

# Prairie Wind Press

## From the Principal....



What an amazing Teacher Appreciation Week! A very special THANK YOU goes out to our support staff, the committee members, our community, and PTO for their part. Each day was filled with appreciation... a warm spot by the fire, words of kindness, lunch, daily treats, and many other goodies. It was an awesome week and the staff felt grateful and truly appreciated.

Parent/Teacher Conferences were a huge success. Thank you for your attendance and your willingness to be a partner in the educational process.

We look forward to a very busy month in April...

- This month our students will take the State Reading and Math NSCAS Test for grades 3-5. The teachers and students have worked hard all year. Please remind your child that every score matters!
- No school April 15th & 18th due to Teacher Workdays & Articulation Day.
- Finally, we will be recognizing all the contributions provided by our Support Staff through celebrating Support Staff Week April 25<sup>th</sup> -April 29<sup>th</sup>. Once again, this is a perfect time to express our appreciation for all they do. Please feel free to drop a note or a positive comment to our support staff this week.

Carpool reminders - A huge thank you to our parent volunteer, Mrs. Maxwell for her assistance at car-pool. We have been finishing carpool in record time and have eased the traffic hold-up on 108<sup>th</sup> Street. If you are wanting to park and pick up your child, please use the parking lot or street to park and walk up. Please do not leave your vehicle parked in the carpool lane. We are asking that you pull around the block in order to allow busses and cars wishing to park to enter the lot. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation with our carpool procedures. The ultimate goal is safety for all our parents, students, and staff.



In an effort to be sensitive to students and staff with food allergies and medical conditions, consumable birthday treats and latex balloons are not to be brought to school. Non-consumable items as pencils, erasers, stickers, etc. may be given in honor of a birthday. If you are sending in snacks for your child's classroom, please remember they need to be store bought and individually wrapped.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support!

**Mr. Carl Bilotta, Principal**

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you for your contributions to Prairie Wind. Perhaps you donated your time at the Book Fair, or the Craft Fair. Perhaps you decorated a car for Trunk or Treat. Maybe you have served on the PTO Board. Perhaps you were a classroom volunteer. Maybe you were always willing to donate extra treats or classroom supplies for our students. Whatever your contribution of time, talent, or materials has been, we are so thankful!

We are not able to hold the Volunteer Dinner this year but we hope we will be able to resume it in the future. To all our volunteers, thank you so much for your efforts and contributions to Prairie Wind. The staff and students really appreciate it!

## PTO News....



### SAVE THE DATE! CARNIVAL IS BACK!

Our favorite event of the year is back! Mark your calendar and join us on MAY 6TH from 6pm-8pm at our All School Carnival. Rain or shine! There will be games, prizes, food, inflatables, raffle and much more fun! A great night of fun for the whole family!! We will be in need of at least 50-60 parent or family volunteers EACH HOUR of the carnival to help with working the games, handing out prizes, set up and clean up, etc. All volunteers will receive 6 free raffle tickets for every hour worked. If you can't donate your time, we are also accepting donations for raffle items or store bought sweets for our Sugar Walk! It is sure to be a wonderful night and even more so with the help of the families like yours! Wristband presale will begin soon!

Please email [prairiewindpto@yahoo.com](mailto:prairiewindpto@yahoo.com) if you are available to help.

### DON AND MILLIE'S NIGHTS ARE HERE TO STAY!

Our Don and Millie's Family Nights have been a HUGE success. Thank you so much for supporting PTO and supporting a local restaurant!! We will continue a monthly Don and Millie's night for the remainder of the year and even throughout the Summer!

Join us at Don and Millie's on 160th and Maple the first Wednesday of every month through July to support your Stallions!!



### YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Thank you to all parents, families, and friends who have donated to and supported PTO throughout the year so far! Your donations are going directly to students and teachers.

- Dinner from Deer Creek Cantina was catered for all our hard working teachers during conferences. Thank you to families who donated drinks and sponsored a teacher!
- Ms. Bateman hosted a week of fun, including treats and gifts, to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. A Huge thank you to Ms. Bateman for setting up that special event!
- 5th Grade graduation is right around the corner and all students will receive a special graduation gift!
- We are able to fund the Prairie Wind Alumni Scholarship this year in conjunction with Student Council and an extremely generous donation from a parent who matched both PTO and Student Council's donation and doubled our scholarship fund!

PTO Board, Elyse Kowalewski, Kirby Kost,  
Christine Redemske and Heather Kalisek

### Upcoming Dates:

- April 6th: Don and Millie's Family Night
- April 12th at 6:30pm: PTO meeting in the library
- May 6th: CARNIVAL!!!

## Library News .....

Our final votes are in for Prairie Wind's Golden Sower winner! The Golden Sower is the state book award given to the top voted book by kids in the state of Nebraska. Only students are allowed to vote, and we had lots of excited voters at Prairie Wind! Although we don't know the state results yet, we do know what books won at our school. We should know the state winner by the end of April. We can't wait to find out!

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students had a choice to read 10 different chapter books and vote for their favorite. They had to have read at least 4 to participate in voting. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade votes are counted up and the Prairie Wind winner for the chapter books is Spark by Sarah Beth Durst! Thank you to all students that read on their own and voted!

Our Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students read all 10 of the Golden Sower picture book nominees in library class over the course of this year. They finally got to vote and If I Built a School by Chris Van Dusen won in a landslide!

We are so proud of our Prairie Wind students that participated in voting this year!

Just a reminder, all library books should be returned by May 20!

Happy Reading!  
From your librarians...  
Mrs. Ripley,  
Mrs. Ackerman and  
Mrs. Bateman



## Career Awareness

Over the next few Guidance lessons, we will be focusing on Careers and preparing for the future. Career awareness is a very important part of our school counseling program. We will be learning about the six career clusters and what jobs are found within each cluster.

You can never start talking about your child's future too early! If you get a chance to bring your child to work or allow them to shadow different jobs in the community, it will give them an idea of where their interests lie and what career would be best for them.

### Six Career Clusters:

1. Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
2. Communication, & Information Systems
3. Skilled & Technical Sciences
4. Health Sciences
5. Human Sciences & Education
6. Business, Marketing, & Management

For more information about the Nebraska Six Career Clusters please visit: [www.nebraskacareerconnections.org](http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org)

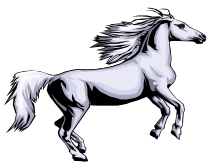
Mrs. Jones and Ms. Asche,  
School Counselors



## MONITORING YOUR STUDENT ONLINE

Technology is a part of children's everyday lives, in school, at home, and everywhere in between. Here are some tips to help you begin the process of monitoring your student online, the ins and outs of parental controls, and knowing when to let children have more responsibility for their own online well-being. A big concern many parents have about monitoring their children online is the thought that they are "spying" on their children. The difference between monitoring and spying on children is if they know. Once you decide how and what you are going to monitor, you should let your children know. Normalize asking questions such as "Who are you chatting with?" and "What websites did you visit today?" Make sure to check browsing history and what has been recently downloaded. Chromebooks, Macs, and PCs all have their own built-in monitoring systems. The website Protect Young Eyes provides step-by-step instructions to using parental controls on many devices. As they grow up, children become ready to take on more responsibility for their online experience. The best way to help your child reach that point is to regularly teach them about safety online while having set milestones for unlocking controls. Consider the different protections and limitations you place on your child and decide from the start at what ages you will unlock access. For example, think about at what age they will want to move away from kid accounts on sites like Netflix and YouTube. It is important that your child knows these points and what to expect.





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## Notes from the Nurse's Office



### Allergies:

Spring is here and so are the seasonal allergies. We are starting to see many watery eyes, itchy skin, and an increase in Asthma inhaler use. If your child is having problems with their allergies be sure to have them bathe at night to remove all pollens and use allergy medications as recommended by your pediatrician. If your child is allergic to grass be sure they wear closed toe shoes and longer pants or socks while playing on the playground.

### Clothing needs:

Clothing is still needed especially husky sizes (both boys and girls) in sizes 5-14. Please check your closets for hand me downs you can donate. If your child does come home with clothing from the health office, please launder and return as soon as you can.

It's best if your child can put on their own clothing, so please pack an extra set of items in their backpack.

Thanks!  
Mrs. Hansen RN  
Mrs. McCullough Health Aide

## Cafeteria News.....



**Reminder:** If a student would like to purchase a second lunch the cost will be \$3.25.

If a student brings a lunch from home and needs a milk it will cost .35 cents.

If you have any questions, please contact us.



## Secondhand Smoke and Your Children's Health

Infants have a higher risk of SIDS if they are exposed to secondhand smoke. Children have a higher risk of serious health problems, or problems may become worse. Children who breathe secondhand smoke can have more:

- Ear infection
- Coughs and colds
- Respiratory problems, such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- Tooth decay

Children of smokers cough and wheeze more and have a harder time getting over colds. They miss many more school days too. Secondhand smoke can cause other symptoms including stuffy nose, headache, sore throat, eye irritation, and hoarseness.

Children with asthma are especially sensitive to secondhand smoke. It may cause more asthma attacks and the attacks may be more severe, requiring trips to the hospital.

## Long-Term Effects of Secondhand Smoke

Children who grow up with parents who smoke are themselves more likely to smoke. Children and teens who smoke are affected by the same health problems that affect adults. Secondhand smoke may cause problems for children later in life including:

- Poor lung development (meaning that their lungs never grow to their full potential)
- Lung cancer
- Heart disease
- Cataracts (an eye disease)

American Academy of Pediatrics: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/tobacco/Pages/Dangers-of-Secondhand-Smoke.aspx>

