

PANTHER NATION NEWS

"To ensure students excel with intellect and virtue, inspired by innovative educators who engage and challenge each individual."

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

(Second Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 pm)

MEETING DATES AND LOCATION:

- December 13 – Eagle Elementary Cafeteria
- January 10 – PEHS/MS Community Center
- February 14 – Eagle Elementary Cafeteria
- March 14 – PEHS/MS Community Center
- April 11 – Eagle Elementary Cafeteria
- May 9 – PEHS/MS Community Center
- June 13 – Eagle Elementary Cafeteria

Access to meeting agendas/info:

<http://www.peasd.org/district/board-of-education.cfm>

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Dear Parents, Community Members and Taxpayers,
It is with great pleasure that I invite you to read this edition of the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District newsletter "Panther Nation News." There are many positive happenings at PEASD and we hope that this newsletter serves to highlight significant moments in our schools.

In November, there was a public release of school and district report cards by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. School district officials are pleased by the district's overall performance rating that "Exceeds Expectations," it is our intention to continue to improve on the quality of instruction and opportunities available to our students.

At every level of instruction, staff reviews individual student performance (both academic and behavioral) with a goal of maximizing student growth and achievement. Instructional coaches and interventionists, provide the individual and small group teaching necessary to facilitate student learning. Resource periods have been scheduled in each school to provide additional time necessary

to master skills required for student success.

District curriculum is constantly being examined and updated to ensure that the most current research-based materials are readily available to our teachers. This year, a K-12 Science curriculum was purchased and is being implemented in every classroom in the district. Social Studies, Physical Education and Health are under review for future implementation.

The educators in our community have chosen to dedicate themselves to working with our children and young adults in our district. I am confident that they will continue to work tirelessly to see even greater student learning outcomes in the future.
Sincerely,
Dr. Steven M. Bloom, District Administrator
Palmyra-Eagle Area School District

PALMYRA-EAGLE



73.4

★★★★★
EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
Source: dpi.wi.gov/

District Tax Rate Decreases for Second Consecutive Year

This year's decrease of \$0.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value comes one year after a reduction of \$0.47 from the 2014-15 tax rate. District employees and board members are grateful for the support of all PEASD taxpayers to manage district finances with respect and responsibility.

15 New Teachers Join PEASD

A warm PEASD welcome to Lissa Wedell (5th grade, PES), Gabriela Waite (6th grade, PES), Karolina Liban (Speech & Language, EES), Maria Schmidt (K4/Interventionist EES), Samantha Fell (Counselor, EES/PES), Ashley Malek (Early Childhood, PES), Courtney Deprez (6th grade, EES), Johanna Whelan (1st grade, PES), Julie Grabowski (K4, PES), Jennifer Landherr (Special Edu, PEHS/MS), Cynthia Zuknik (Art, Palmyra-Eagle HS/MS), Ernesto Bautista (Math, PEHS/MS), Dustin Burg (Math, PEHS/MS), Matthew Abshire (6th grade, EES), and Marco Raygoza (Spanish, PEHS/MS)

Fischer Receives \$5,000 Grant

Sue Fischer, PEHS Math Teacher currently in her 31st year with the district, was presented with a very deserving \$5,000 grant by Doris Parsons of the Palmyra-Eagle Education Foundation. The foundation provides annual scholarships and grants to PE students and teachers. The grant money must be used during the current school year in the classroom or department of the recipient. For more information about the Education Foundation, please contact Doris Parsons at dorisparsons85@gmail.com.



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Eagle Elementary Participates in National Walk to School Day

The rain held off on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 for approximately 90 walkers, including 60 students, to walk from the Eagle Village Park to Eagle Elementary for National Walk to School Day. This is the second consecutive year for the school to take part in the event. Organizer, Shana Lebanowski, mom to 3 students at Eagle Elementary and the Injury Prevention Coordinator at Aurora Medical Center in Summit, says, "I started the walk last year after learning that there were no participating schools in Waukesha County in 2014. The opportunity to promote physical activity, safety and community all at the same time is really valuable." Officer Gwen Bruckner of the Eagle Police Department assisted with traffic control during the pilgrimage. After students made it safely to school, they were rewarded with a healthy snack and entered into a drawing to receive a water bottle donated by Aurora Health Care.



