



PSE Weekly Howl

Week of December 9th!

PSE Updates:

Elementary Teacher Collaboration Time

December 6 is a K-5 non-student attendance day for teacher collaboration time. During this time, elementary educators will be in their buildings and classrooms working on meeting all the academic and social needs of our students.

This time is vital to ensuring the best possible preparation for our elementary students and supporting student learning outcomes.

School will be back in session on December 9.

Congratulations to Mario!

Please help me congratulate Mario Galang as he will be receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the December 9th BOE meeting at 5:30. Mario exemplifies everything wonderful about PSE, and we are so proud of him and the work that he does. Congratulations!

PSE Holiday Helpers

Each year, we support a few families in the PSE community gifts for the holiday season. Rather than asking for specific items with specific sizes, we are asking for gift cards. This will allow parents to shop for better selections for their children. This is completely optional! However, if your family is willing and able to support us, we'd love your help! Please bring gift cards for \$25 to help the families shop for their children. Or feel free to use the following credit card link for gift card donations. <https://praiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/313822>

Gift Cards or donations are due to the PSE office by Friday, December 13th. Thank you in advance for your generous donations! (Note: If you know a family in the PSE community who might need assistance anytime during the year, please let me know. We do our best to help support students in need.)

7 Days of Holiday Cheer

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12/12 **Candy Cane Day** – Wear red and white to look like this popular holiday treat

12/13 **Let it Snow**-Wear a fun snow cap, scarf, or earmuffs

12/16 **Holiday Head Gear Day** – Wear antlers, elf ears, bows, or any other festive headgear

12/17 **Merry & Bright Day** – Wear your most festive holiday sweater

12/18 **Tired Wednesday**- Wear your school-appropriate PJs

12/19 **Sharing is Caring**– Wear your favorite holiday outfit

12/20 **MistleTOE Day** – Wear your favorite socks or slippers



Late Night at the Star-December 13th!

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.

Holiday Gift Workshop-Kindergarten Staff- K-5th

Get your holiday "shopping" done early! We will create and wrap gifts for family and friends. Gifts include picture frames, decorated votives, and more! Snacks and dinner provided (please note...wrapped gifts will be sent home the following Monday so that paints can be allowed to dry)!

Snow STEAM Night-Arquieta-K-5

Join the fun as we explore how snow is formed and learn how to make our own "snow crystals." We will also make fluffy snow slime, create snow art crafts, and play some indoor "snow" games. Ice cream and snacks will be provided! It's going to be "snow" much fun!

Gingerbread Houses/Winter Fun-2nd Grade Staff-K-5

Do you love winter or the holidays?! If you do, join the second-grade teachers to make gingerbread houses, an ornament, and more festive activities! We will have dinner and drink hot cocoa. Feel free to wear festive holiday clothes/accessories and bring your holiday cheer!!

Cooking with the Crew-5th Grade Staff-K-5

PSE chefs wanted! Join us for an evening of holiday cooking and design competitions. Students will be able to design and create yummy snacks and treats! We will enjoy our cooking and drinks will be provided!

Holiday Clay Partay!-Wilson-K-5

Come build and sculpt with us in the Art Room! Students will get to use up to 2 whole pounds of clay (which is more than anyone needs!) to build pots, sculpt figures, or make whatever a young artist can think of. These would be great gifts for the holidays! Pizza and snacks as usual! [Projects will be kiln fired by Mr. Wilson the following week! Just in time for the holidays.]

OUR NEW BOOK VENDING MACHINE HAS ARRIVED!! THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT DONATED!



PSE PTO Updates!



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.

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

Fall Portraits 2024-Makeup/Retake Picture day

Fall Portraits 2024

Makeup/Retake Picture day: Saturday December 7, 2024

8:00am - 2:00pm

[CLICK HERE](#) to reserve your time slot!

SCH Photo Studio

6224 Merriam Drive

Merriam, KS 66203

This session is for:

- Students who were NOT yet photographed this school year.
- Retakes of any students needed.
- Any students who want to be photographed and place an order.

***All images of each subject will be processed and sent to their respective school's yearbook advisor or administration team.*

You may also have your pictures retaken. To be retaken, please fill out the retake form on the back side of your picture envelope and return your portrait package to the photographer on Makeup/Retake day.

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:

- 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](#).

Important Travel Outside of the USA Information

This important message is for any family or staff that will travel out of the United States during the school year. Please [click here](#) to read the restrictions and recommendations for Out of the Country travel. Blue Valley resources such as Canvas, Classlink, and school email are not accessible out of the country unless you have a personal device with a VPN on it.

Community Events:

BVHS Show Choir

Join us for the Blue Valley High School Choir and Show Choir's *Sounds of the Season* Winter Show, happening December 12th-14th! This festive performance will showcase the incredible talents of our choir students as they bring holiday cheer to life through a mix of traditional carols, contemporary songs, and exciting show choir numbers. Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to the BVHS music community, this is a night you won't want to miss. Bring your family and friends for an unforgettable evening filled with beautiful music and seasonal spirit. We look forward to celebrating the season with you! You can purchase your tickets [HERE](#).



BVHS Sounds of the Season 2024 POSTER copy.pdf

[Download](#)

10.7 MB



Stacey Sperry

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters