

Prairie Express

December, 2011

Prairie Elementary
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How to Reach Us

Principal	Dean Kaminski	849-2200
Admin. Assist.	Geri Breunig	849-2200
Attendance	Janice Henn	849-2235
Health Assistant	Tanya Stone	849-2203
Nurse	Katie Homar	209-9950
School Counselor	Jo Howard	849-2206
Psychologist	Lisa Kjos	849-2205
Social Worker	Kristin Meyer	849-2204
Lamers Bus Service		850-5253 Ext. 2
Taher Food Service		849-2185

Message from the Principal

Over the past years Prairie Elementary has participated in many outreach activities to aid in the betterment of our community and our global society, such as food drives, household product collections and fundraisers following natural disasters. The Prairie families have been extremely generous as we have been able to provide financial aid and goods to many individuals and organizations. At the start of this school year a simple question was asked by a few staff members, "Do the students understand why we participate in these community service projects?" This question led us to explore our collection activities with a new perspective, Service Learning.

Service Learning activities help incorporate a meaningful, focused and connected emphasis to curricular objectives. Service learning provides students an opportunity to develop a better understanding of why we participate in these activities along with the opportunity to reflect on this process. Service Learning requires an investment of time and the personal connection with the community or non-profit organization. It helps the students develop a better sense of responsibility and community partnerships. Because of these positive learning opportunities, the projects are planned and monitored by the students for its entirety.

Since we have adopted this service learning project philosophy, we believe that our participation in service learning has helped students develop skills and a deeper knowledge of community service. The typical process involves:

- setting goals
- publishing and promoting the project
- making visits to the organization
- developing a skit to kick off the project

- coordinating the collection process
- developing graphic representations of progress

Throughout the project the students use writing, reading, math, technology, and fine arts skills in order to successfully complete the service learning project. As a result, students have developed a better understanding of community service.

Projects are being adopted by grade levels so that ownership is established. So far this year we have participated in three *Service Learning Projects*:

- 2nd grade coordinated the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF coin collection activity at the end of October (\$1278.65 donated).
- 3rd grade coordinated the WNC Laundry Soap and Diaper Drive (48 packs of diapers and 53 containers of laundry soap donated).
- 4th grade coordinated the Food Drive collection for the Waunakee Food Pantry (56 paper boxes of food collected).

We anticipate an opportunity to adopt a few more projects this year. We are extremely proud and grateful for the wonderful demonstration of support to our local and global communities. We are confident that our students have experienced ownership in projects and are confident that they can answer our initial question "Why do we participate in these projects?" Thanks for supporting and being a part of Prairie Elementary Service Learning Projects.

Dean Kaminski

Happy Holidays

The staff at Prairie Elementary School extends our best wishes to you and your family during this Holiday Season!

Early Learner Screening

If you have a child born between September 2, 2007 and September 1, 2008, this makes your child eligible to begin kindergarten in the 2013-2014 school year. Children who live in the Waunakee Community School District and meet the above age requirements, along with at least one parent/guardian, are requested to attend the Early Learner Screening.

Early Learner Screening is scheduled between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm on January 4, and 5, 2012, and from

8:00 am to 12:00 pm on January 6, 2012, at Peace Lutheran Church, 701 Century Avenue, Waunakee. To schedule a time slot for your child, please call Joyce Endres at 849-2015.

Early Learner Screening is an informal screening that takes about one hour and 15 minutes. Professionals will observe children while they participate in preschool and play activities. While children are being observed, parents will have access to developmental and school informa-

tion and have a one-on-one meeting with school staff to answer questions and discuss the observation results.

There are not any planned activities for brothers and sisters; please make child care arrangements for siblings. You should receive a letter explaining Early Learning Screening in more detail the first week in December. Parents will also have the opportunity to have their child's vision screened by the Waunakee-Westport Lion's Club at this time.

Birthday Sundaes

Mr. Kaminski will be celebrating birthdays with ice cream sundaes on **Tuesday, December 20th**. Kindergarten through Grade 4 students will enjoy sundaes at 1:00 p.m. Summer birthdays are celebrated as follows: June in December, July in January and August in February. Parents are welcome to join your child for his/her birthday sundae. Mr. Kaminski will be having a separate

birthday celebration for the Early Childhood 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!

An appreciation to our
Tremendous PTO -

Thanks for all that you do!

Teamwork divides the task and
multiplies the success."

Author Unknown

Early Release Days

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

Friday, February 24, 2012

Friday, March 23, 2012

Friday, May 25, 2012



Winter Break

No School

December 23-January 1

Prairie Spirit Days



DECEMBER 9

**MX/MATCH CLOTHING, OR
SCHOOL T-SHIRT DAY**

JANUARY 20

HAWAIIAN DAY

FEBRUARY 3

SPORTS JERSEY DAY

**(WEAR A FAVORITE TEAM JERSEY OR
YOUR TEAM JERSEY)**

MARCH 2

**READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY
(WEAR RED AND WHITE AND HATS)**

APRIL 13

CAPS FOR A CURE (HAT DAY)

MAY 18

**SCHOOL T-SHIRT DAY
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE PRAIRIE T-SHIRT**

Veteran's Appreciation

Prairie School second graders will once again make holiday cards for Veterans at George Middleton Veteran's Hospital in Madison. Cards are made so that each veteran at the hospital will receive at least two holiday cards. Often many of the veter-

ans in the hospital are far from home or do not have many visitors and the cards can send the message that someone is thinking of them. This event is a great way for children to say thank you to all those who were instrumental in helping preserve

America's freedom. It also models our character traits of caring, respect, and citizenship.



