

## **Principal's Message**

Dear Prairieland Families,

Welcome back to school! It has been a great first week of school and our Cougars are beginning to get back into a "school routine". After talking with the students, it sounds like everyone had a fun-filled summer break!

**Website** - I encourage you to use our website on a weekly basis for timely information. Updates are made at least weekly and you can find answers to many questions there. The address is [www.unit5.org/prairieland](http://www.unit5.org/prairieland).

**Safety** - Please check out our website for a letter that details the safety measures we have taken with the recent addition of two portable classrooms at Prairieland.

**Technology** - Since last September, we have added 9 SmartBoards to our classrooms. Currently, all 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms and one commons have this technology and with a successful magazine sale this year (we hope), it is realistic to think we will have Smartboards in all 2<sup>nd</sup> and possibly 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms within a year! Sell those magazines!

**7 Keys to Comprehension** - A large number of Prairieland teachers have been involved in an action research project over the summer related to reading comprehension. We will be focusing on a "key" to comprehension each month and will feature it in the newsletter. This month we are targeting "**Sensory Images**". By creating mental images, good readers develop a wide range of visual, auditory, and other sensory images as they read, thus becoming emotionally involved with what they read.

**Anniversary Celebrations!** Prairieland is celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year with the start of the 2008-09 school year! Prairieland has always been a special place for families and the fact that we still have 30 staff members who opened the building with Mr. Swearingen in August of 1999, is evidence that every day is, "A Great Day To Be A Cougar!" Additionally, Unit 5 is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. It was in July 1948, that the Unit 5 Board of Education held its first meeting. The Board of Education celebrated the district's 60th anniversary at the start of their July meeting this summer.

**Focus on School Improvement** - This year we will continue to build upon our activities last year in the areas of classroom assessment, Response to Intervention (RtI), inclusionary practices, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). We will be posting more detailed information on all of these topics to our website in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Tim Arnold

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## Calendar

### September

1	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
8-12	SAT 10 testing for 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades
9	PIECE Parent Meeting 6:30 IMC
10	Market Day Pick-Up 4:30 – 5:30
16	Club Night – 6:00 – 7:30
23	Noodle's Night for Prairieland
27	CIDSO Buddy Walk



## School News

### STUDENT DROP OFF/PICK UP

Student safety is our primary concern when transporting students to school. Please keep the following information in mind if you are going to be transporting your child to or from school this year.

- Adult supervision begins at 7:55 every morning. Unless they are enrolled in the NPR Before School Program, children may not arrive at school prior to 7:55 a.m.
- **New** - This year we will be blocking off the back drive from 8:00 a.m. – 2:55 p.m. each day. This is necessary due to the two new portable classrooms in the back of the building.
- The bus lane is for buses only.
- If you drop off your child after 8:10 in the morning, they may go directly into the building instead of going to the playground to line up.
- Please be patient, go slowly, and always think of safety as you maneuver through the parking lot.

### NEW STAFF

Please help us welcome our new staff members at Prairieland this fall.

Sally Whitcomb – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher

Sarah Talbert – C.I. for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades  
 Chuck Fisher – Adapted P.E.  
 Priscilla Steers – IMC specialist  
 Anna Gomez – Speech Pathologist  
 Monica Wong - Teaching Assistant

### Staff who have changed positions:

Natalie Brawner – Kindergarten teacher  
 Lori Scott – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher  
 Suzie Schertz – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher  
 Amy Lucas – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher  
 Nate Ford – IMC specialist  
 Cindy Spain – Learning Resource

### PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS

We are currently looking for a few parents who are interested in a paid position as a noon-hour supervisor. The hourly rate is \$7.80 per hour. The hours are 11:00 to 1:00. Responsibilities include the supervision of students during both indoor and outdoor recess. You get to work with a great group of children and have a lot of fun with the rest of us who work during the noon hour. Contact Mr. Arnold at 888-6838 if are interested in the position.

### MAGAZINE SALE!!!

PIECE is holding its annual magazine sale. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. The sale began on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Information packets containing all of the details were sent home on Aug. 25.

### HOMECOMING

Normal West begins their homecoming celebration on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. On that day, students will be dismissed at 1:15 P.M. The homecoming parade will begin at 2:00 P.M. Additional information about the homecoming parade will be sent home in a couple of weeks.



## Education News

### SAT10 ASSESSMENT

During the week of Sept. 8 – 12, all 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will take part in the Stanford Achievement Test – Form 10. 2nd grade students will also take the Otis Lennon School Ability Index (OLSAT).

Please help your child(ren) to be prepared for these tests by having them get plenty of sleep and by serving them a healthy breakfast each morning that week.

Thank you for all of your help and encouragement!



## Looking Ahead

### October

7	PIECE meeting – 6:30 in IMC
8	Market Day Pick up
9	Cougar Pride Night - 6:00
13	Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
17	West Homecoming - dismiss at 1:15
29	NO SCHOOL -Parent/Teacher Conf.
31	Halloween Parade/class parties

### November

4	PIECE meeting – 6:30 in IMC
5	Market Day Pick up
13	Music Program 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> grades
14	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester
20	Music Program 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> grades
26	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Institute
27-28	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break



## Quote of the Month

“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.”

*James Baldwin, American writer*



## Reminders

- Please use the attendance hotline (862-5057) when calling in an absent or late arriving student. The hotline is available 24 hours a day.
- When sending lunch money to school, please be sure to use an envelope with the student’s name and room code on the front. This makes things go much faster for our administrative assistants.
- During the school day, all exterior doors are locked, except for the main doors in the front of the building.
- All school visitors must sign in at the office for a “volunteer” or “visitor” badge to wear while in the building.
- Radios, CD players, MP3 players, electronic games, laser pointers and other electronic equipment are not allowed at school unless a classroom teacher gives special permission for a day.