

Prairie Express

We're Wild About

LEARNING

Desenfrenado sobre aprendizaje en
PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY



February 2011

Principal's Message
The Process of Learning

As educators, we are constantly searching for new instructional processes to address the various needs of our students. As you know, we don't provide instruction in an educational vacuum of "one size fit's all" in Waunakee. As a district, we have made a commitment to Response to Instruction (RtI). At Prairie, we dedicate time on a daily basis to provide instructional support beyond regular classroom instruction – most commonly called "skill building" time. Support offered during this time and in the regular classroom still may not seem to be enough for your child. You may suspect that there is something not quite right, not because he or she doesn't want to succeed, but rather "something" else may be holding your child back. Putting a finger on it is a delicate juggling act that we are all trying to find an answer to. One question that may come to mind is whether or not your child has a learning disability. Below are some potential indicators as adapted from the January *NAESP Report to Parents* "[Does Your Child Have a Learning Disability?](#)"

"I just don't understand." Most children with learning disabilities really want to succeed and work hard to understand their homework and complete their assignments. They often find that they just don't "get it", they become frustrated and discouraged. Not only does this affect their overall performance, but it also has an impact on self esteem.

Trouble Memorizing. A lot of our educational instructional strategies involve memorizing. For example, learning to recognize common words is vital to becoming a good reader, and knowing the basic fact tables "by heart" is essential to moving forward in math. Recognizing that your child has difficulty memorizing numbers or words after repeated practice may be a sign that your child may have a learning disability.

Trouble Reading. It's very common for young students to have trouble with letters and words that look similar – think of the letters "p," "q," and "d" or the words "rug," "mug," and "jug," – for children with a certain learning disability known as dyslexia, the confusion lasts beyond early elementary school. It is important to know that these traits are common with most children when they are first starting to learn to read and write. The critical part to focus on is a prolonged confusion beyond early elementary.

Trouble Communicating. Imagine that you are in another country where you don't speak the language and you are trying to communicate. That's what it is like for children when a learning disability interferes with their ability to communicate. Sometimes, it just takes these children longer to come up with the words to ask or answer a question. There are times, when these children simply give up; it's too hard for them to even try. It's not that they don't know or don't care; it is that they simply can't get the words out.

If you recognize some of these signs, it does not automatically mean that your child has a learning disability. Talk to your child's teacher and see if he/she has noticed similar traits and find out if there are some things you can do to help at home. While you are following these suggestions, keep copies of the schoolwork that show why you are concerned, and write down in a notebook a record of the date and type of problems you are noticing.

While this work may appear to be a hassle, the future for your child if they do have a learning disability, can have a positive outcome. When a learning disability impacts your child's ability to learn, you should know that there is help available and we are here to help in whatever way we can for your child's success.

Dean Kaminski



Fun Family Fitness Coming in February!

Mark your calendars: February 4th, from 6-8 p.m. for the third annual "Family Night of Fun" sponsored by the PTO and Physical Education department. This will take place in the Waunakee High School Field House, dance room, and commons area. Arboretum Elementary School is coordinating all the food for the event. The PTO is bringing back the big jumping blow up toys. The PE department will have Wii, Exergaming, DJ, Physical Education Activities, Golf putting, Bowling, Pindown, Tennis, Scooters, 4 Square and Fitness Stations.

Pay cash or please write checks payable to Waunakee Schools.

Fun Fitness 6:00-8:00 p.m.

High School Fieldhouse
\$3.00 per student

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

February 23rd

In the Prairie LMTC Room

Upcoming Meetings

March 23, April 27, May 25, June TBD

PTO Events

Family Fun Fitness Night: Fri. Feb. 4

Family Learning Night: Tues. Mar. 22

Ice Cream Social: Thurs. May 12



Prairie Family Learning Night



Mark your calendars for March 22 - 6:00-7:40 p.m. for our Prairie Family Learning Night! This is a great opportunity for Prairie families to enjoy each other while learning something new. More information will be sent home soon. This is a free night of great opportunities for the whole family.

Prairie Spirit Days

- FEB 4** SPORTS JERSEY DAY
(WEAR A FAVORITE TEAM JERSEY OR YOUR TEAM JERSEY)
- MAR 2** READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY
(WEAR RED AND WHITE and/or HATS)
- APR 8** CAPS FOR A CURE
(WEAR HATS; PRIZES IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES)
- MAY 13** CRAZY HAIR DAY
(CRAZY HAIR, CRAZY CLOTHING, ETC)

Early Release Days

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

Thursday, February 24

Friday, May 27

No School
February 25- SWEIO

No School
February 28
Staff Development &
Parent Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences at Prairie Elementary School will be held on Monday, February 28 and Thursday, March 3, 3:30-7:30 p.m. for Sprouts and Grades K-4. If you would like to schedule a conference time with related arts teachers, please call the office at 849-2200. Conferences are scheduled for 15 minutes; if you need more time, please schedule another time to meet with your child's teacher. There will be no childcare provided during conferences.

Some teachers at Prairie Elementary work in other schools. Below are the dates that shared staff will be at Prairie for conferences.

Ms. Ali Shuda	February 28	5:30-7:30
Mrs. Tamara Helper	February 28	3:30-7:30
Mr. Gustafson	February 28	3:30-7:30
Mrs. Wright	Sign up individually	
Mrs. Endres	Sign up individually	
Mrs. Benson	Sign up individually	



Birthday Sundae Celebration

Mr. Kaminski will be celebrating February and August birthdays with ice cream sundaes on **Tuesday, February 22**. Kindergarten through Grade 4 students will enjoy sundaes at 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Birthday Celebrations

March 22

April 26

May 31

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!



Medications

Just a reminder, the medication consent forms are in the parent handbook, on the school district website, and in the school office. The consent form needs to be used and signed by the doctor anytime prescribed medication is to be given at school. If it is an over-the-counter medication, only the parent has to sign the consent form. All medication needs to come to school in the original container.

From the Health Office... Health Guidelines For Attendance



A student should remain at home if:

There have been episodes of vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours and the student is not yet tolerating regular diet.

The student's temperature is not normal (approximately 100 degrees or higher) and the student feels ill. Students need to be fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

The student is aching and fatigued enough to be unable to participate in class and school activities.

The student has uncontrollable cough or runny nose so that s/he cannot care for it in a sanitary manner.

The student has been diagnosed with strep throat or other treatable contagious disease and has not yet had 24 hours of treatment.

The student has an untreated contagious disease (impetigo, scabies, draining pink eye, etc.).

The student has a recent injury that causes enough discomfort to significantly distract him/her from being able to focus on school activities in class.

We encourage parents to send students to school each day if injury or illness does not significantly compromise the student's health and there is no threat of communicable disease to others. A phone call to school to explain an absence is required on the day your child will remain at home.

Remember -- the school needs to have up-to-date phone numbers available to call should a student become ill or be injured at school. If you have any questions about the guidelines, please call the school nurse.

Just a note: If you think that your child is sick enough to give them medication (for example Tylenol) before sending them to school you might want to keep them home for the day.

LOOK School Hours

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.

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.

Please

No Birthday Invitations at School

It has long been our practice to not have parents or children hand out birthday invitations at school. I respectfully ask parents to follow our practice to help avoid classroom disruptions and hurt feelings of others in class who do not get invited to these parties.



Stuffed Animals



Let's Keep our Students Safe!

School Zones Safety Concerns

We want to make sure everyone drives safely in school zones. Please remember to clear all windows and mirrors, of snow, ice and frost. Driving kids to school without properly clearing off your windshields is an obvious concern for safety if this is occurring. Please do your part in keeping our kids safe.

Let's Keep our Students Safe!

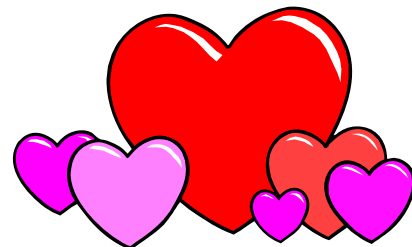


Safety in the Unloading Zone

The following situations have been creating an unsafe environment for our students in the unloading zone. Please consider the safety of our students.

- Cars are not allowed to be unattended in the student-unloading zone during school hours. **Parents are to park in a parking stall** and not in the parent loop. As of late, cars have even double parked in the parent loop creating extremely dangerous conditions (students expected to walk between cars).
- Please remember to drive slowly. Cars zooming into and out of the parking lot create dangerous situations.
- Younger siblings should not be left unattended with the cars running while parents are inside the school.

Thanks for doing your part in making our school safe.





More Stuffed Animals

Dress Students for the Weather

Parents are reminded that students will be outdoors during the winter months. In the morning students may enter the building and put their bags away then proceed immediately outdoors. At lunch time and during the morning and afternoon recess children will also be outdoors.

Our general rule of thumb is when the temperature is 0° or below, OR -10° with the wind-chill, or if it is raining students will stay inside. At all other times we will expect that your child go outdoors to get the fresh air and exercise they need. Please have your child dress appropriately. If your son/daughter wants to play on the snow covered fields, they must wear boots, snow pants, hats, mittens and an appropriate jacket. Students with medical concerns for illness will be allowed to stay indoors in the office area if they have a written doctor's excuse.

