



February  
2026  
Vol. 28  
No. 7

# Dakota Prairie Knight Reader

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

## A Few Things by Jay Slade, Superintendent



Hello everyone and welcome to February,

The month of the Super Bowl, embracing the cold weather, and the start of longer days. In public education, February is the month where we settle into a routine as the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester is in full swing. Students make sure you stay ahead of your grades and assignments, as spring and warm weather are not that far away.

As is tradition with my February memo I would like to share a poem that always makes me think of the hard-working folks in our area. On a day-to-day basis we all know folks who make our days bearable in this unforgiving country we call home:

Those Winter Sundays

Robert Hayden

Sundays too my father got up early  
and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,  
then with cracked hands that ached  
from labor in the weekday weather made  
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.  
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,  
and slowly I would rise and dress,  
fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,  
who had driven out the cold  
and polished my good shoes as well.  
What did I know, what did I know  
of love's austere and lonely offices?

I would like to give a big thank you to all our staff members who are out dealing with the cold/wind/snow every day. From the bus drivers who are fighting with angry busses, to our custodians who get in early to move mountains of snow, to our cooks who are arriving early to make sure everyone has a hot meal to start the day – Thank you. Additionally, another “thank you for the help” goes to our district residents. I cannot tell you how times I have received a phone call telling me a bus got stuck or broke down. In those instances, it is inevitably the act of a kind neighbor who gets the bus/driver/kids out of the dangerous situation. Thank you all.

For my last two topics – I will be brief. #1 We still need bus drivers, badly. #2 We are in the middle of the winter sports season, and I challenge our entire community to go out to watch how hard these student-athletes work.

As always: Go Knights! Go Chargers!!

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## LIBRARY NEWS

Reading month at Dakota Prairie Elementary was a hit. The checkouts and returns were going crazy! My return carts were overflowing on January 27th! It's safe to say, students met the reading goal and arrived at Candy Castle. The kids all loved receiving a scented bookmark for reaching the weekly challenge. (That pizza one, though. Uffda.) To celebrate reaching our goal, students watched Zootopia 2 in the gym in their comfy clothes.

Many of my favorite moments in the classroom have been musical in nature. In January, I had a group in the elementary library going through some books from a preview box. One of the series was called *Tell Me Why* and it contained a number of questions and answers about a topic — food, earth, space, etc. As the kids were looking at the book covers, they starting singing Backstreet Boys. *Tell me whyyyy!!!* It was such a fantastic moment. Naturally, I purchased a couple to add to our collection. They should be available to check out around the beginning of March.

The high school has had some new titles added to the collection. We subscribe to a couple categories from Junior Library Guild and they send curated titles for the genre packages I've selected. Some new YA mysteries, graphic novels, and high demand books are available on the new book display.

Also at the high school, we will have blind date with a book in the month of February. Books are wrapped in paper and only short phrases describing the book are written on the paper. Students (or staff) who decide to go on a blind date commit to 20 pages and make their decision. That should make DEAR reading on Thursdays during Knight Time a little more fun.

I've been doing the Goodreads Book Challenge for a couple years now. You create your account and set a goal and there are badges and awards and quarterly challenges too. As a former child who received free pizza certificates from the Cenex for dominating reading month, I love the badges. I already have 3 badges for 2026 and only an hour and half left in this audiobook... If reading more is a goal you made for 2026, maybe you may find motivation on Goodreads too.

While I'm dropping some cool apps on you, I'll throw down another. Libby. Perhaps you've already heard about it. Libby is the library app that connects to your library and allows you to check out magazines, ebooks, newspapers, and audiobooks FOR FREEEEEE. We don't have the kind of budget for that cool technology, but the State Library of North Dakota does. And you can get a free library card in no time. You can fill out the application online OR you can print and fill it out and send via fax or mail. Check it out: <https://www.library.nd.gov/librarycard>. I'm not limited to my Audible subscription anymore. I can place a hold and wait in line for popular items, or I can check out what's available now and listen to a whole book while I drive around running errands.

Keep Reading!

