

Kirsten McNeill- Principal



Prairie Ridge Post



Season's Greetings to our Prairie Ridge Community!

Wow! Time flies! I can hardly believe that we have reached December. As we approach the end of 2014, we will begin preparation for the new CMAS assessments in grades 3-5. The CMAS is replacing the former TCAP state assessments. I will send out more information at a later date. Our primary grades will continue to focus on student achievement in the areas of reading, writing, and math. Report cards will be accessible on December 5th on Infinite Campus. We will also be using our progress monitoring tools to share more information about student growth during conferences in February.

As the winter approaches, please remember to send your students dressed appropriately for the winter weather. Coats, hats, gloves, and boots when appropriate will help keep them warm at recess.

A reminder that students will be off for Winter Break from December 22nd-January 2nd.

Please LIKE the Prairie Ridge Elementary Principal Page on FACEBOOK for updates and celebrations.

I would like to take this time to wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season. I am so very thankful for our amazing staff, students, and community that we have here at Prairie Ridge. Happy Holidays!

Warmly,

Kirsten McNeill, Principal

6632 St. Vrain Ranch Blvd.
Firestone, CO 80504
Phone: 720-494-3641
Fax: 303-833-4972
Email: stvrain.k12.co.us/pre/

December

Important Dates

- 1 Kinder Registration
- 1-5 Holiday Shop
- 1-12 Canned Food Drive
- 3 LATE START
- 5 PRIDE Assembly 3pm
- 16 Soaring Singers Concert
- 22-Jan. 2 WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

Looking Ahead


- 5 Students return
- 13 Preview CMEA Concert Longmont HS @ 7pm
- 19 MLK Day
NO SCHOOL
- 28 CMEA Chaperone Meeting
- 30 CMEA Performance
- 31 All-State Choir in Colorado Springs

Pets on the Property
 Please refrain from bringing pets,
particularly dogs, onto school
 property. This includes especially dur-
 ing drop-off/pickup times.
 Thank you for your cooperation!!!

Cafeteria News


- Daily lunch cost: \$2.75.
 Please bring in correct amounts!
 We cannot make change!
- Inta Juice on Thursdays for \$1.50!
 Students **MUST HAVE** a note
 to purchase using his/her account.
- Adult Lunch (w/o milk): \$3.25 (w/ milk): \$3.50.
- Free and reduced lunch forms available online:
<http://www.stvrain.k12.co.us/policies/E/EFG-E.EN.pdf>
- Lunch Payments available on line at:

3rd, 4th and 5th Graders begin our...
Recorders Unit
 on Monday, December 1st
 Students in these grades will learn, review, practice & perform songs
 on the recorder during class & at home throughout f December.
 NOTE: There will NOT be a formal concert at the end of the Unit.



Please join us in helping our community!!!
**THE ANNUAL PRAIRIE RIDGE
 FOOD DRIVE**
 Will benefit the Tri-Town Food Bank,
 which services struggling families
 in Dacono, Frederick, and Firestone.
NOVEMBER 3RD—DECEMBER 12TH
Nonperishable food items only, please.
 Here's a tip: BOGO sales are a great way
 to contribute!!!
 Our Prairie Ridge goal!!!
3,000 CANS OF FOOD!
 So please load up your child's backpack
 with canned goods to send to school.
 They need the exercise, and Tri-Town

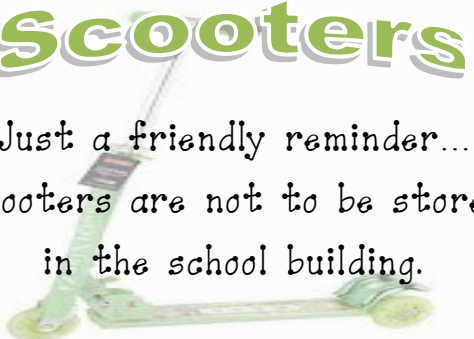
BUS PARKING LOT



- * Please refrain from using the Bus lot for pick-up/ drop-off or parking.
- * Students and parents walk on the sidewalks, to and from school not through the bus lot or grass. We want all students & families to remain safe.

SCOOTERS

Just a friendly reminder...
 Scooters are not to be stored
 in the school building.



P.R.I.M.E. Time

Prairie Ridge is looking for PARENT VOLUNTEERS to be a member of our P.R.I.M.E. Time team! Members will assist with and occasionally lead our weekly All-School P.R.I.M.E. Time on Fridays. We will meet monthly to share and prepare our weekly Friday P.R.I.M.E. Time

If interested, please contact Mrs. Kempf at kempf_sloane@svvdsd.org.

PARKING LOT & LANE GUIDELINES

- * Available parking spaces for parents are in the main lot as well as the lot west of the playground.

For pick-up & drop-off

Follow these guidelines:

- * **RIGHT LANE:** drop-off/pick-up ONLY along curb in front of school.

NO PARKING PERMITTED IN THIS LANE AS THIS IS A FIRE LANE AND YOU MAY BE TICKETED.

- * **LEFT LANE:** Thru traffic ONLY. NO DROP-OFF/PICK-UP.

WEATHER TIP

As the weather is getting colder & snowier, students need to wear appropriate cold-weather clothing items to school *everyday* to stay warm at recess.

Please make sure your child has:

- ◆ Hat
- ◆ Gloves
- ◆ Snow boots
- ◆ Winter coat



Please send action shoes with your child on PE days. Thank you!

Start & End of the School Day

School begins at 9:05am,

The front office closes at 4:00 p.m. *daily*.

Students are to arrive **NO earlier than 5-10 minutes** before the bell. Please note:

Supervision begins at 8:55a.m.

Holiday Gift Shop

opens in the Library on...

December 1st-5th

- ◆ Students will shop with parent helpers during their library times.
- ◆ The shop will also be open after school Mon-Thurs until 4pm.
- ◆ Sample sale items are on display in the case in the front hallway of the school.

The Music Website!

Check out the new music website with important information, like when your child/ren's program is scheduled.

*Listen to your student's class singing.

*Read poems the students have written.

<https://sites.google.com/a/svvsd.org/prairie-ridge-elementary-music/>

Donations Needed!

Please help out our Autism classroom by making a donation.

* a wee tent

* extra playground toys

Thanks for your support!!!

From the Health Office

CLOTHING NEEDED!!!

Please bring items to donate to the health office.

Ms. Lynn Shaklee at 720-494-3641.

We need smaller sizes...

- ◆ Underwear and pants
- ◆ Shirts (t-shirt or long-sleeve)

Supplies & Volunteers WANTED!

Please help out our Music classroom by collecting items

* Square or rectangular tissue boxes

* Store bought milk caps

* Cardstock of all colors

OR

* MAKING MANIPULATIVES

Thanks for your help!!!

Music News

Mark your calendars for your respective grade-level programs:

- ◆ 5th Grade—Wednesday, 25th
- ◆ 4th Grade—Friday, May 8th
- ◆ 3rd Grade—Tuesday, April 21st
- ◆ 2nd Grade—Tuesday, March 17th
- ◆ 1st Grade—Tuesday, March 17th

Information will be emailed home as each program approaches. To assist with or volunteer, please contact Mrs. Keller @ keller_catherine@svvsd.org

Don't get the sore feet blues.

Please wear your ACTION SHOES!

It is important that all PE athletes wear or bring a pair of good action shoes to Physical Education class. This will keep their feet comfortable, as well as, safe while moving in class! If you are not sure when you have PE, please check the monthly calendar on our...

[Physical Education Virtual Campus page.](#)

An "action shoe" is one that is good for moving activities because it hugs, cushions and covers the foot. An action shoe has these traits: covers toes and heel, has good traction, has a soft sole, has cushion, has shoelaces/velcro or slips on tight so that it will not come off while running, and DOES NOT have heels or wheels.

Thanks for helping us to be safe with happy, healthy feet.

King Soopers Rewards Program

Prairie Ridge Elementary

in partnership

with Prairie Ridge Community School

would like to offer our families and friends an excellent opportunity to give back to Prairie Ridge with no cost to you.

How does it work?

- * Fill out a registration form and submit a check payable to PREL in the amount of \$5.00 or more to activate your card, this amount is the dollar amount that you will start out with on your re-loadable King Soopers card and is then registered to Prairie Ridge Elementary.

Registration forms available at the front office check the school website.

- * If you want load your card with more money, simply take it to the customer service desk prior to shopping or purchasing gasoline.
- * Start shopping or fill up your tank. Prairie Ridge Elementary will receive 5% back once we reach the \$5,000.00. If we don't reach the \$5,000.00 each month, the balance will rollover to the next month.

The card will expire if after 90 days no money has been loaded on to the card and a new card will need to be activated.

We will send reminders home to family and friends to make sure they are reloading and using their cards.

If 40 families spend an average of \$300.00 per month, Prairie Ridge will receive \$600.00 directly..... how cool is that? And it's easy!

If you have any questions about the King Soopers Reward program you may contact the Community School office at 720-494-3645.

PRIME Time

"Physically active students perform better academically; have better attendance, and better behavior."

-Source: letsmoveschools.org

"Exercise is 'Miracle Grow' for the Brain. To keep our brains at peak performance, our bodies need to work hard."

-Source: John J. Ratey M.D.,

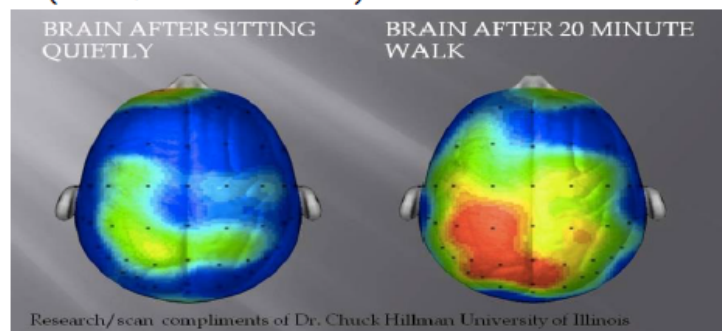
Author of Spark: The Revolutionary new Science of Exercise and the Brain!

Prairie Ridge is starting our learning day with all school movement. Students, teachers and staff are participating in physical activities each and every morning from 9:15-9:30. This part of our day is called PRIME Time, which stands for Prairie Ridge In Motion Everyday.

Movement has become a part of our daily schedule due to the findings of numerous scientific studies. Research has found that there is a significant relationship between physical activity and student learning/academic success.

Physical Activity:

- Prepares the brain for optimal learning.
- Improves coordination and balance which improves attention and focus
- Increases blood flow to the brain aiding overall cognition
- Develops eye fitness in the form of peripheral vision, helping students track words on a page
- Supplies BDNF (a Nerve Growth Factor) AKA Brain Fertilizer



The goal of PRIME time is to prepare our students for a day of learning by engaging in moderate to vigorous physical activity. Grade level classes are on a 6 day movement rotation for PRIME Time activities. Monday through Thursday activities include; Mighty Milers track travel, Classroom activities (classroom kit activities, classroom fitness circuits, and use of technology resources) Indoor power walk track, Outside activities (tag games, jump ropes and fitness circuits). On Fridays our entire school meets outside in the bus loop for all school movement. Come join the fun!

"In the same way that children don't learn well when they don't have adequate nourishment, they learn better when they're more active and more physically fit. If their ability to learn is optimized, their chances of academic, social and personal success are improved."

-Source: Hamilton Spectator - August 14, 2014
Howard Elliott