

IMPORTANT INFO
INSIDE!

Prairieland Elementary's Parent-Teacher Organization



P.I.E.C.E.

People Involved in Expanding Children's Education

{ Parent Packet }
2017-2018



Working Together for Our Kids

We all want our children's school experience to be the best it can be. Parent volunteers and teachers at Prairieland Elementary have teamed up to provide the high-quality educational environment our kids deserve. If you're a parent, guardian, or teacher, you are automatically a member of P.I.E.C.E. (which stands for People Involved in Expanding Children's Education). We hope you'll join in this year!

Watch for updates and find more info on our web site at www.prairielandpiece.org

INSIDE THIS PACKET:

- ➔ Save the Date: upcoming P.I.E.C.E. events
- ➔ How to submit photos for the yearbook
- ➔ How to order your yearbook
- ➔ List of P.I.E.C.E. officers and committees
- ➔ Shopping/rewards programs
- ➔ Why we fundraise at Prairieland
- ➔ Simply Donate (No Hassle) program
- ➔ State Farm Good Neighbor Grant
- ➔ Volunteer interest form
- ➔ Checklist

Order Your Spirit Wear Online by Aug. 28

This year, we will not send home paper order forms for our spirit wear sale. Orders must be placed online from Aug. 18 through Aug. 28 at www.selectspiritwear.com. Please note this is not a fundraiser, and P.I.E.C.E. does not keep any portion of the sales. It's just for fun!

How to Access the School Phone Directory

The Prairieland Phone Directory will be available online within the next few weeks by logging into your family's Skyward account. The school office also will be sending a Skyward email with a PDF of the directory attached. Please let us know if you have any questions about accessing this information.

Monthly Meetings

P.I.E.C.E. meetings are held in the K-2 Commons, usually on the second Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

Free child care is provided at every meeting for ages 2 and up. (Please do not send snacks.)

Everyone is welcome! There is no pressure to sign up for anything — we're just glad to see you!

Mark your calendar for the following dates:

September 11th

October 16th

November 6th

December 11th

no meeting in January

February 12th

March 12th

April 9th

May 7th



Save the Date: Upcoming Events

In addition to our monthly meetings, P.I.E.C.E. hosts or assists with a variety of events and activities throughout the school year. Stay updated on any scheduling changes by checking the P.I.E.C.E. web site at www.prairielandpiece.org or by following our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PrairielandElementary.

AUGUST

- 16th — Yearbook sale begins
- 18th — Spirit wear online shop opens
- 25th — Movie Night @ dusk
- 28th — Spirit wear online shop closes

SEPTEMBER

- 11th — P.I.E.C.E. meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 13th — Magazine sale begins
- 20th — NWCHS Homecoming parade

OCTOBER

- 2nd — Magazine sale ends
- 16th — P.I.E.C.E. meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 20th — Box Tops Fall Collection ends
- 20th — Butterbraid sale begins
- 28th — Trunk or Treat @ 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- 29th — Trunk or Treat [rain date]

NOVEMBER

- 6th — P.I.E.C.E. meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 7th — Butterbraid sale ends
- 16th — Butterbraid pickup

DECEMBER

- 11th — P.I.E.C.E. meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY

- No P.I.E.C.E. meeting

FEBRUARY

- 12th — P.I.E.C.E. meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 19th — Last day to submit yearbook photos
- 21st — Box Tops Spring Collection ends
- 24th — Carnival

MARCH

- 1st — Yearbook sale ends
- 12th — P.I.E.C.E. meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

APRIL

- 9th — P.I.E.C.E. meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

MAY

- 7th-11th — Staff Appreciation Week
- 7th — P.I.E.C.E. meeting @ 6:30 p.m.



Yearbook orders now 100% online

For the first time at Prairieland, all yearbook orders must be submitted online. The P.I.E.C.E. website has a Yearbook page where you can click through to the Josten's order form:

www.prairielandpiece.org/yearbook

We hope to fill the pages of our yearbook with as many different faces and events as possible. To accomplish this, we need your help! Please send us your photo submissions by February 19, 2018. The sooner you send in pictures, the more likely they will be included!

Upload your pictures at ReplayIt.com or via the ReplayIt app. The password to upload pictures for Prairieland is Cougar1. You will need to create a username and password for the site if you have not already done so; this is in addition to the Cougar1 password required to upload pictures for Prairieland. Please tag photos with student names and the event category.



P.I.E.C.E. Officers 2017-2018

P.I.E.C.E. is organized and maintained by parent volunteers.

President

Jodi Pomis (pomis@me.com)

Vice President of Committees

Cortney Heuer (cortneyheuer@me.com)

Vice President of Communications

Jamie Jorczak (jamie.jorczak@gmail.com)

Treasurer

Shannon Moreland (skmoreland@gmail.com)

Secretary

Krista Behrends (k_behrends@hotmail.com)

General P.I.E.C.E. email:

priarielandelementaryPIECE@gmail.com

P.I.E.C.E. Committees 2017-2018

Box Tops

Jill Usiak (jillusiak14@gmail.com)

What we do: Coordinate Box Tops collections; remit Box Tops to sponsor; reward winning classes

Carnival

Jena Tarnowski (jena@joshuatarnowski.com)

Lauren Kaufman (kaufmanlj@myunit5.org)

Bonnie Jolley (bonnie@bjolley.com)

What we do: Coordinate games, food, and activities for the annual carnival; hire and work with vendors; organize admission and prepaid tickets

Fundraising

Courtney Odland (clsmothers@yahoo.com)

What we do: Plan, organize, and conduct fundraising activities for the purpose of meeting P.I.E.C.E. budget needs

Homecoming Parade Float

Rick Wood (rickywood78@gmail.com)

What we do: Build a float to represent Prairieland in the NCWHS homecoming parade

Library Liaison

Megan Kaeb (megsk21@gmail.com)

What we do: Assist IMC with volunteer coordination.

Movie Night

Rachel Schlipmann (rachel.schlipmann@countryfinancial.com)

Michelle Starkey (irusunshine@msn.com)

What we do: Host the annual outdoor Movie Night

PBIS

Michelle Whitehead (mwhitehead03@hotmail.com)

Maggie Evans (maggiejoevans@hotmail.com)

What we do: Assist faculty in providing rewards for positive behavior incentives

Raffle

Dione Jenkins (dionee23@yahoo.com)

What we do: Coordinate raffle and raffle ticket sales

Room Parent Coordinator

Angie Harden (aharden78@gmail.com)

What we do: Organize room parent volunteers for holiday parties and other activities to support classroom teachers

School Kits

Jena Tarnowski (jena@joshuatarnowski.com)

What we do: Gather grade supply lists from teachers; collect orders; distribute school kits

Spirit Wear

Natalie Perrone (nhutchison03@hotmail.com)

What we do: Collect/place/distribute orders

Staff Appreciation

Shauna Pattelli (shaunamarismith@yahoo.com)

Jamie Rucker (jamierucker@hotmail.com)

What we do: Coordinate activities for various appreciation and recognition events for faculty

Telephone Directory

Angie Harden (aharden78@gmail.com)

What we do: Coordinate the phone directory

Trunk or Treat

Rachel Schlipmann (rachel.schlipmann@countryfinancial.com)

Natalie Perrone (nhutchison03@hotmail.com)

What we do: Coordinate the Trunk or Treat Halloween event

Welcoming

Rachel Schlipmann (rachel.schlipmann@countryfinancial.com)

What we do: Help new families become familiar with P.I.E.C.E. activities and volunteer opportunities

Yearbook

Tanya Waninger (twaninger@gmail.com)

What we do: Coordinate and design the annual Prairieland yearbook; take photos at events



P.I.E.C.E.

Easy Ways to Support Prairieland

These are a few easy ways to earn cash for Prairieland just by shopping for the things you already buy for your family. (And your extended family and friends can participate, even if they don't have students at Prairieland.) A few of these programs are new to us this year, and a few are tried-and-true. Please note that some programs utilized in past years are no longer available (Target, Meijer, and Labels for Education). Thanks for all your efforts and continued support!



www.schwans-cares.com — Schwan's orders placed online will earn donations for Prairieland -- but only for a limited time! Go to www.schwans-cares.com/campaigns/33164-prairieland-piece to sign up. **From now until October 15, 2017**, we will earn 20% of each sale, and 40% of each eGiftCard sale! Our goal is to raise \$500 -- we'd love your help!



www.smile.amazon.com — The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases when you sign up to donate to our school. Search for "Prairieland Piece Parent Group." The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping and handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. Special terms and restrictions may apply. *NOTE: you must enter the Amazon site through Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com). This does not work on the Amazon app.*



www.redrobin.com/betterschools — Red Robin's "Burgers for Better Schools" program will donate 1% of your check to a school of your choice every time you visit and use your Red Robin Royalty Account. Visit www.redrobin.com/betterschools for details.



www.boxtops4education.com — Save those Box Tops! Each grade has a competition to see which classrooms can collect the most Box Tops, once in the fall and once in the spring.



www.us.coca-cola.com/give — Click "Donate to your local school" and enter Prairieland Elementary in the search box. Log in or sign up for an account, then enter codes found on Coca-Cola products to generate donations to Prairieland.



www.escrip.com/schnucks — When you use a Schnucks eScrip Customer Card, 3% of your purchases will come back to Prairieland. Pick up an eScrip card at any Schnuck's customer service desk.



www.officedepot.com — Search for "give back to schools" on the Office Depot website, or mention Prairieland at the store checkout, and 5% of eligible purchases will be donated to our school in the form of a gift card to purchase supplies for the school office. Our ID is 70033752.



P.I.E.C.E.

Why Do We Fundraise?

P.I.E.C.E. has one mission: to support our educators and students. Every year, we have several fundraisers to try to generate a cash flow so that we can continue providing this support in ways that truly make a difference in our school. We know it's not anyone's favorite part of the school year, but it really is for a good cause. Just last year, P.I.E.C.E. utilized fundraising dollars and many, many parent volunteer hours for the following purchases and activities:

- Purchased new P.E. equipment
- Purchased new popcorn machine for school use
- Purchased new headphones for classroom computers
- Contributed financially to the Back to School Alliance (book bags & supplies for underprivileged children in our community)
- Provided classroom money for teachers to buy supplies
- Purchased non-classroom teacher gifts
- Provided money for the IMC/library
- Purchased lamination
- Provided money for hand sanitizer
- Provided daily snacks during PARCC testing
- Provided 2 college scholarships for former Prairieland students
- Paid for magazine subscriptions for classrooms (Time for Kids/Scholastic News/National Geographic Explorer)
- Paid for website licensing (Mystery Science)
- Hosted the Coffee and Kleenex event for kindergarten parents
- Hosted and provided snacks for Movie Night
- Built the Prairieland Homecoming Parade Float for NWCHS
- Coordinated the Trunk or Treat night
- Hosted Tales and Treats
- Hosted Staff Appreciation Week
- Coordinated, photographed, designed, and ordered yearbooks
- Coordinated the school phone directory
- Placed orders for and distributed spiritwear
- Coordinated Box Tops collections for cash that went directly to each classroom
- Planned and paid for the school Carnival, including prizes
- Coordinated the ordering and distribution of school supply kits
- Admin the school's Facebook page

P.I.E.C.E. makes a budget each year in May, which is reviewed and voted on by the membership in September. If you're interested in learning more about our fundraising efforts, and why they're important to the success of our school, we encourage you to attend one of our monthly meetings this year. You can always email the board officers at prairielandelementaryPIECE@gmail.com or send us a private message on the Prairieland Elementary Facebook page. Thank you for your support!



Quick & Easy: Make a Donation

Our volunteers' hard work and dedication to making Prairieland a top-notch school are critical to our success — and so are our fundraising efforts. We are very fortunate that our Cougar community has a strong tradition of giving generously to support our kids' educational experience.

Every family's situation is different. Some families prefer to give their time volunteering, while others prefer to give financially. Some might do both. No matter how you get involved at Prairieland, you're making a difference.

Simply Donate is a quick and easy way to contribute financially without selling, taking orders, or delivering products. While your child will still occasionally bring home a fundraising packet or flyer, you can choose whether or not to participate, knowing you've already helped our school.

HOW IT WORKS:

You make a donation to P.I.E.C.E., we use the funds to help our school, you get the tax deduction, and everyone is happy!



If you prefer to make your donation online, visit our website at www.prairielandpiece.org and click on the gold "Donate" button at the bottom of the homepage to submit your

contribution via PayPal. The suggested donation amount is \$30, but you may give any amount. If you're writing a check, please send it to school in the envelope provided in this packet.

Thank you for your continued support of our kids and teachers!



Using the State Farm Good Neighbor Grant

All State Farm active employees, agents, and retirees are eligible to participate in the State Farm Good Neighbor Grant program.

The State Farm Companies Foundation will contribute a \$500 grant to a qualifying nonprofit organization (such as Prairieland Elementary School) at which an eligible associate volunteered 40 hours or more within a calendar year (January-December).

When completing the online form, make sure you select "Prairieland Elementary School" as the organization. Applications must be submitted by March 31 of the year following the one in which services were volunteered.

Volunteer hours can include hours working in a classroom or IMC, attending PIECE meetings, volunteering for a PIECE committee/event, and assisting with garden clean-up. The volunteer service must be completed prior to submitting the grant application.

The online application can be found at www.easymatch.com/statefarm or search SFNet for "Good Neighbor Grant".

Please clip this receipt to keep for your records:



P.I.E.C.E.



Prairieland P.I.E.C.E. (Parent-Teacher Organization)

Tax ID# 37-1390083

1300 E. Raab Rd., Normal, IL 61761

Donation Amount: _____

Check # _____

* Your donation is tax deductible. This receipt is for your records.



P.I.E.C.E.

Volunteer Interest

Please return this form by Aug. 31

We hope you'll consider volunteering for P.I.E.C.E. On this form, please indicate which activities you might enjoy. This does not obligate you to participate in any way — it just gives us an opportunity to send you more information about specific volunteer needs for this school year. Please provide your contact info and return this form in the envelope provided. You can also fill it out online at www.prairielandpiece.org/volunteer

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Check the box for any/all events at which you are interested in volunteering. This tells us you would like us to contact you by phone or email with more details, and there is no commitment at this time.

- Homecoming Parade Float (September)
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies — passing out quarterly behavior rewards during school hours)
- Book Fair
- Fundraising
- Staff Appreciation
- Carnival (February)
- Fun Run (TBD)



Please note that there is a separate sign-up for additional volunteer opportunities in each classroom for **room parents, party planning, photo coordinator, Box Tops coordinator,** and more. You can sign up for these jobs on our website at:

www.prairielandpiece.org/volunteer

****Be sure your school volunteer background check is current for this school year before signing up to help.****



- Check this box if you are including a check for Simply Donate (no hassle fundraiser) in the provided envelope. The suggested donation amount is \$30, but you may give any amount.



P.I.E.C.E.

To-Do List

Goal for completion: Thursday, August 31

- Follow us on Facebook
- Bookmark our website (www.prairielandpiece.org)
- Start clipping Box Tops
- Mark your calendar with upcoming P.I.E.C.E. events
- Order your yearbook
- Order your spirit wear
- Sign up for shopping/rewards programs
- Send in your Simply Donate contribution
- State Farm employees: Good Neighbor Grant
- Register as a volunteer for Unit 5 (must be renewed each year)
- Sign up online for classroom volunteering
- Submit the volunteer interest form for P.I.E.C.E. events



P.I.E.C.E. Payment & Donation Policy

It is always recommended that payments and donations be submitted either online or by paper check. This assists in good record keeping on our end, as well as yours. If you must send cash, please contact our treasurer to make arrangements. We ask that cash donations not be mailed or sent to school with your child. We are now accepting online donations via PayPal — click the Donate button at the bottom of our website at www.prairielandpiece.org.