SJ

## NC CHARGER BAND AND CHOIR

March 11<sup>th</sup> Large Group Music Festival March @ Carrington

April 1<sup>st</sup> Solo/Ensemble contest @ Jamestown

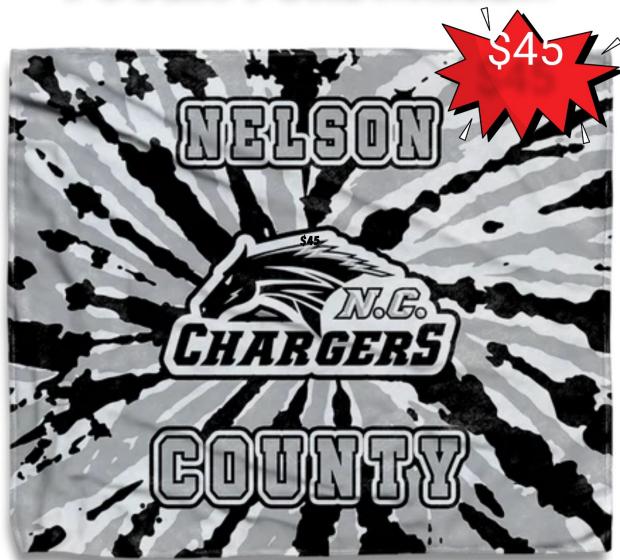
May 2<sup>nd</sup> State Music

May 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## BLANKETS FOR SALE

### FCCLA FUNDRAISER



contact [renae.schanilec@k12.nd.us](mailto:renae.schanilec@k12.nd.us)

Dakota Prairie Prom Information:  
Theme: "A Night in New York"  
Photos will start at 5pm at DPHS  
Doors will open for families at 6:30pm  
Grand March 7pm at DPHS  
Dance 8-11pm  
Post Prom- in Devils Lake TBA

There is no school  
Monday, February 9th

Mid-Winter Break  
extended Super Bowl Sunday  
weekend



**Parent Teacher Conferences for grades PK-12 are scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th in McVille. Students do not have school that day.**

## Semester 1 Honor Roll

### High School 'A' Honor Roll

Cree-Beglau, Tyler  
Donohue, Lily  
Flaagan, Bailey  
Johnston, Aubrie  
Lee, Jassy  
Parsley, Keegan  
Schock, Brandi  
Stephen, MaRiley  
Knutson, Ross  
Schneider, DoriAnn  
Slade, Dagan  
Speck, Abigail  
Blasey, Kenley  
Fougner, Devyn  
Peavy, Kael  
Charles, Annika  
Henke, Kendra  
Lundeby, Ella

### Junior High 'A' Honor Roll

Brueckner, Amaya  
Dahl, Samuel  
Dalzell, Royce  
Emory, MaeEllen  
Gestson, Kenzie  
Halvorson, Liv  
Klein, Fiona  
Kueber, Owen  
McKay, Teagen  
Strand, Hadley  
Walter, Anwynn  
Dahl, Siena  
Henke, Keaton  
Landeis, Brandt  
Maresh, Rae  
Monsebroten, Kaleigh  
Schock, Hunter

### High School 'B' Honor Roll

Flaagan, Rylee  
Hurt, Emily  
Sharp, Jayla  
Klein, Donovan  
Lenz, Brendan  
Luehring, Mya  
Corby, Riley  
Hovdenes, Cooper  
Joramo, Jaxson  
Karpenko, Arina  
Maresh, Sy  
Reiten, Katelyn  
Sateren, Cara  
Stein, Marley  
Stephen, Porter  
Vance, Amanda  
Anderson, Alex  
Forde, Cheyenne  
Heitkamp, Finnegan  
Hendrickson, Bowen  
Klefstad, Kodee  
Kueber, Elliott  
Magnus, Hannah  
Ohnstad, Bennett  
Pelletier, Damien  
Rance, Noah

### Junior High 'B' Honor Roll

Albrecht, Kaidence  
Beglau, Nathan  
Corby, Graham  
Fougner, Dawson  
Heitkamp, Griffen  
Rusten, Wyatt  
Schneider, Lilly  
Smith, Leilah  
Barta, Richard  
Bies, Brooke  
Blasey, Tayte  
Flaagan, Trace  
Gordon, Vernon  
O'Connor, Jace  
Rusten, Cord  
Watkins, Bryn

## HONOR ROLL CRITERIA

### Dakota Prairie Handbook 2025-2026

Honor Roll will be completed at the end of each semester and when all grades have been recorded. Students receiving an incomplete grade will not be included on the Honor Roll unless work is completed prior to the Honor Roll tabulation. To be eligible for the "A" Honor Roll, a student must have a 3.70 GPA or above, plus they cannot have any grade lower than a "B" for the semester. To be eligible for the "B" Honor Roll a student must have a 3.0 GPA or above for the semester. No student is eligible for either Honor Roll with a grade of "D" or below in any class.



**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS****~ UNOFFICIAL MINUTES~****DAKOTA PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1****REGULAR BOARD MEETING****DAKOTA PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL**

JANUARY 14, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

- ◆ 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 Jennifer Rusten, Nikki Ohnstad, Charlie Stein and Anna Halvorson present. Also present were Superintendent Jay Slade, Principals Jackie Bye, Clay Johnson and business manager Lori Dahl also present was Dan Guastad school district attorney.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Nikki Ohnstad to confirm the proposed agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

The minutes and bills were presented for review and approval.

Motion by Charlie Stein Second by Nikki Ohnstad to approve the minutes as printed and the bills for payment.

At this time Chairperson Blasey read the required information for the board to recess to executive session: Discuss the pending litigation of Berg v. Parsley and Dakota Prairie School District No. 1, Nelson County, ND District Court Case No. 32-2025-CV-00113 and Crow v. Parsley and Dakota Prairie School District No. 1, Nelson County, ND District Court Case No. 32-2025-CV-00114.

*The School Board may convene into executive session for attorney consultation regarding this pending civil litigation pursuant to NDCC §§ 44-04-19.1 and 44-04-19.2*

Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Jennifer Rusten to adjourn to executive session, 7:04 p.m.

The board resumed the regular meeting at 7:47p.m.

Elementary Principal Report: Dr. Bye reported on events and activities, title monitoring, ND Principals conference in February, Dakota Prairie will host the spelling Bee February 18<sup>th</sup>, ND A+ Interim winter assessment, and intervention growth measured with the testing. The elementary is also having more plumbing issues between the hallway furnace room and the bathroom and the lower-level locker rooms, human trafficking education for grades 6, 10 and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, we had a presentation from CVIC out of Grand Forks. Snow removal has been done very well this year, thank you to Alec Reinhart,

High School Principal Report: Mr. Johnson reported that we have hired a science teacher, Steven Groven, he started on Monday, NDEA + testing is scheduled for next week, we will give the kids their fall report and the current one, to let the kids see where they are at. Events, spelling bee, math counts, E-Sports. We have 2 individuals and one group of contenders for a state spot. An assembly to discuss honor roll and shout outs to kids for things other than organized in house organized sports such as hockey, wrestling, national 4H, to recognize all. Snowball at the end of the month and will be held in Lakota this year.

Continued on page 6

School Board Minutes continued.

Superintendent Items for Discussion:

School Board Evaluation and the evaluation form BEC and BEC-E for the board to discuss; they are in favor of adopting this. It will be at the February meeting for the first reading.

Tuition Waiver request from Lakota to attend Dakota Prairie.

Motion by Anna Halvorson, second by Charlie Stein to approve the tuition waiver for the Lakota student to attend Dakota Prairie. All in favor, motion carried.

Tuition waiver was discussed for a home-schooled student to attend Dakota Prairie who previously attended Dakota Prairie, whose home district is Warwick. There will be a special meeting to approve the waiver.

Superintendent Slade presented the 26-27 school calendar with a start date for staff of August 14, the first day of school August 19<sup>th</sup>, last day of school May 26, 2027, and graduation on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Anna Halvorson, to approve the proposed 2026-27 school calendar. All in favor, motion carried.

Policies BBC and BC were presented for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Motion by Nikki Ohnstad, second by Anna Halvorson to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Policies BBC and BC. All in favor, motion carried.

The current listing of lunch bills and fees were presented to the board; there were no names used, just account balances. The current bills total over \$12,000 in negative accounts. This is not acceptable, and efforts have been made to collect; bills are sent, instant alerts are sent, and this is not working. After discussion with the board about collections vs small claims court, the board directed that small claims be investigated, and that lunch bills over 6 months old or \$500 be sent to collections or small claims court, whichever is best for the district.

Financial reports for December were presented for board approval.

Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Anna Halvorson to accept the financial reports as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business Next meeting February 11<sup>th</sup> 7 am on Zoom

Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Nikki Ohnstad to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

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Lori Dahl, Business Manager

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Dave Blasey, Chairperson

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

As we move through the heart of winter at Dakota Prairie High School, I want to take a moment to share a few important updates and reminders for students and families. This time of year always brings changing weather, ongoing academic progress, and planning for what comes next. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep students successful.

With winter weather in full swing, virtual learning continues to be our current model whenever conditions make it unsafe to be in the building. It is extremely important that all students have a working school-issued computer and are prepared to learn from home when necessary.

If you experience any technology issues, please use the Microsoft Forms link provided by the school to report the problem. Students can find this form on their class team page. We will address concerns as soon as possible and get devices fixed when students return. We also want to remind students to take care when transporting their computers. Careless or inappropriate use of school technology may result in a repair bill, so please treat these devices responsibly. Even though instruction may take place from home, the school day should still be taken seriously. Absences and tardies continue to count during virtual learning days, and students are expected to participate and stay engaged. Our hope is that every day, whether in-person or online, provides meaningful learning opportunities.

At the high school, we are currently completing our winter assessments. These scores have been printed and will be available for families to review during March conferences. Speaking of conferences, mark your calendars for March 18 from 1-6. Assessments provide a helpful snapshot of where students are excelling and where additional support may be needed. Conferences are a great opportunity to partner with teachers, ask questions, and ensure students are on the right track moving forward.

Looking ahead, we will soon begin the process of building the schedule for next school year. Course selection is an important step, especially as students consider future career paths, training programs, or college requirements. We encourage families to take time to review graduation requirements and think carefully about what different institutions and careers may expect. As always, we have many great resources available to help. Please feel free to reach out to:

Mr. Martin  
Ms. Beckstrom  
Ruth from TRIO  
Lori T.  
Myself

We are happy to assist with any questions or guidance as students plan ahead.

Spring will be here before we know it. Until then, stay warm, stay focused, and enjoy the rest of the winter... if you're that type of person.

Cheers,

Clay Johnson



## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### Drivers Ed Meeting March 18th

Article submitted by Mr. Dustin Martin

There will be a drivers ed meeting at 5:15 during Parents Teacher Conferences in McVille on March 18. Reminder students will need a permit and complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade before taking drivers ed. You can take the permit at a Department of Motor Vehicle location or online. Cost of driver education for the 2026 summer session will be \$250. More information will be available at the meeting and we look forward to seeing you there!



### Career Counseling News with Kelsey Beckstrom



A reminder to past graduates: you must complete the FAFSA each year in order to get loans and grants. You should do this now for the 25-26 school year.

Many local and regional scholarships are due February 1st-April 15th. For the ones that I collect, the deadline has been set for February 24<sup>th</sup> due to my upcoming maternity leave.

Graduation is set for May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at the McVille Gym.

### Where There's Love, There's Respect

Article submitted by Ms. Kelsey Beckstrom

Valentine's Day is often associated with chocolates and candy grams but the most meaningful expression of love is respect. Healthy relationships are built on kindness, clear boundaries, and consent. Love listens, values differences, and never pressures or controls. Whether between friends, family members, or dating partners, respect means feeling safe, heard, and valued. For the past two years, we've included a two week curriculum on healthy relationships in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade health class. New to this year was a speaker from the CVIC who taught us about healthy break ups and consent. I often hear from adults how they wished they'd learned about relationships when they were young. This is exactly the point of the course: to help teens discover who they are and what they deserve in a partner.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Alyssa from Northland EGF spoke to the technology class about their trades programs and to a small group of students interested in health sciences and liberal arts. Northland is seeing an uptick in their welding and nursing programs, as well as students taking generals then transferring to UND.



**Student Council Valentine's Sale**

Show someone you care this Valentine's Day!

- 一朵花 \$1 - One rose
- 一盒糖 \$1 - One box of candy
- 一封个性化信 \$1 - Personalized note
- 送货 Delivery:

Student Council will deliver items directly to lockers on February 13th.

Extras:

- \$1 to find out who purchased the item(s)
- \$2 to remain anonymous

Spread the love—order yours today!

🛒 *How to Order:*

*Place your order at the table outside the lunchroom with any Student Council member during the week of February 2-6. Payment is required at the time of ordering*



Cooper Hovdenes has been invited to join the Washington Journalism and Media Conference held at George Mason University this summer. He will be able to

explore careers in journalism, media, and related fields through site visits, speakers, and sessions held by journalists, media experts, directors, and program staff. Through immersion into journalism and media, Cooper will be introduced to complex and relevant issues facing the world today. He will have the opportunity to meet with members of Congress and learn about different aspects of government and politics.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Student Council hosted a Knight Time Challenge that was originally scheduled to take place before Christmas break. Due to weather-related delays, the challenge was rescheduled and held when we returned from Winter Break.

Each Knight Time was given the same gingerbread house kit and an extra bag of frosting, with a butter knife as the only tool allowed. Entries were judged based on overall detail and creative use of candy. Knight Time groups quickly discovered how challenging it was to get the houses to stay together, especially since some kits included broken pieces. While a few groups attempted to use a hot glue gun to hold their houses together, they were ultimately disqualified for not following the challenge guidelines.

Congratulations to Mr. Kueber's Knight Time for earning the win and being awarded the Knight Time trophy!



Damien and Kendra reciting "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Snowball Week has been in full swing, with Student Council organizing a variety of activities during Knight Time. The first event was the **Toilet Plunger Relay**.

Four students from each grade participated, using a scooter and two plungers. One student from each team sat on the scooter and used the plungers to propel themselves across the gym. Once they reached the end, they ran back with the scooter and plungers to tag the next teammate. The sophomores took home the win in this event.



The next activity was the **Whitney Houston Challenge**. Four students competed against one another by attempting to match the iconic drum hit in the song *“I Will Always Love You.”* The crowd voted by cheering for the performance they thought was best. Sophomore Kael Peavy won this challenge.

Following that was **Hungry Hungry Hippo**. Two students worked together—one lying on a scooter while the other held and steered their legs. The goal was to collect dodgeballs from the center of the gym and bring them back to their team’s hula hoop. Once all the balls were collected, the team with the most balls in their hula hoop won.

The final game of the week was the **Wig Snatching Challenge**. Students ran around the gym wearing wigs while trying to snatch another player’s wig. If a student’s wig was taken, they were out. The last student still wearing a wig was declared the winner.



## ~ Elementary News ~

From the Desk of Dr. Jackie Bye, Elementary Principal

**Happy February!** Whether the groundhog sees his shadow on February 2 or not, it won't affect the growth in academics and the great activities happening with our students at **Dakota Prairie Elementary** over the next six weeks. Our students continue to work hard, and we are proud of the progress they are making both inside and outside of the classroom.

Recently, students in grades K-6 completed the ND A+ Winter Interim Assessments in reading and math. These assessments help us understand how students are progressing on North Dakota Standards so we can adjust instruction, provide interventions when needed, and challenge students who are ready for more. I'm excited to share some great growth from fall to winter: In the area of :



### Reading Proficiency

#### **Grades K-2:**

Fall: 60% → Winter: **84%** (24% growth)

#### **Grades 3-6:**

Fall: 63% → Winter: **76%** (13% growth)

### Math Proficiency

#### **Grades K-2:**

Fall: 66% → Winter: **89%** (23% growth)

#### **Grades 3-6:**

Fall: 76% → Winter: **86%** (10% growth)

We will assess again in the spring. Our goal is for students to maintain this growth as the curriculum continues to increase in rigor and to ensure students are ready for the next grade level.

Another indication of the growth of our students is in the intervention data. Which reflects the hard work of our students and staff and the effectiveness of targeted instruction and intervention support. Our intervention support for grades 1-6 shows that students are improving in both reading and math from the fall to the winter.

**Reading:** Students needing intervention decreased from 15% in the fall to **7%** after winter testing.

**Math:** Students needing intervention decreased from 18% in the fall to **11%** after winter testing.

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, February 13!** Ms. Bina and our **PK-3 students** will present a **Valentine Concert at 1:00 PM** in the big gym.

Before the concert, we are excited to try something new for families of **PK-6 students** — a **Valentine Box Lunch Social**. We won't be doing the decorating Valentine boxes with parents' activity at school like we did in the past. We will do the lunch activity instead. Students will decorate a box at school ahead of time to hold lunch for themselves and their parent(s). Families are invited to join their child(ren) during lunchtime on February 13. There will also be, **Valentine cookie decorating station and a silent auction**, featuring one unique item made by each classroom. More information will be sent home and shared through **REMIND** soon. The idea of a Valentine Box Lunch Social was inspired by an old tradition from long ago when girls or young women would **prepare a meal**, decorate a **box or basket**, and bring it to a community event. The boxes were **auctioned off** (often anonymously). Whoever won the bid got to **eat the meal with the person who made it**—usually at the event. Our **Valentine Box**

## ~ Elementary News ~

**Social** will be similar, but we are NOT auctioning off the lunch, we are providing lunch to parents at no charge, you will be our guests. We want to share a meal with people we care about and celebrating kindness, family, and being together—just like they did long ago.

Preschool registration letters will be mailed on February 20, 2026. The packet will include the preschool handbook and cost information. If you have a child who may be eligible and have not yet contacted the school, please call the elementary office at 322-4771 so we can ensure our district census is up to date. To enroll for the 2026-2027 school year, children must turn 4 years old before August 1, 2026. If you do not receive a registration packet by March 1, please contact the elementary office.

Please take a moment this month to thank the many people who help “***Grow the Whole Child***” at Dakota Prairie Elementary. While teachers play an important role, it truly takes an entire team—paraprofessionals, cooks, custodians, bus drivers, secretaries, technology staff, coaches, advisors, administrators, school board members, counselors, and more—all working together to support our students. We are not just teaching academics, we are helping students build life skills that will provide them a well-rounded education to help them grow now, and well into their future. If you ever have questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out. You are always welcome to call, email, or stop by. 701-322-4771 [Jack-ie.bye@k12.nd.us](mailto:Jack-ie.bye@k12.nd.us)

Thank you for your continued support of Dakota Prairie Elementary.

### AR Awards

#### December 2025

##### 25 points

Daria Ciubotareanu,  
Landry Engen, Grace Hal-  
vorson, Emmett Locken,  
Ridge Smith, Kelsie Jones

##### 100 Points

Lydia Dahl, Stella Stein

##### 200 Points

Jaina Peavy-Roberts,  
Edyn Luehring, Harper  
Yoney

##### 300 Points

Elle Halvorson  
**800 Points**  
Calla Naas



### VALENTINE CONCERT

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH**

**AT 1 PM (PK-3 STUDENTS)**

**FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN  
THEIR CHILD(REN) DURING  
LUNCHTIME ON FEBRUARY 13 FOR  
VALENTINE BOX LUNCH SOCIAL**

## ~ Elementary News ~

Knight Academy is keeping boredom away these really cold by embracing topics and activities all related to snow and ice! We experimented with what substances help melt ice the fastest and learned why people salt their sidewalks in the winter. We created our own "snowflakes" using mirror tiles and assorted materials, made a "blizzard" in a cup and had an indoor snowball fight. As we look forward to the start of the Winter Olympics next week, we are starting to learn about some of the different events, their history, the science involved, and in classic Knight Academy fashion - we are going to use our creativity to modify existing features and also design our own!

Our sessions utilize a lot of miscellaneous materials that create amazing designs and prototypes in the hands of our creative students. If you are decluttering or are just looking for a way to support an incredible program, both our school year and summer sessions are always grateful for craft supplies, scrapbook, construction paper, misc. Items that could be repurposed by someone with a bright idea, and TAPE (especially painter's, masking, and or washi tapes!) Contact Haley Klefstad, site coordinator ([haley.klefstad@k12.nd.us](mailto:haley.klefstad@k12.nd.us)) with any questions or if you have items you wish to share!



Miss Avdem is currently student teaching in Mrs. Sand's Kindergarten class for 6 weeks. Next she will be joining Mrs. Gunderson's class for 10 weeks.

Welcome, Miss Avdem!

## ~ Elementary News ~

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is 100 Days Smarter!**

We had some fun and made 100 Day Posters. The kids have worked so hard the last 100 days and are 100 days smarter.

**❤️ Valentine's Day Word Search ❤️**

Find the words below!

LOVE • HEART • CARD • CANDY • FRIEND • HUG

KISS • ROSES • PINK • RED • GIFT • SMILE

H	E	A	R	T	P	I	N	K	C	A
R	O	S	E	S	M	I	L	E	D	N
E	L	O	V	E	C	A	R	D	Y	A
D	K	I	S	S	G	I	F	T	F	C
F	R	I	E	N	D	H	U	G	O	R
C	A	N	D	Y	R	E	D	L	V	A
S	M	I	L	E	P	I	N	K	E	R
L	O	V	E	H	E	A	R	T	S	D
G	I	F	T	F	R	I	E	N	D	H
H	U	G	C	A	N	D	Y	K	I	S
R	E	D	R	O	S	E	S	L	O	V
P	I	N	K	S	M	I	L	E	G	T

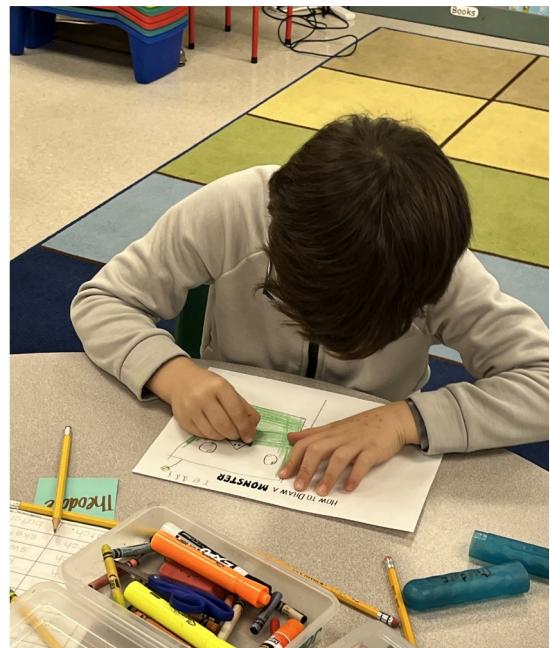
## ~ Elementary News ~

### Bridge Building 101

Sixth grade has begun their bridge building unit for Physical Science. We are so excited to begin actual construction in these upcoming weeks. We did some initial learning of all the parts that make up a bridge, we will be building with balsa wood and glue. Pictured below are some of our pretests for strength of unlaminated and laminated beams.

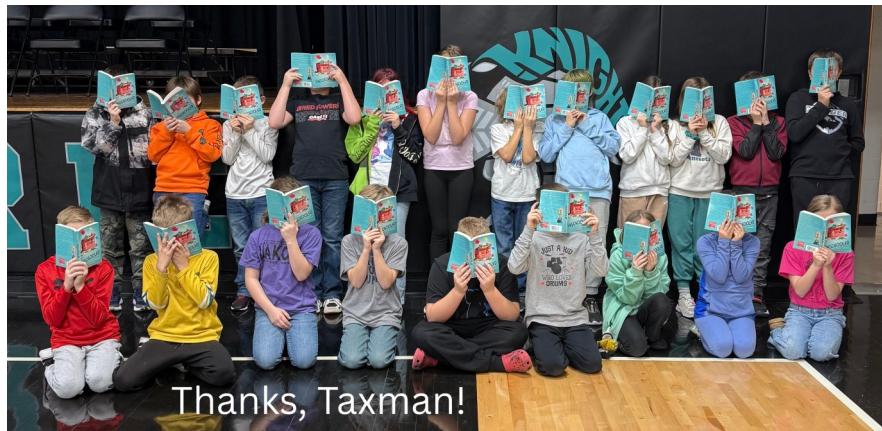
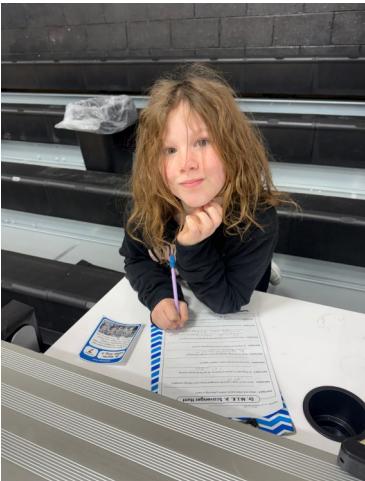
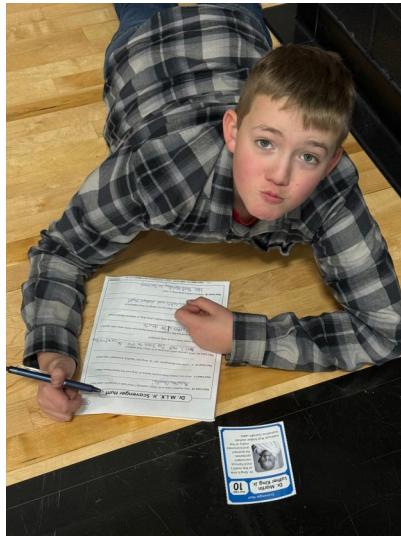
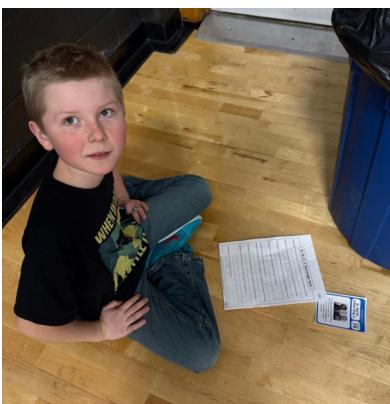
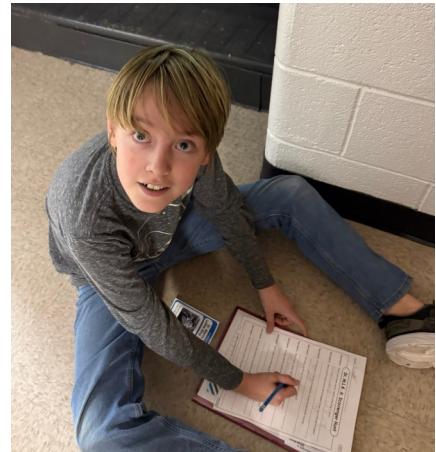


