



# THE PRAIRIELAND PRESS

December 2016

Prairieland Elementary

**Attendance Line: 557-4473**

**Please use the attendance line to report an absence or late arrival.**

**Principal: Scott Peters**

**Office: 557-4424  
Hours: 6:45-3:15**

**Website: [www.unit5.org/prairieland](http://www.unit5.org/prairieland)**

**Calendar: <http://www.unit5.org/Page/38>**

## Principal's Message



### December News Briefs

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the halfway point in the school year! With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it is very easy to get so busy that we often forget to slow down and enjoy our time with our family. I encourage you to sit down and read, or play a board game, and just take in that time together. Your kids will grow up unbelievably fast! We have had a wonderful first half of the year here and we are excited about the progress our students are making on a daily basis. Thank you for the continued support for your children and our staff! We wish you all a Happy Holidays!

### MAP Testing-Round 2

Over the next couple of weeks, students in grades 1-5 will be taking their second round of MAP tests. As before, they take one test in Reading and one test in Math. We utilize this mid-year data to see if students are on track with their progress as well as identify areas of focus for our teaching. If you have not already seen this, your child(s) first round of MAP testing from the fall has been uploaded into Skyward. The scores can be found under the Test Scores tab.

**Reminder:** The 5 Essentials Survey link is now available for our families. This survey is conducted statewide to give us feedback from the family point of view. We greatly value this information and utilize the feedback to make improvements in our school environment as well as celebrate the great things that are happening in our building. You received an email from the district with the link. If for some reason you are not able to find the email, here is the link again. <http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>

The link will stay live until January 16, 2017. We will need to have 20% of the families complete the survey to have the results published.

**Pick-up During Inclement Weather:** This is just another reminder to try and have a simple sign to put in your window with the first and last names of the kids you will be picking up on days when we have an inside dismissal. We have been very fortunate this year, but we know that there will be many more days ahead that we will need to dismiss from the gym. The signs help us make this process just a little bit quicker. Thanks for your assistance on this and continued patience on days like this!

## **PBIS-Positive Behavior Intervention System**

Each month our students are striving to have great behavior at Prairieland so they can have an opportunity to participate in our out-of-the-blue activities. Sometimes the students know about the reward, and sometimes it is truly out-of-the-blue on the day it is happening. Some months our activities are individually based, and sometimes they are class rewards. During this past month, if students individually met the goal in their class, they had the opportunity to write their name on the glass by the office. During the month of December, the classes are working to earn their time in the Olympic Village having hot cocoa! Our goal with PBIS is to try and reward the great behavior going on in our building!

## **Cougar Council**



Cougar council has been busy this fall! We sponsored a wacky week at the end of October/beginning of November in which money was raised to benefit the United Way of McLean County. Because of you, our school efforts raised over \$1,500! Thank you for your participation and support!

November brought a canned food drive to support The Salvation Army. We had MANY donations from so many of you and we can't thank you enough. In total, 816 items were donated. We know the recipients of your kindness will be ever so thankful!

Thank you again for all you have done to support our causes!

## **Cougar Chorus**



Cougar Chorus has been very busy this fall. We have approximately 70 members and have been meeting since September. On Friday, Nov. 18, we had our first performance at Baby Fold's Festival of Trees. We had a great turnout of parents and friends, and the kids sounded great!

Our next performance will be at State Farm's corporate headquarters on Monday, Dec. 19. We will sing in the atrium at 10:30 a.m.

Finally, cougar chorus will be singing the national anthem at the ISU men's basketball game against Wichita State. Tickets can be purchased online sometime in December for a slightly discounted price. More details will be coming home soon.

## **Calendar Dates**

December:

- 6- 5th Grade Band Concert
- 6- K-1 Music Program 6:00
- 9- Tails and Treats 6:15
- 21- Room Parties 1:30-2:15
- 22- P.J. Day
- 23-Jan. 9- Winter Break
- Jan 10- School Resumes