



NEWSLETTER

October 2, 2026

Principal: Austin Grimes
<http://matsuk12.us/acc>

Phone: 907-746-2358
Fax: 907-746-2368

Dear Academy Families,

4,595 Items of Kindness!

Wow!!!! I am so proud of our students! Our school collected an amazing **4,595 food items**, which will be heading to the Palmer Food Bank. What an incredible 3rd grade community service project! Thank you to all of our parents who helped sort, count, and transport the donated food to the Palmer Food Bank. We are so proud of the generosity and service shown by our Academy students and families!

K-1st Vision Screening for Amblyopia

We have arranged with the Palmer Lions Club to provide their very important Vision Screening Project on Wednesday, October 7th. The vision screening will be set up in Mrs. Kramer's 2nd grade classroom. The Lions Club vision screener checks children for the most prevalent risk factors that may lead to the development of amblyopia. Amblyopia causes decreased vision in one or, sometimes, both eyes because the eye and brain are not working together properly. Many vision problems can become permanent if they are not corrected by age 7, when the eye reaches full maturity. For your student to participate in the screening, parents must complete the Vision Screening Permission Form. A hard copy was sent home in your child's backpack. If you need another copy, the front office has additional forms available.

Husky Honey

Our second-grade class's honey is ready for purchase! Each summer, Academy purchases 2-3 packages of bees from Royal Alaskan Honey, owned by Academy alumni Alex King. The bees are cared for throughout the spring and summer, and then we harvest the honey in the fall. The hives are located next to our greenhouse. Our second-grade students help harvest the honey by uncapping the frames and using an extractor to spin the honey. The honey is then filtered, and parent volunteers help fill the bottles. Our students also design their own honey labels, so each bottle features a custom student-designed label! Come check out our Husky Honey in the front office. The money raised from honey sales helps support the purchase of bees, hive equipment, and bottles for the following school year.

Questions? Concerns? Needs?

Please call, come in, or text. **WE CARE! I CARE!!**

With Warm Regards,
Austin Grimes, Principal
907-232-9756
Austin.Grimes@matsuk12.us



3rd Grade Food Drive

Our 3rd graders spent the week collecting, sorting, and counting the food donations each classroom received. Today we did a final count and big sort. They did an amazing job, and we are so proud of them!

Together, our school collected **4,595 food items** for the Palmer Food Bank! Well done, everyone!

A huge thank-you to the parents who came in to help today and to the 8th graders who lent a hand. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this food drive a success!



Date:	Event:
10/7	KG and 1 st Grade Palmer Lions Vision Screenings
10/7	4 th Grade AK Wildlife Conservation Center
10/26-30	Middle School Intensive Week
10/27	2 nd Grade Kids Don't Float
10/30	K-5 Halloween Parties



Elementary Cross Country

We are so proud of our runners!

They represented Academy so well and gave it their all. We couldn't be prouder of their hard work, determination, and school spirit!



Kindergarten



Kindergarten has continued to work through the alphabet by adding P, R, T, and V to our growing stack of phonograms. Students continue to practice sounding out words using the phonograms we know.

This week, we introduced Spalding Rules 6 and 17. Students learned that Y, not I, is used at the end of English words, and that the phonograms F, L, and S are often doubled at the end of words, as in cuff, bell, and hiss. Students have especially enjoyed the word wheels we create during reading groups. They provide a fun, hands-on way to practice sounding out rhyming words. When practicing at home, encourage your child to sound out the word before looking at the picture. For students ready for an extra challenge, have them use some of the words in a sentence.

This week, we began our study of time by creating paper-plate clocks for hands-on practice. Students learned the difference between the long minute hand and the short hour hand, and we have been practicing telling time to the hour. All of their hard work learning to form numbers has been especially helpful as we use those numbers to tell time!

Thank you for your continued help and support! Keep an eye out for opportunities to volunteer for our party and activities on October 30th. As always, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Ms. Gerard Rachael.Gerard@matsuk12.us



FIRST GRADE:

- Students have six reading strategies to choose from for individualized reading goals! By next week, each student will have their own strategy to focus on when reading to themselves.
- We read one of our Core Knowledge stories, *Cinderella*. It is from the unit, "Different Lands, Similar Stories," and we discussed the vocabulary word, worthy, and story elements as well as practiced retelling the tale. We also started our Mercy Watson read aloud book series.
- In writing, students learned about proper nouns.
- The students are using subtraction to find those missing numbers and learning when & how to flip the order of numbers in our equations.

Contact us anytime! Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond Betsy.Mayer@matsuk12.us Jessica.Drummond@matsuk12.us



Another great week in second grade! We have been busy learning, practicing new skills, and having lots of fun along the way. Our classroom continues to be full of curiosity, hard work, and lots of great learning!

We are continuing our adventure with ***My Father's Dragon*** and enjoying all the twists and turns in the story. In Language Arts, we have been learning about **action verbs** and practicing identifying words that show what someone or something is doing.

In **Math**, we have been working hard on **double-digit addition** and learning about **arrays**. We are practicing different strategies and building our confidence as mathematicians!

We are so proud of the effort we see from our students each day. They continue to work hard, support one another, and grow as learners. We are excited for another great week ahead! ♥

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Kramer Erin.Saunders@matsuk12.us Kimberly.Kramer@matsuk12.us



The Farring Files

Language Arts: We have had fun comparing and contrasting characteristics of animals in different classes such as mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish. Students chose an animal that they wanted to research and have been working hard throughout the week to construct an informative writing piece about that animal. They are very proud of their hard work! Our class also showed their best efforts on our monthly 50-word spelling test, and I am very proud of their successes. Your child will be bringing home a list of words to study for next week.

Math: We have been observing and understanding representations of multiplication equations in numerical form, and through models. Each day we are reviewing and identifying the factors and products of multiplication sentences and solving real world problems with multiplication. I look forward to seeing each student grow in their fact fluency as we continue our studies!

Please remember that if you need to reach out with any questions, the best way to reach me is my school email.

As always, thank you for your partnership and support, Mrs. Farring Katherine.Farring@matsuk12.us



The Glanville Weekly



Language Arts: We finished Unit 2! Students spent the week working on their animal research projects and used an animal reader to gather information. They researched, drafted, and completed their final drafts. Since this is their first graded writing project, we also learned about writing rubrics and how to use them. Students are excited to show off their work at their parent-teacher conferences!

Next week, we will begin Unit 3 on the human body! A spelling list is coming home today for the test on Friday, October 9.

Math: We finished our chapter on subtraction! Students took a test and ended the week with a fun activity called Mountain Math. We learned about the heights of mountains around Palmer, as well as Denali and Mount Everest. After the lesson, students worked in pairs to compare Palmer's tallest mountain, Pioneer Peak, with other mountains in our area and calculate the height differences. Our big challenge was comparing the heights of mountains around Palmer with Denali: five-digit subtraction. They did a great job!

Students also continued working toward our goal of completing three ALEKS topics each day.

Have a wonderful weekend! Mrs. Glanville Megan.Glanville@matsuk12.us



FOURTH GRADE

Benbow's Buzz

Nielsen's News:

ELA-*Next week we will NOT have a Spalding list/test due to our field trip Wednesday. We have embarked on a new adventure back in time! Our new unit is Empires in the Middle Ages. Students will learn all about the lives of the different groups within the feudal system: kings, queens, lords, serfs, freemen, knights, craftsmen, merchants, monks and nuns. We will be discussing major events and ideas that came about during this era. Along with studying the history, we will be reading the novel, Robin Hood. So far, we are LOVING it!

Grammar: prefixes, suffixes, and base words

Morphology: prefixes: un- & non-

Spalding: O4, focus on rules 11, 28

Reading: Gloomy Castles and Jousting Knights, Merchants, Markets, and Mud: Towns in the Middle Ages & Robin Hood Ch. 3 & 4

Writing: Intro to Opinion paragraphs



***We almost have all the cereal boxes that we'll need for our final project. I am also taking donations of black, gray, and other colors of 12" x 12" cardstock. Thank you!**

Math- Multiplication strategies for One-Digit by two-, three- and four-digit numbers

Multiplication/ division fluency- We also did an assessment on ALEKS. Your kids are doing awesome!!

