



PANTHER PRESS

Learning, Growing, Succeeding ... Together!

September 2009

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Prairie Point Elementary

630-636-3600

3650 Grove Road
Oswego, IL 60543
F: 630-636-3612

www.oswego308.org/schools/prairiepoint/

Attendance Line **630-636-3601**

Principal **630-636-3610**

Heidi Podjasek

hpodjasek@oswego308.org

Assistant Principal **630-636-3611**

Katy Schafermeyer

KSchafermeyer@oswego308.org

School Nurse **630-636-3602**

Melonie Mateja

mmateja0614@oswego308.org

Transportation **630-636-2999**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day—NO SCHOOL
- 10 School Improvement Day—1:40 dismissal
- 11 School Picture Day
- 14 Home & School Meeting @ 6:45 pm
- 15 Market Day Pick up / 6:00-7:00 pm
- 17 Curriculum Night / 6:30-8:00 pm
- 29 Volunteer/Room Parent/Great Art Meeting @ 6:30 pm

OCTOBER

- 6 School Improvement Day--1:40 pm dismissal
- 12 Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL
- 13 Market Day Pick up / 6:00-7:00 pm
- 19 Home & School Meeting @ 6:45 pm
- 22 Family Reading Night
- 29 Halloween Room Parties
- 29 Teacher Institute—NO SCHOOL

From the Principal's Desk ...

Welcome back to another school year! Although it's only been a little over a week, things are really busy here at Prairie Point. I'd like to thank the Preview Night Committee through Home and School for their hard work in making "Paradise at Prairie Point" a success. What a great way to kick off 2009-2010!

I'd like to thank all of our parents for helping to work through the new procedures at arrival and dismissal. While I know we've experienced bumps in the road, it's important to recognize the efforts being made to make things safer for students at these two critical times of the day. Thank you for your continued effort and patience as we solidify our procedures.

Unfortunately, at this time I need to ask for your help in a pretty serious matter. Throughout the summer, Prairie Point had many instances of vandalism. Two fires were set in our recycling bin, parking lot lights were shot out and glass left shattered in the parking lot, graffiti appeared on the playground regularly, and decals added to our doors to provide information to parents were torn off. Please help us keep Prairie Point safe and beautiful for our students. Several of the instances from this summer have resulted in open police investigations. Please let them know if you have any information related to these acts. Be aware if you are on the playground after hours, or walking through Prairie Point's property. If you notice anything that doesn't seem right, please contact the authorities, or contact us in the office. Thank you for your help. This is a matter that we need the effort of all of Prairie Point's Community to help resolve.

Finally, I'd like to invite you to give feedback about your Prairie Point experience. If you have not already done so, please visit our website at <http://www.oswego308.org/schools/prairiepoint/> and click on the link for our short Parent Survey. This feedback is important to us!

If there's anything I can do to assist you throughout the 2009-2010 school year, please don't hesitate to call me at 630/636-3610 or email hpodjasek@oswego308.org. We're looking forward to 2009-2010 being our best year yet!

Sincerely,
Heidi Podjasek
Principal

'What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.'

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



REMEMBER!! SIGN UP FOR COMMUNICATE 308

... Make sure you receive important communications from both Prairie Point and District 308

www.oswego308.org

Through Communicate 308, news updates will be e-mailed to subscribers from the district and/or specific schools. For many, this is the easiest way to stay informed about what is happening in the Oswego 308 schools.

Individuals interested in receiving e-mail updates from the district and/or individual schools are urged to subscribe to this service. To register, simply enter an e-mail address in the space provided under the Communicate 308 logo (located in the upper right-hand corner of all District 308 Web pages) and click "send". You will be directed to the sign-up page where you enter your name, e-mail format preference, and choose the district and/or specific schools from which you would like to receive information. Once you click 'send' you will receive a message that your subscription was successful.

The former system, **Parent Connect**, will no longer be used by the district. Individuals who subscribed to **Parent Connect**, and still wish to receive District 308/school updates, must re-register under the new system.



WELCOME BACK!

We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to an exciting 2009-2010 school year! We would also like to say WELCOME to our new kindergarten and families at Prairie Point!

CHECK IT OUT

<http://www.oswego.lib.il.us/>

<http://ed.fnal.gov/>

<http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/forkids/>

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/geography.htm>

<http://www.multiplication.com/index.html>



WELCOME FROM THE HOME & SCHOOL PRESIDENT

Welcome Back Prairie Point Families and Staff!! While we begin another exciting year at Prairie Point with Home and School, some of our committees and board members have been working very hard over the summer to bring another fun and educational school year. Watch the newsletter for all of our upcoming events, activities, and Fall Fundraiser information.

