

Prairie Express

We're Wild About

LEARNING

Desenfrenado sobre aprendizaje en

PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY



March 2011

Principal's Message

Honorable Mention State School of Character

Honorable Mention State School of Character

The students and staff of Prairie Elementary are proud to announce that they are the recipients of the **2010-2011 Honorable Mention State School of Character** award. We at Prairie Elementary are extremely honored to be receiving this recognition and attribute the honor to the outstanding display of character by our students and staff. This recognition certainly was made possible because of the outstanding support from our families and community. The *Adopt a Classroom Business Partnerships*, Recess Buddies, Peer Mediators, Families of Character Challenge, and our Character Club pilot are all testaments to the great commitment of character education in our building.

Students are there to help others in need, show appreciation to others, and express gratitude to those who do great things for our school. Character is at work in the classroom, in the hallways, on the playground, and in the community. Students continually demonstrate the essence of character on a daily basis by doing the right thing, even though the temptation is out there to do otherwise. An example of these acts of character was shown by two students that found a \$220 check on the sidewalk. The students took the check to an adult and the check was returned to the owner. Another example; a student found a \$10 bill on the bus. The student chose to give it to bus driver in hopes of getting it back to the rightful owner even though it was very tempting to put that money into the pocket. These are just two examples of great acts of character. The list goes on and on.

Prairie Elementary will be recognized and receive the award at the 7th Annual Character Education Conference on June 14, 2011. This honor would not be possible without the essential partnership and support of character education throughout our community, our Prairie families, our students, and 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Early Release: February 24, 2011 (12:40)

No School:

February 25- SWEIO

February 28 - Staff Development & Parent Conferences

Dean Kaminski

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 in Thursday, folders. This is a free night of great opportunities for the whole family.



100 Days of School

Summer School 2011

(Upcoming Grades Pre-K-Grade 4)

Session I: June 20 - July 7

(No school Monday, July 4)

Session II: July 11 - 28

Monday—Thursday

(Upcoming Grades 5-6)

One Session June 20 - July 28

(No school Monday, July 4)

7:50 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Summer School Online Registration

District Website: www.waunakee.k12.wi.us —
>Summer School —> Registration

Summer school registration is right around the corner. **Online registration opens on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. and ends Saturday, April 30 at midnight.** Class information will be available in March both online and in catalogs available in the school offices. Walk-in registration will be June 1- 3 in the summer school office. Online registration will reopen during this timeframe as well. Check out the website for registration information and regular updates. Numerous enrichment and remedial classes will be offered. *If you have any summer school questions, please contact Ruth Meese at 849-2063 or email her at rmeese@waunakee.k12.wi.us.*

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



Interested in attending the next PTO meeting? It will be held at

6:00 p.m. on

March 23

In the Prairie LMTC Room

Upcoming Meetings

April 27, May 25, June TBD

PTO Events

Family Learning Night: Tues. Mar. 22

Ice Cream Social: Thurs. May 12



Group Class Pictures

Tuesday, March 22nd.

Herff Jones Photography will take class pictures on Tuesday March 22nd. The cost for a class photo is \$8.00. Order forms will be sent home in Early March. Students should bring the order forms to school on picture day.



Prairie Spirit Days

- 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)



Read Across America Week
February 28-March 4
Monday – No School

Tuesday – “Crazy Sock” Day

Wednesday – “Wear Red, White and Favorite Hat” Day

Thursday – “Read My T-Shirt” Day

Friday – “Prairie T-Shirt Day”



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, March 22**. Kindergarten through Grade 4 students will enjoy sundaes at 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Birthday Celebrations

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!

Placement for 2010-2011 Grades 1-4

Placement Request forms for 2011-2012 are available now through April 15 in the forms rack outside of the main office door or online at . Parents wishing to provide information regarding their child's placement for grades 1-4 should return a completed placement form to the school office by Friday, April 15th. **Please do not specify a teacher.**

Each spring the staff at Prairie Elementary School work with Mr. Kaminski and Mrs. Howard to balance classes for the coming school year. This means classes will be similar in size and include a variety of ability levels, talents and special needs. The following criteria are considered when making student placements:

- Girl/ boy ratios: we strive to balance the number of girls and boys in each classroom.
- Variety of abilities: we strive to create heterogeneous groupings in classrooms where all children can learn from each other.
- Special programming: some children may need special programming (response to instruction, acceleration, special education, speech and language, etc). To accomplish this we may cluster some children to effectively meet their needs.
- Parent input: we accept parent input and encourage them to tell us about special situations or reasons why their child should not be placed in classrooms or with certain children (i.e. - cousins, personal conflict, child has been with the same child since they've been in school, etc.). Also, parents should let us know of any concerns they may have about their child's learning style or needs. We ask that parents please not specify a particular teacher for their child.

As you might imagine, placement is a very difficult process. We do our best to place children in classrooms well suited for their learning needs while considering the multitude of parent requests that come to us. If we are not able to meet a request you've made, please be open to your child's placement in the fall and give the new relationship a solid chance. Also, please withhold judgment about a teacher's style or ability--give that teacher an

opportunity to work with your child rather than listen to hearsay that a teacher may not be a good instructor for your child.

Placement forms for Kindergarten will be mailed home with the Kindergarten meeting packet and should be filled out and brought to the April 28th meeting.



Orchestra Information

There will be a meeting for 4th grade families interested in joining Orchestra in 5th Grade **on** Monday March 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Intermediate Gym. Orchestra starts in the summer before 5th grade. You will be able to sign up to join orchestra, as well as receive information about instrument rental. Demonstration concerts will occur during the school day the week before this sign up night, so please ask your son or daughter about what they heard and what instrument they might be interested in playing: Violin, Viola, Cello or Bass.

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.



Ronald McDonald visits Mrs. Schadeberg's Classroom

Please keep collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
We have 165,000 so far. Our goal is to collect as close to one million as possible.



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.

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.



School Board Recognition

The staff and students of Prairie Elementary would like to offer a special recognition to members of the Waunakee Board of Education for their commitment and many hours of service to our community.

Thank-you !

Gary Epping
Eric Esser
Peggy Hill-Breunig
Wade Hansen
Tryg Knuston
Karla Homan
Paul Meese

100 Days of School



Sailing the Seven C's of Character

As you consider your goals for 2011 I want to suggest a C voyage to work on your character.

No, you're not too old and I don't mean to imply you're a bad person. Surely by now many of you have heard my mantra: *You don't have to be sick to get better.* Besides, we all know it's a lot easier to make a good person better than to make a bad person good.

Remember, the struggle to be a person of character takes place on the level of daily choices at home and at work. People of exceptional character stand out from the crowd because they develop the discernment and moral strength to know and do the right thing in circumstances that might overwhelm or confuse others.

Here are the Seven C's of Character: Conscience, Caring, Consideration, Confidence, Competence, Control, and Courage.

1st: Nurture and honor your personal **Conscience**. This is a precious internal moral compass that helps you maintain your integrity.

2nd: Show people you **Care**; demonstrate a genuine unselfish concern for the well-being of others, be empathetic, charitable, and above all, kind.

3rd: Be **Considerate**; think about the way your actions will affect others, and know that you are responsible for the consequences of all you say and do.

4th: Be **Confident** that you are good enough, valuable enough, and strong enough to withstand potential consequences of principled conduct, including the loss of money, jobs, and even friends.

5th: Develop moral **Competence**; learn to make and implement good decisions that are ethical and effective and get the best possible result out of every choice.

6th: **Control** your emotions; distinguish between what you want and what you need; beware of impulses and urges that can cause you to compromise ethical principles; don't settle for pleasure, go for happiness.

7th: Have the **Courage** to do the right thing even if it might cost more than you want to pay.

Every one of these elements can be a challenge on any particular day. The point, and I hope your goal for 2011, is to self-consciously sail these Seven C's because CHARACTER COUNTS. Michael Josephson

FAMILIES BUILDING GOOD CHARACTER IN 2010-2011

1. ____ POST THE FOUR CHARACTER TRAITS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR
2. ____ POST THE TOUCHSTONE IN YOUR HOME
3. ____ TALK ABOUT THE TRAITS AT A FAMILY MEAL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
4. ____ PROVIDE A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS AS A FAMILY
5. ____ CATCH A FAMILY MEMBER DISPLAYING ONE OF THE TRAITS AND WRITE IT DOWN
6. ____ PRACTICE THE CORRECT WAY TO MAKE AN APOLOGY
7. ____ PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST TWO SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES: FALL FUN NIGHT, FAMILY LEARNING NIGHT, BBQ KICKOFF, ICE CREAM SOCIAL, BAKE SALE
8. ____ PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST TWO SCHOOL SPONSORED SERVICE PROJECTS: FOOD DRIVE, WAUNAKEE NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION DRIVE, UNICEF, CAPS FOR A CURE, COOKIES FOR CANCER
9. ____ MAKE A FAMILY MOTTO POSTER: EXAMPLE "CHARACTER COUNTS WITH THE SMITH FAMILY"; AND HANG IT IN YOUR HOME
10. ____ VOLUNTEER IN THE SCHOOL OR DO SOMETHING AT HOME THAT HELPS THE SCHOOL/TEACHER

*****WHEN THIS FORM IS COMPLETED, RETURN TO SCHOOL AND YOU WILL RECEIVE A PRAIRIE FAMILY OF CHARACTER YARD SIGN

100 Days of School



Jersey Day



MUFFINS FOR MY LADIES



2011 DATES

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



100 Days of School



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.

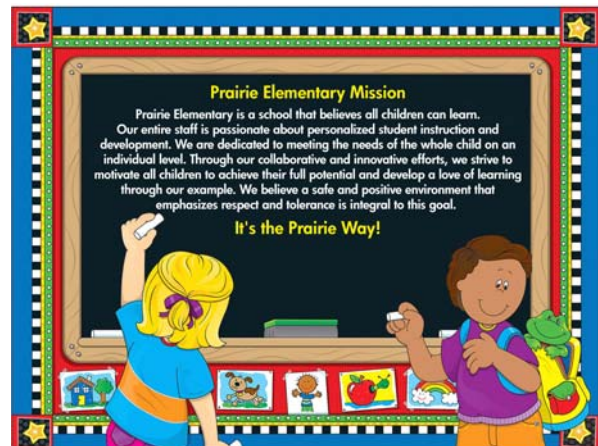
Please call 849-2470 or e-mail Lori Woock, Registrar, at lwoock@waunakee.k12.wi.us for more information.

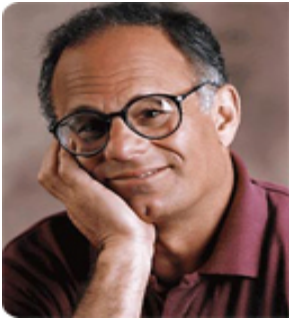
Intra-District Transfer Notice

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.





**BRUCE LANSKY,
CHILDREN’S BOOK
AUTHOR AND POET,
TO VISIT PRAIRIE
SCHOOL ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 1ST**

Bruce Lansky, a children’s book author and poet, will be visiting Prairie School on Tuesday, March 1st, for this year’s “Author Visit.”

Bruce has written and edited six poetry anthologies and filled three books with his own poems. He’s done all this within the past ten years. It all started when he wanted to put together a children’s book of all the best loved poems. To find out what these were, he tested poems out on children in elementary schools, and decided to write a few to see what the response would be. Bruce admits that at first it wasn’t that good, but as his writing improved, he managed to add his poems to new books. A lot of time was spent rewriting the poems over and over until he was satisfied with them.

Because of the amount of time that he spent reading and testing poems in classrooms, schools started inviting him to perform. He’s now performed at hundreds of schools. His goal is to put on the most entertaining, most educational, and most motivating assembly a school has ever had. His web site, www.gigglepoetry.com, helps kids discover the fun of reading and writing poetry.

During his “Author Visits” to schools, Bruce teaches students how to write several kinds of poems using rhyme and free verse. His interactive program gives students a chance to create and perform poems. In the process, students often discover just how much fun it really can be to read and write poetry. Many times they’ve become so inspired that Bruce has ended up receiving bags and boxes of poems and thank-you notes from them —sometimes before he’s even left the school.

Bruce resides in Minnetonka, MN, but travels nationally, often visiting the New York metro area, Colorado, Minnesota, Arizona, and Florida.

He is the author of: My Dog Ate My Homework, If Pigs Could Fly... And Other Deep Thoughts, and Funny Little Poems for Funny Little People. Bruce is the editor of and appears in: I’ve Been Burping in the Classroom , Peter, Peter, Pizza-Eater, Oh My Darling, Porcupine, Tinkle, Tinkle, Little Tot, Dinner with Dracula, Miles of Smiles, Kids Pick the Funniest Poems, A Bad Case of the Giggles, No More Homework! No More Tests!, Mary Had a Little Jam, Rolling in the Aisles, If Kids Ruled the School, and Happy Birthday to Me!, all of which are very entertaining books!

Mr. Guelker
Prairie School LMTC Director

**Mrs. Walker’s
Mexican Fiesta**





Early Riser Reader



Early Riser Reader is a before school event promoting literacy where all K-4 students and parents are invited to come to the LMTC at 7:00 to enjoy a morning of reading books together, have a light breakfast treat, and head off for work and class by 7:30 a.m. We will also have some wonderful door prizes for those who attend.

If you are planning to attend please fill out the attached form and send it back with your student to give to his/her teacher. Please look at the following dates to determine which one you will be attending. If you have a child in both grades, you may choose to attend one morning. Let us know which day you will be coming and the number of people attending. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you. There will be more information provided as we get closer to these dates. If you have any questions please call the school office or e-mail Trish Chaimson at tchaimson@waunakee.k12.wi.us

April 26 for students in grades K-2
April 28 for students in grades 3 and 4

Early Riser Reader

Please RSVP by April 15th by giving this sheet to your child's teacher.

We are able to attend the Early Riser Reader on
(Please circle one)

April 26 for students in grades K-2
April 28 for students in grades 3 and 4

Names of people attending: _____

Child's teacher: _____ Grade: _____