Eagle Elementary Makerspace

The Eagle Elementary Makerspace, created last school year, is a state of the art classroom, which allows teachers to take a hands-on approach to learning. This room promotes the integration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) concepts into the learning process. Students are also provided with an environment that promotes creativity, innovation, and collaboration. Within the Makerspace, students have access to Lego Robotics, SMART board technology, a Lego wall, 3-D Printing, Osmo kits, Little Bits STEAM sets, Spheros, sewing machines as well a space to work on STEAM projects. The Makerspace is open to all teachers and students at Eagle Elementary.



DEAR PALMYRA-EAGLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

My name is Matt Stich and I am the principal of Eagle Elementary School. I am incredibly fortunate to be a part of a school with such rich history and traditions. I could not ask for a better group of students, staff members, parents, and community members to work with. At Eagle Elementary School, our mission is "To ensure that students excel with intellect and virtue, inspired by innovative educators who engage and challenge each individual." To accomplish our mission, we make decisions based on what is truly best for kids. This child centered approach leads to a positive school experience for all students that walk through our doors.

We are proud of our offerings, which include: Science Club, Math 24, Battle of the Books, Spelling Bee, STARS (student council), Band, Lego Robotics, Chess Club, and more! In addition we also have a state of the art Makerspace, which supports STEAM education. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). Instructionally we offer a rigorous school curriculum that is taught by dedicated educators who have received recent and ongoing professional development.

We invite you to visit our school so that you can experience for yourself the Eagle Way!

EAGLE ELEMENTARY CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

- Math 24 • Lego Robotics • Battle of the Books
- Spelling Bee Club • Newspaper Club • Homework Club
- S.T.A.R.S. (Students Together Accomplishing Real Stuff)
- Chess Club • Genius Hour



EES Students Visit Fire Department

The students at Eagle Elementary walked to visit their local Eagle Fire Department on Monday, October 10, 2016. This trek is an annual meeting for the two groups during National Fire Prevention Week. The kids were given a tour of the department, learned how to properly roll a fire hose, extinguished a pretend fire, sat in a fire truck and watched an informational video about fire safety. They were even treated to a visit from mascot Sparky the Fire Dog.

Palmyra-Eagle Cross Country Performs Best Season Ever

Historic is by far the best (and possibly only) way to describe the 2016 Palmyra-Eagle Cross Country (CC) season. Both individual and team records were broken every week during the season. Junior Antonia Bartolotta was the Rock Valley Conference South individual champion with teammate Senior Holly Pedersen following close behind as the conference runner-up. This tandem led the way to strong finishes at competitions throughout the season, including the Panther girls' squad winning the Lake Country Lutheran Lightning Invitational against a total of 15 teams. Bartolotta, Pedersen, and Jackie Rosa earned All-Conference honors at the 12 team Rock Valley Conference Championships. Hopes were high heading into the WIAA Sectional meet with the top two teams advancing to the State Championships. In heartbreaking fashion, the Panther ladies placed 3rd out of 19 schools which is the highest any team has placed at the Sectional in school history. Bartolotta raced to her first and Pedersen her second, individual qualification for the state meet in Wisconsin Rapids. At the WIAA State Championships both girls represented the Panthers with incredible determination and pride with Pedersen



2016 HOMECOMING KING & QUEEN - Carson Poulson & Sarah Parson.



finishing 29th and Bartolotta placing 42nd out of a field of 149 finishers. Only one varsity member is graduating and with strong finishes by multiple middle schoolers throughout the CC season, the girls' squad has already set their sights on qualifying the entire team for the state meet in 2017.

The future could not be more promising for the boys' squad as the team is exceedingly young. Their 9th place out of 19 at the WIAA Sectional meet was the highest placing for a Palmyra-Eagle Boys team in the current

millennium. At the final race of the season, the varsity squad consisted of three freshmen, two sophomores and two juniors. This group produced the fastest team time in nearly a decade with virtually all members running their fastest times of the year in their final race. Throughout the season the team was led by Junior Tommy Schueller. Tommy became the first PEHS male member of the Rock Valley All-Conference team since 2012. The student-athletes cannot wait to lace up their spikes again next fall.

Palmyra-Eagle to Switch Athletic Conferences

Palmyra-Eagle has made the switch from the Rock Valley Conference to the Trailways Conference. Due to the nature of athletics scheduling, football has already made the change this year, and all other sports will make the transition next year. The biggest change is that PE will now be one of the biggest schools in the conference, rather than one of the smallest. Palmyra-Eagle Athletic Director, Andrew Pickett, states, "It's a good chance to reconnect with some teams we have played in the past, and some teams we have been playing at the middle school level in recent years."

Pickett continues, "One point that I'm trying to emphasize with this transition is that shifting to a conference with schools of similar enrollment is in and of itself not enough to start winning. We still need to develop a culture of hard work and dedication if we want to start winning at a consistent level in all of our programs. We do, however, think it is a great chance to stir some excitement up in the community and in our student population. Ultimately, we want to create positive and memorable experiences for our kids, and we think that our future in the Trailways will help us achieve that".



JV FOOTBALL TEAM with Manager Timothy Atwater



Equestrian Team Makes State Competition

The Equestrian Team had a fantastic season qualifying for the state completion at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The ladies ended up finishing 5th for Division B, and won the overall Spirit Award for best school spirit, decorating, and cheering. Team member Cora Meyers also became the undefeated reigning champion for the division. She won the class outright 4 times and at state blew the competition away with a 73.5 score with the 2nd place rider coming in at 69!! Way to go ladies!



Palmyra-Eagle FFA Members Attend 2016 National FFA Convention

Five FFA members from the Palmyra-Eagle FFA Chapter traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, October 18 – 22, 2016, to attend the 89th National FFA Convention and Expo. Those members were: CeAnna Jaeckel, Katherine Novak, Kirstin Novak, Josie Ratajczek, and Hailey Richardson. FFA members attended Convention Sessions, Leadership Workshops, Career and Expo Show, and a concert featuring Cole Swindell and Chris Young. The students also had the opportunity to meet with various agricultural business leaders and college representatives from universities and technical colleges across the United States.



NHS Blood Drive

The National Honors Society held a blood drive on Friday, October 21st. They exceeded their goal of 54 successful donations by receiving: 53 Whole Blood donations and 7 Dual Red Cell donations for a grand total of 60 successful donations!

The next blood drive will be held on Friday, March 3rd from 8 am to 1 pm. All community members are invited to participate.



Panther Volleyball Shines in 2016

The 2016 Panther Volleyball program saw the most success it's had since the mid 2000's. Both the JV1 and JV2 levels were extremely competitive, only dropping a few games all season. The JV1 and Varsity girls were able to have quite the success this season by forming one team for both of their games. The Varsity team solidified three conference wins—and a 4th place finish in conference; a truly amazing accomplishment.

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

Volleyball	Brittany Neuman -- Honorable Mention Maleny Neubauer -- Honorable Mention
Football	Simon Carpenter -- First Team Corbin Sequoia -- First team Benjamin Lovell -- Honorable Mention Lonnie Garlock -- Honorable Mention Connor Sullivan -- Honorable Mention
Cross Country	Antonia Bartolotta -- Second Team Holly Pedersen -- Second Team Tommy Schueller -- Second Team Jackie Rosa -- Honorable Mention



Palmyra Elementary Honors Veterans

Palmyra Elementary held a very special Veterans Day Assembly which included members of the Palmyra American Legion sharing the significance of the American flag and the proper folding etiquette. Members of Palmyra Cub Scout Pack 14 posted and retired the colors. Special guest, Sargent Anthony Carednas, US Army, gave a heartfelt speech about his time in the service. Students demonstrated their patriotism by performing "You're a Grand Old Flag" and the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. Jim Neist performed a wonderful rendition of Taps. Thank you to Teri Kelly and Sue Bartkiewicz for organizing the event and an incredible thank you to all of the veterans who spent their morning at Palmyra Elementary.



I WANT TO BE A FIREFIGHTER!

Omar Aranda shows his excitement when Angela Fabela put the fireman's hat on his head during a visit from the Palmyra Fire & Rescue. Students learned about the difference between EMTs and firefighters and got to sit in an ambulance and a fire truck.



WE STUFFED THE BUS!!! Students from Palmyra Elementary stuffed a school bus with over 1300 items to be donated to the Palmyra Food Pantry.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The PES Scholastic Book Fair sold \$4,337.68 which amounts to about 868 books that went into the hands of students! The sales earned \$2,169 in Scholastic Dollars which will be used to purchase more books for the library and also to purchase STEAM activities to support new technology standards.

