

November - December 2015

From the Principal's Desk

November 1, 2015. I forget to silence my phone and at 1:20 AM, a text comes through that ends my sleep for the night... Fast forward to 6:30 – still AM. I am on a plane with my seat belt fastened low and tight across my lap and my tray table and seat back are in the upright and locked position. I'm going from 90 degree weather to almost 60 degree weather, but who cares... I'm getting a nap. Even the screaming children, whose parents were telling them, "*Stop it!*" every two minutes was not going to stop me from getting a nap... or so I thought. I expect some moving around as people get settled on a plane. No problem. What I didn't expect was the fairly constant banging of the tray table connected to my seat or the constant kicking of my seat. So, I turned around once and looked (you know, giving that '*could you please stop*' body language thing?). I was unsuccessful; although it did get another, "Stop it." from one of the parents.

After about an hour of this, I turned around and asked, "*What's going on?*" To which the parents replied, "*Sorry, but we have kids... Some people don't like that.*" I replied that I also have 2 kids and I know it can be difficult, but I'd really appreciate it if the seat banging could stop. The reply from the mother made my jaw drop... She said "*Imagine how we feel.*"

It was becoming crystal clear for me. Her children were banging on my seat, making my flight intolerable, at best, and I should be thinking of her? Then the father said, "*We're doing our best.*" I replied, "*I'm sure you are.*" Then I asked the flight attendant to move me, which she did – to an exit row. YIPPEE! As I stretched out in my new "Cadillac" of airplane seats, I felt so sad for those kids. Clearly, their parents' best was to have no standards for their children and if they did have standards for them, the parents were unwilling or unable to do the tough and tiring work of holding their kids accountable to those standards. So, what you get are people who think that the world revolves around them. How difficult life will be if that is at the core of your beliefs.

When I was an undergraduate student, I recall a professor stating that you just had to be a good enough parent to have great kids. It's been over 25 years and I still remember that clearly, and I believe there is great truth to that. I can think of tons of things I wish I wouldn't have said or done, yet I have two great kids. Good enough is hard, but not impossible.

It's the Holiday season; the time to give thanks. I am thankful that at Prairie Lane we do not have any children behaving like what I described above. That is because of you. Continue to hold your kids up to your standards. They will always rise to the occasion.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Camille Schroeder

2015-2016 Attendance Ticker

Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
97.65	97.10	96.05						

Visit Prairie Lane on the web at <http://prairielane.kusd.edu>

PTO President's Letter

Dear Prairie Lane Families,

It's the Holiday Season; a time when all of us take time to reflect on what we are thankful for. We spend time with our families and count our blessings; reflect and give thanks for all the good in our lives.

Today, as I reflect on what I am thankful for; of course my family is at the top of that list; but beyond the obvious, I take time to consider how lucky I am to be able to send my kids to such a wonderful school. When I consider what makes Prairie Lane such a great school; topping that list is the people. Prairie Lane is what it is because of all of you – great teachers, parents and students. But remember, your experience and your child's experience here is what you make it.

Getting involved in your school can improve the experience; becoming involved is a great way to show your kids that you take an interest in their education, and it sends a positive message that you consider school a worthwhile cause. Also, when you get involved you interact with teachers, administrators, and other parents on a regular basis; this helps you to gain a better understanding of your child's daily activities. You'll also tap into trends and fads of school life that can help you communicate with your kids as they grow and change.

During the Holiday Season, we have a lot going on at Prairie Lane – offering parents and teachers many ways to get involved. On Friday, December 4 we are excited for our Holiday Movie night – this year, we are showing the movie Elf! (If you don't volunteer to help, be sure to take advantage of this "drop-off" event to get a jump-start on your holiday shopping!). On Wednesday, December 9 we will have another Sprit Day where kids will be able to buy treats for the "Spirit Day Snack Cart!"

We are also excited to be holding our very first Holiday Shoppe. Holiday Shoppe gives your kids an opportunity to buy that perfect gift for everyone on their shopping list. The Holiday Shoppe opens on December 14 and closes on December 17 and will be open during the school day, offering evening hours on December 16 from 4 to 7 pm. Keep your eyes open for more information coming home in Thursday folders!

And, don't forget about our Winter classroom parties which are scheduled for December 18 at 11:30. (4K classes will have their parties on Thursday, December 17).

With so much going on, you have plenty of opportunities to get involved and support our school! Remember... **"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."**

Wishing all of you a wonderful holiday season!

Mel Modica
Prairie Lane PTO President





Prairie Lane PTO – Holiday Shoppe

Hello Prairie Lane Families!

This year, we are excited to host our first Holiday Shoppe at Prairie Lane! This is an event that allows students to choose their own special holiday gifts for family and friends.

The Holiday Shoppe will be open during school hours from December 14 until December 17. We will be open one evening, December 16 from 4 to 7 pm. Children will visit the Holiday Shoppe during the school day to preview the items available for sale and create a wish list. Parents can help their younger children finalize their gift lists by reviewing all items available for sale at the online Shoppe at http://www.holidaytreasures.com/merry/holiday_gifts_preview.php

We are in need of volunteers who can help during the school day; volunteers will assist the children with picking out that "perfect" gift at a price they can afford! Volunteers will also be needed to help with setting up and taking down the Shoppe. Volunteers can sign up on our Sign-Up Genius tool: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044fabac2faa8-holiday> Any and all help is appreciated!

More information about the Holiday Shoppe will come home in the Thursday folders.

If you have any questions, then please contact Megan Calhoun at megmirs13@hotmail.com.

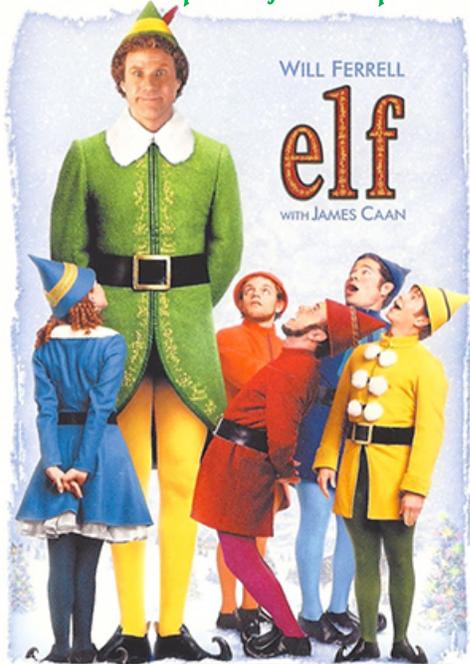
Movie Night – Friday, December 4

\$2 Admission + canned food item

5:45 pm – Drop Off

6:00 pm – Movie Starts

8:00 pm – Pick-Up



Kindergarten – 5th Grade Only

Y is for **Yearbook!**

Reminders

- Special price of \$22 ends December 22; the price increases to \$25 after that.
- Place orders online at www.schoolannual.com or complete paper form sent home earlier in the school year.
- Share your pictures with the school – get them published in the yearbook at <https://images.schoolannualonline.com/upload.jsp> - User ID 403183597.
- Share any pictures taken during field trips, classroom parties or activities!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Just a reminder, please **KEEP SAVING** clean plastic colored bottle caps for our mural!

ANY COLOR!

ANY SIZE!

Please encourage Family and Friends to save caps too. We are about halfway to our goal!

Winter Parties

Winter classroom parties are Friday, December 18 at 11:30. 4K parties are Thursday, December 17.

Anyone who is interested in attending the party must have a completed and pre-approved background check on file in the office. In order to receive approval, the background check form must be turned in at least two weeks prior to the party.

Please let your child's room parent know if you will be attending, even if you plan to just visit the class and not help out with the party.

Room parents and parents interested in attending the classroom parties must have their names turned in to Crystal Mahon at crystalmahon2@yahoo.com no later than December 14.



Spirit Wear Orders Save \$10 until December 10!

EAGLES APPAREL
100% CUSTOM
1 or 100 - No Order Minimums!
Customize Logo, Activity & Year
Choose color
DESIGN NOW
MY LOCKER

Use coupon code UNxvX5XV - expires December 10, 2015!

AN UPDATE FROM MS. TIFFE:

Dear Prairie Lane Families:

I am doing really well with my recovery and have started physical therapy. I'm planning on returning to school Dec. 14th. I look forward to seeing everyone again.

Roller skating permission slips will be going home in Thursday's folder on Dec. 10th. The students will be skating Jan. 11-29, 2016 and I will be asking for parent volunteers in Grades K-2 to help with getting equipment on. There is a place on the permission slip to sign up. Wishing everyone a wonderful Holiday Season!!



Target Corporation announced in September that after 19 years, they will be ending their Take Charge of Education program that offered 5 percent of their profits to education (when Target Red Card customers linked their cards to eligible schools). The program will officially end as of May 14, 2016.

If you have your Target Red Card linked to Prairie Lane, your purchases will continue to support our school until the end of the program, and we will receive a final check after the program ends in May.

SQUARE 1 ART

IT STARTS WITH THE ART!

Square 1 Art order pick-up is on Wednesday, December 16 from 4-6 pm in the Gym.

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Dollar, Prairie Lane Art Teacher adollar@kUSD.edu or Jenny Hermes, Parent Coordinator jkhermes00@gmail.com



Come join in on the fun on Friday, December 18 from 4 to 10 pm at Action Territory Night! Enjoy special offers on indoor and outdoor fun! Bring along the orange flier or just mention you're with Prairie Lane!



Concert dates and times:

Thursday, December 17

Grade 1- 6:00 P.M. at Prairie Lane

Grade 2 - 6:45 P.M. at Prairie Lane

Thursday, January 21

Kindergarten - 6:00 P.M. at Prairie Lane

Thursday, April 28

Grades 3-5 - 6:30 P.M. at Reuther Auditorium

I still need five (5) CLEAN five gallon buckets for a drumming project I am planning to do with grade 5 to fit in with our recycle theme. To date, I have not received any buckets, so I may need to cancel the project! (I hope I don't have to). If any Prairie Lane families know of anyone who can donate these buckets, they would be much appreciated!

Library News

The library is excited to announce a newly re-designed "Creation Station" we hope will be complete by the end of the December. This area, located in the back area of the library will allow students to spark their creativity through experimentation and engineering. Legos, Tinker Toys, and marble runs are just a few of the toys available for children, as well as supplies needed for projects. The STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) learning theme will be used throughout the "Creation Station!" Students will be able to earn engineering time through PBIS and Ms. Steeves. To help make this possible, we are asking for families to donate any Legos, K'nex and Tinker toys to the Library. A bin will be located outside the library for all donations.

A flyer will be sent home with students in the coming weeks! Please feel free to contact Sandra Steeves or Sara Chatterton in the library at 359-3644 for more details.

SPIRIT DAY SNACK CART!

The next Spirit Day is Wednesday, December 9 – don't forget to wear school colors! Also, don't miss out on the Spirit Day Snack Cart! We will have the following snack items for sale:

- Nabisco Mini-Oreo Cookies - \$1
- Rice Krispie Treats - \$1
- Assorted Chips - \$1
- Quaker Chewy Granola Bars - \$0.50
- Frigo String Cheese - \$0.50
- Mott's Fruit Snacks - \$0.50

Limit
2!