

# PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY BULLDOG

David Engelking, Principal  
February 2019



## UPCOMING EVENTS

HWMS COUNSELOR VISIT WITH 5TH GRADERS	FEB 1
VALENTINE PARTIES 2:45-3:30	FEB 8
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 4-8:30	FEB 11 & 12
BOOK FAIR SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 4	FEB 11-13
NO SCHOOL	FEB 14-18

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent – Teacher Conferences are scheduled for **February 11th & 12th**. Specials (Music, PE, Library and Tech) and SPED teachers will be scheduling conferences in addition to classroom teachers. Letters with sign up information have been sent home. Please return your choices to teachers as soon as possible. Parents, thank you in ad-

vance for making these meetings a priority. Conferences will be held in individual classrooms, Monday and Tuesday evening from 4:00-8:30 p.m. **There will be NO SCHOOL for students February 14th, 15th and 18th.** We believe communication is key to a successful year, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend!



Good attendance makes a difference! It improves academic performance and promotes future success.

- \* Each day’s lesson builds off what was taught before. Missing just one class can put you behind.
- \* Absences can affect other students if the teacher has to re-teach things that were missed.
- \* In-class activities, such as experiments and demonstrations, usually cannot be made up.
- \* Missing class discussions and explanations can make it harder to understand assignments.
- \* Class participation is often included in grading.
- \* Good attendance is an important habit. You can lose a job for missing too many days of work.

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

# *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.*

## *MATCHING DISCIPLINE TO YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND NEEDS*



Every child's brain is unique! There is no "one-size-fits-all" discipline strategy for children. Every parent needs a toolkit of effective discipline strategies that they can choose from based on their child's needs and the situation.

Your child's brain is being shaped by experience and environment-it is constantly changing and you will need to adapt your discipline toolkit to meet your child where he or she is in the development.

A good example of matching discipline to your child's development is using time-out. This strategy usually doesn't work well with children less than 3 years old-this is the age when a child's brain starts to be able to reason and understand.

You can use time-out as a learning experience to teach your child about self-control. Time-out provides the opportunity for a child to calm down. Then your child can think about what he or she did wrong and how to change their behavior. Children need to be calm to be able to access the part of their brains where they can understand the lesson you are teaching them and problem-solve about their behaviors.

## **LITERACY FIRST**

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Word Study and Oral Language are a big part of your child's day. The purpose of word study is to address phonics skills, spelling patterns and vocabulary growth. Oral Language and Word Study are crucial skills that begin in Pre-K and continue throughout your child's education.

Some of the ways your child practices word study in the various grades include: word sorts, keeping a word study notebook, looking at language and its history, doing word hunts, webs or ladders, illustrating words, writing ABC

books or homophone books, practicing with dictionaries and thesauruses, doing activity cards and playing skill based games.

Marnie Trotter  
Learning Facilitator

## VALENTINE PARTIES

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Valentine parties  
will be held on  
February 8th starting at 2:45.  
Parents wishing to attend  
parties may go to classrooms at  
2:45, after  
signing in at the office.

## PANDO INITIATIVE

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Prairie students and staff members will be raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society beginning February 19<sup>th</sup>. Money raised will go towards finding cures for blood cancers. If you have spare change lying around the house, please put it in the collection box that will be sent home with your child. Please send the boxes back to school on or before Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The classroom that brings in the most money will win a pasta party from the Olive Garden!



**Feb. 11 – 13, 2019**

Monday & Tuesday evenings 4:00-8:15 PM  
during Parent-Teacher Conferences  
and

Wednesday grade-level shopping during Specials block

