

# PSE Weekly Howl

Week of May 5th!

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## Staff Professional Collaboration - May 2nd!

Tomorrow is the last teacher collaboration day of the school year. Thank you for your support and partnership as we ensure our educators have adequate plan and collaboration time.

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## PSE IXL Challenge

We are excited to announce that we are doing a school-wide IXL Challenge for May. This year, we are trying to answer over one million questions as a school. The challenge started yesterday, and we have already answered 32,000 questions in the first day. For all of you wondering, the questions only count if you answer them correctly. Current class leaders are:

- Excellent Sea Lions
- Ambitious Penguins
- Amazing Sea Lions

Cant wait to see all the knowledge gained in the next three weeks. :)

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## "Thanks For Helping Us Bloom at PSE!"

Let's celebrate our Prairie Star staff during teacher appreciation week! We are asking families to consider *adopting a staff member* and spoiling them during the week of May 5th - May 9th.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0845A9AC23A2F94-56026666-psestaff#/>

Thank you for ensuring all our PSE staff know how much we appreciate them!

Please see the link for ideas on "Favorite Things" lists! Please drop off all gifts between Monday, May 5th, and Friday, May 9th. <https://praiiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/224895>



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## Pets on Campus

Please refrain from bringing your pets to the entrance of the school at arrival/dismissal. Please keep pets by the parking lot or bike racks. Some students are very allergic and others are afraid of animals. Even the friendliest pets can get anxious around a large number of students. Thanks for understanding.

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## Blue Valley Food Service Payment Changes

Blue Valley's Food and Nutrition Services team has shared an important update regarding changes to meal payments.

Beginning May 1, ACH/e-check payments will no longer be accepted as our payment processing system offers limited support for this payment method. Any ACH or e-check recurring payments will be disabled after April 30.

Families still have multiple payment options:

- Cash or check— Your child can bring cash or a check to school. Please make checks payable to “BVFNS” and include your child’s full name and student ID number on the memo line.
- Credit Card via LinqConnect — If you haven’t already, visit <https://linqconnect.com/main> to set up an account and make payments via credit card. A \$3 transaction fee applies each time you use a credit card.

If you have questions, please contact [studentnutrition@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:studentnutrition@bluevalleyk12.org).

To ensure you continue receiving important Food and Nutrition Services updates, please add [noreply@linqconnect.com](mailto:noreply@linqconnect.com) and [noreply@titank12.com](mailto:noreply@titank12.com) to your email contacts to prevent messages from going to your junk or spam folder.

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## Summer Camp with the Special Teachers

SUMMER CAMP with the SPECIALS teachers: Get ready to create, discover, and explore with the Specials Teachers. Learn new card and board games with Ms. Byrne, create “Mythical and Magical Art” with Mr. Wilson, and learn, design, and play with STEM toys with Señora Arquieta. Camp is at PSE from June 30 to July 2. To learn more and sign up, click on the link: [Summer Camp with Specials Teachers](#)

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## Register for the 2025-26 school year today

Register for the 2025-26 school year today

Elementary school registration for the 2025-26 school year is now open for current students. Registration is required annually and is the time to update your child’s information and pay fees. Completing registration confirms that your child will attend school in August and helps the district appropriately staff classrooms. Thank you for taking the time to complete this important step. For more registration information, visit [www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration).

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## Late Night at the Star-May 9th!

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).

### **Pirates and Mermaids by the Kindergarten Team (K-5th)**

Ahoy! Aaaargh ye ready for some pirate and mermaid shenanigans? We will dress up like pirates and mermaids, create sand art, visit the tattoo parlor, decorate treasure chests, and go on a treasure hunt! Snacks and dinner are included.

### **Water Mania by the 5th grade Team and Phillips (K-5th)**

Do you love water fun? Join us for an evening full of great outdoor activities and water fun! Let's get messy through some creative competitions for all ages! Dinner, drinks, and dessert provided!

### **Craft Night with Miss M. (K-5th)**

Join Miss M. for a night full of fun and crafts! We will decoupage (collage) clipboards, frames, keychains, and more! We will have stickers and magazines to clip art from. But, feel free to bring your pictures, stickers, or magazines to glue to your projects as we create masterpieces!! All ages are welcome, and dinner and dessert will be provided!

### **Grassheads and Recycled Art with Senora Arquieta (K-5th)**

Join us for fun games, arts and crafts, and yummy snacks! We will learn how to reduce, reuse, recycle, and "upcycle" as we create a gift with paint and recycled materials. We will have a "recycle or trash" relay race and create our own Mr. Grasshead! We will also enjoy chocolate ice cream, "dirt and worms." All ages are welcome!

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## **Counselor Corner**

This week, Kindergarten through 2nd grade learned about the Unthinkabot Body Drifter and the Thinkable Stick-Withem. We then played Trivia/Bingo, in which scenarios were read about certain Unthinkabots and Thinkables. The class then had to guess which Unthinkabot or Thinkable it was.

Unthinkabot: Body Drifter does the following:

- Pull or push us away from others. Sometimes we may not even notice we have drifted from the group
- Make our body wander or drift around the room or house
- Make our brain foggy so that we don't notice when we are supposed to be in a group
- Pull or push us to walk away from a person who is talking to us

Thinkable: Stick-Withem does the following:

- Helps us keep our body with the group
- Helps us know when to stick with the group, stay near our parents, or hang out near other kids.
- For school, this looks like: Field trips, Wolf Walk, Drills, Recess
- With parents: Airports, Vacations, Concerts, The Mall, Sporting Events



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**SPIRIT WEAR TODAY!**

[www.bvhstigersinc.com](http://www.bvhstigersinc.com) 

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### The Weekly Howl Podcast - New Episodes on Mondays

The PSE PTO is launching the Weekly Howl Podcast! Hosted by 5th grade PSE students, now you can get all your weekly PSE community updates while you wait in the car line. New episodes every Monday! [Tune in here](#)



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### Counselor Corner:

This week, during counseling lessons, students in Kindergarten through Second grade discussed the Unthinkabot, Mean Bean, and the Thinkable, Nice Light.

Kindergarten was read The Recess Queen and discussed mean behavior VS. kind behavior.

First and Second Grade students were also provided a heart shape paper which they were able to color and write their interests and the qualities that they like about themselves in the heart.

When discussing Mean Bean students learned about the characteristics, such as:

- Saying mean things about someone's clothes, hair, body, or how they do things
- Forget to think about other's feelings and call people mean names or yell at them
- Do mean things for no reason, like telling mean stories, gossiping, or hurting someone.

We then took the hearts we created and would start to crumble them when giving examples of what Mean Bean could say and do. The reason for the crumbling is for students to visualize what words and actions can do to our hearts.

We then discussed the Thinkable Nice Light and the strategies we can use, such as:

- using positive self-talk
- Remember to stand up when others are being unkind

-Understanding that it's okay to do things differently, look different, or play with things we wouldn't play with.

After discussing Nice Light, students were then given prompts on how our hearts can open back up from the crumbles by receiving compliments, asking for forgiveness, and using positive self-talk. Students were able to understand from their hearts how words and actions can impact us and others.

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## Purchase School Supplies for the 25-26 school year!



**The BEST Way to Buy Back-To-School Supplies!**

**1st Day School Supplies**

**BUY EARLY & SAVE OVER RETAIL**

- ✓ The Exact School Supplies Your Teacher Requested
- ✓ Name Brand Products Like:

**CRAYOLA FISKARS ELMER'S TICONDEROGA**

**Order by: July 1st**

**1stDaySchoolSupplies.com**

SCAN HERE TO ORDER

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### School Supplies for PSMS- for incoming 6th grade students

#### School Supply ordering for 25-26 school year

Prairie Star Middle School has partnered with 1st Day School Supplies to make school supply shopping fast and easy! If you wish to purchase a school supply kit for your PSMS student, use the link below and be sure to save your receipt. School supplies will be delivered to PSMS in August and distributed before the first day of school. Order deadline is July 1 - no exceptions. If you have questions, please contact Erin Briggeman ([erin\\_boomer@yahoo.com](mailto:erin_boomer@yahoo.com)). Order link: [1st Day School Supplies - Select Your Grade](#)

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## Incoming Kindergarten Information

### Kindergarten Orientation-August 13th

On the first day of school, Aug. 13, 2025, we invite all kindergarten students and families to participate in Kindergarten Orientation Day. The day will have a modified schedule, allowing kindergarten teachers to meet with students and families in small groups throughout the day and provide a comforting transition to school.

During the orientation, you and your child will:

- Meet your teacher
- Become familiar with classroom routines and expectations
- Get to know new friends and families
- Take first-day-of-school pictures
- Calm any kindergarten fears or anxieties (for students and parents)

Families are asked to sign up for one session, each lasting approximately one hour.

[Kindergarten Orientation](#)

Please note on Aug. 13 there will not be bus service or lunch provided for kindergarten students. Aug. 14 will be a regular school day for all students.

We look forward to seeing your family on Aug. 13 at Kindergarten Orientation Day!

### OPTIONAL Kindergarten Camp

If you are interesting in K Camp, please read the smore below. Thanks!

<https://secure.smores.com/n/8quxf>

Welcome to PSE Smore for Kindergarten families - <https://secure.smores.com/n/tqzcr>

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## Save the Dates for End of Year Activities!

Event Information

### 5th Grade Talent Show

When?

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 06:00 PM

Where?

Prairie Star Elementary School, West 143rd Street, Leawood, KS, USA

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#### Event Information

### 5th Grade Farewell @ 9:00

We will say farewell to our 5th-grade students with a small ceremony in the gym.

This will be a fun day full of celebrations. We will start with the 5th-grade ceremony in our gym. After the ceremony, the class and families will enjoy a selfie station, donuts, juice, and a coffee truck. Yum! Then, we will have a grade-level lunch party in the afternoon before launching into a kickball tournament and Minute to Win It games.

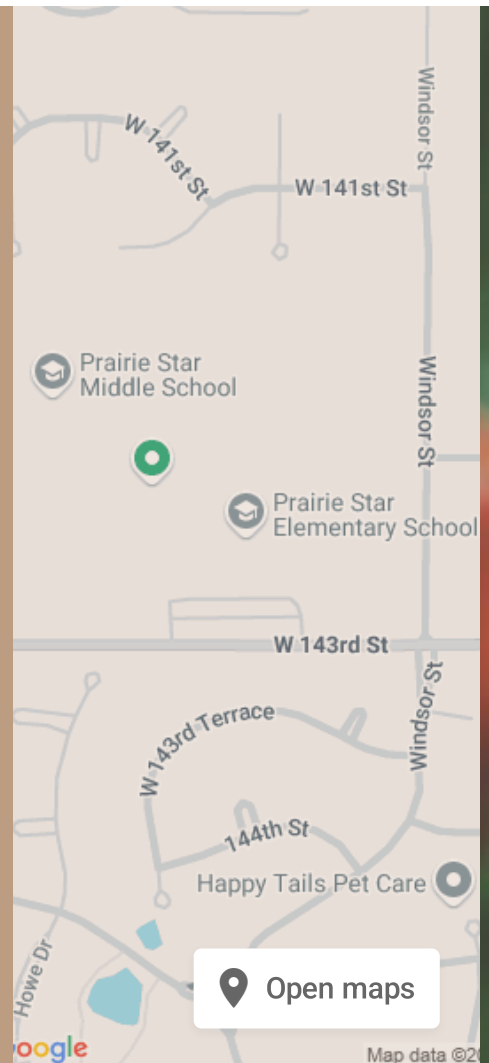
5th-grade parents can enter the gym doors at 8:45. We would like to start our day with students in their classes before the parents enter. Thanks!

When?

**Monday, May 19, 2025, 09:00 AM**

Where?

**Prairie Star Elementary School, West 143rd Street,  
Leawood, KS, USA**



#### Event Information

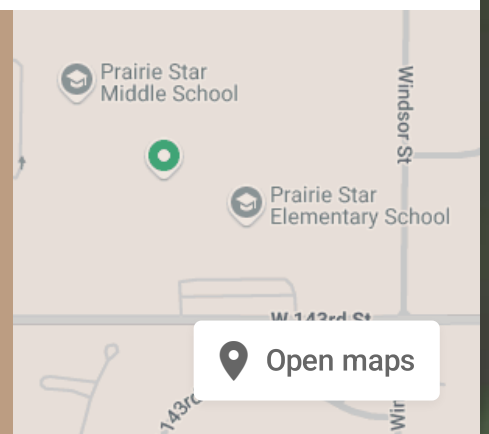
### 5th Grade Talent Show Matinee

When?

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 09:00 AM**

Where?

**Prairie Star Elementary School, West 143rd Street,  
Leawood, KS, USA**



#### Event Information

### Field Day- May 21st @ 12:45

Volunteers are needed for Field Day on May 21st. Please consider volunteering to work at a station for a couple of hours. We need you from 12:45-3:30. Thank you in advance! ~Coach and Stacey

- Field Day will be during the school day on **Wednesday, May 21st, from 12:45-3:20** (weather permitting).
- All students can **wear a PSE t-shirt, fun!**



- Please apply sunscreen before school or send sunscreen that they will use themselves.
- Students may wear a hat if they wish!
- Volunteer for a couple of hours by using this sign-up genius, [Volunteer for Field Day](#)

When?

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 12:45 PM**

Event Information

### 5th Grade Clap Out

We are starting the 5th-grade clap-out on May 23rd at 11:15. All 5th-grade parents that would like to attend need to line the sidewalk from the parking lot (by PSMS track) to the playground by 11:10. We will walk outside from the old recess doors. When you see your child, please join them and walk with them. If you cannot attend, those students will step back in the front doors and to class and be dismissed as usual. This will allow us to keep everyone safe during dismissal and enable you to spend time with your child on the last day at PSE.

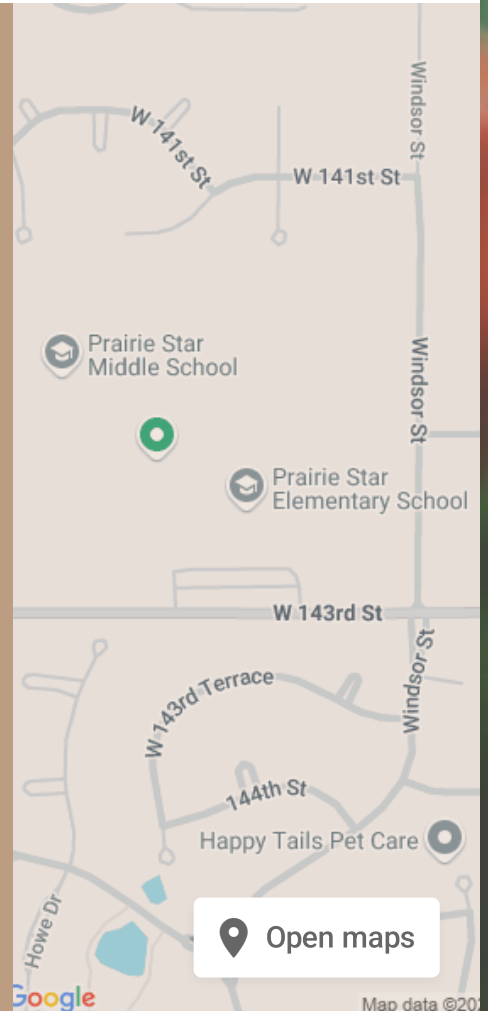
Grades K-4 will be dismissed starting at 11:35.

When?

**Friday, May 23, 2025, 11:15 AM**

Where?

**Prairie Star Elementary School, West 143rd Street,  
Leawood, KS, USA**



## Mark your calendars for Back to School Dates!!!

Mark your calendars for Back to School Dates!!!

- **Back to School Activity on August 7th details coming soon!**
- Class Assignments: On August 11th, you will receive a Welcome email from your child's teacher at 4 pm
- School Pictures are in the gym on August 11th from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. If this doesn't work for your schedule, we will have a make-up day later in the year.
- Sneak Peek: August 11th, 4:30-5:30 pm. Meet your teacher and see your classroom, buy school spirit wear, learn about PTO opportunities, and enjoy an ice cream with your friends and neighbors.
- First full day of school for 1st - 5th: August 13th, 8:40 am-3:45.
- Kindergarten Orientation: August 13th, sign-up here- [Kindergarten Orientation](#)
- First full day for Kindergarten: August 14th, 8:40 am-3:45 pm
- Back to School Night: August 21st, adult-only event to learn classroom information

- Session 1: 5:00-5:30pm
  - Session 2: 5:45-6:15 pm, this is a repeat of Session 1 for families with multiple students or who couldn't attend Session 1
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**Stacey Sperry**

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters