

# Prairie Express

We're Wild About

# LEARNING

Desenfrenado sobre aprendizaje en

# PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY

May 2011  
Principal's Message

## Principal's Message

### Peace on the Prairie

For the second year in a row, the students and staff of Prairie Elementary are being recognized at the Wisconsin Character Education Conference as a 2011 Promising Practice recipient in June. This recognition is being presented to the students and staff for the unique, outstanding, and honorable practices that we have adopted to practice and instill character education in our building. This honor is attributed to the exceptional students, families, and staff who make up the exceptional Prairie community.

This year, our *Peace on the Prairie Project* was selected to serve as a model for other schools across the state to replicate. The *Peace on the Prairie Project* is intended to help children begin to understand that conflict is a part of everyday life and that we can use various avenues to reach a peaceful and appropriate solution. Our hope is that by using strategies to work through little problems, we can help children avoid the building of intensive conflict that typically involves adult intervention. We believe that helping children work through daily conflict aids in developing positive interactions with peers. The *Peace on the Prairie Project* is centered on four key components: Kelso's Choice, Play Fair, Recess Buddies, and Peer Mediators.

At the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, Mrs. Howard provided instruction to all the students about the Kelso's Choices program. The program defines nine different choices students can make to help deal with conflict. When presented with a conflict, the

students are encouraged to try at least two different choices before taking the problem to a trusted adult. Of course if it is deemed a serious issue, the problem is reported immediately to an adult.

The Play Fair model is used for playground, indoor recess, and intramural activities. The concept of Play Fair revolves around the idea of talking out problems before returning to the game using "I" messages, attentive listening, and Kelso's choices.

Our Recess Buddies program pairs a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student with a Kindergarten student during early morning recess to serve as a role model about appropriate games, rules, and what it means to play fair. In addition to being a role model, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students also serve as an extra eye to ensure playground safety.

Finally, our Peer Mediator program provides an opportunity for a few trained 4<sup>th</sup> grade students help 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade peers work through minor conflicts. This program has proven to be very effective in helping students resolve conflict without adult intervention.

Together, adults and students have learned that conflict is normal, but it takes a complete team effort to instill a peaceful and harmonious environment. Thanks for your support and for embracing *Peace on the Prairie*.

Sincerely,





## Summer School Registration

It's not too late to register  
Summer School Online Registration ends April 30 at  
midnight.

[http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/ss\\_course\\_registration.cfm](http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/ss_course_registration.cfm)

If you registered your child for summer school during April, you will receive a copy of your child's schedule including music lesson times and dates on your statement/invoice at the end of May. Please verify that your student has a complete schedule.

All fees must be paid prior to the start of summer school for students to be eligible to attend.

The district does waive fees for students who are eligible for the free and reduced lunch program. If you qualify for this program but have been charged please note this on your invoice and return it to the summer school address shown on the invoice.

If you missed out on registration the next opportunity to register will be:

**Walk-in/online registration June 1-3.** During this time online registration will reopen. This will be your last chance to select classes prior to summer school. The summer school office will be open to assist you. The office is located in the lower level of the district administration building (TLC) located between the high school and the public library. Parking is available on the lower level.

### Walk-in Hours:

Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> - 1:00 pm -6:00 pm

Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7:30 am-1:30 pm

Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm



## Transportation

During the online registration process you stated your desire for bussing: None, Bus To, Bus From, or Bus To and From. This information is used by Lamers to schedule transportation and by summer school teachers to inform students what to do after school. It is **very important** that any changes to this information be reported to Lamers and to the school your child will be attending this summer. Lamers will send out bussing

details (pick-up/drop off times and locations) **the week before** summer school begins. Please remember all bussing is to and from the home address unless you have submitted the Request for Alternate Pick-up/Drop-off form found on the summer school website under Transportation to Lamers prior to the deadline date listed on the form.



## Walk-thru Day:

**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.

**Please remember to send your child's schedule with him/her on the first day of class.**

If you have any summer school questions, please contact Ruth Meese at 849-2063 or email her at [rmeese@waunakee.k12.wi.us](mailto:rmeese@waunakee.k12.wi.us).



## PTO Ice Cream Social

Come join us for the annual PTO Ice Cream Social. The Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, May 12th from 4:00 – 7:00pm *outside* at Prairie Elementary School.

In case of rain, you can join the fun inside. Bring the entire family for hotdogs, brats, pizza, chips, popcorn, ice cream cones, sundaes and root beer floats. If you are able to volunteer, please contact one of the Prairie PTO volunteer coordinators, Chanesta Acker [chanesta@charter.net](mailto:chanesta@charter.net) 850-5273 (h) or Tori Horkan [jthorkan@hotmail.com](mailto:jthorkan@hotmail.com) 850-3161 (h).

## 2011-12 Registration Timeline

This information will go home in the May Express.

**May:** 2011-12 registration information will be sent home in Thursday folders to parents in mid-May.

**June 9:** 2011-12 enrollment forms are to be returned.

We request and recommend that you complete the required paperwork and pay fees by June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**1<sup>st</sup> week of August:** "Welcome Back Packets" mailed home. This mailing will include:

- Welcome Letter from your child's principal
- Introduction letter from your child's teacher
- Enrollment form (if not previously turned in)
- Supply lists
- "Coming Home Early" and "Daily Coming Home Form"
- RTI information letter
- Photo Packet
- PTO Information
- BBQ Kick-Off Volunteer form and raffle information.
- Busing information

### August 9 Registration Wrap-Up & Picture Day

- Turn in forms mailed in "Welcome Back Packet"
- Pay any remaining registration fees
- Sign up for conferences
- Busing information (Alternate Bussing Form)
- Have your child/ren's picture taken
- Tour the building
- Pick up preordered school supplies
- View class lists
- Representatives from Lamer's Bus and Taher Food Service will be present.
- School t-shirts pick up.

## Prairie Spirit Days

May 4 Caps for a Cure

(All proceeds will go to the American Family Children's Hospital in Madison for cancer research.)

- © Students may wear hats on May 4--Wednesday. Prizes for most unusual, biggest, and smallest for every grade level.
- © Donations will be accepted from children/families and staff members
- © For every \$25 a classroom or individual brings in, they get one pie to toss at a person of their choice: Mr. Kaminski, Ms. Truitt, Mr. Schmitz, Miss Palmer, Miss Sweno and Mr. Kurt Hanson The pie throw will happen May 6-Friday at 1:45 in the café.

**MAY 13** CRAZY HAIR DAY  
(CRAZY HAIR, CRAZY CLOTHING, ETC)

## Helpful Information

### Invitations at School

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



Interested in attending the next PTO meeting? It will be held at 6:00 p.m. on May 25

In the Prairie LMTC

Upcoming Meetings

June TBD

PTO Events

Ice Cream Social: Thurs. May 12

## Birthday Sundae Celebration

Mr. Kaminski will be celebrating May birthdays with ice cream sundaes on **Tuesday, May 31st**. Kindergarten through Grade 4 students will enjoy sundaes at 1:00 p.m.

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!

### 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/prairie/prairiepto.cfm>

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

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition to Intermediate School Meeting

Parents of current 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to attend a meeting on **Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** in the Intermediate School gym. Please contact the Intermediate School at 849-2176 with any questions.

## 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 will use the racks behind the school on the 1-2 playground. Students in grades 3-4 will use the bike racks on the north side of the gym.

### *From the Health Office...*

If your child has medications at school, arrangements need to be made to see that they are safely taken home at the end of the year. Please watch for a form from the health office regarding your child's medication and the end of the school year instructions. The district is required to have a new medication consent form completed each school year. Please let us know if you have any questions (849-2034).



## School Supply Kits Option

We are pleased to offer prepackaged school supply kits as a service to our busy families.

Parents have the opportunity to order online on the Prairie website. 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 and include everything on the supply list for their 2011-12 school year.

## Early Release Days

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

Friday, May 27



## Dress for the Weather!



Springtime means melting snow and rain. That wet weather also brings wet clothes! We recommend that you send an extra pair of socks (or two) and maybe even a pair of pants with your child to school each day. It's pretty uncomfortable to sit in wet clothes while trying to learn!

Also, as the warmer days approach, keep in mind these guidelines for outdoor recess: Students must wear a sweatshirt or light coat when the temperature is between 45° and 55°. Shorts may be worn when the temperature reaches 55°. It is a good idea for students to have wind pants or jeans at school so they can deal with temperature changes throughout the day.

## MAP Testing

MAP testing for grades 2-4 will wrap up on **May 13**. The Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) is a computer based test where students, teachers, and parents discover what your student has learned. The test helps us to evaluate each student as to their strengths and weaknesses, and address them accordingly. The MAP test offers us immediate feedback as well as helping students become familiar with standardized testing. We are testing reading, language usage, and math. One test is given one day each week for three weeks. Students took the MAP test in the fall and we will be looking to see what type of growth they have had since then. The results of these tests will be mailed out upon completion of the tests.

## FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNT BALANCE

All lunch account balances for Taher Food Service must be at a zero or a positive balance when school ends on June 9<sup>th</sup>. To check your balance on line, go to the Waunakee school website at [www.waunakee.k12.wi.us](http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us) and check "For Parents" on the first page, then infinite campus parent portal. Click to log in and enter user name & password. Click on food service, and this will show your child's name & current balance. A positive balance will be carried over to the 2011-2012 school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kelly Regali AT 849-2185 OR Carrie Abarca AT 849-2327.

## 2011 Calendar Dates

### 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 (12:00 release)  
June 10 Snow Make Up Day (if necessary)



# "Fun in the Sun" Field Day and School Picnic

The Prairie Elementary School Physical Education Department will be hosting a Field Day on **Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> (rain date Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>)**.

Two sessions will be held:

Grades Sprouts–Grade 2 from 12:15-2:15

Grades 3-4 from 8:30-10:30

An all school picnic is also planned for this day. Students who participate in the hot lunch program will be served a picnic style lunch consisting of hotdogs or hamburgers grilled by Mr. Kaminski, Mrs. Howard and Dean Frederick. Students who do not participate in the hot lunch program may bring a sack lunch for this event.

**Younger siblings are not encouraged to attend this event.**

Thank you,  
Deb and Jonathon

## FIELD DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We are looking for approximately 70 volunteers to help us run the stations. Parent volunteers will run the stations and students will rotate around the course.

**Interested in volunteering?** - fill out the bottom portion of this page, and return to your child's teacher.

On May 20th volunteers will meet in the gym at the following times:

8:00 - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades

11:45 – Sprouts, Kdg, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades

If you sign up to work, you will not be contacted. We will plan that you will be present unless you tell us you are unable to fulfill your time slot.



Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired section (please circle)    Sprouts - Grade 2                      3 – 4

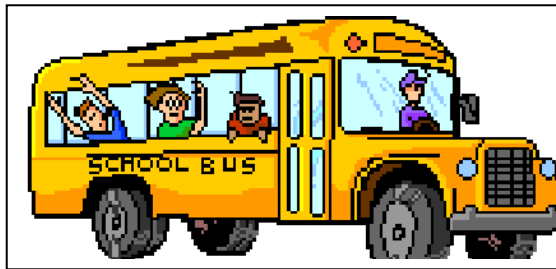
**Rain Date (Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>)** - Are you available? (circle one)                      Yes                      No

**School Picnic Lunch** - Parents are invited to eat lunch at the all school picnic. The cost is \$3.25.

We ask that you make your lunch choice ahead of time so that the kitchen can plan accordingly.

MY CHOICE IS:            (circle one)                      Hot Dog                      Hamburger

Lunch will also include vegetables and dip, baked beans, watermelon, ice cream cup and milk.



## Field Trips

**Field trips** are a wonderful way for teachers to enhance what their students are learning in the classroom. They also provide parents an opportunity to be directly involved in their child's education. Here are some tips to help you, and your child, get the most out of field trips:

**Volunteer if you can:** Taking a day off from work to chaperone a field trip is a great way to see what your child is learning and what your child and his/her friends are really like at school. Research shows that children whose parents are involved in school do better than those whose parents are not. So, if you can, take the time to chaperone a field trip.

**Save conferences for later:** Avoid the temptation to discuss your child's progress with the teacher during a field trip. As a chaperone, you have responsibilities and the teacher needs to stay focused on the details of the field trip. Schedule another time where both you and the teacher can focus on your child.

**Leave the siblings at home:** Field trips are designed to reinforce what the students have been studying in class. Therefore, the field trip won't be as meaningful to younger siblings. Besides, other children could distract you from your role as chaperone. If the destination is truly wonderful, plan a second trip, with the whole family.

**Be a model:** How students behave is a reflection on the school. Therefore, principals and teachers expect students' behavior to be exemplary. Chaperones should model good behavior by listening to and following the rules laid out by the teacher. Let the students see you paying attention when the teacher, principal, or featured speaker is talking. If you're driving by, obey the speed limit, wear your seat belt, and please don't smoke around the children.

**Be in Charge:** As a chaperone, you're not along to be the students' buddy. You're the boss. Enforce the rules consistently, right from the beginning. Be stern, if necessary and make sure the students understand the consequences for any misbehavior.

**Be Discreet:** The teacher may need to divulge private information to you about one of the students (e.g. medical condition), or you may overhear private conversations about the students. In either case, keep the information to yourself unless there's an emergency.

**Keep to the schedule:** Field trips are carefully orchestrated, with set times for arrival, departure, lunch, and events. It's important that all the chaperones follow the schedule precisely and keep the kids on time all day long.

**Focus on the children:** Although chaperoning may be a good opportunity to meet other parents, you need to stay focused on keeping your group of students together and on task. If you want to meet other parents, organize a get together or attend a PTO meeting.

**Be honest with the teacher:** Don't wait until the end of the field trip to "vent" serious frustrations. Immediately report to the teacher if the children in your group behave in an unsafe or disrespectful manner.

**Pass along compliments:** Let the teacher know if you get compliments about your group's behavior while on the trip. Congratulate the children, as well, for being excellent ambassadors for the school.

One last thought – if you're not one of the "official" chaperones, please don't be an "unofficial" one. When other parents show up at field trip destinations, it causes problems for the teacher and school. Remind yourself that the field trip is a learning opportunity for the class, not a family outing. The best thing non-chaperone parents can do is to be eager listeners when their children return from the field trip.





**Waunakee Community School District  
Summer School 2011  
REQUEST FOR ALTERNATE PICK UP/ DROP OFF**

Check summer school website for directions and fee information.  
www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/summer\_school\_main.cfm

CHILD'S INFORMATION (One child per form)			
Full Name	DOB	Sex	M F
Grade Level 2011/12	Summer School Building	Attending Session: 1 2 Both	
Parent/Guardian Name		Home Phone #	
Home Address		Work Phone #	
CHILD'S INFORMATION (If more than one home address)			
Parent/Guardian Name		Home Phone #	
Home Address		Work Phone #	
ALTERNATE PICK UP REQUEST (To School )			
Days Requested (circle) M T W T F	Responsible Adult & Phone #:		
Address Requested			
ALTERNATE DROP OFF REQUEST (From School)			
Days Requested (circle) M T W T F	Responsible Adult & Phone #:		
Address Requested			
Parent/Guardian Signature:		Date:	
District Approval:		Date:	

**\*\*\*\*Important Notice for 2011\*\*\*\***

For safety reasons, pick-up or drop-off locations other than home must be requested in writing by parents/guardians via this district form. This request must be submitted to the bus contractor before the routes are finalized for the summer session. The routes are finalized no later than five business days prior to the start of the summer session. Bus routes and pick-up/drop-off locations will not change during the first week of the summer sessions.

Requests received after the bus routes are finalized will be reviewed for consideration after the first week of the summer session is finished.

Alternate Bus Requests for Session 1 only or Sessions 1 & 2 - **Due Friday, June 10, 2011**  
Requests received between June 11<sup>th</sup>, & June 24<sup>th</sup> will not begin until June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Alternate Bus Requests for Session 2 only - **Due Friday, July 1, 2011**  
Requests received between July 2<sup>nd</sup>, & July 15<sup>th</sup> will not begin until July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please mail or fax request to:

Lamers Bus Lines  
217 Raemisch Road  
Waunakee, WI 53597  
Phone: (608) 850-5253, 1-877-598-5253, Fax (608) 850-5699

# Caps for a Cure - May 4, 2011

## Would you like to have a pie thrown at these smiling faces?

For every \$25 a classroom or individual brings in, they get one pie to toss at a person of their choice: Miss Jessica Sweno, Miss Allie Palmer, Mr. Scott Schmitz, Mr. Dean Kaminski, Mr. Kurt Hanson and Ms. Sue Truitt. The pie throw will happen May 6-Friday at 1:45 in the café. All proceeds will go to the American Family Children's Hospita.



## Fourth Grade Musical

