

Prairie Express



JUNE 2011

Principal Message
June, 2011

Summer Learning

It is hard to believe that we've completed another year of school! ☺ Teachers, para educators, volunteers, parents, and children have dedicated an insurmountable amount of time to foster academic, social, and emotional growth. Students are prepared for their next step in their educational journey. We must remember, however, that by forgetting about learning during the lazy days of summer can actually do more harm than good for your child's education. Numerous studies have shown that children lose a shocking amount of what they've learned if they don't participate in activities that continually refresh and foster the learning they have acquired over the past school year. That means that children who put forth just a little bit of effort during the summer months are going to be far ahead this coming fall. We owe it to them – and to their futures – to incorporate learning activities into their summer.

Before the last school bell or the last day of school, parents are encouraged to sit down with their child to let them know that reading and learning activities will be a part of their summer. These activities certainly don't have to replicate the structured environment of school, but should bring forth positive cognitive exercise. It is equally important to share with them that they will still have a lot of time to play, relax, and enjoy vacation.

The next step is to find activity books to exercise their minds. There is a huge variety of activity books available at local bookstores that usually cater to specific age groups and subjects. Most are designed to be completed during the summer in a fun and engaging fashion. Give your children their own activity book and let them work at their own pace to finish it. Even though you are encouraging independency, setting a due date is important to help keep them on track. You may even want to establish a little "reward" or celebration to keep the motivation going. Crossword puzzles, math activity

books, and number puzzles all keep children's brains in motion.

Most importantly, set time aside every day for reading. Establish a certain time every day where everyone turns off the computer, TV, music, and video games to spend 15 minutes or more reading. Modeling this activity, as parents, is equally important even if it is just reading the newspaper.

In addition to reading over the summer, children should also listen to books. According to experts, listening to books helps children develop comprehension, build confidence, and strengthens their vocabulary. By listening to books, students are exposed to a higher level of books that they may understand through listening, along with exposing them to new words that are pronounced correctly. Children get a real "boost" when they listen to and understand stories that they know are difficult.

This year I'd like to encourage your child and family to participate in our "**Reading Rocks Summer**" program. Did you know that by reading only four or more books over the summer helps children avoid the "summer slide?" This opportunity is intended to help reduce the reading regression that typically occurs over the summer. A sundae party celebration will be offered to all students who complete the "**Reading Rocks Summer**" expectations. Details are included in the newsletter.

There are wonderful resources available through school, your child's teacher, our local library, and the Internet to help families with summer learning. Even though it takes a little bit of effort on your part, the payoff, in terms of their education, is beyond measure.

Thank you all for a great year!!! Enjoy your summer!

☺

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

June 9
12:00 Release



2-Hour Early Release
Friday, May 27 (12:40 dismissal)

NO SCHOOL
Monday, May 30
(Memorial Day)

Riding Bikes to School



If your child rides a bike to school, please speak to him/her about bike safety and the "rules of the road". We are encouraging all children to wear helmets and to lock their bikes up when they leave them in the bike rack. Students in grades K-2 should use the racks behind the school on the 1-2 playground. Students in grades 3-4 should use the bike racks on the north side of the gym.



Best Wishes

to

Lon Bartling

Karen Benson and Gail May

Thank you for being part of our Prairie family!

We will miss you!

Safety Patrollers

Thank you to those current 3rd grade students who have already signed up for safety patrol for next year. Boys and girls who are members of the Safety Patrol serve a very important function and are outstanding role models for our younger students. An orientation meeting will be held in late summer. Safety Patrol procedures and schedules will be handed out at that time.

Crazy Hair!!!!



Lost and Found

We have many lost and found clothing items. Please make sure to check the lost and found table located in the main entry hallway. Please claim Lost and Found clothing by June 10th. Remaining items will be given to a local charity after June 10th.

From the Health Office

Summer is the perfect time to schedule your child's physical and have medication consent forms and immunizations for fall completed. Have a safe and healthy summer!

Library Books - Important Message!

All library books should have been returned to the LMTC by **Friday, May 27th**. Please check backpacks, children's rooms and cars for schoolbooks. If you received a lost book notice, please bring the "assumed lost" book with you when you come to the LMTC. All books are on a computerized check-in system. If you pay for a book and the book "shows up", your money will be refunded.

Non-Bus Students

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.

Website & School Messenger

We will continue to use electronic communication with our Prairie families to get information to you on a timely basis, while conserving resources. Newsletters, events calendars, lunch menus and other information are sent the last Thursday of each month. You may also receive other emails to provide you with information and reminders as warranted. We try to keep these emails to a minimum, while making sure families receive information that is helpful and necessary. There is also a lot of useful information on our website: www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/prairie.



Dates to Remember

June

June 1 Kindergarten to Vilas Park Zoo

June 1 Zellner to State Bank of Cross Plains

June 2 4th Grade to Village Park

June 2 EC to Centennial Park

June 3 2nd Grade to NORD GEAR

June 6 EC to Vilas Park Zoo

June 9 Last Day of School/Report

Cards Sent Home

(12:00 dismissal)

June 9 Early Registration forms are to be turned in.

School Supply Kits Option

We are pleased to offer school supply prepackaged kits as a service to our busy families. This is not a fundraiser. Parents have the opportunity to order online on the Prairie website or via paper forms. 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 for next year's grade level. The teacher tailored packages include everything on the supply list for your child's 11-12 school year with the exception of backpacks, and art smocks.

This is not a fundraiser. This is provided only as a convenience to parents. There are several ordering options available:

- Online order and paper orders– by May 31. The Online ordering link will be available on the Prairie website – parent resources-school supplies
- Telephone orders accepted through May 31 by calling toll free 1-866-231-9573.
- Free School Delivery available if you order by June 15. Pick-up at the school on Registration Day in August.

Orders placed online or via phone will have the option for home delivery. Shipping charges will be added. Online and telephone orders require payment by credit card. Kits ordered via paper order forms will be delivered to school for pick up on Registration Day. Please call School Pak's Customer Service at 1-866-231-9573 if you have any questions.

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.

Invitations at school

Sorry, but invitations to parties should not be distributed at school.

Mail In Registration

Parents received 2011-2012 census verification forms and fee schedules in Thursday folders on May 19. **Please return the form and fees by the last day of school on June 9.** Please drop them off at the office. Mail in registration is a win-win. Parents avoid lines at picture day and office staff has additional time for data entry.

Registration Wrap UP and Picture Day

Tuesday, August 9 • 12:00—6:00 PM

Registration and picture day will be held at Prairie Elementary, on **Tuesday, August 9th**. Please plan on attending to have student pictures taken, tour the building, sign up for parent/teacher conferences, pick up materials (including pre-ordered school supplies), pay fees, pay for lunch and/or semester milk, and tour the school.

Classroom/teacher assignments and picture information will be mailed home during the first week of August. Herff Jones will be taking school pictures. All students are required to have their picture taken for the memory book even if you do not wish to purchase a picture packet or memory book.

If you are unable to register your child(ren) on this day you may stop by the office after August 9 to complete your registration and pay fees.

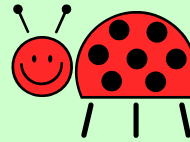
2011-12 Kindergarten Parents To Do on Registration Day, August 9

- Bring child's birth certificate to verify birth date
- Bring health forms
- Kindergarten Daily Going Home form

- Kindergarten forms were distributed in April packets.

Class Placement

Class placements will be sent to you by the first week of August. We have taken into consideration parent requests, the child's strengths and academic needs, special programming needs, boy-girl ratio and teacher recommendation when making up class lists. I ask that you please get in touch with your son/daughter's teacher to express any concerns or desires for the year. Please make your own judgments about your child's teacher. A recommendation from a parent about an "excellent" teacher or "poor" teacher may be just the opposite of what you'd get from a different parent. Take time to get to know your child's teacher and work with him/her. We have taken a lot of care to place children appropriately and hope everyone will have an exciting and academically challenging 2011-2012 school year. Full class lists will be posted on Registration/Picture Day which is August 9.



