



January
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Dakota Prairie Knight Reader

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

A Few Things by Jay Slade, Superintendent



Hello everyone and welcome to January. I hope that you were all able to find some Holiday Cheer this holiday season. For me, Christmas break, is a great time to take a break from reality for 5 minutes and enjoy family and friends. To DP parents, DP stakeholders, and especially to DP students, I hope you used this time to re-charge your batteries, get ready for a start fresh, and took a break from the chaos that is a school week.

For my first topic, I would like to simply say thank you to all of you whom contribute to the day to day operations of Dakota Prairie Schools. We currently have 71 dedicated professionals who challenge, nurture, and educate, our students from the time they get on our buses until the time they arrive back at home. From Allison’s creative activities, to Cameron’s infectious good mood, and from Darren’s sense of humor that will always catch you off guard, to Mel’s caring demeanor, I simply want you all to know you are appreciated for the work you do and for caring for all of our kids.

For my second topic and with winter right around the corner, I would like to discuss what goes into making the decision regarding virtual learning days versus having in-person classes. As you all probably know, DP Schools is over 900 square miles of school district and a large portion of those miles are rural or gravel roads. Because of the rural nature and the overwhelming size of our district, I have always and will continue to error on the side of caution regarding weather related school announcements. Every year, I ask the same team of volunteers made up of drivers, administration, and teachers, from all over our district to give me information regarding roads conditions, current weather, and upcoming potentially hazardous weather concerns. The information gathered, plus information from other sources are what helps me determine whether we do in-person instruction or if we are doing virtual learning. For the majority of weather events, I will decide in the morning, rather than the night before. In general, 6am is the timeline for announcing a late start while virtual learning will be announced no later than 8 am. If you have connectivity issues at your home please call your specific campus and ask for either the principal or technology coordinator. Additionally, if having internet at home creates a financial burden please contact your local telephone company and ask about the ACP Program.

For my third topic, I would like to discuss our options for winter activities. When I first started at DP, over 12 years ago, the activity options for the winter season were a bit lacking. As a student you could either be in basketball or basketball. As time has passed, the options for winter activities have increased year by year. We now offer basketball, of course, but we also offer speech, E-sports, and Lego

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Robotics. Please come out and support our student-participants as they dribble, create, and mash those controller buttons in pursuit of accolades and knowledge.

My fourth and final topic is directed 100% to our students. As you start the 2nd semester, remember that you have a fresh start, and possibly new classes or teachers. Please work hard to achieve your success during this upcoming 3rd quarter. Take advantage of our after-school programs and above all advocate for yourself, ask questions, and do not settle for anything less than what you find to be acceptable. After all it is your education, your start on changing your world. Go Knights! Go Chargers!!

LIBRARY NEWS

NEW BOOKS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

- Cultural Guide to Anime and Manga* by Pamela Gossin
- Always June* by Kate Karyus Quinn
- Strikers: A graphic novel* by Kiel Phegley
- What are the Risks of Vaping?* by Bev Crawford
- Banned Books: Who determines what is appropriate for youth?* by Meryl Loonin
- Tech Innovations Inspired by Nature* by Don Nardo
- Bioluminescence: Nature and Science at Work* by Marc Zimmer
- Exploring Chinese Mythology* by Don Nardo
- Exploring Indian Mythology* by Don Nardo
- Exploring Norse Mythology* by Don Nardo
- Men of the 65th: The Borinqueneers of the Korean War* by Talia Aikens-Nuñez
- Fatal Doses: Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids* by Andrea C. Nakaya
- How do Credit Cards and Loans Work* by Carla Mooney

NEW BOOKS AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: No Brainer* (book #18) by Jeff Kinney
- Who is Simone Biles* by Stefanie Loh
- Who's Afraid of the Light* by Anna McGregor
- Home for Grace* by Kathryn White
- The Duck Never Blinks* by Alex Latimer
- Mine* by Candace Fleming
- Letters in Charcoal* by Irene Vasco
- If I Were President* by Trygve Skaug
- Virginia Wouldn't Slow Down: the unstoppable Dr. Apgar and her life-saving invention* by Carrie A. Pearson
- Good Books for Bad Children: the genius of Ursula Nordstrom* by Beth Kephart
- Jerry Changed the Game: how engineer Jerry Lawson revolutionized video games forever* by Don Tate
- The One and Only Ruby* by Katherine Applegate



Substance Abuse Prevention:

What it is, Why it Matters & What Works

There's an often-told parable about a person, fishing along the banks of a river. Suddenly, he sees a woman drowning in the water. The fisherman acts quickly, jumping into the water pulling her out to safety. Once ashore, he notices another person in the river in need of help. Again he reacts and jumps in to save this drowning victim. Before long, the river is filled with drowning people and the fisherman is struggling. After several hours, he is exhausted and defeated because he is unable to save everyone.