4TH GRADERS GET GEOCACHING LESSON

PES 4th graders learned about geocaching and were able to hike along the trails in the fen behind the high/middle school. A fen is one of the main types of wetland, which is usually fed by mineral-rich surface or groundwater. The area is a beautiful resource of the district and will soon have a sign created by our high school tech ed department.



PALMYRA ELEMENTARY 5TH GRADE CAMPOUT As is the tradition at PES, the 5th graders partook in the annual campout. The students went on a nature walk, made tie-dye t-shirts, had an archery lesson from Principal Steve Greenquist and spent time building camaraderie.



SUPPLIES DONATED - Thank you to the Palmyra Lions and Lioness organizations for donating over \$800 of needed school supplies to Palmyra Elementary!

Lego Robotics

The Lego Robotics students started the school year by building and programming the Lego Puppy Dog. Students had to incorporate multiple motors and several sensors in building the dog and then had to utilize those motors and sensors in their programming. The motors controlled the dog's feet and its head. Students could make the dog sit, stand, walk, move its head and even get crazy by having the dog bark. The color sensor can be programmed to do different tasks depending on which color it sees. In this exercise, sensors were used to program their dog to do different tricks depending on which color the sensor detected. Some students programmed their dogs to do goofy tricks like flipping forward to a head stand, lift the back leg next to a pretend fire hydrant or simply beg.

After the puppy dog project, students then got to choose between the Gyro boy (a wheeled robot), a color sorter, and a robotic claw. All of the robots are built and are now in the programming phase of getting the robot to do what is desired by using the sensors and motors. After another set of robot choices in December, the goal is to start up some friendly competitions for 2nd semester. The students will have to design, build and program robots for different events like drag racing, tractor pulls, etc... The far sighted goal is to start up a Lego League competition team in the middle school and a FIRST robotics team at the high school.

BAND & CHOIR CONCERTS

High School / Middle School Band Concert:

Monday, December 12, 2016 7:00 pm

High School Choir Concert:

Monday, December 19, 2016 6:30 pm

Palmyra Elementary K-3 Music Concert:

Monday, December 5, 2016 6:30 pm

Palmyra Elem 4-6th Music / Band Concert:

Tuesday, December 20, 2016 6:30 pm

Eagle Elementary K-3 Music Concert:

Tuesday, December 6, 2016 6:30 pm

Eagle Elem 4-6th Music / Band Concert:

Thursday, December 15, 2016 6:30 pm

Middle School Choir Concert:

Thursday, December 16, 2016 7:00 pm



Absences Add Up

Most of us know that school attendance is important — after all, we want our kids to have the best possible chance of doing well in school, graduating from high school, and going on to find success in college or the job market. But most parents also know that getting their kids to school every day isn't always easy. Kids get sick or they may be worried about a big test. Sometimes kids miss school because their families are struggling or because they feel unprepared.

What most parents may not know is that as early as elementary school, missing just 2 days of school per month — whether the absences are excused or unexcused — makes kids more likely to fall behind in school, and less likely to graduate from high school. Students are chronically absent if they miss an average of just 2 school days per month. When these absences add up, students who miss just 2 days of school each month, end up missing 18 school days, or 10% of the school days in a year.

When a child is absent for any reason, it becomes harder for them to succeed in school — and in life. Families can visit AbsencesAddUp.org to find resources and tips that can help them through many challenges, whether their child isn't feeling well, their family is struggling with housing, or anything in between. Together, we can help our kids stay on the path to successful futures.



1:1 Chromebook Initiative

Eighth grade students at Palmyra-Eagle Middle School have been dealt an important task. They are piloting the building's 1:1 Chromebook Initiative. This program will allow the students to utilize these devices on a regular basis at no cost to families. The students did need to sign a Device Agreement detailing the expectations and consequences for misuse. This year the tablets must be kept at school and stored overnight in the "Innovation Station", a large technology lab located in the middle school wing of the building. Students will be able to take them from class to class utilizing them solely for educational purposes while being responsible for the safekeeping of the device. Depending on the success of the program, Palmyra-Eagle Middle/High School Principal, Ms. Kari Timm would like to expand next year to include 7th-9th grades with the possibility of a take home feature. Her ultimate goal is getting a Chromebook to all students in the 7th-12th grade building in the next few years.

