

PRAIRIE PARK SCHOOL

MAY NEWS

[HTTP://PRAIRIEPARK.USD497.ORG/](http://prairiepark.usd497.org/)

May 1, 2019

Principally Speaking....



Dear Prairie Park Students, Families and Staff,

As I write my last "Principally Speaking" column for the May newsletter, I can't help but reflect on my time here at Prairie Park. I wish to express my gratitude to all the students, parents, and staff for making my 18 years here rewarding and memorable. I have proudly watched over 1500 fifth or sixth graders being promoted, as well as welcomed over 1,300 kindergarteners and their families to our school. I have attended over 90 music programs, worked 18 carnivals and spent well over 307,800 minutes with your children at lunch. All of it has been a pleasure.

I am also thankful to all the students and families of this wonderful school. I cannot ever really express my deep admiration and appreciation for all of the people that have impacted my life. To the parents, grandparents, guardians and friends it has brought me much joy to watch as you swelled with pride as your child performed at their music program, played at PE night, sat on your lap during family reading nights or said goodbye as they hopped in your car at the end of the day. You have become like FAMILY, and I cherish those memories. So many relationships have been formed and my respect for every one of these friendships is utmost.

To my staff, I could not be prouder to have worked beside all of you. Each of you have taught me what it means to be an educator. You have demonstrated daily how passion, dedication and drive can change the lives of students. Year after year I have watched as you encouraged and motivated students to not just succeed academically, but to excel in every possible way as humans. Throughout our time together you have made me laugh, supported and encouraged me and we have stood together through times of trial and triumph. Each of you has a special place in my heart.

Finally, to the students that are here or who have passed through this building, my life has been enriched by working with you. Knowing each of you has been an honor. Knowing that I have played a part in your educational career has brightened my life immensely. You have shared your worries, concerns, fears, hopes and dreams, and to know that you trusted me with that information makes me proud. Each of you have and will continue to go out and make our world a much better place. Thank you for memories that will last a lifetime.

As Dr. Seuss said, "Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened." I will be smiling for many years to come. Thank you so very much!

With the warmest of regards,
David Williams
Prairie Park Principal

May Events

- 3 **3rd Grade Tour of Lawrence Field Trip**, 9am-2:45pm
- 4 **ROARfest & Talent Show**, 12:30-4pm
- 7 **5th Graders to Visit Billy Mills Middle School**, 1:30-2:30pm
- Parent Night @ BMMS for incoming 6th Grade families**, 6pm
- 8 **2nd Grade Body Venture Field Trip**, 8:15-11:20am
- 10 **Field Day-K,1,2** 8:30-10am
3,4,5 12:45-2:15pm
3rd Grade to KU for Hawk Fit Day, 9-12:45pm
- 14 **5th Graders to Lawrence Library**, 12:35-2:45pm
Eat & Earn @ Chipotle, 5-9pm
- 16 **Run Club Awards & Celebration**, 3:05-3:45pm
- 17 **Kindergarten to Topeka Zoo**, 9:45-2:45pm
- 21 **5th Grade Fun Day-Lunch & Bowling**, 11-2:30
- 22 **5th Grade Recognition**, 12:30-1:20pm
- 23 **Last Day of School-Early Release @ 11:15am**
May 4 Roarfest 12:30-4pm

- May 16** Run Club last day Award Ceremony 3-3:45pm
- May 6-10** Teacher Appreciation week.
Thank you teachers!
- May 14** Chipotle Eat & Earn 5-9pm

Roar Fest Carnival/Talent Show: May 4th, carnival from 1230-230 with bouncy house from All About the bounce, face painting by Fairy Fox Design, and photo booth from Say Cheez. Hy-Vee has donated 300 hotdogs, chips, and water for the first 300 people. Douglas County Dental Clinic, LMH Health, Prime Martial Arts, Garden Club, Fire Dept and Douglas County Sheriff's Office and Lawrence Public Library will have booths at the event. We will also have cupcake walk and kids bingo. The Talent Show will begin at 2:30 and will be in the gymnasium. Kona Ice will be on-site for shaved ice eat and earn to benefit Prairie Park PTA donating 20% of proceeds. The PTA will be collecting personal care items for Willow Domestic Violence Center at the event. Please sign up to volunteer to help at this event at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49aba72caa8-prairie3>



May Eat and Earn at Chipotle on 23rd Street on May 14th from 5-9 pm. Chipotle will donate 33% to patrons that mention Prairie Park at check out (no online orders).



June 19th and July 17th to 6-7 pm Kona Ice shaved ice Eat and Earn with 20% of proceeds going back to PTA.

Run Club continues on Thursdays after school. Run Club will have an awards ceremony and ice cream celebration for participants on May 16th from 3:05-3:45. Parents are encouraged to attend. If you are able to donate items to the event, please contact Elissa Koelling at elemesany@yahoo.com or 785-550-3849.



Food Pantry Update: Since Boys and Girls Club will not be at Prairie Park this year, we are encouraging families to empty the food shelf by the end of school.



Teacher/Staff Appreciation is May 6-10th. The PTA has planned fun events for the teachers. We are planning a dessert day for staff on Thursday, May 9th. Please sign up to donate at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0448A4AD22A75-desserts4>

Playdates for incoming kindergarteners:
July 30 6:30-7:30 pm, August 3 9-10 am
and August 7 6:30-7:30 pm. These will be
at the playground and for any incoming
kindergarteners to meet and play prior to
school starting this fall.



**We are still looking for board members
for Prairie Park PTA for 2019-2020.** We
are interested in 2 members-at-large volunteers.
These positions are a voting board member and
involves attending PTA meetings and assisting
with organizing some of the PTA events
throughout the year. If you are interested in
becoming more involved with the PTA, please
contact prairieparkpta@gmail.com.



**A big thank you to all of the volunteers
that help at the school and with the PTA
throughout the year:** School volunteers: Mimi
Fell, AJ Majors, Sarah Guerrero, Officer Anthony
Brixius, Betty Hernandez, Brandon Copley, Annie
Kiekel, Marieke Goates, and Sharon Anderson.
Key PTA volunteers: Jamie McNally, Irene
Soderstrom, Jessica Wollesen, Courtney Nowak, Zan
Popp, Alena Compton, Kate Holman, Elizabeth Garrett,
Austin and Elissa Koelling, Kevin Hall, A'sha Pruitt,
and Annemarie Chilton.



As the weather gets
warmer and families spend more time
outside, don't forget sunscreen and bug
spray. These are small things that can
prevent disruptions to their school day due
to discomfort. Making sure to be treating
any seasonal allergies at home can also
help! We've already seen lots of stuffy
noses, red itchy eyes, and sneezing. As the
end of the year approaches please don't
forget to come get medicine from the clinic
that you may have brought in throughout
the year. We can send medication home
with your student **ONLY** with your written
consent. You can send a note with your
student or email me at
megan.bost@usd497.org. Any medications
left in the clinic at the end of the school
year will be destroyed.

Megan Bost RN, BSN

School Nurse

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