

Prairie Express

We're Wild About

LEARNING

Desenfrenado sobre aprendizaje en

PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY



April 2011

Principal's Message

"One, two, three not it!"

"Bluebells, cockle shells, Eevie, ivy, over..."

"Tag you're it!"

"Red rover, red rover, send Billy on over!"

"Please give me an underdog!"

Do you remember the time when you used to recite these childhood phrases as you played with neighborhood friends or on the playground? I sure do! In fact, at times I wish I would continue to engage in the active play reminiscent of my childhood. So too often, as we grow older, our daily routine takes us away from the great physical activity that nurtured our development as children. Now, most of my physical activity is called a "work-out." It is usually conducted at a time that conforms to my daily schedule and is done with little or no social interaction. This is typically coupled with the frustration of not seeing the results of my hard efforts. Where is the fun in this equation?

The importance of childhood play continues to be a hot topic of discussion for schools, families, and communities. Active play not only provides children time to engage in physical activity, but also provides an opportunity to utilize socially appropriate behavior, develops creative thinking strategies, utilizes higher order thinking skills, and explores the outdoor environment. It is a time that allows children to make choices and invent new ideas. The life-skills that are cultured through the social interactions are invaluable as we work together in nurturing children to become life-long learners and contributing members to society. In this age of technology entertainment at our fingertips, it becomes increasingly challenging to encourage children to participate in outdoor physical activity. The percentage of school-age children who are considered obese has increased drastically over the past 30 years. Promoting active play is one way in assisting our children in combating the effect of harmful physical ailments associated with an overweight body. As adults we need to continue to promote and model active physical activity for our children as a nurturing element in their development.

With the excitement of spring in the air, I encourage you to continually promote active play for your children now and throughout the summer. As an educator, I am passionate about the importance of providing young children opportunities to engage in active physical play. It stimulates not only the muscles in the body, but also stimulates the activity of the mind. As we prepare our children to be contributing members to society, we also need to provide them with the tools to engage in life-long skills that are nurtured through the act of simple play.

Sincerely,



Prairie Spirit Days

~~APR 8~~ May 6 CAPS FOR A CURE (new date)
WEAR HATS; PRIZES IN
SEVERAL CATEGORIES)

MAY 13 CRAZY HAIR DAY
(CRAZY HAIR, CRAZY CLOTHING,
ETC)



Read Across America

*Mr. Z's Fundraiser pick up is April 5th from
2:30-5:30 in the Atrium Area*

Summer School 2011

(Upcoming Grades Pre-K-Grade 4)

Session I: June 20 - July 7

(No school Monday, July 4)

Session II: July 11 - 28

Monday—Thursday

(Upcoming Grades 5-6)

One Session June 20 - July 28

(No school Monday, July 4)

7:50 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Summer School Online Registration

District Website: www.waunakee.k12.wi.us —
>Summer School —> Registration

Summer school registration is right around the corner. **Online registration opens on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. and ends Saturday, April 30 at midnight.** Class information will be available in March both online and in catalogs available in the school offices. Walk-in registration will be June 1- 3 in the summer school office. Online registration will reopen during this timeframe as well. Check out the website for registration information and regular updates. Numerous enrichment and remedial classes will be offered. *If you have any summer school questions, please contact Ruth Meese at 849-2063 or email her at rmeese@waunakee.k12.wi.us.*



Interested in attending the
next PTO meeting? It will be held at
6:00 p.m. on
April 27

In the Prairie LMTC Room

Upcoming Meetings

May 25, June TBD

PTO Events

Mr. Z's Fundraiser pick up is April 5

Ice Cream Social: Thurs. May 12

Prairie Fourth Grade presents.....

"SING INTO SPRING"

April 14, 2011

5:30 p.m.

Prairie School Gymnasium

Students should wear their tie dyed shirt they made in art class and nice jeans, pants, a skirt, capris or shorts. They should arrive no later than 5:15 p.m. going directly to their classroom. After the musical performance they are free to attend the All School Art Show and Bake Sale.
See you there!!!

Helpful Information

Bus issues? Call Lamer's Bus Company at 850-5253.

Please do not drive through the bus lane or park and leave your car in that area. This area is set aside for buses only.

When you call with a message for your son/daughter, please do not ask to speak with them in their classroom. We will get a message to the child or teacher.

Please remind your child about proper behavior at bus stops if they are a buser, when walking to or from school and being respectful of their teachers and supervisors. A gentle reminder in these areas goes a long way toward creating a positive environment in school and around our community.

Non-bus students MAY NOT accompany a bus student to/from home on the bus. All questions regarding bus transportation should be directed to Lamers Bus Company, at 850-5253.

A bus student who needs to accompany another bus student to/from home or who needs to use a different bus or bus stop must have a note of explanation written by their parent, submitted to the school.

Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to visit their children in our classrooms. Advance arrangements should be made with the teacher. *When you come to school, please sign in and secure a visitor's tag from the office.* For security reasons the only door that is unlocked during school hours is the main entry. If you are not wearing a visitor's badge, please do not be offended if someone stops you and asks you to go back to the office and sign in. We are simply trying to keep your children safe. If you plan to eat hot lunch with your child, please let the teacher know early in the day so he/she may notify the lunch service to ensure there is enough food for our students

We have many lost and found clothing items: sweat shirts, t-shirts, pants, jackets, snow pants, hats and mittens. Please check lost and found table located between the music room and Mrs. Olkowski/Mrs. Collins room.

Over Spring Break all lost and found items will be donated to a local charity.



Birthday Sundae Celebration

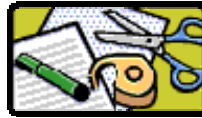
Mr. Kaminski will be celebrating April birthdays with ice cream sundaes on

Tuesday, April 26. Kindergarten through Grade 4 students will enjoy sundaes at 1:00 p.m.

Parents are welcome to join your child for his/her birthday sundae. Mr. Kaminski will be having a separate birthday celebration for all Early Childhood and Sprouts students at a later date.

Birthday Books

Student birthdays are included in morning announcements and the children are invited to the office to pick out a book provided by the Prairie PTO. Thanks to the PTO for providing such a great gift!



School Supply Kits Option

We are pleased to offer prepackaged school supply kits as a service to our busy families. Parents have the opportunity to order online on the Prairie website. The packets will be ordered from School Pak, a company which packages your child's school supplies in a personalized box at a reasonable cost. The supplies are those requested by your child's teacher and include everything on the supply list for their 2011-12 school year with the exception of backpacks and art smocks. Watch for information to come home in Thursday folders in April.

Check out our Prairie Home Website

We have updated our school website. Efforts were made to make it more user friendly for parents and visitors to our site. Check out the character education links, the photo galleries, school calendar, and teacher web pages.

<http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/prairie>

Also visit the Prairie PTO website at <http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/prairie/prairiepto.cfm>

You can get current information about volunteer opportunities, newsletters, etc.

Art Show Volunteers Needed

We are in need of an Art Show volunteers during the day (flexible time commitment) to help put up art work during the day on all day Monday April 11 (9:00-2:00) and Tues 12 (9:00-2:00) and the morning of the 13th (if necessary) for the Art Show. Please contact one of the Prairie PTO volunteer coordinator, Chanesta Acker chanesta@charter.net 850-5273 (h) or Tori Horkan jthorkan@hotmail.com 850-3161 (h)



WI Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week –

APRIL 11-15

Prairie Elementary students and staff will participate in a tornado and severe weather drill on **Thursday, April 14th, at 1:35 p.m.** Children will be reviewing emergency plans in anticipation of this event.

2010-11 Kindergarten Meeting

You are invited to a **Kindergarten Informational Meeting** on **Thursday, April 28, 2011** in the Prairie Elementary cafeteria. We ask that you please **bring your incoming kindergarten child with you to the meeting!** A letter was sent home the last week in March. The meeting should last no more than one hour. We ask that you please bring your child to the correct room just prior to the time listed on the name tag so you can make it back to the parent meeting in the cafeteria on time. The parent meeting will start at the time listed on your tag. Please notify us if you have a child starting kindergarten and have not received a letter by April 1st. Call 849-2235 to confirm your attendance.

Arbor Day Celebration



To celebrate Arbor (Tree) Day on Friday, April 29th the PTO will purchase a tree which we will plant behind Prairie School



PTO Ice Cream Social

Come join us for the annual PTO Ice Cream Social. The Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, May 12th from 4:00 – 7:00pm *outside* at Prairie Elementary School.

In case of rain, you can join the fun inside. Bring the entire family for hotdogs, brats, pizza, chips, popcorn, ice cream cones, sundaes and root beer floats. If you are able to volunteer, please contact one of the Prairie PTO volunteer coordinators, Chanesta Acker chanesta@charter.net 850-5273 (h) or Tori Horkan jthorkan@hotmail.com 850-3161 (h).

Turn Off Your TV Week

April 18-24

Please join us by turning off your TV and encouraging other family activities such as games, sports and reading together at home.



Read Across America
Read!!!



Read!!!



Read!!!





Read Across America Book Exchange



*State Bank of Cross Plains
Partners in Education*



Conservation Canyon Program



Wear your favorite Hat Day!



Dress for the Weather!



Springtime means melting snow and rain. That wet weather also brings wet clothes! We recommend that you send an extra pair of socks (or two) and maybe even a pair of pants with your child to school each day. It's pretty uncomfortable to sit in wet clothes while trying to learn!

Also, as the warmer days approach, keep in mind these guidelines for outdoor recess: Students must wear a sweatshirt or light coat when the temperature is between 45° and 55°. Shorts may be worn when the temperature reaches 55°. It is a good idea for students to have wind pants or jeans at school so they can deal with temperature changes throughout the day.

Fourth Grade Human Growth and Development Meeting

An informational meeting to discuss the fourth grade human growth and development curriculum will be held for parents **on Tuesday, April 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Elementary School Library** for any interested parties. This is not a mandatory meeting. An overview of the curriculum will be presented, parents will have the opportunity to review materials, and questions will be answered.

MAP Testing

MAP testing for grades 2-4 will wrap up on **May 13**. The Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) is a computer based test where students, teachers, and parents discover what your student has learned. The test helps us to evaluate each student as to their strengths and weaknesses, and address them accordingly. The MAP test offers us immediate feedback as well as helping students become familiar with standardized testing. We are testing reading, language usage, and math. One test is given one day each week for three weeks. Students took the MAP test in the fall and we will be looking to see what type of growth they have had since then. The results of these tests will be mailed out upon completion of the tests.

Early Release Days

Please note that school will be dismissed two hours early (at 12:40) on the following days:
Friday, May 27

No Electronic Devices at School

Cell phones, I-Pods, etc., should not be used while at school. Strong caution is given to even bringing these to school. If they are at school they need to be shut off and out of sight

Third Annual Family Science Night Friday, April 8, 2011 at 5:30-7:30 p.m. Held at Prairie Elementary School

We would like to invite all families from Arboretum, Heritage and Prairie to a fun filled evening of science activities, experiments and demonstrations. Sponsored by UW-Madison Biocore Outreach Ambassadors When you arrive at Prairie, please make sure to enter through the **main entrance**.

2011 Calendar Dates

Mar 28-April 1 **NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK**

April

April 4 Online Summer School Registration (6:00 pm)
April 5 Mr. Z's Fundraiser pick up (2:30-5:00)
April 7 Report Cards Sent Home
April 8 Science Night
April 14 Art Show & Basket Extravaganza & Cultural Arts Bake Sale
April 14 4th Grade Musical

April 22 **NO SCHOOL**

April 26 Early Riser Reader (K-2)
April 28 Early Riser Reader (3-4)

May

May 12 PTO Ice Cream Social
May 20 Field Day/All School Picnic
May 23 Rain Date for Field Day/All School Picnic
May 27 **Early Release - 12:40**
May 30 Memorial Day

June

June 9 Last Day of School/Report Cards Sent Home
June 10 Snow Make Up Day (if necessary)





Early Riser Reader



Early Riser Reader is a before school event promoting literacy where all K-4 students and parents are invited to come to the LMTC at 7:00 to enjoy a morning of reading books together, have a light breakfast treat, and head off for work and class by 7:30 a.m. We will also have some wonderful door prizes for those who attend.

If you are planning to attend please fill out the attached form and send it back with your student to give to his/her teacher. Please look at the following dates to determine which one you will be attending. If you have a child in both grades, you may choose to attend one morning. Let us know which day you will be coming and the number of people attending. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you. There will be more information provided as we get closer to these dates. If you have any questions please call the school office or e-mail Trish Chaimson at tchaimson@waunakee.k12.wi.us

April 26 for students in grades K-2
April 28 for students in grades 3 and 4

Early Riser Reader

Please RSVP by April 15th by giving this sheet to your child's teacher.

We are able to attend the Early Riser Reader on
(Please circle one)

April 26 for students in grades K-2
April 28 for students in grades 3 and 4

Names of people attending: _____

Child's teacher: _____ Grade: _____

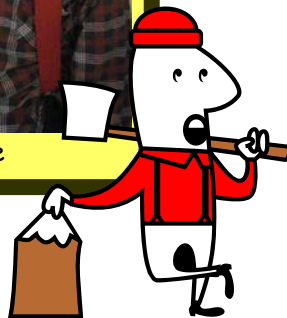
Lumberjack Breakfast



Umm Breakfast!



Lumberjacks Unite





"Fun in the Sun"

Field Day and School Picnic

The Prairie Elementary School Physical Education Department will be hosting a Field Day on **Friday, May 20th** (rain date **Monday, May 23rd**).

Two sessions will be held:

Grades Sprouts–Grade 2 from 12:15-2:15

Grades 3-4 from 8:30-10:30

An all school picnic is also planned for this day. Students who participate in the hot lunch program will be served a picnic style lunch consisting of hotdogs or hamburgers grilled by Mr. Kaminski, Mrs. Howard and Dean Frederick. Students who do not participate in the hot lunch program may bring a sack lunch for this event.

Younger siblings are not encouraged to attend this event.

Thank you,
Deb and Jonathon

FIELD DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We are looking for approximately 70 volunteers to help us run the stations. Parent volunteers will run the stations and students will rotate around the course.

Interested in volunteering? - fill out the bottom portion of this page, and return to your child's teacher.

On May 20th volunteers will meet in the gym at the following times:

8:00 - 3rd and 4th grades

11:45 – Sprouts, Kdg, 1st and 2nd grades

If you sign up to work, you will not be contacted. We will plan that you will be present unless you tell us you are unable to fulfill your time slot.



Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Teacher's Name: _____

Desired section (please circle) Sprouts - Grade 2 3 – 4

Rain Date (Monday, May 23rd) - Are you available? (circle one) Yes No

School Picnic Lunch - Parents are invited to eat lunch at the all school picnic. The cost is \$3.25. We ask that you make your lunch choice ahead of time so that the kitchen can plan accordingly.

MY CHOICE IS: (circle one) Hot Dog Hamburger

Lunch will also include vegetables and dip, baked beans, watermelon, ice cream cup and milk.