Food Drive

This year our fourth graders headed up the food drive. They

visited the food pantry, interviewed a volunteer and learned all about how the pantry runs. Prairie set a goal of 50 boxes of food and we are happy to say our families helped us collect 56 boxes. We appreciate your support for those less fortunate and citizenship.



Trick or Treat for UNICEF

This year Prairie students collected \$1,278.65 trick-or-treating for UNICEF. Thanks to all the families who supported their children in this project, and thanks as well to Prairie students for their work.



You Rock!

December Dates

16 Holiday Shows
20 Birthday Sundaes
23- January 1 Winter Break

January Dates

2 School Resumes
16 No School (Staff Development)
20 End of Semester 1
23 No School (Staff Work Day)





Prairie School presents...



"Celebrating Holidays Around the World"

Friday December 16, 2011

8:15 a.m. - Kindergarten
 9:15 a.m. - First
 10:15 a.m. - Second
 Noon - Third
 1:15 p.m. Fourth



***This is a dress up day for students.

Interested in attending the next PTO meeting? It will be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 14th in the Prairie LMTC

Upcoming Meetings
 Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June tbd

From the Health Office - Healthy Snacks

Healthy snacks are important for students to bring to school. Think of them as mini-meals that can help provide the important nutrients and food energy they need to learn. It is hard to get the recommended five to thirteen servings of fruits and veggies each day so snacks are a great way to get these in.

Some healthy snack ideas:
 Fresh fruit, fruit cups, dried fruit, applesauce Fruit leather without added sugar (Natural Value, Stretch Island) Veggies (carrots, cucumbers, peppers, celery) Whole grain cereals (Cheerios, Frosted Mini Wheats)



Healthy snacks provide nutrients and food energy to learn.

Whole grain crackers, graham crackers Whole grain granola bars or cereal bars Popcorn, pretzels, flavored rice cakes English muffins, bagels If you need further resources, please contact our school nurse, Katie Homar, at 209-9950.

Visit to the Food Pantry



Parent Portal (Infinite Campus)

The Waunakee Community School District uses the Infinite Campus Student Information System. Parent/Guardians may access information within the student information system via the **Parent Portal**.

Information and services available in the Parent Portal varies by level. The following will be available at all grades:

- Food Service, Including Online Payment
- School and District Notices
- Family Information
- Calendar
- Student Classes
- Attendance Information
- Health Information
- Fees Information

To access the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus, you will need an activation key to create your account. When you enter your activation key, you will be prompted to establish a username and password that you will use to access the portal in the future.

The portal address is <https://campus.waunakee.k12.wi.us/campus/portal/waunakee.jsp> It is also available on the district website under the "For Parents" section by choosing "Infinite Campus Parent Portal".

Only parents and guardians designated with legal rights to student records may receive a Parent Portal account. Each parent/guardian with such rights receives their own separate account. Accounts should not be shared among more than one parent/guardian within households. Each parent/guardian portal account provides access to information for any student in which the parent/guardian has legal rights to records.

Please keep your username and password safe. If you think someone else knows your username or password, go to Change Account Information on the left side of your information page in the Parent Portal and change it. All attempts at logging into the system are recorded and monitored. A full audit trail is tracked on sensitive data. You can view the audit trail at any time when logged into the system by clicking the "View Access Log" link on the left-hand side of the screen.

Please help us maintain records. If you notice any errors in what students are associated with you, please telephone the registrar immediately at 849-2470. Also, please keep your child's school notified if you have a change in address, telephone, or email. Thank you for your assistance.

If you forget your Parent Portal account information, please contact Lori Woock, District Registrar, either by telephone at 849-2470 or by emailing lwoock@waunakee.k12.wi.us.

Semester Milk

Thank you for your continued participation in the Food Service program.



Payment for 2nd Semester milk is due by January 20, 2012, for those families who wish to have their student(s) purchase milk for consumption during morning snack break. The cost is \$31.50.



Donuts for Dudes

Thursday, January 12th - 7:15-7:30 -
Families with last name beginning with A-I

Friday, January 13th - 7:15-7:30 -
Families with last name beginning with J-Z



Tardy

When circumstances prevent a student from being present at the beginning of the school day, the child will be considered tardy. Students who are tardy to class are responsible for making up missed time with the individual teacher. The teacher may require the student to make time up after school.

Students should not arrive at school before 7:15 a.m. as we do not have adequate supervision until that time. The first bell rings at 7:35 and school begins at 7:40 a.m. Students who arrive late to school should go to the office for a pass.

Excused:

Medical appointments that fall at the start of a school day

Unique circumstance approved by the principal.

Unexcused:

When a student is not present in his/her designated location when the school day begins at 7:40 AM, the following examples illustrate tardiness in this category:

Arriving late because adequate time was not allowed for the student to arrive at school.

Arriving late because adequate time was not allowed by parent/guardian for transportation.

Arriving late due to oversleeping or sleeping in.

Arriving late due to parent/guardian work schedules.

Arriving late due to ill family members.

Arriving late due to missing the bus.

Being to school on time is very important. Students who are late miss out on the morning announcements and also miss important directions and instructions from the teacher. Students who arrive late on a consistent basis interrupt the classroom environment. Learning to be punctual and responsible are important lifelong skills. If your child is late for school he/she must stop in the office to get a pass before going to class.

If tardiness continues, the student will be referred to administration. If tardiness continues after discussion with the administrator, truancy proceedings may be initiated. Initial proceedings include student and parent notification of the concerns, followed with potential contact with the school social worker. Truancy proceedings include a letter in the student file that details the concern of habitual repeated tardiness.

ATTENDANCE LINE: (608)849-2235 - Janice Henn