



## Waunakee Community School District

Committed to Children . Committed to Community . Committed to Excellence

Dear Student and Parent,

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year. Our character traits have evolved over the past few years to define the values that we hold dear to our heart: Positive Attitude, Hard Work, Honesty, and Respect. We believe that these values are essential parts of individual and collective character. Our commitment to character education was recognized by the Wisconsin Character Education Partnership (WCEP) by awarding Prairie Elementary with an Honorable Mention School of Character award last spring (the highest award presented in the state). In addition, we also received the Promising Practice recognition for our *Peace on the Prairie* project from WCEP. Character education is infused in our school culture – it is who we are and what we are all about. We celebrate character education during monthly assemblies, guidance lessons, peer mediation, restorative practices, community partnerships, shout-outs and additional activities that are connected to character education.

To state our united belief in these values, we've molded a touchstone that is recited on a daily basis during our morning announcements. This unified public statement reinforces our traits and is an opportunity to share our values with peers.

### ***Prairie Touchstone***

*At Prairie Elementary, through laughter and learning, we choose to have a positive attitude, to work hard, to be honest, and to be respectful. It's the Prairie Way!*

Furthermore the staff at Prairie Elementary defined our educational purpose by developing a mission statement that is reflective of our Prairie Community. This statement will be visible throughout the building, on the school website, and on teacher websites. We believe, as a unified body, that these words define who we are and what we aspire to provide your child throughout their educational journey at Prairie Elementary.

### ***Prairie Elementary Mission***

*Prairie Elementary is a school that believes all children can learn. Our entire staff is passionate about personalized student instruction and development. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of the whole child on an individual level. Through our collaborative and innovative efforts, we strive to motivate all children to achieve their full potential and develop a love of learning through our example. We believe a safe and positive environment that emphasizes respect and tolerance is integral to this goal.*

*It's the Prairie Way!*

I would like to thank you for your cooperation, reinforcement, and encouragement of character education at Prairie Elementary. Thanks for your making it *the Prairie Way!*

Yours in education,

Dean L. Kaminski  
Principal