



# PRAIRIE KNOLLS FALCONS

225 Nesler Road, Elgin IL 60124 Phone: 847-717-8100 Fax: 847-717-8105  
Principal: Dr. Matthew Haug  
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Carrie Ahlstedt Assistant Principal: Mr. Matt Newquist

## November 21-22 Falcon Flyer

### Important Dates

**November 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Veteran's Day Activities

**November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band/Choir  
Concert 7:00

**November 18<sup>th</sup>**  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band/Choir  
Concert 7:00

**November 24-26**  
Thanksgiving Break

Digital Bulletin Board



7<sup>th</sup> Red Team ELA *Flight of the Puffin* by Ann Braden class project. Look for an article and more photos in the pages ahead.

# Dr. Haug's Message

From the Principal 11-01-21

November brings with it a definite change in the weather outside! As we move further into the winter months, we know that the comfortable weather days will leave, and colder rain and snow will eventually arrive. Traffic congestion is a challenge for us, and we have taken steps to address this challenge. Here are a few reminders that we ask our families to keep in mind in the front of the building during car rider drop-off and pick-up:

1. There will be congestion. Please be patient with one another, stay off your cell phones while driving, and drive slowly in the lots and on Nesler in front of school,
2. When dropping off or picking up, pull your car all the way forward around the circle before stopping to let the children out. We intentionally paved the entire circle drive so that more cars would fit, and more students could exit their vehicles at one time. This sidewalk will be cleared when the snow and ice come, so tell your children to dress appropriately so that they can walk around this circle into the school.
3. After dropping your child off, you can use the inside lane around the flagpole to exit the circle, allowing more cars to pull forward. Drive slowly!!
4. When you enter the parking lot, follow the cones, and drive all the way around the football lot. This allows us to bring more cars into our lot and relieves the congestion on Nesler Road.
5. At the end of the day, please follow the direction of the custodial staff as they line up cars in rows to remove the traffic congestion on Nesler and position vehicles for orderly pick up of students.
6. Once again, at the end of the day, please pull your vehicles all the way forward around the circle so that we can load more students. Stopping in front of the doors slows the dismissal process.
7. Do not drop-off, or pick-up, students in the bus lot. This space is for the arrival and parking of school vehicles and the presence of non-district vehicles could present a safety hazard for students.

Mid-way through Quarter 2 is also a good time for students to reassess their home learning behaviors and environments. 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.

Looking forward into the next five weeks, we are planning exciting activities to bring us back, more closely, to our typical school year. Our Veterans Day celebration will take place on November 11th, the 6th and 7th grade Band and Choir concerts will take place the week of November 15th, and Virus Day / Pentathlon is again slated for December 17th.

# Assistant Principal Mrs. Ahlstedt's Corner

Greetings Falcon Families,

Navigating middle school life can be difficult, especially when you're new to the building. Never fear - PKMS Student Ambassadors are here!



## What are Student Ambassadors?

Prairie Knolls Student Ambassadors are students who serve as role models to other students at PK and across the district. In addition, they assist students, families, and school staff across the school day and at special events.

## How are Ambassadors chosen?

At the beginning of the year, 6th grade teachers recommend current 7th grade students to be Ambassadors based on the character traits they've demonstrated as 6th graders.

Later in the year, additional 6th and 7th grade students may be recommended by their current teachers as teachers are better able to get to know their current students.

## What do Student Ambassadors do?

In addition to serving as a role model for what a PK Falcon is, Ambassadors have a few specific tasks they are responsible for:

- When a new student begins at PK, they will be matched with an ambassador who has a similar schedule. They will greet them on their 1st day, show them around the building, assist them with their locker, and help them get to their classes on their first day.
- Ambassadors serve as office runners throughout the day, checking in with the office at their assigned times to take items around the building to staff and/or students.
- Ambassadors attend events for parents and students when needed, to answer questions they may have and to assist with presentations.
- Ambassadors participate in fifth grade orientation in the Spring, assisting with answering students' questions and explaining how middle school works.



Congratulations to the 2021 initial group of PKMS Ambassadors and thank you for your service to our community!



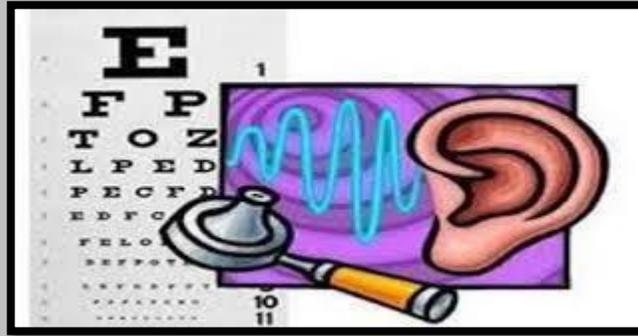
**2021-2022 Prairie Knolls Middle School Student Ambassadors**

Left to Right: Emmerson Falk, Gwyneth Falk, Caitlin Viglioti, Ashly Niecko, Sophia Kolzow, Sabina Chavez, Matthew Zierk, Cash Cumpta, not pictured Lucas Goff.



**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Red Team ELA Class Project**

# News from the Nurse



## Vision and Hearing Screening

In November and December, we will be conducting the vision and hearing screening of students as required by Illinois state law. Please be advised that “Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye exam and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months.” (Public Act 093-0504) The assessment of children who wear glasses will consist of a brief inspection of the glasses for obvious damage.

Mandated screenings are conducted on the following students:

- Vision: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

Students in all grades who are *new to the district*

Students in all grades *receiving special education services*

- Hearing: Kdg, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students

Students in all grades who are *new to the district*

Students in all grades *receiving special education services*

Any child whose parents or teacher has a concern and feels it is necessary, may also request an evaluation. Please contact Nurse Lauren with any questions or if you do not want your student screened.

# General News

## Need To Know-From the Front Office

**To pick up a student** you must complete the QR code by using your cellphone at the front entrance of the school. When completed, notify the office by pressing the button and we will call your child from class.

**To drop off a student** after the start of school, the student must complete the QR code by using their cellphone at the front entrance of the school. If the student does not have a phone, the student will push the button to have the office manually enter the required information. When completed the student will enter and receive a pass to class.

**Calling a student in absent:** Please note that parents are expected to call the main office to give a reason for any absence. Absences can be called in (24/7) before or after hours by calling, 847-717-8100 and follow the prompt to connect to the Attendance Voicemail. Be sure to leave your students first and last name, grade, and a detailed reason for the absence. If your child is feeling sick, please report the symptoms of the illness. This information will be recorded, and if appropriate, main office staff will follow up with you.

**Picking up a Student Early:** It is recommended that you send your student with a note stating the student's first and last name, grade, time of pickup and the reason for leaving early and to bring it to the office at the start of school. We will then make a copy for him/her to bring to his/her teacher. This will make the teacher aware he/she will be called from class. This is especially recommended if a student is being called from PE. If anyone other than a parent is picking him/her up, please note that as well.

## Veterans Day Celebration!

The Social Studies classes are looking ahead to Veteran's Day – Thursday, November 11, 2021.



## Contact Information

Below are individuals that you can contact if you have any questions:

Dr. Matthew Haug, Principal ([matthew.haug@central301.net](mailto:matthew.haug@central301.net))

Mrs. Carrie Ahlstedt, Assistant Principal ([carrie.ahlstedt@central301.net](mailto:carrie.ahlstedt@central301.net))

Mr. Matthew Newquist, Assistant Principal ([matt.newquist@central301.net](mailto:matt.newquist@central301.net))

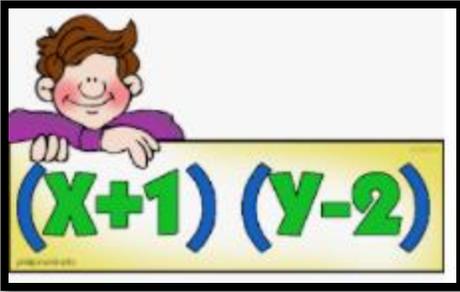
Mr. Brody Hamel, Athletic Director ([brody.hamel@central301.net](mailto:brody.hamel@central301.net))

Mr. Charles Brooks, School Social Worker ([charles.brooks@central301.net](mailto:charles.brooks@central301.net))

Mrs. Rose Simpson, School Social Worker ([rose.simpson@central301.net](mailto:rose.simpson@central301.net))

Mrs. Lauren Sak, School Nurse ([lauren.sak@central301.net](mailto:lauren.sak@central301.net))

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



**Math** - This quarter we will be starting our Algebra units with expressions and equations. Students will be introduced to variables, how to solve for expressions, and solving equations. These units will have a lot of new material for students to be introduced to!

**Science**- Have you ever wondered if the continents move? Well Alfred Wegener did...and so will your students. The concept of drifting continents was not widely accepted at first. But with modern technologies and evidence, scientists and your 6th grade professional geologists can confidently infer what has and is still happening to Earth's crust. Stand up at dinner one evening and try to feel if the Earth's crust is moving under your feet. You probably won't feel anything, so ask your 6th grade geologist to explain. Your geologist might even explain the "rock cycle", which has nothing to do with Van Halen or Journey but is an amazing story.