Mrs. Nielsen Laurie.Nielsen@matsuk12.us

Our field trip to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is next Wednesday, October 7! Thank you to all the families who got that field trip permission slip signed and returned! We still have a few slips that need to be turned in; please get them turned in so we can let the center know how many people are coming!

Please remember that this is a **CASH ONLY** trip, and we do need to get those funds together as soon as we can to ensure that our entry to the center is as smooth as possible.

Language Arts - We had a week of normal routine! Spelling lists went home Monday. Although I did not send cursive practice home, we are continuing to focus on letter formation and size, as well as making sure that our letters are resting on the baseline. This is very important because it will have an impact on spelling tests if I cannot tell if it was a cursive error or a spelling error. Progress reports went home this week too; please take a moment to look them over with your child before signing and returning the form. Each morning, we practice sentence writing, which consists of identifying and correcting fragments and run-on sentences, as well as unscrambling sentences and writing all four sentence types. Daily Language Review this week covered compound sentences, identifying suffixes and their meanings, sentence editing and identifying comparative and superlative adjectives. We also began reading Robin Hood and started our Middle Ages unit! It was a busy week!

Math - We spent this week using what we learned about multiplication to multiply 2-digit by 2-digit numbers and practicing both the standard algorithm and the area model. We have been emphasizing the use of correct terminology as well. Automatic recall of these basic facts is vital to success in fourth grade math. Although we will practice multiplication facts every day in class, I do ask you to make sure that your child finds time at home to practice as well. Just a few minutes a day can make such a difference.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!

Cherie.Benbow@matsuk12.us



Sturgis Super



Students!

Language Arts-Thanks to great improvement on our latest 50-word test, spelling groups have been rearranged again. New lists were sent home on Thursday, and the next test will be on Thursday, October 8th. Thanks for helping your child study their words and make them part of their vocabulary.

We began a new personal narrative this week called, "Hello, My Name Is" by Jennifer Lou. To go along with this narrative about a person's name, students will be writing their own name narrative. The first step of this assignment is for each student to find out as much about their name as they can by asking relatives, and/or researching on the internet. Their research should include first, middle, and last names and is due on Monday.

Math-The class has done a lot of work this week on learning how to use Order of Operations, and multiplication strategies. Next week we will take the Chapter 2 test and move on to the first chapter on division.

Mrs. Sturgis Sabra.Sturgis@matsuk12.us

SCHUMACHER MATH

We had a good week testing and finishing a rate and ratio project. We began a brief new project on area and measuring. Students will have limited time to master Quicktables in class, but it won't be the 1/2 hour that ALEKS allows each day. A brief, daily practice at home will make a huge difference for your child's math fact fluency. If your child has "no homework" but has a little extra time, mastering topics from whole numbers, fractions, and decimals will fill any "holes" in content knowledge from previous years' classes or summer's memory lapse.

Mr. Schumacher
Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us

The Manley Minute:

Brr! It's getting cold outside! Please ensure your student is prepared and dressed for the weather as we go outside each day. Coats, outdoor shoes, hats and gloves should be brought to school each day.

Language Arts: This week in language arts we entered 30 words in our Spalding notebook and worked on defining and recognizing rule 12. As part of our Personal Narratives unit, students learned how to properly punctuate and write using dialogue. The highlight of the week was a writing activity called "Dialogue Telephone". Ask your student what that was all about! Later on in this unit, students will be creating their own narrative about their name. We began brainstorming ideas to compose this narrative and students have been tasked with conducting research on the origin, meaning and significance of their name.

Math: In order to understand math, students need to be able to "talk like a mathematician". This week students learned the vocabulary terms: prime factorization, factor, prime, base, cubed, exponent, power, squared and composite. From there, we also practiced prime factorization, looked at patterns with prime factorization, and learned how to simplify their prime factorization expressions by using exponents. We also began looking at multiplication patterns among powers of ten.

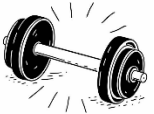


Our class average in ALEKS is now 51%! We celebrated our class average being above 50% by having a popcorn party on Wednesday. Students are encouraged to complete 10 topics per week at home. In addition, many students would benefit from additional practice on their multiplication facts. Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Manley Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us



Outdoor Fitness



If you have a weightlifting bar you do not need, our middle school would love to use it! The students have been practicing forms with Miss Molly using PVC pipe and are looking great. She says the next level of skill requires an actual weight bar. Let us know if you have one to loan or donate. So far, we have only 1 bar to share amongst 30+ students per class.

