



November
2025
Vol. 28
No. 4

Dakota Prairie Knight Reader

<http://www.dakota-prairie.k12.nd.us>

A Few Things by Jay Slade, Superintendent



Hello everyone and welcome to November,

The month of winterizing, baking, and giving thanks. At Dakota Prairie, November is a month of transition. We are transitioning from Quarter 1 to Quarter 2. We are transitioning from fall testing to analyzing data and we are transitioning from fall events to winter events.

As I write this monthly memo our football team competed strongly, but with a multitude of injuries we came up a bit short of the playoffs. In keeping up with this month's theme of transition, I am hoping those football players are now rehabbing injuries, spending time in the gym and courts, and generally getting ready for the upcoming basketball or wrestling season. Our volleyball team is starting their post season run at the upcoming District Tournament in Rolla. Good luck to the Coaching staff and to the student athletes. Our One Act Play (OAP) is getting ready for their upcoming performances. If you get a chance, please be at the Nelson County Arts Center (NCAC) in Pekin on November 1st between 1pm and 3pm to watch these young actors and actresses perform the play "The Tick of the Clock". It should be a thought provoking and entertaining time. The Nelson County Chargers Music program continues its impressive ways as we sent one student to the 2025 Ployhar Honor Band in Valley City. Good job D. Lastly, the Dakota Prairie Elementary Girls Basketball team competed quite impressively and got better with each game. I am positive the future looks bright for our Girls Basketball team as they transition from elementary to junior high to the varsity level.

Another transition that I would like to discuss this month is virtual learning. By this time last year, we had already had two snow days and were looking at a rough winter. The forecast for this upcoming winter sounds equally harsh and I want us all to be prepared for the inevitable, Virtual Learning. I understand it is not every student's ideal educational model. I understand that VL puts pressure on families and communities when school is not in person. Because of those reasons, my team and I do our best to ensure virtual learning is our last option. With all of that said, VL is the best viable alternative to being face to face, when it is not safe to be in person. When a decision is made, we will do our best to get information out as quickly as possible. Typically, you should hear from us by 6am the morning of a weather event. If we decide to wait and see, we will go 2 hours late. If that is the case, you will hear from us by 8am. Also, unless it is a foregone conclusion, we do not announce weather related school changes the night before. We do live in North Dakota after all and as the old saying goes – it's North Dakota, wait 5 minutes and the weather will change. As a precautionary measure, we will send devices home, but that does not automatically mean there will be virtual learning. Please refer to the Dakota Prairie website for VL schedules and rules.

Have a great November and as always Go Knights! Go Chargers!

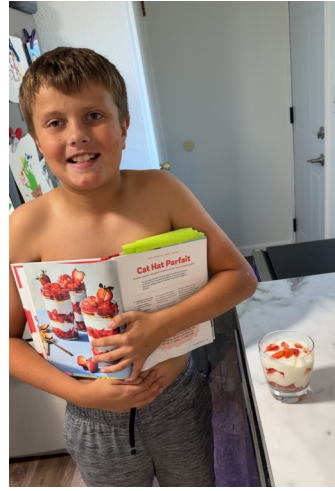
**PLEASE
CONTACT
THE SCHOOL
TO RECEIVE
A PRINTED
COPY EACH
MONTH**

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LIBRARY NEWS

October had many students checking out cookbooks from the library! They were mostly desserts, but these students learned some new things and found out they love cooking and baking. Most of our library's cookbooks have a handwritten note inside the front cover: *If you make something from this book take a picture and send to Miss Johnson.* Lydia and Karsen and their families did just that. From the Hershey's cookbook Lydia made cookies and bars. From the Dr. Seuss cookbook, Karsen made a parfait. Very cool! And everything looks delicious! Snap a pic and send it my way to have your own creations featured in the *Knight Reader*.



The 6th Graders have completed a project in library class designed to help the younger students select children's books. Each student picked out a book from the early/easy/everyone section and wrote a summary of the story, took a picture with the book, and described the best moments and who they would recommend the book to. This year I asked students to pick different authors from each other, so we didn't have 5 people recommending Jory John (*Food Group* series) and Mo Willems (*Elephant and Piggy*, and *Pigeon* books). It was kind of cool to see some of them select books I would consider classics, like the *Berenstain Bears*, and fairy tales like *Hansel and Gretel* or songs like *Old MacDonald*.

The 3rd and 4th Graders have been learning about the library's online public access catalog, Alexandria. They know how to search for topics and authors. They found out how to search for recently added items as well. Additionally, they could probably even show you how to figure out if the book is at the elementary or the high school. <https://dakotaprairie.goalexandria.com/search>

The 5th Graders recently wrapped up their genre study and are moving on to redesigning a book cover. Hopefully, I'll be able to share some of those in the December issues of the *Knight Reader*.

The high school: Love or Lemon has been **all lemons** since our last issue. They'll be cleared out to make room for new titles. Check out the display of Thrillers for a recommendation. And lastly, shout out to Ava Shepherd and Brooke Bies for donating some chapter books from home. Thanks!

Keep reading!

SJ

NC CHARGER BAND AND CHOIR

November 24th Barnes County Music Festival (24 students attending)

December 2nd Winter Concert @ 6pm at Lakota High School

March 11th Large Group Music Festival March @ Carrington

April 1st Solo/Ensemble contest @ Jamestown

May 2nd State Music

May 4th Spring Concert Tuesday @ 6pm at Dakota Prairie High School

Dates may change. Watch this section and social media for updates to this schedule throughout the school year.

Thank you to all who supported the music department during our annual fundraiser!

NHS Blood Drive

November 12th

9:00 am—2:30 pm

**Petersburg Lutheran
Church**

Now taking appointments



**Students will be dismissed
at 1:30 pm on Wednesday,
November 26, 2025**

No school—Nov 11, Nov 27 & 28

Kenley Blasey Finishes Strong At State

Article submitted by Mr. Dustin Martin

Pheasant Country Golf Club in South Heart held the 2025 State Class B Girls Golf Tournament on September 29 & 30. The course just reopened this season after three years of making course improvements, including a concrete cart path on the outer edge of the course. Kenley improved her scores and place from last year. Her putter was on fire as she shot an 88 on the first day of the tournament, which was her best score of the year! The following day against strong winds she shot a 92, giving her a two-day total of 180, which landed her 36th place. It was great to see Kenley golf her best at the toughest course, at the biggest stage of the year. The town of South Heart put on a great tournament and welcoming the student athletes. I strongly encourage you to, if you are in the western part of North Dakota for a vacation, take the time and stop at the course. It is one of the best in the state.



SENIOR RECOGNITION

The Chargers recently recognized the outstanding seniors from both the football and volleyball programs — athletes who poured their heart, effort, and dedication into their teams. Throughout their careers, these players led by example, created lasting memories, and left a meaningful mark on Charger Nation. Each senior was celebrated for their hard work, commitment, and the positive impact they made on their teammates, coaches, and community.



NELSON COUNTY SENIORS



KEEGAN PARSLEY #40

HOMETOWN: McVille
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Lynne's welding
FAVORITE MEMORY: Bus ride home after beating Sargent County
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Don't wish it away and cherish every moment

LANDON SUNDEEN #44

HOMETOWN: Lakota
FUTURE PLANS: Finance Degree at NDSU
FAVORITE MEMORY: Beating Hatton-Northwood on Homecoming Junior Year
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: You can play through almost any injury



RIDER SCHMIDT #82

HOMETOWN: Lakota
FUTURE PLANS: SDSU for Landscape Architecture
FAVORITE MEMORY: Winning Homecoming Last Year
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Block out the haters and focus on you



NELSON COUNTY SENIORS



AUBRIE JOHNSTON #4

HOMETOWN: Pekin
FUTURE PLANS: College TBD
FAVORITE MEMORY: Laughing on the court with my teammates.
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Always cheer your heart out, it makes a big difference!

BRANDI SCHOCK #12

HOMETOWN: McVille
FUTURE PLANS: UND for Physical Therapy
FAVORITE MEMORY: Getting to play with my mom on the sidelines.
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: When it is your turn on the court, play your hardest and give it your all.



OLIVIA FOSSEN #15

HOMETOWN: Lakota
FUTURE PLANS: UND for Elementary Education
FAVORITE MEMORY: Brandi and I always running into each other on the court.
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Cheering isn't embarrassing, it makes your team better and picks you up when the team is down.

SOPHIA BECK #24

HOMETOWN: Lakota
FUTURE PLANS: Lake Region State College for an Associate in Applied science and certificate in Precision Ag
FAVORITE MEMORY: The last game of my junior year, we played well and had fun.
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Cheer on your team and never give up!



NELSON COUNTY SENIORS



BRODY RAINSBERRY #1

HOMETOWN: Lakota
FUTURE PLANS: Attend UND for Fisheries and Wildlife Science
FAVORITE MEMORY: When Rider tripped running with the waters in Cavalier, our freshman year.
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Don't leave the field with any regrets; go hit someone and deal with the pain later

TYLER CREE-BEGLAU #2

HOMETOWN: McVille
FUTURE PLANS: Study Computer Science and run Track and Field at UND
FAVORITE MEMORY: Freshman year, when we beat Four Winds
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Work Hard



THOMAS ULLAND #4

HOMETOWN: Lakota
FUTURE PLANS: Mechanical Engineering at NDSU
FAVORITE MEMORY: Beating Cavalier this year
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Don't take anything for granted. It goes by too quickly. Put in the work and enjoy the benefits while you can

ETHAN MATEJCEK #10

HOMETOWN: Lakota
FUTURE PLANS: Undecided
FAVORITE MEMORY: Rider tripping with the waters at Cavalier
ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMAN: Keep Working



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

~ UNOFFICIAL MINUTES~

DAKOTA PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM

- ◆ Mr. David Blasey—President
- ◆ Mr. Charlie Stein
- ◆ Mrs. Jennifer Rusten
- ◆ Mrs. Nikki Ohnstad
- ◆ Mrs. Anna Halvorson

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Blasey with members Charlie Stein, Anna Halvorson Nikki Ohnstad and Jennifer Rusten present. Also present were Superintendent Jay Slade, Principals Jackie Bye, Clay Johnson, Athletic Director Hunter Sand and Lori Dahl Business Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Motion by Charlie Stein second by Anna Halvorson to approve the agenda with the addition of a tuition waiver under items for decision. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten second by Charlie Stein to approve the September 2025 minutes as printed. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Charlie Stein second by Nikki Ohnstad to approve the bill list as presented for payment. All in favor, motion carried.

Athletic Director Report: Girls golf ended the season with one state qualifier, she did well at state, the junior high football team ended the season undefeated, the High School football team has one game left this Friday and has ben plagued with injuries. Senior night was last Friday. The boys' basketball schedule is completed, there will be 5 teams, the girls schedule is still a work in progress, the numbers are down.

Elementary Principal's Report: Events and Activities, NDSA and NDA+ Testing results from Spring, Building and Grounds, Pre-K Tuition payments and concerns for attendance. Also discussed parent teacher conferences, town hall meetings and the care center, and the current enrollment. Dr. Bye and Mr. Johnson are working out ways to handle the ELL needs of the district.

High School Principal Report: Mr. Johnson reported on the testing results, the interventions and changes made based on the results, looking for a good turnout for parent teacher conferences, more emphasis is being placed on testing results to the students. The one act play is in progress. E-sports and Academic Olympics will be competing soon. We have 2 seniors who may be requesting early graduation in the next month or 2, both have many things to complete before this will be a reality.

Mr. Slade reported on transportation concerns, the north route will be without a driver after the Christmas break unless we can get someone qualified to take over, there is a substitute on the route at this time, who does not want full time driving. Next year we will be very short of drivers as we have some who are near retirement, we have advertised that we will pay for training, but have had very little interest.

Mr. Slade presented the following policies for 1st reading: BDBC, DEAC, FFH, GAAC-BR, GBAA,

Continued on page 6

School Board Minutes continued.

FACB, FGA-BR2, KACB, FACA, GABC, ABCD, BCAD, FDC, ABBA.

Motion by Anna Halvorson second by Charlie Stein to approve the first reading of policies BDBC, DEAC, FFH, GAAC-BR, GBAA, FACB, FGA-BR2, KACB, FACA, GABC, ABCD, BCAD, FDC, ABBA. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Slade presented the following policies for 2nd reading and approval: DBAC, ABEA-ARI, KBA, FFF.

Motion by Charlie Stein second by Jennifer Rusten to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of the following policies DBAC, ABEA-ARI, KBA, FFF. All in favor, motion carried

We have received an open enrollment form for a student from the Finely-Sharon district who wishes to attend Dakota Prairie. Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Charlie Stein to approve the open enrollment form for the student from Finley-Sharon. All in favor, motion carried.

A tuition waiver was received for a student residing in the Warwick district to attend Dakota Prairie. Motion by Jennifer Rusten Second by Anna Halvorson to approve the tuition waiver for the student from Warwick to attend Dakota Prairie. All in favor, motion carried.

The financial reports were presented for the board's review. Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Nikki Ohnstad to approve the financial reports as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Anna Halvorson had a patron with question regarding the current configuration of the schools and wondering if there was any way to make changes to it, or what would be required, questions about any educational sharing with neighboring districts. The history was discussed and questions are always welcome.

Nikki Ohnstad, Anna Halvorson, and Jennifer Rusten attended the NDSA annual conference and gave the board some information they picked up.

There was no public comment.

The next meeting is set for November 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dakota Prairie High School.

Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Jennifer Rusten to adjourn.

Lori Dahl, Business Manager

Dave Blasey, Chairperson

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

As the leaves turn and the days grow shorter, it's hard to believe how quickly the fall semester is flying by at Dakota Prairie. We've had a strong start to the year, and I want to thank our families for your continued involvement and support.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

We had an excellent turnout for parent-teacher conferences this fall. The online sign-up links worked smoothly, and it was great to see so many parents take the time to connect with teachers about their students' progress. One area that would make these meetings even more beneficial is scheduling time with your student's *Knight Time* teacher. These teachers hold your child's soft-skills report card — a key tool in tracking things like work habits, organization, and responsibility. Meeting with them provides a fuller picture of how students are developing beyond academics.

Reading Intervention – DreamBox

We've officially launched our *DreamBox Reading* program, a personalized reading intervention that adjusts to each student's skill level as they progress. This program has helped students improve multiple grade levels in reading fluency and comprehension. To maximize its impact, I encourage families to have their students spend a little time on DreamBox at home. If you'd like to help your child get started or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Math Support – IXL

In addition to DreamBox, we're excited to begin implementing *IXL* for math intervention. IXL is a proven program that works hand-in-hand with classroom instruction to strengthen basic math facts, computation, and problem-solving skills. Together, these tools will help ensure our students build a solid foundation in both literacy and numeracy.

As fall turns toward winter, we are reminded how quickly the school year moves — and how important it is to keep working together to support our students' growth. Thank you for all you do to make Dakota Prairie a great place to learn and thrive.

Cheers,
Clay Johnson

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Counseling News:

Submitted by Ms. Kelsey Beckstrom

A big shout-out to our seniors! Several jumped at the chance to apply for early acceptance to college. Others are diligently preparing for military service. Way to start the year strong!

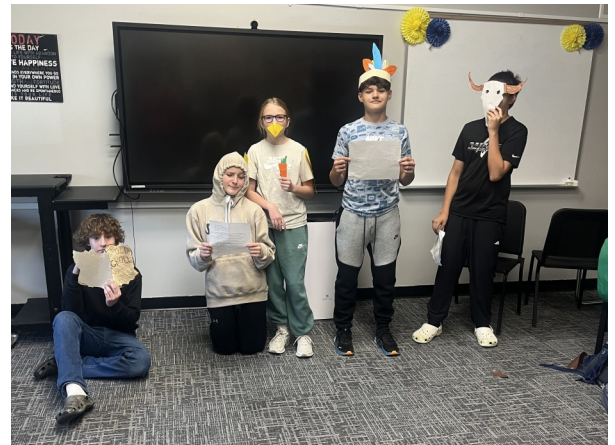
I don't normally list college acceptances, but these seniors have been impressive!

Lily, MaRiley & Jayla-NDSU
Rylee & Bailey-BSC
Keegan-Lynnes Welding
Tyler, Jassy, Brandi, & Jayla-UND
Bri & Emily-LRSC



Mrs. Kueber's 8th grade North Dakota Studies classes researched and created skits about explorers that traveled through and explored North Dakota at some point in history. These explorers included Stephen Long, John Bradbury, John James Audubon, and David Thompson.

The Students were encouraged to have fun and be creative! Costumes and props were not required but strongly encouraged. The skits were both informational and very creative! They all did an awesome job!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



Sheriff Schwind and Deputy Madche spoke to the freshmen Civics class about the 4th and 5th amendments as well as the Miranda Rule, probable cause, and warrants.



Spanish students visited VCSU for a day of learning about Hispanic culture.

DP Graduates: If you took a dual credit course in high school, you are in luck! You can apply for a reimbursement scholarship from the state.

<https://ndus.edu/paying-for-college/dual-credit-tuition-scholarship>

This is a one time only scholarship.

\$250 for 1 dual credit class

\$500 for two dual credit classes

\$750 for 3+ dual credit classes

The Career Expo at the Alerus Center was a hit with the 10th graders. Students got to learn hands on about real careers right here in our region. More employers are starting to pay college tuition to fill positions. Students interacted with a variety of specialties including: electrician, drone technology, engineering, surgical tech, occupational therapy, wildlife sciences, and EMS. We even got to see Jason Bjorlie, a 2024 graduate, at the NDSCS Autobody booth.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Senior Parents/Guardians,

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** opens **October 1st** this year. Completing the FAFSA gives students access to federal grants, loans, and scholarships.

Before you begin, both **you (the parent)** and **your student** will need to create an **FSA ID**. This ID acts as your electronic signature for the FAFSA. Over the next week, the FSA ID will verify your identity with Social Security and also link your 2024 tax return from the IRS.

Once you get an email stating the FSA ID is complete, then you complete the FAFSA which should only take 20 minutes. All your info will pull from the IRS and SS automatically. Make sure you complete the **FAFSA 2026-2027**.

👉 **Create your FSA ID here:** <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

👉 **Complete the FAFSA (when it opens):** <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Quick tips:

- The FAFSA is free to complete—never pay for it.
- Use your correct social security number.
- Use an email you'll always check (not your school one).
- Each student and one parent must have their own separate FSA ID.
- Even if you think you may not qualify for aid, many scholarships and colleges still require the FAFSA to win a university scholarship.

FAFSA does NOT renew. You will re-apply every October while your teen is in college

Questions that arise:

1. Divorced parents: you're supposed to use the tax return for the parent who contributes 50% or more of their income to your expenses. Otherwise use the tax return of the parent who makes less (to up your chances of qualifying for a pell grant)
2. Guardians: If your only income is social security that is fine. It should pull this info into the FAFSA for you.
3. Remarried parents: If your parent remarries, you may have to use both the parent and step-parent's tax return (if the file jointly).
4. Why do I have to use my parent's income? While rare, some students can qualify as an "independent filer" which means they aren't required to use their parents/guardians tax info. The only time this works is if a student is homeless or couch surfing, has run away, was in foster care after a certain age, has grandparents that are guardians, and a few other examples. Otherwise the law says students must use their parent's tax return until the age of 24.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Knight Time groups competed against each other in a pumpkin decorating challenge. Building staff judged the pumpkins. The Knight Time winners will get to enjoy some orange floats.

Prettiest: #8 Mrs. Yoney's Knight Time (Minnie Mouse)

Most Detailed: #13 Resource Room's Knight Time (Root beer float)

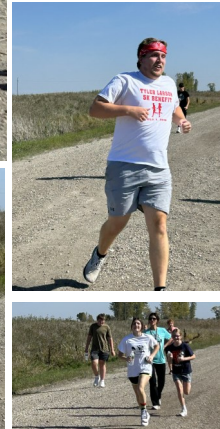
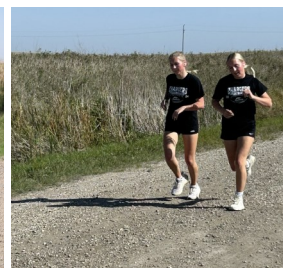
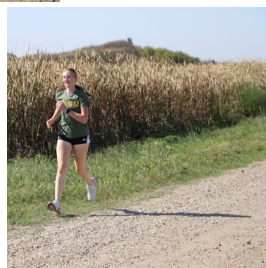
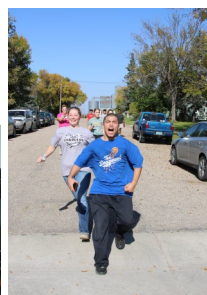
Scariest: #9 Mrs. Forde's Knight Time (Baseball man)

Most Creative: #5 Ms. McMillin's Knight Time (Jack Skellington in a suit)



SNAPSHOTS FROM DORIS FORDE 5K FUN RUN/WALK

First to complete the fun run this year was Tyler Cree-Beglau. 2 years in a row.



~ Elementary News ~

From the Desk of Dr. Jackie Bye, Elementary Principal

Happy November! A great time to reflect on the year so far and think about thankfulness. At Dakota Prairie Elementary there are so many things to be thankful for. Above all, the students. I am thankful for the beginning of each day when I get to see the enthusiastic students come to school ready to engage with their classmates, friends, and teachers.



I am thankful for all of the activities they get to experience that help them grow and learn. In the last month the 1st and 2nd grades had a field trip to the Nelson Pumpkin Patch by Emerado, and the 3rd grade had a field trip to Grand Forks for an afternoon of Full STEAM Ahead sponsored by the Grand Forks Children's Museum. The teachers and students who attended these activities all had a great time and got to try fun and new things. On Halloween the elementary grades PK-6 took turns going with Ms. Bina to the Care Center in McVille to sing and do activities with the residents throughout the school day. And the high school band and choir did a Halloween performance for us as well, with the 6th grade band joining in for a band song.

I am thankful for the hard work and dedication of our teaching and resource room staff at Dakota Prairie Elementary. They put in hours of time finding the best way to help each student learn. One example of how the collaboration of the whole staff working together is how our students perform on the North Dakota State Assessment each spring. In the spring of 2025 the state assessment changed, and is now called ND A+ Summative. Since it was a new assessment we just received the results in the end of September. For the state assessment at the elementary level the state only tests grades 3-6. These are the results for the elementary and compared to the state overall average. This shows the percent of students who are proficient in the ND standards in each subject area for the elementary grades 3-6.

NDSA – ND A+ Summative Spring 2024-2025

MATH: DPE: Grades 3-6: **65%** State ND: **45%**

ELA (READING): DPE Grades 3-6: **52%** State ND: **39%**

Each state sets its own Proficiency Goal and Cut Score. North Dakota has always set the proficiency score high in comparison to some other states. The way it has been explained to us was using a sports comparison. Think about kicking a field goal in football. A 30-yard field goal is tough but doable and that would be what most states proficiency cut scores would be comparable to. ND cut score for proficiency is more like a 45-yard field goal against the wind. We are requiring greater skill and precision, and have higher expectations on students to prove what they know and understand.

I am thankful we can provide activities for our students to participate in. The 5th and 6th grade boys' basketball season started their season on October 7, with four 5th grade boys and seven 6th grade boys participating. Their coach is Jason Beglau. You can find their schedule in the Knight Reader and on our school website. They are a fun group to watch play. They hustle, pass and shoot well, and play with good sportsmanship.

The first concert of the year will be held on **Friday, November 7, at 1:00** in the big gym at the el-

ementary school. **Grades Preschool-6th grade** will be performing in honor of our Veterans in a Veteran's Day Concert. Please join us for what will surely be a great afternoon of singing, as Ms. Bina always has the students ready to show their musical talents.

I am thankful for the whole ancillary staff at Dakota Prairie Elementary that work diligently every day to make sure students get to school and home again safely (*Jeff, Linda, Lee, Glenn, Jim, Carol, Todd, Betty, Jason, Larry*), the students have a clean building (*Chris, LeeAnn, Mike, Carol*), food to eat (*Corinna, Vivian*), and a million other things they need from band aids to organizing bus notes to answering your calls (*Debbie*). In November let one of the people, from teachers to ancillary staff, who spend the day helping to Grow your Child what you are thankful to them about.

I am thankful **to you** for letting me be an important part of your child's life. If you ever have questions or concerns, please reach out to me. You can call (322-4771), email me [Jack-ie.bye@k12.nd.us](mailto:jack-ie.bye@k12.nd.us) or stop by!



AR Awards September 2025

25 Points

Karli Schock
Barrett Ng

50 Points

Olive Folven
Isaac Ohnstad

600 Points

Briana Bina

700 Points

Calla Naas

ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION DRIVE

Help Out – Have Fun



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 WEAR PAJAMAS BRING CRACKERS OR MAC & CHEESE OR CEREAL	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 WEAR SUNGLASSES, HATS & SLIPPERS BRING CANNED ITEMS	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 WEAR SPORTS TEAM BRING HYGIENE ITEMS	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 WEAR WACKY DRESS UP DAY PAPER PRODUCTS & DRINKS	27	28	29

1. NOVEMBER 19: For the Sports Team Dress Day Dr. Bye Will Donate \$1.00 For Each Person That Remembers to Dress in Something Sports Team Related and brings the product of the day. She Will Donate \$2.00 If It Represents One of Her Favorite Two Teams (Not Counting High School Teams).
2. The Money Will Be Split Between the Food Pantry and The Elementary Student Council Christmas Basket Project. If Any Business or Individual Would Like to Match the Donation Please Contact the Elementary School☺

~ Pre-K News ~

Every other Thursday afternoon the Pre-K students along with Mrs. Corby and Mrs. Lippert walk over and visit the Nelson County Care Center. We share/sing songs with the residents and staff that the class has been working on in music class. We also play games and dance with the residents. Below are some pictures from one of the visits. In the pictures the students and residents were playing catch with scarves and dancing to music.



The Pre-K class has also been learning all about fall and Halloween. They listened to the book *Spookley The Square Pumpkin* and watched the movie. Then they created their own shape Jack-O-Lantern to create our very own class shape pumpkin patch. They also painted fall trees losing their leaves with their fingers and created silly acorn people for the class fall themed bulletin board.



~ Elementary News ~

On October 8th the Third Grade attended the Grand Forks Children's Museum "Full STEAM Ahead. The kids were able to a variety of activities such as paint with Glow in the Dark paint, brain games, potato fun and grocery shopping, interact in a Veterinary clinic, and create train tracts and stitch work. The kids had such a fun time, and we are already asking if they can go back next year!



On Friday October 10th during Fire Prevention Week Dakota Prairie 2nd graders along with a few other 2nd graders from North Dakota got to listen to a presentation from Beth Hill who works for the North Dakota Forestry Service. They learned about the history of Smokey Bear, listened to a story from Smokey Bear, learned the importance of fire prevention, and received some fun goodies of Smokey Bear. A saying they heard often throughout the presentation is that "only YOU can prevent wildfires!" Was a fun afternoon on Zoom!



~ Elementary News ~

ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL PROJECT

The Dakota Prairie Elementary Student Council is partnering with Eastern Plains Human Service Zone to provide Christmas baskets to some of the senior citizens of Nelson County to brighten their holiday season.

They are doing a variety of things to collect items for the baskets. And, doing some fundraising and using the money to purchase some of the items. If you would like to donate any of the items please drop off in the elementary office, or with your teacher, any time **BEFORE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12.**

Suggested Items:

Adult Coloring Books
Markers
Large Print Word Search
Large Print Crossword Puzzles
Candy
Puzzles
Socks
Tea
Coffee
Chapstick
Toothbrushes
Hand Sanitizer
Hygiene Sets

Colored Pencils
Crayons
Sudoku
Nuts
Crackers
Gloves
Hats
Hot Chocolate
Unscented Lotions
Toothpaste
Small Blankets
Manicure Sets



During enrichment, First grade learned all about the dangers of tobacco. Thank you, Mr. Larson for coming down to teach us to say NO!

The 4th Graders are so excited for reading this year. The Taxman from Fargo will buy each one a book a month for the school year. We have been blessed for many years from this fine company.



~ Elementary News ~

On Thursday, October 23rd, Jill Vigesaa with the ND Ag in the Classroom Program came out to the 2nd-5th grade classrooms to teach them about agriculture and solve breakout boxes pertaining to agriculture. The 2nd graders learned about apples, seasons, and plant life cycles. They all solved the breakout boxes and had lots of fun doing it!



~ Elementary News ~

4th Grade wore an orange shirt on September 30 in honor of National Orange Shirt Day. We wanted to show support that every child matters. We also discussed and came up with all the reasons why we individually matter.



4th Graders enjoyed visiting and learning about their new friends at the care center. They learned how they got to school and their lunch was a potato they brought from home and cooked all day in the wood stove.

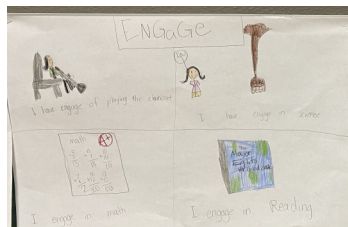
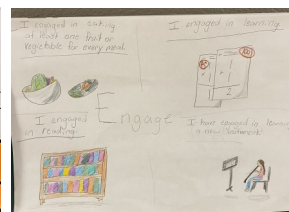
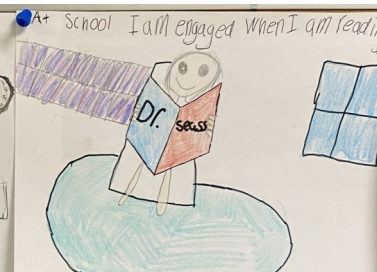
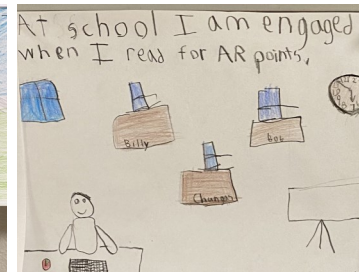
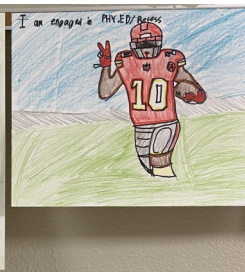
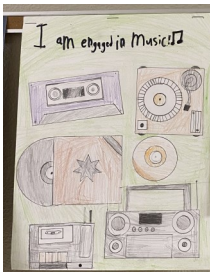
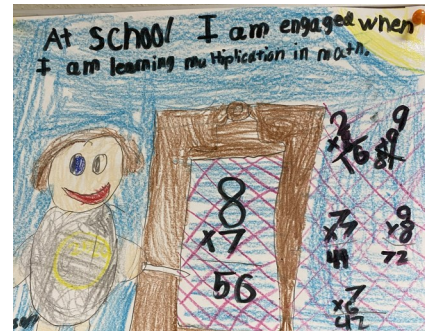
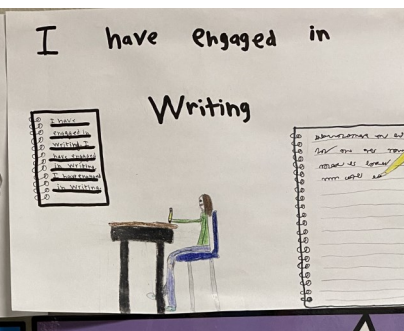


~ Elementary News ~

As part of the district's ongoing school improvement efforts, we have adopted new schoolwide expectations to guide our students' learning and behavior: **Engage, Empower, and Excel**. These expectations create a common language across all schools and grade levels, helping every student understand what success looks like both in and out of the classroom.

ENGAGE: *We Listen...We Ask Questions...We Participate in Activities*

Elementary students drew pictures of what they have been engaged in this fall. Here are a few of those pictures that are decorating our hallways. Watch for more in the December Knight Dakota Prairie Page.



VIRTUAL LEARNING SCHEDULE 2025-2026

DAKOTA PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY

TO JOIN ZOOM: Go to **your classroom teacher's webpage** on the school website (<https://www.dakota-prairie.k12.nd.us>). You will see directions and a link for your classroom teacher. The links for other teachers you have classes with in a school day will also be **on your classroom teacher's webpage**.

PK: CORBY

1st : KLEFSTAD

3rd : GUNDERSON

6TH : KUEBER

K: TAYLOR SAND

2nd: LOFSTROM

4th : AVDEM

6th : OLSON

K: STEIN

3RD : COX

5th: BEGLAU

8:00-8:30: TEACHER OFFICE HOURS

- Parents, please contact the teacher via REMIND, or email before 8:30 if your child cannot ZOOM for the day. Attendance is taken for Virtual Learning days. Your child will be counted absent if you do not contact the teacher.
- Your child's IEP case manager (*Mrs. Walter or Mrs. Brodell*) will contact you about the assigned time to ZOOM for special education & speech minutes.

①

PRESCHOOL: READING

2ND GRADE: READING

1 S: MATH

8:30-9:00

ZOOM CLASSES

BREAK

KINDERGARTEN: READING

3RD GRADE: READING

4TH: MATH

9:00-9:10: BREAK

9:10-9:50

1 K: READING

6TH GRADE: READING

5TH: MATH

ZOOM CLASSES

②

PRESCHOOL: MATH

2ND GRADE: MATH

1 S: READING

10:00-10:30

ZOOM CLASSES

BREAK

KINDERGARTEN: MATH

3RD GRADE: MATH

4TH: READING

10:30—10:40: BREAK

10:40-11:20

1 K: MATH

6TH : MATH

5TH: READING

ZOOM CLASSES

③

SCIENCE-HEALTH

11:30-11:50

ZOOM CLASSES

④

SOCIAL STUDIES

12:00-12:20: ZOOM CLASSES

12:20-1:30: DINNER BREAK

1:00-4:00: SEE DIRECTIONS BELOW**1:00-4:00: ZOOM AVAILABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY****1. WORK ON MUSIC AND PHY ED ACTIVITY LIST**

- a. Must be completed, signed and returned according to directions to earn the points for your grade.

2. SPECIAL EDUCATION & SPEECH ASSIGNED MEETING TIMES**3. TEACHER OFFICE HOURS:**

- a. You can check in with your teacher if you have any questions about assignments and/or to get extra help with work you do not understand.

4. SPECIAL ZOOM TIME ACTIVITIES TO CHOOSE FROM: SEE BELOW**SPECIAL ZOOM ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Bina Will Be Available at These Times for You to Zoom with Her for The Special Activities Listed Below. **These Are Available If You Choose to Participate.**

1:00-1:20: STORYTIME AND/OR FLASHCARDS WITH MS. BINA

PRESCHOOL

1:25--1:45: STORYTIME AND/OR FLASHCARDS WITH MS. BINA

KINDERGARTEN

1:50-2:10: STORYTIME AND/OR FLASHCARDS WITH MS. BINA

1ST GRADE

2:15-2:35: STORYTIME AND/OR FLASHCARDS WITH MS. BINA

2ND GRADE

2:40-3:00: STORYTIME AND/OR FLASHCARDS WITH MS. BINA

3RD GRADE

3:05-3:25: STORYTIME AND/OR FLASHCARDS WITH MS. BINA

4TH GRADE

3:30-3:50: MS BINA: FLASHCARDS W/ MS BINA

5TH & 6TH GRADES

REMEMBER: WORK ASSIGNED DURING VIRTUAL LEARNING IS DUE WHEN YOU RETURN TO SCHOOL ☺

DAKOTA PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY

BE ENGAGED – EMPOWER YOUR PEERS – BE READY TO EXCEL

ZOOM CLASS EXPECTATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

1

Be On Time

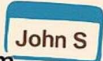
Log in a few minutes early so you're ready when class begins.



3

Use Your Real Name

Make sure your Zoom name matches your school name.



5

Raise Your Hand

Use the "raise hand" button or raise your hand on camera to speak.



8

Listen When Others Talk

Give classmates and teachers your full attention.



9

Stay on Task

Only use your device for the Zoom class, not for games or unrelated websites.



12

Dress for School

Wear clothes that are school-appropriate.



2

Come Prepared

Have your supplies, homework, and materials nearby.



4

Find a Quiet Space

Choose a spot with as few distractions as possible.

**Cameras On**

Keep your camera on so your teacher can see your smiling face.



6

Microphone Manners

Keep your microphone muted unless it's your turn to talk.

9

Use Kind Words

Speak respectfully in your words and tone.



11

No Eating During Class

Save snacks for break time unless your teacher says otherwise.



15

End the Meeting Politely

Wait until the teacher ends the session before logging off.



In North Dakota, all public K–12 schools are required to participate in a Continuous Improvement Process as part of the school approval system. This process ensures schools meet state standards and are eligible to operate. One part of this process is to survey our students, staff, and parents. Below are the areas that were scored within the survey that was conducted October 6 – 20th, 2025. The Dakota Prairie Leadership Team will use the results to reflect on what we're doing well and where we can improve, ensuring that our plans align with our mission to provide an innovative and supportive learning environment that empowers learners. Thanks to the stakeholders for participating and giving us guidance in our Continuous Improvement Process. The winners of the gift cards are Tyler Moss(3-6), and Melissa Kueber(7-12).

Purpose and Direction	This section focuses on the school's mission, vision, and goals. It looks at whether everyone—students, staff, and families—understands why the school exists and what it's trying to accomplish.										
Governance and Leadership	This area examines how the school and district are led and managed. It considers how leaders make decisions, involve others, and ensure accountability and fairness.										
Teaching and Assessing for Learning	This section evaluates how teachers plan lessons, teach, and measure student learning. It includes instructional practices, use of data, and support for all learners.										
Resources and Support Systems	This looks at how the school uses people, programs, and materials to support students and staff. It includes staffing, technology, facilities, and student support services.										
Using Results for Continuous Improvement	This section focuses on how the school uses data, feedback, and results to make ongoing improvements. It measures whether the school learns from its performance and adjusts accordingly.										
Climate & Culture Fall Survey Results 2025	Green = Strength Orange = Challenge Blue = Overall Score%										
	Elementary	Elem. Staff (25)	%	Elem. Parents (21)	%	Grades 3-5 (56)	%	Grade 6 (27)	%	DPE	
	Purpose and Direction	4.42	88%	4.05	81%	2.76	92%	3.84	77%	85%	
	Governance and Leadership	4.12	82%	3.86	77%	2.54	85%	3.93	79%	81%	
	Teaching and Assessing for Learning	4.26	85%	4.27	85%	2.72	91%	3.81	76%	84%	
	Resources and Support Systems	4.33	87%	4.02	80%	2.79	93%	3.72	74%	84%	
Using Results for Continuous Improvement	4.28	86%	4.22	84%	2.59	86%	3.84	77%	83%		
Overall Score:	4.27	85%	4.17	83%	2.69	90%	3.85	77%	84%		
High School	HS Staff (12)	%	HS Parents (15)	%	Grades 7-12 (96)	%			DPHS		
	Purpose and Direction	4.23	85%	3.8	76%	3.74	75%		78%		
	Governance and Leadership	4.05	81%	3.63	73%	3.58	72%		75%		
	Teaching and Assessing for Learning	3.75	75%	3.7	74%	3.66	73%		74%		
	Resources and Support Systems	4.14	83%	3.86	77%	3.58	72%		77%		
	Using Results for Continuous Improvement	3.98	80%	3.82	76%	3.54	71%		76%		
Overall Score:	3.96	79%	3.78	76%	3.65	73%		76%			
Dakota Prairie School District	Staff %	Parents %	Grades 3-12 %	District %							
	Purpose and Direction	87%	79%	81%	82%						
	Governance and Leadership	82%	75%	78%	78%						
	Teaching and Assessing for Learning	80%	80%	80%	80%						
	Resources and Support Systems	85%	79%	80%	81%						
	Using Results for Continuous Improvement	83%	80%	78%	80%						
Overall Score:	82%	80%	80%	81%							

November 2025

Nov 7—Elementary Veterans Concert @ 1pm

Nov 11—No school: Veterans Day

Nov 12—School Board Meeting @ 7pm

Nov 26—Early Dismissal at 1:30 pm

Nov 27-28—No school: Thanksgiving Break

**PLEASE CHECK THE DAKOTA PRAIRIE HOME PAGE
FOR THE MOST CURRENT ACTIVITIES SCHEDULES**

<https://www.dakota-prairie.k12.nd.us>

Future Dates of Interest

November 11—No School: Veterans Day

November 26—Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm

November 27-28 —No School: Thanksgiving

December 19—Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm

January 2—Teacher Work Day

January 5—Start of Second Semester

January 19—No School: MLKJ Day; Teacher PD

February 9—No School: Mid Winter Break

March 6—No School: Mid Winter Break

March 18— Teacher PD in AM; Parent Teacher Conf @ Elem 1-6

March 19-20—No School: Spring Break

April 3—No School: Good Friday

April 6—No school: Teacher Work Day

May 22—Last Day of School; Dismiss @ 1:30

May 24—Graduation @ 1pm



Dakota Prairie School District

Box 37

Petersburg, ND 58272

Frequency of Publication Information:

Dakota Prairie Knight Reader is published monthly during the school year by Dakota Prairie School District, except for the summer months when a June/July and August issue appear. The main office for the district is located at 518 4th Ave. Petersburg, ND 58272.

Comments may be made in writing or by calling 701-345-8233 during school hours.

Discrimination
and Harassment
Grievance
Procedure

Nondiscrimina-
tion and Anti-
Harassment
Policy

Title IX Sexual
Harassment
Grievance
Procedure



Dakota Prairie does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age, in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Dakota Prairie Superintendent has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies. (Supt. Jay B. Slade, P.O. Box 37, Petersburg, ND, 58272, 701-345-8233, jay.slade@k12.nd.us).

Title IX Coordinator: Dakota Prairie Superintendent — District Office Phone Number 701-345-8233 (Supt. Jay B. Slade, P.O. Box 37, Petersburg, ND, 58272, 701-345-8233, jay.slade@k12.nd.us).

Dakota Prairie
Course Descriptions

