

The Prairieland Press

“It’s a Great Day to Be a Cougar!”

October 2024



<p>Attendance Line: 557-4473</p> <p>Please use the attendance line to report an absence or late arrival.</p>	<p>Principal: Scott Peters</p> <p>Office: 557-4424</p> <p>Hours: 6:45-3:15</p>	<p>School Website:</p> <p>www.unit5.org/prairieland</p> <p>Calendar:</p> <p>http://www.unit5.org/Page/38</p>
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Principal’s Message:

Happy October everyone and welcome to fall! I want to give a shout out to our students who have done an outstanding job of settling into the school year routines. I love this time of year because you can feel that the students are much more comfortable and confident in knowing what to do on a day to day basis. We are all excited about all the great learning and events coming up throughout the remainder of the year!

This is also my reminder to families to start dressing your students in layers. We often have cooler mornings and warmer afternoons. We have already been talking to the kiddos about dressing for all the weather changes that may occur so they are warm enough when we are outside for the morning lineups or even recess. Thanks for your help with this!

Cougar Course!

Friday, October 18, is the Cougar Course Obstacle Run put on by our P.I.E.C.E. group. While this is a fundraiser for our school, it is also an awesome physical activity for our students. Each grade level has a designated time throughout the day that they work their way through the course. Parents are welcome to come and watch and cheer the students on! You can park out back. The obstacle course is set up all the way around the back trail. Thanks for everyone’s support with this event.



Adult Lunch Visitors

We are happy to have adult lunch visitors on any given day. Here are a couple things that will help us out.

First, we are no longer offering adult school lunches to be purchased at the school. If you are coming for lunch, I do ask that you bring your own food if you are intending to eat with your child.

Secondly, if you are bringing in outside food for your child, please only bring in food for yourself and your child. We ask that you not share any food with other students sitting at or near your student. This is to ensure that no one is eating something that they may have an allergic reaction to and it also protects the feelings of other students around you that may not get to be part of the sharing.

Attendance & Timely Arrivals

This is a reminder of the importance of having your child at school each and every day and ready to go by 7:45. When your students are in class and ready to go they feel at ease and ready to learn. This also teaches your children the life skill of being prepared and on time for things they will be a part of in the future. We do track attendance and arrivals on a daily basis and we want to partner with you to make sure students are here and ready to learn. This year again we will periodically be sending letters to families whose students are gone 10% or more of the school attendance days. Being absent 10% or more of the time is considered chronic absenteeism by the State of Illinois.

If your student arrives to school AFTER 7:50, we need an adult to sign them in at the office.



Verkada Visitor Management System & Other Front Door Info

This is another reminder that Unit 5 is expanding its use of the Verkada visitor management system to all district schools. This system, which has been used in Unit 5 high schools for the past year, is designed to enhance the safety and security of our students, staff, and visitors. Upon entry into a school, visitors and volunteers will enter the main office and present their photo ID to be scanned by the Verkada system. The system tracks the arrival and departure of visitors, while also strengthening student safety by checking all visitors against a registered sex offender database.

The visitor's full name and date of birth is searched on sex offender registries. Additionally, the name is reviewed on our district banned person list. Within seconds, the system will share the results with school staff and will print an ID badge for entry.

If someone doesn't have an ID, they will be checked in manually by office staff, sharing other forms of information.

It is important to note, this is only in use for times a visitor is entering the school during the day. It will not be used for after-school activities or when a parent is just coming to pick up a child.

We believe that the implementation of Verkada will greatly contribute to a safer and more secure environment for everyone in our school community. We are committed to providing a secure learning space and appreciate your support as we integrate this new system.

If you have any questions or concerns about Verkada, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

One other simple thing that is of great help to us is making sure that everyone buzzes the front door to be let into the building. What sometimes happens is as one person is leaving, they hold the door open for someone who may be coming up the front walk. I understand you are trying to be polite, but in this instance, we need them to buzz the office so we are aware they are entering the building. Thanks for your help with this!

Parent/teacher conferences:

P/T conferences will be held this year on Monday, November 4, 2024. Your classroom teachers have the information regarding the sign up. This year you will have the option of in-person, or virtual conferences. If you have not seen the sign up, please reach out to your child's teacher(s). You also may want to check your spam email as it seems that some of our school emails find their way there. Please reach out to area teachers(Art, PE, Music, or IMC) if you would like to have a conference with any of them.

Halloween Festivities

- **TRUNK OR TREAT**
 - **P.I.E.C.E. Trunk or Treat!! Saturday, October 26-4:30-6:00-Back Parking Lot.**
 - **Rain Date: Sunday, October 27-2:00-3:30**
 - Come on out and see your friends, meet new Prairieland families, and show off your costumes! Groups will be spread out and able to walk amongst vehicles decorated with Halloween themed trunks. Students will receive candy and/or non-edible treats at each stop. After you have "*trunk or treated*," join other Prairieland families for PIECE provided popcorn and apple cider. *While supplies last*

*Grownups are encouraged to dress up as well, *just please no scary costumes.*

- **HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTIES**

- Halloween Parade and Parties: These will take place on Thursday, **October 31**. Our parade will start at 1:15 and be held out in front of the school. *****Please note: Only parents with a “golden” ticket will be allowed to go to the classroom before the parade to help with costumes and setup.** We will parade through the bus lane, down the front of the school, around Evergreen Village next door and back into the building.
***If the weather does not cooperate, we have an alternate route inside the building. Parents are invited into the building for that parade as well.
- Costumes: Kids will put their costumes on at school in the afternoon. Please do NOT send them to school in their costumes. Also, we tell the kids we want appropriate, kid friendly, costumes for school. That means we want to avoid scary masks, weapons, or things with blood on them. Have your students talk to their teachers or Mr. Peters if they have a question related to their costumes.
- Parties will follow the parade in the classrooms.

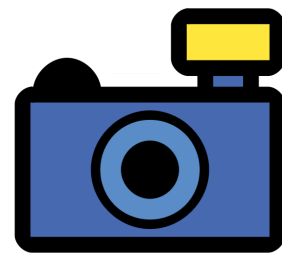
- **THIS YEAR ONLY ROOM PARENTS AND DESIGNATED VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO TO THE ROOM FOR THE PARTIES. THIS IS TO HELP MANAGE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING AS WELL HAVE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE PARTIES POSSIBLE WITH THE SPACE WE HAVE.**

Volunteers:

If a teacher is in need of a volunteer during the year they may be reaching out for your assistance. We then will make sure the volunteers have gone through the appropriate steps to be cleared. Please allow a couple weeks for your volunteer screening to clear. It is taking longer this year.

Picture Retakes:

School picture retakes will be on Friday, October 18, 2024. Please send your student’s picture package with them if they are getting retakes. These must be turned in to the photographer in order to have their picture retaken.



PBIS: Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports:

PBIS is the system we use to provide an overall structure for behavior within our classrooms and school. Each month throughout the year we emphasize basic vocabulary and affirmations. During September the focus was on building our class and school communities. The focus for October is on respect. Each month students can earn a fun “Out of the Blue” activity. To end September the classes got to be part of our Under the Sea Bubbles! Students had the opportunity

to go outside with their class and create bubbles with a wide variety of bubble wands. It was a sea of bubbles!

Upcoming Calendar Events:

September 15-October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month

October

14 **No School: Indigenous People/Columbus Day**

18 **Cougar Course! All Day Throughout the Day**

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

21 **P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30**

23 **Early Release-Students dismissed at 10:45 a.m. Please have arrangements for your student to get home.**

26 **Trunk or Treat & Fall Get Together: 4:30-6:00p.m.-Back Parking Lot at Prairieland**

31 **Halloween Parade-1:15-Rain or Shine**

Halloween Parties-Following parade. Room Parents only for parties. Parties will conclude at 2:15.

November

1 **First Day of American Indian Heritage Month**

4 **No School for Students-Progress Conferences for families with teachers.**

5 **Election Day-No School**

11 **Veterans Day-we do have school**

11 **P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30**

19 **4th/5th Grade Music Concerts**

27-29 **Thanksgiving Break**