If you have a weed whacker or tall grass mower, the trails in the woods still need work. Delayed school construction means we'll have good trail access and extended hill use this year, but we'll need to clean up the mess first.

Outdoor fitness classes went well this week with a mix of biking, lifting form practice, and obstacle course construction. Middle school students who miss class due to injuries or school district sports events will be excused. Other absences will require a make-up workout sheet completion to earn points for their grade. These forms are available from myself, Miss Molly or Miss Melissa. Your student will need initials and a signature from a supervising adult to earn up to 80% of the points for the missed class. Attending the whole class is 20% of their grade. Finally, being prepared for class means your middle schooler has put on supportive outdoor footwear and has changed from their uniform to workout clothes which will be another 2/10 points and increasingly important as the weather deteriorates.

Mr. Schumacher and Mrs. Nichols
Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us Molly.Nichols@matsuk12.us



K-5 Lab Classes



Kindergarten: This week, we explored colors! Students learned about warm and cool colors and how colors can connect to feelings. They created concentric circles using colors they associated with the emotions we named. We also learned about Dale Chihuly, an amazing glass artist, and used colors and patterns to create part of a collaborative class chandelier!

1st Grade: First graders learned all about texture and how artists can make objects look as though they would feel rough, smooth, soft, or bumpy. They began creating their above- and below-ground homes, adding creatures, plants, details, and plenty of texture!

2nd Grade: We continued our landscape lesson this week by working on drawings that use one-point perspective!

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Glanville



Third through Fifth are continuing building good hand posture, accuracy and speed in typing.

3- Coding: Debugging with Laurel, Sequencing in the Music Lab

4- Coding: Mini-Project, Career Journeys

5- Finished Denali Brochures & Digital Citizenship- Tracking You: how to be responsible with your digital footprint

Mrs. Nielsen



Español with Señorita Catarina

Third, fourth and fifth graders are having conversations about the Spanish speaking countries they have a yearning to visit and the travel companions they will take with them. They are learning about Equatorial Guinea - the only Spanish speaking country in Africa. It has been interesting hearing the similarity of their language to the Spanish spoken in Spain. Students were surprised to see Spanish rap battles and hedgehogs for sale for lunch!



Kindergarten - Abraham Lincoln was our president to learn about this week.

1st grade - Mesopotamia is the land between two rivers. We hope students will be able to at least tell you one of them!

2nd grade - Calligraphy! Chinese New Year! Inventions from the Chinese!

Mrs. Mayer and Mrs. Drummond



Third, fourth, and fifth grades have been working hard to create a rough draft from their illustrations and jot notes. They did a great job getting ideas on to paper and will be revising those ideas and creating a final draft next week.

They also continued their work on writing different types of sentences, and distinguishing between a topic sentence and detail sentences

Mrs. Sturgis and Ms. Benbow



Kinder Science: This week in Kinder Science we have been looking at the needs of Plants and Animals, we have also taught them a little song to remember those needs, so ask your Kindergartener what that song is after school today!

First Grade Science: This week in First Grade Science, we have been taking a look at the spinning earth, we have looked at what makes shadows move, as well as we learned the difference between rotate and revolve. Ask your first grader after school today what that difference is!

Second Grade Science: This week in Second Grade Science we have been looking at erosion and how landforms can change over time, we even did a fun treasure hunt with them to end this week!

Mr. and Mrs. Farring

katherine.farring@matsuk12.us
timothy.farring@matsuk12.us





Middle School Spanish

Sixth graders are creating mini bedrooms and continuing to label their homes. They are reviewing numbers 1-30 and enjoying their new flashcard game Waka Waka Shakalaka.

Seventh graders are working on remembering to do quality work in Spanish class. Listening in class, following directions and studying for tests are all skills that help students be successful in Spanish class. Completing the weekly Choice Boards with fidelity improve pronunciation, reading, writing and understanding the Spanish language. Students will be testing on question words this week and delving into the last two rules of adjectives.

Eighth graders are working with er verbs and the verb construct Ir+A+Infinitive that helps them speak about the things they are going to do in the future. Students made some astounding predictions about the kindergarteners and first graders of our school.

Spanish 1 students are having scripted discussions with their classmates about their bright futures. For the first time we had a simple whole class extemporaneous discussion entirely in Spanish. I am proud of the group for staying in our target language for 15 minutes. Spanish 1 students are also studying vegetable words and using circumlocution to describe vocabulary to each other.

Señorita Cady.Agoff@matsuk12.us

Middle School Art-Ventures with Ms. Christensen



6th Grade "Name Project" art pieces.



It has been another busy and exciting week in 6th grade!

In **Language Arts**, we started the week with Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem *The Raven*. Students created some amazing one-page interpretations that showcased both their understanding of the poem and their creativity! We also kicked off our **Salem Witch Trials Unit**, which will lead into students writing their first research paper of the year. We will begin the research and writing process next week, with most of the work completed in class as we guide students through each step.

In **Math**, both classes continue working with decimals, fractions, and percents. Students have been applying these skills to fun, real-world scenarios, including **buying their first car**, **calculating interest rates**, and **participating in a mock basketball draft**. These activities help students see how the math they are learning connects to situations outside the classroom.

In **Social Studies**, students are learning about **world religions**. This unit pairs especially well with our upcoming Salem Witch Trials research as students explore how religious beliefs, historical events, and society influence one another.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Zerkel and Mr. Chadwell

Katherine.Zerkel@matsuk12.us Jordan.Chadwell@matsuk12.us



This week students looked into what makes up Earth's interior. They learned Earth is made up of different layers. We focused on the lithosphere and asthenosphere as those are the layers playing a role in the movement of tectonic plates. We were also able to begin identifying the different types of plate boundaries and what kinds of natural hazards can occur at those boundaries. This all continues to tie into our "Where Should We Store Nuclear Waste?" issue. Students should be wondering if we should consider the locations of these plate boundaries in their ultimate decisions. Enjoy your weekend!

Mrs. Strohmeyer Cindy.Strohmeyer@matsuk12.us



7TH GRADE

Wrights Winners!

Wright 7th LA: The class began its second unit in propaganda this week. They defined categories of propaganda and practiced sorting advertisements both print and online. Posters they created on each category will hang in the classroom for the duration of the unit. They also finished their Kennecott articles and began building their class website on the trip. They chose from four different nonfiction books about the impact of propaganda on various minorities during WW2 and the 1950s. Students will read and present on their books over the next three weeks.

Wright 7th math: Students are working through chapter four's concepts on exponents and roots. Ten ALEKS topics are due each Monday.

Wright 7th history: Types, forms and economics of government were explored this week. Students used a variety of learning tools - note taking, card matching and sorting, list making - to learn these concepts. They also took notes on the Romanov dynasty and studied the causes of the Russian Revolution. Their Harkness discussion focused on defining freedom for the characters of Animal Farm. Their homework is to choose a review project they'll work on continuously throughout this unit by Monday.

All hand-outs and homework are on ConnectEd or Google Classroom. Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Wright Melodie.Wright@matsuk12.us



"A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read."—Mark Twain

In English this week, students practiced the reading strategy of asking questions, using this week's daily reading passages. They also demonstrated their spelling and meaning knowledge of last week's vocabulary words ("ject") and were assigned ten more words with the root "sect." Students reviewed the elements of a short story and practiced completing a plot diagram using a picture book. They reviewed the literary devices of onomatopoeia and alliteration, identified examples, and wrote their own. For this week's writing entry, students wrote about how rich their lives are without money or possessions.

Students in math are beginning to recognize progress with their accuracy and speed in daily, timed multiplication and division tests. They continued working through the rest of Chapter 4 and learned how to multiply and divide fractions and convert between systems. Next week, students will prepare for the final chapter assessments (vocabulary and skills). Remember, students should be engaged with ALEKS, mastering 10 topics a week, mainly as homework. Please encourage them to reinforce the skills we are working on in class by choosing lessons with fractions.

History students continued developing their atlas and geography skills and learning about the Industrial Revolution. They engaged in a simulation activity, The Industrial Power Challenge, where they began with \$100 million to invest in the six ingredients to build a successful industry. Then, they were given a "crisis" that required students to pivot and re-evaluate decisions. Students were then grouped and assigned a lens as industrialists, workers, consumers, investors, and the government. They identified wants, worries, the power they had versus the other groups' power, and a change they demand. They then held a mock board meeting to negotiate an agreement that all five groups could live with. We discussed Episode 6, focusing on the relationships between invention, competition, and power. Students will view Episode 7 and complete their logs by Monday. They will finish the series next week and begin preparing for the final assessments (3 parts) scheduled for Monday, October 19.

Together, this will be a great year!

Ms. Twohy Tuesday.Twohy@matsuk12.us

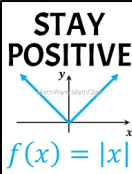


7th grade scientists learned all about microscopes and how to use them and then put those skills to use to look at different microbes! They drew what they saw, and we were able to identify that some of them had a noticeable nucleus. Next week we will dive deeper into different cell organelles and their functions. We also briefly discussed how the bubonic plague spread in the very early 1900s through fleas from rats to humans, and those fleas would be referred to as vectors. There was a reading on the cell theory sent home as homework; it will be due Tuesday of next week. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Strohmeier cynthia.strohmeier@matsuk12.us



Maciel's Math Masters



It was another busy week filled with fractions! There was a lot of practice and a lot of progress. Negatives are becoming less and less of a challenge for students. I continue to be impressed with the students' stamina and ability to stay engaged and work hard. They are completing their 10 weekly topics in ALEKS during class time and pushing themselves to complete half their total ALEKS topics by Christmas break. This goal can be supported at home by doing a couple of extra topics when they can. Every little bit of extra practice helps!

Mrs. Maciel Ashleigh.Maciel@matsuk12.us



Welcome to October! We've wrapped up another busy week of learning, with students exploring our Constitution, working with scientific notation, and bringing our study of Anthem to a creative close. It is hard to believe how fast time is flying by and the giant snow flurries we watched outside our classroom window yesterday were a stark reminder that winter is just around the corner.

This week in Civics, we learned about the seven Articles of the Constitution and began digging into the Amendments. We also explored the differing perspectives of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists as they debated the Constitution and the role of the federal government.

In Math, we continued our study of exponents, focusing on scientific notation. Students practiced writing and interpreting very large and very small numbers using powers of ten.

In English I, we finished Ayn Rand's Anthem and wrapped up with a culminating art activity exploring how the novella's protagonist, Equality, changes from the beginning to the end of the story. Next week, we will shift our focus to writing our Fall Intensive letters to Mrs. Grimes!

Last Frontier Honor Flight's Mission 23 Homecoming is next Saturday, October 10, at the Anchorage International Airport. Please see the attached flyer for details. This is a family event, so bring the whole crew! We hope you can join us for this wonderful opportunity to welcome home and support Alaskan veterans. Attendance also counts as a **Community Event worth 20 points** toward our Civics Active Citizen project.

Have a fantastic weekend,
Mrs. Molina
Stacy.Molina@matsuk12.us

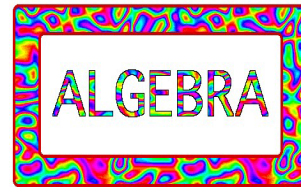


Manley's Minute: English 1

This week, we began reading George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. As a precursor to reading, we discussed what a fable is and why an author might choose to use animals rather than people to tell a story. We also looked at the allegorical qualities of animals and discussed how an author could use these qualities to communicate a message in a creative way.

Students have now read the first two chapters and have begun meeting the animals and learning about life on the farm. They are already beginning to recognize the themes of leadership, power, equality and freedom starting to emerge.

Mrs. Manley Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us



After an amazing showing on their chapter 2 test, we have moved on to chapter 3, and we are moving from generic equations and expressions into linear equations!



This week in 8th Grade Science we continued our look into the Earth, Moon, and Sun. At the beginning of the week, we did an experiment where we modeled the Earth, Moon, and Sun to scale and through this we found the Sun in our Scale model would be all the way down by Palmer High School if our scale model earth was sitting right out in front of our School, and the Moon would be 10 yards away!

Mr. Farring Timothy.Farring@matsuk12.us

