

PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY BULLDOG TRACKS

David Engelking, Principal
January 2019

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

NO SCHOOL JAN 11
BUILDING INSERVICE

SITE COUNCIL JAN 14
4:15, PRAIRIE LIBRARY

NO SCHOOL JAN 21
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

HWMS COUNSELOR FEB 1
VISIT TO 5TH GRADERS



Online ordering is available for the 2018-19 Prairie Elementary yearbook. Prices start at \$12.90, if you order before 2/1/19. There are several additional options such as personalization, protective covers and icons. Visit jostensyearbooks.com to place your order. The cost will increase after 2/1/19. So, order now and save!

OFFICE REMINDERS

Remember to check your child's lunch account weekly to ensure they have enough money for breakfast, lunch or ala carte items. 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.

If your child is going to be late or absent, please call the office by 9:00 a.m.

School is dismissed at 3:50 and the office closes at 4:00 p.m. If your child is a car rider, please make sure they are picked up promptly.

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.

GIRLS ON THE RUN IS

so much fun
Spring 2019 dates

Registration: 1/21/19-2/22/19

Spring 2019 season begins: 2/25/19

For more information refer to the Prairie Facebook page.

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.

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.

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 monotonic 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.

*Marnie Trotter
Learning Facilitator*

PANDO INITIATIVE

GraceMed Dental Clinic was at Prairie on Monday, January 7th to provide free dental screenings, cleanings, fluoride varnish and sealants to students. Please watch your child's Wednesday folder for the paperwork that will be sent home with the results of the screenings and cleanings. If your child receives a screening, you will get a half sheet with information provided from the hygienist. If your child receives a cleaning, you will get a full sheet with information and notes from the hygienist. If you opted out of the screenings, you will not receive any paperwork. If you have any questions, please contact the Pando office at 554-2350.



SCHOOL BUS AND DRIVING SAFETY

Some basic tips:

- If a school bus is stopped with the arm out and/or flashing lights- **STOP**. Wait until all children are safely on the side of the road and the bus has continued on before continuing on your way.
- Motorists should stop **AT LEAST 10** feet away from a school bus when stopped. Some states have laws on how far back you must be. Contact local authorities to find out the laws in your area.
- If you are driving **NEXT** to a school bus, you are still required to **STOP** when they do!
- Do not text and drive. **PERIOD**.
- If it is dark, foggy or weather conditions make it hard to see, drive a little bit slower, with headlights on; especially during the hours children are getting picked up or dropped off.
- Most states have penalties and fines for failure to follow directions in regards to school buses.

But why should we just drive safe around school buses? Shouldn't we be off our phones and alert all the time when driving?

- Children should be taught by parents, teachers and adults to stay out of the street. Remind them if you see them rough-housing at a bus stop.
- Parents should stay off phones and keep an eye on all children at the bus stop. Consider doing a rideshare with some of the other families or taking turns waiting at the bus stop.
- If you drive to the bus stop, keep headlights on and blinkers/flashers going while parked to alert other drivers to **SLOW DOWN**
- Children who are running late may be running to the bus stop - **keep an eye out for darting children.**