Winter is right around the corner bringing snow, cold temperatures and sometimes school cancellations. In the event of inclement weather, please listen to one of the following stations for announcements or cancellations.

WTSO (1070 AM)	WMGN (98 FM)
Q106 (106 FM)	WIBA (1310 AM)
WOLX (94.9)	WTDY (1480 AM)

Or listen to WISC-TV3's School Watch. WISC-TV3 lists school cancellations alphabetically and is repeated throughout the morning. In the event school is closed early due to inclement weather, your child will be directed to go to the location listed on your child's "Coming Home Early Form" that was in your beginning of the year registration packet. Be sure to keep us informed if you have any changes during the school year. If you haven't completed and returned the "Coming Home Early" Form to the office please do so as soon as possible. If you need a form please pick one up from the office.



Our Touchstone

At Prairie Elementary, through learning and laughter, we choose to have a positive attitude, to work hard, to be honest, and to be respectful.

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/teachweb/zellnera/prairiepto.htm>

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

Spanish is alive



Recess in Winter Wonderland



Ronald McDonald House



Pop tabs for Ronald Mc Donald House



*Adopt a classroom
Uniek Inc.*



Safety Patrol



2011 DATES

February

- February 4 Family Fun Fitness Night
February 24 **Early Release -12:40**
February 25 **NO SCHOOL - SWEIO**
February 28 **NO SCHOOL - Staff Development**
February 28 Parent Teacher Conference

March

- March 3 Parent Teacher Conferences
March 22 Family Learning Night
March 25 End of Third Quarter
Mar 28-April 1 **NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK**

April

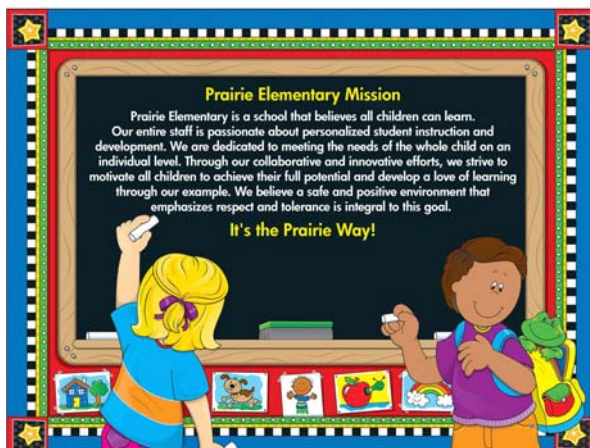
- April 14 Art Show & Basket
Extravaganza; Cultural Arts
Bake Sale
April 14 4th Grade Musical
April 22 **NO SCHOOL**

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



Waunakee Community School District

District Administrative and Maintenance Center
905 Bethel Circle • Waunakee, WI 53597

Open Enrollment Notice

To: Families who have moved, or are planning to move out of the Waunakee Community School District boundary limits.

Your student(s) may be eligible to continue attending the Waunakee Community School District under the State of Wisconsin's open enrollment program. Open enrollment applications may be completed electronically through this link: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html> , between February 7th and 25th.

Please call 849-2470 or e-mail Lori Woock, Registrar, at lwoock@waunakee.k12.wi.us for more information.

Intra-District Transfer Notice

To: Families who wish to request a transfer of elementary aged students (K-4) outside of your assigned attendance area or back into your assigned attendance area. Your student(s) may be eligible to transfer outside of your assigned elementary (K-4) attendance area or back into your assigned attendance area. Transfer request forms are available at each elementary building. Transfer requests must be returned to your assigned elementary school by March 15th. Transfer requests must comply with Board of Education policy 432-Rule.

Please call 849-2470 or e-mail Lori Woock, Registrar, at lwoock@waunakee.k12.wi.us for more information.

Notice from Waunakee Food Service

Second Semester Milk Money is Due! \$31.50/semester

For those families who wish to have their student(s) purchase milk for their morning snack break, the cost is \$31.50. **If you have not submitted payment for 2nd Semester milk, please do so immediately.**

At this time, the Infinite Campus Online Payment system only accepts Food Service payments for breakfast & lunch fees. We request that 2nd semester milk fees be paid via cash or check made payable to Waunakee Schools and delivered or mailed to: Attn: F/S, 101 School Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597. In the future, we are hopeful that the online payment system will be utilized for milk fees.

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

Thank you.

Taher Inc. 849-2185