

The Press

Your Source for Cougar News

Principal's Message

Dear Prairieland Families,

I hope that 2014 is off to a great start for all of you. The weather has not been at all cooperative, but we have been so pleased with the flexibility of the students. They are working hard when they are at school and they get right back into it after the random days off.

Kindergarten Pre-Registration

Please share this with friends and neighbors! Pre-registration for all 2014-15 kindergarten students will be held at Prairieland on Tuesday, March 18, 2013 at 9:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. We have our kindergarten registration in March to allow for more time to plan for the number of sections we need throughout the district.

Students must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2014, to attend kindergarten this fall. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten this fall, please plan to attend the pre-registration. If you are unable to attend either session on March 18th, please call the school office at 557-4424. Feel free to share this information with neighborhood families who do not currently have a student attending Prairieland Elementary. It is very important for us to have a good turnout, so any help with spreading the word is appreciated!

ISAT Testing

Students in 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades will be taking the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) from March 3 through March 14. This is an important test that provides information about the extent to which our students are meeting state learning standards. We use the results from ISAT to help us identify areas of growth for student, as well as areas that need special attention in our instruction. We ask that parents please avoid taking students out of school during this time if at all possible. We hope to make these two weeks as low stress as possible for the students by maintaining routines. We want the students to do their best, but we do not want them to be uncomfortable or stressed. PIECE helps us out by providing a healthy breakfast "snack", which the students really enjoy!

Late Start Days and School Improvement Day Our staff will have several opportunities in February and March for professional development. We have late starts on February 26, and March 19, and we have a school improvement day on February 18. We will be using some this time to dig into the MAP scores and analyze the results so that we can make decisions about how to best serve individual students. Our teachers will spend time talking between grade levels to ensure that our curriculum is aligning well, and we will work as a whole staff to look at changes we have made in our literacy curriculum- what is working and what needs a little more focus. Our staff is very collaborative and this time is so helpful for us to reflect on and refine our practice so that we are always offering our students the best educational experiences that we can.

Goodbye

It is with great sadness that I share that Mrs. Cross will be leaving us at the end of February. Her husband has been transferred to Arizona, and has been working there for a few months. Mrs. Cross is an amazing person, friend, co-worker, care-taker, and leader. She will be missed terribly, but we wish her the best of luck on her new journey.

It's a GREAT day to be a Cougar!

Carmen Bergmann

February/March 2014

The Press
Prairieland Elementary
1300 E. Raab Rd. Normal,
IL 61761
309.557-4424
www.unit5.org/prairieland
Volume #15
Issue #5

Inside this Issue

Page 1
Principal's Message

Page 2
Calendar
School News

Page 3 - 5
School News

Page 6
Looking Ahead

Page 7
Garden Club Form



Calendar

February

- 10 - PIECE Mtg 6:30 (K/2 Commons)
- 12 - Market Day – 4:30
- 14 - Valentine's Day parties – 2:45
- 17 - **No School** – President's Day
- 18 - **No School** – School Improvement
- 18 – ISU Men's Basketball \$5 tickets
- 19 - K/1 Music Program – NCWHS 6:30**
(PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE)
- 26 - **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:30
- 27 - Health Fair/Family Fitness Night 6-8

March

- 3-14 ISAT Testing (3rd – 5th)
- 10 - PIECE Mtg. 6:30 (K/2 Commons)
- 12 - Market Day Pick-Up 4:30 – 5:30
- 18 - KDG Pre-Registration 9:30 and 1:30
- 19 - **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45
- 21 - Talent Show 9:00 and 1:30
- 24 - 28 **No School** - Spring Break



School News

SCIENCE FAIR

Prairieland will host the 4th Annual Sciencepalooza science fair on Tuesday, April 8th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. As in the past, 4th and 5th graders may choose to participate by completing a project. Students will be asked to write a brief proposal. Proposal forms will be sent out in mid-February and will be due at the beginning of March. Once students have their proposals approved they will work on their projects in preparation for the event on April 8th. More information will be sent out along with the proposal forms in February. All students and families are welcome to attend the Sciencepalooza to see the student projects along with a variety of other demonstrations and science

activities. Parkside Junior High is also having a science fair on Thursday, April 10th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Prairieland families are invited to attend the fair at PJHS as well!

ART NEWS

Mark your calendars - The 6th Annual Art Show is Thursday, April 10th and will be part of Cougar Pride Night. More information will be sent home as it gets closer. However, I will be in need of a few volunteers the afternoon of the 10th to help set up and after the art show to take down. If you would like to volunteer please email me at merediml@unit5.org. Thank you for your support.

