a drama by B. Dwayne Craft, tells the story behind his fame: a story of passion, love, fear, and family loyalty. Houdini's life is full of mystery, but those closest to him knew the man behind the illusion. Through their memories, stories, and perspectives as they watch their friend cheat death time and again, we discover what haunting wish might truly possess a person, a man with so much to live for, to seek a glimpse of the afterworld.



The cast has been working since August to delve into this incredible script and the real stories behind it. We began with a read-through and “table work” at which time we were able to have discussions about personalities, character motivation, and intricacies of the roles and of the storyline. We then worked to “block” the play in its entirety, making sure actors know where they enter, exit, and move during the scenes. After a few weeks of rehearsal, crew joined us to build props and set pieces, find and alter costumes and accessories, and begin learning lighting and sound. Every day, the students and I enjoy creating art on a beautiful new stage with state of the art technical theatre equipment. We are grateful and proud to be Panthers!

The cast and crew will take their performance on the road for 4 upcoming competitions. The set, props, costumes, and makeup are loaded into a trailer to accompany the bus to performances in several different NE locations including The Lofte in Manley and Midland University in Fremont. The competition allows crew 15 minutes before the show to put the set together on stage, ready the lighting and sound, and prepare and place props before the 30 minute performance. During the show, judges in the audience write comments and scores using a rubric. After the performance, crew reloads the set while cast attends a post-performance session with the judges at which time they share some of their comments, complements, and ideas for improvement. Each competition is a day full of excellent theatre, and the members of the cast are able to watch and learn from some talented students from all across Nebraska.

Come see the home performance of *The Last Illusion* on the new PHS stage,

Tuesday, November 6th at 7 p.m.

The Village of Bennet received a grant of ten trees from the Nebraska Forest Service and Palmyra FFA helped plant them at Whispering Pines Park in Bennet.



4th Grade Engineers!



For the past two weeks, the 4th graders have been learning the Steps of the Scientific Method in Science class. To demonstrate this method in action, each group designed and constructed a bridge spanning two feet across some desks. The challenge was to build their bridge strong enough so that it would hold twenty pennies in a cup only using three pieces of paper, six straws, eight paperclips, six rubberbands and two pieces of tape. Most of their designs were successful the first time. After the first trial, students went back to the drawing board to figure out a new plan for their bridges to hold the pennies. The students perfected their construction designs because after trial two, all the bridges held the pennies!

4th Graders Learn from the Past

The 4th grade classes will spend the year learning about Nebraska's past, but what better way to start off the year than by learning about their own family's past.

Their jobs were to research their ancestry and create a family tree. Many of them spent time visiting with grandparents and even great-grandparents to find out names they weren't aware of before. Each student had a unique way of presenting their project.

Each and every student mentioned that he or she had learned something about his or her past that they didn't know prior to the project.



Fifth Students Realize That They All Have Potential . . .Energy

What better direction to begin a discussion about physics than watching skateboarding phenom [Danny Way jump the Great Wall of China](#). This quick video was the pretext for students engaging in their first activity in which they discovered that all matter has potential energy—the stored energy within an object--and kinetic energy-the energy of motion.



Grace, Katelyn, (pictured left) and the rest of the students took a half section of bicycle tire and let a marble come to a rest at the tire's lowest point. Slowly, the students began raising the marble along the side of the tire and releasing it periodically while making observations about the marble's energy and the forces working against the marble. Just like Danny Way's ramp for his Great Wall jump, the students increased the marbles potential energy as the marble's height was increased. When the marble was released, the potential energy was transformed into kinetic energy. Both

the marble in motion and Danny Way flying through the air came to a stop because of friction and gravity. The discussion concluded with a dramatic demonstration of Newton beads cascading from their container to the floor.



(A quick note: Newton beads are a long chain of beads. One length is approximately 36 feet long—500 beads—and the other is 5,000 beads long.)

Remember, think potential and kinetic energy! The higher the container was raised the greater the Newton beads' potential energy was increased; thus, the greater the acceleration of the the Newton beads as the potential energy changed to kinetic energy. Students were waiting with baited breath as the beads were slowly pulled out of the container until, finally, there was enough mass for gravity to take over and convert the beads'potential energy to kinetic energy as Kaden (upper right) demonstrates to the class.



Next, students learned about the law of conservation of energy, which states that energy is neither created nor destroyed; it's just changes form. To demonstrate this scientific law, Connor (pictured right) held two steel spheres-one in each hand-spread them apart to increase each sphere's potential energy-and crashed them into each other while striking a piece of paper, which had been suspended on a stand. The violent collision caused the kinetic energy to turn into acoustic energy, which could be heard by students, and into thermal energy: Students could smell the faint order of burnt paper. (No fingers were injured during this activity.)



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. This month at Bennet students and staff have been, "Taking a Stand Against Bullying by treating others how we want to be treated and learning about what a bully is." The students participated in saying the Purple Hand Pledge along with putting their thumb print on a large purple paw to remind them that at Bennet we are Bully free and show respect to all. The Purple Hand Pledge is posted in all classrooms.

Together we will make our School Bully Free!

Never Bully Others.

Do your best to help anyone who is bullied.

Be friendly to students who are left out.

Report bullying to an adult at school and at home.

Choose friends who make positive choices and respect you.



Purple Hand Pledge
I will not use my hands
Or my words
To hurt myself
Or other people.



**DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL
CALENDAR 2018-2019 adopted**

August 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	

August 2018

- 6-Aug Start Fall Practice
- 8-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 9-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 10-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 13-Aug First Day of School

September 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						

October 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			

November 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	

December 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					

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January 2019

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 2018

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

October 2018

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

November 2018

- 12-Nov Start Winter Practice
- 21-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 22-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 23-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

December 2018

- 21-Dec End of Second Quarter
- 21-Dec Dismiss at 1:30 for Christmas
- 24-Dec Winter Vacation December 22-January 1
- 22-26 Dec Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

January 2019

- 1-2 2019 Winter Vacation
- 3-Jan School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter
- 21-Jan Martin Luther King Day Teacher Inservice No School

February 2019

- 5-Feb Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
- 8-Feb NO SCHOOL Winter Break
- 18-Feb Teacher In-Service No School
- 25-Feb Start of Spring Practice

March 2019

- 1-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 7-Mar End of Third Quarter 1:30 Dismissal
- 8-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 11-Mar Start 4th Quarter

April 2019

- 18-Apr Everyone Dismissed at 1:30pm for Easter Break
- 19-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break
- 22-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

May 2019

- 11-May Graduation
- 15-May Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg. Dis.
- 16-May End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal H.S.
- 17-May Teacher Work Day

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

February 2019

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 2019

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
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 2019

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
				1	2	3
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	

179 student days

185 total for teachers

Elementary End of 2nd Semester

Teacher days

Vacation Days

Parent Teacher conf.

Early Dismissal

HAPPY