



PRAIRIE KNOLLS FALCONS

225 Nesler Road, Elgin IL 60124 Phone: 847-717-8100 Fax: 847-717-8105
Principal: Dr. Matthew Haug Assistant Principal: Mrs. Alexandra Paszt

November 2020 Falcon Flyer

Important Dates

**November 3rd-
Election Day (No
Classes)**

November 23rd and 24th
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

November 23rd-27th
Thanksgiving Break

Digital Bulletin Board



Dr. Haug gets into the Halloween Spirit as Albus Dumbledor from the Harry Potter series.

Dr. Haug's Message

November started with a bitter chill in the air, but then quickly warmed up! This serves as a good reminder to have students dress appropriately for the weather as they make their way to school each day. In spite of the short walk from the car or bus to the school doors, remember that P.E. goes outside to exercise and give the students a mask break whenever the temperature is 30 degrees or higher. Please make sure that your children are dressed for the weather.

Now that we are two weeks into Quarter 2, this is a good time for students to reassess their home learning behaviors and environments. We have all learned a great deal as we progressed through Quarter 1, and while we recognize that remote learning (even for our hybrid students) is challenging, it is with us now for the foreseeable future. Students should make a plan for themselves in order to stay on top of their learning:

- Does your learning space support active engagement with minimal distractions?,
- What is your process for tracking due dates for assignments?,
- How do you communicate with your teachers when you have questions?

Asking these simple questions can help your focus and attention when it comes to school.

Parents, don't forget that Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 23, from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., and Tuesday, November 24, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Because of the pandemic, our process is different this year, and information will be published shortly to help you schedule a time to meet with your child's teachers.

Finally, thank you for your support of our schools over the past Spring, Summer and Quarter 1. We see many of our surrounding school districts struggling to bring students back into the classrooms. The processes that we have engaged in at Central 301 have been largely successful (maybe with a few bumps in the road) and that has been a function of the patience, diligence and commitment of our families and staff. A popular phrase has been, "We will get through this together". I am proud to witness that we live that phrase everyday here at Prairie Knolls and appreciate the part that you all play in this success.



Assistant Principal's Corner



As we move into the cooler months of the year, our time spent outside gets smaller, while our time inside (and on devices) gets larger. In an effort to help families keep their children safe online, I have shared a few of my favorite social media tips below. I highlighted these tips last year, and would like to share them again, as I know it was helpful to many families. Along with these tips, I have added a list of fun activities for pre-teens that don't involve social media or devices. Let's go back to the old days and participate in some of our favorite activities!

Tips for Social Media Safety:

1. Follow your child on social media. Be a silent follower. Check up on them regularly, and ask questions you have in person. Ask questions about who they are following, and who follows them. If they cannot tell you the first and last name of the person you are inquiring about, and how they know them outside of social media, they may not be the safest person to follow.
2. Do not permit your child to go to sleep with access to their device. Having access to personal devices during sleep time opens children up to unmonitored device usage, and the potential for sleep deprivation.
3. Many social media apps track location! This means that each time a message is sent anyone following your child can see where they are located. If the account is public, anyone on the web can see where your son or daughter is. Check your child's social media accounts to insure they do not have their location being tracked. This can be done by going into the settings on each account and disabling the location tracker. Many location trackers are hidden under the "Privacy" setting.

Fun Activities in the Winter Months:

1. Build a snowman
2. Ice skating or winter hiking
3. Shovel snow for a neighbor, or someone in need
4. Sledding
5. Yoga- while this may require access to the internet, yoga can help calm the mind and focus the brain.
6. Help with meal preparation
7. Board games
8. Clean out closets and donate any old or outgrown items
9. Craft Corner!
10. Learn a new card game or magic trick

Please factor in social distancing when participating in these fun filled activities listed above.

General News Briefs

Community Information

In an effort to make communication more efficient and effective, District 301 has created a Digital Bulletin Board page on the district website. All approved flyers will be posted under “Communications” on the main district page or at the link on the front page of this newsletter.



Read Across the Library is a new reading challenge for the school year. The goal is to stretch the student’s reading experience by having them read books from across the library. Students simply fill in the Bingo card with the title they have read that meets the category. Each bingo gets a reward, and if the card is filled by the end of the school year, the student gets a free book. Just scan the QR code to access the Reading Challenge bingo card, or pick one up in the library. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Inkinen at



pam.inkinen@central301.net

Traffic Concerns at pick-up time

As the weather gets cooler, the temptation during drop-off and pick-up time is for parents to stop in front of the building to avoid having their children walk too far. Please be considerate of our entire community by pulling your car all the way forward along the drop-off / pick-up circle. Students can use the sidewalk to walk to your car safely. Additionally, this prevents back-up on Nesler Road.

Additionally, students are encouraged to use the entire sidewalk along the front of the building to walk to their parent’s car, however, we have observed many drivers doing U-turns in the driveway to exit the lot. To avoid potential accidents, please use the inside lane around the flagpole to exit the driveway to Nesler Road. Again, U-turns and 3-point turns in the driveway cause potential congestion and accident opportunities for all of our drivers.

Destruction of Student Records

Central Community Unit School District 301 will destroy student temporary records from the graduating classes of 2016. If a parent or student wants those records, they should call the Central High School Registrar's office at 847-464-6034 prior to Nov. 30, 2020.

“Need to Know” – From the Front Office

Attendance Q&A, from the Attendance Secretary (alice.thomas@central301.net)

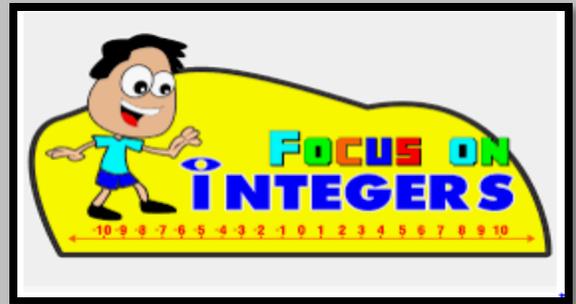
- Who do I call if my student is going to be absent?
 - Absences can be called in 24/7 before or after hours by calling the PK office at 847-717-8100 and following the prompt to connect to the Attendance Voicemail. You can also speak with office staff to report your student’s absence during office hours. Please include the students name, your name and relationship to the student, **specific reasons and/or symptoms**.
- My student is on the hybrid schedule and will not be coming to school today, can they work from home?
 - Students on the hybrid schedule are expected to be physically present in the classroom on their scheduled days. If they will not be in, the absence does need to be reported by calling 847-717-8100 so the student can be marked accordingly.
 - After the absence is reported the student may join the google meet for the class.
 - If a student is **not** reported absent and then joins a google meet, they will be marked absent.
 - We always need to know who is and isn’t in the building in case of an emergency.
- It’s a remote day and my student will miss a portion of the day, do I need to report this?
 - Yes, please report this to the PK office by calling 847-717-8100. Leave the time the student will be signing off, the reason and the duration. Let me know if it’s for the remainder of the day or a specific time frame. You should also let me know when your student is back online, so attendance can be adjusted.
- I need to pick my child up early from PKMS, what do I need to do?
 - It is recommended that you call the PK office at 847-717-8100. Leave the time the student is leaving and the reason and attendance will be updated.
 - It is also recommended that you send a note with your student, indicating the student's name, pickup time and grade to bring to the office at the start of school. We will then make a copy for the student to bring to the teacher. This will make the teacher aware the student will be called from class. If anyone other than a parent is picking the student up, please note that as well.
 - You will be required to sign-out using the QR code. After the verification process is complete, the student will be called down. Allow extra time for this process.
- My student was marked absent from a class during the school day and I feel this is an error. How do I get this corrected?
 - Your student should immediately contact the teacher that marked them absent and inform the PK office of this issue.
- Students who arrive late will be required to sign-in using the QR code posted in the front entrance as well as present their completed self-certification form before entering.
- What should I do if I need to drop something off for my student?
 - There is a Drop Off Zone cart in the front entrance vestibule. Be sure to have the item labeled with the student name and grade. Place it on the shelf corresponding to the grade. Press the intercom button to let the office know you dropped an item off. We will then retrieve it and deliver it to the student.

6th Grade Team News



ELA: With 1st quarter coming to a close, 6th grade ELA students have been working hard on their fiction standards. We are nearing the end of our read aloud, *eleven*, too. Ask your 6th grader how they have liked the book so far! We are currently working on context clues and figuring out the meaning of unknown words. Coming up soon, the 6th graders will be reading *Amelia Lost* by Candace Fleming. If you have a remote student or a student who is learning from home due to various reasons, please make sure you come to PKMS to pick up your book. Reach out to your ELA teacher with any questions about this!

Math: 6th grade Math students have now moved on to the next Unit-Part 2 of Number Systems. During this unit, they will work on plotting integers and rational numbers on a number line and on a coordinate plane, as well as talking about absolute value and real world situations. Ask your student to give you a real word example of integers!



Sci: 6th Grade Science students will be working on a project to show what they have learned during our current unit of study. They have learned how landforms form by the deposition of sediments that later turn into layers of sedimentary rock. They have learned how weathering and erosion shape Earth's surface to create landforms. They have also learned how geologists can learn a lot about a location by studying the fossils that are found there. We have been using the Grand Canyon as our phenomenon. Ask your student how the Grand Canyon formed. They should be able to give you a detailed explanation!

SS: We're wrapping up the dynasties of Ancient China. Next up we'll be traversing along the Silk Road where we'll see how not only items, but also culture and beliefs were exchanged. Following this, we'll be getting into Ancient Greece and begin debating as best we can to see if Alexander was really 'great'.



7th Grade Team News

LA: We are excited about how much the students have learned this first quarter. We've finished our first read aloud *Nine, Ten*. The students learned about the events that unfolded on 9/11 but most importantly the empathy that was shown to others during this horrific time and the healing that many people go through during their lives. It showed how the nation came together as a unit of support and kindness. We learned about Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her role as a Supreme Court Justice and also her life journey that led her to that position. Students wrote very insightful reflections about what they took away from our readings. Our next read aloud is called *Full Tilt*, by Neal Schusterman. Our first formal writing assignment, an argument paper, will begin soon. We ease into it by starting with mini lessons connecting to argument writing such as citing sources, paraphrasing and researching. Students choose a topic of interest to them and begin. Every day in class, time will be devoted to writing this paper. As always, we encourage the students to carve out some time in their day to read an independent reading novel.

SS: In Social Studies, students finished the 13 Colonies unit and at this point would normally begin learning about the events that led to the American Revolution and how those events have come to shape the country we live in today. However, we are first spending two weeks learning about the election in class. This includes the role of a citizen in elections, various positions that are on the ballot, their function in government, a basic understanding of the political parties, the election process, and discussions on the media's role and our approach to news sources. Students will make their own informed decisions and vote on a mock ballot on Nov. 2 in class, and we will finish this mini-unit by discussing the election results on Nov. 4.

Math: We have been quite busy in Math 7 this year. Our first quarter was spent learning about rational numbers and how to add, subtract, multiply and divide them. Rational numbers include integers, positive and negative whole numbers, and rational numbers, positive and negative fractions and decimals. It is a long unit that we will be finishing up with during the first couple weeks of Quarter 2. The students will be doing an independent project to culminate Unit 1. This project was assigned in the middle of October and is due the first week of November. Students will be using their Wednesday class times to work on this.

Pre-Algebra: Pre-Algebra has started out with a bang. We've already finished 2 units, rational numbers and exponents and scientific notation. We've learned how to convert between decimals and fractions, approximate a square root, and re-write a repeating decimal into a fraction thus proving it is a rational number. We finished with solving square and cube root equations. We've just finished our laws of exponents and then applied that with computation of numbers expressed in scientific notation. We start second quarter with equations with rational numbers.

Sci: In science we have finished up our What is Life unit where students started to gain an understanding what we call living. With this information we are prepared to go into learning about the various Kingdoms of life. Having tackled the microscopic protist kingdom students will be heading into the kingdom of Fungi to gain an understanding of how the world's best recyclers are helping our ecosystem.

Falcon Athletics

2020 Fall Sports (Cross Country)

Thanks to all of our athletes, coaches, and parents for a great Cross Country season. We would like to congratulate our Cross Country Teams on their successful seasons. Our Boys Cross Country took 3rd place in the IESA Sectional Meet. Our Girls Cross Country team won some hardware this season. Our Girls were back to back NCJC and IESA Sectional Champs for our school! If you have any uniform items in your possession please turn them in immediately.



Future of 2020 Athletics

We are all waiting on guidance from IHSA and IDPH regarding the future of Athletics this school year. The IHSA is supposed to make an announcement during the last week of October. Once that guidance is given to the schools, we will meet as an athletic and administrative team to decide what will come next at PKMS. Once those decisions are made, there will be communications sent home to families. In the meantime, keep those kids active and healthy!! Go Falcons!!