PEMS Students Get Hands-On Training

Palmyra-Eagle Middle School students visited the Waukesha Expo Center recently to partake in a career expo sponsored by WCTC (Waukesha County Technical College). The students were split into



groups and learned about a variety of careers including: nursing, police science, plumbing, cosmetology, construction and TV broadcasting. The event provided them with real life learning and opportunities to explore potential future careers.

Balsa Wood Bridge Building

Students in Mr. Rehm's Technology Education class had a fun and educational experience designing and building balsa wood bridges. They designed their own truss sections using triangles instead of squares for greater strength.

The final step included testing the bridges on the "Bridge Buster". Top performers were as follows (left to right): Alyssa Koopman - 90 lbs.; Chance Scheel - 83 lbs.; Teona Krivykh - 78 lbs.



TOP CAT PIN RECIPIENTS

SENIORS – Class of 2017

Cassidy Becco	Alden Ferreira	Sarah Parson
Calvin Butenhoff	Lauren Kommer	Holly Pedersen
Elyse Byal	Benjamin Lovell	Emma Pisarek
Simon Carpenter	Cora Meyers	Sarah Seiden
Olivia Deuster	Hannah Moss	Bridget Anna Sibley
Ala'a Dissi	Brianna Oliver	Samantha Tomfohrde
	Brady Olson	

ACADEMIC LETTER RECIPIENTS

SENIOR – Class of 2017

Brandon Aukofer

JUNIORS – Class of 2018

Angelica Ibarra	Brittany Neuman	Richard Smith
Griffin Isaacsen	Katherine Novak	Gabriella Wirt

GED02

The Palmyra-Eagle School District has been approved by The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to implement the GED02 (GED Option #2) program. This alternative educational program allows the district to use the GED test to measure a student's proficiency in lieu of high school credits. A student who passes the GED test and completes multiple other program requirements will be entitled to the traditional high school diploma. By implementing this program, the district is able to keep students in-house rather than outsourcing them to MATC for the traditional GED. The district will save approximately \$40,000 annually by this change. Having the student on school grounds also provides more freedom with scheduling and greater opportunities for him/her to explore areas of interest.

Art Program Restructured

With a new teacher, Mrs. Cynthia Zuknik at the helm, the high school art program has been restructured to include more specialized classes for students. Instead of offering the standard Art 1-4, the new courses include 3D Sculpting & Ceramics, AP/Advanced Art and Drawing & Painting 1 and 2.



What is Resource Hour?

Resource hour is a 25 minute period scheduled every day for students to receive academic support, enrichment or intervention based on the need of each individual. Having this time scheduled daily provides a wonderful opportunity for staff to really focus on the growth of students and for the students to explore classes that aren't



traditionally offered. Some enrichment classes available are: photography, geology, sewing, paranormal investigation, and clothes closet.



Panther Grounds Café Holds Grand Opening for New School Year

The Panther Grounds Café opened its doors for the 2016-2017 school year on Monday, September 26, 2016. This is the second year of operation for the business. Students of Ms. Jennifer Landherr's operate the shop on Mondays and Wednesdays during the 5A & 5B lunch periods. Items on the menu include: coffee (regular or iced), lemonade, hot chocolate and mocha (regular or iced). What makes this school café stand out is that the students running it have multiple disabilities. Palmyra-Eagle High/Middle School Special Education teacher, Ms. Landherr explains, "The students are learning multiple life skills including communication, peer interactions, and budgeting by participating in this endeavor". The group traveled to Sam's Club to stock up on needed items and plans to keep a detailed log of sales and inventory. Based on the taste of the iced coffee today, the future looks bright for this unique bistro.



Steamer Stand Savers

Annette Kozlowski, Food Service Director for PEASD, and the entire Food Service Department would like to thank Mr. Mike Hoff, PEHS Tech Education teacher, and students Bryce Gerlach and Jacob Behr for the work they did to retrofit the steamer stand. A new steamer stand

retails for nearly \$1,200 and the cost to modify the existing stand was only \$165. Mrs. Kozlowski states, "We greatly appreciate their willingness to help and the professional job that was done."

