

The Press

Your Source for Cougar News

APRIL/MAY 2016

The Press
PrairieLand Elementary
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www.unit5.org/prairieland
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Principal's Message

Dear PrairieLand Families,

Believe it or not we are fast approaching the end of the school year. The longer, warmer days always helps to make everyone feel a little bit better! I want to personally thank all of our families for a great year here at PrairieLand! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your kids and families and am excited for all of the learning and fun that we still have over the last weeks of school! PrairieLand is truly a wonderful place and I look forward to all the things in our future! As we work towards the end of the school year I always promote to our staff and students to finish strong! We only have 8 weeks left and a great deal to do in that time! As all of the spring activities kick into high gear, I encourage our families and students to try and maintain those great routines you have had all year long. After they get some fresh air, keep them going to bed at a decent time and maintain those reading and study times at night! Let's Finish Strong PrairieLand Cougars!

Thank you to our retiring staff!!

We want to say thank you to our retiring staff! Mrs. Vercruyse(1st Grade) and Mrs. Mounce(Paraprofessional) will be greatly missed. Both of these staff members have been a part of the PrairieLand family for many, many years! We can't thank them enough for their care and dedication to our students! We wish them the best in their next phase of life!

PARCC Testing

Students in grades 3-5 will be taking the state PARCC tests between April 4 and April 20. These tests, taken on the computer, are given in the areas of language arts and math. Each classroom has sessions spread out across the testing days. Please try to avoid pulling your children for any reason during this stretch of time. You can check with your child's teacher to see what days and times they are testing during this two and half week block. Our P.I.E.C.E. group will be providing snacks for the students that are testing throughout this time period. It is important for the kids to get a good breakfast in them each and every day and to get plenty of rest!

MAP Testing

All students in grades 1-5 will be doing the 3rd and final round of MAP testing during the last week of April and first week of May. This is valuable information that allows our staff to look at growth and trends of our students for the entire year. This last round of information also allows us to start our planning for next year. We will let our families know when the final MAP scores are in the Skyward system.

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Calendar

April

- 04- PARCC Testing (April 4-20)
- 11 - PIECE Meeting – 6:30
- 13 - Spring Pictures
- 13 - **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45
- 14 - Cougar Pride Night/Art Show/
Sciencepalooza 6:00 – 7:30
- 18 - **No School** – School Improvement
Day
- 21 - 6th grade Open House/Orientation
- 22- Aware Fair
- 26- MAP Testing (April 26-May13)
- 27- **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45
- 28- 5th grade field trip to Springfield

May

- 11- **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45
- 09- PIECE Meeting – 6:30
- 14- PIECE Carnival 4-7
- 28- Graduation (2:00pm NCWHS –
6:00pm NCHS)
- 23- Playday
- 24- Last Day- Dismiss at 11:45 AM



Student Spotlight

COUGAR COUNCIL

It's been a great winter/spring with our Cougar Council members! We started off by helping make some videos for our school's PBIS plan. What a privilege that was! Cougar Council also sponsored some spirit days like gum day and hat day to benefit local groups and charities. Be watching for announcements and notes to come home for details about our upcoming spirit/fundraiser days.

We will cap off the year by re-opening our student store **every other Thursday starting March 31** with a limited supply of products. Items will be sold during the lunch hour and will continue to be opened until all products are sold.

Thank you for your participation and support in our events this year! We feel very honored and privileged to have

worked with such a great group of students! We look forward to working with another wonderful group of students again next year!

Mrs. Bedell and Miss Murray

Young Authors

Prairieland is proud to announce the Young Author representatives for 2015-2016. We had so many quality books turned in, it was difficult to pick the top ones! We have four books that represented our school during the final judging of the entire Unit 5 district. Eighth grade students from the three middle schools met in March to select the books that will go on to represent Unit Five at the Young Author Conference in May at Illinois State University.

2016 Young Authors Representatives:

Always Have Hope by Lilly Miller, 5E

Out the Window by Juliana Turner, 5S

Broccoli by Charity Brim, 5E

A Dragon's Love by Zoei Chasteen, KA

2016 Young Authors Best of the Rest!

Prairieland Caldecott for Art

The Garden Rose by Olivia Ziemer, 2H

The Missing Cat by JaydenHendricks, 2W

Prairieland Excellence in Nonfiction

Kid's Survival Guide to Idioms by Mallory Turner, 3W

Prairieland Newberry for Story

Missing by Joshua Zhao, 3W

The Land of Food by Simon Kaeb & Isaiah Eeten, 4L

Prairieland Honorable Mention

The Book of Everything by James Lawrence, 1L

Where, Oh Where Did the Rings Go? By Kaitlyn Owens, 2W

Lily Miller and Charity Brim also both had their books chosen by the district to represent Unit 5 at the state competition next month. Great job girls! Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Young Authors contest. You did a great job!