*Central Middle and Prairie Knolls Middle
School Lunch Menu - Day Care - Special Programs
November 2 - November 30, 2020*



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2</p> <p>BBQ RIB SANDWICH On A WG Bun</p> <p>CHEESE STICK OVEN FRENCH FRIES BABY CARROTS w/Dip FRESH APPLE</p> <p>CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>3</p> <p>ELECTION DAY NO SCHOOL</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>CHICKEN NUGGETS (5)</p> <p>MASHED POTATOES GREEN BEANS APPLESAUCE CUP</p> <p>CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>5</p> <p>CHICKEN QUESADILLA</p> <p>FIESTA BLACK BEANS RAINBOW PEPPER STRIPS w/ Dip PEACH CUP</p> <p>CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>6</p> <p>ROUND 5" CHEESE PIZZA</p> <p>FRESH GARDEN SALAD with Cherry Tomatoes w/Ranch Dressing SEASONED CORN FRESH GRAPES CHOICE OF MILK</p>
<p>9</p> <p>CINNAMON FRENCH TOAST STICKS and Maple Syrup Cup w/ Chicken Sausage Patty TROPICAL TWIST JUICE HASH BROWN PATTIE (1) PEACH CUP CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>10</p> <p>CHEESEBURGER On A WG Bun</p> <p>SWEET POTATO FRIES BROCCOLI FLORETS w/Ranch Dip FRESH APPLE</p> <p>CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>11</p> <p>CHICKEN PATTY On A WG Bun</p> <p>CHEESE STICK SMILEY FACE POTATOES CELERY STICKS w/ Dip MIXED FRUIT CUP CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>12</p> <p>FRENCH BREAD CHEESE PIZZA</p> <p>GREEN BEANS FRESH GARDEN SALAD with Cherry Tomatoes with Ranch Dressing FRESH GRAPES CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>13</p> <p>SOFT SHELLED TACOS with Shredded Lettuce, Salsa & Cheese</p> <p>FIESTA BLACK BEANS CARROTEENIES with Ranch Dip CHILLED PEARS CHOICE OF MILK</p>
<p>16</p> <p>GEN TSO CHICKEN with Brown Rice</p> <p>CELERY STICKS w/Dip STEAMED BROCCOLI JUICY ORANGE WEDGES</p> <p>CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>17</p> <p>TURKEY CORN DOG</p> <p>CHEESE STICK CRISPY TATER TOTS GREEN BEANS APPLESAUCE CUP CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PEPPERONI PIZZA SLICE</p> <p>SEASONED CORN FRESH GARDEN SALAD with Cherry Tomatoes with Ranch Dressing CHILLED PEARS CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>19</p> <p>MINI PANCAKES and Maple Syrup Cup w/ Chicken Sausage Patty CHEESE STICK POWER PUNCH JUICE BOX HASH BROWN PATTIE PEACH CUP CHOICE OF MILK</p>	<p>20</p> <p>SLOPPY JOE On A WG Bun</p> <p>SWEET POTATO FRIES CARROTEENIES w/Dip FROZEN FRUIT SLUSHY HARVEST COOKIE CHOICE OF MILK</p>
<p>23</p> <p>PARENT- TEACHER CONFERENCES No Students</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PARENT- TEACHER CONFERENCES No Students</p>	<p>25</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>26</p> <p>HAPPY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>27</p> <p>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>30</p> <p>BOSCO CHEESE STICKS (2) with Marinara Sauce</p> <p>POTATO ROUNDS GREEN BEANS CHILLED PEARS CHOICE OF MILK</p>				



School Contact Information

We are looking forward to partnering with you the coming year for your child's education at PKMS. Below are individuals that you can contact if you have any questions:

Dr. Matthew Haug, Principal
(matthew.haug@central301.net)

Mrs. Alexandra Paszt, Assistant
Principal (alex.paszt@central301.net)

Mr. Brody Hamel, Athletic Director (brody.hamel@central301.net)

Mr. Charles Brooks, School Social Worker (charles.brooks@central301.net)

Mrs. Rose Simpson, School Social Worker (rose.simpson@central301.net)

Mrs. Lauren Sak, School Nurse (lauren.sak@central301.net)

