

Prairie Express

We're Wild About **LEARNING** *Desenfrenado sobre aprendizaje en* **PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY**

September 2010

Principal's Message

Welcome back! I'm confident that you had a great summer and are eagerly waiting for the start of a fantastic year at Prairie Elementary. We are extremely fortunate to have such a beautiful building that is meticulously maintained by our outstanding custodial staff. I'm sure you would agree that Prairie Elementary is an inviting, colorful, and clean school that not only looks good, but also provides the best learning environment for success.

Prairie is privileged to have an extremely dedicated and exceptional staff. For the past few weeks, our teachers have been diligently preparing classrooms for the first day of school. It is exciting to realize that once again students will be filling the halls, classrooms, and the playground. Your child will be provided continuous opportunities to be engaged in social and academic opportunities. Your continued parental support ensures that every child will be well prepared for their educational career. It is my hope that the 2010-11 school year will bring repeated opportunities of success.

Toward the conclusion of last school year, Prairie Elementary was selected as a Wisconsin Schools of Character Promising Practice Award recipient. Our practice "Brag on Your Buddy" was chosen to serve as a model practice for schools across the state. On June 15, 2010, we received recognition, a flag and award at the Character Education Conference. The flag and award are positioned in the front entrance for your viewing. I wholeheartedly believe that this recognition exemplifies the tremendous support, relationship, and unified commitment of character education practices at school and home. Thank you for doing your part in making Prairie a great school!

Over the summer, we were extremely fortunate to have nine SMART Boards installed in our classrooms. Our PTO, through various sponsored activities, purchased 3 of the SMART Boards. All 3rd and 4th grade, along with 5 of the 2nd grade classrooms, are now equipped with this exceptional interactive educational technology. This would not have been

possible without the unselfish support from our staff and Prairie PTO.

Maybe you would like to consider joining the Prairie PTO? We have a very active group of parents who are committed to our Prairie students. Over the years our PTO has supported our students by sponsoring various student centered activities and financial support for educational material/technology. Please consider attending our monthly PTO meetings.

As we begin another year, many new and exciting opportunities await us. In effort to capitalize on those opportunities, we believe that mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual benefit are the keys to a successful educational experience. Additionally, we are committed to continuous communication between home and school. These ingredients are essential for educational success. Thank you in advance for being a part of the Prairie community and for making it a great year!

Yours in Education,

Dean Kaminski



Attendance Line – 849-2235

If your child will be absent from school, please call the attendance line at 849-2235 before 8:30 a.m. Leave your name, your child's name, teacher's name and reason for absence. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day. According to Board Policy 430-Rule (1), parents should call school on the morning of an absence. The policy goes on to state that "students are to bring a written statement from home upon their return. This note is to be signed by the parent/guardian, properly dated, and stating the reason for the absence. (Without a written note the absence is unexcused until clarified)." This is a Board Policy and we are being asked to enforce it. Please help us by writing a note, dating it and giving an excuse for the absence. If we do not get the note the absence will be unexcused. (Note: e-mails will not count...sorry).

School Hours for Grades K-4

Students should not arrive at school before 7:15 a.m. This ensures student safety since there is no outside supervision before 7:15.

The first bell rings at 7:35 a.m. and school begins at 7:40 a.m. Shuttle busers are dismissed at 2:30 p.m. and regular busers and walkers are dismissed at 2:40 p.m.

If your child is late for school he/she must stop in the office to get a pass before going to class.

School Safety

Please sign in at the office.

It is very important for all visitors, volunteers and parents to sign in at the office and obtain a visitor sticker during the school day. This applies to all visits, even brief ones to drop off extra clothes or a forgotten lunch.

Volunteers

In accordance with Waunakee Community School District Board of Education policy, all volunteers will need to have a criminal background check completed every three school years by the district's central office administration in order to volunteer in the classroom or on field trips. Copies of this form were included in registration packets and are also available your school's main office and online

Changes in After School Arrangements

Please make and review arrangements for after school activities with your child *prior to* the beginning of the school day. Please remember that we must have a *signed note* from a parent if your child's after school arrangements will be different (example: you will pick them up instead of them riding the bus home that day).

Last minute changes or emergencies should be called into the office at least one hour before school is dismissed. Teachers may not have time to check their e-mail, so please do not e-mail teachers of any last minute changes. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

District Calendar Online

The District has made the decision not to produce and publish a hard copy of the calendar to reduce costs and as a "green initiative" to save paper. Another consideration was that the calendar on the website can be easily updated if events are cancelled or rescheduled, whereas the paper calendar could not be updated.

Please refer to our website www.waunakee.k12.wi.us for calendar information. On the District Home Page (upper right side) is a link on "Current Calendar - (Full View)" to view calendars. The default is a view All events, or you may select a category. **You may print this calendar.** Also on the District Home Page (upper right side) is a link "District Calendar Summary" for an overview of the calendar dates (pdf file), which also may be printed.

Skills USA Calendars available

The district calendars are available for \$5.00 each while supplies last and are available for purchase in the main office.

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 double 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!

PTO BBQ Kick Off and Raffle

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

4:00-7:00 PM

Heritage and Intermediate Schools

To celebrate the beginning of 2010-2011 school year, the PTO is hosting the fifteenth annual BBQ Kick Off behind the Intermediate School and Heritage Elementary. The event will occur on Wednesday, September 8 from 4:00-7:00 PM. This is a great opportunity for all families and schools to get together.

PTO BBQ Kick Off Raffle

The PTO is also sponsoring a raffle on Wednesday, September 8. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 each or six for \$5. Raffle tickets and information were mailed in August. If you sold tickets, please be sure to turn in ticket stubs and money collected prior to the **6:30** PM drawing on September 8. Please turn in any unsold tickets as well. Winners need not be present to win.



Birthday Sundae Party

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

PLEASE WELCOME CHANGES

Connie Frey is returning to Kindergarten
Amie Zellner - Second Grade (Looping with last year's 1st grade class)

PLEASE WELCOME New Staff

Janice Henn - Administrative Assistant
Mandi Cwiklinski - Sprouts Teacher
Kate Vanderbloemen - Cross Categorical Teacher

PLEASE WELCOME New Para-Educators

Julie Block - Sprouts
Deb Armstrong - EC
Cynthia Kobza - Kdg & 2nd
Laura Hoffman - 1st grade
Amelia (Amy) Bestul - 3rd/4th grade
Kristen Gessler - CC
Wendy Sukowatey - CC
Eris Theis - CC
Beth Hornung - Title 1

PLEASE WELCOME Student Teachers

Ashley Dietsch - UW-Madison - Trish Chaimson
Amy Erby - Edgewood - Sue Truitt
Alyssa Brousil - UW Whitewater - Julie Tepp



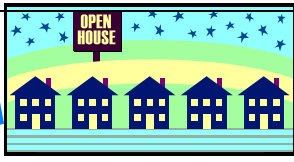
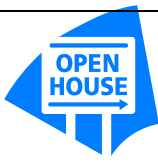
Prairie Picnic September 3

An all school picnic is planned for **Friday, September 3**. Anyone who participates in the hot lunch program will be served a picnic style lunch consisting of hotdogs or hamburgers grilled by Mr. Kaminski, Mrs. Howard and Mr. Dean Fredrick. Students who do not participate in the hot lunch program may bring a sack lunch for this event. The picnic will be served outdoors, weather permitting.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences at Prairie Elementary School will be held on Monday November 15 and Thursday, November 18 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. Winter conference dates for Grades K-4 are - Monday, February 28 and Thursday, March 3. 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.



Open House and Bake Sale

The staff and students of Prairie Elementary would like to invite parents/guardians to our Open House on Thursday, September 16th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The Cultural Arts Committee is sponsoring a bake sale during Open House. If you would like to contribute, please bring your baked goods to the office by 3:00 p.m. on September 16. The sale will be in the cafeteria. Funds from the bake sale are used to sponsor cultural events such as drama, music, and dance programs for elementary students. Remember to send items in containers that do not need to be returned. If you are interested in helping at the bake sale please contact the office at 849-2200.



Picture Re-Take Day (September 15)

If your child missed the picture day at registration please give a picture package, with payment enclosed, to your child's teacher on retake day.

If your child needs to have their pictures retaken please send you child's picture package to their teacher on retake day.

Extra picture packages are available in the information rack outside of the main office.

Recess and Lunch Information

Students are expected to go outside unless the weather does not permit. The recess and lunch schedules are as follows:

- Before school: 7:15-7:40 a.m.
- Kdg, 1st & 2nd grade recess: 9:30-10:00 a.m.
- 4th grade lunch/recess: 10:45-11:28 a.m.
- 3rd grade lunch/recess: 10:58-11:41 a.m.
- 2nd grade lunch/recess: 11:11-11:54 a.m.
- 1st grade lunch/recess: 11:24 a.m.-12:07 p.m.
- Kindergarten lunch/recess: 11:37 a.m. -12:20 p.m.
- 3rd and 4th grade recess: 1:00-1:30 p.m.
- Kindergarten recess: 2:20-2:30 p.m.

Early Release Days

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

Friday, September 17

Wednesday, October 27

Monday, December 6

Thursday, February 24

Friday, May 27



Prairie Web Site

Check out the Prairie website at <http://www.wauankee.k12.wi.us/prairie> You will find up-to-date school events calendars, parent newsletters, teacher websites, character education link and photos from school events taken throughout the year, health and other parent resources, and much more.

Also visit the Prairie PTO website! You can get current information about volunteer opportunities, newsletters, etc. The address is: <http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/teachweb/zellnera/prairiepto.htm>

Correct Email Addresses (We need your help!)

Please help us by keeping us informed of your correct e-mail address. Messages will be sent in this fashion more and more through Shout Point our new message system by Infinite Campus.

There are so many ways to get free e-mail addresses and you can check these often at the public library or other public computer access areas.

We are not quite at the point to send important messages out in this manner exclusively yet – but will be very soon.

Taher Food Service Updates

- All Food Service payments and Milk payments are now being sent to Food Service at 101 School Drive. Payments are no longer to be sent to each individual school. We are encouraging all parents to pay lunch fees online. All payments are encouraged to be either sent to the Food Service office or paid on-line. Please be reminded that your student will be offered morning milk if we have your payment for first semester milk when school starts on September 1st.



- Food Service is partnering with Badgerland Produce to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to the table within 24 hours of being picked. Students will have these wonderful fresh products on the Food bars in the lunch line of your café and also incorporated into the lunch menu while fresh produce is available in our local area.

Food Service Phone Numbers:

Account Balance questions	849-2185
Free and Reduced Questions	849-4137
Food Service Director	849-2197

Interested in attending the next PTO meeting? It will be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 29th In the Prairie Office Conference Room

Skip Jones Artist in Residence

Skip Jones has been working in schools across the Midwest for over 30 years. He delivers his message of respect and tolerance through songs, stories and a little bit of grandfathers' wisdom in a variety of programs that are focused on respect, anti-bullying, the environment, diversity, culture, exploration, and of course music. He also shares his **HERO (Helping Everyone Respect Others)** program by establishing Bully-Free Schools that promote respect, character development, and safe school environments for everyone. Skip Jones will be working with our staff and students on September 30 and October 1.

Physical Education News

Welcome back to a new and exciting year of learning and laughter at Prairie Elementary. The Physical Education staff hopes all students and their families had a fun and healthy summer! We'd also like to remind students and parents that while the weather is still warm, it's very important that students still come dressed appropriately for activity on P.E. days. This means that all students should have on tennis shoes with laces, velcro, or other restraints that will keep their shoes securely fastened to their feet for their safety, and for the safety of others. We are looking forward to a fun, active, and healthy start to the 2010/2011 school year.

Your Physical Education Staff,

Mr. Gustafson and Mrs. Endres

Market Day

Thank you to all who have supported our PTO through the Market Day Program over the years! It is a great program that provides various goods for families. Over the summer, the district reviewed and evaluated the fundraising policies and guidelines. Unfortunately, the Market Day Program does not satisfy the 50% profit margin guideline. As a result, the Market Day Program is not an approved fundraiser and will not be offered to families this year. We apologize upfront for any inconvenience that this may cause. Thank you for your continued understanding and support of our schools.

From the Health Office...

As a parent/guardian, you often have to make the decision of whether or not to send your child to school if he/she has symptoms of an illness. Sometimes it's hard to know if the symptoms will go away after a couple of hours, or progressively get worse throughout the day.

As a guideline, fever (temperature of 100 or greater), vomiting, and diarrhea are considered



signs of illness and are reasons to keep your child home to prevent exposing well children to illness. Other symptoms such as a severe rash or a severe sore throat (one that did not begin that morning) may also indicate illness and should be considered when deciding whether your child should attend school. Some children at school have immune systems that are fragile. So what may seem a minor illness for one child could be very detrimental to another child.

According to state law H49.01, any teacher, principal, or nurse serving a school may send home for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment, any pupil suspected of having a communicable disease. Some examples are: lice, strep throat, and impetigo. Contact our school nurse, Katie Homar at 209-9950 or the Public Health Madison and Dane County at 266-4821 if you would like more information.



Medications

Just a reminder that 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 any time 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.



Immunizations

All schools in the state of Wisconsin are required early in every school year to document that each student is up-to-date with immunizations that protect against childhood illnesses. In order to make schools safe and healthy places for children to learn, we request your assistance in this task.

We are obligated to send parents letters on official forms notifying them if all appropriate immunizations for their child have not been reported to the school. It may be that your child has received the immunizations but we do not have that information on file. Please call the office to share that information with us (849-2203 or 849-2235). It may be necessary for you to call a clinic or health department locally or in a previous hometown to get needed information if you do not have a record.

If immunizations are lacking, your child may need to be immunized by your own health care provider or through Public Health Madison and Dane County free immunization clinics (246-4516). Please call the school office (849-2200 or 849-2235) as soon as the new immunizations are received. We will need to continue to send official notices if we do not have the necessary information at school.

If for personal, health, or religious reasons your child will not be receiving all required immunizations at this time, please read the Waiver section on the back of the yellow immunization card and sign accordingly. A doctor's signature is required for a health waiver to be accepted.

Please return this health information to the school office as soon as possible. We want to insure that all children are adequately protected against illness and have a successful year at school.

Thank you!

Katie Homar, School Nurse
Cell: 209-9950

Pet Policy Reminder

PETS VISITING SCHOOL

1. Pets will be allowed to visit classrooms with Principal's approval.
2. A copy of the pet's current immunization records should be submitted to the Principal along with request to bring pet to school.
3. Information about children's allergies should be reviewed prior to pet visiting classroom.
4. Students/parents should be informed when the pet will be in the classroom.
5. The pet must be appropriately caged or on a leash no longer than five (5) feet in length.
6. Student handling of the pet will be optional and dogs/cats must be muzzled if handling is anticipated within the classroom for safety reasons.

These guidelines were developed in consultation with a variety of people knowledgeable about the subject, including public health officials. The guidelines will be reviewed after implementation and modified as necessary.

BOE Policy #833

Prairie Elementary Mission

Prairie Elementary is a school that believes all children can learn. Our entire staff is passionate about personalized student instruction and development. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of the whole child on an individual level. Through our collaborative and innovative efforts, we strive to motivate all children to achieve their full potential and develop a love of learning through our example. We believe a safe and positive environment that emphasizes respect and tolerance is integral to this goal.

It's the Prairie Way!

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

Email: gbreunig@waunakee.k12.wi.us
janicehenn@waunakee.k12.wi.us attendance

How to Reach Us

Principal	Dean Kaminski	849-2200
Admin. Assist.	Geri Breunig	849-2200
Attendance	Janice Heen	849-2235
Health Assistant	Tanya Stone	849-2203
Nurse	Katie Homar	209-9950
Guidance	Jo Howard	849-2206
Psychologist	Lisa Kjos	849-2205
Social Worker	Kristin Meyer	849-2204

