

# The Press

*Your Source for Cougar News*

October 2007

**The Press**  
PrairieLand Elementary  
1300 E. Raab Rd.  
Normal, IL 61761  
309.888.6838  
[www.unit5.org/prairieland](http://www.unit5.org/prairieland)  
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Dear Prairieland Families,

The school year is off to a great start and we are back into a routine for the kids. One focus that we continue to have is the safety of our students. We have a School Safety Committee looking at a variety of areas including the parking lot procedures, stranger danger, and crisis drills. This is an ongoing process and we welcome ideas from parents.

**Parking lot drop off and pick up:** We ask that all drivers use extreme caution when picking up/dropping off children. This seems like it should be a given, but concerns still exist about the driving habits of a small number of drivers. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Prairieland 2007 ISAT Results:** Each spring all 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Illinois take the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). These tests are only one of several ways we measure our students' progress. Teachers at Prairieland spend time breaking down individual scores and trends in the data in different subject areas. This information, along with other types of assessment scores and survey results, are used to develop our school improvement plan.

Students at Prairieland continue to do well on the ISAT thanks to our dedicated staff and our partnership with you – the parents! Individual scores were passed out at Curriculum night. The school-wide results are as follows:

**Grade 5:** A total of 92 students were tested  
**Grade 5 Reading** - 90% Met or exceeded state standards  
**Grade 5 Math** - 99% Met or exceeded state standards

**Grade 4:** A total of 89 students were tested  
**Grade 4 Reading** - 91% Met or exceeded state standards  
**Grade 4 Math** - 100% Met or exceeded state standards  
**Grade 4 Science** - 98% Met or exceeded state standards

**Grade 3:** A total of 82 students were tested  
**Grade 3 Reading** - 87% Met or exceeded state standards  
**Grade 3 Math** - 95% Met or exceeded state standards

**Tim Arnold**  
[arnoldt@unit5.org](mailto:arnoldt@unit5.org)

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## Calendar

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### OCTOBER

- 2 - PIECE Parent Meeting – 6:30 IMC
- 3 - Market Day pickup
- 5 - NCWHS Homecoming early dismissal at 1:15
- 8 - NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day
- 20 - Parent EXPO at Prairieland
- 22 – 24 Red Ribbon Week (Details coming)
- 24 - Open House – Grandparent Night – Fall Social 6:30
- 25 - NO SCHOOL – Teacher Institute
- 26 - NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 31 - Halloween Parade and Parties 2:00



## Student Spotlight

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### 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 . . .

(from last spring)

*Kearsten Personette (1R) for the donation of Good Dog by Maya Gottfried, in honor of her May 24<sup>th</sup> birthday*

*Andrew Loy (3F) for the donation of Encyclopedia Brown: Boy Detective and Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Secret Path written by Donald Sobol in honor of his July 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.*

(new this year)

*Michael Hallam (KKL) for the donation of Demolition Derby Cars by Jeff Savage in honor of his February 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

*Rory Hallam (3M) for the donation of The Original Monster Truck: Bigfoot by Scott D. Johnston in honor of his August 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

*The Halsey family for the donation of Wrigley Field by the Chicago Cubs Wives in honor of Mr. Arnold's (principal) September 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

*Happy birthday and thank you for helping our library grow.*

Volunteers are still needed to help with the upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. Please contact the IMC if you are interested.



## School News

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### Halloween Parade – Wed. Oct. 31

Our Halloween Parade and Parties will begin on Wednesday, October 31 at 1:45 p.m. in front of the school. All parents and community members are invited to attend! As in the past, students are encouraged to use good taste with

respect to their costumes. When deciding on a costume with your child, please limit the “scariness” of it. The following parameters have been established to assist you.

- Weapons or look-alikes of any kind will not be allowed
- Costumes, masks or make-up may not include blood or gore
- Excessively scary costumes will not be allowed

Also, students will not wear their costumes to school on this day. They will be allowed to change before the parade. Please help us keep this a fun, safe, and positive activity by closely monitoring your child’s costume for this occasion.

### NEWS FROM THE NURSE

Did you know that:

- Obesity and overweight affect 10 million US children – approximately 19% of children aged 6-12 and 18% of adolescents aged 12-19.
- Overweight and Obesity are associated with: heart disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes, stroke, arthritis, breathing problems, and psychological disorders like depression
- The diseases caused by obesity are responsible for 2/3 of ALL deaths in the US.
- **In most cases, OBESITY is preventable.**

For the 2007- 2008 school year I will be focusing on combating childhood obesity and I’d love for you to join me!

We currently have a wellness team in place at Prairieland School through our

PIECE parent group. But, we welcome new members any time!

If you would be interested in joining us, please send me an email or stop by my office.

**TOGETHER** we can make a difference!

Susy Marcum, RN, BSN  
Certified School Nurse  
[marcumns@unit5.org](mailto:marcumns@unit5.org)

### FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR CHILDREN

On Oct 6, 9:00-11:00 am, a free dental cleaning and exam will be given to any financially needy child, 5-12 years of age, on a first come, first served basis. In exchange for these services, the patient is asked to bring 2 canned goods (for each child served) which will be donated to the Food Bank. Several dental professionals are donating their time to this worthy cause. The free clinic will be held at the Conway Smile Center, 3609 E. GE Road, Suite A, Blm. Please share this information with other agencies, etc., to make sure the public is informed of this free clinic!

### SUBSTITUTE NURSE OPPORTUNITY!!

Unit 5 is currently seeking to employ substitute nurses for the 2007-2008 school year. Applicants must have a current **REGISTERED NURSE** license to practice in the State of Illinois. If you would like to work with students on school days only, please contact the Unit Office (309)452-4476 to begin the process. We would love to share this wonderful experience with you!

 **Education News****P.E. NEWS****K- 2 Physical Education**

I hope you got a chance to turn off the T.V. and enjoy some play time with your children during the World Wide Day of Play! If you didn't get a chance to go, you can still take the "Go Healthy Challenge" by signing up at [www.igohugo.org](http://www.igohugo.org). This website can give you ideas on how to eat healthy, as well as different ways to exercise your body. Check it out!

The first and second graders just finished up their fitness testing. From the results, I can see that we are off to a good start! We will be working on improving their scores throughout the year. The second graders are trying to see how many steps they can take during class by using the pedometers. A few students have been able to get over 1000 steps!

Kindergarten is doing super! They are busy learning the basic locomotor movements such as jogging, galloping, skipping, jumping and hopping. We also have a good time pretending to be different animals. These movements are great for building muscular strength but we just think they are fun! Have your child show you some of the moves they have learned!

**WELLNESS CORNER**

Children should be active at least 60 minutes every day...at least three times a week the activity you do should make you sweat! A healthy diet and regular

physical activity are important factors in maintaining great health. Choose activities that you LIKE to do and involve friends and family, the sky's the limit!

- \*Dance to your favorite music
- \*Take a trip to a museum or zoo
- \*Play basketball or soccer
- \*Take a nature walk or hike

**FROM THE KITCHEN**

The Prairieland Food service staff is happy to welcome all the cougars to a new school year. Our high lunch counts show that most students are taking advantage of eating our school lunch. We are pleased to see that a lot of parents are also enjoying the opportunity to come and eat lunch with their children.

When you plan to join us for lunch, please remember to call the kitchen at (309) 862-5062 before 9:30 a.m. to be added to our lunch count. Cards for our guests are sold in the office for \$2.05. Our goal is to prepare and serve delicious and nutritious meals for our students. We welcome your questions and comments.

**Peanut Butter News**

Due to the increasing number of students with peanut allergies, peanut butter has been removed from the Unit 5 elementary lunch menu. The cooks in the schools cannot guarantee that all foods served in the lunch program are allergen free. Parents or students may contact the school nurse or kitchen manager to read ingredient labels of products used in the lunch program. Some items may be manufactured on

equipment that also processes products containing peanuts and other nuts. Those items will be marked (~) on the lunch menu when companies have provided that information.

The Prairieland cooks.

Mrs. Roszhart, Mrs. Peterson and  
Mrs. Engelmeyer

Phone #: (309) 862-5062

Email: roszhac@unit5.org

### **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

#### Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers Needed

All proceeds from the Scholastic Book Fair benefit Prairieland's IMC. Please consider helping out this worthy cause during the following dates and times:

Monday, October 15  
After School Set Up

Wednesday, October 24  
7:30-8:00 am  
3:00-3:30 pm

Friday, October 26  
8:00 am to 4:15 pm

Monday, October 29  
7:30 - 8:00 am  
3:00 - 3:30 pm

Tuesday, October 30  
7:30 - 8:00 am  
3:00 - 3:30 pm

Please contact Dawn Mattia at 287-7585 if you can help. Thank you.

### **FALL GARDEN CLUB**

Fall Garden Club at Prairieland has started. Monday, September 17, 2007,

was our first meeting. We have around 42 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and several parents that have volunteered to help out different weeks. We will meet on Mondays from 3:05-4:00 p.m. We suggested to the students to bring a snack to eat right after school and old clothes and shoes to change into if they are dressed up that day. We do get dirty in garden club. The students will be helping weed, plant fall bulbs, and help later on to prepare the garden for winter. If your child would still like to join, it is not too late, just get a form from the front of the school and have your child bring it to one of the meetings. Our meeting dates are: Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>; Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to all of the Prairieland families that helped to care for our garden this summer by weeding and watering. It looks awesome.

Sponsors: Nancy Harp and Gloria Jameson



### **PIECE NEWS**

PIECE Parent Meeting Dates:  
In the IMC at 6:30

October 2, 2007  
November 13, 2007  
January 15, 2007  
February 5, 2007  
March 4, 2007  
April 1, 2007  
May 6, 2007

## **NO HASSLE FUNDRAISER and MAGAZINE SALE!!!**

PIECE would like to thank all of the families who participated in the No-hassle Fundraiser and Magazine Sale this year. Your generous support will enable us to provide numerous benefits to our students and teachers.

## **MARKET DAY**

**What is Market Day?** Market day is Prairieland's monthly fundraising program providing **restaurant quality foods at grocery store prices** for your family, while returning a percentage of the purchase price to the school.

**How Does Market Day Work?** Each month an order sheet will be sent home with your child. Place your order by accessing [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com) or by completing the order form and returning it to school with your child. Each month there is a Market Day sale at Prairieland. You pick up your products the day of the sale in Prairieland's Multipurpose Room between 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**When is the Next Sale?** The October Market Day is Wednesday, October 3rd. Make a difference this year in your child's school and participate if you can!

## **BOX TOPS**

We've recently launched our 2007-2008 Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign. This year we've set a high goal through Box Tops to purchase items for our classrooms.

For over 10 years, Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools raise over \$200 million to buy the things they need. The Box Tops for Education program offers three easy ways to make a difference through everyday activities: buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books. School budgets are tighter than ever, and Prairieland is asking for the support of families and community members like you.

Another easy way to help our school is to sign up for the Box Tops website at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com). You'll get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops, the latest Box Tops news and much, much more. Best of all, it's absolutely free!

For more information on how you can help our school earn cash through Box Tops for Education, contact Karin Nowers, our Box Tops coordinator, at 888-4888 or [karin711@hotmail.com](mailto:karin711@hotmail.com) or visit [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com). Thank you for your support!

## **ALL SCHOOL EVENTS OPEN HOUSE**

On October 24th our PIECE parent group will host our Open House / Fall Social / Grandparents Night for the entire family beginning at 6:30 P.M. Be sure to bring your camera, there will be many opportunities to take pictures.

## **HOMECOMING**

Normal Community West Homecoming is October 5<sup>th</sup>. Dismissal will be at 1:15. Parade starts at 2:30 p.m. Our PIECE group will once again have a float in the

parade. This year's theme is Under the Sea. Please come out and support our school! The route starts at NCWHS and goes South on Parkside to Gregory; east on Gregory to Garden; south on Garden to Tompkins; west on Tompkins to Parkside; north on Parkside to Normal West. We hope to see you on the parade route!

## WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Join PIECE as they host Prairieland School's 3rd annual Walking School Bus. **Wednesday, October 3 is National Walk to School Day** and the Wellness Committee wants everyone to **ditch their car for the morning and walk to school!**

A Walking School Bus is made up of children walking to school with one or more adults. It is such an easy way to motivate children to exercise, while also reducing traffic and congestion around our school. And best of all, PIECE is providing a healthy treat and other goodies in the back playground at the end of the walk. If your child is a bus rider and wants to participate, simply drive them to one of our drop off points and they can walk the rest of the way! There will be lots of grown ups there to guide them along their way.

### Drop off Points:

Southwest corner of Henry and Shelbourne, White Chapel Way and Raab Road

Plan to arrive at either meeting/drop off point no earlier than 7:35 a.m. We will depart for school at 7:40 a.m. Children and adults are encouraged to wear yellow and make big posters that read "We are a Walking School Bus!"

If you would like to volunteer, please call Heather Young, 454-2320, or Jen Blair, 888-4317. Please note our rain date is October 4. For more information, visit

<http://www.unit5.org/prairieland/piece/>

## Looking Ahead

### November

- 6 – Market Day Pick up
- 6 – Music Program 7:00 Grades 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>
- 13 - PIECE Parent Meeting – 6:30 IMC
- 22-23 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break
- 27 – PIECE Holiday Family Night 6:00

### December

- 4 - Music Program 7:00 Grades K/1<sup>st</sup>
- 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
- 7 Jan - NO SCHOOL – Teacher Institute

## Quote of the Month

“Children need models more than critics.”  
*Joseph Joubert*

## Reminders

- Please use the attendance hotline when calling in an absent or late arriving student. The hotline is available 24 hours a day. The number is 862-5057.

- All school visitors must sign in at the office for a “volunteer” or “visitor” badge to wear while in the building.

## Question and Answer

In each monthly newsletter, there will be a Q & A (question and answer) return slip. Parents and students are encouraged to fill out the slip, cut it out, and return the slip to the office. The principal will address as many questions as possible. Some may even be addressed in next month’s newsletter.

### Q & A Slip

Question(s) for the principal:

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You can also ask questions online. Go to [www.unit5.org/prairieland/information/publications/press.htm](http://www.unit5.org/prairieland/information/publications/press.htm) and click on the link provided!

### UNIT 5 CONNECT

#### **e-Linking the Unit 5 Community**

A growing e-community of over 1200 members, the *Unit 5 Connect* listserv system provides participants with email announcements and updates regarding

district and building level news, events, and initiatives.

Please help us to improve the effectiveness of the *Unit 5 Connect* system by registering to receive future messages. The registration process can be completed in a matter of minutes and is accessible online by selecting the *Unit 5 Connect* link under the News of Note heading on the Unit 5 website ([www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org)).

### Photo/Media Opportunities

Throughout the school year, opportunities may arise where the newspaper or other forms of media may visit the school to cover events or write educational stories. Students are sometimes photographed/videotaped during these times. If you would prefer for your child **NOT** to be photographed/videotaped by the newspaper or other media, please fill out the following information and send it to the school by Friday, October 12, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child’s Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Room Code

I would prefer that my child NOT be photographed/videotaped by the newspaper or other media.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date