

PSE Weekly Howl

Week of November 4th!

PSE Updates:

No School-Nov. 1st

Have a wonderful weekend and please don't forget to set your clocks back.

Teacher-Professional Collaboration Time-Thank you!!

Our staff will gather tomorrow, November 1, for teacher-professional collaboration time. This time continues to allow our educators adequate plan and collaboration time that benefits our students in the long term. Our staff appreciates our families for allowing this plan and collaboration time to occur.

These days are a significant benefit for our elementary staff that will, in turn, support our students' academic success. I want to share some details about how our staff spent the day. The staff will be spending their day working on priority standards for the month of November and small group work to match each child's learning. We will also look at Securly training as a K-5 staff to assist limiting distractions when the students are on devices for academic reasons.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Have a great weekend!

Attendance Matters: Absences Affect the Whole Class

Did you know that your child's absence affects more than just their own learning? When students miss school, it can cause disruptions for the entire class. Teachers often have to adjust their plans to help absent students catch up, which can slow down the pace of learning for everyone. Group projects, hands-on activities and class discussions are all harder to manage when students are missing. All students play a vital role in the classroom. By making attendance a priority, you're supporting your child's growth, ensuring the class can learn together.

PSE FOOD DRIVE! November 11th-15th!

NOVEMBER 11-15, 2024



Late Night at the Star-November 15th!

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.

Late Night Carnival (Arquieta) K-5

Come and have a ball at the Late Night Carnival! With games, prizes and treats galore, fun and laughter are all in store! (Pizza and snacks will be provided).

Taylor Swift Bash (Wayland, Purcell and Phillips) K-5

Calling all Swifties! Join us for an amazing night of dinner, dancing, trivia, games, crafts and of course, karaoke! We can't wait to spread the fun and friendship!

Tie-Dye Spa Night (Chapman) 1-5

Join me for a relaxing night of tie dying all things spa!! Eye masks, pillow cases, and cozy socks will be available to dye and decorate any way you like! We will also make colorful sugar scrubs to take home and enjoy! I will provide a rainbow snack bar full of healthy and also sweet options. We will chat, hang out, and of course have fun, as we create and relax together!

Build-A-Journal (Art Journals) Wilson- K-5

Create a custom art journal using special fancy papers and a load of other cool materials. We'll cut, stamp, scrap, paint, glue, tear, bind, and cover journals that can be used for journalling, sketching, or writing your first masterpiece. We'll share supplies, listen to tunes, and eat some yummy pizza (and candy) while we create together.

NFL Draft Night (Kadel, Thielmann, Mastorakos) K-5

Calling all football fans! Join the 2nd grade team for a sports filled night of player drafts, football cards, flag football, and tailgate snacks! Come dressed in your favorite NFL team gear or player jersey! Make sure to brush up on your football knowledge before! GO TEAM!

4th Grade Veterans Day Assembly

The PSE 4th grade students will pay tribute to our military heroes on Veterans Day. If you know a Veteran you'd like us to celebrate, please invite them to our assembly and fill out the RSVP link below so we can properly acknowledge them in our program.

- Any PSE family may invite Veterans who have served or continue to serve in the US military. Please fill out the RSVP link with the Veteran's information.
- PSE families bringing a Veteran are invited to refreshments in the library following the assembly.
- All 4th-grade families are invited to watch their students perform on Monday, November 11th, at 2:30 PSE Gym.

PLEASE FOLLOW [THIS LINK](#) TO RSVP

Counselor Corner

This week Third through Fifth grade learned about Worry Wall and Worry WiseWorm. During our lesson, we distinguished between helpful worries and non-helpful worries. We also discussed that we need to collect clues or evidence to determine if the worry is tiny or a wise worry. We reviewed a few examples to determine what type of worry it was. The students then had time to write down their worries or what their peers worry about.

Kindergarten through Second grade will be learning about Rock Brain and T-Flex next week.

PSE Spirit Days

- **11/11**-Thank a Veteran-Red, White and Blue Day
- **11/22**-Warm and cozy day-slipper day



PSE PTO Updates!



PSE STEM Club

Prairie Star Elementary PTO is thrilled to announce our new 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. This monthly after-school club will have its first session on November 5th from 3:45 - 5. (A small snack, from the approved list by the school, will be provided.). Our meeting area has our class size currently capped at 30 students, so we

recommend you sign up quickly!

You can sign up on the PTO website or with this link:

<https://prairiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/307969>

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 prairiestaryearbook@gmail.com.

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

District News:

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:

- November 1
- December 6
- 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!

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 Celebrations and Observances

Some November Celebrations & Observances:

- Native American Heritage Month - celebrates the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, histories, and ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples.
- National Veterans and Military Family Appreciation Month - honors the military family by recognizing their sacrifices and commitments.
- All Saints Day - November 1 - celebrated by some of the Christian faith, this solemn, holy day honors the saints of the church.
- Day of the Dead - November 1 - celebrated by some with Mexican heritage, a joyful time to remember and honor deceased loved ones.
- Diwali - November 1 - the festival of lights celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and the human ability to overcome observed by some Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, and others. Some will decorate their homes with lights and rangoli art, exchange gifts, dress in colorful clothing, feast with family, and/or go to temple.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day–November 14th

On Nov. 14, students across the country will participate in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, an annual, commemorative event that honors the courage of Ruby Bridges who made history by becoming the first Black student to integrate an all-white elementary school in New Orleans in 1960. Students across the country now walk to school on this day to commemorate her bravery and continue the important conversation about equality and inclusion. To learn more about Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, visit <https://rubybridges.foundation/>. We invite our PSE families to walk to school on November 14th to participate in this nationwide event.

Community Events:



Stacey Sperry

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters