



The Prairieland Press

"It's a Great Day to Be a Cougar!"

December/January 25-26

Attendance Line: 557-4473 Please use the attendance line to report an absence or late arrival.	Principal: Scott Peters Office: 557-4424 Hours: 6:45-3:15	School Website: <u>Prairieland Website</u>
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Principal's Message:

Winter break is quickly approaching and we can feel the hustle and bustle of the season upon us. The super moon occurred this week and we endured a cold week of snow and ice which kept us inside for recess. It's been a while since we have kept this much snow and ice around in December.

Our students are participating in their second round of STAR testing over the next couple of weeks. These are our computerized screener tests in the areas of literacy and math. We will also be gathering their latest reading levels so keep them reading at home as much as possible! It is one of the best things for their minds.

We are emphasizing independence during the month of December. We are working hard to make sure our students are getting themselves ready for school, gathering their materials, and being prepared for learning each and every day. We are also focusing hard on students trying to open all the various parts of their lunch. We have a saying, "Try 3 Before Me."

From all of us at Prairieland, we want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season! Enjoy the time with your young kids! They grow up quickly!

Mr. Peters



Upcoming Spirit Days

This year, as we approach winter break, we are keeping it simple with our spirit days. There are two official (voluntary, of course) spirit days during the last week of school.

Thursday, December 18: Holiday Sweater/Sweatshirt/T-shirts/Holiday Gear of Any Kind

Friday, December 19: Pajama Day

Holiday Parties:

Our winter parties will take place on Thursday, December 18. That is the **next** to last day before winter break. Parties will be at various times and coordinated between the classroom teacher & room parent. Our P.I.E.C.E. group is working with the room parents to provide support for the classroom teachers. For this party we are asking that only those who are assisting with the party and have coordinated with the room parent attend.

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.

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 the month of November our word was “Relationships.” We talked with the kids about relationships we have with our teachers, classmates, friends, and family members. Each month students can earn a fun “Out of the Blue” activity. Our out-of-the-blue for November was a neon blacklight dance for each grade level. The students got a glow stick and had a chance to dance to some fun music with their friends!

Book Fair Thank You:

We want to thank all of our students and families for supporting the book fair again this year. We were able to raise \$2,645 dollars for the library for Mr. Ford to purchase new books for the students!

PIECE Shout Out

We want to thank our PIECE group for doing such an incredible job of supporting our staff and students all year long. A special thanks to all that helped provide all the yummy pies for our staff again this year! We are all so grateful to have an incredibly supportive family group here at Prairieland!

Weather and Dressing Warmly:

It is that time of year when we work very hard with the students to make sure they are dressed appropriately for going outside in the cold. We will go outside for recess all the way down to 20 degrees, with windchill. It can often be very cold as they wait for their rides after school as well. We emphasize with the kids to wear layers as it is easier to be too warm and take off a layer than be freezing cold. Please help us out as they leave the house in the morning! If you need

assistance in getting hats, coats, or gloves, please reach out to the main office and we can help! Thank you!

Attendance Call In:

Reminder: When your student will be absent all day or arriving late, we ask that you call the attendance line and leave a message even if you've communicated with the teacher. We are required to document the reason for your child's absence on a daily basis. 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. **Attendance Line: 309-557-4473.**

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.

This year Prairieland was given a "Commendable" designation for 2025.

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 be focusing on the implementation of our new math curriculum at every grade level. We are continually working on instructional practices within classrooms across all academic areas to differentiate instruction, meet student needs(academically, socially, emotionally) and increase student achievement. We also 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.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

December

- 8 P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-Cancelled
- 8 2nd Grade Music Concert-6:00; 3rd Gr Music Concert-7:00
- 10 Dine to Donate at Buffalo Wild Wings - Both Locations
- 12 Last Day for Band/Orchestra for this semester
- 18 Spirit Day- **Holiday Cheer: Holiday Gear of Any Kind; shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, antlers....**
- 18 Holiday Parties
- 19 Last Day before Winter Break
- Spirit Day-**Pajama Day**

20 - Jan 5 Winter Break

January

- 6 School Resumes for Students
- 12 P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30
- 15 *Spirit Day-Warm & Fuzzy Day-Wear comfy warm, fuzzy clothes*
- 19 No School-MLK Day
- 30 Kids Heart Challenge for all Grade Levels

