

Parkers Prairie Elementary Newsletter

February 2009



Read, read, read!

February is "I Love to Read month." Classrooms have been busy celebrating this month in a variety of ways. Our building has also focused on reading by having individual classrooms sponsor a reading igloo, and having "Chill Out and Read" times on Friday's. While February is coming to a close, our focus is always on reading. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd. We will eat "Green Eggs and Ham" for lunch, and have special time with the Cat in the Hat. This is a great time to bring out your favorite childhood book and read it with your child. Maybe it is from Dr. Seuss himself, or it is one from a series where you remember the excitement of getting to the next one.

Kids of all ages (I know those of you with pre-teens may question this) do look up to you. They choose some of their interests based upon what they see you doing and enjoying. Let your kids see you read. Talk with them about an article you read from the paper or a favorite magazine. Share the written memories in a scrap book. Tell them about a character that you identify with in a book you are reading.



Important Calendar Change

Please note that in order to make up one of our snow days we will be holding classes on **Monday, April 13th**. This is the Monday following the Easter holiday.

Handbook Highlight

Students arriving to school after 8:25 are considered tardy. Since accounting for their safety is important to us it is helpful for you to come in with your child to check him/her in. This provides us with better information as to why they are tardy, and gives us an opportunity to communicate with you. Please make getting to school on time a priority, but when you are late please come in with your child to check in.

District Website

Have you noticed Perspective on our district website? Perspective is a tool designed by Pearson for parents and schools. Pearson is the company that makes the standardized tests, MCA's, which we take in the spring. In our building students in 3rd through 6th grade participate in this type of assessment.

Within Perspective there is a section where parents can type in a learner locator number. You received this number on information sent home in the fall about your child's proficiency on the MCA's. If you no longer have this paper, and would like to know your child's locator number, please call the office and we will assist you. As a parent you can enter your child's locator and questions and sample items specific to your child's performance from last spring's testing are generated. Using this tool would allow opportunities to practice for testing to come this spring.

Book Fair

Please stop in to check out this great event March 3 - 6. Individual classrooms will have the opportunity to brose and purchase the books during their scheduled library time.

Book Fair Hours:

Tuesday/Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday/Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

To celebrate the book fair we will be having a school spirit week.

Monday (3/2) – Dr. Seuss’s Birthday – Dress like Cat in the Hat or another Seuss Character

Tuesday (3/3) – Dress for the Oscars – as a kick off to the book fair we will dress up

Wednesday (3/4) – Disney Character – everyone has a favorite Disney movie character

Thursday (3/5) – Action Hero – action heroes like to read too

Friday (3/6) – Horary for Hollywood! – Reading is cool in our sunglasses

Book Donations

Our elementary media center will again be collecting books for the Read and Share Program. This provides baskets of books in Urbank, Rose City, Leaf Valley, PP Vet Clinic, and PP City Hall. Books in these locations are used by our area children throughout the summer. We will be collecting books in a Giant Popcorn Box during the month of March.

Something to “Think” About

There is an age old question, followed by an age old answer. “What did you do in school today?” Followed by an, “I can’t remember,” or “nothing much.”

Try a new type of question to open discussion with your child. “What questions did you ask in school today?” I saw this type of questioning in a book I was reading recently and it made sense. It made sense to me as an educator and as a parent.

As educators we are constantly searching ways to push our students to think critically. Much of their success in academics and in life will be based upon their ability to ask the tough questions and ponder the endless possibilities of solutions.

As parents we strive for independent, clear headed children who set off into the adult world ready to face challenges. We may not say we want them to have well developed critical thinking skills – yet this is exactly what our dream is for them.

What questions did you ask in school today is a springboard to deep conversations and connections. As and educator I am going to start posing this new questions to students more often. And as a parent my own children are going to get used to a whole new question.

Parent Advisory Council

We are interested in starting a parent advisory council for our school. This group will consist of parents, one teacher and the principal. The main emphasis of this group will be to keep the school and the community connected. Please contact Caryl Gordy if you are interested in being involved with this type of group.