

# The Prairieland Press

*“It’s a Great Day to Be a Cougar!”*

September 2024

<b>Attendance Line: 557-4473</b> <b>Please use the attendance line to report an absence or late arrival.</b>	<b>Principal: Scott Peters</b> <b>Asst. Principal: Alison Kohler</b>  <b>Office: 557-4424</b>  <b>Office hours: 6:45-3:15</b>	<b>School Website:</b> <a href="https://prairieland.unit5.org/">https://prairieland.unit5.org/</a> <b>Calendar: <a href="#">Prairieland Calendar</a></b>
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## Principal’s Message:

Hi everyone and once again welcome to the 2024-25 school year. We are excited to be back with the students and building new relationships in our school community. Our theme this year is an ocean theme of “Dive Into Learning.” Throughout the year we will tie a variety of activities to our theme to bring it alive for the students. Almost every month of the school year I will put out the Prairieland Press to inform you of ongoing and upcoming topics in our school world. I also encourage you to visit our Prairieland Website for the most up to date information. The address to the website can be found at the top of this newsletter. We have always said that we are a big family here at Prairieland and I truly believe that. We take great pride in working together to give you students the best experience possible!

### **Lockdown/Evacuation Drill: Friday, September 6, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

Part of our mission to keep all of our stakeholders safe involves teaching best practices for responding to emergency situations. Over the past few years we have worked to strengthen these practices with our first responders throughout our area. Our school community has adopted and practiced the Standard Response Protocols by the ILoveUGuys Foundation. The standard response protocols are based on five actions that can be done to respond to all emergencies.

- **HOLD** - During a HOLD, students would stay in their classroom with the teacher and wait for an all-clear before moving to the next class. We might call a HOLD for a spill or other unsafe situation in the hallway.

- **SECURE** - We would call a SECURE if there was an unsafe event happening outside of the school. Exterior doors are all checked and students are not allowed to leave the building until it is safe.
- **LOCKDOWN** - A LOCKDOWN would be called if an extremely unsafe situation existed in the school. Students and staff would lockdown their classrooms until police could secure the building.
- **EVACUATE** - In the case of a fire, gas leak, or any other situations that make inside the building unsafe, we would EVACUATE the building using plans that are posted in each classroom.
- **SHELTER** - If weather conditions are unsafe, we would call a SHELTER which would cause students to move to the safest locations within our building.

For more details, a parent handout is linked [here](#). The handout is also available in Spanish and linked [here](#).

As a matter of teaching and learning how to respond in an emergency, each year the last three actions are practiced with our first responder agencies in our Law Enforcement and Fire Drills. Under the School Safety Drill Act, a law enforcement drill must be observed within the first 90 days of school.

**\*\*This year our lockdown/evacuation drill is scheduled for Friday, September 6 starting at 9:00a.m in the morning. This year we will be evacuating to the back part of our property. Students will not be accessible to leave during that time as they will be in the middle of our drill. Please take note of this date and time for appointments.**

Also understand that when we do these drills, they are done in a very calm and organized manner. We never want to alarm the students in any way. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Peters in the office.

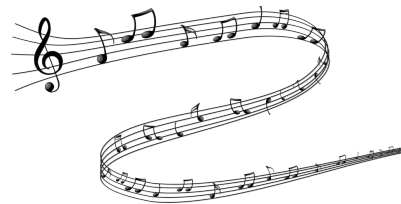
## **Prairieland's Back to School Social**

**When:** Friday, September 6, 4:30-6:00 outside

**Live Music by Kyle Yap Music!**

Cold Sweet Treats & Outdoor Activities

**Book Exchange!** Bring books your family is no longer reading and take a new(to you) book home. Remaining children's books will be donated.



**Recess/Lunch Times:** Here are the recess and lunch times for this year:

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Lunch 11:00-11:25/Recess 11:25-11:50

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Lunch 11:30-11:55/Recess 11:55-12:20

K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade: Lunch 12:00-12:25/Recess 12:25-12:50

## Noon Hour Supervisor Positions

We currently have openings for Noon Hour Supervisor positions here at Prairieland! The role of the supervisor is to monitor and support students during their lunch/recess time. This is a great way to get involved with our school, get to know our students and staff a little better, and earn some extra money! The position is 2 hours per day (10:55-12:55) anywhere between 3-5 days a week. Starting pay for supervisors this year is \$16.00 an hour. If you think you may be interested in a position, please contact the office for more information. 557-4424

## Lunchtime Visitors

We want to clarify with families that we do allow parents to come eat lunch with their students at school, but we ask that you please wait until September 15th before doing so. This gives us time to get our school year started and help students get into their school year routine. Thank you for your understanding!

**Curriculum Information:** This year all of our classroom teachers will be sharing curriculum information, as well as, all the routines of their classrooms in either a paper or digital format. We will not be having any in-person curriculum nights for 1st-5th grade. I always encourage families to reach out to our staff with any questions you may have throughout the year. All classroom teachers have sent something home at this point. If for some reason you feel you did not receive, please reach out to your student's teacher.

**Progress conferences:** Progress conferences will be held on Monday, November 4. In future weeks, information will be shared on scheduling a time with your child's teacher. We will offer both in-person and virtual options for conferences. As always, please reach out to your child's teacher well before this date if you have questions about anything.

### **New Staff to Prairieland for 2024-25**

- Alison Kohler-Assistant Principal
- Mike Sarver-5th Grade
- Layna Stark-Speech Pathologist
- Alexandra Gross-Paraprofessional



### **Volunteers:**

If a teacher is in need of a volunteer during the year they may be reaching out for your assistance. Teachers will then communicate with the office to make sure the volunteers have gone through the appropriate steps to be cleared. All volunteers must be cleared before they can come in to work with students and the volunteer screening must be completed each year.

### **High School Football Games:**

High school football games are great events for junior high and elementary students to attend to start seeing what high school life is like. It is important to note that junior high and elementary students coming to a football game at either Normal Community or Normal West must be accompanied by an adult (18 or older). Junior high or elementary students without an adult will not be allowed to enter the stadium. We also ask that students not bring bags, footballs, or toys to the game.

Thank you for your cooperation and we invite you to come out and support our Unit 5 teams this fall!

Angie Codron, Principal of Normal West

Adam Zbrozek, Principal of Normal Community

### **Labeling Your Child's Materials:**

This is a quick reminder to label items your students may bring to school such as lunchboxes and water bottles. We also recommend putting initials on the tags of sweatshirts and coats. Labeling items helps us reunite things with their owners.

**Pick-up & Drop-off Reminders:** We are off to a great start with our pickup and drop-off this year. Here are a couple reminders. In the morning, please have your child ready to get out of the car along the yellow cones or orange barricades. This keeps our traffic flowing. If your child struggles getting out of the car I ask that you please park in the back parking lot and bring them to the crosswalk where Mr. Peters, or another adult, can cross them safely so they can walk to their lines. At pickup I ask that you have a simple sign in the window of your car, or that you can hold up, with the name of your child so we can call out their name and get them to your vehicle. Thanks for your help with these things. Please share this information with all family and friends that might drop off or pick up your child.



## **SICK DAY GUIDELINES**

**(from the [Unit 5 Elementary handbook](#), page 32)**

**For everyone's good health, children with fever and/or a potential contagious illness should not be in school.**

### **Children with the following conditions should not be in school:**

- ☑ A fever within the last 24 hours
  - ☑ Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
  - ☑ A frequent and disruptive cough or other signs of an acute respiratory infection
  - ☑ Any contagious illness such as "strep throat" that requires antibiotic therapy.
- Once the student has been fever free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and on antibiotics for at least 24 hours, he/she may return to school.
- ☑ Any undiagnosed skin rash. A student with a rash may attend school upon presenting a physician's note stating the rash is not contagious.
  - ☑ Pronounced lethargy or fatigue that interferes with participation in learning activities.
  - ☑ Any other health condition that in the professional, clinical judgment of the School Nurse places that student or others in the school community at a health or safety risk. In the absence of the Certified School Nurse, this determination may be made by the building principal or his/her designee.



**\*If you notice your child scratching their head more than usual, check for nits (small grayish-white, oval shaped eggs glued at an angle to the hair shaft close to the scalp), or small bite marks behind the ears and at the back of the neck, as this may be a sign of your child having head lice. Please contact your physician for treatment options/advice, before applying or using lice treatment pesticides.**

**\*The nurse may ask parents to provide further information from a child's physician when they have been hospitalized or had a medical procedure/surgery.**

**I am happy to help if you need advice or have questions regarding your child and their attendance!**

**Kelly Marie Cole RN, BSN (309)557-4073 @ Prairieland; (309)557-4611 @ Towanda or [colekm@unit5.org](mailto:colekm@unit5.org).**

## **Upcoming Calendar Events:**

### **September**

- 6 Lockdown/Evacuation Drill-9:00-10:00 a.m.**
- 6 P.I.E.C.E. Back to School Event: 4:30-6:00 at Carden Park**
- 9 School Picture Day-a.m.**
- 9 P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30: in-person in the K/2 Commons**
- 10 Early Release-10:45-Please make sure you have made arrangements for your child**
- 25 NCWHS Homecoming Parade**
- 27 Teacher Institute-NO SCHOOL**

### **OCTOBER**

- 14 Indigenous People Day-NO SCHOOL**
- 18 Picture Retake Day**
- 21 P.I.E.C.E Meeting-6:30-K/2 Commons**
- 23 Early Release-10:45-Please make sure you have made arrangements for your child**
- 31 Happy Halloween!!! Parade at 1:15 & Parties to follow: Important!!! This year we will only allow the room parents back to the room for the Halloween Party Time. We are doing this to help manage the classroom and commons areas just like we do for the other parties throughout the year.**



