



The Prairieland Press

“It’s a Great Day to Be a Cougar!”

November 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:

Welcome to November! We are reaching that time of year where the holidays are fast approaching and we all seem to get “extra” busy with all the hustle and bustle. I’ve had some fun joking with some of the students about what the next actual holiday is on the calendar. While many have already gotten excited about Christmas, I am a big fan of Thanksgiving! Besides getting all the food prepared, the great thing about Thanksgiving is taking the time to slow down for a few minutes and think about the wonderful things we have in our lives. I am extremely thankful for our staff, students and families here at Prairieland. We have an incredible school with so many incredible people! Enjoy the Holidays and make sure you do something fun together to create a memory!

State Summative Designation:

ISBE(Illinois State Board of Education) has issued summative designations as required by the U.S. Department of Education. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires that all states implement an accountability system that annually meaningfully differentiates the performance of all public schools. These designations recognize schools' overall performance across a range of academic and student success indicators including student growth on state exams in grades 3-5 in the areas of literacy, math, and science. Also factored in are attendance records, as well as the climate survey taken by our upper elementary students.

Illinois has four annual summative designations: Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted, and Comprehensive.

- Exemplary recognizes the highest performing 10 percent of schools.
- Comprehensive identifies the lowest performing 5 percent of schools.
- Targeted identifies schools whose performance is overall above the lowest performing 5

percent of schools but that have one or more individual student groups whose performance is on par with the lowest performing 5 percent of schools.

- All other schools receive a Commendable designation.

I am proud to announce that Praireland was given an “Exemplary” designation for 2024.

Each year, our school disaggregates and analyzes student achievement data to set SMART Goals for the current year and review progress on past goals. This year, our school will continue to focus on the implementation of small group literacy practices within classrooms, to differentiate instruction, meet student needs (academically, socially, emotionally) and increase student achievement. We also continue our focus on ways to address systemic and individual inequities and promote more equitable practices within our schools especially for those students and groups identified through report card data.

Attendance Line:

When your student will be arriving late or be absent all day, please call the attendance line at 309-557-4473. This line can be called 24/7 to leave a message. **Please note**, this is not the main office line but a separate line just for attendance purposes.

Halloween Festivities

- We want to give a big shout out to our PIECE group for an incredible Trunk or Treat event this year. We had another phenomenal turn out! Thanks to all the families that donated candy, made a trunk, or brought the family out for the evening. We again lucked out and had phenomenal weather!

Unstoppable Week: November 11-15

Unit 5 students will be participating in Unstoppable Week, which replaces what was previously known as “Red Ribbon Week” at many schools. This event is being delivered in partnership with BN Parents, an organization associated with Chestnut Health Systems.

Each day of the week, we will focus on a “Superpower” that will assist your child in reaching their full potential. Our goal is to make it fun and engaging! We encourage you to build it up, help them pick out clothing to go along with the activities we will be engaging in each day of the week, and ask them all about it when they return home.

Lessons will focus on making healthy choices, managing daily challenges, building positive relationships, reducing stress, and using medication appropriately.

Each day of the week we will have a different spirit day! Those spirit days will be sent to our families in the coming days!

Unstoppable Week meets the district requirements for School Code, Section 27-13.2, which mandates instruction on effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drugs at the elementary level (HB1162).

Dine to Donate:

The November dine to donate will be at Chuck E. Cheese in Bloomington. The event is Friday, November 8 starting at 3pm. Prairieland will receive 20% of all sales generated by customers who mention the fundraiser. The fundraiser does not require a flyer, but patrons must mention Prairieland or P.I.E.C.E.

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.

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 October we focused on Respect and in November we are focused on building positive relationships. Each month students can earn a fun “Out of the Blue” activity. Our October out of the blue activity was virtual bingo! Virtual bingo has become a fun tradition at our school!

Warm Clothes Reminder:

This is just a friendly reminder to make sure your students come dressed for cold weather for going outside for recess. We will continue to go outside as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or higher with windchill. I always tell kids to bring layers to make sure they can stay warm. If you need any assistance with hats, gloves or coats, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

November

11 Veterans Day Observed in Schools

11-13 Unstoppable Week

- 11-15 Blue Ribbon Book Fair**
- 11 P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30**
- 15 P.I.E.C.E. Pastry Sales Fundraiser Begins**
- 19 4th/5th Grade Music Concert**
 - 6:00-4th Grade**
 - 7:00-5th Grade**

27-29 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 4 Early Release-students dismissed at 10:45**
- 9 P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30**
- 17 2nd/3rd Grade Music Concert**
 - 6:00-2nd Grade**
 - 7:00-3rd Grade**
- 19 Winter Parties-times determined by teachers**
- 20 Last Day before Winter Break & Pajama Day**

Winter Break: December 23-January 6

January

- 7 School Resumes for Students**