**Aware Fair**

Eric Elliott, former student of Mr. Peters, will be speaking on April 15th at 9:00 to all Prairieland students as a kick off to the Aware Fair. Eric was diagnosed with a brain tumor as a teenager and had to work very hard to regain balance and relearn how to do things that once came very naturally for him. Today he is a great athlete and has had a movie made about him called Hoovey. Many classes will be showing the movie before his presentation. The Aware Fair is Friday, April 22nd. This is an all-day event as in years past. The theme is "Be A Hero, Be A Friend." We have great presenters lined up and are looking forward to their presentations. T-shirt orders have been sent home. Congratulation to Avery Preston-Schreck 5E, Lilly Miller 5E, and Ty Blake 5TS whose T-shirt designs were chosen for this year's Aware Fair. We would

like all students to wear their T-shirts on April 22nd. Thank you in advance to the parents who have signed up to volunteer on the 22nd.

NEWS FROM THE NURSE ~ Mrs. May

The State of Illinois requires students entering **Early Learning, Kindergarten, 6th** and **9th** grades to have a complete physical exam. Unit 5 has a first day exclusion policy which means the exam and all required immunizations must be done and on file BEFORE the first day of school for the 2016-2017 school year. Current 5th graders may complete this requirement NOW and it will meet the requirement for next fall. If you choose to avoid the summer rush and have the exam done this year, please feel free to turn in the completed form to Prairieland and I will enter the information in the computer and put the hard copy in the health folder. That will give you one less thing to worry about in the fall. 6th graders are required to have Tdap and MCV (meningococcal) vaccines.

The State of Illinois requires students entering Kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grades to have a dental exam. The completed dental form for the 2016-2017 school year is due to the nurse's office BEFORE May 15, 2017.

IMC NEWS**Book Fair**

Prairieland will host a Scholastic Book Fair May 2nd – 6th in the IMC. A portion of each sale benefits our school library.

Summer Reading

Both of our wonderful local public libraries have great summer reading programs. Students may participate in one or both programs. See each library's website for more information and other summer events.

Normal Public Library –

www.normalpl.org

Bloomington Public Library –

www.bloomingtonlibrary.org

STAFF CHANGES for 2016-2017

Based on our projected enrollment we will have a few section changes for next school year. As a result, there will be some staff changes as well. At this point, the following changes will take place:

Mrs. Bedell will be moving from 3rd grade to 1st grade

Mrs. Smith will be moving from 5th grade to 4th grade



5th GRADE PARENTS

Mark Your Calendars - Parkside Junior High 6th grade Orientation/Open House will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 6:30p.m.

- Question and answer sessions hosted by 6th grade teachers and students
- Information on 1 to 1 laptop use and care
- Self-guided tours
- Information Tables hosted by teachers, coaches, and club sponsors
- Lock sales

VOLUNTEERS

Please remember, if you plan to volunteer this spring in the classroom, for any field trips, play day, etc., you must have completed the volunteer screening process. First time screenings need to email Mrs. Mook (mooks@unit5.org) to receive the link for the screening process. A yearly

renewal link is located on the Prairieland website as well as the Unit 5 website for volunteers who have gone through the initial screening process.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION

Returning families will be asked to do on-line registration, which will open **July 1st**. Simply follow the steps and make your payment online, by doing this you will not need to attend the school registration in August. **If you do not know your login or it is not working please contact the office as soon as possible.** Walk-in registration is for new families and families who need financial assistance.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

It's that time of year again to start thinking about summer camps and activities. All fliers are posted on the Unit 5 website. Look under the Students/Parents tab then under online backpack.



August

- 02 - Registration (**New Families and returning families needing financial assistance**)
- 12- Class Lists posted on front doors at 4:00pm
- 19 - First Day – Full day K-5

Noon Hour Supervisors

We will have several noon hour supervisor positions open for the 2016-2017 school year. The role of the supervisor is to monitor students during their lunch/recess time. This is a 2 hour paid position anywhere between 1 and 5 days per week. If you think you may be interested in a position, please contact the office for more information. 557-4424