At that point, the fisherman makes the decision to walk upstream to determine why people are falling into the river in the first place. While walking upstream, the fisherman notices the bridge leading across the river has a large hole through which people are falling. He realizes that fixing the hole in the bridge will prevent many people from ever falling into the river in the first place. This is prevention.

What is Prevention?

Prevention is going upstream to identify the cause of a problem.



- Prevention is a proactive approach; creating an environment that promotes the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, which prevents problems before they occur.

Why is it Important?

Fixing the bridge is effective and efficient.



- Prevention is cost-effective; saving \$64 for every \$1 invested (on average).
- Prevention improves the health of individuals, families and communities.
- Prevention decreases consequences and saves lives.

How Does it Work?

Fixing the bridge requires following a set of principles and practices.



- Prevention is rooted in science, supported by decades of research.
- Prevention follows the **Public Health Model**, focusing on **population-level change**.
 - Some of the most effective prevention strategies are the least expensive. For example, changing a law is very inexpensive and can be very effective in supporting long-term behavior change.
- Prevention follows a **data-driven process** to assess, plan, implement and evaluate outcomes, also known as the **Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)**.
- Prevention focuses on **reducing risk factors, strengthening protective factors and building resiliency** of individuals, families and communities.
- Prevention is most effective when stakeholders and community members work together to take action, emphasizing **collaboration and community mobilization**.
- Prevention requires a **multi-faceted approach**, implementing a variety of evidence-based strategies working toward a common goal.
- Prevention must be **relevant to the community**, including local conditions and diverse demographics.
- Prevention is most effective when it impacts individuals across the **lifespan**.
- It can take time to see the results of prevention.
- Prevention is an important component of the continuum of care, which represents a **comprehensive approach to behavioral health**.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

DAKOTA PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 5:00 P.M.

DAKOTA PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

- ◆ Mr. Todd Jorde—President
- ◆ Mrs. Sarah Anderson
- ◆ Mrs. Chanda Arneson
- ◆ Mrs. Penny Lippert
- ◆ Mr. David Blasey

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Todd Jorde with board members Sarah Anderson, Penny Lippert and Chanda Arneson present, Dave Blasey was present via phone. Also, present were Superintendent Jay Slade, Principal Jackie Bye and Lori Dahl, Business Manager.

Guests: Darren Sheggerud and Nelson County Sherrif Curt Schwind.

Curt Schwind from Nelson County Sherriff's Department was present to discuss a school resource officer. He stated he would be visiting with Lakota School board in January, the County Commissioners are interested in the program and wanted to see if Dakota Prairie would be interested. He is going to get more information from schools in the area that have a resource officer. The timeline for implementation would be about a year as someone would have to be hired and trained, he believes there may be some grant money available for the program. The board was receptive to looking into a resource officer.

The board bills, financials and minutes were sent out earlier in the week.

Motion by Chanda Arneson Second by Penny Lippert to approve the minutes as printed, the bills for payment and the financial reports as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Dr. Bye reported on: Elementary boys' basketball 5th and 6th grade Lego Robotics. The PK-3 Christmas Concert will be on December 20th at 10 a.m., FCCLA will be doing holiday activities from 1-3 p.m. Homework club was started in the Elementary in November. Gym Project, how to take care of the floor, keeping the humidity at a good level is important as not to void the warranty. Also discussed the preschool policy and the proposed changes for next year. Dr. Bye will work on the changes and get it to the board prior to the January meeting.

Mr. Slade reported for Mr. Johnson, we have a student who received a full ride scholarship to Emory College, we are looking for a part-time janitor, High School Concert tonight, and in the future will stay away from Wednesdays, finals are beginning shortly. Vape detectors he would like to purchase, check out costs with area schools.

Mr. Slade reported:

Audits: We have been notified by the State Auditor's office that they are processing our audits. Mr. Rotunda is confident we will be approved and on track to catch up with the outstanding reports.

The board discussed the current budget, the financial challenges and the need to make some changes. This will be discussed further. Discussed a possible idea for raising some funds to help in the costs for the elementary gym floor.

24-25 calendar suggestions, Mr. Slade wants to get ideas from everyone and then bring suggestions to the table. What does the board want to see in the calendar, professional development, holidays etc. There was a board request that graduation date stay constant and not Memorial Day weekend and was it possible to match our calendar with Lakota due to the sports. Mr. Slade will look at all the requests and see what can be done.

The board again addressed the idea of a Nelson County resource officer, we are always open to having a deputy in the building at any time for walk throughs, and at any of our events. invite them to the buildings. The board was open to further discussion but would like more research into grants that would be sustainable.

Next meeting date set for January 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Chanda Arneson to adjourn.

Business Manager

Chairperson



Mrs. Kelly Johnson, middle school math teacher, is expecting. “Let’s do something fun for the gender reveal,” she said at our staff meeting. That got the cogs turning. Mr. Rose and Mr. Larson decided to “wrestled” in front of the student body while students and staff cheered. It was a fun performance. The victor: Mr. Larson. It’s a boy. Congratulations!

2023-2024 PRESCHOOL

If you have a child who will turn 4 years old before August 1, 2024, and have not called the elementary school (322-4771) to be added to the census list, please call by February 1. We will be mailing out registration letters the middle of February for Preschool for the 2024-2025 school year.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

DPHS Food Drive

Recently, the Dakota Prairie Student Council held a food drive where a total of 180 items were collected! Items were then donated to the Michigan food pantry. The winning class will receive a pizza party. The winning class this year were the 7th graders! Well done, crew.

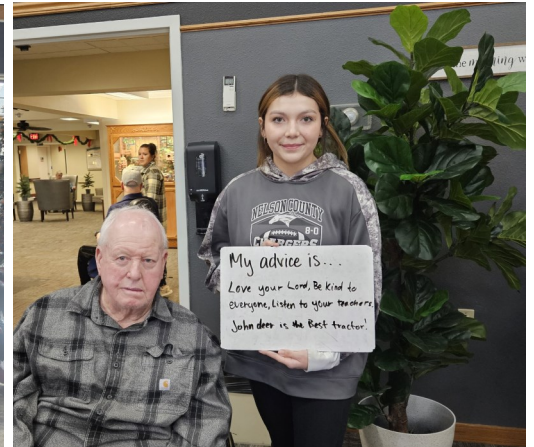


Service Projects for Seventh Grade

Article submitted by Mrs. Kelly Johnson and Ms. Courtney Molstad

Grade 7B did two service projects this month! First, they held a blanket drive to collect blankets for the Petersburg Rural Fire Department. We collected 58 blankets to donate to the fire department and ambulance. Our original plan was to donate to Petersburg Rural Fire Department, but with the abundance of blankets, we were able to donate to other surrounding fire departments. Thank you to all our community members for donating blankets!

Then, the students went to the Aneta Parkview Nursing Home for a visit to learn from our new grand-friends and get some advice that they would give their 7th-grade selves. Students got to visit with the residents and hear some amazing stories.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Words of Wisdom

Article submitted by Mr. Darren Sheggerud

For the December culminating activity for the "We are Connected" 7-Mindsets unit, the seventh-grade A group wrote personalized letters to the 6th grade class at Dakota Prairie Elementary. The goal for the activity was to offer advice, insights, and encouragement with the hope of minimizing anxiety as the elementary spring graduates prepare for success as they transition and anticipate the arrival of 7th grade.



FAFSA will open December 31st. Both you and your senior will need their own accounts in order to apply. Use this link to find the account creation website. This is now open. <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

SSgt Kayla Conroy with the Air National Guard visited with interested students about the perks of joining. The Air Guard hires part and full time. They also financially support students in the ROTC program at UND and NDSU.

Congrats on Your College Acceptance

Tyra – Lake Region State College
 Preston L – University of Jamestown
 Evan – University of Jamestown
 Kraysten – Northland Community & Technical College – EGF
 Landin – Bismarck State College
 Kamden – NDSCS
 Ty – NDSCS
 Preston B – NDSCS
 Jason – NDSCS
 Sarah – Emory University

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



Sarah Fleshman, senior at DPHS and resident of Whitman, has been selected for a QuestBridge full ride scholarship. QuestBridge connects high-achieving seniors from qualified income families to win full four-year scholarships to the top 50 colleges in the nation. She will be attending Emory University in Georgia in the hopes of becoming a lawyer working with civil rights. The scholarship also covers the full cost of travel, tuition, dorms, meal plan, and supplies. This is an incredible honor. Please wish Sarah good luck and congratulations!

Two Nominees for UJ Scholarship

Congrats to Evan and Preston L for being invited to the University of Jamestown Wilson Scholarship Competition. In order to compete for the full ride scholarship, they had to attend an Honors Event where they were interviewed. Congrats on being a nominee.

WHAT CAN MY SENIOR BE DOING TO PREPARE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

I would suggest writing a 300 word personal essay that includes your college plans, intended major, career goals, life dreams, and anything unique about you (special awards, overcoming a hardship, sports, activities, 4-H, etc). No need to get into details, just a brief mention is good. I'd also include a sentence about wanting to return to a small town if that is desired. Some scholarships give bonus points if this is part of their dream.



Jayden Bondy was selected as this year's DAR Good Citizen. She is now eligible to apply for a scholarship. This award recognizes and rewards high school seniors who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



Jessie Monsebroten, 11th grader, helps junior high students with their homework.

RE-CHARGE YOUR WARDROBE

We have started a free closet that students at DPHS can "shop" at. We have collected very gently used, on-trend items ranging from hoodies to basketball shoes to cowboy boots to jeans. Students who may need any extra item or a whole wardrobe can talk to Ms. Beckstrom or any teacher they feel comfortable with. This is a free program established by the good folks in our communities.



Alumni Day speakers from the Class of 2023, Lydia, Rylan, and Tristyn, spoke to the juniors and seniors about their college experiences



Leading Edge Equipment presented to DPHS students about the careers they offer. We learned about the parts department, sales, service and technology/GPS. We also learned about automation and that self-driving tractors will increase the need for more people to work at their locations, simply due to farming happening a full 24 hours a day.



Reality Check

Tenth and eleventh graders participated in the annual 'Reality Check' program organized by the Farmers and Merchant State Bank of ND. This program is modeled after highly successful financial awareness programs used in other states. The purpose is to help students learn to manage their money correctly early on to avoid costly mistakes later.



~ Elementary News ~

From the Desk of Dr. Jackie Bye...

Happy New Year and a Wonderful 2024!! The elementary ended December 2023 with some fun and festive activities for both students and staff. The students participated in holiday bingo, and a Christmas Song Dance Competition. For the dance competition, each grade chose a song to make up a short 1-2 minute dance too. There were seven judges who scored the grade based on holiday symbols. Whichever symbol they received the most of is the type of candy they received as their award. It was a lot of fun to see the dance moves and the enthusiasm from the students and staff. There is a lot of talent in them all!



For two weeks in December the elementary staff participated in teams of five in The Great Gingerbread Man Hunt. Each day 15 paper gingerbread men were hidden around the school. The teams had all day and night to find them. Each one found and turned in, earned them a point for their team. Over the course of the two weeks there were a lot of laughs, searches, frustrations, and lost gingerbread men. In all there were 165 gingerbread men hidden and 161 were found!! The Yellow Team consisting of (Left to right:) Mrs. Wentz, Mrs. Huso, Mrs. Walter, Ms. Bina, and Mrs. Kueber (not pictured) were the winners with a total of 64 found gingerbread men.

In December the 5th and 6th Grade students had the opportunity to join the LEGO Robotics team. They have been busy 2-3 days a week after school preparing their LEGO Robot, along with Coach Mr. Beglau, for competitions in the end of January and February. More information about this will be made available when the dates and times are set. In all there are 22 students participating.

The elementary ended the month of December with another spectacular Christmas Concert performed by the Preschool through 3rd Graders under the direction of Ms. Stephanie Bina. Thank you Ms. Bina for instilling the love and fun of music into the students.

In the afternoon of December 20, the high school FCCLA group and their advisor Mrs. Renae Schanilec spent the afternoon doing activities with the students. They did a great job, and the students had a wonderful time.

The Nelson County Spelling Bee will take place on Wednesday, February 21, in Lakota this year. Please look for more information in the February Knightreader. Students have been studying and taking tests in December and beginning of January to determine who will qualify in grades 3-8 to participate in the Spelling Bee. Those participants will be announced, and their families notified at the end of January.

