



# ROOSTER TALES

February 2018

From the Desk of Larry Lysell

As we come into February, many of us start thinking about the spring break in March. As you will note herein, many of you received personally if you have a student in school, we have adjusted the calendar considerably for later this month and into March. Please scribble this in on your calendars at home so you remember the changes—particularly those of you who will be interested in the spring parent/teacher conferences!

It's the time of the year when the state legislature is in session. This will be a critical spring with regard to our ongoing school finance issues. As you may know, Governor Sam Brownback, as I write this, was confirmed as ambassador at-large for religious freedom in President Donald J. Trump's administration. The means that, perhaps by the time you receive this, Lt. Gov. Jeff Collyer will be our governor. I bring this up because in his State-of-the-State address earlier in January, Gov. Brownback proposed a \$600 million increase in education funding. The proposal the governor has announced would bring in \$120 million a year statewide over said five-year period.

On the surface this sounds excellent—that this is an amount that might satisfy the Kansas Supreme Court, which has ordered a funding increase. The 'devil is in the details', however, at least according to school-related sources in favor of a funding increase. Factually, until this year—with no increases—statewide schools have been losing about \$60 million a year just to inflation. While we did receive an increase this year, up until now we have had to "eat" this amount in our local budgets. It certainly hurt some districts more than others and in our case, we were actually helped for two years by the governor's block grant system of funding. Sadly, the larger districts were hurt by the block grant, so the Court said it was unconstitutional. ...And here we are.

It will be interesting in the next few weeks to see how this is received by the legislature. Stay in touch with your representatives and senators, whoever they may be in your area. I haven't heard any concerns this year about school consolidation, but let's all pay attention to that, too! The on going concern is generally about districts under 100 students—we're still above that figure, but need to keep the students we have and encourage any that may be interested in the district to contact us!

There, is a lot going on here—as always, it's difficult to explain in a brief message such as this, but as always, I'd be glad to go over it with you individually or in groups at your request. You know how to reach me—785.737.8106.

...And now for some *very* exciting news: we have secured a new administrator for USD 269, since, as you know, I will be leaving June 30th! *Mrs. Myrlice Hooper* has accepted the position of superintendent of schools and pre-K-5 principal, and will begin her duties July 1, 2018. She has broad educational experience as a teacher, leader, and administrator, and is coming to us from Alakanuk, Alaska! The board of education has appreciated the input from staff, parents and the communities involved in the superintendent search process. *Welcome, Mrs. Hooper!*

# Maverick Science Olympiad Invitational

by Richard Robinson

Thirteen Palco students braved the cold (-5 F) and missed their day off from school (Martin Luther King day) to participate in the first annual Maverick Science Olympiad Invitational, held in Goodland. There they competed against two teams from Ogallala, Nebraska; a team from Colorado Springs, Colorado; Hays High; and Goodland. Making the early start (6:30) and attending for Palco were Seniors: Desi Desaire, Cassidy Pywell, Blake Bouchey, David Thompson, and Arturo Cedillo; Junior Sorapat Salilampai (Pun); Sophomores: Shaylee Benoit, Emily Eickleberry, Hayley Keller, Lily Simoneau, and Riley Wells; and Freshman: Brady Bouchey and Natalie Bollig.

These young people did a fine job, medaling (placing 1st-3rd) in five event and placing 4th in five more. The following received medals at the tournament: Blake Bouchey and Brady Bouchey placed second in Mousetrap Vehicle. Placing third for Palco were: Blake Bouchey and Desi Desaire in Towers; Blake Bouchey and Brady Biouchey in Helicopters; David Thompson and Hayley Keller in Thermodynamics; and Shaylee Benoit and Riley Wells in Write It Do It.

Fourth place finishers included: Desi Desaire and Shaylee Benoit in Disease Detectives; Emily Eickleberry and Hayley in Dynamic Planet; Blake Bouchey , Emily Eickleberry, and Hayley Keller in Experimental Design; Shaylee Benoit and Emily Eickleberry in Herpetology; and Arturo Cedillo and Sorapat Salilampai in Optics.

Everyone did well in thei events and should be proud of their efforts. We capped the day off with a “quick” stop at the Goodland Sonic then made our way back home, arriving at 8:15 P.M. Special thank yous go to Toni Bristow for helping and driving and to Leonard Bristow for helping us over a long weekend.

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## INCLEMENT WEATHER



KWCH (Wichita Channel 7) television station is our “point of contact” for weather calls. KWCH will be notified by school officials regarding closure of school because of inclement weather. These announcements will be made between 6:00 and 7:30 A.M., but every effort will be made to make the call no later than 6:30 A.M.

If no announcements are made, buses will run and regular classes will be held. In addition our automated notification service will give an individual call to families who are utilizing this service. If you have not signed up for this service please drop by either school to be placed on this handy service.

When rural roads are impassable because of mud, snow or ice, the district will rely on mud routes to get students to and from school. The bus driver should notify each family if mud routes will be used.

## NEA READ ACROSS AMERICA

by Randa Linner

On March 2nd, 2018, the teachers and education support professionals of USD 269 want to get the word out about the importance of children's literacy. The National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America is a year-round literacy project that encourages readers, both young and old, to celebrate reading.

Be a part of this flurry (or furry) of reading excitement! Get involved in supporting children's literacy in our communities by:

- Taking the opportunity to read and enjoy! Read to a child in your life.
- Help set a good example. Contact a local preschool or Head Start program and volunteer with your child to share a story with younger children.
- Bring children to your public library. The library has something for everyone!
- Make sure those who are in need have plenty to read. Donate books to hospitals and daycare centers. Call ahead to see what is needed.

Resolve to make March 2nd, 2018 the first of many days you volunteer to read at a school, afterschool program, community center, library, or daycare facility. You can make a difference to future generations of readers!!

On NEA's Read Across America Day, join in on the fun because you're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child!

(<http://www.nea.org>)

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## **2017-18 Western Kansas Liberty League Academic Contest**

by Roger Morris

Each school year the Western Kansas Liberty League sponsors a high school academic contest. Over a one hundred twenty league high school students participated in this contest by taking a basic skill test. The test was a grade level test and was divided into five parts: Reading Comprehension, Math, Science, Social Science and Written Expression.

Shaylee Benoit, Palco High School sophomore, placed third (3rd) overall on the sophomore test. Shaylee placed second (2nd) on Written Expression, third on Reading Comprehension, sixth (6th) on Social Science, seventh (7th) on Science, and ninth (9th) on Math.

Hayley Keller, Palco High School sophomore, placed fourth (4th) overall on the sophomore test. Haylee placed fourth (4th) on Math, fourth (4th) on Social Science, seventh (7th) on Reading Comprehension, seventh (7th) on Written Expression and eleventh (11th) on Science.

Emily Eickleberry, Palco High School sophomore, placed sixth (6th) overall on the sophomore test. Emily placed fifth (5th) on Reading Comprehension, sixth (6th) on Math, sixth (6th) on Social Science, ninth (9th) on Science and eleventh (11th) on Written Expression.

Riley Wells, Palco High School sophomore, placed twelfth (12th) overall on the sophomore test. Riley placed fourth (4th) on Written Expression, eleventh (11th) on Math, eleventh (11th) on Science, and fifteenth (15th) on Social Science.

The sophomore class as a group placed first (1st) over all on the sophomore WKLL Academic Test.

## Spelling Bees at USD 269

School bees were held in each class at USD 269 from second to eight grade to determine the top four spellers for our school bees. The top four classroom winners, totaling twelve spellers for PJSH, then competed in the PJSH School Spelling Bee on January 18th. From those twelve, four went on to represent PJSH at the county bee at Plainville on January 24th.

### PJSH Spelling Bee Winners 2018

#### 8th Grade Class Spelling Bee

Bradon Stohs - 1st  
Kirsten Marcotte - 2nd  
Cady Pieper - 3rd  
Jadin Newell - 4th  
Connor Knipp - Alternate

#### 7th Grade Class Spelling Bee

Samantha Clark - 1st  
Braden Acheson - 2nd  
Austin Stohs - 3rd  
Luke Voss - 4th  
Kyler Martin - Alternate

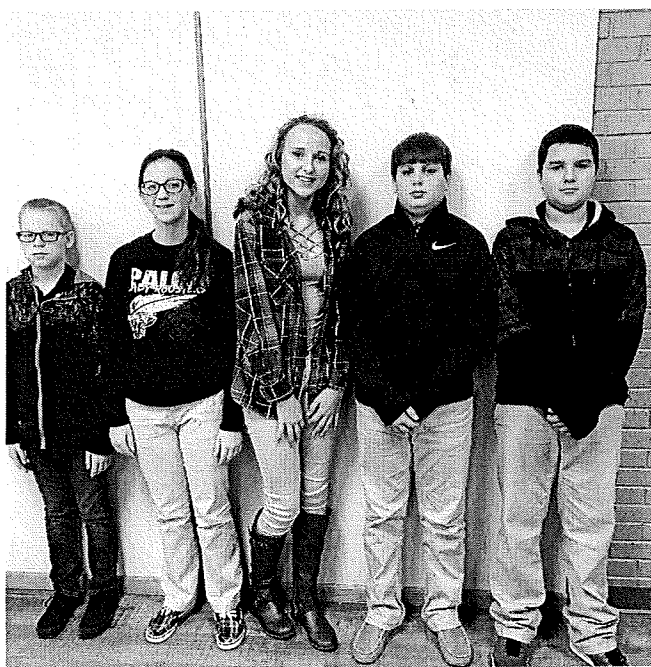
#### 6th Grade Class Spelling Bee

Rachel Dryden - 1st  
Kenzie Wells - 2nd  
Mikaela Merceri - 3rd  
Abigail Eickleberry - 4th  
Shaylee Coleman - Alternate

#### County Bee Winners

Austin Stohs - 1st  
Jadin Newell - 2nd  
Cady Pieper - 3rd  
Samantha Clark - 4th  
Braden Acheson - Alternate

Congratulations to all of our dedicated spellers!



Pictured L to R:

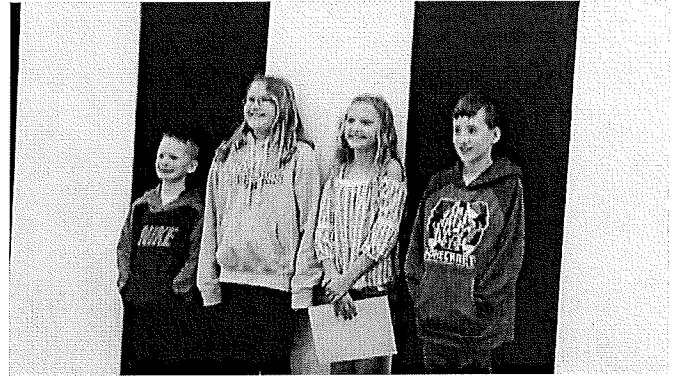
Braden Acheson,- Alternate, Samantha Clark-4th ,  
Cady Pieper,-3rd Jadin Newell-2nd, and Austin  
Stohs-1st

# DES SPELLING BEE

By Erica Dryden

The annual Damar Elementary School Spelling Bee was held on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The top four spellers from grades 1 through 5 competed in the bee, with K-State Research and Extension agent Anna Muir as the pronouncer. Mylie Benoit, fifth grade, was the overall school champion. Her winning word was bicycle. Tristan Hageman, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, placed second. Jolie Kuhn, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, placed third. Coy Beesley, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, placed fourth. These top four Damar Elementary School spellers attended the Rooks County Spelling bee on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Plainville Junior/Senior High School.

