

# Parkers Prairie Elementary Newsletter

## February 2010



### February – I LOVE to READ month

This month I took on the challenge of reading with every child in kindergarten through sixth grade. This started out as a challenge for me - to learn more names, and to see what students at Parkers Prairie Elementary were interested in reading about. Not to mention, the sure magnitude of scheduling all of that time.

It has turned into such a gift for me! Your children are amazing readers. They take such pride in their work, have such varied interests, and think so deeply about what they are reading. I appreciate this special time with students, and want all of you parents to know I cherished every minute.

### Handbook Highlight

Our elementary handbook can be accessed on our district website. [www.isd547.com](http://www.isd547.com)

As a district we have an attendance policy that was developed cooperatively with Otter Tail County. This year we started a new practice of keeping parents informed about their child's attendance. We have done this because absences can add up, and it is easy to lose track of the overall picture.

We appreciate the cooperation to have healthy children in school, and the support that is provided to teach children the importance of attendance.

### Thoughts for Winter

With our unexpected fire drills this winter it has been nice to have access to Instant Alert to keep families informed about what is going on at school.

We have also used Instant Alert to notify families of school closings, delays, or early dismissals due to weather.

To update your families profile please go to our district website and click on the icon for Instant Alert.

### Parent Resource

Reading Aloud – “I always stumble because I read too fast.” “I’m afraid my child won’t listen to me.” I was laughed at when I read aloud at school.”

Do you have worries like these when you read aloud? You’re not alone. Many parents avoid reading aloud to their kids. However, reading aloud is one of the best ways to help your child(ren) succeed in school. Keep these tips in mind:

- Everybody makes mistakes. If you make mistakes when reading aloud your child will learn that it’s okay for him/her to do so too.
- Practice makes perfect. When reading with younger children find a book you like, or with older kids find a news piece you want to discuss as a family and read it aloud by yourself until you feel comfortable.
- Involve your child(ren) in the story – have your youngest children turn the pages, or early readers read one line and you take the next, or experienced readers take turns at a chapter.
- Take your time and don’t rush the story. Children can tell when we are in a hurry. Reading more slowly also helps you to read clearly.
- As you feel more comfortable find ways to keep the reading exciting for yourself and your child(ren) – change your voice to show character’s feelings.
- Use questioning to have your child be actively involved like, “What will happen next?” or “Why do you think she did that?”
- Remember that you are helping your child(ren) learn to enjoy reading. Try different types of reading materials such as comic strips, poetry, magazines from high interest areas.

### A Special Thank You

A big thanks to all of the families that attended our Beans and Bingo night. It is so fun to have the building full and get to see the students interacting with their parents.

We have a great team of teachers that worked hard to make the evening successful.