





Prairie Pride E-News April 11, 2012

Follow us!  

In this issue... Prairie a 1 to 1 Laptop School, Thank you Voters!, Prairie Hitch, Ambassadors Place High at Nationals

Prairie a 1 to 1 Laptop School Starting Next Fall



Next fall Prairie will be a 1 to 1 laptop school! Each student in grades 9-12 will have the opportunity to have a district-issued laptop to use both at school and at home. The district will be providing students with Apple 11 inch MacBook Air laptops. These laptops will be checked out to students starting next fall.

The district has studied digital literacy and 1 to 1 computing for the last three years. It's pretty clear that the world is changing rapidly. The Prairie leadership (the Board of Education, administration, and teacher leaders) concluded that the best way to keep pace this change was to equip all of our 9-12th graders with the right tools: a personal computing device. Here is a brief three minute video produced by the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) on why this change is so necessary:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFcUgSYyRPg>

There will be much more information coming soon on this exciting opportunity for Prairie students. Updates will be posted frequently on Prairie Pride.org, the College Community Facebook page, the CCSD Twitter feed, the district YouTube channel, and a new digital literacy blog - www.techhawks.org.

Thank You Voters!

Nearly 67 percent of voters in the College Community School District said yes on April 3 to a \$15 million bond to construct and furnish a new elementary. That vote will become official upon its review by the Linn County Board of Supervisors on Monday, April 9. Our community has always supported our schools and it should be proud of the positive results. It's been a great experience to once again see our communities come together to support our schools and children. The fact is we are a vibrant and growing school district and we need to keep pace with our growth by providing quality classrooms so our students can reach their academic potential!

I'm especially proud of all the hard work the Citizens Advisory Committee on School Facilities put forth on this effort. It was a cross section of community members from all corners of the district. They all came together to help us identify needs such as increased enrollments, increased class sizes and the need for more space.

Now the real work begins. The new elementary is scheduled to open for the 2014-2015 school year. We will provide regular construction updates until the project is complete. The process to assign students and teachers to buildings for the fall of 2014 will take place during the 2013-2014 school year. Our goal is to have a fair and seamless process like that used when Ridge and Point opened.

Again, I want to thank our wonderful community for your continued support of our Prairie schools!

Richard Whitehead
Superintendent
College Community Schools

Prairie Manufacturing Hitch Seat



By Prairie Students Zach Taylor and Noah Henecke

In Prairie Manufacturing we design, develop, and produce a product to be marketed. Currently we are making a hitch seat that we will be marketing this spring. This diverse hitch seat is designed so you can go from comfortably sitting on the back of your vehicle to comfortably sitting in bleachers with the same seat. This is an easy process that can be done simply by removing two wing nuts and removing the seats from the hitch seat

bracket.

There is a lot of work and time spent in this project to get where we are now. The first thing we did was to research products to give us an idea of things to make. When we decided what product we wanted to make, we developed a prototype. The prototype gives us a good idea of what the product will be like overall. After creating a prototype, we designed jigs for production so that each piece is the same every time and makes the production flow as smooth as possible. To help the production run more efficient, we created flow charts stating who does what and how the product moves through the production process. Prior to production we market the product, which is currently what we are doing. We are hoping to get the word out and sell the many hitch seats as possible.

The Prairie Hitch Seat benefits all people with everything from tailgating to parades and even sitting around a fire. There are six people that have worked on this together to get you the best product they can produce. They include Andrew Leytem, Brandon Rozek, Cole Limkemann, Noah Henecke, Justin Umstead, and Zach Taylor.

For more information or to purchase hitch seats contact Mr. Herman at gberman@prairiepride.org. The hitch seat is selling for \$149.50.

Ambassadors Place High at Nationals



Congratulations to The Ambassadors, the varsity show choir at Prairie High School, for their outstanding performances and placing at FAME Chicago, a national show choir competition, held on Saturday, March 24, 2012 in Chicago, Illinois.

The Ambassadors received an invitation to FAME Chicago in February based on their current season successes and past history. The event marked the first time in the history of the school that Prairie High School was represented on the national level for show choir. The Ambassadors finished in 3rd place behind nationally ranked show choirs from Buffalo Grove (IL) High School and Urbandale (IA) High School. The Ambassadors finished 2nd in the vocal category, and they were also awarded the "Best Technical Crew" award. Because of their top 3 finish at FAME Chicago, The Ambassadors have also qualified for the National Show Choir Championship.

Special Thanks to the staff who contributed to the success!

Justin Sands, PHS Choir Director

Cheri Brummer, PHS Choir Director
Deron Jimmerson, PHS Band Instructor
Chad Alexander, Choreography

Proudly serving the communities of Ely, Fairfax, Shueyville, Swisher, Walford, SW Cedar Rapids and significant rural areas of Linn and Johnson counties and a small portion of Benton County.

*Steve Doser, Community Relations/Foundation Director
College Community Schools*

sdoser@prairiepride.org



[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to sdoser@prairiepride.org by sdoser@prairiepride.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

College Community Schools | 401 76th Avenue SW | Cedar Rapids | IA | 52404