

The Press

Your Source for Cougar News

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The Press
PrairieLand Elementary
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Principal's Message

Dear Prairieland Families,

Winter weather is here and we are not yet into the month of December! Who knows what this winter will bring, but now is a good time to plan with your child for what to do in case school is dismissed early due to inclement weather.

Speaking of planning, this is our combined December/January newsletter, so topics included in this edition include activities into the new year – 2008!

With that being said, I truly hope each one of our Prairieland families are able to slow down and enjoy each other in the upcoming months. We are often reminded of how special our gift of time is to the ones we love!

Happy Holidays!

Tim Arnold

Gifts

What shall we give the children? Christmas is almost here...
Toys and games and playthings, as we do every year?
Yes, for the magic of Toyland is part of the Yuletide lore
To gladden the hearts of children, but I shall give something more.
I shall give them more patience, a more sympathetic ear,
A little more time for laughter, or tenderly dry a tear.
I shall take the time to teach them the joy of doing some task.
I shall try to find time to answer more of the questions they ask.
Time to read books together, and to take long walks in the sun...
Time for a bedtime story after the day is done.
I shall give these to my children, weaving a closer tie...
Knitting our lives together with gifts that money can't buy.

By: Isia Paschal Richardson

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Calendar

December

- 4 - Music Program 7:00 Grades K/1st
- 5 - Christopher Canyon Assembly 8:30 – 9:30 Gym (K-5)
- 5 - Market Day Pick-Up 4:30
- 20 - Room Parties 2:15
- 21 - All School Reading Day
- 24 – Jan 6 NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

January

- 7 - NO SCHOOL – Teacher Institute
- 8 - School resumes
- 15 - PIECE meeting
- 16 - Market Day
- 21 - No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- 23 - Prairieland Spelling Bee
- 23 - CAC Meeting at Prairieland 7:00 p.m.



Student Spotlight

COUGAR COUNCIL 2007-2008

Student Council elected to collect donations for the Humane Society as a service project in November and December. They collected numerous items from our generous Prairieland families. The Student Council students then went to the Humane Society and presented the donations and were treated to a tour of the facility. Thank you for your support of Student Council and the Humane Society!

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 . . .
Katy Clausen (KMU) for the donation of *Watch Me Grow: Duckling* by Lisa Magloff in honor of her November 15th birthday.

Alyssa Clausen (KMa) for the donation of *The Adventures of Benny and Watch*

by Gertrude Chandler Warner in honor of her November 15th birthday.

Happy birthday and thank you for helping our library grow.

Thank you too for all the purchases made at our Scholastic Book Fair. It was a huge success.



Education News

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Fall Garden Club will meet 1 more time, Dec. 3rd. We will be celebrating all of the gardeners' hard work by having a pizza party on Dec. 17th. Students will need to be picked up by 4:00 on that day. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to help with our fall garden club. The students have had a great time clearing out the garden to help prepare it for winter.

Garden Club will be making stepping stones for Mother's Day. The stones are \$22 for personalized and \$25 for handprints and personalization. Remember that sign-up for spring Garden Club will be after winter break.

Sponsors: *Storia Jameson and Nancy Karp*

FROM THE KITCHEN

Do you know if your child had milk for lunch today? Only children who drink milk for lunch meet their daily calcium requirement. More than half of the children ages 6-12 don't consume any milk products with their lunch and 46 percent consume various "sugared water" beverages that have minimal or no nutritional value. According to a study cosponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the National

Dairy Council in recent years, calories from sweetened beverages consumed at meals doubled, while energy from milk we drink during meals declined by 35 percent. Milk and milk products provide children with 15 essential nutrients, including 5 bone-building minerals and the energy needed to perform their best throughout the day. Encourage your child to drink milk at least 2 to 3 times a day...We do at lunch time, you can count on us!

May your holidays be safe, yummy and healthy!

The cougars' cooks

Mrs. Rozzard, Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Engelmeier



February

- 5 – PIECE Meeting 6:30
- 8- Cougar Skate Night 6 - 8
- 12- **No School** – Lincoln’s Birthday
- 13- Market Day – 4:30
- 14- Valentine Day parties – 2:15
- 16 PIECE Carnival – 4:00 – 7:00
- 23 - Chess Tournament at Prairieland
- 28 - County Spelling Bee at IWU
- 29 - **No School** – Institute Day

March

- 3 - **No School** – Casimir Pulaski Day
- 4 - PIECE Meeting – 6:00
- 4 – 14 ISAT and SAT 10 Testing
- 11 - 4th-5th Grade Music Program 7:00
- 20- Talent Show 9:00/1:00
- 21-28 **No School** – Spring Break



The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires!

- William Arthur Ward, British novelist



WEATHER REMINDERS...

Recess

Please be sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for any outside recess time. Children will go outside for recess on days when the temperature (with wind chill) is 20 degrees or above. On days when the temperature is between 20 - 25 degrees, students will go outside for 10 minutes and then have the option to continue playing outside or sit inside in the hallway for the remainder of recess. Keep in mind that the temperature fluctuates during the day and it is always better to send your child prepared with a winter coat, hat and gloves.

Weather related school closings

There are also several options for parents to find out when the weather requires the school to be closed or dismissed early:

WJBC 1230AM, WBNQ 101.5FM, WIHN 96.7FM, WBWN104.1FM, WGLT 98.1FM, or WWCT 106FM. You may also access the following websites: **Unit 5.org**, WJBC or WBNQ.

The decision to dismiss early due to inclement weather is made before 11:00 a.m. and the media will be notified at that time. Please do not call the school office or the Unit Office for this information. If nothing has been announced by 11:00 a.m., it will be a full day of school as usual. **Please arrange, ahead of time, with your child what they are to do in case of early dismissal.** It is difficult for last minute arrangements to be made for students.