

The Press

Your Source for Cougar News

Principal's Message

Dear Prairieland Families,

As we celebrate making it through a wet, foggy, snowy January, we look forward to whatever weather February and March might bring! Hopefully the kiddos will have more opportunities to get outside for recess in the upcoming months! Please note that this is a combined February/March newsletter. We will continue to use the website as the most up-to-date form of communication, and I encourage you to bookmark the Prairieland website at www.unit5.org/prairieland.

Kindergarten Pre-Registration – New Date!

Pre-registration for all 2010-11 kindergarten students will be held at Prairieland on **Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.** Unit 5 has decided to move up the date for registration this year in order to assist with planning for the 2010-11 school year.

Students must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2010, to attend kindergarten this fall. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten this fall, please plan to attend the pre-registration. If you are unable to attend either session on March 16th, please call the school office at 888-6838. Feel free to share this information with neighborhood families who do not currently have a student attending Prairieland Elementary.

ISAT Testing

Students in 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades will be taking the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) from March 1-12. This is an important test that provides information about the extent to which our students are meeting state learning standards. The results from ISAT, combined with the scores from the SAT 10, will help us identify areas of growth, as well as areas that need special attention. We ask that parents please avoid taking students out of school during this time. We hope to make these two weeks as low stress as possible for the students.

Unit 5 Security Upgrades

In the upcoming months you might notice some work being done on the exterior doors. As part of an ongoing district initiative, all schools are being equipped with electronic locks for the main entrances. This will require all visitors to be "buzzed in" before entering the building. Funds for this project came from the referendum passed in 2008. While Prairieland has always been a safe facility, this added measure of security will give us better control of who is entering the building throughout the school day. We will provide additional details once the system is fully operational.

Sincerely,
Tim Arnold

February/March 2010

The Press
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309.888.6838
www.unit5.org/prairieland
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Calendar

February

- 02 - PIECE Meeting 6:30
- 10 - Market Day – 4:30
- 12 - Valentine's Day parties – 2:15
- 15 - **No School** – President's Day

March

- 1-12 ISAT Testing (3rd – 5th)
- 03 - Noodles Night 5:00 – 9:00
- 04 - Barnes & Noble Book Night
- 10 - Market Day Pick-Up 4:30 – 5:30
- 15 - Ice Skating Night – 6:10 – 8:20
- 16 - KDG Pre-Registration 9:30 and 1:30
- 22 – 26 **No School** - Spring Break



Student Spotlight

Birthday Books

Thank you to MacKenna G. who donated *The Healing of Texas Jake* by Mildred Taylor for her January 4th birthday.

Thank you to Jordan G. who donated *Tales from the House of Bunnacula and Bud Barkin*, *Private Eye* by James Howe for his September 4th birthday.

Thank you to Morgan T. who donated *The Five Lost Aunts of Harriet Bean* by Alexander McCall Smith for her December 7th birthday.

A list of available birthday books is posted on the Prairieland IMC website along with a form to request a birthday book for your child.



School News

IMC News

Reading Tip

Each year more and more books for children are being made into movies. This year *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* was a big hit. Challenge your child to read a book first and then celebrate finishing the book by watching the movie. Here are some other books that have recently inspired movies; *The Tale of Despereaux* and *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo, *Bridge to Terebithia* by Katherine Patterson, *The City of Ember* by Jeanne Duprau, *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman, *Horton Hears a Who!* by Dr. Seuss and more. An extensive list is available on Wikipedia.org. I bet many children will come to the same conclusion I have, the book is almost always better than the movie!

Technology

Pixie 2 is a paint and creativity program often used by students in the IMC. This software is normally \$50, but is available to Unit 5 families for \$25 because our district has purchased Pixie 2 for use in technology classes. If you are interested in purchasing Pixie 2 for home use, please email Mr. Ford (fordng@unit5.org) for the Unit 5 discount code.

www.mightybook.com is a great website for kids. Although there is a subscription portion of the website, quite a few things are available for FREE. The site includes art and

music, animated story books, stories for kids and more.

