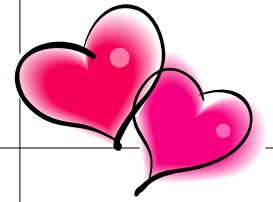


# Prairie Express

February 2012



## Prairie Named a 2012 State School of Character

The students and staff of Prairie Elementary are proud to announce that they are being recognized as a **2012 State School of Character**. This recognition is an affirmation and celebration of the great staff, outstanding students and tremendous families who make up the Prairie community. We are extremely honored to be receiving this recognition and attribute this honor to our students and staff who have embraced the importance of character in the school. The support of all our outstanding families and community has helped make this School of Character recognition possible.

Prairie has been selected as one of two schools of character in the state of Wisconsin. A blue-ribbon state panel evaluated Prairie Elementary using eleven character principles. Prairie achieved a level in all principles that showed we have been implementing highly effective strategies to develop the social-emotional and character development of their students. Students and staff have fully embraced the positive impact character education has in the educational experience.

Prairie Elementary is successfully integrating character in all aspects of the school day for students. Students regularly demonstrate that they are there to help others in need, show appreciation to others, and express gratitude to those who do great things for our school and community members. The Adopt a Classroom Business Partnerships, Recess Buddies, Service Learning projects, Peer Mediators, Families of Character Challenge, and the Skip Jones Artist in Residency are a few examples of the great commitment of character education in our building. Character is at work in the classroom, in the hallways, on the playground, and in the community. Students continually demonstrate the essence of good character regularly by doing the right thing simply because it is the right thing to do.

Prairie Elementary will be recognized and will receive an acknowledgement at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Character Education Conference in June, 2012. This honor would not be possible without the essential partnership and support of character education throughout our community, our Prairie families, our students, and our staff. We want to thank you for your support in implementing quality character education and helping form good character traits and values in our community.

Sincerely,

*Dean*

### Special points of interest:

- **Family Fun Fitness Night - Date changed** to Friday, April 13th.
- **Semester Milk Fee** due by January 27
- **2 Hr. Early Release** February 24
- **Parent Teacher Conferences -** March 5 and March 9

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**K-6  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences**

**March 5**  
(3:30-7:30 p.m.)  
**March 9**  
(8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.)

**Box Tops for  
Ronald McDonald  
House**



**Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent/Teacher conferences at Prairie Elementary School will be held on Monday, March 5 (3:30-7:30 p.m.) and Friday, March 9, (8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) for Grades K-4. If you would like to schedule a conference time with related arts teachers, please email the teacher. 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 child-care 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.

**March 5 (3:30-7:30)**

- Ms. Bordeleau - Spanish (Grade 4) 3:30-5:30
- Ms. Clevenger - Physical Therapist
- Mrs. Endres - Physical Education
- Mrs. Hepler - ELL
- Mrs. Maurer - Occupational Therapist
- Mrs. Voeller - Pathways
- Ms. Wright - Art

**March 9 (8:00-12:00)**

- Mrs. Grevens - Art (8:00-9:00)
- Ms. Wright - Art
- Mr. Gustafson - Physical Education

**\*\*Please Email the specialists if you need a specific time to meet with them.**

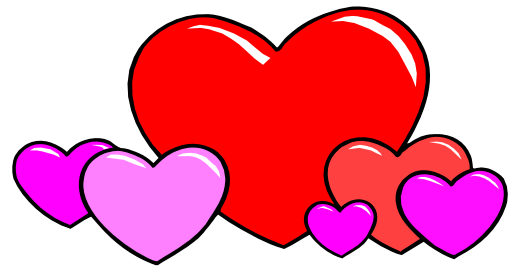


**No Birthday Invitations at School**

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.

**Let's Keep our  
Students Safe!**

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.



**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.

## 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.



## **Birthday Sundaes**

Mr. Kaminski will be celebrating birthdays with ice cream sundaes on **Tuesday, February 28th**. 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!



## **Prairie Spirit Days**

### **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**

## **Box Top Drive**

Our annual Box Top drive will be Feb 2- March 23. We will be using the proceeds to purchase SMART Boards. More information will be coming soon.

## **Dress for the Weather**

Please have your children dress for the weather. Remind them to wear coats, hats, mittens and boots when they go out for recess. Even when there is no snow, the fields are moist and muddy.



