



April 2010

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# Bulldog Tracks



## Upcoming Events

Math-A-Thon Due	Apr 9
No School-Building In-service	Apr 16
3rd Annual Prairie Fun Night	Apr 17
No School-Collaboration Day	Apr 19
Kindergarten Roundup @ 1:30	Apr 28
Battle of the Books @ HMS	Apr 29
PALS Sack Lunch Day	Apr 30
5th to HWMS 9am-10am	May 4
Prairie Spelling Bee 1:30-2:30	May 5
Prairie Field Day	May 7

## SCHOOL MALL RETURNS

Keep your eyes open for a booklet of postcards your child will be bringing home with a picture of a "Glow-In-The-Dark" Looney Tunes shirt on the cover. By completing this booklet (booklets must be **COMPLETE AND LEGIBLE**) you will be helping our school fund next year's Family Night. We receive \$2.25 per completed booklet and up to 50% on all paid orders. You will also find details on how your child can receive a FREE "Glow-In-The-Dark" Looney Tunes shirt and how your family could win a vacation to Orlando, Florida. Thank you for supporting Prairie!



### Prairie P.R.I.D.E. Pledge

*Showing P.R.I.D.E  
is what we do.  
Here at Prairie  
you can too.  
Respect and  
Responsibility  
Bring out the best  
In you and me.  
Being Honest  
and being fair,  
shows other people  
that we care.  
We all know what's  
right and good.  
We will do the things  
we should.  
Sound off...Prairie  
Sound off...P.R.I.D.E  
Sound off...Prairie  
P.R.I.D.E.  
BULLDOGS!!!*

### In this issue:

- Special Education teachers "In the Spotlight"
- Assessments continue.....

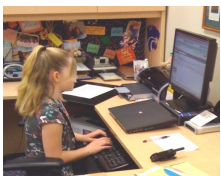


## KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

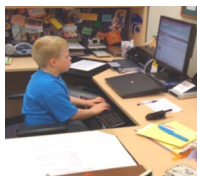
Wednesday, April 28th 1:30 p.m.

Prairie's Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for April 28th at 1:30 p.m.. We are currently searching for future Kindergarten students that will be five years old on or before August 31, 2010. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child. Enrollment Packets will be distributed to all who attend. Information to bring includes: current immunization records, state certified birth certificate, social security card and a proof of residency which would include a current utility bill or a lease/purchase agreement with the parent/guardian's name and address and a current date. While parents are completing the pre-enrollment paperwork, future kindergarten students will go to the classroom for activities and a snack. We are developing a mailing list of parents with Kindergarten students for next year, so if you cannot attend Round-Up, please contact the office at 554-2350. Also, if you know of a child who will be in Kindergarten, please share this information with their parents, and encourage them to call the school office. **Also note that there will be NO regular Kindergarten classes that day.**

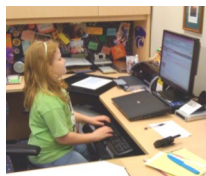
## Principals For A Day



Ally King



Josh Smith



Emily Widener



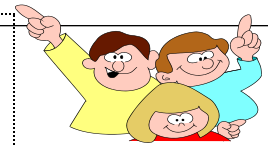
Hard at work!

As part of USD 261's Strategic Planning, a community survey will be available on the district's website homepage at - [www.usd261.com](http://www.usd261.com) April 1 - 18. The survey will gather information about the community's perception of USD 261 schools.

# Staff Spotlight



Look in this spot each month for our "Staff Spotlight", and get to know the wonderful Prairie staff. Each teacher has written a short biography for you to enjoy!



**Amy Stroud-Life Skills TeacherK-2-** I have been teaching at Prairie for 2 years now and my students continue to amaze me. I am blessed to work with wonderful people in my classroom who truly share my love for the students and passion for watching them succeed. This is my sixth year of teaching and each year brings so many more wonderful memories! I am the VERY proud Mommy of a 16 month old son, Blake. He is the light of my life. I am still a Jayhawk fan even after their poor showing in the NCAA tournament this year. My husband and I both are happy to be living in Wichita close to our family and friends.

**Teri Zehr, LifeSkills,** I live in Wichita with my husband, Darrell. We have 3 dogs that are very spoiled. Our newest puppy, Giji (a labradoodle) is being trained to be Prairie's therapy dog. I have taught Life Skills for 24 years. I look forward to coming to school each day and seeing all the students.

**Kristi Dunham, K-1 SpecialEd** This is my 3rd year at Prairie and my 9th in the district. I grew up and still live in Mulvane KS. where my 2 children Kaden 10 and Karsen 7 attend school. I am a graduate of WSU, but am an avid Kansas State Fan. In my spare time I like to read, Facebook, watch all kinds of sports (except hockey and soccer), and I love to watch sappy romance movies. Oh, and of course spend time doing things with my kiddos. The kids that I work with at Prairie are the reason I love to come to work everyday. This year has been awesome and each student I work with has taught me something. I also work with 3 awesome women each day in my classroom. I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to call them my co-workers and friends.

**Katie Mattison, 4-5 SpecialEd** My name is Katie Mattison and I am a resource teacher. I live in Wichita with my husband and our new puppy. I graduated from K-State and taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in the Manhattan area. This is my second year here at Prairie. I'm excited to come to work each day to work with all the great people and students!

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

In Technology class we work on basic skills for reading and math. One of our programs is Speed Games for math facts, starting with addition, then subtraction, next multiplication and finally division facts. Andrea Martin was the first one in the whole school to finish with 5 second mastery.

Technology class for April will work on Special Keys, Internet Safety, and Microsoft Excel and some of its tools. Students will create a graph and chart using Excel. All students will continue working on Keyboarding skills.

We will continue to work on SuccessMaker Math and Reading. The students are working on their own level in Math and Reading while in SuccessMaker and should be able to do well on their work. SuccessMaker progresses according to what the students are able to do and reinforces problems that they are having trouble with. If you are interested to see your students levels, stop by, call, or send a note and I will share that information with you.



## Musical Notes



In April, we are fortunate to have access to several piano keyboards in our classroom! We will be using them in music centers during the last half of the month. Each class will have four separate centers they will rotate to during music class. The center containing the piano keyboards will allow students to learn some piano basics and each student will learn to play a song at the center. The remaining three centers will have music games or activities that will reinforce what they are learning in the areas of rhythm, melody, instrument family identification or music history (in fifth grade classes).



## LIBRARY LINES

The Prairie Library Club, a group of fifth graders, are working on promoting reading with a new bulletin board. Check it out in the hall that's north of the library. Other projects include planning a reading challenge.

After reading *One Thousand Tracings*, third graders are challenging our school families to provide a tracing of their feet. The true story tells how an American family sent 1000 pairs of shoes to poor German families after World War II. Friends in Germany sent 1000 foot tracings to their American friends, who matched each foot tracing to a similarly sized shoe. These shoes were sent to impoverished families along with other supplies. Many families helped supply shoes. Third graders are trying to get a single foot tracing from enough people to have 1000 tracings stepping along the walls of Prairie. If you would like to help, trace one foot on a piece of newspaper or other paper and send it to school with your child or grandchild. We're collecting tracings in the library. Thanks to each person who helps with this project!

Classes have studied Caldecott award books, nonfiction, media literacy, and spring topics during March. Student readers are filling up the AR bulletin board, too. Watch the horse colors change as 90 and 100% test scores rise

Several students helped with the final RIF distribution this March, but weren't named last month. Those were fourth graders Elisa Dodge, Nate Stuber and Denea Clark, who were great help!



This month we are finishing our Archery unit in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade and Horseshoes in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We will end the month with a short unit of Cup-Stacks.



## Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

## Counselor's Corner



### P.R.I.D.E. on the BUS

Safety on the bus is our main focus to help our students arrive safely at home and school. Please review our bus expectations to help our students be safe each day.

**B** – Be seated at all times  
(facing forward).

**U** - Use a whisper voice  
(using kind words).

**S**-Safety first  
(using kind actions).



### Everything Rests on Relationships

Jim Fay and Dr. Charles Fay, authors of Love and Logic, remind us to focus on the following to help build healthy relationships with our children...

- Focus mostly on your child's strengths rather than their weaknesses.
- Smile at them as often as possible.
- Write them little notes that tell them how much you adore them.
- Greet them each day with a hug or high five.
- Make sure they overhear you talking about how much you love them.
- Deliver consequences with sincere empathy.

For more information, go to [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com).

### FIELD DAY IS MAY 7

Our 3rd Annual Field Day is scheduled for Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2010. **Any person wishing to volunteer at a station is encouraged to either call the office and give your name and the time you will be willing to volunteer, or stop by the office in person and the information will be given to Mrs. Snow.**

## PTO NEWS

Fun Night is approaching us quickly. We will need A LOT of volunteers at Fun Night April 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm. The raffle starts at 7pm in the gym. We also need unopened kids meal toys, 2 liters of pop (85 cents at Wal-Mart right now) and people to volunteer to bring cakes for the cake walk. This year we are doing something new on the auction baskets. In the past we had a theme for each grade. This year we are letting you decide which basket you would like to donate to. The theme baskets are Lawn & Garden, Night on the Town, Camping, Family Night, Mom's Day Out and Dad's Day Out.

\* Punch cards are on sale (info went home in Wed folder) You can purchase punch cards in \$5, \$10 and \$20 increments. If you purchase punch cards before April 17<sup>th</sup> you don't have to wait in the long lines when the doors open. PTO will not be liable for any stolen or forgotten punch cards.

\* Raffle tickets are also on sale. Prairie TOP 5 Prizes this year are 32" Sony HDTV, 15" Compaq Laptop, Gas BBQ Grill, Nintendo DS Bundle, Nintendo Wii. You may pay for the tickets in advance or pay when you turn in the tickets. You can send a request of how many tickets you would like.

\* PTO Meeting will be April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Nominees for next year's board members will be made during this meeting.

\* No May Skate Party due to behavior.

\* Pizza Hut Pizza Night will be April 12<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to let them know your student's teacher's name. The class with the most attendees will get a Pizza Party.

\* Yearbooks(\$15) will be delivered to students the first of May. If you haven't ordered your yearbook you still have time. We have a few extra, first come first serve basis.

## Parent Request Form for Information about Teacher Qualifications

Each school year, any parent who has a child attending any school receiving Title I funds may request and receive, in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers. In addition, the parents may also ask whether the child is provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, his or her qualifications [Section 1111(6)(A) ESEA.] Guidance C-6

**USD 261**  
HAYSVILLE

**Please check the information that you would like to receive:**

I would like to receive information about my child's teacher's qualifications.

I would like to receive information about my child's paraprofessional's qualifications.

**My child's name is:** \_\_\_\_\_ **He/She attends school at:** \_\_\_\_\_

**His/Her teacher's name is:** \_\_\_\_\_ **My name is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Today's date is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Due to budgetary constraints, the USD 261 District Newsletter is only available electronically.

Please visit the District's website homepage at –

[www.usd261.com](http://www.usd261.com) for the link to the current issue.

**\*TESTING\***  
**PLEASE**  
**DO NOT**  
**DISTURB**

### ASSESSMENTS CONTINUE

Math and reading assessment will end on April 13. The 4th graders will begin the science assessment at that time. It has to be completed by April 30. Everyone has been working very hard to do their best. We appreciate the support you have given your child during this time. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Remind them to read directions carefully, look at all the answers before choosing one and to check their answers.

### NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Hope everyone had a wonderful spring break! Just a reminder we will be doing the last of our Hearing & Vision checks/re-checks, on Tuesday, April 13th. This will be for new students that started after our initial screenings and for any who missed or was absent on those screening days. Remember, if your child got a referral and you take them to a Dr., please let me know so I can update your child's health record. Also our Kindergarten Round-up is Wednesday, April 28th at 1:30. Parents of pre-kindergarteners already attending Prairie should receive a letter soon about the Round-up and what is needed for that day, or it is listed on our district website.

Leann Lewman RN,BSN



### CIS Bulldog Tracks Column

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. CIS will be providing all Prairie staff members with blue ribbons to wear to support the Kansas Children's Service League's Blue Ribbon Campaign, which holds the ideal that every child should grow up in a loving, safe, nurturing home. The Kansas Children's Service League believes that together we can build strong families, strong communities and raise strong, healthy children. They offer the following suggestions to protect children from abuse:

- **Teach** children not to talk to strangers – even when offering rides, gifts or favors.
- **Explain** that it is okay to say “no” to an adult (including relatives) if the child does not feel right doing what is asked.
- **Build trust** with the child so he/she feels comfortable coming to you immediately if something does not seem right.
- **Carefully check** the background of any adult wanting to spend time alone with your child.
- **Tell children** that it is important to go directly home from school unless they are notified otherwise. Establish a policy of calling a parent if they change locations.
- **Be open** to talking to your children about sexual abuse and their right to stop it.
- **If abuse is suspected**, call your local police department, SRS or the KCSL Parent Helpline (1-800-CHILDREN) immediately.



We raised \$369.91 for the Kansas Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through the Pennies for Patients fundraiser. Congratulations to Mrs. Archer's Kindergarten classroom for raising the most money (\$57.18). They will receive a pizza party in April for all of their hard work! Ms. Rudd's class brought in \$48.67, Mrs. Russell's class brought in \$44.47 and the students in Ms. Medlin's class raised \$42.31. Thank you supporting this worthy cause!