



PSE Weekly Howl

Week of January 20th

No School Monday 1/20

Blue Valley will not have school on Monday, 1/20/25, in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. We will resume on Tuesday, 1/21. GO, CHIEFS!!!!

PSE Book Vending Machine

Several students started receiving their free books from the PSE Book Vending Machine this week, thanks to Wolf Walk. Students earn a book for being kind, safe, or responsible. Maxwell was our first student to get the book, and he said it was awesome.



Recess is SNOW much fun

Look at our PSE students who built a snowman this week during recess. Recess is SNOW much fun.



PSE leads the Pledge of Allegiance at the BOE meeting

Julia, Lucy Mae, and Hattie led the Pledge of Allegiance at the Board Meeting this past Monday night. The girls represented PSE well.



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!

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.

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

Valentine's Day Party

We are excited to celebrate Valentine's Day with our students and wanted to give you some preliminary information in case you are starting to think about Valentine's Day.

- Valentine's Parties will be on **Friday, February 7th at 2:45-You are welcome to attend if you are giving us a time, talent, or treasure.**
- Students may distribute Valentine's Day cards to the entire class.
- If you are going to attach food to the Valentines, we encourage it to be from the [nut-safer list](#).
- Valentines can also have non-edible items attached or can be Valentine's card!
- **All food consumed at the party (party snacks) must comply with the approved Nut Safer List.**

Time, Talent and Treasure for Class Parties

We would love for you to help the students on party days. However, if you aren't giving us your time, talent, or treasure, feel free to stay home/work and pick up as usual. If you want a free pass to stay away, here it is!! Party days are really about the students and their activities. If you are volunteering, thank you, and we can't wait to see you!!!!

ALL visitors, even on class party days, must enter school property using our secure entry by showing his/her government-issued photo ID. Only guests who are listed in ParentVue as parents, guardians, or emergency contacts will gain access to the event.

- WARNING: Due to the number of visitors, there will be a wait when checking in and gaining access to the school building/property. Please be patient and plan accordingly.

Parent Teacher Conference

Save the date for conferences!

Our conference schedule is as follows:

- **Wednesday, February 12th, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm held at PSE (Zoom or in person)**
- **Thursday, February 13th, 8:15 am - 4:00 pm, held at PSE (Zoom or in person)**
- **Thursday, February 13th, 4:00 pm -7:15 pm, held via ZOOM**

Staff will continue to utilize an online signup system as a convenient way for you to schedule conferences for your child(ren). Your student's teacher will email conference links the weekend of January 24th. All families are encouraged to sign up for a time slot.

PSE PTO Updates!

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

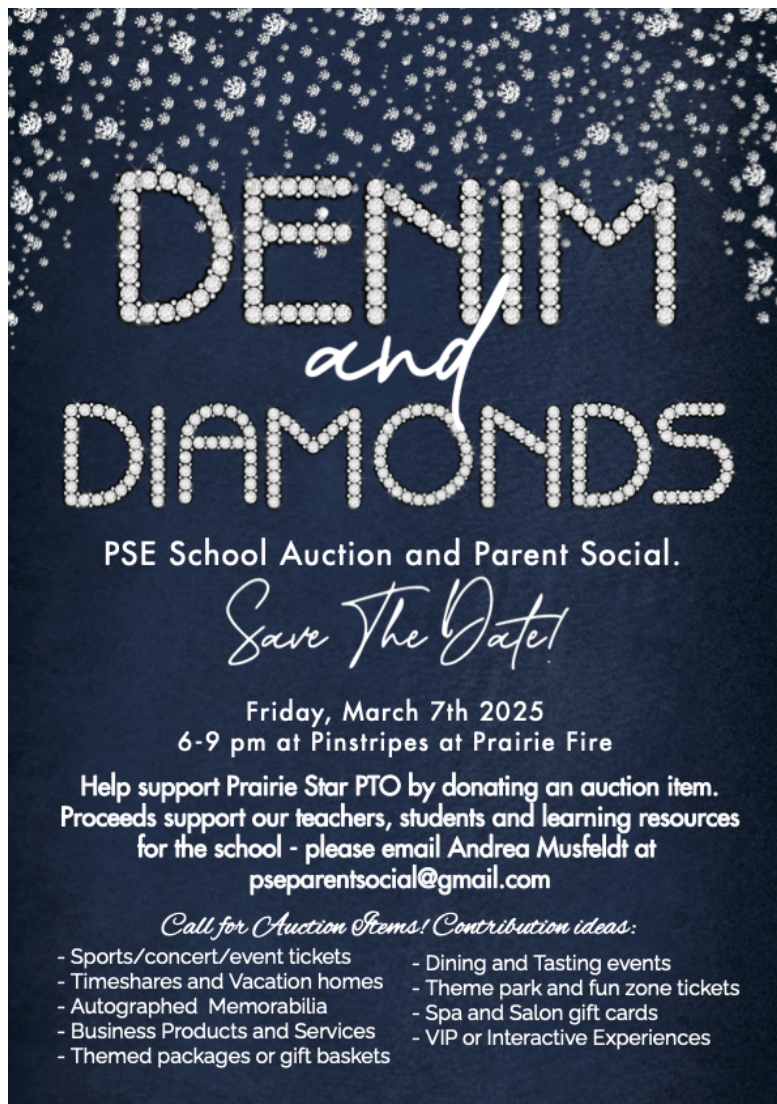
Please join us for the 1st Annual
Prairie Star Elementary PTO
Daddy / Daughter
*Sweetheart's
Dance*
Dancing- Photo Booth
Valentine's Crafts -

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

25 JANUARY	PRAIRIE STAR ELEMENTARY GYM	6PM - 8PM	\$20 / Couple
			\$ 5 each additional daughter

Event is welcome to all father-like figures

Save the Date for the PSE PTO School Auction!



FINAL CALL FOR YEARBOOK PURCHASING

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Don't forget to buy your 2024-2025 yearbook! Reminders went home Friday. If you are unsure if you have purchased one you can check by logging in to the PTO website:

<https://prairiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/home> and looking under "New Forms" on the main page. If you have questions, please email prairiestaryearbook@gmail.com.

YEARBOOK PICTURES SOS

Do you have pictures of school-related events like field trips, parties, concerts, Wolf Walk, PTO fundraisers, community service or general class fun??? Submit on our yearbook site:

<https://photos.jostens.com/MWUKX7> Please do not submit private playdate or non-school party pictures. Thanks in advance for your help!

District News:

BVUnmuted Legislative Podcast

In the latest Blue Valley Schools' BV Unmuted podcast episode, Superintendent Dr. Tonya Merrigan discusses the upcoming Kansas Legislative session and the district's five priority positions with Board of Education members Gina Knapp and Jan Kessinger and Chief Financial Officer Jeremy McFadden.

📻 To listen to the podcast episode, visit www.bit.ly/BVPriorities.

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 - BVMS, PSMS, BVH

Paul Aubrey: paubrey@bluevalleyk12.org - PSMS

Mark Adair: mjadair@bluevalleyk12.org - BVMS

Paul Bessetti: pbessetti@bluevalleyk12.org - BVH

BV South Area Band Team

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!

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:

- 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!

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.

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](#).

Community Events:



Stacey Sperry

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters