

PRAIRIE CREEK ELEMENTARY

"Home of the Panthers"



654 YMCA Drive
Andover, KS 67002
316-218-4830
www.usd385.org



Shelley Jonas, Principal

Sept. 4th, 2015

A Note from Mrs. Jonas...

WELCOME to all of our Prairie Creek families!! It has been a great start. I would like to welcome and introduce some additions to our staff. Joining us this year are Joyce Seely – First Grade Teacher, Alex McMahon – Band Teacher and Cindi Salmans – Librarian. We have had a few teachers change teaching assignments as well, including: Carla Reynolds moved to PreK, Stacy Green is teaching 2nd grade and Carey Elsbernd is one of our Librarians. I would also like to welcome Instructional Aides and Para-Professionals Joanna Bates, Angela Folger, Kelly Green, Jamie Hyle, Barbara Jones, Kinzie Flowers, Monica Hinojos, Rachel Parsons and Marcus Green. I feel very lucky to have many dedicated individuals working with our students.

Just a few reminders for the beginning of the year:

School starts at 8:35 (first bell rings at 8:25). Students should not arrive earlier than 8:20. If you need care prior to that, the YMCA has latchkey services on site. School ends at 3:35. Please plan on arriving no earlier than 3:35. Student pick up and drop off is on the West side of the building. Please have your student's sign ready to hold up.

Drop off in the morning must be on the West side of the building. The front of the building is reserved for our buses. The buses come in at different times and it is difficult if there are students being dropped off in front. When dropping off your child on the West side of the building, please stay in line and feel free to let your child out anywhere along the sidewalk. **Students are not allowed to walk over from the parking lot by themselves.** If you prefer to park in the parking lot, please walk your child across. This is a safety issue. Just a reminder, to drive slowly in the drop off area, as we have many students walking or riding bikes in the morning hours.

When picking up your child, please be patient. The line will not start moving until 3:35, when our dismissal bell rings. Our older students take a few minutes to get to the West door for dismissal. We will send them out as soon as you are in the pick up zone. You are welcome to park and walk over to pick up your child. We will send them out as soon as we can.

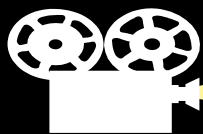
Our bus drivers are still working on our timing issues. The afternoon buses are now arriving to the school on time, which should help with dismissal. Transportation is working on solutions to make the routes more timely. We appreciate your patience with this process. If you have changes in your child's regular transportation arrangement, please write a note to the teacher. If you are unable to write a note, please call the office prior to 3:00.

Please call the office if your child will be absent or late. You may request homework at that time.

I want to give a great big THANK YOU to our PTO and the parent volunteers from the Helping Hands committee. For the first few days, parents were here in the morning to help our day get started and get students to class, at lunch to help out with establishing routines, and also after school to help with dismissal. This assistance was invaluable to helping Prairie Creek get off to a smooth start.

Thank you for sharing your children with us each day. Feel free to call if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. I can be reached at 218-4830.

Shelley Jonas
Principal



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Joyce Seely
1st Grade Teacher

Hello, my name is Joyce Seely and I am excited to be teaching first grade this year. I have taught 1st, 2nd, and 4th grade in other surrounding districts. I graduated from Baker University with an Undergraduate Degree and then later a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Technology. I love teaching because it allows me to use my creativity and passion to help others in fun and exciting ways. I love the excitement a child shows when they finally understand a concept they have been struggling with.

My husband and I have lived in Wichita for 10 years. We are originally from Junction City. Our daughter Sarah is 2 years old and we have a son named Evan who is 9 months. Sarah is full of energy and keeps us on the go and Evan is just a sweetie. Our family loves going on walks, swimming at the YMCA, visiting the Zoo and Botanical Gardens, and attending church. I love baking when I have free time and giving my treats away brings me great joy.



Kelly Green
Instructional Aide

Hello! My name is Kelly Green, and I am an Instructional/Lunch Aide. It's great to be here at Prairie Creek! I graduated from Newman Univeristy in May 2014 with my degree in Elementary Education and taught 4th grade in Wellington last year.

I have two daughters; Taylor is in 8th grade at ACMS and Hayleigh is in 1st grade here at Prairie Creek. We live in Wichita with our two crazy cats, Colton and Olivia.

In my spare time I love to spend time with my family and friends, whether it be at home, or going out to do something fun.



Angela Folger
Instructional Aide

Hello, my name is Angela Folger. This is my first year at Prairie Creek and I am very excited to be here! I have a degree in Business Administration and for the past ten years I have been a mom.

My husband, Justin and I have been married for almost 12 years and we have two kids. My daughter, Alexandria, is in the 5th grade and my son, Ian, is in 2nd grade at Magdalen Catholic School. We also have three dogs, Patchoili (Dalmatian-brown), Coconut (Dalmatian-black) and Simon (Dachshund), who also keep me busy.

I love spending time with my family and I enjoy scrap booking.



Stacy Green
2nd Grade Teacher

Hello! My name is Stacy Green and I am a new member of the 2nd grade team at Prairie Creek. My first year in Andover was last year as a member of the Pre-K team. This year is the start of my 17th year in teaching. I graduated from Emporia State and then began my teaching career in Salina, Kansas. I taught 1st grade for 5 years. A job transfer moved us to the Kansas City area. There I taught ESOL for 2 years in the Shawnee Mission School District and then taught kindergarten and Title I Reading in Louisburg for 8 years. I am excited about my new role as a 2nd grade teacher.

We moved back "home" in June of 2014 to be closer to our families. Both my husband and I grew up in the area so our three boys are enjoying having both sets of grandparents close. My husband Matt and I are proud parents to three active boys. Corbin is an 8th grader at ACMS, Carson (3rd grade) and Cooper (kindergarten) attend Prairie Creek.

When I have spare time between school responsibilities and being chauffeur to various sporting events I love to read and bake.





Counselor's Corner

Hello Prairie Creek families! I'm excited to be back for another great school year! Each classroom at Prairie Creek receives a guidance lesson 2 times per month. Guidance lessons cover the Kansas Curricular Standards for Elementary School Counseling; **Personal and Social Development**, including respectfulness, goal setting, personal safety, as well as acquiring the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect themselves and others. **Academic Development**, including acquiring the attitudes, knowledge and skills that contribute to effective learning. **Career Development** including the knowledge to make informed career decisions.

Throughout the year Prairie Creek also has a monthly Character Trait focus. The character words we will be focusing on include Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, Caring, Honesty, Generosity, Trustworthiness, Perseverance and Fairness!

How can your child visit the Counselor?

- Student may request to visit with the counselor.
- Teacher may request that the counselor visit with a student.
- Parents may request that the counselor visit with their child.
- Principal or counselor may see the need to visit with a student.

If there are questions regarding the activities or curriculum, please feel free to call me or stop by my office! Looking forward to a fabulous school year here at Prairie Creek!!

Kim Bradford

PTO NEWS...

Welcome back Prairie Creek! We are starting off the school year with lots of activities! Show your Prairie Creek Pride - turn in your t-shirt order forms by September 18th in order to have them to wear for the Greater Andover Days Parade on October 3rd. We'd love for you to walk with us in the parade and show your support! If you have questions about the parade, contact Annie Becker at anniecruse@yahoo.com.

Cookie Dough ...and much more! Jamie from JT Enterprises visited our school Friday, September 4th to kick off the Fall Fundraiser! The fundraiser will go through September 15th.

Mark your calendars! Put it on your phone! We would love to see you at the next PTO Meeting, September 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Help approve where our dollars are spent for our teachers, children, and other aspects of the school where the PTO is concerned. Free childcare is provided.

It's never too late to volunteer! Please fill out our online form for volunteer interest areas. It can be found on the school website under the PTO link and also on our facebook page: Prairie Creek Elementary PTO. If you have any questions, please email us at prairiecreekpto@yahoo.com.



Music Notes from Mrs. Routh

"50's Fun"

Grades 4 & 5

Tuesday, October 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Andover Central High School Auditorium

Our school year is off to a fantastic start! Here are a few important events coming up this fall.

GREATER ANDOVER DAYS

This is Prairie Creek's year to sing at Greater Andover Days. The 4th and 5th grades will be sharing some of their program songs on Thursday, October 1st at 6:55 p.m. in Andover Central Park. The students need to meet in the music room at 5:45 p.m. to get organized and warm up. Buses will transport them to the park so we can stay together. It is very congested in the park that night. Parents will be responsible for picking their child up at 7:15 p.m. to take them home. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Our students will represent Prairie Creek well.

4-5 FALL PROGRAM

We had the BIG REVEAL last week of our program theme. It is **50's FUN**. You will receive a list of all the characters available and then you and your child will pick their top three. I will do my best to see that they get one of their top three choices. There are 105 students so it is a challenge to make everyone happy. We are already working on songs and they are the bee's knees. **Please mark your calendars for TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH! The program starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Andover Central High School Auditorium. Students need to arrive no earlier than 6:30 p.m. and meet in the choir room.** It's going to be cool cats so tell all your family and friends. Start planning now for 50's costumes! Rolled jeans and white button-up shirts and maybe a poodle skirt for the girls! Don't sweat it- keep cool and use what you have at home. Or you can ask family and friends if they have any fun 50's outfits!

GOING TO THE SYMPHONY

Grades 3-5 are going to the Wichita Symphony Young People's Concert on Wednesday, November 18th in the morning. This year they are presenting "The Composer is Dead". It sounds a little scary but it is really a light-hearted Whodunit! Which instrument killed the composer? The featured music will be Anton Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, the third movement. The cost per student is \$4.50 and notes went home last Friday with permission slips attached. Our awesome PTO is paying for the buses! We appreciate that so much! It is so much fun to take students to the symphony. We study all those instruments and then to be able to see and hear them in person is fantastic!

RECORDERS

I need to place our recorder order this Friday! The students cannot wait for them to get here! But I need everyone's money before I can order because this is the only order for the year! Please get your \$6.00 in right away! Fourth and fifth graders who do not have a recorder should purchase one too! We use those lots in our music room!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK - Prairie Creek Music Notes

We have our own facebook page! It is called Prairie Creek Music Notes. I am very excited about using this page to keep you all informed about what it is going on. I will be posting costume possibilities, practice times, and so much more. To receive updates you must LIKE us on facebook. Go to Prairie Creek Music Notes and LIKE us. As the year goes on we will post pictures and events coming up. I hope to eliminate a lot of paper notes going home because I am not convinced you are all seeing them. You will also find helpful information on our new school website. Go to my page to see all the happenings in our music room.

Mrs. Routh, Music Teacher



From the Nurse's Office

The Health Office would like to welcome all of you to Prairie Creek! We have missed all your smiling faces. Nurse Kellie Bamford, RN will be your school nurse again this year. She will be at Prairie Creek on Tuesday, Wednesday morning, and Thursday all day. Your health clerk, Jessica Collins, will be in the Prairie Creek Health Office on Monday, Wednesday morning, and Friday all day. We are looking forward to helping the students and staff stay as healthy as possible.

Here is a quick review of some pertinent USD 385 policies:

1. Any medication that your child receives at school needs a Medical Release form filled in and signed by yourself as parent and your physician for Pre-K through 2nd grade. For 3rd-5th grade students there is an OTC (over-the-counter) form for parents to sign and you must provide the appropriate medication in a sealed container for your child. This includes all over the counter medications such as Tylenol, Advil or Ibuprofen, even cough drops. **Medication release forms are only good for the current school year and must be updated yearly.** Medication release forms are kept in the Health Office or found in the Nurses Corner under the Parents tab on the District web site @ www.usd385.org/73626_2.
2. If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher and/or is vomiting, you will need to come and pick him/her up from school. Students need to be fever free and without episodes of vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school. Please do not medicate your febrile child and then send them to school.
3. Each year parents fill out a health history for their child(ren). If there are changes in your child's health throughout the year, please call 218-4830 so that the health history remains current and up to date.
4. Please notify the office immediately if there has been a change in your contact information so we can get everything updated in our system.

Encourage your family to maintain healthy habits:

- Do not share eating utensils, toothbrushes or cups
- Exercise
- Get adequate amounts of sleep
- Wash hands often

Looking forward to a great year!

Nurse Kellie

Jessica Collins, Health Clerk

Staff Birthdays this month...

Lynn Slack 9/5
Casey Cottrill 9/9
Julie Oles 9/22
Kevin Brightup 9/23
Michelle Chambers 9/27
Keesha Kitterman 9/30



★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!



LIFETOUCH PICTURE DAY!

Lifetouch individual portraits will be taken on Wednesday, Sept. 30th. These will be the pictures used in the yearbook. Look for your student's picture packet to come home in their Friday folder on Sept. 18th (PreK/EC students Sept. 17th) All pictures are prepaid. Payment is due at the time they are taken. Cash or check accepted (no change available). You can also pay online by using the code found on your picture packet.