2011-2012 Student Fees

Student Fees

Kindergarten	\$26.00
Grades 1-4.....	\$28.00

Food Service Fees

Lunch

Daily.....	\$ 2.35
Weekly.....	\$11.75
Monthly.....	\$ 47.00
Adult.....	\$ 3.35
Milk(for lunch).....	\$0.35

Morning Milk Break

First Semester Milk.....	\$31.50
Second Semester Milk...	\$31.50

Early Childhood

First Semester Milk.....	\$25.00
Second Semester Milk.....	\$25.00

Thank You PTO!

This year is no different than in the past with our PTO doing another fantastic job! Numerous people helped pitch in to organize and work at events such as our Family Learning Night, Ice Cream Social, , T-shirt sales, Fall Fund raiser, Teacher Appreciation committee...and the list goes on! Without the help of a tremendous amount of people, we would not be able to provide the support to our students and staff that we know they all deserve.

We want to give a special thanks to our 2010-2011 PTO Board Members:

President -Lori Phelps, Vice President -Amy Kuhnle,

Secretary - Cindy Kobza, Treasurer - Patti Kvalo,

Volunteer Coordinators - Shawn Schmitt & Tori Horkan

Faculty Representatives - Amie Zellner and Jay Guelker.

A huge thanks also goes to the following PTO Committee/Project Chairs:

Family Fun Night Co-Chairs; Amie Zellner/Lori Phelps, Basket Bonanza Co-Chairs; Amie Zellner/Lori Phelps, Art Show/Bake Sale Chair; Amy Kuhnle, Box Top Coordinators; Amy Kuhnle, Ice Cream Social Co-Chairs; Shawn Schmit and Elaine Jones .

Thanks for making our school a better place to be.



PTO BBQ Kick Off and Raffle

September 7, 2011

4:00-7:00 PM

Heritage and Intermediate Schools

To celebrate the beginning of 2010-2011 school year, the PTO is hosting the sixteenth annual BBQ Kick Off behind the Intermediate School and Heritage Elementary. This is a great opportunity for all families and schools to get together.

PrairieElementary School	
700 North Madison Street	
Waunakee, WI 53597	
Office: 849-2200	
Attendance/Messages: 849-2235	
Fax: 849-2255	
How to Reach Us:	
Principal Dean Kaminski dkaminski@waunakee.k12.wi.us	849-2200
Admin. Assist.— Principal Geri Breunig gbreunig@waunakee.k12.wi.us	849-2200
Admin. Asst - Attendance Janice Henn janicehenn@waunakee.k12.wi.us	849-2235
Health Assistant Tanya Stone tstone@waunakee.k12.wi.us	849-2203
Nurse Katie Homar khomar@waunakee.k12.wi.us	209-9950
Guidance Jo Howard jhoward@waunakee.k12.wi.us	849-2039
Psychologist Lisa Kjos lkjos@waunakee.k12.wi.us	849-2200
Social Worker Kristin Meyer kmeyer@waunakee.k12.wi.us	849-2200
Lamers Bus Service	850-5253 x2
Taher Food Service	849-2185

Parent Checklist

- Return Enrollment forms and pay fees for 2011-12 by Thursday, June 9th.
- Make sure your child knows after school plans for 12 PM release on June 9.
- Post June 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.
- Have a wonderful summer



First Day Back to School

Thursday September 1
7:40 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

2011-2012 Calendar Dates

September

- 1 1st Day of School
- 5 Labor Day – No School
- 16 2 Hr. Early Release (12:40)

October

- 17 K-6 Parent Teacher Conferences (4:00-8:00)
- 21 No School
- 21 K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences
(8:00-12:00)
- 26 2 Hr. Early Release (12:40)
- 27-28 No School - WEAC Convention

November

- 4 First Quarter Ends
- 22 2 Hr. Early Release (12:40)
- 23 No School
- 24-25 Thanksgiving

December

- 12/23-1/1 Winter Break

January

- 12/24-1/1 Winter Break
- 16 No School – Martin Luther King Day
- 20 First Semester Ends
- 23 No School – Staff Work Day

February

- 24 2 hour Early Release (12:40)

March

- 5 K-6 Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:00-8:00)
- 9 No School
- 9 K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
(8:00-12:00)
- 22 Third Quarter Ends
- 23 2 hour Early Release (12:40)
- 26-30 Spring Break

April

- 6 No School (Good Friday)
- 9 No School or Snow Makeup Day

May

- 25 2 hour Early Release (12:40)
- 28 Memorial Day

June

- 8 Last Day for Students



Summer School Information

Incoming Grades 1-Grade 4

Monday—Thursday
Session I June 20 - July 7
Session II July 11-28
7:50 a.m.—11:15 a.m.
Heritage/Intermediate Schools

Incoming Grades 5-6

Monday-Thursday
One Session
June 20—July 28
7:50 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Heritage/Intermediate Schools

Camp Kindergarten

Ready Set Go
for Prairie students
Monday-Thursday
Session I June 20 - July 7
Session II July 11-28
8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Prairie School

Walk-in/online registration will be available June 1-4. During this timeframe you are able to go online and add to your summer school registration or stop in the summer school office for assistance. The summer school office is located in the lower level of the Teaching and Learning Center administration building located between the high school and the public library. Parking is available on the lower level. **Payment for classes is due prior to the start of summer school.**

Summer School Office Walk-in Registration Hours June 1,2,3:

Weds. 6/1 and Fri. 6/3	1:00-6:00 p.m.
Thurs. 6/2	7:30am-1:30pm

WALK-THRU DAY Wednesday, June 15, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Want to help your child get familiar with the summer school buildings and find his/her classrooms prior to the start of summer school? We invite you and your child to take a self-guided tour through the schools. Maps will be available and classroom doors will be labeled. Summer school staff will not be present.

Transportation - to locations other than the home address

For safety reasons, pick-up or drop-off locations other than home must be requested in writing by parents/guardians via the *Request for Alternate Pick up/Drop off form* available on the summer school website under Transportation. This request must be submitted to the bus contractor before the routes are finalized for the summer session. Bus routes and pick-up/drop-off locations will not change during the first week of the summer sessions.

Alternate Bus Requests for Session 1 only or Sessions 1 & 2 - Due Friday, June 10, 2011

Requests received between June 11th, & June 24th will not begin until June 27th.

Alternate Bus Requests for Session 2 only - Due Friday, July 1, 2011

Requests received between July 2nd, & July 15th will not begin until July 18th.

Attendance

Student attendance is taken during summer school. If your child will miss *any class(es) for any reason*, please contact the school your child is attending. If your child is absent without notice, the summer school attendance secretary will contact you to confirm their absence.

Summer School Attendance Line at Heritage Elementary is 849-2326

Camp Kindergarten and Ready Set Go at Prairie Elementary Attendance Line is 849-2235

SUMMER SCHOOL OFFICE Phone: (608) 849-2063

Volunteers are needed the first two days of summer school at Heritage Elementary School. Please contact Chanesta Acker chanesta@charter.net or Tori Horkan jthorkan@hotmail.com if you are available to help.

Remember to bring your child's schedule on the first day of summer school.



Reading Rocks Summer!

Reading on a regular basis in the summer is very important to maintain reading proficiency. All it takes is reading only four or more books at your current reading level to maintain your reading skills. This summer, we would like to offer an opportunity for you to participate in a Root-Beer Float celebration at the start of next school year. All you have to do is read 4 or more books that are appropriate for your reading level. Simply set the time aside to read, share what you read about with a family adult (mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, aunt, uncle), work with them to write down a short summary, and have them sign the log documenting your completion.

Keep track of the number of books that you read and turn in your summer reading log on September 1st or 2nd to your new classroom teacher. You will be invited to our first Reading Rocks Summer Root-Beer Float celebration with your completed log. ☺

Make Reading Rock!

Mr. Kaminski

Book 1:

Title: _____

Completion Date: _____ Adult: _____

Summary: _____

Book 2:

Title: _____

Completion Date: _____ Adult: _____

Summary: _____

Book 3:

Title: _____

Completion Date: _____ Adult: _____

Summary: _____

Book 4:

Title: _____

Completion Date: _____ Adult: _____

Summary: _____

Extra:

Title: _____

Completion Date: _____ Adult: _____

Summary: _____

Extra:

Title: _____

Completion Date: _____ Adult: _____

Summary: _____

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Crazy Hair Day Photos!



Volunteer Appreciation Assembly Photos!



Caps for a Cure!