**PTO meetings**  
**Where: LMTC**  
**Time: 6:30 p.m.**  
**Dates:**  
**February 8**  
**March 14**  
**April 11**  
**May 9**  
**June tbd**



Thanks to Mrs. Farnsworth and Mrs. Peters' 4th grade class. They made a Bully Buster bulletin board, located near the office, which helps other students learn how to deal with bullies.

## 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE EARLY MORNING MOVERS

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians:

On Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 7:30 am, I will be hosting a before school exercise activity for you and your 4<sup>th</sup> grade child in the Prairie Elementary gym. The activity will consist of a warm-up, fun fitness stations, and a cool down. All movement tasks and challenges will be able to be modified for individual differences and fitness levels. Please plan on coming to have a fun and challenging workout with your child as well as showing your child the value of being physically active. All you need are active clothes, tennis shoes, and a water bottle. Please RSVP to me at [jgustafson@waunakee.k12.wi.us](mailto:jgustafson@waunakee.k12.wi.us) or call me at 849-2251(am) or 849-1819 (pm). If you could let me know by 2/10/12 if you are coming, I would really appreciate it.

Stay healthy.

Mr. Gus

## StudentCorps

This year, StudentCorps (Mrs. Schadeberg's and Mrs. Walker's classes) are learning about community service. We've been participating in service learning projects within the community and school district. Now, we're hoping to take our service abroad.

We are now partnering with the non-profit organization called Haiti Allies. Haiti Allies is based out of Madison, WI. The goal of Haiti Allies is to build partnerships with the Haitian people of Cite Soleil, the biggest slum in Haiti and one of the worst in the world. StudentCorps is partnering with a school called Cite Soleil Community School (CSCS). The students and staff are all incredible people who come to school to learn and teach every day, despite their struggles.

The StudentCorps would like to partner with Haiti Allies to help provide food at CSCS. The feeding program at CSCS currently provides 2-3 meals a week for each student. The feeding program is currently in crisis, and will expire in March 2012. Who can listen and learn while they're starving?

We want to involve the whole school so we are doing a money drive to support the program. The average cost to serve 200 students and staff 300 meals per year (\$1/meal) is \$60,000 for one year.

Each classroom will have a serving bowl to collect money. You, as parents, may decide how your family is going contribute. Your child could earn money, or a simple donation could be made. Please make checks out to Haiti Allies.

Our two-week challenge to raise money for the feeding program at CSCS will run February 6 – 17.

Thank you so much for your help!

Mesi anpil, (Kreyol for "Thank you very much")

StudentCorps

Mesi anpil, (Kreyol for "Thank you very much")

StudentCorps



## February is National Children's Dental Health Month

You can encourage your child to develop good dental habits by helping them:

- Brush twice a day.
- Replace their toothbrush every 3- 4 months.
- Floss daily. Flossing is important because it removes food particles and plaque that brushing misses. Flossing tools may be helpful for kids learning to floss. Kids usually are not able to floss on their own until they are 8-10 years old.
- Eat healthy.
- Instead of soft drinks, encourage low-fat milk or water.
- Schedule regular dental visits.

Post emergency dental numbers along with other emergency numbers on your refrigerator or near your phone. Ask your dentist where to call after hours in an emergency.

Check out [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) for more information.

If you would like help getting a free dental appointment, please call me at 209-9950.

Thanks,

Katie Homar

School Nurse

## Semester Milk

Thank you for your continued participation in the Food Service program. Payment for 2nd Semester milk is due by January 30, 2012, for those families who wish to have their student(s) purchase milk for consumption during morning snack break. The cost is \$31.50. *If you do not want your child to have milk please contact Taher Food Services at 608-849-2185 or 849-2327 to remove the fee.*

Milk fees for 2nd semester should be paid via online fees ([www.waunakee.k12.wi.us](http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us)), cash or check made payable to Waunakee Schools and delivered or mailed to: Taher Food Service 101 School Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597.

You might be shivering  
but it's time to think SUMMER!

Summer School  
Monday-Thursday

Session I June 18-July 3  
No school July 4-5

Session II July 9-July 26

Online Registration information coming.

Mark your calendar! Join the fun!

Summer School for current grades K-3 will be held at Prairie Elementary School.



## **I M P O R T A N T !!!** **FAMILY FUN FITNESS -** **CHANGE THE DATE TO** **APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Due to an unexpected development with the company that supplies our inflatable equipment for Family Fun Fitness Night, we need to change the date to Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you can join us that evening for a night of family fun and fitness at the High School. We will not have an event on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Please see the updated flyer included in this newsletter for details.



**DONUTS FOR DUDES**



Prairie Elementary  
 700 North Madison Street  
 Waunakee, WI 53597  
 Office: 849-2200  
 Attendance: 849-2235  
 Fax: 849-2255

Email: [gbreunig@waunakee.k12.wi.us](mailto:gbreunig@waunakee.k12.wi.us)  
[janicehenn@waunakee.k12.wi.us](mailto:janicehenn@waunakee.k12.wi.us)

**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

**4K-12 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: [dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html](http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html), between February 6th and 24th. Please call (608)849-2470 or e-mail Lori Woock, Registrar, at [lwoock@waunakee.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwoock@waunakee.k12.wi.us) for more information.

**K-4 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 (608) 849-2470 or e-mail Lori Woock, Registrar, at [lwoock@waunakee.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwoock@waunakee.k12.wi.us) for more information.  
**NOTE:** Parents/Guardians do not need to complete Intra-District Transfer Requests or Open Enrollment Requests if their child was approved for the 2011-12 school year, per revised school board policy for the 2012-13 school year.

**2012 DATES**

**February**

February 22 Rube Goldberg Night (HS Commons)  
 February 24 **Early Release -12:40**

**March**

March 5 K-6 Parent Teacher Conferences (3:30-7:30)  
 March 9 K-6 Parent Teacher Conferences (8:00-12:00)  
 March 9 No School  
 March 20 Family Learning Night  
 March 23 **Early Release -12:40**  
 March 25 End of Third Quarter  
 Mar 26-30 **NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK**

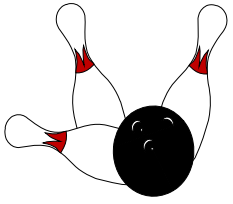
**April**

April 6 **NO SCHOOL - Good Friday**  
 April 9 **NO SCHOOL OR SNOW DAY MAKE UP**  
 April 13 Family Fun Fitness Night  
 April 19 Art Show & Basket Extravaganza; Cultural Arts Bake Sale  
 April 19 4th Grade Musical

**May**

May 10 PTO Ice Cream Social at Prairie School  
 May 18 Prairie Field Day  
 May 21 Prairie Field Day (Rain Date)  
 May 25 Early Release – students dismissed at 12:40- Student Data  
 May 28 **NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day**  
 June 8 Last Day of School/Report Cards Sent Home Second Semester  
 Ends  
 June 10 Snow Make Up Day





Waunakee Community School District

# Family Fun Fitness



**NEW DATE! Friday, April 13, 2012**

High School Fieldhouse and Commons

5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.—Concessions

6:00-8:00 p.m.— Family Fun Fitness \$3 per student

The PTO and Physical Education Department is hosting a Family Fun Fitness Night for elementary and Intermediate School families.

### Concessions 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Provided by Taher Food Service  
High School Commons

Walking Taco.....	\$2.50
Hot Dog on a Bun.....	\$2.25
Assorted Wrap Sandwiches.....	\$3.00
Double Fudge Brownie Cookie.....	\$1.00
Yogurt Parfait Station.....	\$1.25
Minute Maid Frozen Juice .....	\$.50
Cinnamon Pretzels w/cheese dip.	\$1.25
Bottled Water.....	\$1.25
Milk.....	\$0.50

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

Inflatables

WII, DDR, Kinect

DJ

Physical Education Activities

Bowling, Pindown, Badminton, Tailgate Toss,  
Sport , Scooter Obstacle, Running Obstacles  
and Fitness Station.

Dance Dance Revolution.



Elevator access to Commons

## Volunteers Needed!

Or call the school  
office if you are  
interested in helping.

If you can help, please sign up for a shift using the Google Spreadsheet link

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?  
key=0ArApGmTvSSRndG1FSmtPb1Z5VnlkYnBucDRsaGF3NHc](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0ArApGmTvSSRndG1FSmtPb1Z5VnlkYnBucDRsaGF3NHc)

New Recess sleds make winter time exciting!



# Hawaiian Day



