Dear Prairieland families,

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable spring break. I can’t believe we are in the final two months of the school year. As we approach the end of the year, we have a lot of fun and exciting events. Please keep an eye on the website for announcements and information.

MAP testing
We will complete our final round of MAP testing during the weeks of April 13-May 1. This round of testing will allow us to look at student growth for the year. Our staff will meet for a data day in May where we will look at MAP testing along with other data that has been collected by teachers. Student data will be shared with the next grade level during our staff meetings on the last day of school so that our teachers can start next year with great about what the students are ready to learn. We will let you know when your child’s MAP scores are available in Skyward.

Staying engaged in learning
We love summer and all of the fun opportunities for new and exciting experiences. We do, however, want students to continue to stay engaged in learning tasks. You can make reading and writing in the summer even more fun by involving others. You can read books together and talk about them, encourage your children to read with friends, or even have them write about what they are reading in letters to family members. It is also great if we can keep students thinking mathematically during the summer with logic puzzles, Sudoku and other math games and activities. If your child uses Moby Max, you can continue that in the summer as well. Please let me know if you want to discuss ideas for keeping students engaged throughout the summer!

Good-byes
One thing that is so hard at the end of the year is saying good-bye. We watch our 5th graders move on to the junior high, we have families who move away, and we have staff members who retire or move. We are so proud of all of our Cougars and we are certain they will continue to do GREAT things! Enjoy the rest of the year and summer! It’s a GREAT day to be a Cougar!

Carmen Bergmann

A monthly publication of Prairieland Elementary School
**Calendar**

**April**
- 03 - No School – Board Holiday
- 06 - MAP Testing (April 6-30)
- 13 - PIECE Meeting – 6:30
- 15 - Spring Pictures
- 15 - **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45
- 15 - Market Day Pick-up 4:30
- 16 - Cougar Pride Night/Art Show/Sciencepalooza 6:00 – 7:30
- 22 - 5th grade field trip to Springfield
- 24 - **No School** – School Improvement Day
- 30 - 6th grade Open House/Orientation

**May**
- 06 - **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45
- 11 - PIECE Meeting – 6:30
- 13 - Market Day Pick-up 4:30
- 16 - PIECE Carnival 4-7
- 23 - Graduation (2:00pm NCHS – 6:00pm NCWHS)
- 25 - NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
- 27 - Playday
- 28 - Last Day- Dismiss at 11:45 AM

**June**
- 10 - Market Day Pick-up 4:30

**Student Spotlight**

**COUGAR COUNCIL**

It’s hard to believe we’re wrapping up another great year with our Cougar Council representatives! Recently our representatives led the way in collecting coins which we donated to our Cougars Care fund. Thank you for all of your generous donations! We will be working on our last service project for the year during the month of April. Look for more information to come home soon!

In other news, STUDENT STORE IS BACK! The store is open during lunch on the following Wednesdays: April 1st, April 15th, and April 29th.

Most items are $1 or less. Students will bring the money with them to recess and then shop during lunch. Students are not allowed to return to classrooms for money should they forget to bring it with them.

Miss Murray and Mrs. Bedell

**Young Authors**

Prairieland is proud to announce the Young Author representatives for 2014-2015. 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.

**2015 Young Authors Representatives**

- **Worst Day at Six Flags** by George Davis, KA
- **Fridgopoly** by Cody Dunn, 5E
- **A Child’s Journey Through Ellis Island** by Ainsley Matthews, 5E
- **Where to Next?** by Ryan Rice, 5S

**2015 Young Authors Best of the Rest!**

- **Prairieland Caldecott for Art**
  - Nina Clark 5S Chasing the Stars
  - Hope Knoerle & Kara Lovelass 5TS
- **Sister’s Vacation Disaster**

**Prairieland Excellence in NonFiction**
Holden Hobson 2S  Florida ABC’s
Anushi Kiribamune 2M My Grandma’s Garden

Prairieland Newberry for Story
Juliana Turner 4H  Albert the Amazing

Prairieland Honorable Mention
Katie Van Heuklon 3W  Ducky
Ethan Snyder 3W  My Chair Jumped

Ainsley Matthews’ book was chosen by the district to represent Unit 5 at the state competition next month. Great job Ainsley! Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Young Authors contest. You did a great job!

**School News**

**News from the Nurse ~**
Mrs. May

The State of Illinois requires students entering 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 2015-2016 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 the completed form to Benjamin 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. There is a new immunization requirement (meningococcal vaccine- MCV4) for students entering 6th grade. As of now the State is requiring that immunization be done on or after the student’s 11th birthday. A second dose must be given before grade 12. There is additional information regarding these requirements on the Unit 5 website and the State Board of Illinois immunization requirements. http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school_health/immunization-requirements.pdf

*Health forms for the required examinations are on the Unit 5 website. http://www.unit5.org/Page/252

**IMC News**

**Book Fair**
The school will host a Scholastic Book Fair April 27th – May 1st in the IMC. A portion of the sales benefits our school library.

**Summer Reading**
Both of our wonderful local public libraries have great summer reading programs. Students can participate in both programs. See each library’s website for more information and other summer events. Bloomington Public Library – www.bloomingtonlibrary.org Normal Public Library – www.normalpl.org

**Book Donations**
Thank you to all of the students and families who have donated books to the IMC this year. Your donations really help enhance our library.
collection so the students have access to great books to read!
Recent donations:
Keya S. – KB
Mrs. Mandros – KM

P.E. NEWS
3-5 Physical Education News

During the last trimester of the school year, our students participate in a beach ball volleyball unit, a whiffle ball unit, spring fitness testing and a couple of recreational games. We use a beach ball during our volleyball games so that the students can be more successful at hitting the ball over the net. We use a whiffle ball during our baseball/softball unit for safety purposes and so we can play two games, indoors, by dropping the curtain. The spring fitness tests let us assess current fitness levels and give us a chance to look for improvement compared to the fall tests. The recreational games we play are Backboard Bombardment and The No Name Game. Backboard Bombardment is a game sort of like Dodge ball. Players get back in the game when one of their teammates throws a ball and hits the other team’s backboard. The No Name Game is as tag game that is hard to describe, thus the title No Name Game!

As the school year wraps up, I can’t emphasize enough the need for your children to exercise over the summer. During the 9 ½ month school year, we do a pretty good job of helping your child get in shape. There are some students that are then inactive over the summer. This is not good for these students’ health and then we start over, trying to get these children back in shape beginning in August. Please, please, please keep your sons and daughters hugging and puffing over the summer months.

Thanks!!
Dave Kinley

STAFF CHANGES for 2015-2016
Based on our projected enrollment, we will have fewer sections in grades 2 and 4 next year. We also have some retirements and have to say good-bye to staff members. As a result, there will be some staff changes for next year. At this point, the following changes will take place:

Mrs. Lori Scott will be moving from 2nd grade to 3rd grade
Mrs. Bedell will be moving from 4th grade to 3rd grade
Mrs. Nancy Harp will be retiring
Mrs. Dee Biggs will be retiring

PARENT RESOURCES
Please check the Prairieland website for a new “Parent Resource” tab. Here you will find information on upcoming parent talks and resource information. Currently information includes “Love and Logic for Parents” and “Let’s Talk About Bullying” events.

Reminders

5th GRADE PARENTS
Mark Your Calendars - Parkside Junior High 6th grade Orientation/Open House will be held
on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 6:30 p.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

6th Grade Back to School Night – Monday, August 17th, 2015, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Parent Night – Thursday, September 24th, time TBD

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.

Garden Club Scrapbook
We are looking for a volunteer or two to take on a small project for our garden club. We have a bin of photos, original garden plans, etc. that we would like to have put into some kind of photo book/scrapbook. If this is something you may be interested in, please stop by the office for more information.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION
Returning families will be asked to do on-line registration, which will open July 1st. Registration instructions will come home with all students on the last day of school. 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.

YEARBOOKS
Yearbooks will be sent home on Friday, May 15th. 5th graders who want to purchase a yearbook may do so starting on the 18th and the rest of the student body may begin purchasing on the 19th. Purchase price is $20.

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.