L to R: Coy Beesley –2nd grade—4th place, Jolie Kuhn-5th grade—2nd place, Mylie Benoit-5th-1st place, Tristan Hageman-4th grade—2nd place.



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## Little Scientist!

by Peony Reif

When I sat down, last minute, to finally write this rooster tale I asked myself, “what do my students enjoy most about their school day?” I came to this conclusion: it's science! Which is great since we are moving towards a world that needs scientists and engineers more than ever.

Why do my kindergarteners and first graders love science so much? I believe one of the main reasons they love science is because it is a subject that is hands on. It lets students solve problems and lets them explore on their own. Science standards in Kansas and around the country are shifting to allow kids to learn through hands on, real world experiences. This is making science class more interesting and relatable to kids.

In my classroom we use an online science curriculum, called Mystery Science. The kids in my classroom love Mystery Science! They can't get enough of it! Mystery Science. It always starts the lesson with a phenomena, which is a question that is related to a real world situation. For example, “How can we protect a mountain town from falling rocks?” This phenomena immediately got my students engaged in the lesson. Students went on to answer this question on their own! I just facilitated the learning experience. They did this by working together to build a model of the scenario. They became engineers to solve a problem! Students were given a mountain (a piece of cardboard slanted at an angle). At the bottom of the piece of cardboard was a make believe town. At the top was a boulder (a ping pong ball). Students had to stop the boulder from hitting the town by only using push pins. Every single one of my students was able to solve this problem. The best part about this challenge was that students were having fun and learning. They learned how forces work and how they can change the direction of an object in motion. They did all of this learning without even realizing they were learning.

We definitely have little scientists and engineers in the making. The future of science education is looking bright! More importantly, the futures of these little scientist are looking even brighter!

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*Happy Valentine's Day*



## PJSHS Scholars Bowl

As the 2017-18 season for the high school is coming to an end, the junior high season is just getting started. The PHS team has traveled to Stockton, Western Plains, Ellis, Logan and Osborne to compete. Although they have not medaled, the teams have done a great job and have been in the top 5 teams at each meet. They will end their season February 1, 2018 at the regional scholars bowl in Natoma.

The PJSHS will begin their season on February 5, 2017 at Natoma. We are able to compete with one 7th grade team and one 8th grade team. Meets we will attend besides our own are: Stockton, Natoma, Ellis, Hill City and our league which is in Logan. Unlike the high school season the junior high season is only a couple of weeks long.

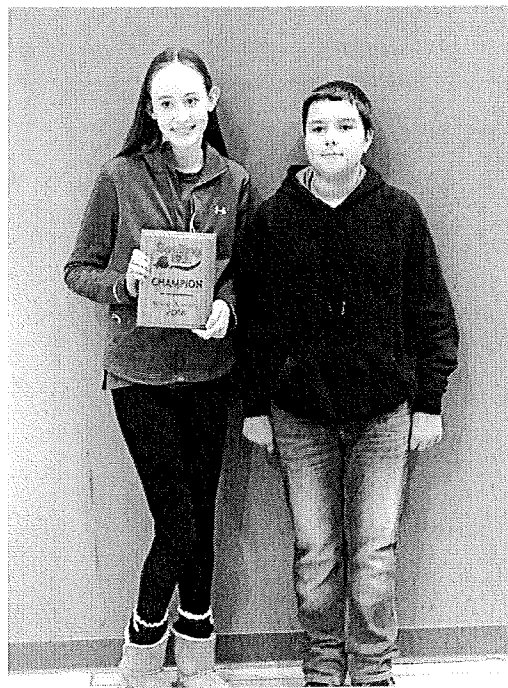
Parents are allowed and encouraged to attend the matches. Also, if any of you would be like help at meet hosted by Palco, please let me know. It really is fun and so awesome to see what the students know. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Toni Bristow

## WINNER of the ROOKS CO. SPELLING BEE

Cappi Hoeting 7th Grade @ Stockton JH - 1st Place

Austin Stohs—7th Grade @ Palco JH - Runner Up



## Mayor Essay Winner

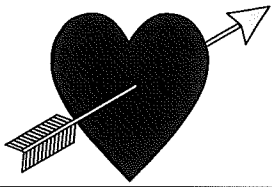
by Heather Stamper-Voss

Are you aware of your city's development plans? Do you know what a budget is for? Would you be able to make a feasible policy for the common good? Well, Samantha Clark can! A big shout-out to Sam for winning the north central division of the Kansas "If You Were Mayor" Essay Contest put on by the League of Kansas Municipalities.

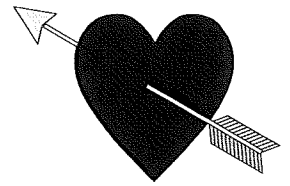
Each year the state encourages all seventh graders to learn about civic engagement by considering to be a mayor of their own community. Students had to come up with a 250 word or less memo to develop policy to improve their community. Each student had to consider if their idea was equitable, for the common good, and efficient. They also had to list barriers and resources they would encounter concerning said project.

Winners were invited to a special ceremony with local leaders and state legislatures in Topeka on January 24th. Each regional winner was awarded a monetary prize as well as having their picture and essay published in the *Kansas Government Journal*. Way to go, Sam! Way to make Zurich and USD 269 proud!





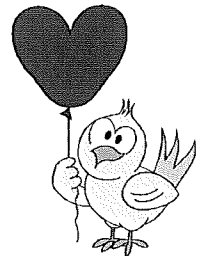
# February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*

					1 Italian Spaghetti Garlic Bread Fruit Choices Garden Bar	2 Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potato Gravy WW Roll Fruit Choices Garden Bar	3
4 Beef & Bean Burrito Lettuce/Tomato WG Corn Tortilla Chips Fruit Choices Garden Bar	5	6 Pizza Bread Sticks Fruit Choices Garden Bar	7 Goulash Corn WW Bread Fruit Choices Garden Bar	8 Deli Ham Sandwich Lettuce/Tomato Sun Chips Pasta Salad Fruit Choices Garden Bar Cookie	9 Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potato Cooked Carrots WW Roll Fruit Choices Garden Bar	10	
11	12 <i>NO SCHOOL</i>	13 BBQ Meatballs Mac & Cheese Green Beans WW Bread Fruit Choices Garden Bar	14 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Baked Fries Fruit Choices Garden Bar	15 Chili WG Corn Chips Fruit Choices Garden Bar Cinnamon Roll	16 Cheese Calzone Garden Salad Fruit Choices Garden Bar	17	
18	19 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potato WW Roll Fruit Choices Garden Bar	20 Soft Taco Lettuce/Tomato Mexican Rice Refried Beans Fruit Choices Garden Bar	21 Pork Rib Sandwich Potato Wedges Baked Beans Fruit Choices Garden Bar	22 <i>Cook's Choice</i>	23 Hamburger on Bun Lettuce/Tomato Fries Fruit Choices Garden Bar	24	
25	26 Taco Soup Corn Tortilla Fruit Choices Garden Bar	27 Corn Dogs Curly Fries Fruit Choices Garden Bar Apple Crispy	28 Lasagna WW Bread Garden Salad Fruit Choices Garden Bar	<p><i>All menus served with milk. All menus subject to change. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</i></p>			





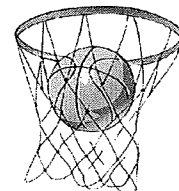
# What's Happening In . . .

## February 2018

February	1	PJH BB vs. Tri-Plains Brewster @ Winona 4:00 PM HS Regional Scholar's Bowl @ Natoma 4:15 PM
	2	WKLL HS BB Tournament Finals 5th & 7th Place Colby Community Bldg. 3:00 PM
	3	WKLL HS BB Tournament Finals 1st & 3rd Place Colby Community Bldg. 3:00 PM
	4	4-H 7:00 PM
	5	PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Osborne 4:00 PM HS Instrumental Clinic @ Healy 10:00 AM Concert 6:00 PM
	8	JH WKLL BB Tournament @ Brewster 10:00 AM
	9	PHS BB vs. Wheatland Grinnell @ Grainfield 6:00 PM
	10	JH WKLL BB Tournament @ Brewster 10:00 AM HS State Scholar's Bowl TBA
	12	<i>NO SCHOOL—Teacher Inservice</i> B.O.E. Mtg. @ Palco 7:30 PM
	13	PHS BB vs. Northern Valley @ Almena 6:00 PM
	14	WKLL JH Scholar's Bowl @ Logan 12:00 PM <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>
	15	Regional Science Olympiad TBA PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Natoma 4:00 PM
	16	PHS BB vs. Golden Plains @ Rexford 6:00 PM
	17	Little Rooster Cheer Camp
17—23		National FFA Week
	19	PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Ellis 4:00 PM
	20	PHS BB vs. Natoma @ Palco 6:15 PM
	21	PHS Leadership Training @ Colby 10:00 AM PHS Science Field Trip @ Colby 12:30 PM
	22	PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Palco 4:00 PM
	23	PHS BB vs. Weskan @ Palco 6:15 PM Little Rooster Cheer Performance Senior Night
	26	1st Day—Track Practice HS BB Sub-State @ Palco 6:00 PM
	27	PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Hill City 4:00 PM
March	1	HS BB Sub-State @ Palco 6:00 PM
	2	HS BB Sub-State @ Palco 6:00 PM
	3	HS BB Sub-State @ Palco 6:00 PM



\*PLEASE NOTE CALENDAR CHANGES\*



# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
4-H 7:00 P.M.	4 PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Osborne 4:00 P.M. HS Instrumental Clinic @Healy 10:00 A.M. Concert 6:00 P.M.	5 PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Osborne 4:00 P.M. HS Instrumental Clinic @Healy 10:00 A.M. Concert 6:00 P.M.	6	7 PJH BB vs. Triplains Brewster @ Brewster 4:00 P.M. HS Regional Scholar's Bowl TBA	1 PJH BB vs. Triplains Brewster @ Brewster 4:00 P.M. HS Regional Scholar's Bowl TBA	2 WKLL HS BB Tournament Finals 5th & 7th Place Colby Community Bldg. 3:00 P.M.	3 WKLL HS BB Tournament Finals 1st & 3rd Place Colby Community Bldg. 3:00 P.M.
11	12 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Teacher Inservice</i> B.O.E. Mtg. 7:30 P.M.	13 PHS BB vs. N. Valley @ Almena 6:00 P.M.	14 WKLL JH Scholar's Bowl @ Logan 12:00 P.M. <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 Regional Science Olympiad TBA PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Natoma 4:00 P.M.	8 JH WKLL BB Tournament @ Brewster 10:00 A.M.	9 PHS BB vs. Wheatland Grinnell @ Grainfield 6:00 P.M.	10 JH WKLL BB Tournament @ Brewster 10:00 A.M. HS State Scholar's Bowl TBA
18	19 PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Ellis 4:00 P.M. <i>Presidents' Day</i>	20 PHS BB vs. Natoma @ Palco 6:15 P.M.	21 Leadership Training @ Colby 10:00 A.M.	22 PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Palco 4:00 P.M.	23 PHS BB vs. Weskan @ Palco 6:15 P.M.	24	
25	26 1st Day Track Practice HS BB Sub-State TBA <i>Presidents' Day</i>	27 JH Scholar's Bowl @ Hill City 4:00 P.M. HS BB Sub-State TBA	28 HS BB Sub-State TBA				

National FFA Week February 17 - 23