

# PSE Weekly Howl

Week of February 17th!

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**Have a great three day weekend! See you on Tuesday!**

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## **Late Night at the Star-February 21st**

Prairie Star staff is excited to continue offering Late Night at the Star classes, which are after-school enrichment programs for students.

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 reach out to 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).**

## **Candy STEM -Kindergarten Teachers (K-5)**

Do you have a giant sweet tooth? If so, this Late Night is for you! Enjoy an evening of science experiments and STEM activities with CANDY! Activities will include "Candy Cars," "Nautical Nightmare," "Bubble Trouble," and more. We will have pizza for dinner and candy treats, of course!

## **Carnival Fun -Purcell, Wayland, and Philips (K-5)**

Are you ready for the best PSE carnival? Join us for cake walks, pop tosses, bounce houses, football tosses, and so many more carnival games! Dinner, drinks, candy, and fun prizes included!

### **Minecraft Mania-2nd Grade Team (K-5)**

\*Get ready to enter the world of Minecraft! Will you survive in our biome?! We will get creative building our own Minecraft selves. We'll do a Minecraft scavenger hunt, play some games of survival bingo, and when you need to restore your hunger points there will be dinner! We will create our own survival materials and more. No creepers allowed!

### **Feathered Friends Fun-Arquieta (K-5)**

Soar into an adventure at our bird party! Creativity and nature come together as students will decorate a birdhouse for real backyard birds using seeds and items from nature. Students will also decorate a wind chime, participate in an indoor bird hunt and other games for prizes. Yummy treats will be provided.

### **Cardboard Creations! Wilson (K-5)**

Come one, come all! Come make your cardboard creations in the Art Room. Lots of Duck Tape, cardboard, and paint to satisfy the young artist and engineer. Pizza and Candy as usual!

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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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## **Upcoming Musical Dates:**

Tuesday, March 4, 8:15-8:25 a.m. Mini-Choir Concert in the Gym  
Monday, March 10, 4:00-6:00 p.m. 5th Grade Talent Show Try-outs  
Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. 1st Grade Music Program.  
Wednesday, March 12, 9:00 a.m. 1st grade matinee  
Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. 5th Grade Talent Show  
Tuesday, May 20, 9:15 a.m. 5th Grade Talent Show Matinee

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## 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!

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


**DENIM  
and  
DIAMONDS**

PSE School Auction and Parent Social.

*Save The Date!*

Friday, March 7th 2025  
6-9 pm at Pinstripes at Prairie Fire

Silent Auction will be held online  
<https://pse.schoolauction.net/denimanddiamonds/>



Bidding STARTS March 3rd at 9 am  
Bidding ENDS March 7th at 9 pm

You do not need to be present Friday night to Win but all items will be available for the winner to take or schedule a later pickup.

## PSE STEM Club

It's time for our February session (2/20) 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.



## 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](mailto: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!

## Volunteers needed for GIRLS ON THE RUN!

"Want to help?! We're looking for 2 parents to join our coaching team! Flexible commitment- you don't need to attend every practice. Contact Laura or Mallory if for details!"



**We want you on our team!**

Make new friends, get your body moving, set and achieve goals at your pace, gain new skills and have TONS of fun.

Are you ready to unlock the leader that's always been inside of you?

**A GOTR SEASON LOOKS LIKE THIS:**

- Your team meets twice a week for eight weeks
- Caring coaches lead fun lessons and games, group discussions, and physical activities
- Each team dreams up and completes a Community Impact Project that helps make the world a better place
- You will cross the finish line with your team in an exciting and joyful 5K!

SCAN ME!

For more information and to register, visit [www.gotrkc.org](http://www.gotrkc.org)

**Prairie Star Elementary**  
MONDAY / WEDNESDAY  
3:45 - 5PM  
Season length: 8 weeks  
Season starts the week of March 10, 2025  
Celebratory 5K May 10, 2025  
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

QUESTIONS?  
LAURA EAKIN  
(LCLEAKIN@GMAIL.COM)  
OR  
MALLORY HANNAH  
(MALLORY.A.HANNAH@GMAIL.COM)

PSE PTO Scholarships for 2025 Graduates:

Each year the Prairie Star PTO offers two scholarships to graduating seniors who are PSE Alumni. The 2025 deadline to apply is midnight on Friday March 28th.

The first scholarship is in honor of Dr. Laura Swartz, the very first Principal of Prairie Star Elementary. The scholarship amount is \$1,000.00 and will be awarded to a 2025 graduate of one of the five Blue Valley High Schools **who attended Prairie Star Elementary for at least one year and intends to major in Education.**

Application: <https://prairiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/319779>

Deadline: Friday March 28th

The second scholarship is a general PSE PTO scholarship for those alumni displaying the virtues valued at Prairie Star Elementary. The amount of \$1,000.00 will be awarded to a 2025 graduate of one of the five Blue Valley High Schools **who attended Prairie Star Elementary for at least one year.**

Application: <https://prairiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/319780>

Deadline: Friday March 28th

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## District News:

### Securely Home

Have you ever wondered how to monitor your child's usage on their Blue Valley device? We have parent tools that allow you to receive notifications to ensure your child is using their device safely. School staff members monitor these devices during the school day and intervene, when necessary. However, parents can receive alerts if concerns arise when students use devices after school hours—including weekends and school breaks. Check out the [Securely Home](#) Parent Portal App here.

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### You Have a Chance to Win a Fabulous Experience! Raffle for a Reason Open Now through March 3

It's back and better than ever! Want to rock out at the Country Music Awards? How about a trip to Napa or a family vacation to the Virgin Islands? BVEF is selling ONLY 300 raffle tickets at \$100/ticket and the lucky winner has their choice of one of eight amazing packages. You can enter as often as tickets are available! Proceeds support our students and educators, and the winner will be drawn live on Facebook at the end of day on March 4. Check it all out here and good luck!

[Welcome!](#)

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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:

- 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:**



# Starting STRONG

EARLY ELEMENTARY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | 6-7:30PM  
HILLTOP CONFERENCE CENTER | FREE!

## NAVIGATING TRANSITIONS: Empowering Parents with Conscious Discipline

**BV Well** invites **early elementary (K-2) parents** and caregivers to this session designed to provide insights and tools for supporting your child's development and wellbeing.

Presented by certified instructor Heather Buckman, this session will focus on helping families navigate transitions through the framework of **Conscious Discipline**. Parents will gain insights into **how the brain responds to stress and change**, learn **practical techniques to support emotional resilience**, and explore strategies to **build stronger connections with their children**. The session will include interactive discussions, real-life examples, and take-home resources to empower parents to create a harmonious and nurturing home environment.

A **Panel Discussion with Blue Valley educational leaders** will follow the presentation. The session is free; for planning purposes, please [register](https://fundbv.org/bvwell) in advance at [fundbv.org/bvwell](https://fundbv.org/bvwell).



**Heather Buckman** spent 7 years teaching 4th and 5th grade while contributing to various building and district leadership roles before transitioning to an administrative position as assistant principal in a Title I School; a role she has currently held for the last nine years. There, she spearheaded the transformative implementation of Conscious Discipline where they've witnessed an increase in academic achievement and school culture, alongside a decrease in discipline issues and staff turnover. Heather holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education from Missouri State University and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Northwest Missouri State.



Starting Strong Series Sponsor:



**Stacey Sperry**

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