**SS**- The Athenians and Spartans know each other's differences but will have to pull together to battle the land hungry Persians in the Persian Wars. This hectic time in history will be followed by a peaceful Golden Age of Athens with Alexander the Great rising to the scene and building a powerful empire causing students to question and debate if he really was 'great'?

**ELA** -Students will be reading their choice of a nonfiction book: *Typhoid Mary*, *Amelia Lost*, *Blizzard of Glass*, *Trapped*, or *Candy Bomber*. Central idea, summary, and turning nonfiction into a narrative are just a few standards that we will be covering using these books. Be on the lookout for these awesome titles!



# 7th Grade Team News

**ELA-** Students in ELA class are continuing with our Determination unit. We will be starting our extended text for this unit, *Beanball*, by Gene Fehler. This is a verse novel that students will read in class, focusing on secondary characters and conflict. We will also be finishing our read aloud book and culminating with an in-class activity. After *Beanball* students will participate in Argument Writing lessons, leading up to their big Argument Essay where they will have the opportunity to choose their own topic to research and write about. This a lengthy process, but the essay is broken down into manageable pieces for students with multiple writing conferences with their teacher along the way.

**Math 7-**Students will be finishing up Unit 1 Rational Numbers in the first couple of weeks of October. We will be taking our first summative assessment at the end of the unit. We will begin Unit 2, Expressions. In this unit students will create equivalent expressions and algebraic expressions, solve multi step equations, use variables to create equations, graph and solve one step inequalities, and use equations to find unknown angle measures.

**Compacted Math-** In Compacted Math, we will be starting Unit 3: Solving Equations with Rational Numbers. This unit is a Pre-Algebra Unit. During Unit 3, students will be solving two-step and multi-step equations. In addition, students will be able to determine if a linear equation has one solution, no solutions, or infinitely many solutions. We will stress the importance of what a solution is and how to verify that a value is a solution.

**Science-** At the beginning of the month, students will study the kingdom fungi and what makes them different from plants. We will study their different characteristics and take a closer look at these fun fungi under the microscope. Next, we will be learning about the kingdom of plants. We will look at the question, “Why do leaves change colors in the fall?” which is perfect for this time of year. We will tie that into learning about photosynthesis. Students will be exploring the different characteristics of these organisms by looking at vascular and nonvascular plants, and plants that have seeds or are seedless. We will also discover the different ways seeds are dispersed throughout an ecosystem.

**Social Studies-** In SS, students are completing their study of the 13 Colonies, which will lead the class into the Revolutionary War unit. We’ll be learning about the setting in which the revolution began, and how that has led to certain aspects of our country today. We will continue with our read aloud, *Johnny Tremain*, in which a boy about the age of the students gets wrapped up in all of the events of the American Revolution in Boston (Boston Tea Party, Lexington and Concord, etc.). This will lead us into November, in which we will look more specifically at the core events that caused the colonies to declare independence, to start the Revolutionary War, and how all of that shaped our country.

# Falcon Athletics

## 2021 Fall Sports (Cross Country, Football, Volleyball)

Thanks to all of our athletes, coaches, and parents for a great Fall Season. The kids worked hard, and it paid off. Here is a list of how we did:

- **7th grade Football: NCJC Champions**
- **7th grade Volleyball: 2nd place**
- **Girls Cross Country: NCJC Champions**
- **Boys Cross Country: 3rd place**

Every team brought home some hardware. Way to go Falcons!!

## Winter 2 Sports (Wrestling, Scholastic Bowl, Girls Basketball)

Scholastic Bowl will conduct tryouts in November. Information will be sent home soon with instructions explaining how to register. Scholastic Bowl is a team consisting of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders

Wrestling is set to begin on Monday, November 29th. Registration information will be sent home during the first week of November. In order to Wrestle, students must register on 8to18 and have a current physical on file with the school.



Girls Basketball will conduct a two-day tryout on Tuesday, January 4th and Wednesday, January 5th. In order to try-out girls must register on 8to18 and have a current physical on file with the school. Information for Girls Basketball will come out in early December.



Spring Sports (Track and Field) The last school sport of the year is Track and Field. This is offered to 7th grade boys and girls. Track and Field typically starts in mid-March. More information to come!

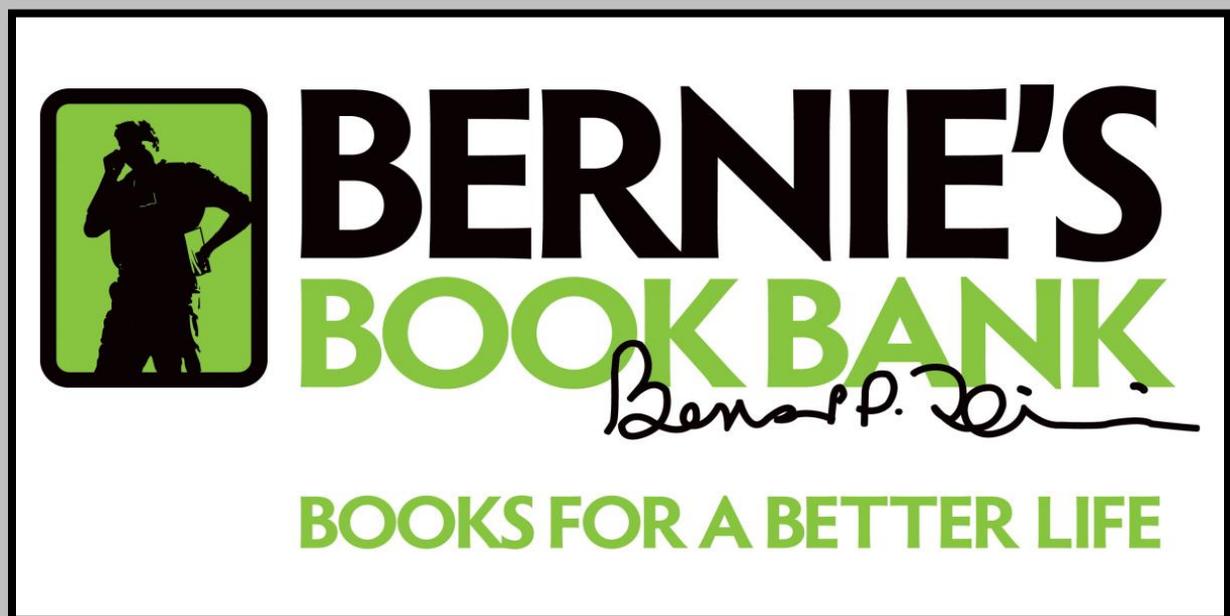


## Bernie's Book Bank Book Drive

**November 8 - 19, 2021**

Bernie's Book Bank sources, processes, and distributes quality new and gently used children's books to significantly increase book ownership among under-served infants, toddlers, and school-age children throughout Chicagoland. You can help by giving your children's books a second life! We will collect new and gently used children's books for birth through 6th grade readers, so clear those unused books and drop them off at school. Here is a little more about Bernie's Book Bank:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hk9buFEwyQ>





Calling all artists!

Please join the CMS/PKMS PTO for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Family Painting Party

When: Friday, Dec. 3rd

Where: Prairie Knolls cafeteria

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Fee: The PTO is covering a portion of the cost. Please see below for pricing.

We will be painting winter sleds. This event is for the parent to attend with their middle school student(s).

Any questions, please email Joy McElmury at [jjkmc3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jjkmc3@sbcglobal.net)

Please turn in the bottom portion of this form with payment to the student's first period teacher. Please mark envelope Attn: PTO Family Painting Party. All checks should be made out to District 301 Middle School PTO.

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#### Family Painting Party

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

1 large sled (18") & 3 mini sleds (8"x4") \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

2 large sleds (18") \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Space is limited, so be sure to sign up early. Deadline to register is Nov. 23rd! Late entries and walk-ins will not be accepted. Masks will be required.



# SAVE THE DATE

Central High School

Presents

*Third Annual  
Sleigh Bells Ring  
Extravaganza*



*Instrumental and Vocal Performances*

*Children's Craft Corner*

*Food Trucks*

*Sleigh Rides*

**December 11, 2021 - 1:00pm-8:00pm**

**Central High School - 44W625 Plato Road, Burlington, IL**

# LUNCH

November 1-30, 2021

## NOVEMBER 2021

Central Middle School, Prairie Knolls Middle School  
Lunch Menu

Prices \$0.40 Milk  
\$3.75 Adult / Teacher Lunch

| Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>1</b><br>CHICKEN TENDERS (3)<br>with Dinner Roll<br>BABY BAKERS<br>POTATOES<br>TENDER PEAS<br>FRESH APPLE<br>CHOICE OF MILK                                     | <b>2</b><br>HOT HAM'N<br>CHEESE SANDWICH<br>TENDER PEAS<br>FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS<br>with Ranch Dip<br>CHILLED PEACHES<br>CHOICE OF MILK             | <b>3</b><br>BEEF NACHOS<br>with Salsa<br>FIESTA BLACK BEANS<br>CARROTENIES<br>with Ranch Dip<br>JUICY ORANGE WEDGES<br>CHOICE OF MILK                     | <b>4</b><br>CHEESE PIZZA<br>MIXED GREENS SALAD<br>with Cherry Tomatoes<br>with Ranch Dressing<br>SEASONED CORN<br>CHILLED PEAS<br>CHOICE OF MILK                                       | <b>5</b><br>CORN DOGS<br>CRISPY TATER TOTS<br>GREEN BEANS<br>MIXED FRUIT CUP<br>CHOICE OF MILK  |
| <b>8</b><br>CHICKEN NUGGETS (6)<br>with Dinner Roll<br>SEASONED CORN<br>CAROTENIES w/DIP<br>CHILLED APPLE SAUCE<br>CHOICE OF MILK                                  | <b>9</b><br>HAMBURGER OR<br>CHEESEBURGER<br>ON A WIG BUN<br>BAKED VEGETARIAN BEANS<br>CELERY STICKS<br>w/Ranch Dip<br>CHILLED PEAS<br>CHOICE OF MILK | <b>10</b><br>ORANGE CHICKEN<br>over Brown Rice<br>FRESH BROCCOLI FLORETS<br>with Ranch Dip<br>ORIENTAL BLEND VEGGIES<br>CHILLED PEACHES<br>CHOICE OF MILK | <b>11</b><br>CHEESE PIZZA<br>MIXED GREENS SALAD<br>with Cherry Tomatoes<br>with Ranch Dressing<br>TENDER PEAS<br>MIXED FRUIT CUP<br>CHOICE OF MILK                                     | <b>12</b><br>MINI PANCAKES<br>and Maple Syrup Cup<br>w/ Chicken Sausage Patty<br>CHEESE STICK<br>TRI-POTATO PATTIE<br>GOLD RUSH JUICE BOX<br>FRESH APPLE SLICES<br>CHOICE OF MILK |
| <b>15</b><br>CHICKEN QUESADILLA<br>OR<br>CHEESE QUESADILLA<br>REFRIGERATED BEANS<br>SEASONED CORN<br>CHILLED PEACHES<br>CHOICE OF MILK                             | <b>16</b><br>BBQ RIB<br>ON A WIG BUN<br>GREEN BEANS<br>CARROTENIES w/DIP<br>PINEAPPLE TIDBITS<br>CHOICE OF MILK                                      | <b>17</b><br>CHEESE PIZZA<br>STEAMED BROCCOLI<br>CELERY STICKS w/DIP<br>APPLE SAUCE CUP<br>CHOICE OF MILK   | <b>18</b><br>ITALIAN MEATSAUCE<br>Over Pasta<br>FRESH GARDEN SALAD<br>with Cherry Tomatoes & Sliced<br>Cucumbers w/ Ranch Dressing<br>TENDER PEAS<br>MIXED FRUIT CUP<br>CHOICE OF MILK | <b>19</b><br>CHICKEN NUGGETS (6)<br>with Dinner Roll<br>OVEN FRENCH FRIES<br>COOKED CARROTS<br>FRESH APPLE<br>CHOICE OF MILK  |
| <b>22</b><br>BEEF HOT DOG<br>ON A WIG BUN<br>ASSORTED FRIES / TOTS<br>BAKED VEGETARIAN BEANS<br>CHILLED PEAS<br>CHOICE OF MILK                                     | <b>23</b><br>ASSORTED PIZZA<br>GREEN BEANS<br>CARROTENIES w/DIP<br>ORANGE WEDGES<br>CHOICE OF MILK   | <b>24</b><br>THANKSGIVING<br>VACATION<br>NO SCHOOL  | <b>25</b><br>THANKSGIVING<br>HOLIDAY<br>NO SCHOOL  | <b>26</b><br>THANKSGIVING<br>VACATION<br>NO SCHOOL  |
| <b>29</b><br>BREAKFAST SANDWICH<br>made with Sausage, Cheese<br>& Egg on Biscuit<br>TROPICAL TWIST JUICE<br>HASH BROWN PATTIE<br>MIXED FRUIT CUP<br>CHOICE OF MILK | <b>30</b><br>HAMBURGER OR<br>CHEESEBURGER<br>ON A WIG BUN<br>CRISPY TATOR TOTS<br>PEAS n' CARROTS<br>CHILLED APPLE SAUCE<br>CHOICE OF MILK           | CHOICE OF MILK: 1% LOW-FAT UNFLAVORED<br>FAT FREE CHOCOLATE   |  |   |

Happy Thanksgiving

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
WITHOUT NOTICE

BUY SCHOOL  
BUCKS  
PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE  
MySchoolBucks.com