Barnes and Noble Night

Thursday, March 4th will be Prairieland Night at Barnes and Noble. The Cougar Chorus will perform that night along with several other special events. A portion of all purchases will be returned to Prairieland. Specific details will be sent home closer to the event. See you March 4th at Barnes and Noble!

ART News

Mark your calendars - The 2nd Annual Art Show is February 18th. The format will be different than last year and more information will be sent home as it gets closer. However, I will be in need of volunteers the afternoon of the 18th to help set up. If you would like to volunteer please email me at merediml@unit5.org. Thank you for your support. *Ms Meredith*

100's DAY NEWS

Time is flying by at Prairieland. This year, the 100th day of school will be celebrated on Monday, February 1st. Several events will take place to highlight this special day. A candy drawing will take place. Two lucky winners from each class will be rewarded with a bag of 100 candies. Classes will also make and display creative 100th day collections. Each class will try to collect 100 nonperishable food items for a local food bank. We will have a fun and exciting 100th day of school!

Student Council News

The first week of February will be designated "Break the Rules" week

to collect donations to send to Haiti via the American Red Cross. Like many other events the kids will bring \$1.00 to break the rule for the day.

Monday - Gum day

Tuesday - Stuffed animal day

Wednesday - Wacky hair or Hat day

Thursday - Thirsty Thursday (details coming from each teacher)

Friday - P.J. day

Monday, March 15th, Student Council will sponsor "Cougars on Ice". The Pepsi Ice Center, downtown Bloomington, will be available to all Prairieland Cougars and their families from 6:10 – 8:20 p.m. Children will pay \$2 for skates. There will be a couple of skate guards there to help. All students do have to sign a waiver form.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 10th. Circle Lanes will have lanes reserved for Prairieland families. This is our big fundraiser! The cost will be \$5 per person for 2 games and shoes. Two hour time slots will be available to reserve, between 11:00 and 6:00.

Young Authors

Young Authors is a program that encourages children to write and illustrate their own stories. We would like to invite students of all grades to participate in this fun activity. Books entered in the competition are due by Friday, February 19th. The top four entries from Prairieland will advance to the district level competition. We hope that many of our Prairieland Cougars choose to participate in this valuable learning opportunity. If your child is

interested, additional information can be obtained from his/her classroom teacher. Any other questions may be directed to either Ms. Armstrong (armstrbm@unit5.org) or Mrs. Lucas (lucasa@unit5.org)

Garden Club

Students in grades 3-5 interested in gardening, planting, and helping to beautify Prairieland's Butterfly Garden can join the Spring Garden Club sponsored by Mrs. Nancy Harp, Mrs. Kathy Kalina and Mrs. Jane Wawak. Even if your child was involved in the Fall Garden Club, we need them to fill out the attached form for Spring Garden Club. The gardening club will meet on Wednesdays after school from 3:20-4:20. Students must have a signed parental permission form to attend. They should bring clothes appropriate to garden in and gloves if they wish. The first few meetings we'll be planting seeds to start seedlings for our garden. Meeting dates are as follows: January 27th, Feb. 17th, March 3rd, March 17th, April 7th, April 14th, April 21st, April 28th, May 5th, May 12th, May 19th. We recommend your child bring a snack to eat from 3:15-3:20 as they are often hungry. Fill out and return the permission slip to the office or to Mrs. Harp or Mrs. Kalina before or at the first meeting.

Talent Show

The 2010 talent show is just around the corner. This year's talent show will be on Friday, March 19th at 1:30. Like last year, students will only be able to participate in one act (with the exception of Cougar Chorus or grade level acts). Applications will be

passed out to interested students on February 5th. They will be due back to Mrs. Halsey's room by February 10th. Tryouts will be at the end of February. The talent show line up will be announced in early March. It is not too early to start planning your act!

NEWS FROM THE NURSE

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR CHILD'S PHYSICAL AND IMMUNIZATIONS!

Unit 5 will continue next school year with our **First Day Exclusion** policy. The policy, which began in 2009, states that those students who will be entering **kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades this Fall** must turn in a physical exam and all immunizations by the first day of school or they will be excluded on that first day. This is a change from our previous October 15th deadline.

We are encouraging parents of incoming kindergarten children to go ahead and get the physical exam and any needed immunizations completed **NOW** and **turn them in at kindergarten registration**. This will alleviate waiting in long lines at registration in the Fall and/or on the first day of school so that the physical can be reviewed before your child may go to class.

Kindergarten pre-registration is scheduled for March 16, 2010 so please spread the word to neighbors and friends who have an incoming kindergarten student that it's not too early to get your child's physical and immunizations!

If you have any questions, please call me anytime!

Susy Marcum, RN, BSN
Certified School Nurse

Lunch Balance Notification

To help avoid negative lunch balances the district is encouraging parents to sign up for the negative lunch balance notification through Skyward Family Access. Below are the instructions to do this.

1. Log in to Skyward Family Access. (www.unit5.org)
2. Under the General Information tab (at the far left) click on the email notifications tab.
3. On the far right side of the screen click the change my notifications button and check the box indicating you want to receive notification when the balance falls below \$5.00.
4. Click the save button at the right.

You are done, be sure to logoff.

From The Kitchen

Although the lunch menu lists one fruit daily, do you know that here, at Prairieland, we offer the students a choice between 2 fruits every day? It is one way that we try to ensure that more children will choose to eat a fruit. As adults we need to encourage healthy eating habits by providing children a variety in

nutritional choices. American children eat less than half the recommended 5 or more daily servings of fruits and vegetables. Experts estimate that **ONLY ONE** out of 5 kids actually gets the 5 a day they need for good health. Is your child the **LUCKY ONE**?



Please remember that if you wish to come and eat a school lunch with your child, we ask that you call or email the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. to be included in the lunch count.

The Cougars' cooks:

Mrs. Roszhart and Mrs. Sparrow
(309) 862-5062
roszhac.unit5.org



April

- 02 - **No School** – Board Holiday
- 06 - PIECE Meeting – 6:30
- 14 - Market Day Pick-up 4:30
- 13 - Family Fitness Night– 6:00 – 8:00
- 14 - Spring Pictures
- 30 - **No School** – Institute Day

May

- 04 - PIECE Meeting – 6:30
- 08 - Prairieland Night – Extreme Football
- 12 - Market Day Pick-up 4:30
- 24 - **No School** – Institute Day
- 31 - **No School** – Memorial Day
- TBD 5th Grade Recognition
- TBD Playday

Prairieland Spring 2010 Garden Club

Grades 3rd - 5th

Students in grades 3-5 interested in gardening, planting, and helping to beautify Prairieland's Butterfly Garden can join the Spring Garden Club sponsored by Mrs. Nancy Harp, Mrs. Kathy Kalina, and Mrs. Jane Wawak. Even if your child was involved in the Fall Garden Club, we need them to fill out this form for Spring Garden Club. The gardening club will meet on Wednesdays after school from 3:20-4:20. Students must have a signed parental permission form to attend. They should bring clothes appropriate to garden in and gloves if they wish. The first few meetings we'll be planting seeds to start seedlings for our garden. Meeting dates are as follows:

January 27 th	Feb. 17 th	March 3 rd	March 17 th	April 7 th	April 14 th
April 21 st	April 28 th	May 5 th	May 12 th	May 19 th	

We recommend your child bring a snack to eat from 3:15-3:20 as they are often hungry. Fill out and return the bottom half to the office or to Mrs. Harp or Mrs. Kalina.

(Tear and return bottom part)

My child _____ has my permission to be in Prairieland's Garden club.

Grade _____ Teacher's name _____
(I understand they are to be promptly picked up at 4:20 on the Wednesdays that they meet.)

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Parent's signature _____

Yes, I would be able to help out with the Spring Garden Club on the following dates:
(circle dates you could help)

January 27 th	Feb. 17 th	March 3 rd	March 17 th	April 7 th	April 14 th
April 21 st	April 28 th	May 5 th	May 12 th	May 19 th (pizza party)	

_____ Sorry, I am unable to help with Spring Garden Club.