Last year the elementary implemented a semester report card, instead of the traditional quarter report card. We have parent teacher conferences at the quarter break time. The conference time is our opportunity to update parents on their child's progress to that point and let the parent know what areas the child needs to work more on within the semester to become proficient by the time the semester ends, and the grade is recorded on the report card. With elementary students the first semester grade and the second semester grade are averaged for the yearly grade which is the historical grade recorded for that school year. As with everything we do, our main goal is to always *Grow the Whole Child*. The "whole child" does need time to

~ Elementary News ~

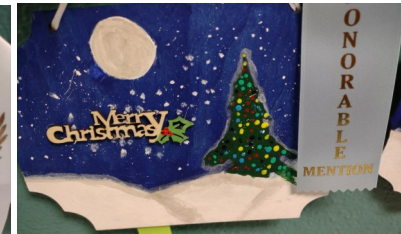
learn, grow and improve upon themselves, and by giving them the whole semester to do this, we feel the report card grade will be a better indicator of the students' knowledge. Report cards for semester one of 2023 were sent home with students on January 4, or mailed to parents if that is what was indicated in PowerSchool. If you have not received your child's report card by the time you read this, please call the school and we can send a new one.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me. You can call 322-4771 or email me Jackie.bye@k12.nd.us or stop by.

3rd Grade Art Enrichment Contest

Article submitted by Mrs. Teri Huso

Students in Mrs. Huso's third grade enrichment painted these Christmas scenes with acrylic on wooden plaques. Students and staff voted for their favorites before Christmas break. Third place was a tie and honorable mention was just two votes shy of making that a three-way tie.



DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?



~ Elementary News ~

Dakota Prairie Elementary Concert Dates

Midwinter Follies-March 19, 2024

7:00 Grades 4-6

6th Grade Graduation & Musical Performance -April 26, 2024

7:00 Grade 6

Spring Concert-May 16, 2024

7:00 Grades 1-5

Kindergarten Graduation & Preschool Spring Concert- May 21, 2024

10:00 Grades Pk & K

AR Awards November 2023

25 Points

Julia Fernandez
Preston Hilliard
Cynthia Messner
Kensley Stephen

200 Points

Ezio Bellah
Fiona Klein
Annie Walter

50 Points

Aubrey Corby
Ahnalee Kueber
Nash Avdem
Kaidence Albrecht

700 Points

Hadley Strand

2,500 Points

Nathan Beglau

Elks Hoops Shoot Winners

Thank you to Mrs. Traci Sand for continuing to volunteer her time to implement the Elks Hoop Shoot Competition at Dakota Prairie. This contest was held in December. There were 75 contestants. The ages group is from 8-13 years old. Mrs. Sand commends all the contestants for their great sportsmanship! She handed out information to the winners who have the opportunity to go on to the next level of competition.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

8-9 YR GIRLS: 1ST: AUBRIELLE MORK

RUNNERUP: MILA WATKINS

8-9 YR BOYS: 1ST: NASH AVDEM

RUNNERUP: RHETT MESSNER

10-11 YR GIRLS: 1ST : RAE MARESH

RUNNERUP: SIENA DAHL

10-11 YR BOYS: 1ST: NOLAN LUNDEBY

RUNNERUP: TAYTE BLASEY

12-13 YR GIRLS: LILLY SCHNEIDER

RUNNERUP: AUBREE CHRISTINSON

12-13 BOYS: ELLIOTT KUEBER

RUNNERUP: RONEN MCKAY



~ Elementary News ~

Math Carnival

Article submitted by Ms. Haley Klefstad

During the week before break, Ms. Aalands 6th grade math students hosted a math carnival for Mrs. Klefstad's first grade students. Given a list of 1st grade math concepts, the sixth graders worked in teams to design and build carnival games around those skills complete with tickets and even prizes! Students got a chance to visit each game, solve math problems and attempt feats of skill to earn a prize. The 6th grade projects were well-designed and the 1st graders had a wonderful time!



Preschool and Kindergarten went caroling to five locations in McVille to help spread holiday cheer!



January 2024

January 3—School Resumes
January 10—School Board Meeting @ HS 7pm
January 13—Boys BB vs. North Board @ McVille
January 15—No school: MLKJ Day / Teacher PD
Girls BB vs. Hatton-Northwood @ McVille
January 23—Girls BB vs. NRS @ McVille
January 25— Boys BB vs. Drayton-VE @ McVille

Please check the Dakota Prairie Home Page for the most current Activities Schedules

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

Future Dates of Interest

Jan 3—Back from Holiday break
Jan 15—No school: Teacher PD
Feb 19—No school: Presidents Day
Feb 29-Mar 1—No school: Spring Break
Mar 11—P/T Conferences @ Elem
Early out at 1:30 pm
Mar 14-15 — No school: Spring Break
Mar 29— Easter Break
Apr 1—Easter Holiday/Snow Day
May 23—End of Second Semester
May 26—Graduation



Dakota Prairie School District
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Dakota Prairie
Course Descriptions

