

Parkers Prairie Elementary Newsletter

December 2009



PRIDE

Yes, we are going to keep talking about it!

P = Practice Kindness

R = Respect Everyone

I = Include Others

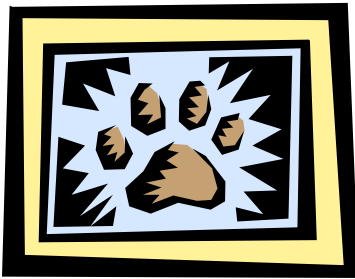
D = Demonstrate Self Control

E = Everyone Be Responsible

Each Monday at our building wide Pledge Ceremony I have been talking with the students about PRIDE. Countless things happen during any given week that make me think about PRIDE, and I share my insights with the students.

PRIDE Praise slips have been developed. Students can use these as a way to praise another student for demonstrating a characteristic of PRIDE.

At times a PRIDE Plan will be used if a student is referred to the office. The goal of the "plans" is to reflect on the behavior that generated the referral, and to see how when considering PRIDE the behavior that happened was not how we do business here.



Information from the Library

Many parents have contacted Mrs. Cronk to find out if a book their child is reading has a related AR test. For parents with computer access at home this can be checked at www.renlearn.com/store/quiz_home.asp

When you type in the title on the quiz store tab it will provide you with the reading level and the points value.

Handbook Highlight

Our elementary handbook can be accessed on our district website. www.isd547.com

Outdoor Winter Clothing – at PPES we require all students to wear "full gear" to participate in outdoor activities. All students are aware of this rule. And, they have seen Mrs. Gordy demonstrate what full gear is.

The older students recently took a survey, and the results were quite interesting. We learned that most students do have the required gear, and that if given the choice of playing outside with the required gear on, or not requiring the gear and having an indoor recess the students picked going outside by a huge majority.

Our recess guidelines are that we will be outside anytime the temperature is above -10 degrees. We do factor in the windchill with this calculation.

If your family is not able to purchase full winter gear for your child(ren) please let the office know and we will be happy to help out.

Junior Achievement

This fall, a number of volunteers from the Parkers Prairie area spent some time in the first through sixth grade classrooms teaching students about economics and business.

The volunteer effort is part of the Junior Achievement (JA) program, a non-profit organization.

The purpose of the program is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business, and economics to improve the quality of their lives.



Thanks to all of our great volunteers, we have learned a lot!

Save the Date

Minnesota Reading Corps provides members to our school to assist in the area of literacy. Our K – 3 member, Dana Kogel, is planning a special night for parents. On January 5th she will provide an opportunity for parents to come in and learn ways to make reading fun at home, and well as provide some strategies to help your child(ren) become stronger readers.

Parents attending will work with Dana while their child(ren) play some Book Bingo with Mrs. Gordy and some parent volunteers. More details on this event will be coming home soon.

Mark your calendars for Monday, February 8th as well. This will be our annual Family Fun Night – our theme this year will be Beans and Bingo.

Health Office Update

Thanks for your support in calling in when your child will be absent, and providing information about symptoms. Our various breaks during this school year seem to have kept spreading illness to a minimum.



It is neat to see how students have responded to ways to keep themselves healthy. We have seen an increase in hand washing, and when appropriate use of hand sanitizer. Students also are great at covering their cough or sneeze using their elbow or sleeve rather than their hand.

Parent Resource

At a conference I was at this fall I learned about a great resource. It is a math website that shows step by step how to solve a problem. Using this site may give you some guidance and help break problems down. Try it.

<http://www.webmath.com/>

Speaking of Winter

We were excited to break out the sleds last week during afternoon recess. It is fun to watch the students share, and be responsible with how they make sure they get sleds put away.

It is true that kids “play” differently today than when some of us were children. During warmer winter days it may be fun to play with you children outside and teach them some of the winter games that you played as a child. Do you remember how much fun it was to make a snow man? Did you ever “track” an imaginary animal down by following tracks made in the snow? How about resting in a snow bank and letting yourself just imagine, or count the snowflakes?

It is great to get outside and take in the fresh air. It is also great to be active when outside. Helping you child see the many fun things that can be done outdoors during a Minnesota winter gets them active and involved.

Bullying: The Bystander’s Role

At times you child may come home and want to talk with you about what they observed at school or on the bus. They may talk about seeing someone get picked on or excluded.

This allows the opportunity to talk about bullying and what can be done in the bystander role. It is important for children to know that even if they are not the one doing the bullying, they may be the one with the power to help stop it.

Encourage your child to stand up to the bully. This can be done in direct ways, or ways that that are helpful but more indirect. It truly can empower a bystander who does not like the behavior they are witnessing to know it is okay for them to say to the bully, “stop that, it is not nice.” For other students a way to help may be to ask the child they feel is being bullied to join them in some activity.

We do our best at school to catch this type of behavior and address it firmly and directly with students. But, the truth is that we miss some things. It is important that bystanders understand the importance of telling an adult. It may seem like tattling, but really is a way to help out.