



# PSE Weekly Howl

August 19th Edition

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## Shining Bright at PSE

We had a great first week of school. All of our students were shining bright this week. We wish you a wonderful weekend and see you on Monday!

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## Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible at the STAR!

This year at PSE we are using common language to help our students to realize regardless of where they are being kind, safe and responsible are skills for success. We will be using these in all settings this year.

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## Summer Reading Challenge

Here are the kiddos who completed the Summer Reading Challenge and attended our popsicle celebration today! Congrats!



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## Save the Date for Back to School Night!

Back to School Night: August 22nd (adult-only event)

- Come and listen to a presentation by your student's classroom teacher and find out classroom information for the year. Teachers will present two sessions to accommodate

families with multiple students.

- 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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## **LUNCH VISITORS BEGINNING September 4th!**

**Lunch Visitors:** If you would like to visit the lunchroom during your child's lunch, you are welcome to join us after Labor Day. This is a chance to come during special occasions or when your schedule allows. The students are always so excited to have lunch visitors.

Here are some guidelines we ask you to follow:

- You will need your government-issued photo ID to enter the building
  - Check in at the office and obtain a visitor's sticker
  - If a grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc., want to visit for lunch, they must be listed as an Emergency Contact in our student information system or not be allowed to enter the building. Please call the office to add people before the visit.
  - If a visitor brings food, it can only be shared with your student
  - We will have a visitor's table in the lunchroom for you and your student to sit and eat
  - Check out at the office after your student's lunch
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## **BusZone has replaced Bus Tracker**

**BusZone has replaced Bus Tracker** - We have recently learned that *BusZone* has replaced *BusTracker* for Durham School Services Bus Transportation.

- Families who have registered for bus services should have received an email with directions (see below link) for downloading the *BusZone* app from Durham.

[BusZone Step-by-Step Directions for Families](#)

At this time, you do not need to communicate anything as we just wanted to make you aware. We hope to follow up with directions for administrators soon as Durham is working on a solution to provide administrators the opportunity to use this App as well.

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### **PSE's view on cell phones and smart watches during the school day.**

In an effort to provide the most effective learning spaces possible, the following guidelines are in effect concerning personal cell phones and associated personal technology devices (CP/PTD) at the elementary school level: CP/PTDs are defined as any device designed for personal communication, digital information transfer, or electronic gaming/play.

CP/PTDs are not allowed to be in use by elementary school students during the school day. The school day is defined as anytime the student is on campus property on a day in which school is in session. CP/PTDs are to be kept in backpacks out of sight and are to be powered off. Should the need arise for a student to contact parents during the school day the main office phone or the classroom phone should be used for such a call. Should the need arise for parents to contact their child, the main office phone should be used for such a call. CP/PTDs may be used by the student only at the request of the classroom teacher or other staff member. CP/PTDs used to monitor identified student health needs such as blood sugar levels are allowed and must be approved by the principal.

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Event Information

**Class Photo and Picture Day (those that missed Sneak Peek)**

- If you cannot make it, we will have retakes on September 16th during the school day.

When?

**Monday, Sep 16, 2024, 08:45 AM**

Where?

**Prairie Star Elementary**

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## **General Reminder for Visitors During the School Day:**

We will welcome visitors into our buildings this year and would like to share a general reminder that all elementary schools in the district utilize the buzz-in entry system for visitors during the school day. Visitors will need to come to the front of the school. At the front entrance, visitors will press the buzzer, show a government-issued photo identification, and state the purpose of their visit each time they visit the school. We ask that guests not hold the door open for another visitor once you have been buzzed in. Instead, allow the door to close for visitors to go through the procedures. Thank you for your support of our safety procedures.

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## **Lunch Information**

Lunch menus can be found online here: [Lunch menus](#)

You can also download the Nutrislice app for easy access for daily/weekly menus.

We will start visits to the lunchroom **after Labor Day on Wednesday, September 4th**. We will take the first weeks of school to learn and practice lunchroom routines and procedures. Thank you for understanding and waiting to enjoy lunch with your child until then!

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## **Attendance Notification**

Every day PSE opens its doors to students for a day filled with learning. When a student does not arrive at school or unexpectedly misses a portion of the school day, we are concerned and want to make sure you are aware that your child is absent.

Beginning Thursday, Aug. 17, families will be notified of unexpected absences through email, phone, text and optional push notifications. Prairie Star families can expect automated attendance messages by email, phone and text at 9:35 a.m. if a child is absent and his/her absence has not already been reported by a parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to call the school to report an absence or reply to the automated email or phone message.

Families who would also like a push notification can download the ParentVUE app and manage their notifications. If a child has an unreported absence when a teacher submits attendance, then a push notification will immediately be sent to the parent/guardian's mobile device.

Interested in push notifications? Simply download the ParentVUE app ([iTunes app store](#) or [Google Play](#)), enable push notifications in device settings and select attendance notifications through in-app settings.

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## APPLY FOR THE FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM

Blue Valley Food and Nutrition Services is again participating in the Child Nutrition Program, which offers qualifying families Free and Reduced meal benefits. This is an annual program, and a new application is required each school year to qualify for benefits.

1. Verify your family meets the [Free & Reduced Meal income guidelines](#)
2. [Apply online](#) using the Chrome browser. If your default browser is not Chrome, please copy and paste this URL <https://linqconnect.com/> into a Chrome browser to begin the application process.
  1. Remember to complete the Consent for Disclosure section if you wish to obtain additional discounts for school fees or bus transportation fees based on your application status.
  2. If a member of your household receives Food Assistance (FA), or Temporary Assistance to Families (TAF) from the State of Kansas, or you have a Foster student you may not need to apply. Contact Bobbi Valverde at [bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org) if you need to verify your status.
  3. Need a paper application? Paper applications are available on the district [website](#), at all Blue Valley schools, or by contacting Bobbi Valverde at [bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org) or (913) 239-4106.
3. **Submit the completed application before August 16th for full meal benefits upon qualifying.** All families that apply will receive a letter notifying the determination. Please allow at least 10 days before inquiring about your submission.

Thank you for your support as we work together to meet the nutritional needs of all Blue Valley students. More information about the [Free & Reduced Meal Program](#) is available online.

We look forward to a happy, healthy, and successful 2023-24 school year.

Charles Rathbun

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**Stacey Sperry**

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters