



# The Prairieland Press

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

**February 2026**

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                      |                                                                          |
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| <b>Attendance Line: 557-4473</b><br><b>Please use the attendance line to report an all day absence or late arrival.</b> | <b>Principal: Scott Peters</b><br><b>Office: 557-4424</b><br><b>Hours: 6:45-3:15</b> | <b>School Website:</b><br><br><a href="#"><u>Prairieland Website</u></a> |
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## Principal's Message:

I must say, we are getting our fill of winter this year! The kids have been troopers as we have been stuck inside due to the cold days. Start doing your warm dances so we can thaw things out. The year is flying by and we are set to celebrate the 100th day of school on Wednesday, February 4! This is always a fun day around our building. As we look at student progress at this time of year it is very exciting because we start to see things clicking for students as new topics are introduced. It is especially fun to watch the light bulbs come on for our young readers. Keep those kiddos reading at home and try to monitor the amount of screen time their young minds experience.

Our next round of progress reports will be coming home on February 20 so be looking for those. That means we are into the final trimester of the year! That is hard to believe!

## **Kindergarten Registration & Preview**

Kindergarten preview for the 2025-26 school year will be **Thursday, April 16th from 12:30 - 2:00**. This registration and preview will take place in-person at our school. We ask that you have your future kindergartener with you on this day. The session will start right at 12:30. We will have a team of staff members that will take your students to complete some simple assessments and activities with them while parents receive information from Mr. Peters. The online portion of the registration will officially open March 31. **All families** must contact the Prairieland office to begin the kindergarteregistration process, even if you currently have students in the building or district. The office phone number is 309-557-4424.

## **State Testing for Grades 3, 4, & 5**

Each year our students in grades 3, 4, and 5 participate in required state testing in the areas of Literacy and Math. This year state testing for the district will take place between March 9-March 20. Fifth grade will also participate in the state science testing during the week of April 6-10. Please do everything possible to avoid appointments during these dates so students are able to take the tests with their classes.



### **Arriving on Time**

I want to continue to emphasize the importance of getting the kids here and into class on time. Our school day starts at 7:45. Students begin their daily routines at 7:45, which sets the tone for the day. When students arrive on time it gives them a sense of calm. Being on time is a life skill which students need to learn and understand for the rest of their lives! Thanks for your help with this!

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE: If you miss drop off in the back of the school and have to pull around front, please walk your student to the door and sign them in.**

### **Valentine Parties:**

We are excited to celebrate Valentine's Day on **Friday, February 13th!** Party times vary by grade and will be coordinated directly by classroom teachers and room parents.

To ensure everything runs smoothly, our P.I.E.C.E. group is working closely with room parents to support our teachers. Due to space and security, we kindly ask that **only pre-coordinated volunteers** who have completed their background screenings attend. We appreciate your understanding in helping us keep our celebrations safe and organized!

### **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 January our word was "Independence." We have really emphasized getting things ready for school each day, as well as working hard on trying to open items at lunch. February is "Kindness" month, so we are highlighting acts of kindness that they can do individually and as a class to be kind to one another. Each month students can earn a fun "Out of the Blue" activity. Our out-of-the-blue for January was our annual paper ball throwing at Mr. Peters as he ran through the hallways. We called it "Buzzing Around the Building" to go with our theme. Mr. Peters was dressed as a bumblebee for the event!



## **Family Bingo Night!!**

*Save the Date: **PIECE's Family Fun Night, Pot-O-Gold Bingo**, will take place on **Saturday, March 14th at Prairieland**. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!*



## **Weather and Dressing Warmly:**

**Winter Weather Reminder:** With temperatures dropping, please remember to send your children to school in appropriate winter gear. We will continue to go outside for recess unless the windchill drops below **20°F**.

We suggest dressing students in layers so they can adjust throughout the day. If your family needs any winter essentials (coats, hats, or gloves), please contact the main office—we would be happy to assist you. Stay warm!



## **Attendance Call In:**

This is just a reminder that any time your child is going to be absent all day or arriving late, **we do need a call to our attendance line with the reason for their absence**. We are required to document the reason for your child's absence on a daily basis. Please use the attendance line phone number to record the absence. That phone number is 309-557-4473. This number can be called 24/7.

## **Yearbooks:**

This is a reminder that yearbook orders are due by February 27!! There will NOT be an extra supply to buy from at the end of the year so get your order in now! This year we are ordering the yearbooks from HR Imaging which is the same company that does our school pictures.

**link to order** <https://book.hrimaging.com/>

School related photos for the yearbook can be emailed directly to Melanie Baker in the office at [bakermel@unit5.org](mailto:bakermel@unit5.org).

### **Upcoming Calendar Events:**

#### **February**

- 1 Start of Black History Month**
- 4 100th Day of School**
- 6 Early Release Day-students leave at 10:45**
- 9 P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30-2nd Gr Commons**
- 13 Holiday Parties**
- 16 No School-President's Day**
- 17 No School-School Improvement Day**
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day**
- 19 4th Gr Music Concert: 6:00p.m. 5th Gr Music Concert: 7:00p.m.**
- 20 Spring Pictures**
- 20 Elementary Grade Reports Sent Home**



#### **March**

- 1 Women's History Month Begins**
- 3 Early Release Day-Students dismissed at 10:45 a.m.**
- 9 P.I.E.C.E. Meeting - 6:30- 2nd Grade Commons**
- 14 Family Bingo 4-6p.m.**
- 23-27 Spring Break**

