

# PSE Weekly Howl

Week of January 13th!

## Incoming Kindergarten Information for 25-26

### Incoming Kindergarten Information

We are so excited to start the process of welcoming our Kindergarten families for the Fall of 2025. Children who reside in Blue Valley Schools and turn 5 years of age by August 31 are eligible to attend kindergarten that school year. If you live in the PSE boundary area and will have an incoming Kindergarten student this fall, **please click on this link to pre-register:**

[Pre-Registration form Kindergarten 25.](#)

More information will be shared with you at the end of February, including welcome videos, online registration instructions, and information about Kindergarten Kick-Off on April 11.

Please pass this message/link on to neighbors who might not have a student in our system and might not yet receive our weekly emails!



## Stem Club-JANUARY SESSION!

It's time for our January session (1/14) of the PSE STEM Club for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders! We will dive into the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, and math through fun, hands-on activities that challenge your student to think outside the box. Our session will run from 3:45 - 5:00pm with Mrs. Bonner and Mr. Ramsey. Reminder that these sessions are dependent from one another. You must sign up for each individual session to attend STEM club.



Pick up will be at 5pm in front of the building. Parents/Guardians must pick up in person - carline is not an option for this event.

Thanks!

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## **Late Night at the Star-January 24th!**

Prairie Star staff is excited to continue Late Night at the Star! Late Night at the Star classes are after-school enrichment programs offered to the students here at Prairie Star.

Each Friday night class costs \$50 and will run from after school until 6:30. If you enroll in Late Night, you will not need to pick up your child until 6:30. Please assume that your child is enrolled in each class that they have requested unless you hear from the office.

Camp scholarships are now available. Please get in touch with Mrs. Sperry for more information.

**To enroll in camps, please see the website link:**

<https://prairiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/home>. **Registration closes the day before at 6:00 pm.**

**All Late Night at the STAR questions go to Melissa Bonner. Her email is [mabonner@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:mabonner@bluevalleyk12.org).**

Valentine's Day Boxes (Purcell, Wayland, and Philips) K-5

Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and PSE's parties are February 7th. Wouldn't it be nice to make the Valentine's Day box now?!! Get crafty with us as we make amazing boxes to collect cards and candy! Dinner, drinks, and dessert provided!

Pancakes and Pajamas (KIndergarten Team) K-5

Breakfast for dinner! Pack your PJs and join the K teachers for a cozy after-school "sleep under!" We will decorate pillowcases (provided), create dream catchers, make night lights, and participate in other fun activities! Snacks and pancake bar included!

Spa/Self Care Night (2nd Grade Team) K-5

After a full school week, aren't you ready to relax? Join the 2nd-grade teachers for a night of pampering at the PSE Spa. We will do hair, paint nails, make sleep masks & more! You will get to take some things home so you can continue to have a relaxing weekend. We will provide snacks, dinner & a fun spa drink!

Canvas Painting Night! (Mr. Wilson) K-5

Come paint with us in the Art room! We'll have canvases for everyone, all the supplies, pizza, and sweeties (aka, candy). Paint what you want, or follow Mr. Wilson as we paint together. Expert painters and beginners are welcome!

Puppy "Paw"ty! (Arquieta) K-3

Join the fun at our Puppy Pawty! Unleash your creativity with arts and crafts, adopt your “fur”ever friend (small stuffed dog), and enjoy tail-wagging games. “Pup”erroni (and cheese) pizza and other snacks will be provided. It’s going to be a “paw”sitively, doggone good time! Grades K-3

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## **Reminder: Personal Electronic Device expectations at school**

With the holidays around the corner, we know personal electronic devices, like cell phones, may be on some wish lists. As a reminder, Blue Valley elementary schools are committed to keeping classrooms focused and distraction-free during the school day.

If students bring devices to school, they must remain silenced and stowed away in backpacks at all times. If your child needs to contact you, they can use a classroom or main office phone, and we ask families to call the main office if they need to reach their child.

Thank you for helping us create a positive, distraction-free environment where students can thrive.

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## **Attendance Reporting and Notifications**

Families can expect automated attendance messages by email, phone, and text if a child is absent and their absence has not already been reported by a parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to report an absence or reply to the automated email or phone message.

What is the purpose of attendance notifications?

We realize that students may occasionally need to miss school for planned absences, illnesses, and appointments. However, when a student does not arrive at school or unexpectedly misses a portion of the school day, we are concerned and want to make sure you are aware that your child is absent.

How can I get push notifications?

Families who would also like a push notification can download the ParentVUE app and manage their notifications. If a child has an unreported absence when a teacher submits attendance, then a push notification will immediately be sent to the parent/guardian's mobile device.

Interested in push notifications? Simply download the ParentVUE app ([iTunes app store](#) or [Google Play](#)), enable push notifications in device settings and select attendance notifications through in-app settings. Once the app is downloaded, [these instructions](#) will help you complete the set-up.

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## **End of Quarter Information - Viewing Canvas Courses and Quarter Grades**

At the end of each quarter, courses in Canvas will conclude and will no longer be visible on the Canvas app. However, a concluded course remains visible through the Canvas website by selecting ALL COURSES and then PAST ENROLLMENTS. **You can view your child's report card on January 10th after 4:00 pm.**

How do I view my child's report card?

Log in on ParentVue.

Select the student's name

In the left navigation bar, choose Report Card

Each new quarter, classroom teachers will publish the next quarter's Canvas course. As courses are published, students and families will again be able to see current courses on the Canvas app and Canvas website. For Canvas parent resources, visit [www.bluevalleyk12.org/canvas](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/canvas).

## PSE PTO Updates!

**Tickets must be purchased by January 24th on the PTO Membership Toolkit!**

Please join us for the 1st Annual  
Prairie Star Elementary PTO  
Daddy / Daughter  
Sweetheart's  
Dance

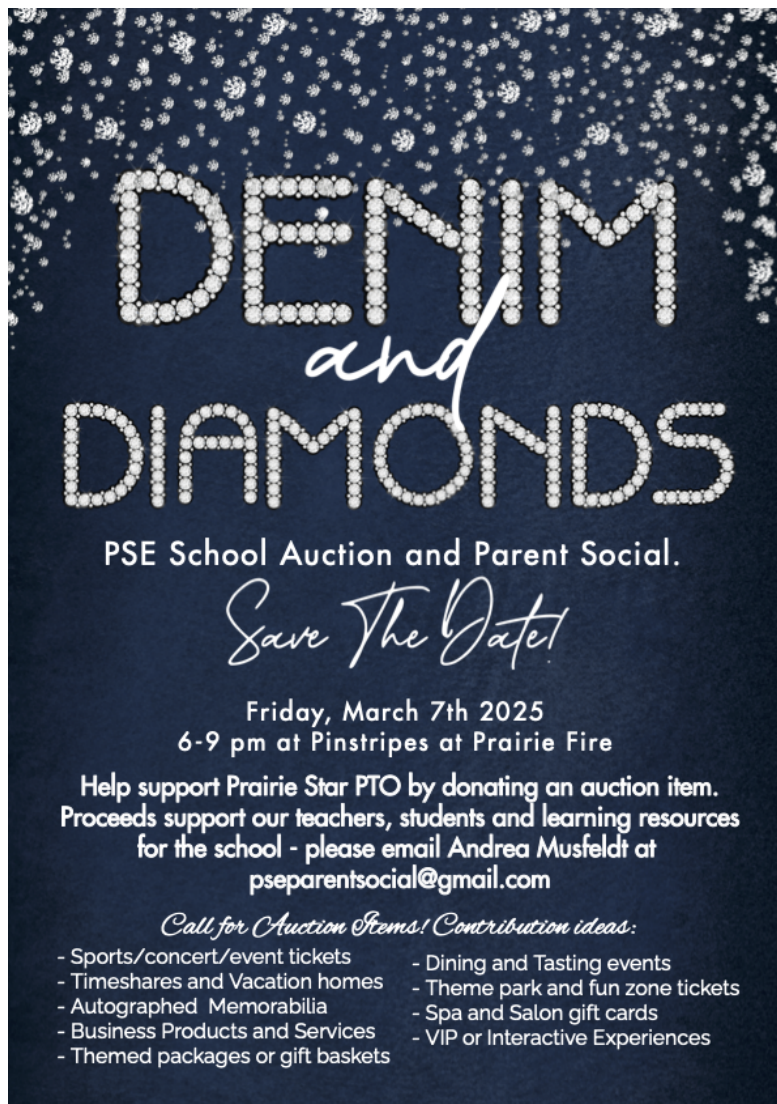
Dancing- Photo Booth  
Valentine's Crafts -

Tickets must be purchased through PTO membership Toolkit.  
\*\*TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR\*\*

<b>25</b> JANUARY	<b>6PM - 8PM</b>	<b>PRAIRIE STAR ELEMENTARY GYM</b>	<b>\$20 / Couple \$5 each additional daughter</b>
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\*\*Event is welcome to all father-like figures\*\*

**Save the Date for the PSE PTO School Auction!**



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## Yearbook Candid Photo Uploads

It's that time of year again! Time to start sending in your yearbook candid photos that you have been collecting. This year, we have a direct link to upload to: [Photo Share: Be in the yearbook more. A lot more.](#)

[Photo Share: Be in the yearbook more. A lot more.](#)

When you get to the site, you will enter your guardian info and email and will receive a verification code. Then you can upload your images and tag with your student's name and grade. The events we currently need are: Movie Night, Sneak-a-peek, First Day of School and Wolf Walk/Spirit Week.

Throughout the year if you have pictures of extra curriculars like sports/recitals/competitions/community service/scouts we would love to include those as well. No playdates, vacations or parties, please! Thanks in advance for helping to make our yearbook!

Questions? Email us at [priariestaryearbook@gmail.com](mailto:priariestaryearbook@gmail.com).

Sally Groesbeck, Abbie Moles & Amy Warren  
Yearbook Co-Chairs

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## District News:

### Band "Try-It" Nights for current 5th grade students

South Area 5th Grade Families,

We're very excited to give your student an opportunity to start out on an exceptional experience next school year – [Beginning Band in 6th Grade!!](#)

Many of you have seen the most visible parts of our BV Band program by watching the BV Tiger Band at football games. This year, we're excited to offer your family an opportunity to become a part of the great South Area tradition of joining band!

#### **BAND "Try-It" NIGHTS!**

You and your student are invited to participate in one of our Try-It Nights where you can meet your band teachers, try instruments, and get excited for band in 6th grade!

**January 28 @ Prairie Star Middle School 6 – 8:00pm**

**January 29 @ Blue Valley Middle School 6 – 8:00pm**

**[RSVP](#) to let us know which Try-It Night you will be attending!**

We look forward to meeting you at our Try-It Nights - See you soon!

Questions? Let us know:

Julia Janda: [jjanda@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:jjanda@bluevalleyk12.org) - BVMS, PSMS, BVH

Paul Aubrey: [paubrey@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:paubrey@bluevalleyk12.org) - PSMS

Mark Adair: [mjadair@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:mjadair@bluevalleyk12.org) - BVMS

Paul Bessetti: [pbessetti@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:pbessetti@bluevalleyk12.org) - BVH

BV South Area Band Team

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### 13th Annual Battle of the Bands- Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, 6:30-10 p.m.

Join friends for a great adult night out with live music, a silent auction, a wine and bourbon pull and more! Proceeds from this annual fundraiser support music and performing arts programs throughout the district, and YOU can be part of the fun! Check out our new location at Fiorella's event space in OP for a great over-21 night out. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and YOU choose the "Best of Blue Valley" live band when the competition wraps up at 10 p.m. Bands are made up of BV parents, teachers and staff and funds



provide significant funding for performing arts programs including band, orchestra, choir, theater, debate and competitive speaking. Get tickets today at [Event Details](#).

Can't make it to the event in person? No worries! Visit [Silent Auction](#) to start your bid on incredible auction packages and see what your school submitted. Check back frequently as more items are added to the offerings every week. The auction will close on Friday, February 21 at 8:45 p.m. and you do not have to be present to win!

You can also vote by donation for your favorite adult school-affiliated band, and the winner receives a \$1,000 grant to their school of choice. The 2025 band names, order of performances and school representations are as follows:

Young Medicine- Lakewood Elementary

Modern Thieves- Mission Trail Elementary, Leawood Middle, Blue Valley North

KC Prime- Leawood Elementary and Leawood Middle

**Hope to see you Friday, February 21, 2025, as we Rock the Valley for BV Schools!**

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## **Mark your calendars for the 2024-25 K-5 teacher professional collaboration days.**

As we kick off the 2024-25 school year, I want to remind families about the teacher professional collaboration days designed for teacher plan and collaboration time. These eight days, which occur throughout the school year, are non-student attendance days for K-5 students. These days are vital to ensure the best possible preparation for our elementary students and key to quality teacher retention.

The following days, which can be found in the [2024-25 calendar](#) on the district website, have been designated as teacher professional collaboration days:

- January 31
- February 28
- April 11
- May 2

Thank you for your support and partnership as we ensure our educators have adequate plan and collaboration time. Have a wonderful school year!

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## **BVEF Innovative Educator Award**

Do you know a Blue Valley educator who goes above and beyond to inspire, engage and innovate in the classroom? Help the Blue Valley Educational Foundation (BVEF) recognize their extraordinary impact by nominating them today for the BVEF annual Innovative Educator Award! This BVEF award recognizes two exemplary teachers (one elementary, one secondary) who creatively apply innovative teaching methods, foster critical thinking skills and ignite a passion for learning in their students. Honorees will receive a \$1,250 grant for their classroom. To nominate a teacher, fill out the [2025 BVEF Innovative Educator Award form](#) by Monday, February 3.

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## Safe Schools Reporting

Blue Valley Schools is committed to promoting and fostering a safe environment in and around all our schools. We are continuously working to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from a wide range of situations. Please check out [available ways to report safety concerns](#).

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## Community Events:

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**Stacey Sperry**

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters