

January 2012

# Prairie Express

## Message from the Principal

Typically it is easier for teachers, parents, and playground supervisors to spot physical confrontation than to notice something that can be just as damaging like slurs, name-calling, exclusion, and hurtful words. In reality, the phrase “sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me” is a misleading notion. Words and actions do damage self-esteem and commonly leave more of a lasting impact than physical contact.

Children experience normal childhood conflicts on a daily basis and sadly this is part of growing up. Conflict is a natural process that we hopefully learn from. We learn about others, learn to work through differences, learn to accept others, and learn how to grow. Coping with and working through conflict helps individuals grow. When that conflict reaches a point of being consistent, repetitive, and intentional, the line has been crossed into bullying. Bullying is an intentional and repeated act to try to harm another person(s) either physically, emotionally, or verbally. A bully gets their satisfaction by making someone feel inferior or hurt. It is at this point, that adults need to intervene.

Through guidance lessons, students learn strategies to deal with unwanted conflict. One message that we share with our students is to be a Bully BUSTER! Bully BUSTER's can deal with a potential bully type situation by:

- B ..... Befriend the victim
- U ..... Use a distraction
- S ..... Speak out or stand up
- T ..... Tell them to stop and get help
- E ..... Exit alone or with others
- R ..... Refuse to join in

Students have used this BUSTER method with success. Whether verbal, physical, or emotional, children know how to “push the buttons” of the one they intend to cause harm to. Being a BUSTER has helped our students through potential bully type situations. It is simply not acceptable for friends, families, or schools to allow this type of activity to occur. Instead we should all accept each other the way we are no matter what the differences.

We all need to realize that conflict is a natural part of life that will enable personal growth. Together we must advocate for children when it is perceived that the line has been crossed from conflict to bullying. Thanks for doing your part in promoting “*Peace on the Prairie.*”

*Dean*

## Safety Concerns in School Zones

The police department wants parents to make sure they drive safe in school zones and clear all their windows and mirrors, of snow, ice and frost.

The police department has received a few complaints of parents observed driving kids to school without properly clearing off their windshields. There is an obvious concern for safety if this is occurring. The Police Department just put a reminder in their police department newsletter reminding people to clean their windshields and the police are guessing that is why they received the calls due to increased awareness. Police officers will be trying to stop vehicles violating this law.



Please keep everyone safe in our school zones.

## 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. In the past cars have even doubled parked in the parent loop creating extremely dangerous conditions.
- ⇒ 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.

Let's make our school as safe as possible!



## 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.

Interested in attending the next PTO meeting?

It will be held at 6:30 p.m. on

January 11th in the  
Prairie LMTC

Upcoming Meetings

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



## PTO Family Fun Fitness



Friday February 10  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Waunakee HS Field House

“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 providing the big jumping blow up toys. The PE department will have exercise gaming activities (play station, Xbox and Wii games) as well as

other fun moving challenges. Finally, a D.J. will be playing all the current tunes. More information will follow closer to the date!

## 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.

### Visitors Are Welcome at School

If you wish to visit your child during the day we ask that you please stop by the office to sign in and get a "Visitor" sticker. If you would like to join your child for lunch, please let his/her teacher know in advance

### Wanted: Gently Used Clothing

The health office is looking for gently used donations of sweatpants (girls/boys all sizes) and socks (girls/boys). These items are used throughout the

school year when a change of clothes is needed. Thank you!

#### A Good Idea

Sending an extra set of clothing and socks in case they get wet at recess is a good idea as we approach the snowy winter season



# Harvest Fest



# Third Grade Giving Tree

## Be A Leader Bulletin Board



# Veterans Appreciation Assembly

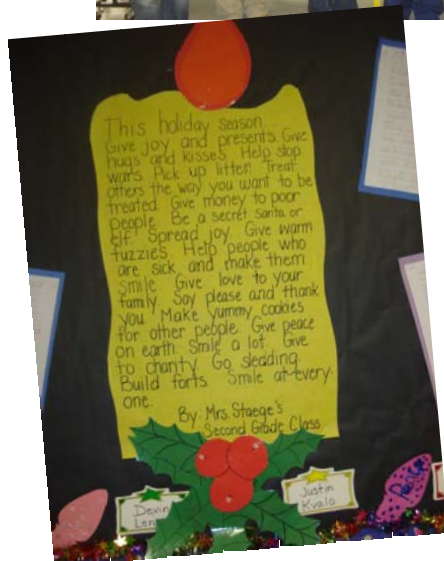
*We have enjoyed many wonderful days with your children this month!*



Holidays around the World!



## Light the World with Kindness



Mix It Up Day

# Celebrating Holidays around the World



Ms. Koll did a fantastic job presenting her 1st Prairie Music Program



## Second Semester Milk



Thank you for your continued participation in the Food Service program. Payment for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Milk fees for 2nd semester should be paid via online fees, cash or check made payable to Waunakee Schools and delivered or mailed to: Taher Food Service 101 School Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597.

## Lunch



Parents are invited to eat lunch with their child. Advanced notice is appreciated by sending a note with your child or calling the office at 849-2200 before 10:00 AM.

The cost for an adult lunch is \$3.25. Please remember to sign in at the office.

## Parent Checklist.



- Pay for second semester morning milk by January 20, 2012.
- Post events calendar at home. Check website for updates.
- Check your child's Thursday folder and return permission slips or other information to school as needed.
- Send notes or call office before 1 PM if after school arrangements change.

## Birthday Sundaes

Mr. Kaminski will be celebrating birthdays with ice cream sundaes on **Tuesday, January 31st**. 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!



## 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 information 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.

*Our Students  
Make it Special!*



## *Congratulations to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Winner!*



*Becky Watts -  
Para Educator,  
Special Education,  
Prairie Elementary School*



"Becky Watts is a very calm and empathetic para-educator who is in tune with students' needs.

She does a nice job of making sure the students have the best chance for success, while giving them an "out" during times of need, and helping them to avoid situations that would embarrass them. Her empathy regarding students' feelings and emotional needs is very apparent. The way she "cares" has become a very obvious strength for Becky. She has gained knowledge of her students to a level that she is very effective in working with them. She is fair and objective as she follows the plans put in place by her supervising teacher and the students' individual IEPs. She is a positive model of professionalism and calmness for students and staff.



*Oh what fun it is!*



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

## 2012 DATES

### January

January 1	Winter Break
January 2	School Resumes
January 16	No School - Martin Luther King Day
January 20	First Semester Ends
January 23	No School - Staff Work Day
January 31	Birthday Sundaes (January & July)

### February

February 10	Family Fun Fitness Night
February 24	<b>Early Release -12:40</b>

### 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	<b>Early Release -12:40</b>
March 25	End of Third Quarter
Mar 26-30	<b>NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK</b>

### April

April 6	<b>NO SCHOOL - Good Friday</b>
April 9	<b>NO SCHOOL OR SNOW DAY MAKE UP</b>
April 14	Art Show & Basket Extravaganza; Cultural Arts Bake Sale
April 19	4th Grade Musical

**Visit our website:**  
**[www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/prairie/](http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/prairie/)**

### To Purchase Copies of

### "Celebrating Holidays around the World" Holiday Program

- \* To purchase a copy of the "Celebrating Holidays around the World" holiday program please send to the Prairie LMTC:
- \* DVD = \$4.00 ea. (Do not send a DVD; LMTC will supply the blank DVDs.)
- \* \*\*\* Copies will be available after Christmas.

The Prairie Holiday program is airing out on **channel 98** daily, **Monday-Friday**, at **9:00AM**. It is not airing out on the weekend.