Thank you to Kristie Vest and Chris Wiencek for an awesome Preview Prairie Point night. It truly was a Paradise Picnic at Prairie Point! Thank you for such a fun night of getting to know our staff and reacquainted with our school and families.

I would like to welcome you all to join us for our **first Home & School meeting on Monday, September 14**. The meeting begins **at 6:45pm** and is typically an hour or less. Our H&S mission is to continue the dedication to the enhancement of the H&S community to build our children's academic, social and emotional potential. We support and enhance the standards of quality that strictly benefit our children.

We have quite a few Prairie Point families helping us plan a great year. If you are interested in volunteering for a committee or helping out somewhere, our H&S meeting is the first opportunity you will have to sign up as a volunteer. Sign up is a first come first serve basis.

Thank you to the new executive H&S board and Dr. Podjasek for all of their time and talent over the summer. You all are an exceptional group of volunteers and I look forward to working with you all year long.

Welcome back to school!

Andri Noesges

Home & School President



Home & School Executive Board

President:	Andri Noesges
Vice President:	Caroline Griffin
Treasurer:	Moses Arenas
Recording Secretary:	Pat Zander
Corresponding Secretary:	Julia Michels
E-Mail:	prairiepointhomeandschool@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE AND ROOM PARENT & GREAT ART MEETINGS

Home & School and Prairie Point Administrators will host our first annual **Volunteer Open House on Tuesday, September 29**. Please join us **at 6:30pm in the gymnasium** to sign up for all of your volunteering opportunities. Sign-up sheets will be located in the gym. After the Volunteer Open House, we will hold our annual H&S Room Parent and Great Art information meetings. The Great Art meeting will take place in the Community Room. Great Art is an easy and fun way to volunteer in the classroom. Fun and simple presentations of great works of art and the students look forward to the "picture" person each month. If you have any questions about the Volunteer Open House please contact Andri Noesges at (630) 880-6973. Volunteer sign up will be first come first serve.



Welcome Back! I hope the summer has left you craving all your Market Day favorites. What a great way to enjoy delicious food and give back to your school all at the same time.

The month of September offers us a free car organizer with purchase of any 3 items from page 7 on the order guide. Don't forget you can place your own order at www.marketday.com and take advantage of additional promotions.

Market Day is always looking for volunteers! Volunteers are needed on pick-up nights to help sort and distribute the Market Day products. Our pick up nights are always on Tuesdays once a month. Volunteers need to be at Prairie Point by 5:00pm and are usually done by 6:30. If you would like to volunteer it's a great way to meet new people and help out your school. Another easy way to volunteer your time is to help make reminder calls each month from home – it typically only takes 10 -15 minutes of your time.

Our next pick up night is **Tuesday, September 15th from 6:00 – 7:00 pm** in the Community Room. Submit your Market Day forms by September 9th; online orders due by September 11th. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Jennifer Smith at vern.smith@sbcglobal.net.

Jennifer Smith
Market Day Chair



BOX TOPS/CAMPBELLS/TYSON

Welcome back Prairie Point Families! Our 2009-2010 school year is going to be successful once again with your help. Last year we earned close to \$2,000.00 from our Box Tops Program, submitted almost 9,000 points to our Campbell's account and earned \$89.52 from the Tyson Program.

This year our goals are as follows:

Box Tops: \$2,218.00
Campbell's: 10,000 points
Tyson: \$130.00

For a list of the participating products for each program please utilize the following websites:

www.boxtops4education.com

www.labelsforeducation.com

www.ProjectAPlus.tyson.com

Please call me at 630-551-0733 with any questions or if you would like to volunteer. Volunteers are asked to collect box tops and labels from their assigned grade level classrooms three times a year, trim, sort, count and bundle from home and deliver to me by our deadlines.

Thanks,
Renee' Hanna
Committee Co-Chair

"Keep on clippin"

REMINDER: Campbell's ONLY accepts UPC Labels from their soup products.



YOU CAN HELP PRAIRIE POINT ALL YEAR!

Did you know that when you use your Target Credit Card, Target will donate up to 1% of all your total purchases to Prairie Point?

If you already have a Target credit card, visit www.Target.com/tcoe to sign up for the "Take Charge of Education Program." Once you are signed up and select Prairie Point as your school of choice, up to 1% of your purchases will go directly to Prairie Point. If you would like to apply for a credit card, visit a Target store.

<https://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-005158>

School ID:122642

COMMITTEE CHAIR/CO-CHAIR OPENINGS

We are still looking for volunteers to co-chair our Prairie Point Teacher & Staff Appreciation committee as well as Field Day for Grades 1-5 committee.

Teacher appreciation committee has the fun job of planning, organizing, and executing goodies for the PPT teachers and staff. Examples of those days are Welcome Back to School kickoff, Nurses Day, Administrative Assistant's Day, and Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

Field Day for Grades 1-5 co-chairs will work with Mrs. Warren, our P.E. teacher to plan a great day of Olympic type events for all the Prairie Point students in grades 1-5.

If you would like to co-chair one of these committees, please contact Andri Noesges at (630) 880-6973 or alnoesges_308@yahoo.com.

PRAIRIE POINT SPIRIT WEAR

If you are new to Prairie Point and want to show your school spirit, limited Prairie Point spirit wear will be available for purchase at our first H&S meeting on Monday, Sept 14, and Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 17.

Our new Prairie Point samples and order forms will be available about mid-September. Look for exciting new items for the students to show their Prairie Point Spirit. Grade level t-shirts will be available early this year. By the end of the school year, we will know which grade level has shown the most school spirit. Who knows maybe we will have a "traveling trophy" for the winning grade level.

**FALL FUNDRAISER**

Our biggest fundraiser of the year will be held **Friday, October 16**. This amazing fun filled magical night will be from **6:30 to 8:30 pm in the gymnasium**. Look for fundraiser information to be sent home in backpacks. It is sure to be a winner with all PPT families this year!!

COOKING TIPS AND TRICKS

The next time you decide that you would like to make fresh orange juice in the morning for your kids, these tips will help you get the most out of those oranges.

First, when buying oranges the smaller ones are generally sweeter. Look for those that feel heavy for their size, and check their scent for a sweet, pleasant odor.

Another helpful hint is to allow an orange to warm at room temperature to get more juice out of it! If you have any helpful cooking tips or tricks we would love to hear them. Until next time, may your glass always be half full!



Ciao!

Lisa Ladewski

Newsletter Co-Chair

REMINDER: Please submit your articles for the **OCTOBER PANTHER PRESS** by **5:00 pm on SEPTEMBER 18** to: pptpantherpress@yahoo.com.

We look forward to receiving grade level news, staff news, classroom notes, club and committee news, and Scout news!

Kathy Mensing
Newsletter Chair

Changes in Dismissal Transportation

If your child is going home a different way than usual, it is required that you contact the school. A note in your child's backpack is the best way to notify us if you are making a change to your child's dismissal plan. Please provide us with a note that includes the child's full name, as well as the teacher's name and grade level. If your child is going home with someone else on a bus, a note is required from the parents of both children. We will be giving these notes to the bus driver. Please also include your contact information in case we need to call you with a question.

You can write a note, or use the form below. If your plan changes often, you might want to print out several copies and have them on hand.

Change in Daily Transportation	
Date	_____
Student's Name	_____
<small>(Please include first and last name)</small>	
Grade and Teacher Name	_____
Change in transportation	_____
<small>(please let us know how dismissal plan is changing)</small>	
Parent Signature	_____
Phone #	_____



Wanted: Committee Members

Concerned about overcrowding at the high school level? Want to assist the district in developing a solution? Then consider completing an application to serve on the Superintendent's Advisory Committee for Overcrowding Management and Facilities.

The committee is being formed to determine an educationally sound, short-term alternative educational setting to manage overcrowding at the high school level until the completion of a third high school; as well as determine a strategy to further utilize current district facilities to maximize educational opportunities for District 308's students, families and community.

This advisory committee will be comprised of 20 members including two junior high school students, two high school students and 10 residents representing various areas of the district. Of these residents, representation is desired from parents of District 308 students currently in grades 4-7 as well as residents without children currently attending a

Visit www.oswego308.org/dm.aspx to view fliers from these not-for-profit organizations:

- America's Soccer Club (PreK-7th)
- ATL Sports (basketball & cheerleading K-6)
- Aurora Public Library Mock ACT/SAT Tests
- Little White School Museum Activities (K-8)
- Oswegoland Park District Programs (K-12)
- Wheatland Athletic Association (basketball K-12 & soccer PreK-8)

District 308 school. Experience/knowledge in one or more of the following areas is preferred:

- Regional or community planning
- Alternative (non-traditional) educational settings
- Social/emotional adolescent characteristics

Details and an application are available on the district Web site www.oswego308.org or call 630.636.3084.

