

The Press

Your Source for Cougar News

May 2008

The Press
PrairieLand Elementary
1300 E. Raab Rd. Normal,
IL 61761
309.888.6838
www.unit5.org/prairieland
Volume #9
Issue #8

Principal's Message

Dear Prairieland Families,

During the month of May I tend to spend quite a bit of time reflecting on the past school year. Just the other day I was looking through pictures of our students from the beginning of the year and it's amazing how they've changed! As an educator, one of the rewards I have is being able to see the way all of our children grow over the years. I know each teacher will also spend the upcoming month reflecting on the successes of their children. We have a staff that cares for our students as if they were their own children. The week of May 5-9 is Staff Appreciation Week and I'd like to be the first to say "Thanks!" to every member of our Prairieland staff for all they do on behalf of our students!

School-wide Crisis Drill

I just wanted to give a reminder to parents that we will practice a "Code Red" scenario on Wednesday, May 7th. As I previously shared in our April newsletter, our goal is to properly prepare our students, but not to scare them. A "Code Red" situation would involve the need to keep all staff and students in a safe location, usually due to some kind of an intruder in the building. We have decided that we can practice this, but in a less threatening manner with a different scenario. On May 7th, the scenario will be that a dog has wandered into the building. We thought this was a somewhat less frightening scenario than an "intruder" in the building, yet we still are able to practice moving children to safe locations with an adult. We look forward to this proactive measure for the safety of all of our students and staff.

Thanks to our Prairieland families for all of the generosity!

Throughout the year we ask for donations to various charitable organizations. Here is a list of charitable donations for the 2007-08 school year that wouldn't have been possible without you!

Jesus Coffee House (\$166), Pontiac Elementary School Flood (\$759), Easter Seals (\$1,727), United Way (\$2,847), Children's Hospital (\$1,232), and Multiple Sclerosis Society (\$143) for a grand total of \$6,874!

I would like to thank everyone who showed our students the importance of giving to those in need.

Tim Arnold
Principal

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Calendar

May

- 1 - Kdg Registration 9:00/1:00
- 2 - AWARE Fair
- 6 - PIECE Vounteer Recognition 6:00
- 6 - PIECE Meeting 6:30
- 8 - IMC Book Fair 3:00 – 7:00
- 14 - Market Day Pick-up 4:30
- 17 - PIECE Movie Night 8:30
- 26 - **No School** – Memorial Day
- 29 Play Day
- 29 - 5th Grade Recognition
- 30 - Last Day of School 8:15-9:15
- 31 - NCHS & NCWHS - Graduation



Student Spotlight

BIRTHDAY BOOKS

You have an opportunity to help our library grow with the Birthday Book Program. Families can purchase and donate a book to Prairieland's IMC in honor of their child's special day. A bookplate with the child's name and birthday will be placed in the book, and the honored child will be the very first student to check out that book. Books may be selected and purchased for \$15 from a list posted outside the IMC and on the Prairieland IMC website. Families may also talk to Mrs. Renollet about a specific title they wish to purchase from a bookstore. Thank you for all your support! We have received many birthday book donations and it has made a difference in our collection.

Thank you and happy birthday to . . .

Hannah Hyatt (KMa) for the donation of *You're All My Favorites* by Sam McBratney and *You Can Do It, Sam* by Amy Hest in honor of her February 3rd birthday.

Kyle Johnson (3F) for the donation of *Origami Animals* by Keiji Kitamura in honor of his April 15th birthday.

Alyssa Johnson (KA) for the donation of *Guri and Gura Spring Cleaning* by Rieko Nakagawa and Yuriko Yamawaki in honor of her March 24th birthday.

Rylan Kelly (KMa) *One Winter's Day* by M. Christina Butler in honor of his April 28th birthday.

Happy birthday and thank you for helping our library grow.



Education News

Staff changes for 2008-09

As some of you may already know, **Mrs. Jameson** has accepted a new position for next year. She will be the new Unit 5 Coordinator for ISU student teachers who are enrolled in the Professional Development School. Mrs. Jameson has dedicated 32 years of her professional career to teaching and inspiring children. While the decision to move out of the classroom was a very difficult one for her, we also know her years of quality teaching experience will benefit generations of students through her work with our future teachers! Mrs. Jameson has been such a powerful influence on countless young minds over the years. Her commitment to children has been witnessed not only within the classroom walls, but also through her sharing the beauty of nature with them through the Butterfly Garden. Prairieland will truly miss Mrs. Jameson!

Mrs. Sally Whitcomb will be our new 3rd grade teacher. Mrs. Whitcomb has taught at Pepper Ridge Elementary since it opened in 1994 and for the last 3 years she has been at 3rd grade.

Other staff changes are as follows:

- **Mrs. Scott** (currently 4th grade) will move to our 1st grade team.
- **Mrs. Lucas** (currently Kindergarten) will move to our 4th grade team.
- **Miss Brawner** (currently a teaching assistant) will move to our Kindergarten team.



NEWS FROM THE NURSE



CATCH (Coordinated Approach To Child Health) is an evidence-based Coordinated School Health Program designed to promote physical activity and healthy food choices, and prevent tobacco use in elementary school-aged children. By teaching children that eating healthy and being physically active every day can be FUN, the CATCH Program has proven that establishing healthy habits in childhood can promote behavior changes that can last a lifetime.

The CATCH Program brings schools, families, and communities together to teach children how to be healthy for a lifetime. CATCH is effective because healthy behaviors are reinforced through

a coordinated approach—in the Classroom, in the Cafeteria, in Physical Education, at Home, and After School. CATCH is research-based and proven to work. And, most importantly, CATCH makes nutrition learning and physical activity FUN!

(This information is from the CATCH website)

Prairieland School is fortunate enough to be receiving the CATCH Grant for the 2008-09 School Year! We will be sharing information with parents regularly about the program.

<http://www.catchinfo.org>

Susy Marcum, RN, BSN, School Nurse
Jill Garneau, PE teacher

Scholastic Buy 1 Get 1 Free Book Fair

Similar to the spring fair we had two years ago, we will be having a 1 DAY ONLY Buy 1 Get 1 Free Book Fair May 8th from 3:00-7:00pm in the IMC.

This fair is NOT a fund raiser for the IMC. We do not profit from this fair. Instead, the “profit” goes back to you the buyer. The hope is to supply students with some books they are excited about reading over the summer. Thank you in advance for encouraging your children to read.

Volunteers are needed to help Thursday May 8th 3:00pm-7:00pm to run the cash register during the fair, and 7:00pm-8:00pm to tear down the fair. Please contact Mary Renollet via school phone 888-6838, email address renollem@unit5.org, or send a note with your student to Mrs. Renollet in the IMC.

PRAIRIELAND GARDEN CLUB

Garden Club will be meeting every Monday we are in school through the month of May. Our last meeting will be May 19th and we will have a pizza party to celebrate all of the members' hard work.

SUMMER CARE OF GARDEN:

If you would like a great summer family activity, sign up to help care for Prairieland's Butterfly Garden for a week this summer. It is easy, just stop by and water the garden a couple of times a week depending on the weather and pull some weeds, make it a family event, or pull weeds while the kids are playing on the playground. A sign up sheet will be on the desk in front of the office starting the first week of May.

Garden Club needs your help

We need help moving our mulch onto the garden and off of the sidewalk. If you happen to be strolling by, waiting for your child to practice soccer, or just want some exercise, feel free to load up a garden wagon by the side of our school, fill it with mulch and dump it on a spot in the garden. Our garden club members would love you! We promise. Thanks ahead of time for your help.

Nancy Harp & Gloria Jameson, sponsors

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS

We are currently looking for noon-hour supervisors for the 2008-09 school year. The hourly rate is \$7.53 per hour. The hours are 11:00 to 1:00. Responsibilities include the supervision of students during both indoor and outdoor recess. Contact Mr. Arnold at 888-6838 if you are interested in the position for next year.

FROM THE KITCHEN

We are finishing another great school year at Prairieland. It has been a pleasure to serve lunch to our students over the past few months. We sincerely hope that we were able to meet all of your expectations as we provided your children with a healthy and nutritious lunch.

We wish all the 5th graders good luck in Junior High next year. Always remember that, when you feed your body, you feed your brain! Also, don't forget to drink your milk!

Have a fun, safe and exciting summer everyone.

The Cougars' cooks.

Mrs. Roszhart, Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Engelmeyer

Reminders

Transportation Reimbursement Program

June 30, 2008 is the deadline for qualifying parents or guardians to sign-up for the 2007-08 Parent/Guardian State Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Program per 105 ILCS 5/29-5.2 of the Illinois School Code and Section 120.210 of 23 Illinois Administrative Code. If you are a Qualifying Parent or Guardian and have not provided your claim information to your school personnel for the 2007-08 school year please do so as soon as possible. Parents or guardians must provide 2007-08 Parent/Guardian State Pupil Transportation Claim information to school personnel for transmission to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on or before June 30, 2008. Late transmissions will not be accepted.