

Prairie Heights October Newsletter

www.usd417.net

Parent Teacher Conferences

Prairie Heights Elementary School will be conducting parent teacher conferences on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, **October 20** and **October 21**.

Nancy Furney, our school secretary, organizes conference times coordinating the schedules of classroom teachers and trying to avoid conflicting appointments. The secretary makes certain the Interrelated teacher can be available to parents. Parents wanting to confer with your child's social worker, music teacher, or the physical education teacher, should contact the school and make an appointment, if you want a particular time.

October 1 - Picture Day

Pictures will be taken October 1. Photo packets have already been sent home to parents about the event. Students need to have the order form with them on October 1.

"Wednesday Walk"

On Wednesday, October 7th PHES will start a new program called "Wednesday Walk". Wednesday Walkers will meet the 1st Wednesday of the month from 7:30-7:55 AM to walk around the gym. Every extra minute of exercise is a step in the right direction for our student and staff health! We invite any parents or community members to come walk with us, as well. Students will be dismissed to breakfast at 7:45 AM, if they have signed up to eat.

October 12 Board of Education Meeting

The USD #417 Board of Education will meet on October 12 at 6:30 PM at the district office. Patrons of Prairie Heights are not only welcome, but should attend this meeting. It is an opportunity to receive firsthand information about the happenings in the school district.

National Walk to/at School Day! _____ Friday, October 16th,
USD #417 is celebrating National Walk to School Day! We encourage students and community members to walk to work or school that day! Bus riders are welcome to come walk in the gym upon arrival before school starts, so they may also participate.

PHES: PTO volunteers will meet students at the Alta Vista Park, but they must be there by 7:40 AM to walk together. The gym will be open for walkers at 7:40 AM!

Parents, please do not drop your child off at a designated area off campus, unless you see the volunteer(s) still present and waiting. In the event of inclement weather, volunteers will be located in the school gyms to walk with the students. Please call your school nurse, if you have any questions. *Submitted by Dana Reddick, 417 Nurse*

October 16 – Early Dismissal Students

On October 16 students will be dismissed two hours earlier, so that teachers may prepare reports for the first nine weeks of school. **There will be no After School Program on this day.**

October 23 – No School - Students

On October 23rd neither students nor staff will have school due to Parent Teacher Conferences being held earlier in that week.

Flu Vaccines Available

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Flu season is nearly here. This season we would like to help protect students and teachers against the flu by providing voluntary FluMist® (Influenza Virus Vaccine Live, Intranasal) vaccinations for \$35.00. FluMist is not a shot; it is a gentle mist that is sprayed into the nose. Please refer to the enclosed 2014-2015 CDC Vaccine Information Statement for more information about FluMist.

Children can be sick with the flu for a week or more, which may cause them to miss school. Additionally, flu in children can be serious and can cause:

- Fever
- Headache
- Extreme tiredness
- Body aches

Flu is very contagious, especially among children. Children can also spread the flu to people in the home who could get very sick, such as grandparents, younger siblings, or babies. Annual vaccination is the best way to help prevent flu. We have scheduled a vaccine clinic at our schools

- Date of clinic: Tuesday, October 20th, 2015
- Clinic will be run by: Morris County Health Department and school nurse
- A follow-up clinic will be scheduled at our school for those children who need to receive a second dose of FluMist. You will receive a letter if your child qualifies.

If your child is under 9 years of age, eligible for FluMist, and has not previously received a flu vaccination at any time, he/she should receive 2 doses of FluMist given at least 1 month apart. If your child is under 9 years of age, got vaccinated for the first time last year, but only received 1 dose of flu vaccine, he/she should receive 2 doses of flu vaccine this year.

To give consent to have your child vaccinated with FluMist, please read and complete all the attached forms and return them with your payment to your child's school by Monday, October 19th, 2015. We will be unable to vaccinate anyone without completed paperwork and payment. If your child is not eligible to receive FluMist and you would still like your child to be vaccinated against the flu, we encourage you to contact your healthcare provider.

The cost of the Flumist is \$35.00. Please make checks payable to the Morris County Health Department. If your child has Medicaid or Kancare Title 19, he/she is eligible to receive free vaccine only if you provide a current copy of the medical card. The Health Department is also accepting Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance this year. You must provide a copy of that insurance card as well if you choose to pay in that manner. If your child does not have insurance and you cannot afford the \$35.00

fee, he/she may be eligible for free or reduced vaccine at the Morris County Health Department by calling (620)767-5175. The Child Healthcare Organization may also be able to help cover the fee if you are unable to afford the amount. Please contact me if you need.

If you have additional questions about flu vaccination or FluMist, we encourage you to contact your child's healthcare provider or the Morris County Health Department for more information.

Dana Reddick, RN District Health Nurse

Please see the following for FluMist® (Influenza Virus Vaccine Live, Intranasal) Important Safety Information.

Important Safety Information

Who may be eligible for FluMist® (Influenza Virus Vaccine Live, Intranasal)?

FluMist is a vaccine approved for the prevention of certain types of influenza disease in children, adolescents and adults 2-49 years of age. FluMist may not protect everyone who gets it. FluMist is for intranasal administration only.

Who may not be able to get FluMist?

FluMist is not right for everyone. FluMist must not be given to the following:

- *people with history of hypersensitivity to eggs, egg proteins, gentamicin, gelatin or arginine
- *people with life-threatening reactions to previous influenza vaccinations
- *children and adolescents receiving aspirin or aspirin-containing therapy

Children under 24 months of age are not eligible for FluMist.

The following people may not be able to get FluMist or may be able to get it only in certain situations: people with asthma or active wheezing, or children less than 5 years of age with recurrent wheezing; people with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome; people with a weakened immune system; people with long-term medical conditions including heart disease, kidney disease, and metabolic diseases, such as diabetes; and pregnant women.

If your child falls into one of these groups, be sure to tell your healthcare provider. They will decide if FluMist is right for your child.

What are the most common side effects of FluMist?

Most common side effects were generally mild and included runny nose or nasal congestion, sore throat, and fever. For a full list of side effects or other product information, please call your school nurse for the complete product information.

For more information, please visit www.FluMist.com

References: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Flu symptoms & severity. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/symptoms.htm>. Accessed February 10,

2. GlezenWP, Couch RB. Interpandemic influenza in the Houston area, 1974-76. N Engl J Med. 1978;298:587-592. 3. Prescribing Information for FluMist, Vaccine Live, Intranasal. MedImmune, LLC. Gaithersburg, Md. *Submitted by Dana Reddick, 417Nurse*

PHES Band Officers – I5-I6

Our new PHES Grade 6 band officers for 2015-2016 are as follows:

President	Lauren Brown	Grade 6
Vice-President	Tyler Hawkins	Grade 6
Secretary/Treasurer	Aleyah Snyder	Grade 6

Site Council Met September 21 at PHES

The Prairie Heights Site Council has met twice, so far this school term, August 24th and September 21st. In August members reviewed the results of this year's Power of Partnership Family Survey completed by parents at enrollment. At the September meeting we determined we should be promoting family engagement, sharing ways for patrons to be involved and to share the power between school and families, and finding ways to communicate, collaborate and connect with the communities. The next date that Site Council meets will be October 26 at 7:30 PM in the library at Prairie Heights Elementary School in Alta Vista.

I5 – I6 PHES Student Council Members

Our new PHES student council members for 2015-2016 are as follows:

Grade 5	Caden Taylor, Kierni Mullen and Anthony Wilson
Grade 6	Kellen Marshall, Lauren Brown and Khilyn McDiffett

The students are planning a Grade 5 and Grade 6 Family Fun Night for November 5.

Submitted by Lori Pollock - PHES student council sponsor

Friends of Prairie Heights

Students at Prairie Heights Elementary School have been the recipients of an act of kindness and generosity from our patrons this school year.

The **Presbyterian Women** of the Dwight Presbyterian Church donated \$150 dollars to the After School Program, which is held at Prairie Heights Elementary School in Alta Vista.

When you have the opportunity, express appreciation to this organization.

Title I News

You are invited to look at the Title 1 page on the PHES building website. You will find documents and links that were shared with you at our Back-To-School Night in August, along with some other information. The first link, Schoolwide Title 1 Fact Sheet, shows the essential components of a Schoolwide Title 1 program. You will also see a Parental Involvement fact sheet and our USD #417 Parent Involvement Policy. This policy outlines programs and activities to improve the connection between your child's school and family. There is also a link to the USD #417 Report Card. Our state is in the process of updating the report card page so you will not see data for 2014-15. The Report Card has a collection of data that has been compiled annually to provide information by buildings, district and state. The KPIRC, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center, site is a great resource that promotes family engagement. On the KPIRC site, you will find many resources for parents and schools to access. We hope you will spend some time looking through the new Title 1 page. Any of these documents

can be provided to you in a hard copy. Let the school secretary know, what you need.

~A Note From The School Social Worker~ K-6th grade students began receiving weekly guidance lessons the first full week of school. Topics we have covered include: Role of the School Social Worker, Kindness, Team Work and Student Rights & Responsibilities. During the month of October, guidance lessons will focus on Bullying, Safety and Substance Abuse Awareness.

The Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas State Senate have designated the week of October 5-11th as Anti-Bullying Awareness Week. KSDE joins all Kansas schools in observing this week as an opportunity to create awareness and address the harm that bullying creates. This year's theme is "The End of Bullying Begins with Me!"

Students will also celebrate National Red Ribbon Week this month. This year's theme is "Respect Yourself. Be Drug Free". Visit www.redribbonweek.org to learn more about Red Ribbon Week. RRW is the week of Oct. 26-30th and students will have the opportunity to help celebrate with the following dress up days...

Monday, Oct. 26~ I have the POWER to say NO to drugs! (*Wear your favorite Superhero shirt. No capes/masks please*).

Tuesday, Oct. 27~ I am too BRIGHT for drugs! (*Wear bright/neon colors*)

Wednesday, Oct 28~ Plaid is RAD, drugs are BAD! (*Wear plaid!*)

Thursday, Oct 29~ Be BRAVE and say NO to drugs! (*Wear Braves or Twisters apparel/colors*)

Friday, Oct 30~ Drugs are SCARY! (*Wear orange & black or a Halloween themed shirt. Costumes are ONLY allowed during parade and classroom parties.*)*

**Watch for details as they are sent home from classroom teachers about classroom parties & school parade*

Jennifer Wilkens, LMSW

Afterschool News The After School Program is open Monday through Friday from 3:45 to 6:00 PM any full day of school for Prairie Heights students attending K – Grade 6. There is an enrollment fee of \$10.00 per semester, and then \$3.00 any time a child attends. A nutritious snack, homework help, physical exercise, and other activities are offered daily.

Keep Track of Your Child on PowerSchool

PowerSchool is the school data management system used in all USD 417 schools. Parents can have internet access to their child's assignments and grades, plus access to email communication with teachers. If you used the PowerSchool portal previously, the user name and password are the same. If you did not receive your internet access information, contact the office at Prairie Heights Elementary School to acquire this information.

Changes for your Calendars

The school calendar is always being updated, so it is important to check it frequently to see, if there are any additions, deletions, or changes.

2015 - 2016

Parents and patrons should utilize the district's website to gather information about the various schools in the 417 district including the Prairie Heights schools. The monthly newsletters, menus for breakfast and lunch, and other points of interest may all be found on the site.

- Notice of Non-discrimination USD #417 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.
- The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:
- Doug Conwell, 17 S Wood Street, Council Grove, Kansas 66846 [\(620\)767-5192](tel:6207675192)

October Prairie Heights Calendar of Events

Here is a list of October events pertaining to Prairie Heights Elementary. These are also found on the USD 417 district's web site.

- October 1 BOOK IT starts for Kindergarten through Grade 6 readers.
- October 1 Individual School Pictures for PHES
- October 9 Grade 2 District Field Trip to Topeka - History Museum
- October 12 Board of Education meets 6:30 PM at 17 Wood Street in Council Grove
- October 14 Grade 5 District Field Trip to Hutchinson - Salt Mines
- October 16 Walk to/at School
- October 16 Two hour early dismissal for students/Teacher plan time/End of the first nine weeks
- October 20 Olweus Bullying Survey for Grades 3 - 6
- October 20 Student FluMist - by Morris County Health Depart. (consent needed)
- October 20 Parent Teacher Conferences 4 - 8 PM
- October 21 Parent Teacher Conferences 4 - 8 PM
- October 23 No School for Students or Staff at Prairie Heights

October 26 Prairie Heights PTO 6:30 PM at PHES library

October 26 Prairie Heights Site Council 7:30 PM at PHES library

October 26 – 30 Red Ribbon Week