



Prairie News

C O L L E G E C O M M U N I T Y S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

Published four times a year so that citizens of the district may be informed about the programs and activities of the College Community Schools.

Aug.- Sept. 2002

Vol. 1 Issue 10

"To ensure quality learning today for tomorrow"

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How to Reach Us...

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September 10 School Election Critical to our Success—Voters asked to Renew the Existing Physical Plant and Equipment Levy

The College Community School Board is asking District voters to renew the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) for another ten years. This levy has been in effect for over 40 years and funds a variety of physical needs such as:

- School buses and vans each year
- Asphalt for the roads and parking lots
- Sidewalk repair and construction
- Fencing such as the new fence near Prairie Heights

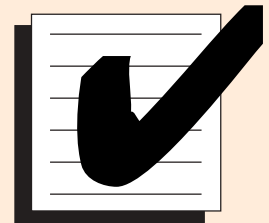
Maintenance and replacement on items such as boilers, roofs, air conditioning and more.

The current levy rate of \$1, of which \$ 0.67 needs to be approved by district voters, has allowed the district to maintain our facilities and plan for the future. The district has a Replacement and Maintenance Plan detailing when major work will be completed over the next ten years. This al-

lows us to ensure we are protecting your investment of valuable tax dollars.

Although state law allows school boards to propose PPEL rates as high as \$1.34, the College Community School Board felt a renewal was the best course of action. "Our voters have been supportive of our schools. We have been able to maintain our facilities and avoid deferred maintenance, which can leave school districts with tremendous structural and equipment needs. Because of this past support and proper management of the funds, there is no need to ask for an increase in the tax rate," explained Kris Ruprecht, Board President.

While there is no need for an increase, the vote for the renewal of the existing levy is critical for future maintenance. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, September 10, 2002.



Two Board Seats on the Ballot on September 10

The College Community School Board seats held by Mark Hunt, District #1, and Shirley Exline, At Large, will be on the ballot this September. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Mick Starcevich at 848-5201.

Instructional Leadership Key to Successful Schools

By: Mick Starcevich, Superintendent



Prairie principals, Dave Crisman, Ken Steine, and Ying Ying Chen, discuss instructional leadership and student achievement.

Gone are the days when a school principal focused on the logistics of the building and little else. Today's principals are instructional leaders who spend time with teachers and students to impact learning and student achievement. Each of our principals has embraced the idea of instructional leadership.

Over the summer I have had the opportunity to share several learning experiences with our principals and other administrators and it has been powerful. As a group we have been exploring where we are and where we are going. It has meant honest and open discussion on how we can better support learning for our students and our teachers.

We have learned from our colleagues' successes and failures. It is an awe inspiring

Ying Ying Chen to Assume Leadership of Prairie Ridge in 2003

During the July 15 College Community School Board meeting, it was announced that Ying Ying Chen would be reassigned from her current Principal position at Prairie Crest to the newest elementary—Prairie Ridge—next year. Chen joined College Community in 1995 when she assumed the principal position at Prairie Crest. Prior to her Prairie role, she was an elementary principal and a Curriculum and Instructional Supervisor in Wisconsin after many years as a classroom teacher.

"I am looking forward to our transition to Prairie Ridge. It will be an exciting time for the entire campus not just the families, students, and teachers moving to Ridge. Mrs.

Lanich, Mr. Brauhn and I are also excited to welcome a new principal to our elementary team as we plan for the transition of students and staff to a new school," Chen noted.

She added, "The transition will give the entire campus a chance to tap into all the rich experiences and different talents in our teaching staff and student body. In addition, we will take advantage of the greatly reduced class sizes in each of the elementary schools."

An interview committee consisting of administrators, teachers, and community members will interview candidates for the Prairie Crest Principal and announce the new principal on August 14. Visit www.prairiepride.org for the announcement.

District-wide Registration—August 5 & 6—New Location

This will be the first year registration will be held in the new high school study hall area. Remember to park on the south side of the high school, maps were included in the registration packets and are available at www.prairiepride.org.

Who: All College Community parents with school-age children

What: Registration for the 2002-03 school year

Where: High School Study Hall and Success Center (in the new addition near the tennis courts)

When: Noon to 8:00 PM on Monday, August 5 and Tuesday, August 6

How: You should have received a registration packet from your child's building recently

with the necessary paperwork or forms can be picked up during registration. The following forms should be completed and brought to registration:

- Registration Form
- Insurance Waiver Form
- Health Form
- Application of Free and Reduced Lunch, if applicable
- Reduced or Waiver of Fees Form, if applicable

Please note: Your final stop during registration will be the cashier. All payments will be made with one check.

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Prairie Pride

Reminders for Early Childhood Center Families

ECC staff will be at district registration on August 5 and 6 for anyone who has not returned the fall enrollment papers.

We will be closed the week of August 12 to prepare for the upcoming school year. Our open house will coincide with Prairie Crest's on August 15 from 4:30-6:00p.m. Please plan to attend and visit your child's classroom, meet the teachers, and receive necessary information.

All weather-related announcements on television or radio regarding the Early Childhood Center also include the program for school-age children.

Youth Soccer Kicks Off a New Year

College Community Youth Soccer—kindergarten through 8th grade—is gearing up for a new season. Games will begin the week of August 12. If your child did not get signed up and you are still interested, feel free to call Patti Jansa at 848-7559.

Articles for Prairie News

October 9 is the next deadline for articles for *Prairie News*. Please submit your articles to Community Relations.

The following are the copy and distribution deadlines:

Issue	Articles Due	Distribution
Nov./Dec.	October 9	Nov. 1
Feb./March	January 9	Feb. 1
May/June	April 9	May 1

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Serving the communities of Cedar Rapids, Ely, Fairfax, Shueyville, Swisher and Walford.

Published four times a year so that citizens of the district may be informed about the programs and activities of College Community Schools.

Board of Education meetings are held on third Monday of each month. District residents are invited to attend.

Board of Education: President—Kris Ruprecht, Vice President—Norm Zahradnik, Maggi Beitzel, Shirley Exline, Randy Bauer, Mark Hunt, Sandy Flatgard.

The College Community School District provides equal education and employment opportunities and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, marital status or disability. CCSD shall take affirmative action in recruitment of women and men, minorities and the disabled. Inquiries regarding compliance with equal educational or employment opportunities and/or affirmative action shall be directed to Alan D. Rowe, Equity Coordinator, College Community Schools, 401 76th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Inquiries may also be directed, in writing, to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in Des Moines, the Director of the Region VII office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, or the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education in Kansas City, Mo.

Transportation Tidbits

Back to school means back to buses for the College Community School District. After a short summer break (the transportation department transported over 400 students on 17 routes to summer school this year), the transportation department is putting the finishing touches on vehicles and bus routes in preparation for another record year.

“Each year, we transport more and more students as the district grows. Although our ridership grows each year, our focus remains the same—provide every student with a safe and enjoyable bus ride,” noted Scott Grabe, Director of Transportation. “In order to fulfill our mission, we need help from parents,” he added.

Remember to talk to your student(s) regarding the rules of the bus and your expectations for their behavior. In an effort to make this easier for you, all parents will receive a brochure with your bus route notification with complete information on proper bus behavior and the consequences of improper behavior.



Similar to last year, students will only be allowed to ride their assigned bus. If your child needs to switch bus routes due to childcare issues, please call the Transportation Office at 848-5204. Most of our buses are near capacity so we cannot accommodate requests for friends riding home on another friend's bus, groups (such as Brownies or Boy Scouts) riding on an alternate route for meetings, or other temporary changes.

“I get many phone calls each year asking why some students are picked up so early while others are dropped off so late. The answer is simple—double routes,” Scott Grabe explained. **With the increased demand on the transportation department many drivers run two routes each morning and afternoon.**

The double routes impact those areas, such as Swisher or Lincoln Way Village, which are relatively close to campus and have a large student population. In the morning the driver picks up the early route and drops the students at school as early as 7:45 and then heads back out to run a second route. In the afternoon, the first group is delivered home immediately following dismissal while the second route waits for the bus to return. Supervision is provided for students who are served by a double route.

“Last year when the Quality Council studied this issue it became clear that we needed to help people understand the double routing situation. Double routes are necessary to provide transportation to all our residents. But we still need parents help. Please do not drop your children off before 8:00 and always pick them up by 3:20. The before and after school supervision can only handle those students served by double routes,” Grabe added.

Student Fees Support Updated Textbooks

Each year at registration, parents write a check for Basic Supply Fees. The 2002-2003 fees are \$30 for the alternative kindergarten students, \$50 for K-5 students, and \$60 for the middle and high school students. These fees are critical and allow us to use current textbooks in our classrooms. The need is evident when you consider a single high school physics book costs \$65. Without student fees, we would be forced to use inadequate textbooks or to reduce student access to books.

Debbie Erenberger, Prairie High School Language Arts teacher, noted that student fees allow us to give every freshman the book, *Writers Inc*. “*Writers Inc* is a valuable resource. It provides students with detailed information with regard to the writing process, forms of writing (persuasive, creative, academic, research, literary response, workplace), tools of learning (study skills, reading skills, speaking skills, thinking skills, viewing skills, and information seeking skills), grammar skills, mechanics, and proofreading skills. Also included is information, maps, charts, and diagrams to be used in science, mathematics, geography, government, and history,” Erenberger added.

Making Headlines

Belated congratulations to **Lisa Walderbach**, freshman, and **Patrick Buckingham**, recent Prairie graduate, for receiving the Top Ten Terrific Teens award at the end of the 2001-02 school year. Both were honored for their outstanding community service.

Congratulations to **Kevin Brown**, third grade teacher at Prairie View, for being named the Iowa Wal-Mart teacher of the year last May. He will be competing for the National honor this fall.

Prairie Cheerleader Cheer Clinic

Back by popular demand is the after-school Cheer Clinic for k-5 students. Elementary students can sign up to attend a clinic on Wednesday, September 4 to learn cheers, which will be performed between the Sophomore and Varsity football games on Friday, September 6.

More information and sign up forms will be available at registration and when school starts.

Building Blocks—A Construction Update

Thanks to supportive College Community voters, the Prairie campus has been bustling with construction again this summer. Three projects are underway and two are nearing completion.

Prairie Heights and Prairie View additions are both on schedule and will be ready for students on the first day of classes. These additions include new classrooms as well as space for small group work.

The opening of the new additions will allow Heights and View to reclaim computer labs, storage space and other critical areas of the building when teachers and students move into their new “home.” A Community Open House will be scheduled later in the school year for district patrons to review their investment.

Prairie Ridge, the fourth elementary on campus, is on schedule to partially open in August 2003. A year from now when school begins six classrooms will start school in the new building while the remaining classes will occupy empty space in the other three buildings until late 2003 when the remainder of the building is completed. If you haven't driven on campus lately, stop by and check the progress.



Attention Parents of Soon-to-be 5th Graders

All students who will be interested in playing percussion (drums and bells) next summer as an incoming sixth grader need to have at least one year of piano lessons in order to be eligible. Contact Linda Bowton or Mike Davies at the Middle School for a list of area teachers.

Instructional Leadership Key to Successful Schools

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moment to sit in a room with talented educators and participate in a well-designed learning experience and be a part of honest and open conversations related to providing better instructional leadership.

The conversations spawned many important questions such as: How can I help teachers design more effective lessons? What is the most effective tool to evaluate teachers to ensure continual improvement? How do we help our teaching staff adapt to students' special needs? How can we be more effective? Definitely not breezy summer topics.

This summer's learning experiences have challenged myself, the principals, and other administrators to rethink, redesign and refocus our efforts to ensure instructional leadership is on the front of our minds. Yes, all of us still need to worry about getting kids through the lunch line, maintaining buildings, and many other routine tasks, but they are not our focus. Our focus is our mission—to ensure quality learning today for tomorrow.

I am excited for August when our outstanding teachers arrive on campus so they can add to our learning process. And for our students to arrive on August 19 ready to learn and to succeed with our help.



Prairie Crest Elementary

Calendar of Events August

- 5 Registration at the High School, 12:00-8:00 p.m.
- 6 Registration at the High School, 12:00-8:00 p.m.
- 15 Open House/Ice Cream Social, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- 19 1st Day of School - FULL day
- 29 PTO Fundraiser Kickoff

September

- 2 No School - Labor Day
- 5 Parent Information Night
K-2nd & ELP 6:00-6:45 p.m.
3rd - 5th 6:45-7:30 p.m.
- 10 School pictures taken
PTO meeting - 6:15 p.m.
- 11 PTO Fundraiser ends

October

- 7 No School - Teacher In-Service
- 8 No School - Teacher In-Service
- 15 Fall pictures - **retakes only**
- 15 PTO Umbrella Meeting @ Crest, 5:45-6:15
- 15 PTO Business Meeting, 6:15
- 17 PC at Play Station, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- 21-25 ITBS Testing
- 25 America Reads Day

Prairie Crest Guidelines For Success

The Prairie Crest Community has been using the following guidelines for the past two years. Both children and adults follow the same guidelines as we reflect our actions and behaviors.

- Trustworthiness - I will be honest, tell the truth and be a reliable person.
- Responsibility - I will put forth my best effort in my work and in my relationships.
- Respect - I will respect myself, respect others and respect property.
- Fairness - I will be patient and open-minded in accepting others.
- Citizenship - I will be a community helper and work cooperatively with others.
- Caring - I will be kind, helpful and giving toward others and the environment.

We will continue to use the guidelines in the new school year. By reviewing them with the community, we hope to transfer children's learning from school to other settings.

PTO Fundraiser

This year's fundraising activity will kick off on August 29th and end on September 11th. We have a great new fundraiser to offer this year. Please watch for the materials coming home during the kick off week.

Welcome to an Exciting New Year at Crest

By: Ying Ying Chen, Principal

Welcome to an exciting new school year at Prairie Crest Elementary. I am very enthused about the opening of the school year because each new year brings us new hopes, new ideas and new relationships. During the summer, I took a trip to Alaska with my entire family. It was definitely a breath-taking experience, and I learned a lot about geography and whales. Like all teachers do, I have plans to share my experience with children. I certainly added a few good non-fiction books to my "House Call" reading bag!

Another exciting summer activity for me was the visitations to the Kindergarten families. Other than a few scheduling conflicts; I was able to visit most of the incoming kindergarten children's homes. I truly loved the up close and personal contact with each family member. Thanks to all the Kindergarten parents for making the visits possible for me.

Looking ahead, we have planned many exciting events and programs for children and their families throughout the school year. Our school goal will continue to focus on improving student achievement. Our teachers will continue to engage in intensive learning through a project called Every Child Reads. **I won't be able to highlight all of the programs in this newsletter, so please come to the Parent Information Night set for September 5th for grade level/class specifics.**

Another school goal is to improve parental communication through multiple channels. All teachers will use either printed or web newsletters to communicate with you on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. We strongly believe that parents are children's most important teachers! We will continue to solicit your involvement and support throughout the year. Feel free to use the e-

mails, phone calls, notes and face-to-face conferences to keep in touch.

With two additional classes added to Prairie Crest, we are at our fullest capacity - 24 sections. Mrs. Kehoe (1st grade) and Mrs. Anderson's (3rd grade) classes will be housed in the portable building which is located on the east side of the school. Even though we will face some space issues, our class size is smaller. We are confident that our quality teachers will be creative enough to overcome all the space challenges.

Three new teachers and two paraprofessionals just joined us for the new year. They are:

Patrice Becicka - Mrs. Becicka will be the new 5th grade teacher. She has four years of teaching experience with the Benton school district. She just completed her master's degree last summer.

Amanda Tieskoetter - Mrs. Tieskoetter will be the first grade teacher. Serving as a Reading Specialist in the past year, she has an extensive background in early literacy instruction.

Lindsay Steding - Mrs. Steding will be our new Art teacher. She has taught Art for one year and has a passion for both children and artwork.

Anna Eiben and Lorna Marsden are the two new paraprofessionals with our special education department.

Please welcome them as you visit us on Open House Night, August 15.

If you have not visited our web site, www.prairiepride.org, you may want to do so. This year the parent and student handbook is available on the web. We continue to add more features and information to make the tool user-friendly.

Once again, on behalf of Prairie Crest staff, we welcome you to our school and we look forward to working with you and your children!

Crest PTO Welcomes You

The Crest PTO would like to welcome all families! Our PTO is a friendly, enthusiastic, dedicated group of volunteers who support our school, staff and children in many ways. Our mission is to build relationships that support teachers and parents and create enhanced opportunities for our children to become lifelong learners. You can make a difference in your child's education too by getting involved with PTO and learning what our school is all about. PTO is not just education, an important part of a child's life is making friends, working together and having fun doing it.

The PTO supports this by holding special events throughout the year including a Sock-Hop, Holiday Store and Fun Fair. These special events are not possible without the help of our parent and staff volunteers. There are many ways you can be involved with PTO activities that can fit into your schedule. Please join us this year at our meetings. Feel free to contact any of the following PTO officers if you have questions and comments:

- President: Cindy/Vance Scovel 846-8040 or scovelcm@crstlukes.com
- Vice President: Candace Kiekhaefer 848-7111 or candace.kiekhaefer@eds.com
- Secretary: Ann Carter anniec@direcway.com
- Treasurer: Kristie Fisher 848-5437 or kfisher@ccs.k12.ia.us
- Volunteer Coordinator: Cynthia Valenta 369-0877 or cmvalent@rockwellcollins.com

Help Us Help Your Children - SAVE

It has been said that another person's junk is someone else's treasure. We are asking you to save three items that you would ordinarily throw away...

Box Tops for Education - General Mills is offering cash to schools for specially marked General Mills Products. Cereal box tops with the education logo in pink will be worth 15 cents to the school, while General Mills non-cereal box tops with the education logo in green will be worth 10 cents to our school.

Labels For Education - Prairie Crest will continue the Labels for Education Program this year. We can obtain free equipment for our school by saving labels from Campbell's products. Save the labels or package parts from any of the following products: Campbell's Soup, V-8, Swanson, Franco-American, Recipe Dog Food, Prego, Mrs. Paul's Juice Works, and Vlasic Pickles.

We are not asking that you buy these products, but if you already buy them, please send the special box tops to school. We have a collection box in the hall by the office.

Empty Ink Cartridges - Another very successful fundraising activity has been the collection of used printer and fax cartridges. Instead of throwing these away, please send them to the school office to be recycled. If you are sending them with a child you may want to place them in a plastic bag to keep their hands and school bag clean.

Parent Information Night - Thursday, September 5

Last year, we did a survey about Parent Information Night. As educators, we have been puzzled about the attendance rate - somewhere between 55 - 65 %. In our mind, we would need to reach **at least 90% of the families, if not all of them.**

Why do we think this is one of the most important events of the year? It is because we convey the most detailed and teacher specific information on curriculum and instruction, behavior and homework expectations and home/school communication. For example, Kindergarten teachers will talk about how the children learn daily routines and how they communicate with the families. First grade teachers are most concerned about the Reading and beginning spelling programs because it is the most critical year to develop early language skills. Second grade teachers will build transitions from RAP to Accelerated Reading and math facts become a lot more important during this grade. The Third grade teachers will need to share the specific daily homework system and Light Span, the video reinforcement program used at home. The list goes on and on. Even if you had children in our school before, each teacher continues to revise their ways of teaching and communicating for better results. We rarely stay stagnant!

So here is our most sincere invitation and request. Please clear your calendar for September 5. **Put other activities, such as soccer games, to the side for just one day and join us for Parent Information Night.** We notice a big difference in children's performance and attitude toward schooling when we can reach you first hand.

- Early session 6:00-6:45 P.M.
grades K-2 and ELP
- Late session 6:45-7:30 P.M.
grades 3 - 5

Teachers in the early sessions will arrive at school by 5:30 and teachers in the later sessions will stay until 8:00 in case some parents have more than two teachers to visit.



Crest Picture Day

School pictures will be taken on Tuesday, Sept. 10th. Information will be sent home which describes photo packages that may be purchased. Parents are under no obligation to purchase any photographs. Retakes will be offered on October 15th.

Picking Up Your Children After School

With added parking spaces on the south parking lot, we are able to reserve more visitor parking spaces in front of the Crest building. Parents who plan to pick up children are asked to park their car and meet their children in the main office area. Please don't ask them to meet you at your car. We are concerned that only authorized people pick up students. We also worry about the heavy traffic in front of our school during dismissal time.

Parking, including waiting in the car, in front of the school building is not permitted. Help us to protect all children.



Prairie Heights Elementary

Calendar of Events

August

- 5Registration High School Study Hall 12:00 – 8:00
- 6Registration High School Study Hall 12:00 – 8:00
- 15Open House/Ice Cream Social Prairie Heights 5:30 –7:00
- 19First Day of School 3:10 Dismissal

September

- 2No School – Labor Day
- 10School Picture Day

PTO Ice Cream Social/Open House

Thursday, August 15 at 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to the Prairie Heights PTO for once again sponsoring a "Welcome to the New School Year" event! On August 15, our grounds and hallways will be filled with happy and excited students and their parents enjoying great ice cream and conversation. Prairie Heights Open House is held at the same time to allow students to find their new classroom, locker, and meet their new teacher. The students may also bring their school supplies so they don't have to carry them on the bus the first day of school. We appreciate our active and supportive Prairie Heights PTO!

Heights PTO

The PTO meetings are held at 6:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Feel free to contact any of the following PTO officers if you have questions and comments.

- Co-President – Judy Eilers 848-4466
- Co-President – Margo Grolmus 857-5208
- Secretary – Audra Burns 364-8835
- Treasurer – Molly Lee 846-2641

School Pictures– Tuesday, September 10

School pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 10. All students will have their pictures taken for a classroom composite. Each student will receive a composite free. Information will be sent home the end of August describing the photo packages available for purchase.

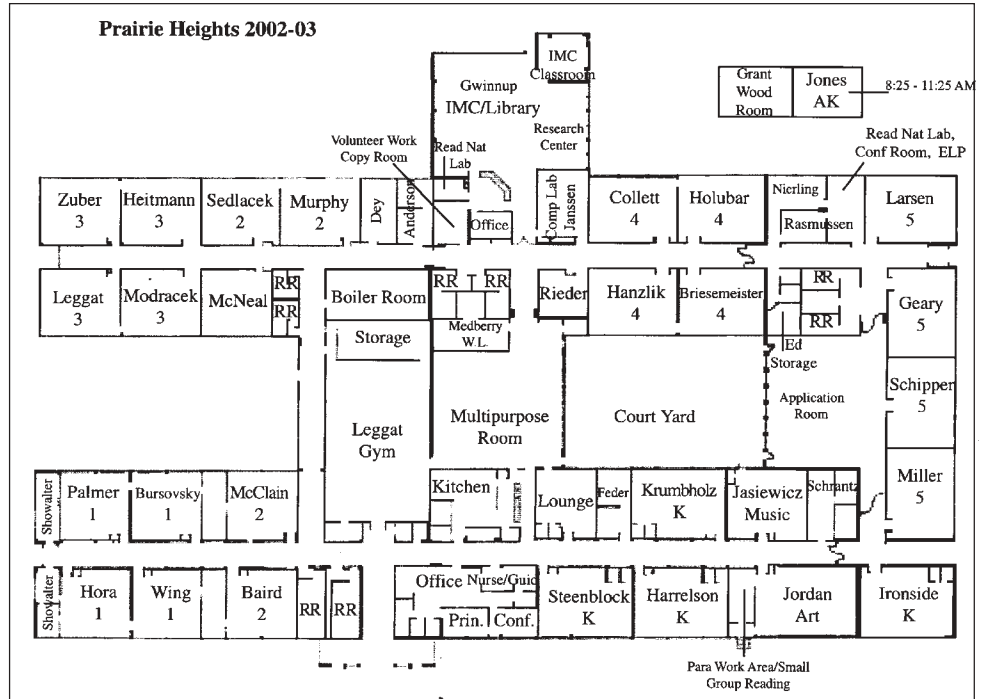
Welcome to the 2002-2003 school year!

By: Dave Brauhn, Principal

Prairie Heights is on the threshold of an exciting and productive new school year. This past year's data demonstrated evidence of significant progress. We are committed to improving on those results. Our school wide goal is to improve all students' ability to understand informative text and use expository writing. Our building leadership team will continue to analyze data and make decisions in our school-wide effort to improve student achievement.

I am pleased to report that our **new construction** has been completed and we expect to have full use of this exciting addition to our Prairie Heights building. As you face Prairie Heights looking north, you will notice that the east end of our building is much closer to the playground. The new construction includes a kindergarten classroom, four fifth grade classrooms, learning strategist/ELP classroom, basic skills strategist classroom, restrooms, a large conference room, storage room, and a large applications area classroom. We now have an enclosed courtyard surrounded by classrooms and the cafeteria. There are many ideas being considered on how to use this showcase area such as a raised garden project and picnic tables.

This will be our second year of **World Language**, Spanish, education. All students were given foundation skills in learning Spanish. By the happy sounds of "Uno, Dos, Tres" songs and focused involvement using this second language, it was a great success. Previously, Mrs. Medberry, our world language teacher, pushed a cart filled with instructional materials from classroom to classroom. This year world language class will have a classroom of its own.



I'm also pleased to announce that last year's **computer lab** on a cart will be moved **back to its own classroom**. This should facilitate more efficient computer instruction. (I'm sure Mrs. Janssen will not miss pushing the 300-pound computer cart from room to room).

We are pleased to announce **three new staff members** for 2002-2003. **Ms. Kim Bursovsky** will join our first grade team. She is a familiar face as she did her student teaching at Prairie Heights last year, and was a long-term teacher substitute in the first grade this year for six weeks. Ms. Bursovsky is a recent graduate of Mount Mercy College.

Mr. Scott Leggat will be our new Physical Education teacher. He is a veteran teacher from Arizona and has taught most recently at Williamsburg Schools. Mr. Leggat is a graduate of East Lansing University in Ypsalanti, Michigan.

Mrs. Doreen Jones will teach Alternative Kindergarten at Prairie Heights. She comes to us from Prairie Crest Elementary School, where she taught Alternative Kindergarten for the past three years. She is a graduate of Mount Mercy College and a veteran teacher of seven years. The Alternative Kindergarten program formerly housed at Prairie Crest has been moved to Prairie Heights.

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Student Supervision Before/After School Guidelines: Parents Plan Accordingly

Supervision is not provided for students who arrive at school before 8:00 a.m. or stay after 3:20 p.m. except for students riding on combined (or double) bus routes. **Students should not be dropped off before 8:00 a.m. and should be picked up by 3:20 p.m.** If there is a special circumstance and a student has to come early on occasion, parents should check with the office to make arrangements. Only those students attending extended day programming should arrive before 8:00 and leave after 3:20. **Otherwise, families should follow these time lines or have your children registered for before or after school day care.** The before and after school program at College Community is the Early Childhood Center Daycare. They can be reached at 848-5295.

Plans For Success 4 – School Learning Climate

Students need to feel safe and be safe as they take on more and more challenging learning. Good classroom management skills and implementation are keys to reaching high achievement goals. To ensure that both these critical attributes are in place, our IBI team of teachers, paraprofessionals and parents will implement the following during 2002-03.

- Hallway Management System
- Common Area Posters/Expectations
- Character Education/Monthly Themes
- Behavior Management System (3 levels)
- S.O.S. (Save One Student)
- Mentoring Program
- Daily positive behavior expectations (intercom morning message)
- Orientation Video
- Helping Hands
- Projects/Service Learning
- "Don't Laugh at Me" principal orientation
- Morning greeting to every student by classroom teacher
- Start/Stop/Follow Through student plans
- Study Groups/Book Clubs
- Parent and Student Surveys
- Fall/Spring "Parent Pledge" feedback survey
- Developmental Recess –
- Social Skills on the playground

Collect Items – Help Our School

Labels for Education

For several years Prairie Heights has participated in the Campbell Soup Program. By collecting labels, we can receive free equipment for our school. Please save labels from the following products: Campbell's Soups, Campbell's Beans, V8 Vegetable Juice, Franco-American Products, Campbell's Fresh Products, Pepperidge Farm Cookies/Crackers/Bakery, Vlasic Pickle Products, Campbell's Tomato Juice, Swanson Canned & Frozen Food, All Prego Spaghetti Sauce, Prego Frozen Entrees, Mrs. Paul's Frozen Foods and Campbell's Juice Bowl Juices.

Box Tops for Education

General Mills offers cash to schools for specially marked General Mills products. If you purchase cereal with the education logo on them, please cut out the logo and send it to school.

Printer and Fax Cartridges

We will again be collecting used printer and fax cartridges to be recycled. This has been a very successful fundraiser.

Pop Can Tabs

We will be supporting the Ronald McDonald House by collecting pop can tabs again this year.

All of the above items can be brought to the Prairie Heights office. Thank you for participating.



Visit College Community School District

home page:
www.prairiepride.org



Prairie View Elementary

Newsletter Calendar

August

- 5 & 6 Registration - Noon - 8:00 p.m.
- 7-13 New teacher induction
- 14 & 15 .. Teacher workshop
- 15 P.V. Open House 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- 19 First Day of School

September

- 2 No School - Labor Day
- 5 2nd Grade Parent Night - 5:30-6:30
- 5 3rd Grade Parent Night - 6:00-7:00
- 9 K & 1st Grade Parent Night - 5:30-6:30
- 10 School Pictures
- 10 P.T.O. Meeting - 5:45 Umbrella - 6:15 Business meeting
- 12 4th & 5th Grade Parent Night - 5:30-6:30
- 12 P.V. at Playstation 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Prairie View Belief Statement

Prairie View students and staff developed the following belief statement. We use these guidelines to help create a school environment where students feel safe and develop attitudes and skills that support life-long learning.

At Prairie View, we believe in:
 respect for people and property
 safety for everyone
 responsibility and teamwork
 quality in all we do

The students and staff of Prairie View have also developed a school-wide behavior plan centered upon these beliefs. A copy of this plan will be sent home with your child the first day of school.

School Pictures

School pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 10. All students will have their picture taken for a classroom composite, which each child will receive free. Information will be sent home which describes photo packages that may be purchased. Parents are under no obligation to purchase any photographs.

Principal's Corner

By: Laurene Lanich, Principal

This has been quite a summer. You may have noticed the tremendous progress that has been made on our new addition to our school. The construction workers have been working diligently to see that our addition will be ready for students and teachers in August. The custodians have been working hard to clean up all of the classrooms as well as the fine dust that has settled on everything due to the construction. When all is done, we will have a beautiful addition to our school.

We are planning to have a celebration of the new addition later in the fall when all work has been completed. Because of this, our Open House, which is scheduled for August 15 will have a different look this school year. Open House this fall will be from 3:30-6:30 p.m. There will be no meal served which is something that we have done in the past on Open House Night. We will save this for our celebration of the new addition. Open House this school year will allow you and your child the opportunity to find his/her classroom, meet the teacher, sign up for first trimester conferences and deliver school supplies. Almost every teacher has moved to a new room this year. You will receive a map of our building indicating where classes are located in your registration packet. Information about our school celebration will be coming to you

once plans and the date have been finalized.

Along with the changes that occur with new construction, we have other changes in our building as well. We have two new first grade teachers joining us this year. This is due to Mrs. Capp's retirement and Tracy Laue moving to the position of Basic Skills Teacher. Our new teachers are Amy Goodman and Eric Kauder. Amy will be a first year teacher who graduated in May from the University of Northern Iowa. Eric most recently taught second grade at a local parochial school. Both individuals are energetic and excited about joining our Prairie View school community. We are fortunate to have both of them joining us and we look forward to working with them this coming school year.

We are implementing a new district-wide practice this school year. Each building has a site on our district web site. Under each building site, parents will be able to access all student handbooks for review. We will not be providing hardcopies of our school handbooks unless you request a copy at registration. Please be sure to review all handbooks either in the hardcopy format or on the web prior to your child beginning school this year.

The Prairie View staff works extremely hard to meet the individual needs of our students. We are committed to providing a quality instructional program that aligns

with best practices as well as each student's individual learning style. Just as our students are expected to be high performing learners our teachers are expected to be this as well. Teacher staff development is entirely focused on how to become better teachers and use instructional practices that have results for our learners. Research shows that what impacts student achievement most is the quality of the teacher and parental involvement in a child's education. Therefore, teachers will be involved in focused staff development this school year learning and implementing research-based best practice instruction through our second year of the "Every Child Reads" initiative. Assessment data from this past school year indicated student achievement growth, specifically in reading. Our vision is that this growth will continue so that every child in our school will be a successful learner. Secondly, we ask you as parents to continue to be involved and concerned about your child's education. Open communication with the school and working with your child each evening either by listening to your child read or reading to your child will help us to meet our vision for our students.

Enjoy the rest of the summer with your children. We look forward to working collaboratively with you this school year. Please stop by or call with any questions you may have for your child's teacher or myself. It's going to be a great year!

Fundraising Facts

Cartridge Donations

A very successful fundraising activity has been the collection of used printer and fax cartridges. Rather than throw these away, please bring them to school to be recycled. Last school year we were able to purchase over \$600 worth of computer software through the funds raised by donated cartridges. **THANKS to all that participated!** Please call the school if you have further questions about this.

Box Tops for Education

General Mills is offering cash to schools for specially marked General Mills products. Cereal box tops with the education logo in pink will be worth 15 cents to the school while General Mills non-cereal box tops with the education logo in green will be worth 10 cents to our school.

We are not suggesting that you buy these products but, if you do, please send the special box tops to school. We have a collection box inside our school entryway for the box tops.

Labels for Education

Save those food labels for education! Prairie View will continue the "Labels for Education Program" to obtain free equipment for our school. Save the labels or package parts from any of the following products: Campbell's Soup, V-8, Swanson, Franco-American, Recipe Dog Food, Prego, Mrs. Paul's Juice Works, and Vlasic Pickles.

Collection boxes are available inside the entryway to the office as well as in each classroom. You may send these labels to school at any time. We are not promoting these products. We ask only that you contribute your labels and those from friends and relatives from products you normally buy.

Parent Information Nights

Each year we schedule Parent Information Night for families. These are important sessions for parents to attend. Last school year we asked for input from parents as to whether they attended these information nights. Many parents indicated that they did not attend because of prior commitments. We are providing you dates so you can get them on your calendars early.

Second and third grade Parent Information Night is September 5. Second grade session is 5:30-6:30 and the third grade session is 6:00-7:00. September 9 is Parent Night for kindergarten and first grade from 5:30-6:30. Fourth and fifth grade Parent Night is September 12 from 5:30-6:30. Please plan to attend. Our P.T.O. will provide babysitting. Teachers will be sharing information about our newly developed curriculum standards, classroom and homework expectations, and expectations for school behavior.

Picking Up Your Child After School

Meet your child in the front office area to avoid blocking the halls as our students are exiting the building.

Students will not be allowed to wait outside for their ride. This is for their safety.

Please be prompt in picking up your child at the 3:20 dismissal time. We **do not** have supervision after 3:30 each day. If an emergency requires you to pick up your child past 3:20 please call the office to let us know about your delay.

Only authorized individuals should pick up students from school. If there is going to be

a change as to who will be picking up your child, please inform the office of this change and duration for these alternate plans. This will help us to protect your children.

Please park so that buses can load in the area near the front door. Please do not park in the designated handicapped area or bus parking area. Again, this is a safety precaution for our students.

Please remind your children that when they are walking to the buses that they must stay on the sidewalk at all times.

PTO News

The Prairie View PTO would like to invite all parents to get involved in PTO. At the final meeting in 2001/2002, we elected our new officers. The officers are: Ms. Ellen Ramsey-Kacena, President; Ms. Susan Gillen, Vice President; Ms. Kim Smith, Treasurer; Ms. Dawn Foss, Secretary; and Ms. Kim Kacena, Public Relations. We are still looking for someone to act as a Shadow Treasurer and a Volunteer Coordinator. Julie Farmer has agreed to serve as interim Volunteer Coordinator.

The PTO meets the second Tuesday of every month throughout the school year, except December. A reminder notice will be sent out a week prior to each meeting. In the fall, we will be putting together a Prairie View Cookbook. Each student will

have an opportunity to have a recipe in the book. We will also have each grade do something special to leave their "mark" on the cookbook. We hope to have them printed in time for the holidays. We are also excited about our new fundraising organization. This year we will be partnering with Innisbrook. Innisbrook has an exciting kick off planned for the kids in September. After the fundraiser (and during the fundraiser for those far away friends and relatives), we can continue to order products online! Prairie View will continue to receive credit for those sales.

We hope to see you at the first meeting on September 10, 2002.

Ellen Ramsey-Kacena, PTO President



Prairie Middle School

In the "Middle" August

- 5 Registration in the High School Study Hall from noon - 8:00 pm
- 6 Registration in the High School Study Hall from noon - 8:00 pm
- 12 6th Grade Orientation at PMS:
Orange Team - 3:00 pm
Black Team - 4:30 pm
- 13 6th Grade Orientation at PMS:
Either Team - 4:00 pm
Orange Team - 6:00 pm
Black Team - 7:30 pm
- 15 New Student Orientation at PMS - 4:00 pm
- 19 First day of school - 3:20 pm dismissal
- 26 Practice begins: 7/8 Football, 7/8 Volleyball, 7/8 Boys Tennis
- 22 6th Grade Parent Information Night - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- 26 7th Grade Parent Information Night - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- 27 8th Grade Parent Information Night - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

September

- 2 Labor Day - No School!
- 4-6 6th grade Cognitive Abilities Tests
- 5 Magazine Sale - Kick Off!!
Boys Tennis I (H) II (T) Taft 3:45 pm
- 10 First Magazine turn in day!!
Boys Tennis I (T) II (H) Wilson 3:45 pm
7th Football (HWT) (H) I.C. SE Red at 4:15 pm
7th Football (LWT) (T) I.C. SE Red at 4:15 pm
Volleyball 7th (T) 8th (H) I.C. NW Green 3:30 pm
- 13 Second Magazine turn in day!!
Boys Tennis I (H) II (T) Roosevelt 3:45 pm
- 17 Final Magazine turn in day!!
PATT meeting at 6:30 pm
7th Football (LWT) (H) Linn MarRed at 4:15 pm
Volleyball 7th (H) 8th (T) I.C. NW Gold 3:30 pm
Boys Tennis I (T) II (H) Linn Mar 3:45 pm
- 19 6th Grade to Care Centers
8th Football (H) Taft at 3:45 pm
Volleyball 7th (H) 8th (T) I.C. SE White 3:30 pm
- 23 Picture Day!! SMILE!!
7th Football (HWT) (T) I.C. NW Green at 4:15 pm
- 24 7th Football (LWT) (H) I.C. NW Green at 4:15 pm
Boys Tennis I (H) II (T) Franklin 3:45 pm
Volleyball 7th (T) 8th (H) Regis 3:30 pm
Washington DC Parent meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 26 Washington DC Pizza & Pie Fundraiser
8th Football (T) I.C. SE White at 3:45 pm
Volleyball 7th (T) 8th (H) I.C. SE Red 3:30 pm
- 30 7th Football (HWT) (T) I.C. SE White at 4:15 pm
Boys Tennis I (T) II (H) McKinley 3:45 pm
Volleyball 7th (T) 8th (H) Wilson 3:30 pm

Prairie Middle School Takes Steps To Increase Student Achievement

By: Greg Leytem, Associate Principal

Prairie Middle School will be initiating a new policy this year aimed at improving student achievement and accountability. This policy requires that students, who wish to participate in co and extra curricular activities, first be performing satisfactorily in their classes.

This initiative was brought about as an attempt to raise student awareness and achievement, which has suffered as a result of student apathy toward grades and a general feeling, by some, that grades have little or no importance, thus resulting in lower student responsibility and achievement. By placing greater value on doing passing class work, we hope to motivate students who wish to be involved in additional activities and athletics to apply themselves academically. We want our students to understand that their number one priority is to perform at the highest academic level possible. They must also realize that letter grades are the teacher's means of communicating the student's level of proficiency

in course standards to the student and parent/guardian.

Grade level teams of teachers will conduct regular (every three weeks) academic reviews of students participating in co/extra curricular activities (all athletics, jazz bands, and show choirs) to determine academic eligibility (which is defined as no failing grades). A one-week grace period will be provided for students to regain their eligibility. If the student does not achieve a passing grade within the week grace period, they will remain ineligible until the next academic review, at which time their eligibility will be reviewed again. Ineligible students are still required to practice or rehearse, but they will not be allowed to compete or perform until they become eligible again.

Prairie Middle School staff will be ready to help all students who are falling behind in their class work, whether they are participating in co and extra curricular activities or not. In addition to continual reminders to students of their academic responsibility,

teachers will also have the option of temporarily removing students from study hall, physical education, band and choir, every other day to concentrate on their areas of deficiency. Another option will be regular extended day participation for skill classes and tutoring. Also, temporary removal of students from athletic practices, jazz band or choir rehearsals may also be exercised. All of these measures are an effort to raise students' achievement levels, and avoid a student being declared "ineligible"

The goal of Prairie Middle School is to best prepare our students for high school and beyond. We believe that successful student achievement in their classwork as well as their healthy participation in a variety of co and extra curricular activities will help make this goal become a reality. Finally, we know that parent/guardian support and involvement in their student's education is a key factor in improving student achievement. Please support us in this initiative to better prepare our students for their future by reinforcing the need to be responsible and conscientious students.

Cognitive Abilities Testing for 6th Graders

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, September 4, 5, and 6, all 6th graders at the Middle School will be taking the Cognitive Abilities Tests (CogAT). This is a battery of tests that assesses a student's ability in verbal, non-verbal, and quantitative reasoning. The tests differ from ITBS and ALT which are achievement tests designed to measure how much a student has learned. CogATs, on the other hand, assess a student's ability to learn.

The results of the tests give Middle School staff important information about students which can be used, with other assessments, to determine if a student needs extra help in an academic area or if a student could benefit from extended learning opportunities. 6th grade teachers will give specific information to the students about testing times and places. They should be encouraged to do their best.

District Basic Skills Tests

During the school week beginning October 21, Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) will be administered. In the Middle School, testing will take place each morning from Monday through Thursday, October 21 through 24, beginning at 8:30. When testing ends at 10:20, students will proceed to their regular classes which will meet on an abbreviated schedule. (Make-up tests will be given on October 25 and during the following week. However, if you know ahead of time that your child will miss any part of testing, please notify Mrs. Sullivan at 848-5326.)

ITBS tests give students, parents, and

teachers a picture of overall achievement from year to year. The National Grade Equivalent (NGE) is one score that is reported. Ideally, this score should grow one full grade per school year. Another important score is the National Percentile Rank (NPR). This shows where a student ranks with all others in his grade. It does not necessarily change each year, but should at least be maintained from year to year.

ITBS scores are never used alone to make any changes in a student's class placement. The scores do help teachers determine what methods, aids, or accommodations might benefit students.

TIP Award Winners

On June 5, six seventh grade students were honored by Duke University through the Talent Identification Program. These are students who scored exceptionally well on either the ACT or SAT tests. Cornell College hosted the event, which included a recognition ceremony and reception.

Students honored by Duke University are the following: Spencer Hinker-Garlinghouse, Colin Hoover, Logan Jewett, David Droessler, Natashia Pierce, and Jacob Grabe.

Congratulations to these fine students! Students and parents interested in finding out more about Duke University's "TIP" program should contact Lori Danker.

Chess Tournament

Prairie Middle School's annual chess tournament was held this spring. Twenty-eight students participated in grades 6-8. Our chess champion this year is eighth grader Josh Sevcik. Our runner-up is seventh grader Rachael Hyland. All students received sportsmanship medals for their positive participation. Congratulations to Josh, Rachael, and all students who participated!

Any students in grades 6-8 may participate in the chess tournament each spring. You do not need to be members of the chess club. The chess club meets throughout the school year during extended day. All students are welcome, whether you are a competitive chess expert, just like to play for fun, or are new to the game. Please see Mrs. Danker for details.

Lost & Found

As we enter into a new school year, we need your help in cutting back on the number of "Lost & Found" items in the office. Last year we "collected" 20 pair of blue jeans, 40 winter coats, 30 pair of athletic shoes, 7 pair of regular shoes, 50 pair of shorts, 20 pair of sweatpants, 5 purses, 4 backpacks, 4 belts, 60 T-shirts, 50 sweatshirts, 3 boxes full of gloves, mittens, and winter hats. There were also many other miscellaneous items including watches, calculators, jewelry, stuffed animals, pillows and sleeping bags. These items have been donated to shelters and Goodwill.

There are things that can be done to greatly reduce our "inventory" of found items. First of all, if you could please put (at least) a last name somewhere on all articles of clothing and anything else that is brought to school. We would then have something to go on when it is turned in at the office. Also, please be sure that anything that your child says was lost or stolen is reported to the office. Many times something is left in one location and the student is just sure they had it somewhere else. There again, identification on the item is helpful in returning the item to the rightful owner. Please try to question your child if they are missing something and encourage them to ask if it has been turned in. Every effort is made to return lost items and your help is greatly appreciated. Thanks!

Fall Volleyball

7th and 8th grade volleyball will be played in the fall this year. Practice will start on August 26th so please get physicals before then. Physicals are good for one calendar year. Uniform consists of plain black shorts (you supply), T-shirt with numerals (you pay for in the fall, first week of school, approximately \$10.00) and kneepads. Players cannot participate without physical and insurance release. If you have questions, please call the MS office at 848 - 5310. Thank you. PMS Coaching Staff.

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Prairie High School

Important Dates for Prairie High School

August

- 5-9 Band Camp
Football Camp
- 5 & 6 Registration High School Study Hall Area **12:00-8:00 p.m.**
- 14 Football Practice begins
- 15 Freshmen Parent/Student Lock In 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- 19 **First Day of School 8:20 am. – 3:20 p.m.**
- 19 Practice Begins:
Cross Country, Girls Swimming, Volleyball, Boys Golf
- 30 Soda Bowl: Fresh vs Soph 5:30 p.m. Varsity 6:45 p.m.
- 31 & 1 Ambassador Camp

September

- 2 NO SCHOOL
- 12 Music Mtg Band Room 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Picture Retakes 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- 20 Homecoming Football Game
- 21 Homecoming Dance
- 23 Open House
- 27 6 Weeks Ends

New / Emerging Courses for 2002-2003

- Art IV
 - Art of Photography II
 - Broadcasting – TV studio (Hawks Nest)
 - Ceramics III
 - Health and Life Activities (revision to include health focus)
 - Introduction to Information Technology
 - Pre-Algebra
 - Spanish Conversation & Culture 2
 - Unix / Linux 1 & 2
(replaces programming 3 & 4)
- Contact the Guidance Office if you need more information.

No Supply List, No Problem

The High School requirement for supplies is dependent on the classes scheduled for your student. At registration or Lock-in your student takes their schedule to the School Store and purchases required workbooks, rulers, calculators etc. Our School Store also sells, at extremely low prices, the basic pens, pencils, lined paper and more. Your student by this age has preferences of their own so other than the required class materials there would not be any other required supplies.

Critical Policy Change

By: Ken Steine, Principal

On behalf of the entire PHS faculty and staff I would like to welcome all parents and students to the 2002-03 school year. Prairie High School is a great high school because of the dedicated and talented faculty and staff that work with the finest students and families in the state of Iowa. Each year new initiatives and innovations are designed and implemented by the high school to ensure quality learning today for tomorrow. Last year the high school faculty expressed concerns about the growing problem of cheating and plagiarism. The following policy will be implemented in the 2002-03 school year. As a parent we need your help. Read the policy and help your son or daughter “do their own work”.

Prairie High School Academic Integrity Policy

The faculty of Prairie High School believes all students must demonstrate honest and ethical behavior. Academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism involves an attempt by the student to present another’s work as his or her own.

Because the faculty understands that not all plagiarism or cheating is intentional, every student at PHS will be expected to attend training sessions to help them learn how to recognize and avoid plagiarism. These sessions will be designed to teach students about intellectual property rights, including instruction in (1) quoting with correct citations, (2) paraphrasing with integrity and documenting the source, and (3) extracting meaning and summarizing passages in their own words, again with credit to the source. On the completion of this training, all students will be required to sign an agreement stating their understanding that cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated at PHS.

Cheating/plagiarism includes but is not necessarily limited to:

Copying or sharing assignments

Copying or giving an assignment to a

student to be copied, unless specifically permitted or required by the teacher
Submitting another student’s work as your own unless permitted specifically by your teacher

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using the exact words, a close paraphrase, or a unique idea from someone else’s writing, regardless of whether that writing has been published or not.

Submission of any work that is not the student’s own

Cheating on exams or on major projects

Use of unauthorized material including textbooks, notes, calculators, or computer programs during an examination or on a major project

Supplying or communicating in any way unauthorized material including textbooks, notes, calculators, or computer programs during an examination or on a major project

Unauthorized access to an exam or answers to an exam

Consequences of cheating or plagiarism:

Any freshman or sophomore student caught cheating or plagiarizing on schoolwork may receive a failing score for the assignment in question.

Any junior or senior student caught cheating or plagiarizing on schoolwork will receive a failing score and may be dropped from the class with loss of credit and/or may be suspended from school for a designated period of time.

Any student cooperating in a situation involving cheating or plagiarism is subject to the same consequences.

Parents or guardians will be notified in cases where cheating or plagiarism is discovered.

A conference may be required between the administration and the student found to be cheating.


Do We Have A Dress Code at Prairie High School?

By: Dan Bubon, Associate Principal and Director of Student Services

As the start of the school year approaches, it is important to answer that question as well as review the policy as stated in the Student Handbook that is printed in the 2002-2003 Agendas and within our district web site at www.prairiepride.org. **The answer is “Yes”; we do have a dress code.** If a student’s dress is deemed disruptive to the learning environment they may be asked to change or be sent home. Clothing that promotes or contains slogans related to drugs, alcohol, sex, gang activity or that is demeaning to others and disrupts the learning environment will not be tolerated. Other parameters regarding student dress are detailed in the ‘Student Dress’ section of the handbook.

School administrators have been given the charge of maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning. While students do not leave their constitutional rights behind as they walk through the school doors, they are expected to dress in a manner that is consistent with the school’s educational mission.

The high school administration will be evaluating student dress during the first semester of the 2002-2003 school year. We will hope to gather enough information to draw reasonable conclusions on what direction we need to go at Prairie High School in regards to student dress. This is an issue that involves both sexes whether it is exposed midriff or pants that are falling off from behind. We are asking students and parents to use good judgment in the attire that is worn to school. It is our hope that parents and students can make the present dress code work. We are prepared to re-evaluate our present position on this matter if we do not get the cooperation of students and parents alike.



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Late Arrival - Early Release: Attention parents and students

By: Dan Bubon, Associate Principal and Director of Student Services

Those juniors who have met the criteria established last school year and all seniors will be eligible for late arrival, open lunch and early release on the first day of school if his form is dropped off at the high school office or mailed as soon as a parent signature is obtained.

Failure to turn this form in, before or at the time of registration, will jeopardize your ability to leave school during the first and second weeks of school. Leaving school before this form has been processed will be considered insubordination and dealt with accordingly.

Freshman Lock In — August 15, 2002— 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

The class of 2006 (Parents & Students) are invited to the 24th annual PHS Lock In on August 15 from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. The purpose of the Lock In is to:

- Have parents meet their student’s advisor
- Learn about the programs, activities, and expectations at PHS
- Walk through the school and meet all the teachers, guidance counselors and administrators
- Find lockers
- Prepare for the first day (August 19)
- Enjoy a dance
- Eat free pizza
- Talk with classmates

Schedule for August 15

- 7:00 Orientation in the auditorium
- 7:30 Visit with advisor, receive schedule and locker assignment
- 8:15 Parents and Students walk through building & class schedule
- 9:30 Parents attend sessions in Student Life area (Study Hall)
- Students attend Dance in the N. gym/pizza party
- 11:00 Evaluation - Lock In Ends

Marching Orders

By: Craig T. Aune, Director of Bands and Jeff Schafer, Assistant Director

Summer Band Camp

The 18th Annual Summer Band Camp will be held from Monday, August 5 through Friday, August 16.

Only those members of the Band or Color Guard who will be freshmen, or who are new to our marching band or color guard program should report on Monday, August 5.

The first rehearsal for full band and color guard will be Tuesday, August 6th!!

Please be advised that attendance at all Marching Band Summer Camp rehearsals and sectionals is required for all members of the Band and Color Guard! Calendars are provided now so students can plan their fall schedules accordingly. If you have a job, be sure your employer receives a copy of the calendar and is aware of your required rehearsal times! In order to assure quality performances we need this time desperately to learn the music and the drill.

If another school activity conflicts di-

continued on page 8

Additional School News

Prairie Crest, continued from page 3

Prairie Crest Partnership Team (PCPT)

Do you remember your first year joining the Prairie Crest Family? Did you feel somewhat lonely and lost? Have you ever wondered about what the school acronyms mean? Would you like to talk to a trusting community friend before you talk to any school staff?

We know how hard it can be when anyone joins a new environment. Therefore, a group of parents joined the staff to form a partnership team called PCPT. Our main goal is to create an open communication between school and home and to bring the best service possible to all children and families. During the past two years, PCPT has accomplished the following:

- Formed a calling tree to promote Parent Information Night.
- Studied the Parent Information Night Survey results for strategic planning.
- Matched the PCPT parents with new families. All new families received at least a written and a telephone contact

through the buddy families.

Assigned PCPT members to be contact persons for all school programs and activities in case any family has questions about them.

Reviewed school climate and school behavior expectations.

Surveyed parents and staff for ideas on continuous improvement.

We have received great feedback from both the team members and the new families. We encourage you to tap into the service provided by PCPT. Feel free to call the school for a flyer about the contact numbers. The handout will be distributed at many school-wide events and activities. If you wish to join this team, we would love to include you. We meet approximately three times a year. The time commitment is limited, but the reward is outstanding. Please call or e-mail Mrs. Chen if you are interested in joining the PCPT team.

Prairie Heights, continued from page 4

Welcome to the 2002-2003 school year!

Other changes in our building for next year include adding a new fifth grade classroom. Mrs. Cory Miller, former first grade teacher, will teach that class. Third grade will have a familiar face joining that team. Mrs. Fran Zuber, formerly our Physical Education teacher, will be teaching third grade next year. Mrs. Conner moved to Des Moines.

Prairie Heights is now in its second year of a school-wide reading comprehension initiative called "Every Child Reads II". This action research model formed the reading instruction framework for all three elementary schools this past year. ECR II is in its third year in Iowa schools and indicates a track record of making a significant difference in the reading achievement levels of K-5 students. We will continue to use the research-based strategies of Read Aloud, Think Aloud, Talk Aloud and Composing Think Alouds (writing). We will integrate the Picture Word Induction Model (PWIM) and Explicit Instruction in all curricular areas. This past June, all three Prairie elementary schools were invited to make a presentation at a state conference in Des Moines in which we shared our experience of all teachers in Prairie elementary schools implementing the action-researched strategies.

Prairie Heights Elementary School is becoming more "on-line". More and more teachers are creating classroom web sites and/or newsletters. This past year many parents enjoyed visiting the web site of their child's classroom. In 2002-2003, each teacher will be communicating with parents at least twice a month either electronically on computer or through hard copy. Look for new items on the Prairie Heights web

site. We are adding new items and links that will inform and update you. You can access our school web site through www.prairiepride.org.

Prairie Heights has many resources to help your child succeed. We will continue to develop the Solution-Focused Process (SFP) to address students with special needs. We expect this new special education delivery system to improve our ability to meet students' needs in the classroom. Prairie Heights is fortunate to have the resources of five special education classrooms and a total teaching staff committed to helping all children succeed.

We expect to have a record number of children attend Prairie Heights in 2002-2003. We will have four sections of each grade level, K through 5, and one section of Alternative Kindergarten. We are so pleased to have the classroom space to house all 25 sections. Thank you to all the parents and patrons of the district who passed the bond issue that made these wonderful new rooms possible.

We too often take things for granted. We are so fortunate here at Prairie to have the beautiful physical plant and financial foundation to provide so many options for student success. While having the material resources is important, it is even more important to have the right people and the right relationships. There is a trend state-wide and nationally to make all stakeholders in the education process more accountable. This means we will become even more data-driven and results-driven in our decision making. Prairie Heights is committed to developing and maintaining the relationships that will create the connections to ensure greater student achievement. Together we will succeed!!

Prairie Middle School, continued from page 6

7th Grade Students and Parents!

While the spring of 2003 may seem like a long time away, it will approach fast so we want you and your child to be prepared! Your child will have the opportunity to participate in our Outdoor Education Week at Camp Wapsie-Y during the week of May 5-9, 2003. Students will be assigned to attend Monday through Wednesday or Wednesday through Friday of that week.

Due to the number of students we have in the 7th grade. **We can not take requests for either half of camp week!** Please, clear your family's schedule of any appointments, etc. that may interfere with your child being able to participate in our Outdoor Education program. We will be working with the coaches of any school sports your child may be participating in at that time when we schedule the time for your child to attend camp.

You may pay the registration fee for Outdoor Education Week when you register your child for school, or you may wait until next April to pay the \$45.00 fee (which includes meals for all three days). Again, please leave the week of May 5-9, 2003 open for outdoor education week! It is a wonderful experience that your child should not miss!

Join the Band!

It's never to late to join one of Prairie Middle School's Bands! If your child will be a sixth grader, now is the perfect time to join the record number of students who will be a part of the Sixth Grade Band. All seventh and eighth graders are also encouraged to join the band! We especially have a need for trombones and French Horns in those groups. For more information, contact Mike Davies at 848-5312 or mdavies@ccs.k12.ia.us.

Summer Band a Success

A record number of students participated in this year's Summer School Band Program! The incoming sixth grade band members learned enough music to perform a brief concert for their friends and family on the last day of summer school. A total of more than 200 people attended these informal concerts held at the end of each class. Thank you to all of the kids who participated for their hard work and to all of the parents and family members who came out to support their child's music education!

8th Grade Students & Parents-Washington DC Trip Planned

We are once again planning a trip to Washington DC for all eighth grade students.

While in DC the students will visit such historical sites as the U.S. Capitol, the White House, Mt. Vernon, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Museum complex, Ford's Theater, and the National Cemetery.

The trip is planned for April 3, 4 and returning late on the 5th, 2003. The cost for this year's trip is \$762.00, which includes all meals, motel, and air and bus transportation. In other words, everything is included except souvenir money.

We will hold an informational parent-student meeting on September 24 at 7:00p.m. in LG01 (Middle School Lecture Hall).

We have found that the Washington DC trip is a fun and important learning experience and hope that your student can join us! If you have any questions, please call the Middle School Office and leave a message for Fran Moe or Sue Lala and they will get back to you. The phone number is 848-5310.

Budget Cuts Change Prairie News Schedule

In an effort to absorb the loss of some state funds for the 2002-2003 school year, we will be mailing Prairie News four times this year instead of the traditional nine issues. Please visit our website -www.prairiepride.org - for additional (and less expensive to produce) information.

Prairie High School, continued from page 7

Marching Orders

rectly with a band camp rehearsal or sectional, notify the directors so they can make arrangements with the other coach or sponsor. Students will not be placed in the position of having to be two places at the same time! In accordance with school policies. **CHECK-LIST**

1. For your protection against injury **Sandals will not be allowed! Tennis shoes are required for all rehearsals!** You will not be allowed to march in sandals, heels, etc.!
2. Due to the extremely HOT weather conditions that are often prevalent during Summer Camp, it is perfectly acceptable for students to wear bathing suit tops or sport bras, providing that the student also wears a loose-fitting tank top over it.
3. Band instrument must be in good working condition, with an ample supply of reeds, valve oil, etc.
4. A flip-folder for your music (available at the School Store during Registration, or at a music store)
5. A lyre for holding your flip-folder of music (get from a music store, take your instrument along)
7. Possibly a hat to protect you from the sun
8. Sun screen and/or insect repellent
9. A water bottle (those "squeezey" things!) with your name marked on it for break times
10. Uniform Fee of \$15 (cash or check made out to Prairie High School) - give to Mr. Aune
11. Rental Fee for School-Owned Instruments of \$50 for the entire school year - give to Mr. Aune
12. Percussion Rental Fee of \$50 (percussion section members only) - give to Mr. Aune

District News



Prairie Music Association Tunes Up for 2nd Annual Bands Across the Prairie Marching Invitational

The Prairie Music Association is proud to announce the second annual "Bands Across the Prairie" Marching Invitational, to be held on the evening of Saturday, September 28, from 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM. This event debuted last fall and was so successful that this year's event already has a full slate of 14 competing bands, with a waiting list of other bands interested in participating! There will be a variety of bands in Classes 2A, 3A, and 4A competing, with the Prairie "Hawks" Marching Band performing in exhibition at the conclusion of the evening.

The "Bands Across the Prairie" Marching Invitational was developed with two primary objectives. First and most importantly, it provides an innovative, educational performance experience for students, directors, and fans! Each band is adjudicated by no less than 7 judges, in addition to being videotaped and CD recorded during its performance. Immediately following their performance, each band is accompanied to an air-conditioned critique room, treated to complimentary ice-cold bottles of water, and afforded a 20-foot large-screen video replay of their performance, complete with a critique judge who just witnessed the show as it was performed live! In this unique setting, the students and directors are able to see and hear various aspects of their performance, providing valuable feedback as they work to perfect their show. In addition to the immediate

feedback, the multiple adjudication forms, and the CD recording sent along with the bands at the end of the night, the students have to opportunity to learn by watching the many other bands performing throughout the evening.

In addition to being an educational event, "Bands Across the Prairie" generates funds that are then used to promote the growth and development of all of the music programs in the College Community School District! As with all events sponsored by the Prairie Music Association, funds generated this evening are designated to enhance music education programs from the elementary schools to the middle school to the high school!

The success of last year's inaugural event was due in part to the amazing support of corporate and advertising sponsors, and through the dedication of many, many volunteers. Volunteers are used in a wide variety of jobs, including selling concessions, hosting bands, ushering in the stands, taking gate money, and helping to park cars and buses. Chairing the 2003 "Bands Across the Prairie" are Keith Tindall and Vicki Hyland. If you are interested in being a part of "Bands Across the Prairie" in September as a volunteer, sponsor, or guest, please check out the Prairie Music Association website at www.prairiemusic.com or call one of the event chairs or band directors.

New Volunteer Form for 2002-03

We're giving a fresh twist to our already powerful volunteer program. College Community is creating one database for all volunteers throughout the district.

If you missed the Volunteer Registration form in your registration packet, please contact Jody Donaldson at 848-5224 or jdonaldson@ccs.k12.ia.us. Volunteers are our greatest resource.



Is your child covered?

The College Community School District encourages families to carry accident coverage on their children prior to participating in any sports or school-sponsored activities. The district does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by a child at school.

Parents may purchase policies through the district with a variety of options, ranging from a \$6 premium for extended dental coverage for children K-12, to \$99 for full-time coverage in grades 7-12 with a major expense benefit (excluding 9-12 football). A complete list of available options can be found in each building office.

Parents are asked to review their present health and accident insurance for full coverage of doctor, hospital, and dental bills that may result from an accident. If the family's insurance carries a deductible or pays only 80 percent (for example) or if the family has no coverage, they are encouraged to review the district's student insurance program.

Parents Spearhead New Campus-wide Directory

Each year PTO groups and parent volunteers prepare building directories so parents can stay connected to each other. This year, Sandy Flatgard and Vicki Hyland, have agreed to spearhead an effort to create a district-wide directory. Many parents have asked for copies from other buildings in the past to facilitate sports practices, music programs and other activities. This year each parent will be able to get a three-hole punched directory for each building they would find useful. They will also have the option of purchasing a simple three ring binder with dividers to organize the directory. Check your registration packet for more information.

Volunteers will still be critical to the project and we hope to have several volunteers from each building help, if you would like to help call or email Jody Donaldson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 848-5225 or jdonaldson@ccs.k12.ia.us.

Open Enrollment into College Community Closed

Due to unprecedented growth in the College Community School District, the School Board has voted to not approve any new open enrollment requests for students wishing to attend College Community. The only exceptions are those students who already attend and their siblings.

Students who may be considering open enrolling out of the district into another Iowa public school district should be aware of the following dates:

January 1, 2003 – Last day for regular open enrollment requests for the 2003-04 school year for non-metro districts. Metro district applications (Cedar Rapids, Linn-Mar, Marion and College) are due on March 1, 2003.

September 20, 2003 – Last day for open enrollment requests for entering kindergarten students and those students falling

under the "good cause" definition for the 2003-2004 school year.

Parents and guardians of open enrolled students whose income falls below 160 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend.

Parents should be aware that open enrollment might result in the loss of athletic eligibility.

Families that move from the district and desire to remain at College Community may file for open enrollment at the time of the move under the continuation provision of the rules. There is no deadline for continuation applications.

For further information, please contact Jim Rotter, Executive Director Business Services, at 848-5221.

Immunizations Required

Iowa Code requires the following immunizations for children enrolled in school:

DPT and Polio—At least three doses with at least one dose administered after the child's fourth birthday.

Measles and Rubella—One dose of measles, rubella vaccine after the child is 12 months old. A second dose is required not less than 30 days after the first dose.

Hepatitis B—Three doses of Hepatitis B for students born on or after July 1, 1994.

Mumps—Recommended, but not required by law.

Proof of TB (Tuberculosis) status—All students registering for admission in the College Community School District who have lived in a country other than the USA within the past calendar year must provide proof of TB status prior to attending school. A chest X-ray or Mantoux test is required. (Tine is not acceptable.)

You may obtain these immunizations from your family physician during your child's physical or at one of the following clinics:

Linn County Public Health, 501 13th Street NW, Cedar Rapids

\$5 per child per visit. Clinic is open every other Tuesday morning (7:30-10:30 AM) and Wednesday afternoon (12:15 -3:45 PM) by appointment only. Call 892-6000 during the work week to schedule an appointment. If your child has 100% insurance coverage for immunizations or if you are in the HAWK-I insurance program, you may not obtain immunizations at the Linn County Public Health Department.

Family and Community Health Alliance (Child Health), 1328 2nd Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids

Free for qualifying families, otherwise billing is based on a sliding scale. Children must have a current physical, which are available at this clinic. Services by appointment only, please call 366-7875.

Iowa City Free Medical Clinic, 120 North Dubuque Street, Iowa City

Clinic is open on Tuesday mornings (9-11 AM); please call 319-337-7909 on Mondays or Thursdays at noon to schedule an appointment. The clinic is free, but donations are accepted.

If you have any questions, please call Kathy Bowersox or Cindy Fagan at 848-5225.

Annual Routine Health Screenings

Grant Wood Area Education Agency will be providing annual hearing and vision testing for the 2002-2003 school year.

Hearing: Routine screening is performed in Kindergarten and 1st, 2nd, and 5th grades. Students in other grades may be tested if there is a known history of hearing problems, the student is new to the district, or the student is due for a three-year evaluation.

Vision: All students in grades Kindergarten through eighth grade will be screened for vision. Students in high school are screened if they are new or due for a three-year evaluation.

Scoliosis: A College Community nurse will screen all students in the middle school for this disorder of the spine.

If a parent does not want their child to participate in any of the screenings, you must indicate this in writing to the child's building.

Routine School Physical Examinations
Physical examinations allow physicians to

examine your child to promote good health. The Nurses' office handles all health records as confidential information and can help fulfill College Community's part in any suggestions or recommendations.

Examinations are recommended when students are entering the following grades:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Kindergarten | 4. 7 th grade |
| 2. 2 nd grade | 5. 9 th grade |
| 3. 5 th grade | 6. 11 th grade |

Athletic Physical Examination

If your son or daughter is participating in athletics, this exam satisfies the Iowa State Association requirement of a medical examination for school sports. **This must be completed prior to starting practice and is valid for one school year.**

It is preferable to have athletic physicals completed during the summer so the student is covered for the whole school year. Please turn in all physical forms at registration. These will be kept on file for use throughout the school year.

Assuring a safe environment for your child

Per the Code of Iowa, Chapter 281-102.1 to 102.14 (256), the College Community School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly learning environment where students can successfully achieve and learn. Therefore, the school district will aggressively investigate any acts of intentional physical or sexual abuse, including inappropriate sexual behavior toward students. Any employee who is found guilty of such behavior shall be subject to disciplinary sanction up to and including discharge.

Complaints to the district regarding the abuse of students by a school employee shall be investigated promptly and in a manner to assure as much confidentiality as practical. The Board of Directors has appointed a Level One and Level Two Investigator to investigate child abuse complaints regarding employees. The Level One Investigator is Executive Director of Business Services Jim Rotter, 848-5221, and the Level Two Investigator is the Abbe Center for Community Care, 398-3534.

A "school employee" means a person who works for pay or as a volunteer for the district. "Abuse" may fall into either of the

following categories:

1. Physical abuse means non-accidental physical injury to the student as a result of the actions of a school employee. Injury occurs when evidence of it is apparent at least 24 hours after the incident. No employee is prohibited from using reasonable or necessary force as defined in the *Iowa Code*.
2. Sexual abuse means any sexual offense as defined by *Iowa Code* Chapter 709, or any sexual act with or directed toward a student.

To constitute a violation of these rules, acts of the school employee must be alleged to have occurred on school grounds, on school time, on a school-sponsored activity, or in a school-related context.

Any person who has knowledge of an incident of abuse of a student committed by a school employee may file a report with the designated investigator. The report shall be in writing, signed, and witnessed by a person of majority age.

The school district's policy (Code 400.12) details further the exact steps to be followed in these types of situations.

Administration Of Medication To Students

When students are required to take medication during the school day it shall be administered only by the school nurse, or in the nurse's absence, by a person who has successfully completed an administration of medication course reviewed by the Board of Pharmacy Examiners.

Medication will not be administered at school without written authorization from the parent/guardian. All medications must be delivered to the school by the student's parent/guardian or a responsible adult. No medication will be sent home with students. The medication must be in the original bottle from the pharmacy and/or the manufacturer labeled with the name of the child, name of the medication, the time of the day in which it is to be given, the dosage and frequency. The most recent prescription bottle should be kept at school. A written record of the administration of medication must be kept for each child receiving medication including the date, student's name, the medication and its dosage, the name and signature of the person administering the medication, and the time and method of administration. Administration of medication records shall be kept confidential.

Medication shall be stored in a secured area. Only the school nurse, or in the nurse's absence, the person who has successfully completed an administration of medication course reviewed by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy Examiners shall have

access to the medication.

Students who have demonstrated competence to the school nurse in administering their own medications (such as inhalers) may self-administer their own medication upon obtaining written permission from their parent/guardian. Students may carry a one-day supply of the medication (such as antibiotics) in the original container only with the approval of the school nurse and the parent/guardian.

Emergency protocols for medication-related reactions shall be posted. The Superintendent shall be responsible, in conjunction with the school nurse, to develop rules and regulations governing the administration of medication, prescription and non-prescription to students. Annually, each student shall be provided with the requirements for administration of medication at school.

Code No. 504.3

LEGAL REFS.: Code of Iowa, Chapter 613.17

Current Practice codified: 1980

Adopted: 2/16/82

Revised: 8/17/82

Revised: 3/3/87

Revised: 3/21/94

Reviewed: 9/21/98

Revised: 3/07/01

District Ensures Healthy School Environment

Asbestos is an issue the College Community School District has addressed for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 helps districts determine the extent of and develop solutions for asbestos problems in schools. The College Community School District began early to implement its asbestos management plan, even though no asbestos hazards were noted. Implementation was not mandated until July 9, 1988.

District employees are educated, trained, and certified in the proper care and handling of asbestos materials. Plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos-containing building materials are implemented. These plans provide for the regular surveillance of the asbestos-containing materials found in our schools.

During 2001-2002, College Community did not remove asbestos.

The District's Asbestos Management Plan is available for review in the administrative office at each building during regular business hours. Edward Heilers, Director of Buildings and Grounds, is the asbestos program manager and all inquiries regarding the District's plan should be directed to him.

It is the district's intent to remain in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations in this area. It is also the districts intent to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that your children and the district's employees have a healthy, safe environment in which to learn and work.

Multicultural and nonsexist equity education opportunity

In the College Community School District, all children enrolled shall have an equal opportunity for a quality public education without discrimination regardless of their race, creed, sex, marital status, national origin, ability, or disability.

The education program shall be free of such discrimination and provide equal opportunity for the participants. Integration of minority populations will occur throughout the education program and the school system. The education program shall foster knowledge of, respect and appreciation for, the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups as well as men and women to society. It shall also reflect the wide variety of roles open to both men and women while providing equal opportunity to both sexes.

Inquiries regarding compliance with equal education opportunity shall be directed to the superintendent, by writing or calling:

Title IX Compliance Office
College Community School District
401 76th Avenue S.W.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
(319) 848-5200

Prairie View Elementary has been identified as a Title I building in need of reading assistance for the 2002-2003 school year based upon past achievement scores. View parents who want to request that their child be enrolled at another elementary school within the district should contact the building principal to discuss options. Please note: This is a mandatory notice which is required by law, however, we are happy to announce that test scores from Fall 2001 (which are officially reported in September 2002) exceeded required benchmarks and will eliminate this identification as a school in need.

Human Growth and Development Curriculum

In 1988, the Iowa Legislature passed the Human Growth and Development Act, making Iowa one of 17 states requiring comprehensive sex education programs in all public schools in the state. Schools were in compliance with the Human Growth and Development requirements if, by July 1, 1989, they had developed a tentative plan for implementing this requirement for not over a three-year period. The College Community School District has developed its program related to this curriculum mandate. While not in its final form, this curriculum does meet the general intentions of this requirement.

As stated in the Human Growth and Development Curriculum Guide Model from the Iowa Department of Education, "Human Growth Education is best understood as a lifelong process that begins with the family in the home and continues with informal learning from peers, media messages, advertising, religious teaching and customs."

As society is besieged with problems affecting human growth and development, people expect educators to help prevent such problems and to intervene once they emerge. Education cannot be the cure-all nor should it try to accomplish by itself the desired changes in student attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. Inter-agency coordination, community cooperation and especially parent involvement are critical to ensure healthy human growth and development.

The district wants to remind parents or guardians that the Human Growth and Development Curriculum is open for their inspection prior to its use. In addition, parents are reminded that this curriculum also contains, per state statute, an exemption from instruction.

This statute states, "A pupil shall not be required to enroll in either physical education or health courses if the pupil's parents or guardians file a written statement with the school principal that the course conflicts with the pupil's religious beliefs." However, any written request for exemption from the Human Growth and Development Curriculum will be honored whether or not a reason is given.

Each individual school principal and teacher is open to parental or guardian inspection of this curriculum. This newsletter notice is one step in keeping the parents and patrons of the College Community School District informed of their rights as they relate to curriculum issues. It is our hope that the school and parents can work as partners in providing the best educational experience we possibly can for our young people. This partnership is best enhanced when open access to programming exists.

If you want further information in relationship to this curriculum, please contact Alan D. Rowe, Executive Director of Learning Services.



Visit College Community School District

home page:
www.prairiepride.org

Annual notice regarding records

The College Community School District maintains records on each student in order to facilitate the instruction, guidance and educational process of the student. The records contain information about the student and his or her education and may include, but are not limited to, the following types of records: identification data, attendance data, records of achievements, family background data, aptitude tests, educational and vocational plans, honors and activities, discipline data, objective counselor or teacher ratings and observations, and external agency reports.

The records of each student are generally located in the school in which he or she is attending. Any exception will be noted in the student's other records or by the person in charge of record maintenance for each school building. The district policy on student records can be secured on request. The name and position of the person responsible for maintenance of student records for each school building is listed below:

Guidance Counselors Kay Pundt, Clay Stoffer, and Steve Stumpff, High School; Ann Sullivan and Sue Farran, Middle School; Dave Trachta, Prairie Crest Elementary; Deb Bundy, Prairie View Elementary; and Judy Feder, Prairie Heights Elementary.

The following persons, agencies and organizations may have restricted access to student records without prior written consent of the parent or student over the age of 18 years. Any other access to student records shall only be in written consent or upon court order or legally issued subpoena.

- School officials, teachers and AEA personnel with a legitimate educational interest;
- Officials of other schools in which the student proposed to enroll;
- Representatives of state and local government when auditing and evaluating federal education programs;
- Officials connected with student educational financial aid applications;
- Governmental officials to which information is to be reported under state law adopted prior to Nov. 19, 1974;
- Organizations that process and evaluate standardized tests;

- Accrediting organizations for accrediting purposes;
- Parents of dependent children, regardless of child's age;
- Appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency.

Student records are reviewed and inappropriate material is removed periodically and, at a minimum, whenever a student moves from the elementary to middle school level to high school level and when a student transfers out of the district. Those records not of permanent importance are destroyed within three years of graduation or discontinued attendance.

Parents of students under age 18 and students over age 18 may exercise the opportunity to review educational records of the student, to obtain copies of the records at a reasonable cost, to write a response to material in the record, to challenge the content of the record on grounds of inappropriateness, inaccuracy or an invasion of privacy, and to have the records explained.

The principal in charge of each attendance center may release the following types of information to the public where appropriate, keeping in mind the privacy of the student and the student's family and the totality of the surrounding circumstances: name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous school or institution attended by the student, and other similar information.

The parent shall be given a reasonable period of time, at least sixteen (16) days, after such notice to inform the district that any or all of the information with regard to his/her child should not be released without his/her prior consent.

Students and parents may file with the Department of Education complaints concerning alleged failures of the school district to comply with federal legislation dealing with student records. Correspondence should be addressed to: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office, Department of Education, Switzer Building, 330 C Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Weapons at school

Code No. 505.4 Code No. 505.4
The Board of Directors believes weapons and other dangerous objects in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

School district facilities are not an appropriate place for weapons or dangerous objects. Weapons and other dangerous objects shall be taken from students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

Parents of students found to possess a weapon or dangerous objects on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous objects shall be reported to the law enforcement officials, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing a firearm to school shall be expelled for not less than twelve months. The Superintendent shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials shall be exempt from this policy. The Principal may allow authorized persons to display weapons or other dangerous objects for educational purposes. Such a display shall also be exempt from the policy. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent, in conjunction with the Principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

LEGAL REF: Goals 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. No. 103-227, 108 Stat. 125 (1994). McClain v. Lafayette County Bd. of Education, 673 F.2d 106 (5th Cir. 1982) Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 724 (1993).

Adopted: 11/21/94
Reviewed: 9/21/98



Accessing Web Materials

Parental access to information is key for student success. In an effort to stay connected with parents, Prairie teachers will be using web-based tools such as the electronic newsletter and the assignment calendar. Learn how to access this information.

Accessing Elementary Newsletters

- Go to www.prairiepride.org.
- Click on the **Parents** button on the left-hand side of your screen.
- Next, click on the **Find a person** button and then the **search by last name** button. Type in the teacher's last name. Click start search and select the correct name.
- Now you are on the teacher's page. In addition to a picture and some information about the teacher, you will see a yellow envelope. Click here to sign up for teacher newsletters.
- As a subscriber you will automatically receive a notification for each new newsletter.
- Email teachers with questions or comments.

Accessing Middle School and High School Assignment Calendars

- Go to www.prairiepride.org.
- Click on the **Parents** button on the left side of the screen.
- Next, click on the **Search for Assignment** button and then the **search by staff name** button under either the middle school or high school. Select the appropriate name.
- Now you have accessed the assignment calendar.
- You can also click on the **Find a person** button and then the **search by last name** button. Type in your teacher's last name. Click start search and select the name, which will take you to a staff page where you will find information about the teacher and a course syllabus.
- Email teachers with questions or comments.

No email access, no problem. Simply contact your teacher and he/she will send a hard copy home. Although the multimedia features, such as video, will not be available in this format, you will be able to get all the written information.

Prairie View, continued from page 5

Prairie View's Counseling Program

Mrs. Bundy will continue to provide classroom guidance to our students this school year. She will also continue to facilitate our "Keys to Success" program and Prairie Pride Patrol. "Keys to Success" is a character building program that focuses on key character components that students need to exhibit in order to be successful at school, at home, and in the community. This is a school-wide program, which is infused within the context of our whole school program. Teachers and students monitor the progress that we make in the key character traits both on an individual basis and school-wide.

The Prairie View Pride Patrol will focus on incoming kindergarten students as well as new students to our school this year. A team of school staff will arrange with a

child's parents a time to "surprise" their child at home for being a special person in the Prairie View school community. This is a special recognition program for our students that we began during the 2001-2002 school year.

The following is information about what your students will be doing with Mrs. Bundy during classroom guidance this school year.

Kindergarten: We will use our "I Care Cat" puppet to discuss ways to get along with each other.

First Grade: We will talk about making good choices.

Second Grade: We will share how to be a good friend.

Third Grade: We will discuss the importance of accepting others and solving

problems peacefully.

Fourth Grade: We will learn to be conflict managers, so we can help others at recess as we practice our problem-solving skills.

Fifth Grade: We will review conflict management and discuss topics like tolerance for others and anger control.

Mrs. Bundy is here to help students with social skills they will need all their lives. So students and staff will continue to work on these skills on the playground, in small groups, and individually in the most productive and caring ways we can. If there is a skill you would like your child to receive extra practice in, or if there is a home situation that they may need someone to talk about, please give Mrs. Bundy a call at 848-5265.

Visit College Community School District

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www.prairiepride.org

Support the Prairie Booster Club— Join the Orange and Black Club

Over the years, the Prairie Booster Club has supported Prairie's outstanding coaching staff and athletes and the tradition continues. The 2002 football season is just around the corner and we need your support to help finance the 2002 Prairie Football programs.

Become a **Super Booster** with a donation of \$1-\$24. Or contribute \$25 or more to join the **Orange and Black Club**. Simply clip this article, complete the information, and mail along with your check by August 20, 2002 so your name can be listed in this year's football program.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the sale of the football programs are used to support various Prairie athletic programs.

Please make checks payable to:



Prairie Booster Club
Attn: Sandi Zahradnik
Box 185
Ely, IA 52227

Donation: \$ _____

Name (s) to be listed in the program:

Season Passes: Affordable Fun for the Whole Family

Family activity passes are available to all College Community patrons for \$115. These passes entitle holders to attend all regularly-scheduled high school athletic, musical and theatrical events held at Prairie (home games) during the year.

The single payment of \$115 covers admission for parents and children (k-12 and younger). The family pass does not cover children who have graduated from high school. Passes are not sold at the gate and must be purchased in advance. Family passes may be purchased in the Business Office, during registration, or clip the coupon below and mail it with your check.

Single admission prices are as follows:

Football	Adults \$5 and Students \$4
Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Track and High School Drama events	Adults \$4 and Students \$3
High School Music Events (including concerts)	Adults \$3 and Students \$2
High School Drama Events	Adults \$5 and Students \$4

A family of four who attends all Prairie events using a Family Pass instead of single admission would save more than \$500. Although the pass grants admission to all home events for sports, drama and music, activity passes cannot be used at any tournament or State-sanctioned event.

funds raised by early sales of season passes help support Middle School and High School activities. The form below may be used to order a family pass.

Remember, College Community patrons over the age of 65 may apply at the Business Office for a free Golden Hawk pass to school-sponsored events.

Take a moment to buy your pass now;

Do you have a three or four-year-old?



If so, help your child get a good start in school. Mark your calendars! College Community's "Child Check" will be held November 21 and 22, 2002 at

Grant Wood AEA
4401 Sixth Street S.W.
Cedar Rapids

"Child Check" is a free checkup of vision, hearing, speech, physical coordination and learning ability for three and four-year-olds. It is designed to put parents' minds at ease about their children's physical and mental development.

Call Jan Zamastil at 848-5230 to schedule an appointment.



GRANT WOOD
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Sponsored by the College Community School District and Grant Wood Area Education Agency

Family Season Pass Request

Please complete the form below and send it along with your check for \$115 to:
Business Office/Family Pass • College Community School District
401 76th Avenue SW • Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Head of Household: _____

First Name of Spouse: _____ Last Name: _____

Children's First Name (s): _____ Last Name (s): _____ Grade: _____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____



College Community School District
401 76th Ave SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-7034

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