Ms. Meredith

MUSIC NEWS

Prairieland Kindergarten and First Grade would like you to join them in the land of make-believe on **Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Normal West High School**. Their music program is entitled, "Getting' Down With Mama Goose", and they are excited to share some of the old nursery rhymes in a new style! Come join us for a fun evening of music. Students should arrive no later than 6:45 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Sharp with any questions.

PE NEWS

Save the date! Thursday, February 27th from 6-8 pm will be our 9th Annual Family Fitness Night. We always have great prizes to give away and lots of information about how to keep your family healthy! If

you have never been, now is your chance to check it out. If you have come before, then you know it is always a good time. :) Look for a flier to come home, the Friday before the event.

We are finishing up our gymnastics unit. The students have learned how to perform rolls, bridges, all kinds of jumps, turns, and cartwheels. One of the kid's favorite skills is climbing up the wall like Spiderman. Sorry if they are climbing up the walls at home! We will end with some fun partner stunts and group pyramids. Look for some pictures to be up in the hallway by the gym.

Next, the K-2 students will be gearing up for some Olympic fun! We will be doing some of our own unique Winter Games. :) Go team Prairieland!

The 3-5 graders have been involved in basketball, floor hockey and tumbling units since our last newsletter. They have also participated in mid-year fitness testing. The basketball unit is a challenge because so many skills need to be combined to make the game successful. The floor hockey unit is popular because have an easier time competing without making rule violations. Tumbling is fun for a lot of students that don't have an interest in the "traditional" sports. A checklist of stunts is used so students can monitor their progress. As I get older the tumbling stunts become more difficult to demonstrate! Mid-year fitness testing gave us an opportunity to measure student progress in the

areas of strength, flexibility and cardio-respiratory fitness. Students will be tested again in the spring. We use the sit and reach test and the push-up test to evaluate flexibility and strength. These two tests can be practiced at home. We use the Pacer test and mile run to assess cardio-respiratory fitness. If you get your child involved in activities in which they "huff and puff" these scores should improve.

Please remember that proper sleep and nutrition is also important. Lastly and probably most important, in the age of technology and social media, please have your child turn off the screen and get moving. There may not be immediate gratification but the long term benefits will prevail.

Mrs. Garneau and Mr. Kinley

YOUNG AUTHORS

It's Young Author time again! Young Authors is a program that encourages children to write and illustrate their own stories. We would like to invite students of all grades to participate in this fun activity. Books entered in the competition are due by Friday, February 14th. The top four entries from Prairieland will advance to the district level competition. We will be looking for student written and illustrated books that are creative, well written, and neatly done. We hope that many of our Prairieland Cougars choose to participate in this valuable learning opportunity. If your child is interested, additional information can be obtained from his/her classroom teacher. Any

other questions may be directed to either Ms. Armstrong (armstrbm@unit5.org) or Mrs. Lucas (lucasa@unit5.org). Have fun writing!

GARDEN CLUB

Students in grades 3-5 interested in gardening, planting, and helping to beautify Prairieland's Butterfly Garden can join the Spring Garden Club sponsored by Mrs. Nancy Harp, Mrs. Kathie Kalina and Mrs. Jane Wawak. Even if your child was involved in the Fall Garden Club, we need them to fill out the attached form for Spring Garden Club. The gardening club will meet on Wednesdays after school from 3:30-4:15. Students must have a signed parental permission form to attend. They should bring clothes appropriate to garden in and gloves if they wish.

Fill out the form and return to the office before the first meeting. The first meeting will be April 2, 2014.

Nancy Harp, Kathie Kalina and Jane Wawak

TALENT SHOW

The 2014 talent show is just around the corner. This year's talent show will be on Friday, March 21st. Like in the past, students will only be able to participate in one act (with the exception of Cougar Chorus or grade level acts). Applications will be passed out to interested students at the beginning of February. They will be due back to Mrs. Halsey's room the next week. Tryouts will be at the end of February. The talent show

line up will be announced in early March. It is not too early to start planning your act!

NEWS FROM THE NURSE



NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ILLINOIS!

Beginning with the **2014 – 2015** school year, Illinois law requires ALL students entering school at ALL grade levels (K – 12) to show proof of receiving:

- 2 (full) MMR vaccines

Varicella (chicken pox) 2 vaccines for students entering Kindergarten, 6th, and 9th grade (Most students have already received these vaccines; please check your child's record.)

The Hepatitis B series of 3 vaccines; requirement moved from 5th grade to 6th grade (most children receive the Hep B series as an infant).

The Tdap requirement also continues requiring ALL students entering 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades to receive:

- 1 Tdap vaccine

Beginning with the **2015-2016** school year students entering 6th and 12th grades (only) will be required to receive:

- 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine (6th grade)
- 2 doses of meningococcal vaccine (12th grade)

UNIT 5 STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO START SCHOOL WITHOUT THE REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS!

The physical exam requirement is the same – a new exam dated within the past year is required for entry into:

- Early Learning
- Kindergarten
- 6th grade
- 9th grade

Make an appointment NOW for a physical and immunizations! Avoid the rush. No appointment cards will be accepted in place of a completed physical exam form and immunization record.

The McLean County Health Department is now accepting private health insurance for adult and child immunizations as well as Medicaid. Call today for an appointment: 888-5455.

As always, please call me if I can help in any way!

Julie May RN, BSN
Illinois/National Cert. School Nurse

SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS

It is coming up on registration time and we need everyone's help. We would like everyone to take a minute and double check your skyward login. If you do not know your login or it is not working please contact the office as soon as possible. We will again be doing online registration and you will need your skyward login and password in order to accomplish

this. Registration will open May 1st and be available for all parent/guardians in Unit 5.

WINTERGREEN PARKING

We have had some concerns expressed by our Wintergreen neighbors about parents parking in Wintergreen and having students walking to meet them there. In everything we do, we are keeping the safety of our students in the forefront, and there are a number of safety concerns with this situation. The area is not supervised and the students are often stepping out between cars to cross the street. Another concern that was raised is that the residents often have trouble getting to their homes during this time. When students are picked up in our lot, they are supervised until they are secure in their vehicle and they are kept away from live traffic.

**Parkside Junior High School
6th Grade Orientation
Thursday, April 24, 2014
6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.**

- Question and answer sessions hosted by 6th grade teachers and students
- Information on 1 to 1 laptop use and care
- Self-guided tours
- Information Tables hosted by teachers, coaches, and club sponsors
- Lock sales

Welcome Future Pythons!

Attention 5th Grade Parents

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, August 14th from 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. for PJHS 6th Grade Back to School Night.

Looking Ahead

April

- 08 - Sciencepalooza – 6:00 gym
- 09- **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45
- 09 - Market Day Pick-up 4:30
- 10 - Cougar Pride Night/Art Show 6:30
- 12 - Student Council Bowling Day
- 14 - PIECE Meeting – 6:30
- 16 - Spring Pictures
- 17 - **No School** – School Improvement
- 18 - **No School** – Board Holiday
- 24 - 6th grade orientation PJHS 6:30
- 21-2 Spring Map Testing
- 30- **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45

May

- 05 - 5th grade field trip to Springfield
- 09 - AWARE Fair
- 10 - PIECE Carnival – 4-7
- 12 - PIECE Meeting – 6:30
- 14 - **Late Start** – School Starts at 9:45
- 14 - Market Day Pick-up 4:30
- 24 - Graduation (2:00 pm NCWHS – 6:00 pm NCHS)
- 26 - **No School** – Memorial Day
- TBD 5th Grade Luncheon
- TBD Playday

June

- 02 - Last scheduled day of school (Students attend ½ day)
- 04 – Market Day Pick-up 4:30



THANK YOU



The bus duty staff would like to thank all the parents for making name signs to place in your car window for pick-up. This has proved to be a big asset in speeding up the process when we have kept the kids in the gym on those cold afternoons. If you haven't had time to make your family sign please take a minute to jot down your kids names on a piece of paper and keep in the glove box for those pick-up days.

Prairieland Spring 2014 Garden Club

Grades 3rd - 5th

Students in grades 3-5 interested in gardening, planting, and helping to beautify Prairieland's Butterfly Garden can join the Spring Garden Club sponsored by Mrs. Nancy Harp, Mrs. Kathie Kalina, and Mrs. Jane Wawak. Even if your child was involved in the Fall Garden Club, we need them to fill out this form for Spring Garden Club. The gardening club will meet on Wednesdays after school from 3:30-4:15. Students must have a signed parental permission form to attend. They should bring clothes appropriate to garden in and gloves if they wish. Meeting dates are as follows:

April 2nd April 9th April 16th April 23th April 30th May 7th May 14th
May 21st (pizza party)

(I understand they are to be picked up **promptly at 4:15** on the dates listed above.)

Fill out and return the bottom half to the office, Mrs. Harp, or Mrs. Kalina.

(Tear and return bottom part)

My child _____ has my permission to be in Prairieland's Garden club.

Grade _____ Teacher's name _____
(I understand they are to be picked up **promptly at 4:15** on the Wednesdays that they meet.)

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Parent's signature _____

Yes, I would be able to help out with the Spring Garden Club on the following dates:
(Circle dates you could help)

April 2nd April 9th April 16th April 23rd April 30th May 7th May 14th
May 21st (pizza party)

_____ Sorry, I am unable to help with Spring Garden Club.