

# PRAIRIE PARK SCHOOL

## DECEMBER NEWS

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

Dec. 1, 2018

### Principally Speaking....



Dear Prairie Park Families

It is the time of year when I begin to worry about attendance and tardiness. We know there is a powerful link between successful learning and regular school attendance. "It's only one day! Why is attendance all that important?" Learning builds day by day, and if your child is not in school, he/she can't learn. When students return from being absent, they have to work harder to catch up on class discussions, and to make up missing assignments. Having good attendance matters. Getting to school on time is also important for the success of your children. Transitioning from home to school early in the morning is difficult for many children. Being tardy causes your child to miss important directions and social learning during morning meeting. If you are unsure about the attendance and tardiness policies, please call the office.

With the winter months upon us let me offer a few reminders. Please have your child dressed for the weather on a daily basis. Our students will be outside for recess unless the temperature with wind chill falls below 15 degrees. Please make sure to send your child with hats, gloves, and a winter coat. If you need assistance with any of these items, please feel free to contact our School Counselor, Mrs. Johnson. She can be reached by calling 785 832 5740.

Also, please take time and label your child's items with initials or last name.

When the weather is bad traffic increases and so I am asking that we use extra caution when dropping off and picking up your child(ren). When the snow begins to fall the sidewalk and parking lots may become slippery. Please make sure to slow down, look, and take a few extra minutes for the safety of all. If you drop your child off in the morning please make sure to use the drive through lane and pull as far forward as possible, and let your child off on the sidewalk side. Out of courtesy of others, please do not park or get out of your vehicle. The safety of all of our children is so important. Thank you for your cooperation!

As we are entering this holiday season, on behalf of Prairie Park students and staff, I want to wish all of our families a safe and wonderful winter break! Remember, that school begins again on January 9.

Your Child's Principal,  
*David A. Williams*



### December Events

- 4 **PTA Meeting, 6:30pm**
- 13 **Swim Night @ LIAC, 5:30-7pm**
- 14 **Lend-A-Hand ends**
- 17 **3<sup>rd</sup> Graders to Lied Center**
- 21 **Winter Celebrations**
- 22-31 **Winter Break**

### Classes Resume January 9, 2019



### News from the Library

Hello Prairie Park Parents!

Heading into the final stretch of the first half of the year, most students are studying Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship, as well as coding. Kindergartners have finished up their ABC unit and will be working on parts of a book, fiction vs nonfiction, and author vs illustrator.

We still need to work on getting overdue library books returned, so we would appreciate any help you can provide on that front! And if you haven't "liked" the Prairie Park Library Facebook page, there is lots of information about library programming, classes, and student activities there. Simply go to [www.facebook.com/prairieparklibrary](http://www.facebook.com/prairieparklibrary), click "like" and then under "Following" click "default" so you can make sure you see all of our posts!

Be on the lookout for a Winter Break reading challenge! Students can earn a small prize for completing it.

Take care, stay warm, and read a good book with your student! ☺

Erin Schramm  
Library Media Specialist

**PTA meeting:** Tuesday December 4th from 6:30-7:30 in school library, free childcare is provided.



**Swim night at the Indoor Pool on Thursday, December 13th from 5:30-7:00, \$5/child will benefit playground improvement fund for PTA.**

**Big thank you to Austin and Elissa Koelling who coordinated Run Club this fall, Run Club will resume again in the spring.**

Prairie Park PTA is working with Just Food to help stock the food pantry located at the front of the school, all families are welcome to take from the shelves. Thank you to Courtney Nowak for helping coordinate this partnership with Just Food.

Thank you to everyone that helped donate food for the Parent Teacher Conferences in November. The teachers were appreciative of the generosity. Thank you to Jessica Wollesen for organizing.

**Spirit wear is in and should be delivered to all students that ordered. Thank you to those that ordered. Proceeds help purchase a t-shirt for incoming kindergarteners next year. Thank you to Zan Popp for working with Happy Shirt to create such a cool design.**

Are you interested in becoming more involved with Prairie Park PTA or coordinating some of the great events that PTA helps sponsor? We are looking for

parents/grandparents/family members to learn more about organizing some of these events as several of our members will be leaving us next year as their children transition to middle school. If you are interested in learning more about PTA, please attend a PTA meeting or email [prairieparkpta@gmail.com](mailto:prairieparkpta@gmail.com)



Please help with the PTA's Lend a Hand program that will give gifts of both a need and a want to 54 students and siblings this holiday season. Take a mitten from the big snowman by the library, fill the need, and leave the gift in the office unwrapped with the mitten attached by December 14. We appreciate your kindness and generosity. Thank you.

### **Lunch Account Reminders**

The district has started sending out emails about low or negative balances on your student's lunch account. Low balance reminders will go out once a week and negative balances will go out twice a week.