



### Important Dates

- 2** Fall Dance 3-5
- 5** PTO @ PKMS
- 8** 11:15 Dismissal
- 9** Teacher Institute  
No Students
- 10** ILMEA Festival
- 12** Veteran's Day
- 15** Recognition  
Breakfast
- 19** P/T Conferences
- 20** P/T Conferences
- 27** Choir Concert
- 28** Band Concert

Fall Break  
Nov. 19-23, 2018

Winter Break  
Dec. 24-Jan. 4, 2019

## Prairie Knolls Middle School November 2018 Falcon Flyer



# Principal's Message

As principal of our school, I am very pleased to share with you news from the Illinois State Board of Education regarding PKMS. As you may or may not know, the Illinois School Report Card has been revamped to reflect the new elements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA helps schools focus in on existing strengths that are present in the school, as well as areas for growth to close achievement gaps within our student population. Among the new elements in the School Report Card is the Summative Designation that each school receives. For K-8 buildings, the designation is based upon a data set consisting of 2018 PARCC proficiency data, student growth data (grades 4-8), English Learner progress, and chronic absenteeism rates. Based upon the above data, for 2018, the Summative Designation for Prairie Knolls Middle School is **Exemplary**; the highest designation that a school can receive! Essentially, this means that PKMS has been recognized as a school whose performance is in the top 10 percent of schools statewide. I am very proud of the recognition that this brings to our school, students and community. Furthermore, I am grateful for the support provided to our students by our teachers, paraprofessionals, support staff, custodial staff, kitchen staff, transportation staff, and you, the parents. It is through our combined efforts that we are able to provide the children of PKMS, and District #301, with a high-quality education! If you are interested in learning more about the Illinois School Report Card, log onto <http://www.illinoisreportcard.com> and search for *Prairie Knolls Middle Sch.*

A key part of our school's success rests with communication between the teachers and the families in our community. Parent Teacher Conferences are taking place on Monday, 11/19, and Tuesday, 11/20. As a part of our middle school philosophy, we conduct team conferences so that parents are able to get a comprehensive picture of their child's progress across all classes. On Wednesday, 11/07, in the morning, we will send directions for signing up for conferences via Skyward. On that same day, at 12:00 noon, we will open the portal for parents to sign up for conferences.

The next several weeks will move quickly up through Winter Break. Please remember that if you ever have any questions about your child's learning experience here at PKMS, you can email the teachers or call the school (847-717-8100) and someone will contact you.

Finally this month, I want to leave you with language that we use when talking to our students about being good digital citizens: **T.H.I.N.K.!**

T= Is it True?

H= Is it Helpful?

I= Is it Inspiring?

N= Is it Necessary?

K= Is it Kind?

Keeping the T.H.I.N.K. acronym in mind as we talk with students about what they post online helps us to promote the idea of being respectful, appropriate and safe when sharing ideas and information on the internet.





Parent-Teacher Conferences are again set for Thanksgiving Week, Monday and Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday morning, November 7<sup>th</sup>, you will receive an e-blast containing instructions for scheduling parent-teacher conferences for your child. A “Teacher Conference” tab, in Skyward, will be made available for appointments at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. As in the past, conferences will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Monday, 11/19) and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Tuesday, 11/20) and will be conducted in a team format. We look forward to seeing you at these informative meetings.



Daily announcements are read throughout the building in the morning to inform students of upcoming events, activities, sports highlights and other items of importance. If you would like to know the happenings at PKMS, log into Skyward. The message center is the first thing you see when you log into Family Access. This is where the Daily Announcements are posted along with other postings from teachers.

### **Music Dept. Happenings**

The 6th and 7th grade bands concert on November 28th where the 8th grade band. The 7th for their performances at the Trails Veteran's Day Assemblies.



working incredibly hard for these performances and look forward to sharing wonderful music with their audiences. The music department also had several students make it to the regional honors music festival, ILMEA, for band and choir. They are performing at Huntley High School on November 10th.

have been preparing for their they will also perform with grade band is also preparing Prairie View and Country Both groups have been

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team News

**ELA-** In November, we will be concluding our acceptance unit with narrative writing. Moving into our perseverance unit, students will be reading *Amelia Lost* and focusing on nonfiction texts and their features. Keep an eye out for our ELA newsletter coming your way!

**Math-** Our upcoming unit sets the foundation of algebra and will introduce variables. Students will begin a study of exponents and expressions in real-world situations. They will also learn about using the distributive property and order of operations. Be sure to check with your child about the difference between an expressions and an equation! **Try it! Evaluate the following expression when a=7 and b=3.  $4a-b=12$**

**Science-** Imagine 4.6 billion years of history to sift through. Well that's pretty much what we are doing in Science as we continue our Earth's History unit. We've learned about weathering, erosion, sediment, and deposition with our focus being the Grand Canyon. In our very near future we will learn how sandstone, limestone, and shale formed millions of years ago and how fossils are formed. If your interest is increasing...ask yourself the question..."What came 1st, the sand or the sandstone." If you don't know...ask your student.

**Social Studies-** We finished up learning about the dynasties of Ancient China. Next up we'll be traversing along the Silk Road where we'll see how items, cultures, and beliefs were exchanged. Following this, we'll be getting into Ancient Greece and begin debating whether Alexander was really 'great' or 'not so great.'



**Mrs. Brummel's  
class testing their  
handmade  
catapults.**

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team News

**Science**- Students will be exploring population studies, interactions among living things, and cycles in nature during our ecology unit. The students will then use their newfound knowledge to design a new organism to survive and thrive in an ecosystem.

**ELA** -As part of our Determination Unit, students will be participating in a whole-class reading of the verse novel, *Beanball* by Gene Fehler. We will pair some nonfiction articles with this book, too. Students will then begin a unit focused on the concept of freedom. To help deepen their understanding

**Math** -Students are beginning unit 3: Equations and Inequalities. Students will apply what they have learned about solving equations from last year to solve two and multi-step problems in real world situations. Students will also learn how to apply inequalities in real world situations. When the unit is complete, students will switch gears and learn about proportional relationships.

**Social Studies**, students will continue their study of the events leading up to the Revolutionary War and America's independence. In order to grasp a better understanding of what our founding fathers and early Americans went through, we'll be analyzing primary and secondary sources, as well as watching them vote to declare independence in film format. Students will then be putting all of that information together in an argument essay.



**Students were excited to speak with Emmy-nominated writer, Tom Rogers. Author of *Eleven*, the story of a boy turning eleven on 9/11.**



# Falcon Athletics

## 2018 Fall Sports (Cross Country, Football, Volleyball)

Thanks to all of our athletes, coaches, and parents for a great fall athletic season. We would like to congratulate our 7<sup>th</sup> grade Volleyball for taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place in our NCJC Tournament. Our Girls Cross Country teams also won some hardware this season. Our Girls were NCJC Champs! Nice job ladies! If you have any uniform items in your possession please turn them in immediately.



## 2018 Winter I Sports (Boys' Basketball & Cheerleading)

Boys' Basketball and Cheerleading are off to a great start. Thank you to all parents and athletes for coming to the mandatory parent meeting held in October, we greatly appreciate your support. Let's continue to cheer the boys and girls on to safe and successful seasons. Make sure to check 8to18 for driving directions, schedules and announcements. If you have any questions please contact Brody Hamel (Athletic Director).

## 2018-2019 Winter II & Spring Sports (Wrestling, Girls' Basketball, Scholastic Bowl)

**Scholastic Bowl** tryouts will be coming up in November. Information from the coaches will be sent out soon. If you have any questions regarding tryouts contact Kim Paulus or Monica Kindelin. **Girls' Basketball** tryouts will be held before winter break, but full practices won't begin until the first week of January after we return from winter break. An informational meeting will be held during lunch in early December. **Wrestling** starts December 10th. There will be an informational meeting during lunch in mid-November. Contact Joseph O'Donnell for more details. Our last sport of the year is **Boys' and Girls' Track** which begins in March. Information for track will be posted in the February newsletter. **All 2018-2019 PKMS sports schedules are posted on 8to18 as well (except for track which will not be available until the end of January 2019).**

<b>Scholastic Bowl Coaches</b> – Coach Kindelin and Coach Paulus
<b>Girls Basketball Coaches</b> – Coach Valentini and Coach Hamel
<b>Wrestling Coaches</b> – Coach O'Donnell, Coach Titock

