

PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY BULLDOG TRACKS

David Engelking, Principal
January 2018

**BUDDY SAYS
"READ FOR 20
MINUTES
EVERY DAY"**



UPCOMING EVENTS

**NO SCHOOL
JAN 12 & 15**

**PRAIRIE NIGHT AT JAN 18
HAYSVILLE SONIC 5–8 P.M.**

**PRAIRIE PTO JAN 18
MEETING 6 P.M.**

**GRACE MED JAN 22
DENTAL SCREENING**

LITERACY FIRST

The National Reading Panel states, "Fluent readers are characterized by the ability to read orally with speed, accuracy and proper expression."

When teachers listen to their students read daily, they are focusing on 4 major components of fluency: Pace, Phrasing, Expression/Volume, and Smoothness. Teachers model and explicitly teach these guidelines so your child knows what is expected of them. Pace is keeping a consistently conversational and appropriate rate of which they read. Teachers work with students on not reading slowly and laboriously or inappropriately fast. Phrasing is being aware of sentence units and applying appropriate stress and intonation (pausing at commas and other end marks). Readers are encouraged to not read monotonous and word-for-word. Expression/

Volume is reading with enthusiasm while sounding natural. Teachers work with students to discourage robot reading with little expression. Smoothness is reading with minimal breaks. It is moving past sounding out words and frequently pausing or hesitating to read.

Have your child practice reading with appropriate fluency on some of their favorite books, poems or comics.

If you have any questions about Literacy First, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, myself or check out the official website: www.literacyfirst.com.

Marnie Trotter
Learning Facilitator
mtrotter@usd261.com



Remember to check your child's lunch account weekly to ensure they have enough money for breakfast, lunch or ala carte items. Students who do not have the full amount needed will be served an alternate meal.

Many students will need their basic school supplies replenished by now, so make sure to check with your child about crayons, glue sticks, pencils, etc. Your cooperation and involvement, has helped to make Prairie a wonderful learning place for all students.

It is that time of year when the weather can change very quickly. A decision to close school due to inclement weather will be made as soon as possible, and in some cases even the night before. School closings will be announced on the district web site and through the media.

In addition, a School Messenger call may go out to let you know school will be closed. If you have opted in, you may receive a text message as well. This is another good reason to keep your home

phone number updated in Power School. If you have not opted in for text messages, you still can, by texting the word "YES" to 67587.

Be sure to keep your home phone number up-to-date in case we have a snow day!

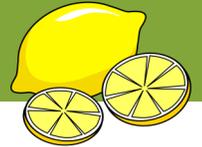


THE AMAZING BRAIN: WHAT EVERY PARENT AND CAREGIVER NEEDS TO KNOW

LINDA BURGESS CHAMBERLAIN, PHD, MPH

Experience Shapes Our Brains

How your child's brain develops each and every day is being shaped by the environment and experiences you provide. The world your child lives in actually affects how their brain grows. Your child needs lots of new, positive experiences in a safe, stable home environment to build a healthy brain. Healthy relationships are the most important experiences your child can have.



WE CAN PROMOTE HEALTHY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND WANTED BEHAVIORS BY FOLLOWING SIX BASIC STEPS. NUMBER ONE IS IN THIS NEWSLETTER. WATCH FOR MORE IN UPCOMING BULLDOG TRACKS ISSUES.



MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOR

Your child has special brain cells called “mirror” neurons. Mirror neurons allow children to reflect what they see you doing in their brains so they can copy or imitate how you behave.

Your child can actually feel or mirror the same emotions that you are feeling! The best way to teach children good behaviors is to model good behaviors. Sharing, being kind, being respectful, and giving praise are all positive ways to teach your children how you expect them to behave; being patient, don't lose your temper.

PANDO INITIATIVE

GraceMed Dental Clinic will be coming to Prairie on Monday, January 22nd to provide free dental screenings, cleanings, fluoride varnish and sealants to students. All students are eligible to receive these services. Please watch your child's Wednesday folder for the paperwork that will be sent home. If you have any questions, please contact the Pando office at 554-2350.



USD 261 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Michael Clagg, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, 1745 W Grand, Haysville, KS, 67060, 316-554-2200

SOUTH PARKING LOT AT PRAIRIE



Parking Procedures

Student safety is our first priority at Prairie. We want to make sure students are able to enter and exit the building in a safe and orderly manner each and every day.

- * Our school buses need to have an unobstructed path to enter and exit school property. Patrons can assist by parking in the parking stalls.
- * If you do not leave your vehicle to drop off or pick up, please use the driveway closest to the front doors. We do not want children running through lines of traffic to reach your vehicle.
- * If exiting your vehicle to drop off, please park and walk your child(ren) into the school or up to the front doors.
- * If exiting your vehicle to pick up, please park and walk up to the front entrance to pick up your child. Use the designated cross-walk area whenever possible.
- * Lastly, please be respectful of our staff who are monitoring arrival and dismissal.