

Prairie Heights September Newsletter

www.usd417.net

Multiple Acts of Kindness and Generosity

Students at Prairie Heights Middle and Elementary Schools have been the recipients of numerous acts of kindness and generosity from our patrons.

Prairie Heights would like to recognize the generous gift from **Elwin “Butch” and Patsy Roberts**. To honor the memory of their son, Dale Roberts, they have conducted baseball tournaments in the summer the last two years to help finance the purchase of school supplies for each student in Kindergarten through Eighth grade. The first year they contributed the proceeds from the tournament to the purchase of playground equipment at Prairie Heights Elementary. At enrollment on August 10 and 11, the Roberts had supplies gathered and in a bag for each child.

The Education Enhancement Fund was created so those wanting to contribute to education in USD 417 had an avenue to do so. **The Council Grove Lake Association** made a generous contribution of \$300 to the Prairie Heights Middle School and the same amount to the Prairie Heights Elementary School libraries. These funds will be utilized to purchase books that expand the reading programs at each school site.

Each year in honor of their daughter’s birthday on July 20th, **Mike “Rex” and Regina Johnson** contribute to the Prairie Heights 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 while teaching at PHMS, she instilled the love of reading in her students and that legacy continues.

The Dwight **American Legion Auxiliary** made a donation to the After School Program at Dwight this summer. Prairie Heights students in Kindergarten through sixth grade have a safe place to stay following each school day until 6:00 PM. The program provides time for homework, exercise, snacks, technology, to mention just a few, while being supervised. The director of the ASP located at Prairie Heights Elementary School is Christy Claypool.

Ralph Mock, retired USD 417 educator and the chairperson of the Education Enhancement Fund, personally donated crayons for each child at Prairie Heights schools, as well as facial tissues for classrooms.

The **Farmers and Drovers** Bank in Council Grove provided fruit and vegetable trays to each school staff in the district as a welcome back to school. The **United Methodist Church in Alta Vista** invited the school staff to an ice cream social held at their church on August 11.

When Prairie Heights patrons, students, and staff have the opportunity to express appreciation to these organizations or individuals, please do.

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, 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 Middle and Elementary Schools to acquire this information.

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.

School Pictures

Individual student pictures will be taken at both Prairie Heights Middle and Elementary Schools on September 28. Pictures start at 8:00 AM at both sites. Photographers will be at PHMS for individual and group football and volleyball photos. Prior to picture day, information will be sent home with children providing different options you may purchase.

New Staff

The 2010-2011 school term at Prairie Heights has two new staff members. Marjie Hecht is a new paraeducator at Prairie Heights Elementary School. She had previously worked at CGES. Laura Soyland is the new REL instructor at Prairie Heights for students needing additional enrichment.

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 \$6.00 any time a child attends. A nutritious snack, homework help, physical exercise, and other activities are offered daily.

PHMS Cheerleaders 2010 – 2011

The Twisters will have Katherine Aikman, Leah Hiebert, Cheyenne Koppa, Rachel Mulanax, and Megan Poole leading the cheers this school year. Christa Miller is their sponsor.

The squad traveled to Lindsborg on August 30 for the Bethany College Cheer Spreader Clinic.

Behavior Bytes *from the Social Worker*

September's Focus: NO BULLYING!

For Parents: In September, classroom guidance will address the serious issue of bullying. To find out what the standards and specifics are for guidance, please go to my page on the district's webpage – www.usd417.net

What is bullying and how can you tell if your child is being bullied? The definition adopted by our district is as follows: "Bullying is a deliberate repeated verbal, non-verbal, written, electronic, and/or physical attack over time with the intent to harm or intimidate another student emotionally or physically."

Here are some possible warning signs that a child is being bullied (source: www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov):

- Comes home with torn, damaged, or missing pieces of clothing, books, or other belongings;
- Has unexplained cuts, bruises, and scratches;
- Has few, if any friends, with whom he or she spends time;
- Seems afraid of going to school, walking to and from school, riding the school bus, or taking part in organized activities with peers (such as clubs);
- Takes a long, "illogical" route when walking to or from school;

- Has lost interest in school work or suddenly begins to do poorly in school;
- Appears sad, moody, teary, or depressed when he or she comes home;
- Complains frequently of headaches, stomachaches, or other physical ailments;
- Has trouble sleeping or has frequent bad dreams;
- Experiences a loss of appetite; or
- Appears anxious and suffers from low self-esteem.

What should you do if you suspect your child is being bullied:

1. Talk with your child. Tell your child that you are concerned and that you'd like to help. Here are some questions that can get the discussion going:

- "I'm worried about you. Are there any kids at school who may be picking on you or bullying you?"
- "Are there any kids at school who tease you in a mean way?"
- "Are there any kids at school who leave you out or exclude you on purpose?"

Some subtle questions:

- "Do you have any special friends at school this year? Who are they? Who do you hang out with?"
- "Who do you sit with at lunch and on the bus?"
- "Are there any kids at school who you really don't like? Why don't you like them? Do they ever pick on you or leave you out of things?"

2. Talk with staff at your child's school. Call or set up an appointment to talk with your child's teacher.

For Students:

YOU can help *Stop Bullying Now!*

- *Find out how bullying is handled at your school.*
- Tell an adult when bullying occurs
- Support someone who is being bullied
- Stand up to the person doing the bullying
- And, finally, practice what you've learned to stop bullying whenever and wherever it happens
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Morris County USD 417 Title I

USD 417 receives Title I funds that enable schools to provide opportunities for children. The Title I funds are used to assist children served by the program to acquire knowledge and skills contained in the state academic standards.

USD 417 uses Title I funds for children of the following buildings:

- Council Grove Elementary School - Council Grove, KS
- Prairie Heights Elementary School – Dwight, KS

USD 417, along with CGES and PHES, is required to notify the parents of each student attending the Title I schools that parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers. Parents of a child attending CGES or PHES **may request** any of the following information for their student:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and, if so, their qualifications.

Schools that receive Title I funds **must provide** to the parents of each child:

- Information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the State academic assessments as required; and
- Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Please notify one of the following people if you wish to request information or have questions:

- Cynthia Schrader, PHES Principal (482-3224)
- Judy Parks, CGES Principal (767 - 6851)
- Heather Honas, Title I Coordinator (767-6851 ext. 314)