# PKMS/CMS PTO ANNUAL MARATHON FUNDRAISER

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

THE PTO SPONSORED PKMS/CMS ANNUAL MARATHON HAS ARRIVED!!! The PTO will use funds generated from this event toward all curriculum areas of the school. Last year the combined PK/CMS Marathon raised over \$35,000!! The PTO's goal is to match that amount again this year. By meeting this goal the PTO will be able to provide multiple resources for your children and their teachers. In years past we have purchased fitness equipment for PE, risers for our Band and Choir program and IPAD's for core classes just to name a few. In addition, if we are able to meet our financial goal, we'll commit to NOT sponsoring additional product sales fundraisers which would require students to solicit sales or secure monetary donations. Instead, we would focus on other community outreach events such as dine out nights, receipt rewards, etc.

The students have organized themselves into teams from their PE classes. Attached to this letter is the prize list and pledge sheet. Students should ask family, friends, and the community to sponsor them based on the number of laps that they run as a team in class. **We do not encourage students to ask for pledges from people they do not know.** Teams are capable of about 15 (or more) laps. Example: team completes 17 laps, donor pledges \$1.00 per laps – total donation is \$17.00. Of course, flat donates are greatly appreciated. After completing the marathon, students will collect their donation as committed on their pledge sheet, and turn their money into their **1<sup>st</sup> period teacher**. Checks are preferred, if possible. **Please make the check out to PKMS PTO.**

## **MARATHON SCHEDULE:**

Friday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Teams are selected, pledge sheets are sent home
Tuesday, October 30 <sup>th</sup>	The Marathon Run begins
Wednesday, October 31 <sup>st</sup>	The Marathon Run ends
Friday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pledge money collected and turned in to <b>1<sup>st</sup> Period Teacher</b>

Everyone will be notified of prizes as soon as the Marathon has been run and all necessary paperwork is completed.

This is an exciting event that creates team building and incorporates physical fitness in a positive atmosphere. It gives the students an opportunity to raise some money for the school without asking them to go out and sell products. Please support this event with your usual enthusiasm! If you have any questions, please contact Brody Hamel, Mark Valentini, Heidi Peterson or Sarah Jackson (PE Dept.).

Sincerely,

Prairie Knolls /Central Middle School PTO Marathon Committee

# MARATHON TEAM PRIZES

PRIZES ARE AWARDED TO TEAMS IN TERMS OF HIGHEST DOLLAR AMOUNT COLLECTED.

- 1<sup>ST</sup>** Each participating team member (per grade) will be let out of school at 10:45am and treated to lunch, fun and games at Brunswick Zone!
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** Each participating team member will receive a \$25.00 gift card!

## INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

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THE TOP THREE INDIVIDUALS (PER GRADE) WHO BRING IN THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF COLLECTED PLEDGE WILL RECEIVE A LARGE GIFT CARD PRIZE:

1<sup>st</sup> place = \$250    2<sup>nd</sup> place = \$150    3<sup>rd</sup> place = \$100

## EVERYONE CAN BE A WINNER

Students will receive a raffle ticket for every \$25 that they fundraise. The raffle tickets will go into a drawing for a chance to win many prizes....

Grand Prizes – Nintendo Switch, iPad, Apple Watch, \$300 Ticket Master, \$300 Movies

10 additional \$50 gift cards will be drawn as well!

\* Every student who turns in \$10 or more will receive a free lanyard for their ID's!

### GUIDELINES:

\*Only team members who participate in the fund-raising portion of this event will be awarded the first and second place team prizes!!! (Minimum \$10)

### Instructions for Turning in your Marathon Money

Now that we ran the PKMS Marathon it is time to go out and collect all of the money that was pledged. Once you have collected **ALL** of the money pledged, you will turn it in to your 1<sup>st</sup> **period teacher**. Do not turn money in until you have collected all of it. All checks should be made out to **Prairie Knolls Middle School**. If you collect cash, be careful not to lose it! All money and pledge sheets should be placed in an envelope when turned in. The front of the envelope should have the following things written on the front:

- Student's Name
- Student's Grade
- Marathon Team Name
- \$\$ Amount of money in the envelope \$\$

All Marathon money should be collected and turned in by **Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> 2018**. If you need more time to collect money please talk to your PE Teacher.



