

Prairie Heights September 2015 Newsletter

www.usd417.net

Friends of Prairie Heights

Students and staff at Prairie Heights Elementary School have been the recipient of kindness and generosity from our patrons at the start of school.

The expense of enrolling students for school was made easier for Prairie Heights students and their parents by the generous gift of school supplies for all students by **Elwin "Butch" and Patsy Roberts**. To honor the memory of their son, Dale Roberts, they have conducted various fundraisers the last seven years to help finance the purchase of school supplies for each student in Kindergarten through eighth grade and this year from Kindergarten through sixth grade. The first year they contributed the proceeds from the tournament to the purchase of playground equipment at Prairie Heights Elementary. Others have seen the value in this project and have also donated funds to the cause.

For the past eleven years in honor of their daughter's birthday on July 20th, **Michael "Rex" and Regina Johnson** contribute to the Prairie Heights PTO school library fund. Their daughter, Stacy Johnson, was a language arts teacher and coach at Prairie Heights Middle school two years prior to her fatal car accident. Ms. Johnson was an avid reader and instilled the love of reading to her students. Because of her parents' generosity, "Miss Johnson" continues to promote reading.

The **Farmers and Drovers** Bank in Council Grove provided a cookie tray for staff at the start of the year. The **Simpson United Methodist Church in Alta Vista** invited the school staff to family night with a program about the Royal Family Program and Camp for foster children, as well as, refreshments held at their church on August 12. The **Council Grove Methodist Church** had a luncheon for staff during one of the inservice days.

Corey Kraus hung the stained glass windowpanes, which had been originally hung in the elementary building at Dwight, in the classrooms at Alta Vista recently. Kindergarten through Grade 4 made those stained glass windows in 2012. (Corey Kraus is the husband of Christa Kraus, the third grade teacher at Prairie Heights Elementary School.)

Angela Moore created a stained glass Dwight Rocket piece to be hung in the upper elementary library window along side the Alta Vista Bulldog at Prairie Heights Elementary. Many years ago prior to the creation of the Prairie Heights Schools, Richard and Rhonda Macy presented the stained glass Bulldog, which was the mascot for Alta Vista Schools. Prairie Heights is the present and future of our communities, but it is built on our past traditions.

When you have the opportunity, express appreciation to these organizations and/or individuals.

Site Council Met August 24

Those in attendance at the first Prairie Heights Site Council for the 2015 – 2016 school year were Kacie Evans, Sheryl Crooks, Alicsa Mayer, Sarah Nichols, Angela Moore, Christa Kraus, Lori Mullen, Amy Moore, Anne Robidou, and Cynthia Schrader. Discussion took place regarding whether kindergarten graduation and sixth grade promotion should be continued. Several expressed the opinion they were in favor of continuing both practices, but they were open to changes. They definitely felt, if several events could be held on the same day, it would help parents take fewer days from work

to attend. In discussion about the dispersal of former sports uniforms, it was suggested these be available to the public at the PTO school carnival usually held in April. Members studied the results of the family surveys completed at school enrollment by parents with children attending PHES and PHMS last school term. Two areas selected from the results were placing emphasis on the school consulting with parents before making important decisions and to focus on open lines of communication between families, teachers, and the school. At the next meeting members will be developing and solidifying goals for the new school year. The next date PH Site Council meets will be September 21 at 7:30 PM in the library at Prairie Heights Elementary in Alta Vista.

No School for Students

Two dates in September that Prairie Heights students will not have school are September 7, which is Labor Day, and September 28, when teachers in USD 417 have a professional development day.

School Pictures

Individual student pictures will be taken at Prairie Heights Elementary on October 1. Prior to picture days, information will be sent home with children providing different options, you may purchase.

New Staff at Prairie Heights School

Genna Edwards works as a para educator each morning at the school. She is a Council Grove High School graduate and received further education at Highland, Butler, and vocational training as a CNA. She has been a room mother and volunteered in her children's school.

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. Parents may also purchase ASP snacks for \$25.00 per semester. A nutritious snack, homework help, physical exercise, and other activities are offered daily. ASP continues to be directed by Christy Claypool, who has been with the program ever since its creation. ASP is housed in the PHES lunchroom. This makes easy access for parents to pick their child up at the north end of the school building at the end of their work day.

Keep Track of Your Child on PowerSchool

PowerSchool is the school data management system used throughout all schools in USD 417. Parents can have internet access to their child's assignments and grades in Grades 3 - 6, as well as access to email communication with teachers. If you used the PowerSchool portal last year, the user name and password are the same. If you did not receive your internet access information, you may contact the office at Prairie Heights Elementary School to acquire this information. (PowerSchool was unavailable on August 27 and 28.)

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. The monthly newsletters, menus for breakfast and lunch, and other points of interest may all be found on the site. There have been issues with our site as the elementary school is converted to the former middle school location.

2015 – 2016 – District Health Nurse Schedule

Monday- CGES

Tuesday- CGJ/SHS

Wednesday- PHES

Thursday- CGJ/SHS

Friday- CGJ/SHS

2015 – 2016 – Social Worker News

Welcome to the 2015/16 school year! My name is Jennifer Wilkens and I am excited to be starting my 2nd year with USD 417 as the K-6th grade social worker. I have held my LMSW since 2002. As the school social worker I will support students socially, emotionally and academically. I serve students at CGES and PHES (K-6). My responsibilities include classroom guidance (K-6), small groups and short-term individual counseling. Every student who sees me receives the privilege of confidentiality. However, I will encourage students to share with their parent(s)/guardian(s) what we have talked about. If there is a major concern I will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s). Please feel free to contact me during the school year if you have any questions or concerns. I will be at CGES Monday-Thursday and PHES on Friday's.

Jennifer Wilkens, LMSW

jwilkens@cgrove417.org

September Prairie Heights Calendar of Events

Here is a list of events for Prairie Heights Elementary School in the month of September. These are also found on the USD 417 district's web site.

September 7 Labor Day – No School for students or staff

September 10 Olweus Committee meets at the PHES library at 7:30 AM.

September 11 Grade 3 district wide field trip to Rock Springs

September 14 Board of Education meets 6:30 PM at 17 Wood Street - Council Grove

September 16 District Academic Council 8 – 11 AM @ District Office – Council Grove

September 17 PHES Grades 3 - 6 midterms are distributed.

September 21 Prairie Heights PTO 6:30 PM at PHES library

September 21 Prairie Heights Site Council 7:30 PM at PHES library

September 24Twin Lakes Water Festival at the Council Grove Reservoir – Grade 4

September 25 PHES historic field trip to sites in Council Grove prior to parade

September 25 Prairie Heights students to the 2 PM Council Grove High School homecoming parade in CG.

September 26 Alta Vista Alumni uses PHES for their annual banquet and meeting.

September 28 Professional Development Day – No school for students

September 30 Grade 6 district wide field trip to the Konza Prairie and Discovery Center in Manhattan

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)