

**PALMYRA**



**PANTHERS**

**School District OR-1**

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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, 2017

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

# Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

2015

## 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

February, 2017

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

**“We Blame and Complain when we feel like a victim. We Act/Accept and Dream when we understand our power. MK Mueller**  
**High-Way 3: Full Responsibility**



Serving the Communities of  
Bennet, Palmyra, and Douglas.

### Special points of interest:

- Notes from the Superintendent
- Honoring, “I Have a Dream”.
- Keep dates open for supporting the Panthers
- Kindergarten Roundup

## Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

February is nearly upon us. The recent weather pattern, although relatively mild, is worthy of a reminder that we need to maintain an accurate database of contact information available to the school so that each parent is able to receive messages regarding school closures, schedule changes, late starts, etc. One new contact feature we are using with our information system has the ability to send an email as well as a phone message and text message. We also communicate via twitter and those feeds are automatically uploaded to the district app as well. In short, it’s a good time to add our twitter feed and district app as manageable ways to ensure we are able to contact you during weather events.



Each spring also brings a new round of NeSA and MAPS testing for District OR-1 students. As we prepare at school there are also testing tips that parents and students can put into practice at home that will be of assistance on test day:

1. Meet and or communicate 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 Teacher’s working together benefits students.
2. Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home and offer assistance with homework on a regular basis to foster good study habits and to ensure that homework is being completed.
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.

**Superintendent: Rob Hanger**  
**Palmyra Principal: David Bottrell**  
**Bennet Principal: Linde Walter**—  
**Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft**

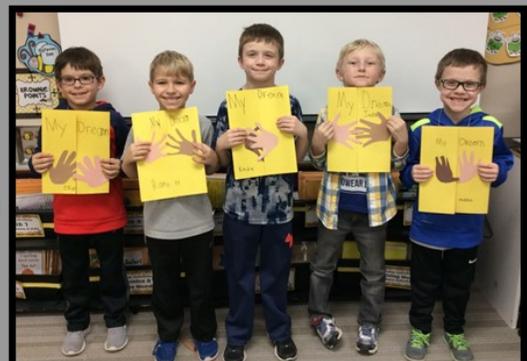
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## “My Dream” Project

Leader, courageous, loving, father, preacher and hero were a few of the words first graders used to describe Martin Luther King Jr. students derived or created this list after hearing stories about him and listening to his “I have a dream” speech.

The literature used to introduce Martin to the children included books by his daughter and niece, and by several historians. These books talked about his non-violent approach to making change. Students discussed ways they could make change in their world using King’s approach.

Following this discussion a “My Dream” project was introduced. Students wrote about how they planned to make the world a better place. They illustrated their ideas and made a special folder to display their ideas. On the outside of the folder, first graders traced their hands using a couple different colors of construction paper to represent the diversity of the world in which they live.



Many teachers report that children who do not test well have not had enough sleep on a regular basis.

4. Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind, and a student that is ready to learn.

5. Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new vocabulary words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's school about a suggested outside reading list.

6. Know and understand the NeSA test. You can review information at the following web site:

[http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA\\_Math.htm](http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA_Math.htm)



### Building project

Construction continues at both the Bennet Elementary and Palmyra High School sites. Bennet construction is scheduled to be completed during the month of March. It will soon be time to review some of the final punch list items noting that some, such as final grading around the exterior will remain pending weather conditions. At Palmyra, the main focus has been to enclose the three room addition on the east side so that the floor can be poured, roofing, plumbing and electrical work completed so that interior finish products can be installed thus allowing for the movement of classrooms prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year. Demolition and work on the west end of the project is set to take place in June.

On the Federal level ESSA was passed in 2015 and has reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) originally passed in 1965. With the change of administrations in Washington, I wanted to share some information with our patrons from an article by Dr. Lisa Andrejko:

- Holding all students to high academic standards that prepare them for success in college and careers.
- Ensuring accountability by guaranteeing that when

students fall behind, states redirect resources into what works to help them and their schools improve, with a particular focus on the very lowest performing schools, high schools with high dropout rates, and schools with achievement gaps.

- Empowering state and local decision-makers to develop their own strong systems for school improvement based upon evidence, rather than imposing cookie-cutter federal solutions like the No Child Left Behind Act did.
- Reducing the often onerous burden of testing on students and teachers, making sure tests don't crowd out teaching and learning or sacrifice the clear, annual information parents and educators need to make sure our children are learning.
- Providing more children access to high-quality pre-school.

Establishing new resources for proven strategies that will spur reform and drive opportunity and better outcomes for America's students.

In short, we learned that although the federally required math and reading tests provide valuable information about our students learning and district comparability to teachers, parents, states, and the public, there is a general feeling that we administer more tests than are actually necessary. This is done primarily in an effort to prepare for the high-stakes tests required under the former NCLB mandates. Most state and school district leaders agree that fewer tests are needed and would be more than adequate. ESSA creates the ability to reevaluate the amount of testing we really need, thus our experiment with the ACT test.

As I learn more I will continue to share information about the new law.

Please note the following information from the CDC:

#### “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.)



High Five a First Grader  
Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Dowding

\* 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 students on every level. On behalf of all of us at District OR-1, I want to wish you the best for blessed and happy 2016.

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One Hundredth Day First Grade Style  
Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Dowding



Marking time is an ancient practice. Recording phases of the moon and using a sundial are a couple of the ways humans have marked time.

First graders mark time by using straws in a place value chart. Each day at calendar a straw is put in the ones place until we have ten ones. Then, the ten ones are bundled to make a ten and placed in the tens column. On Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> we made our tenth ten and bundled the ten tens together to make one hundred. It was an exciting moment! It also worked out that the concepts of place value, larger numbers, and expanded form were all being taught in math, and a bonus that they were reinforced by our straws and place value chart at calendar time.

To celebrate the one hundredth day first graders made a snack using ten foods; Cheerios, Cheez Its, Goldfish, M&M's, raisins, pretzels, popcorn, marshmallows, Fruit Loops, and Cocoa Puffs. Students counted out ten pieces of each of those foods to place on a sorting mat. The sorting mat helped them organize the foods and make sure they had one hundred pieces. It was a delicious way to mark time!

One of the Nebraska State standards for first graders is to know 136 high frequency words by the end of the year. The list consists of 15 review words from kindergarten, 104 words directly taught in first grade and 17 words (days of the week, a few number words and some miscellaneous words) that are not directly taught but can be found in the literature and daily activities in first grade. Students and parents are given the list at the beginning of the year and encouraged to practice the list a few words at a time at home over the course of the year.

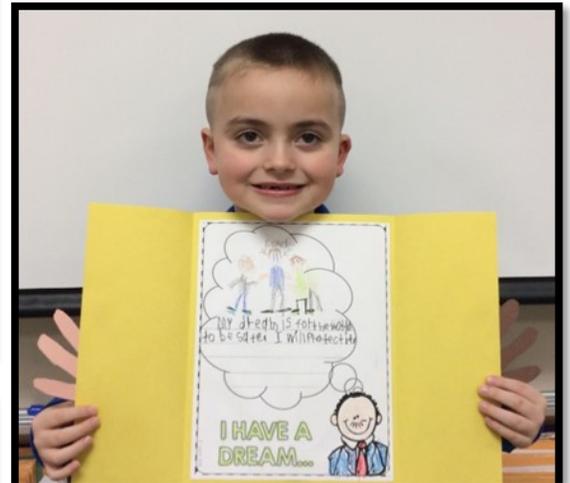
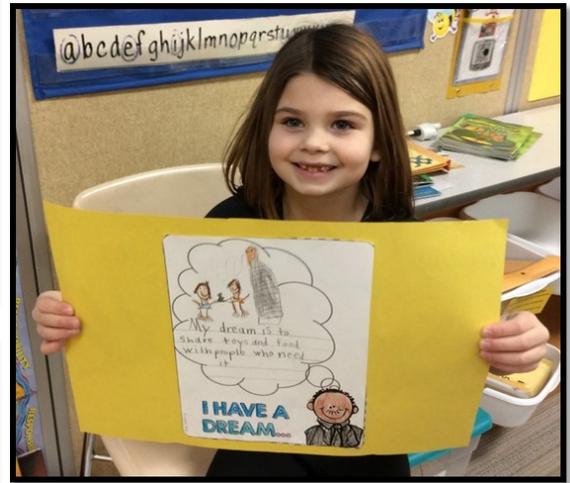
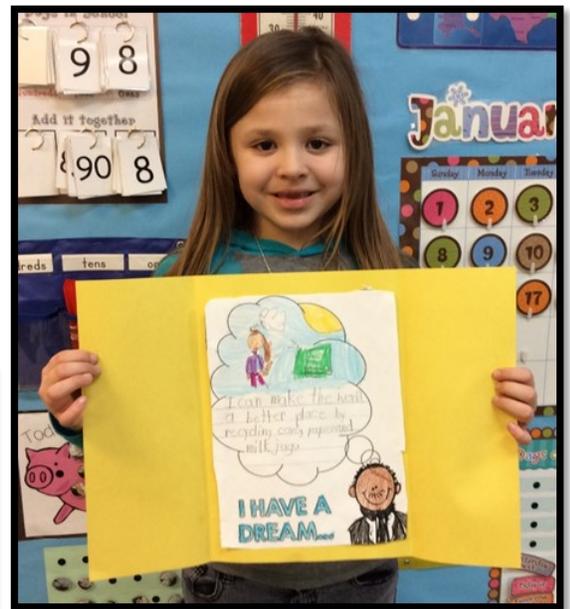
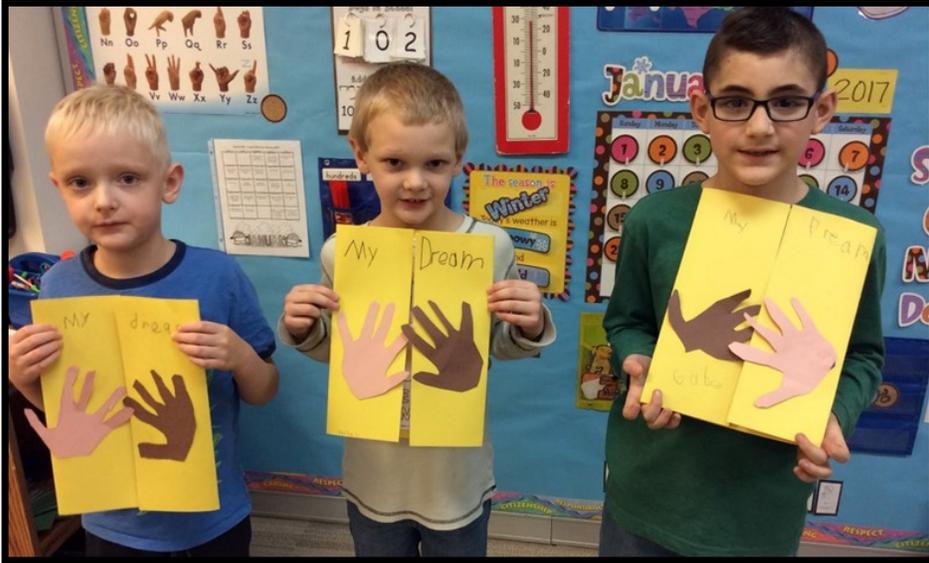
An initial screening for each student is done the first few weeks of school and the number of words is recorded. Another screening is completed at the end of the first semester. The scale for measuring the growth in the high frequency words is 1-33 (words) beginning, 34-68 (words) progressing, 69-103 (words) proficient, 104-136 (words) advanced.

We hope to see growth, and this year the growth was phenomenal. The beginning of the year screening of 33 students measured 5 of them beginning, 12 progressing, 10 proficient and 6 advanced with an average of 70 words. The screening before Christmas of 34 students measured zero at the beginning level, 1 progressing, 11 proficient and 22 advanced with a 109 word average.

What does it mean that first graders know these 136 high frequency words? It means they are able to read! In class, students are learning long vowel words, irregular vowel patterns (r controlled words), words with endings, and the high frequency words. The skills taught in class, and the practice that students and parents do at home, help first graders to become fluent readers! If you know a first grader give them a high five for learning their high frequency words!



I  
HAVE  
A  
DREAM



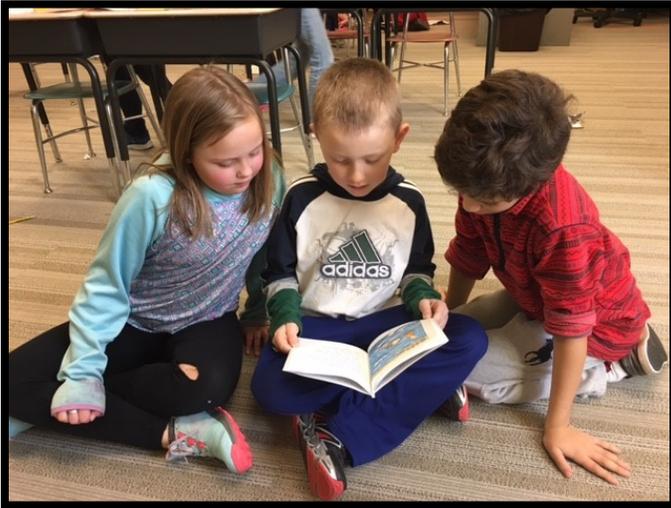
**Box Tops**

Bennet Elementary is collecting Box Tops! If you have Box Tops at home, bring them in and turn them into the office. Our school can earn cash for the Box Tops turned in. We are then able to use the cash with-in our school to buy the items we need. Every Box Top helps!

## Back in the “Good Ole Days”—Second Grade

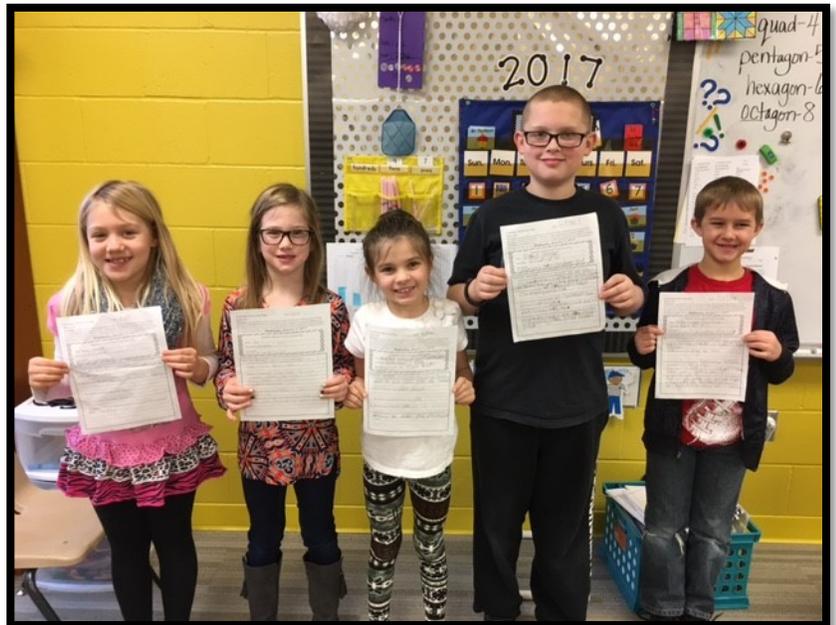
Second grade students entered an imaginary time machine and traveled back to the homesteading days in Nebraska. Our reading stories gave us an opportunity to take a covered wagon journey through the eyes of a young girl. Up-rooting and leaving everything behind, Abigail was able to find comfort in the familiar quilt that her mother had made. Many years later the quilt brought comfort to a different little girl who moved in a modern moving van. *The Quilt Story* by Tony Johnston and Tomie dePaola, gave second graders a chance to compare and contrast today with days gone by.

Travel on the Oregon and Mormon Trails was also experienced in a companion book, *The Josefina Story Quilt* by Eleanor Coerr. In this story a little girl “records” her journey to California in the form of quilt



blocks, which are then assembled upon their arrival at their new home. Second graders made their own paper quilt blocks and assembled their quilt on the window outside their classroom. Many students brought in personal quilts and shared stories of who made and/or gave them the quilt.

Students were given the opportunity to interview a parent, grandparent, family member, or friend to ask what their life was like when they were a child. Children reported how school was different, with many grades in one building and only one teacher.



After school activities were mostly chores, with a few sporting events. Interviewees were asked about a historical event from their childhood. Since the birthdates of the people children interviewed ranged from 1920 - 1980, there were memories of the Great Depression, the Dirty Thirties, WWII, Vietnam, JFK’s assassination, the Challenger Space Shuttle, and the first man in space. Many told about using out-houses, riding horses to school, indoor plumbing, getting electricity and their first T.V. The children took great pride in their reports and hopefully have a better understanding of our country’s past.

## Ag in the Classroom

Bennet Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders are once again participating in the program Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom through Farm Bureau. This program is designed to help students understand the importance of agriculture and create an awareness of how agriculture impacts our daily lives. Through this program, the students are learning about harvesting crops (mostly corn and soybeans) as well as the basics of beef and dairy cattle and swine through online lessons via Skype with the Ag Coordinator of the program. An additional part of this program includes an Ag Pen Pal. Our 4th graders were paired with the Buethe family from Elk Creek, NE. The goal is for the students to write letters back and forth with the family, learning about daily life on the farm and all of the ins-and-outs of harvesting and planting. In the first part of November we wrote our first letter.

As part of this experience, we thought it would be fun and educational to actually visit a farm right around our area. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, we took a field trip to the Schroder farm, just north of Palmyra. Kevin and Denise Schroder raise corn, soybeans and wheat and also have cattle and hogs. On our trip, the students were able to get their hands dirty during many different hands-on activities. First, they observed all the different steps of harvesting and processing corn, from the field to the grain bin and making it into feed. Each 4<sup>th</sup> grader had a chance to shuck an ear of corn by hand to show them just how much work it really is and how much time it saves farmers if they use a combine instead. After they shucked the corn and shelled the kernels, the students were able to see what ground up corn looked like. Farmer



Kevin also gave them the task of picking apart the soybean pods and counting how many beans each pod held.

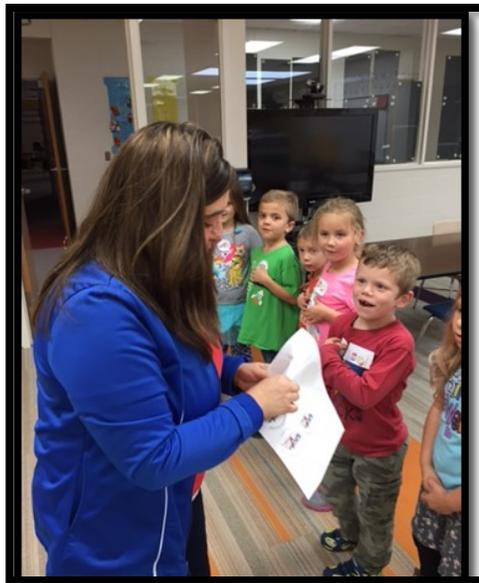
In addition to seeing the crops, the students were also able to see the livestock Mr. Schroder had on his farm. The students ventured over to a carrier loaded with a few hogs. It was enlightening for them to hear Farmer Kevin explain how his swine operation is run. Students also were given a glimpse of the inside of one of the hog sheds. Many of the students had never seen pigs up close so the comments they made about the smell were quite entertaining! A weaned calf was the next sight to see on the list. Mr. Schroder explained the process of weaning calves and why cows are a vital part of his farm.

The final and favorite activities on the farm were jumping on the hay bales and taking a hay rack ride behind the tractor. Farmer Kevin explained how the bales were made and showed them the machinery required to create bales of that magnitude. The students had a blast climbing on top of them and jumping from one to the next. Many of them couldn't believe how tall they were! They also had the great pleasure of experiencing the dust that is associated with wheat harvest!

As you can see, the students learned a plentitude of new information about agriculture through the hands on learning during the activities. They had a wonderful time and had many insightful questions for Farmer Kevin to answer!

## It's Election Day!

Bennet Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders discussed how the election process worked last week. They learned about the history of the political parties, how the electoral college works, and some information about what is required to be President of the United States. To culminate the activity, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders held a mock election during the lunch hour for all students and staff at Bennet Elementary on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. The winner of the Bennet election was Donald Trump!



Kindergartners learn about Martin Luther King, Jr.

By: Mrs. Dvorak, Mrs. Nitsche, Mrs. Wusk

January brought about the lively discussions on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life. Teachers read *Martin's Big Words* to their classes, discussed fairness and respect, watched a clip of his "I Have A Dream" speech, and followed up with a Skittle activity that showed how even if we are all different colors we can come together in peace and make something pretty spectacular.



**Saturday, February 25th at Palmyra Senior Center**

**\*5-8 p.m. \*8th Annual Palmyra Fire & Rescue Chili Supper**

**\*Chili, Bean, Chicken Noodle and Cinnamon Rolls**

## Little Panthers Preschool Accepting Requests for 2017-18 School Year

Little Panthers Preschool in Bennet is currently in the process of accepting enrollment requests for the upcoming 2017-18 school year. If you are interested in having your 3- 4 year old added the list of potential students for the 2017– 2018 school year, please contact Bennet Elementary at 402-782-3535.

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

- \* 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.
- \* 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.
- \* 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.

### 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 the district 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 2017-18 school year.

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

### Fifth Grade Science



Korban, Christian, Drew, & Johnny

Fifth graders began their study of physics by observing potential energy (stored energy) and kinetic energy (the energy of motion) and the relationship between them. Students watched a quick video of Danny Way jumping his skateboard over a wide section of the Great Wall of China. In a corresponding activity, students moved a marble in a half section of bicycle tire from the bottom slowly moving the marble up the side of the tire before releasing it. As students continued this activity, they began to understand the relationship between the height of when the marble was released and the increase in potential energy, which led to an increase in kinetic energy and vice versa.

Students also observed potential and kinetic energy with a Newton cradle and watched

hundreds of Newton beads in a bowl cascade from varying heights to the ground.

## KDG Round Up

Bennet Elementary is registering students for Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year. Kindergarten Roundup will be held on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 AM. Parents are encouraged to attend an informational meeting held at Bennet Elementary on Monday, April 3<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 402.782.3535.



June 5<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Mark your Calendars to

## Explore what's in Your Backyard

K-3 Summer Enrichment

Registration

**\$50**

Monday-Thursday

9:00-12:00

Open to  
Incoming

Kindergarten to  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
students.

Mark your Calendars to

## Celebrate Nebraska

4-6 Summer Enrichment

June 5<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 

Open to incoming 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Monday-Thursday 9:00-12:00

Registration

**\$50**

Cross Country is not “just go run”, it is so much more than that. The 2016 season was a great example of that. The team became more conscious of their nutrition and hydration, strength training, and learned more about setting goals.

Highlights of the season:

Varsity: Last summer, the nine Varsity runners put in over 1,200 miles of running combined. Abby L. came out for XC for her Junior year. It was tough, but she always had a smile on her face and worked very hard. Isabelle continued to show potential. Kris Philips stepped up into a leadership role along with placing in one meet. Sr. Marcus Kinney placed in three meets and was a consistent hard worker throughout the season. Over three years of XC running, Marcus dropped his time from worst to best: 30:30 to 18:54. Chris Bonifont showed potential when he ran a 25 minute 5k. Danny V was constantly improving. It was hard to not to pick him for most improved. He has a bright future!

Jr High: Liz became the first 1st place XC runner in Mr. Trausch’s coaching career. She also placed in two other meets. Nima dropped her 1.5 mile time by over 2 minutes. Nate placed in five of his six meets, and all were medals in the top ten. Teagan wasn’t able to medal this year, but he still has the skill set to be successful at the high school level. Jake placed in 2 meets and beat his previous times each race. Isaac continued to have a positive attitude and has the desire to improve for next year.

Henry Iwan was awarded the most improved varsity runner. Henry showed improvement everyday. He became sick mid-season, but he battled through it and continued to show improvement throughout the season. He ended the season running his best time at districts.

Most valuable varsity girl went to Sarah V. Sarah has placed in 17 of 20 meets in her young career. She is a two time state qualifier and holds Palmyra’s fastest girl’s time. She also broke three of her course records this year. Most valuable varsity boy went to Zach. He may not have met his goal for the year of making it to state, but he still made himself better. Zach was able to improve his nutrition and overall strength. Zach is in line for a rebound year next year.



## Industrial Technology:



### Industrial Technology:

A couple of small items for the New Year is first off a huge thank you to the Waltke family for the wonderful addition to the shop in the form of a Miller wire feed welder. This welder will help students in fabrication of thinner metals which may be useful in the work force were students need these skills. Secondly, I would like to thank the students who have spent their time assembling the gates for Mr. Hanger that will be hung at the property up near Casey’s. Thank you everyone for your support to the shop area.

# FOUNDATIONAL WORK SKILLS

Students, job seekers, and currently employed workers should focus on building these essential job skills - the skills that form the foundation of training and job performance and those most sought by employers, according to ACT research.

## APPLIED MATHEMATICS

Critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and problem-solving techniques in workplace situations. High levels of this skill include:

- **Solving problems** that include nonlinear equations
- **Converting** systems of measurement
- **Calculating** areas and volumes

## LOCATING INFORMATION

The ability to locate, synthesize, and use information from workplace graphics: charts, diagrams, floor plans, etc. High levels of this skill include:

- **Drawing conclusions and applying information** based on complicated graphics
- **Using data** to make decisions

## READING FOR INFORMATION

Reading and using written text in workplace materials such as memos, directions, notices, policies, and regulations. High levels of this skill include:

- **Figuring out definitions** of difficult, uncommon words, industry jargon, and technical terms
- **Deciphering the general principles** behind policies and applying them to work situations

## DON'T FORGET 'SOFT SKILLS'!

These skills are not typically taught in schools or colleges, but they're vital to virtually every job:

- **Carefulness** - Thinking before acting
- **Cooperation** - Likability and cordialness
- **Creativity** - Imaginative thinking
- **Discipline** - Responsibility, dependability, follow-through without distraction
- **Goodwill** - Forgiveness and positivity
- **Influence** - Impactful leadership
- **Optimism** - Positive outlook and confidence in success
- **Order** - Neatness, organization
- **Savvy** - Understand of office politics
- **Sociability** - Enjoyment in others
- **Stability** - Composure and rationality
- **Striving** - High aspirations

## All PHS Juniors to take the ACT

When all juniors in Nebraska high schools take the ACT exam this school year, it will mark a change in state testing that many see as a positive for all students. Under Legislative Bill 390, signed into law in March of 2016, the state's 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the Act instead of the previously required Nebraska State Accountability test. According to the Nebraska Department of Education, the ACT will be a more accurate measure of student achievement, while giving every student an opportunity to improve their college readiness.

At PHS the juniors will have weekly ACT prep time using ACT Nebraska online test prep tools, coupled with John Baylor ACT test prep tutorials. Small study groups have been formed, and each group is led by a junior class level teacher. Mr. Pollock, Mr. Davenport, Mr. Maas, and Mr. Trausch are the group leaders.

Juniors at PHS will take the written test on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

## Upcoming Art Show

Be sure to check out this year's ECNC art show at the Downtown Wells Fargo building in Lincoln, located at 1600 P St. The show will be on display through the month of March in celebration of youth art month. Each high school in the conference will be displaying ten of its best pieces from the '16-'17 school year. The show will be judged by all participating art teachers. Four places including, a gold medal winner, will be handed out to each school. Come check out some of Palmyra's best high school art from this year!



## Real World Government...By Mr. Kotik

I can't believe that I have been teaching in Palmyra now for 17 years. Many young people have been through my classroom door (001) while, I have been here. As the American Government teacher I have had the fortune of being involved in many discussions that affect students now and how it can influence them in the future. Those discussions range from Constitutional Amendments, to taxation, to local laws. The goal is to answer the question: What is relevant to the student?

Two topics we look at with some depth are **taxes** and **budget**.

Two "real world" applications that are critical to American Government and citizenship. As the students evaluate the current Federal budget, it is quickly apparent that more money is spent than is taken in. The question that is begged to be asked is, "What if I handled my money that way?"



The students get a personal point of view of taxes and budget by first learning the difference between a W4 & W2. We then look to define the parts of the two forms and what they mean. Using a fictitious W2, the students and I file a practice 1040EZ in class. The students then follow up with a 1040EZ assignment. We highlight key components like NOT sharing social security numbers unless you know 100% who is seeing it. Adding multiple BOX 1's together and adding multiple BOX 2's together, understanding what *dependents* are, and truly meeting a deadline (April 15<sup>th</sup>).

As we wrap up our 1040EZ practice, the student evaluate their own resources. Soon enough our Palmyra seniors will be filing solo. There will be no one paying their electric bill, buying their groceries, taking care of their rent or possibly their Netflix subscription for them. Oh no! The best way to understand this is by creating a personal budget.

We generate a plethora of possible expenses that each student may encounter in the "real world." It is understood that not all expenses identified are paid by all people. Each one of us has our own set of circumstances, therefore students' budget can be quite different. Upon generating a post-high school budget, the seniors rapidly understand that many of their current expenses may not make their anticipated 2017-18 budget.

"When am I ever going to use this stuff?" Words spoken by you, me, and many other high students that sit in a classroom. The simple answer in Government class is, "all the time." Learning about American Government is not just learning the system and who may be the leaders in that system, but about being an informed and contributing citizen to that system.



**Palmyra High School drama team** earned Runner-Up in their C1-1 NSAA District One-Act competition, performing *Stone Soup* by Paul Thain. In this new and unique version of an old folktale, the wise traveler Sophia appears in a poor village and declares she can make stone soup to feed them all. The allegorical tale chronicles the progress of a selfish society as they come together for the common good. The community learns to contribute and share, while Sophia teaches them about peace and justice. In the end, not even the autocratic government official General Mayhem can break their newfound spirit of cooperation.

This year's play consisted of 25 actors and 20 crew members. The team worked tirelessly between their ECNC competition and districts to make changes suggested by the judges, improve on the details, and really tell this incredible and relevant story. Their hard work paid off in the district competition, which took place at Central Community College in Columbus, NE. With tough competition from area schools, PHS shined with their best performance yet, earning them Runner-Up, only to Malcom High School, who would go on to win a runner-up title in the class C state competition.



PHS students, staff, and families are proud of their accomplishment! Go Panthers!

# Save the Date!



Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> is the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
PHS Golf Scramble.

More details to come in the following weeks via school newsletter, school website, and/or Twitter.

In the meantime, we are always looking for players and/or sponsors, so please consider if you'd like to be a part of this great event. Last year we had over 125 players and many great sponsors. We appreciate your support which allows us to bring together alumni, friends, and family of PHS for a day of golf and fun.

This tournament partners with the District OR1 Foundation for Knowledge, and together, they provide an annual scholarship to one or more graduating seniors from PHS with funds raised from the tournament.

If you have any questions, or are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Tyler Maas @ [maas.tyl@districtor1.net](mailto:maas.tyl@districtor1.net)

## FFA BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a blood drive on March 14 from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Please call PHS at 402-780-5327

to reserve your spot to save a life.

## RESPECT

District OR 1 along with United Against Violence will be hosting RESPECT, an educational theater company in February at Bennet Elementary.

RESPECT is a research based non-profit organization that travels to schools and organizations across Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota performing plays about violence prevention. There will be two performances: Kdg-2<sup>nd</sup>, "Stop and Think" and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, "Teaming Up."

## District OR1 Driver Education Class

Enrollment begins now with a 20 student limit. Pick up an application from Mr. Wergin or Mrs. Powell at Palmyra High School. The cost for the class is \$225, which is payable to Palmyra High School. Don't delay! Classes will once again have a waiting list. Drive Safe! Stay Alive!

**DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**PALMYRA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
Rob Hanger – Superintendent, David Bottrell -- Principal  
P.O. Box 130, Palmyra, NE 68418  
(402) 780-5327

**District OR1 Driver Education Class**

District OR1 is offering a Driver Education Class this spring at Palmyra High School with an enrollment of 20 students. Students must be **14 years of age by June 1, 2017 to take this class.**

**Classroom:** Palmyra High School, Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, June 2 and concludes Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., students are required to pass 20 hours of classroom and pass a State Written Exam.

**Driving:** Pick up/drop off at Palmyra High School, Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and concludes when each student has completed and passed 5 hours of practical driving and passed a State Certified Driving Final, students are paired up for a 4 day, 3 hour period driving 1.5 hours each, dates and times scheduled during the Classroom portion.

Students who successfully complete this Driver Education Class have met one of the requirements toward obtaining a School Permit (SCP) or Provisional Operator's Permit (POP).

**School Permit additional requirements include:** must be 14 and 2 months old, held a Learner's Permit (Type LPE) for 2 months, live 1.5 miles or more from the school he or she will be attending.

**Provisional Operator's Permit (POP) additional requirements include:** 16 years old, held a Learner's Permit (Type LPD) for 6 months.

Both permits can be purchased using the Online SCP/POP Waiver Program from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Benefits of using the Online Waiver Program are: parents do not have to take time off work, students do not have to miss school, and no waiting in line at the DMV. Since a permit number is a "key" identifier in the Online SCP/POP Waiver Program, Schools are asking students to have a Learner's Permit before completion of the Driver Education Class. Learner's Permits can be obtained in Lincoln from the 500 West "O" Street Department of Motor Vehicles site.

Enrollment begins now with a 20 student limit. Pick up an application from Mr. Wergin or Secretary Jane Powell at Palmyra High School. Cost of the class is **\$225 payable to Palmyra High School.**

Drive Safely! Stay Alive!

Ron Wergin  
Driver Education Instructor  
Palmyra High School  
Email: [wergin.ron@districtor1.net](mailto:wergin.ron@districtor1.net)



## DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016-2017

August 2016

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 2016

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 2016

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 2016

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 2016

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 2016

- 8-Aug Football Practice begins.
- 10-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 11-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 12-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 15-Aug First Day of School
- 15-Aug Start of Fall Practice

### September 2016

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

### October 2016

- 17-Oct Start 2nd Quarter
- 20-Oct 1:30 Dismissal Fall Break
- 21-Oct NO SCHOOL Fall Break

### November 2016

- 14-Nov Start Winter Practice
- 23-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 24-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 25-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

### December 2016

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

### January 2017

- 2,3 Jan Winter Vacation
- 4-Jan School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter
- 16-Jan Martin Luther King Day Teacher Inservice No School

### February 2017

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

### March 2017

- 3-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 9-Mar End of Third Quarter 1:30 Dismissal
- 10-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 13-Mar Start 4th Quarter

### April 2017

- 13-Apr Everyone Dismissed at 1:30pm for Easter Break
- 14-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break
- 17-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

### May 2017

- 13-May Graduation
- 17-May Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg. Dis. **179 student days**
- 18-May End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal H.S. **185 total days for teachers**
- 19-May Teacher Work Day

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

January 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				

February 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				

March 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	

April 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						

May 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			

No School Bennet Elementary

Teacher days

Vacation Days

Parent Teacher conf.

Early Dismissal