



Hawk Tales Newsletter

pwes.lewispalmer.org

February 4, 2016

Prairie Winds Elementary
790 King's Deer Point East
Monument, CO 80132
Ph# (719) 559-0800

Calendar of Events

February 2016

- **Feb. 11** – End of 2nd Trimester
- **Feb. 11** – K-Kids Mtg., 8AM
- **Feb. 11** – Valentines Parties, 2:45PM
- **Feb. 12** – Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL
- **Feb. 15** – Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL
- **Feb. 16** – PTO Mtg., 9:15AM, Teachers' Lounge
- **Feb. 17** – Community Coffee, 10-11AM
- **Feb. 18** – Report cards go home in backpacks
- **Feb. 19** – 4th Grade Field Trip
- **Feb. 19** – Choice Enrollment Ends TODAY
- **Feb. 23** – PWES Night at Back East Bar & Grill, 4-9PM
- **Feb. 24** – 1st Grade Field Trip
- **Feb. 26** – Kids Adventures Parents Night Out, 6- 10PM for pre-registered KA kids only
- **Feb. 29** – Class & Individual Spring Pictures

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Dear Prairie Winds Families,

The last time I remember three snow days in a row was during the Blizzard of 1997- well before our students were even born! With February already being the shortest month, it will be March before we know it, and March signals the countdown to summer. I've always said the school year goes like this: First Day of School, the Halloween Party, then Summer.

February is the month that planning for the 2016-2017 school year begins in earnest. Open Enrollment is in full swing, and many future Prairie Winds families are touring our school. The majority of these families tell me that they heard about us from one of you. Thank you for your positive endorsements of our school and our teachers.

Class Placement is one of our most important processes in planning for the upcoming school year. It is a team approach that starts with this year's teachers, specialists, and the principal. We meet to discuss the needs of each student, one by one, as we strive to make the best possible placement for each individual. We consider the following factors: academic needs, learning styles, relationships between student or family and teacher, balance of girls and boys, supportive peers, and any additional factors that we believe would set a student up for success, including parent input. (Please read the guidelines included in this newsletter for information on that process.)

Class Placement is an adult decision. Please do not ask your child to pick a teacher; this undermines our primary purpose of creating a balanced learning environment. Instead, tell your child that you believe s/he is capable of success in the classroom in which s/he will be placed, that existing friendships will continue at recess, lunch, and free time, and that new friendships will grow if given the opportunity. It's necessary for our children to struggle through some of our decisions for them. It actually builds resiliency and a sense that they can do hard things!

When my own children were in elementary school, I knew that two of the three could be successful in any classroom with any teacher, and I trusted the school to make the best decision. I also knew that one of the three absolutely needed me to be an advocate for him in the process. He was an "out of the box" kind of kid who needed the right teacher to understand and appreciate his quirks. I knew his future success in school depended on it. I saved my chips for that one!

Aileen Finnegan, Principal

Tips on how to work with the school on class placement for your child:

- Talk to the principal, not the classroom teachers. They cannot make recommendations to you regarding their colleagues.
- When you talk to the principal, talk about what your child NEEDS, not which teacher you want for your child.
- Give examples of how your child learns best.
- Avoid the pitfalls of gossip; a teacher who was not a great match for your friend's child may be the perfect match for yours.
- Speak from personal experience, not hearsay.
- Be open to possibilities, knowing that we take many factors that influence the classroom environment into consideration when placing students.

Email or a good old-fashioned letter is a great way to start the conversation!



Keeping Pace with PTO

Wow! I guess we picked a great mountain town to live in. Three snow days in a row, what fun! The PTO is forming a committee to organize the **All-School Dance**. If you (or your child) would like to have some input on songs/décor/activities, just email me below.

Also our **World Day** adventure will be coming soon! Please start thinking of a country your family would like to represent. It was so much fun (and educational) last year, we'd love to see all PWES students experience it!

Science Fair has been scheduled for Friday, March 11th, 4:30-6:30pm. This is such a cool family night with the exhibits, pizza and basket drawings. Thank you for supporting your children and their love of learning.

The next PTO meeting will be **Tuesday, February 16th, @ 9:15am**, in the Teachers' Lounge. This is after a four day weekend, so mark your calendars now. ☺

See you at the school!
Heather Twesme, PTO President
TwesmeFamily@Yahoo.com
719.209.5896



Okay, folks, you rocked the month of January!!! We collected just over 1400 box tops this past month! Thank you so much for all your hard work. All I know is that with all this cold weather, I love using my crock pot!. I am not a fan of cleaning up the crock pot though. If you are like me, you also want to make life easier, so don't forget to buy the Reynolds Slow Cook liners; they make clean up simple...and, guess what??? You guessed it, it has a box top on it! Also new to the Box Top for Education family is Annies! Just check the box to make sure it has the new box top for education coupon on it.

We are a little behind on hitting our goal of 15,000 boxtops, so I am hoping over the next 4 months we can kick it up a notch. Keep an eye on Thursday folders for some more ways to save and earn Box Top money for our school while saving money for your family.

Congratulations to Mrs. Rowedder's 3rd grade class for rocking the January collections with 199 box tops!!! If every class could aim for 100 box tops, we would be well on our way to meeting our goal.

Thanks again, and keep on clipping!

Laura Pacheco





Get your Kids to Listen

Do you ever feel like your children don't listen well? Do you have to ask them several times or raise your voice before they listen? Do you find yourself giving lots of warnings?

Love and Logic says that when a child misbehaves or doesn't listen, ask him/her to stop. If s/he continues to misbehave, provide a logical consequence without providing additional warnings. This allows children to understand that you mean what you say and you will not lose your energy with repeated directions. Your child will "learn that cause-and-effect becomes a reality after only one bad decision" (Dr. Charles Fay-Love and Logic).

What better message can we teach our kids at an early age than that?



Next K-Kids Meeting:

Thursday, February 11, 2016
8:00 – 8:45AM

Mrs. Locke's Room, Raccoon House

K-Kids has a new community service project for the month of February: Collecting items for Tri-Lakes Cares Snack Pack program! The following unopened snacks are being collected:

- 100% juice boxes
- Fruit cups
- Granola bars
- Cracker sandwiches
- Individual serving cereal boxes
- Fruit snacks
- Individual serving packages of nuts/trail mix
- Individual serving packages of pretzels or goldfish crackers

Tri-Lakes Cares prepares snack packs *for over 300 children in our school district every week!* Donations are being collected in the office.

It's Time to Join the Tradition of Excellence!

Choice Enrollment for the 2016-17 school year will run from January 4 – February 19, 2016. This is the time period for in-district and non-resident students to enroll in a school other than their assigned, neighborhood location.

Applications will be available at the District Administration Building and all schools during normal business hours, as well as on the district website. See the *Choice Enrollment* page for more information.



Get ready to get FIT! This year's Fitness-a-Thon (FIT) will be Tuesday, May 17th. This is our major fundraiser for the year, and we are setting our sights on installing a SmartLab in the Media Center – a fully-integrated learning environment that focuses on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) proficiencies. This is an exciting opportunity for our school! We are actively soliciting business donations from the community, so if your family owns a business, please consider making a donation today (see sponsorship levels in the attachment at the end of the newsletter.) All businesses who donate \$150 or more will have their business names put on a founding plaque in the SmartLab. **The Team is working on an exciting Olympic-themed day for the kids – if you would like to join the FIT team, we'd love to have you.** Please contact Alisa Stokes (agstokes@me.com) or Jodi Delnickas (Jodi.delnickas@comcast.net) to donate or volunteer. Stay tuned for more details! We would also like to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Barb Sailer for all her hard work the past 6 years getting this event up and running. Big shoes to fill, but we will do our best!



Bighorn Sheep House News

Mrs. Knutson's 2nd grade has been full of learning, investigations, and excitement! We have been focused on Science during the past several weeks. Our area of concentration has been Soils. We've experienced many sessions where we were able to put ourselves into the role of the true scientist. Learning about clay, sand, and hummus has been quite an adventure. Identifying how water absorbs into different soils and also how plants grow in each type of soil has been quite an experience. In Math, we've been highly motivated and learning about all of the basics in the world of Geometry. Line segments, lines, polygons, and many two and three dimensional shapes have kept us busy. Our genre focus in Writing has been to recall and write about real-life events. The past several snow days should give them plenty of topics to write about! The Tale of Despereaux has been quite an adventure each and every day! Be sure to ask your child to share the main idea and to describe the characters in the story! I want to send out a special thank you to all of you for your constant support and commitment to our daily education! Together we make a difference!

Mrs. Martinez's 4th graders have been working hard on their studies. There are many interesting topics that are challenging and molding these students to become responsible learners. In Language Arts, students are learning how to plan and write a five paragraph essay using topics from our Colorado history unit. While working on our nonfiction/fiction frameworks, students are implementing the Depth and Complexity framework to help understand our poems. This framework has eleven thinking tools that work with all subject areas to get a deeper understanding of the content. Math has been challenging, learning our multiplication/division facts. Currently, the class is working on multi-digit multiplication and long division. On February 19th, we are planning on augmenting what the students have learned in Colorado History by taking a field trip to History Colorado Museum in Denver. Exposure to 4th graders' first textbook has been a nice transition from "learning to read" to "read to learn." Students are expected to support their answers from the text. And in Science, the students are learning about human body, a difficult but fascinating subject. Dr. Winter, a physical therapist, came to teach students the bones and muscles of the human body. At the end of each week, the 2nd and 4th grades get together and read. This is an activity that everyone enjoys.

Visitors are Welcome at Our School!

We are proud of our school and the learning that takes place at PWES. We encourage parents to visit the building, browse through our library, or just talk to the principal about your ideas for improving our school. We request only that prior notice be given and that visitors check in at the office upon arrival. If you are visiting a classroom at a time that you are not scheduled to volunteer, we do ask that you schedule your visit in advance through the principal.



Find us on
Facebook

Prairie Winds PTO has another way for you to stay connected!
Search for: Prairie Winds Elementary School PTO

And "like" us!

PWES is starting an Instagram account called "pweshappenings." Look for it, and follow us as Ms. Finnegan sends out pictures of daily life inside PWES!



SEAC Meeting

(Special Education Advisory Committee)

When: Wednesday, Feb. 10, 6:30 – 8:00PM

Where: The Learning Center (downstairs in the District Administration Bldg. Please enter through the side doors on the North end of the building.)

For those new to our group, we are a group consisting of parents, administrators and staff who meet once a month to discuss and learn the latest in Special Education at the School, District, State and Federal levels. We generally also cover a more specific topic each month and sometimes have guest speakers. There is no outside work required for SEAC, and while we welcome you to attend each month, you are not required to be at each meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Questions? Call Michelle Nay, 719-433-5672 or mnay@lewispalmer.org

Tell your neighbors and friends . . . Kindergarten Registration packets are NOW AVAILABLE for next school year, 2016-2017. Stop by the front office or any D38 elementary school to pick one up NOW!



The next Community Coffee is scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 17
10:00 – 11:00 AM

Parents . . . please note!

There is NO supervision provided at school until 8:35 a.m. Students should not arrive prior to this time unless there is a school-sponsored activity (ie, choir.) The before and after care services of *Kids Adventures* are available to you as early as 6:30 a.m., and as late as 6:00 p.m., if your schedule requires additional child care coverage.

News from Your TerraCycle Leaders

In December, we took on the challenge of entering a contest put on by Pepsi. The goal was to create a recycle bin using repurposed items, if possible. Using leftover boxes and duct tape, we designed and created a bin that sorts recycling. There is a divider inside of the bin and a special lid that takes bottles on one side and paper/cardboard on the other. We have submitted our design and are patiently awaiting the results. Wish us luck!!

Sincerely,
your TerraCycle leaders: Mrs.
Shindel, Anisa, Rebekah,
River, Ruby, Ryan, and Wyatt



PARCC & CMAS Testing Dates

Please make note of these important dates when planning appointments for your student(s) and avoid these testing times if at all possible.

3 rd Grade PARCC Math	April 4, 5, 6, 7	AM Session
3 rd Grade PARCC Language Arts	April 11, 12, 13, 18	AM Session
4 th Grade PARCC Math	March 29, 30, 31, April 1	PM Session
4 th Grade PARCC Language Arts	April 11, 12, 13, 18	PM Session
4 th Grade CMAS Social Studies	April 20, 21, 22	PM Session
5 th Grade PARCC Math	March 29, 30, 31, April 1	AM Session
5 th Grade PARCC Language Arts	April 11, 12, 13, 18	PM Session
5 th Grade CMAS Science	April 20, 21, 22	AM Session
6 th Grade PARCC Math	April 4, 5, 6, 7	PM Session
6 th Grade PARCC Language Arts	April 11, 12, 13	AM Session



Stewardship Station

In the spirit of service and stewardship, please remember, we are always collecting the following at Prairie Winds:

- **TerraCycle items**
(variety of empty food wrappers, drink pouches, writing instruments, tape dispensers, oral care/personal care/beauty items, beverage containers and e-waste) for the upcycling program sponsored by Mrs. Shindel's and Mrs. Saccuman's 5th grade classes
- **Old batteries**
Keep these dangerous items out of our landfills.
- **Children's books**
Bring a book, take a book at the Little Lending Library in the Commons area. A great way to pass along books that you have outgrown, or adopt new ones!

Please feel free to collect items at home throughout the entire school year, and drop them off at the front office, or send in anytime with your child. If you need any additional information regarding our collection programs, please contact the front office, check the information rack outside the office, or reference the PWES website.

Thank you for helping support our students in their commitment to being good stewards of the planet.

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
Anne Frank

The Prairie Winds PTO invites you to



Enjoy dinner* with other Prairie
Winds Families

Tuesday, February 23rd

4pm-9pm

Bring this flyer, so a portion of the
proceeds goes back to PWES!

Hope to see you there!

*Takeout meals will not qualify for this particular fundraiser.

Come join Prairie Winds Elementary School at The Summit



When: Friday, February 12, 12-1:30 pm
Where: The Summit Interquest Parkway
Cost: \$10.00/ person

Value Meals which include 2 slices of cheese pizza, a cookie and a soft drink are also available for \$4/ person

Come enjoy 1 ½ hours of unlimited bowling for \$10 per person. Shoe rental is included.

Payment is due in advance. Please return the bottom of this form to the office no later than Monday, February 11th.

Any questions please contact Alisa Stokes at 219-309-4572

****The Summit Order Form****

Name of all bowlers and shoe sizes: _____

Contact Info (Phone or Email): _____

_____ # players at \$10/ player= \$ _____

_____ # value meals at \$4/ meal= \$ _____

TOTAL INCLUDED= \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to PWES PTO)

Lewis-Palmer School District 38 2016-2017 School Year Calendar

August 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

5-10 New Teacher Orientation
11-16 All teachers report
11 First Day of PK wrap
17 First day for students
26 K-6 PLC/Assessment Day
26 Wrap in session

February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

8 Delay start/PLC
9 End of elementary trimester
10 PK-6 no classes, work day
10 Wrap in session
20 No classes, District closed

September 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

1 Home School Enrichment 1st day
5 No classes, District closed
14 Delay start/PLC
16 K-12 no classes, PLC
16 Wrap in session

March 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

3 PK-6 no classes, NO wrap
27-31 Break, no classes

October 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

7 K-6 no classes, workday
7 Wrap in session
12 Delay start/PLC
19 PK-8 conference night
20 No classes PK-8, conferences
21 No classes PK-12; NO wrap

April 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

6 MS conference night
7 MS conf. no classes 7-8 only
14 K-12 no classes, PLC for elem
14 *Alternative make-up day
14 Wrap in session

November 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

4 End of elementary trimester
7 PK-6 no classes, work day
7 Wrap in session
9 Delay start/PLC
21-24 No classes, District closed

May 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

19 Last day for students
22-24 PLC workdays
24 Last day for teachers
29 District closed

December 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

20 Last day students before break
21 Teacher work day
21 *Alternative make-up day
21 Wrap in session
22-30 Break, no classes
23-26 District offices closed

June 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 District offices closed
2-4 Break, no classes
5-6 District Prof. Development
9 Students return
16 No classes, District closed
18 Delay start/PLC

July 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Key
District Closed
No class, everyone off
Some grades off, teachers work
All grades off, some teachers work
Important student day
New teachers only
Other days of note