

PSE Weekly Howl

Week of December 12th!

Dismissal Update

Thank you for being patient this week as we have implemented enhanced safety around dismissal. Today, I am happy to report we are within 63 seconds of our "normal dismissal time." Looking forward to crushing this goal next week. :)

December 20th 1/2 Day

We will dismiss at 11:45 on December 20th. The afternoon of the 20th is grade prep for our staff.

Winter Break is December 21st-January 3rd.

School Resumes on January 4th!

PSE Holiday Helpers

Each year we provide support for a few families in the PSE community gifts for the holiday season. Rather than asking for specific items with specific sizes, we are asking for gift cards. This will allow parents to shop for better selections for their children. This is completely optional! However, if your family is willing and able to support us, we'd love your help! Please bring in gift cards in the amount of \$25 that will help the families shop for their children. Or feel free to use the following credit card link for gift card donations. -LINK WILL BE COMING SOON!

<https://praiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/packet/13535>

Gift Cards or donations are due to the PSE office by Friday, December 16th. Thank you, in advance, for your generous donations! (*Note:* If you know a family in the PSE community who might need assistance anytime during the year, please let me know. We do our best to help support students in need.)

7 Days of Holiday Cheer

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Begins Monday 12/12

12/12 **Candy Cane Day** – Wear red and white to look like this popular holiday treat

12/13 **Let it Snow**-Wear a fun snow cap, scarf, or earmuffs

12/14 **Holiday Head Gear Day** – Wear antlers, elf ears, bows, or any other festive headgear

12/15 **Merry & Bright Day** – Wear your most festive holiday sweater

12/16 **Tired Friday** - Wear your school-appropriate PJs

12/19 **Sharing is Caring**– Wear your favorite holiday outfit

12/20 **MistleTOE Day** – Wear your favorite socks or slippers

PSE Yearbooks

Yearbook Purchasing

Yearbooks are on sale through the PTO website <https://prairiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/>. As with everything in life, publishing prices have increased, so book prices have increased too, but we will still be creating a hardcover, 84-page book of memories that your kids will love. If you are unsure whether you have ordered it, please go to the PTO website, log in and look under previous orders for the year. You can click on your orders and view whether you purchased a book. If you have not ordered a book, the option to purchase will appear under the "New Forms" category.

Picture Submissions

After lots of false starts with the new upload site, we have figured it out. To submit, you will need a Shutterfly account in order...it is easy and free. Once you have a username and password, you must go to community.lifetouch.com. It will prompt you to enter your Shutterfly credentials, and once logged in; you can enter the code TEAM-PRAIRIE-STAR-23. You can select, upload and tag images according to grade and event. Please see the flyer for the steps.

Please email us with questions at prairiestaryearbook@gmail.com.

Thanks,

Sally Groesbeck, Abbie Moles & Amy Warren (Welcome to our newest advisor, Amy!)

Opportunities to learn more about Bond 2023

All registered Blue Valley voters will have an opportunity to vote in a no tax rate increase bond election in January 2023. Bond projects include investments in facilities, safety and technology that will benefit staff and students for years to come.

Here are a few ways to learn more about Bond 2023.

- **Listen to a podcast:** Take time to listen to two 15-minute podcasts about [Bond 2023 & Facilities](#) and [Bond 2023 & Safety](#).
- **Watch a video:** Watch a [short video](#) that breaks down how bond funds can be used. Want to learn more? Watch an [informational video](#) that highlights the opportunity to invest in facilities, safety and technology projects through Bond 2023.

- **Review the Bond 2023 website:** The [Bond 2023 website](#) includes information about voting, answers to frequently asked questions and more.
- **Register to vote:** All registered Blue Valley voters will automatically receive a mail ballot around January 11. Not a registered voter? [Register online](#).

Winter Classroom Parties:

Classroom Parties

Students in grades K-4 will participate in winter parties with their classroom teacher on Tuesday, December 20th, at 10:45. The 5th Grade will have their winter party on Monday, the 19th, at 2:15. It is tradition to have our 5th graders create Gingerbread Houses. The tradition continues.

Any parents wishing to come to the party must come to the front doors to show an entrance ticket (which will be emailed closer to the event) or photo ID. Feel free to check in starting at 10:30 on the 20th.

- **Food planning:** All food brought to the parties must be from the nut-safer list. The school nurse will check all food before being brought to the classrooms. The nut safer list, as well as approved brands, are found linked at the bottom of each Friday newsletter.
- **Siblings:** Although former PSE students love to stop by and see their former teachers, classroom parties are organized for the current students at PSE. The classrooms are simply too crowded to accommodate extra bodies on party days, and we want the focus to be on our elementary-aged students. We will not allow middle school students to enter the building on party day without their parents, and we strongly encourage families to make other arrangements for all siblings.

Our utmost job is to keep PSE students and staff safe. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We look forward to a fun time celebrating.

Important Technology Info for families traveling abroad

The district blocks all inbound/outbound connections to/from foreign countries for security reasons. This is due to the high number of cyber security attacks that occur against the District's network hourly. For this reason, the District cannot provide technical support or assistance to those students or staff that choose to take their Blue Valley device out of the country.

1. The District does NOT recommend taking any Blue Valley device out of the country:
 1. Students and Staff will be unable to access necessary systems such as Canvas, employee online, and/or email.
 2. The District cannot fully secure, monitor, or keep a live inventory of the device while it is out of the country.
 3. The District cannot provide remote support or full security updates for the device while it is out of the country.
1. If students or staff feel that they have a critical need to access the District's Network from outside of the country, they will need to do so on a personal device only, and they will need to install and use a VPN client on their personal device. The VPN must display an IP address inside the United States.

1. The District cannot make recommendations or provide technical assistance with the installation and/or use any VPN client on any personal device.
 2. Students and staff must understand that there is no guarantee of successfully connecting to any of the District's internal systems while using their personal device in or out of the country.
1. Parents will still be able to access their Canvas Parent account from outside the country, it is not housed on a BV server it should connect without any issues.

We take every precaution we can to ensure that the Blue Valley Network remains safe and secure!

Safe Schools Reporting

Blue Valley Schools is committed to promoting and fostering a safe environment in and around our schools. Through the convergence of physical and intellectual security measures, we are continuously working to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from a wide range of emergencies. Please check out [available ways to report safety concerns](#).

PSE is hiring

We want to post that we need two para educators for our SPED II. It's a wonderful place to work!!!!

Here is the link to apply!

Thank YOU!!!

<https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/default.aspx?>

[Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+II&AppliTrackJobId=10985&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1](https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+II&AppliTrackJobId=10985&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1)

Please let me know if you want more information. We would love to have you at PSE.

Here is your December Health Howl



PSE - December 2022.pdf

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