## CENTRAL COMMUNITY USD 301

### Prairie Knolls Middle School NOVEMBER 1-30, 2018

**Value Meal Lunch Price: \$2.90**

*Meal Includes Choice of Milk*

**Reduced Price Lunch: \$0.40**

*Meal Includes Choice of Milk*

**Milk \$0.40**

*Choices are: Skim, 1% Unflavored,  
FF Chocolate & FF Strawberry*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Menu Subject To Change Due To Market Conditions and Product Availability.	 Visit <a href="http://MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM">MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM</a> Make payments, check account balances and view purchase history.		1 BEEF NACHOS <i>with Salsa &amp; Sour Cream</i> FIESTA BLACK BEANS SEASONED CORN CHILLED APPLESAUCE	2 POPCORN CHICKEN BASKET <i>with Dinner Roll</i> SWEET POTATO FRIES FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS <i>with FF Ranch Dip</i> PINE APPLE TIDBITS
5 BEEF HOT DOG <i>On A WG Bun Or</i> TURKEY CORN DOG BAKED VEGETARIAN BEANS CARROTEENIES <i>with FF Ranch Dip</i> MIXED FRUIT CUP	6 MASHED POTATO BOWL <i>w/Chicken, Corn &amp; Mashed Potatoes</i> FRESH BROCCOLI & CAULIFLOWER FLORETS <i>w/FF Ranch Dressing</i> MASHED POTATOES CHILLED PEACHES	7 BOSCO CHEESE STICKS (2) <i>with Marinara Sauce</i> FRESH GARDEN SALAD <i>with Cherry Tomatoes &amp; Sliced Cucumbers</i> <i>w/Assorted Salad Dressing</i> TENDER PEAS CHILLED PEARS	8 <i>School Improvement Day</i> <i>Students' Half Day</i>  <i>No Lunch Served</i>	9 <i>Teacher Institute</i> <i>No Students</i>  <i>No Lunch Served</i>
12 CHICKEN NUGGETS (5) <i>with Dinner Roll</i> OVEN FRENCH FRIES GREEN BEANS CINNAMON APPLESAUCE	13 ORANGE CHICKEN <i>over Brown Rice</i> ORIENTAL BLEND VEGGIES FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS <i>with FF Ranch Dip</i> MANDARIN ORANGES	14 ROUND 5" CHEESE PIZZA FRESH GARDEN SALAD <i>with Cherry Tomatoes &amp; Sliced Cucumbers</i> <i>w/Assorted Salad Dressing</i> TENDER PEAS FRESH APPLE SLICES	15 MINI PANCAKES <i>with Chicken Sausage Pattie and Maple Syrup Cup</i> HASH BROWN PATTIE (1) POWER FRUIT PUNCH JUICE CHILLED PEACHES CREAMY FRUIT YOGURT	16 TWIN BEEF TACOS <i>w/Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa</i> WHOLE KERNEL CORN FIESTA BLACK BEANS CHILLED PEARS
19 <i>Parent / Teacher Conferences</i>  <i>No Students</i>	20 <i>Parent / Teacher Conferences</i>  <i>No Students</i>	21 <b>THANKSGIVING VACATION</b>	22 <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING! HOLIDAY</b>	23 <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>
				
26 HAMBURGER <i>On A WG Bun Or</i> CHEESE BURGER <i>On A WG Bun</i> OVEN FRENCH FRIES STEAMED BROCCOLI MIXED FRUIT CUP	27 CHICKEN TENDERS (3) MASHED POTATOES <i>with Gravy</i> TENDER PEAS MANDARIN ORANGES	28 CHEESY FRENCH BREAD PIZZA FRESH GARDEN SALAD <i>with Cherry Tomatoes &amp; Sliced Cucumbers</i> <i>with FF Ranch Dressing</i> GREEN BEANS CHILLED APPLESAUCE	29 BAKED POTATO <i>topped w/Broccoli &amp; Cheese Sauce w/Dinner Roll</i> CRUNCHY CELERY STICKS <i>with FF Ranch Dip</i> PINE APPLE TIDBITS FRESH BAKED WG	30 AMERICAN SUB <i>Made With Ham, Turkey and Cheese</i> CRISPY TATER TOTS VEGETABLE TRAY with Broc-ChTom-GrPepp <i>with FF Ranch Dip</i> CHILLED PEARS BAG OF CHIPS

**Offered Daily: Small Salad, Sun Butter & Jelly Sandwich, Assorted Fresh Fruit**