Traci Trostad again visited our first graders with another lesson about agriculture. Z is for Zucchini was our theme for this lesson and we learned all about this garden staple, laughed at a story about a "green monster" and got to taste some yummy chocolate chip zucchini muffins that Traci made for us! We are looking forward to another visit next month!



## ~ Elementary News ~

The 4<sup>th</sup> Graders went on a Scavenger Hunt to learn fun facts and interesting details about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was fun to read the 18 cards hidden around the gym, stairs and stage to find the answers to the questions.



Thank you to Taxman of Fargo for this month's Scholastic book. They have sponsored 1 book a month for the whole school year! So blessed we are!

## DAKOTA PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY

### CONCERTS&OTHER EVENTS

#### 2025-2026

#### Updated

<b>Friday, November 7</b>	<b>VETERAN'S DAY</b>	1:00	PK-6
<b>Wednesday, December 10</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	1:00	PK-6
<b>Friday, February 13</b>	<b>VALENTINE PERFORMANCE</b>	1:00	PK-3
<b>Monday, March 16</b>	<b>MIDWINTER FOLLIES</b>	7:00	4-6
<b>Tuesday, April 28</b>	<b>PRESCHOOL PROGRAM</b>	10:00	PK K-
<b>Tuesday, May 12</b>	<b>SPRING CONCERT</b>	7:00	6

#### OTHER EVENTS

<b>HIGH SCHOOL HALLOWEEN CONCERT</b>	<b>Friday, October 31</b>	12:30
<b>VALENTINE LUNCH BOX SOCIAL</b>	<b>Friday, February 13</b>	PK-6
<p>Students will be decorating Valentine Lunch Boxes with a lunch for themselves, and one for parents, if you are able to join them. This will be held around their lunch time, with an adjustment so everyone finished in time for the Valentine Concert at 1:00 for PK-3. There will be a Valentine cookie decorating station for dessert, and possibly a Valentine auction of one item per grade at their lunch time. This event is still in the planning stages, so some details are still to be worked out. We want to try something new this year instead of the the Valentine Box decorating. A note will be sent home with more details.</p>		
<b>SPRING FLING TALENT SHOW</b>	<b>Friday, April 17</b>	6:30
<p>The Spring Fling is a change in date due to conflicts in May.</p>		
<b>ELEMENTARY COLOR RUN</b>	<b>Friday, April 24</b>	2:00
<b>KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 19</b>	10:00
<b>6TH GRADE GRADUATION</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 19</b>	2:00
<b>BOOK FAIRS</b>	<b>December 1-4</b>	TBD
	<b>April 27-May 1</b>	TBD

## Snodaze Snapshots



# February 2026

February 9—No school: Mid-winter Break

February 11—School Board Meeting @ 7am on ZOOM

February 13—Valentine Lunch Box Social @ Elementary during lunch

February 13—Valentine Concert feat. PK-3 starting at 1 pm

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

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

## Future Dates of Interest

*February 9—No School: Mid Winter Break*

*March 6—No School: Mid Winter Break*

*March 18— Teacher PD in AM; Parent Teacher Conferences @ 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 Procedure	Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy	Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure
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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](mailto: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](mailto:jay.slade@k12.nd.us)).

Dakota Prairie  
Course Descriptions