Board places the district's tentative 2009-10 budget on display

Members of the public who want to review the district's tentative 2009-10 budget will have a month to do so. The Board of Education placed the budget on display at the District Administration Center (4175 Route 71, Oswego) and Oswego Public Library (Montgomery). It is also available on the district Web site (www.oswego308.org/about/finance_a.aspx). A public hearing and final adoption of the budget has been

	Revenue FY 2010	Expense FY 2010
Education	\$ 108,223,204	\$ 110,737,364
Operation & Maintenance	15,502,015	15,502,015
Transportation	10,355,209	10,355,209
IMRF/FICA	3,873,513	3,873,513
Working Cash	248,867	248,867
Subtotal Operating Funds	\$ 138,193,941	\$ 140,708,101
Debt Service Fund	21,028,405	24,434,638
Capital Projects Fund	1,680,998	33,011,636
Total All Funds	\$ 160,903,344	\$ 198,154,375

scheduled for 7 p.m. on September 28 in the Oswego East High School Community Room.

The proposed budget expenditures in the operating fund remain in flux due to ongoing negotiations with two union associations (Oswego Education Association and Oswego Custodial/Maintenance Association).

Board of Education changes its committee meeting format

In order to improve communication between the Board of Education and its committees, a new Committee of the Whole meeting format is being implemented in District 308 this September.

The new format will divide the informational agenda items and action items between two meeting dates. During the months in which only one Board meeting is scheduled—December, March and July—the Board will address action items.

At 6 p.m. prior to the informational Board meetings (typically the second Monday of the month), Board members will convene as a Committee of the Whole, dedicating an hour-and-a-half to meetings of three of the Board's five standing committees (Finance, Curriculum, and Growth). The Board's Policy and Personnel Committees will meet on an

as-needed basis. At 7:35 p.m. the Board meeting will be called to order following a shortened agenda that will include public comment, notifications and information or discussion items. Approval of emergency action items and/or a closed session will be added to the agenda if necessary.

“The Committee of the Whole approach will help avoid the issue of some Board members having more knowledge regarding certain issues before other members or reading about a committee discussion in the press before having the facts first hand,” said Superintendent Dr. Dan O'Donnell.

The second Board meeting of the month will convene at 7 p.m. and be committed to items requiring formal Board approval.

During its July & August meetings, the District 308 Board of Education:

- Placed the tentative 2009-10 District 308 budget on display and set a public hearing and final adoption for September 28, 2009.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Kendall County Special Education Cooperative for the use of space at the Oswego 308 Center.
- Approved five resolutions allowing the district to refinance a portion of its debt so it can maintain a 5.06 tax rate.
- Authorized the hiring of 4.5 special education teachers, two special education teaching assistants and three custodians with salaries being funded through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- Approved Tim Neubauer as Executive Director of Finance Services and District 308 Treasurer and Angela Smith as Finance Manager for the district.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 14 | BOE Committee of the Whole
6:00 p.m. / Oswego East H.S. |
| | Board of Education Meeting
7:35 p.m. / Oswego East H.S. |
| Sept. 22 | Oswego Parent Advisory Council
7:00 p.m. / District Admin Center |
| Sept. 28 | Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m. / Oswego East H.S. |

Click the BoardDocs link on www.oswego308.org to access additional meeting information.



September

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

5

Girl's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

*Labor Day
District Closed*

Boy's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

Girl's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

5 hr. Attendance Day
*1:40 pm Dismissal
AM Kind. 8:40-10:40
PM Kind. 11:40-1:40*

*School
Pictures*

*OHS
Curriculum Night*

*Hunt Club
Curriculum Night*

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Girl's Sports
3:30 – 4:40
*Home & School
6:45pm
School Board Mtg
7pm @OEHS
Southbury
Curriculum Night*

Boy's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

Girl's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

Boy's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

*Prairie Point
Curriculum Night
6:30 – 8pm*

Market Day
Pick-Up 6-7pm

*Traugher
Curriculum Night*

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Girl's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

Boy's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

Girl's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

Boy's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

27

28

29

30

Girl's Sports
3:30 – 4:40
Young Rembrandts
3:30 – 4:30
*School Board Mtg
7pm @OEHS*

Boy's Sports
3:30 – 4:40
Volunteer/Room
Parent/Great Art Mtg
6:30 pm

Girl's Sports
3:30 – 4:40

2009