

September 2004, Principal's Message

It seems that just yesterday was the start of summer break, and here we are at the start of the "new year." On behalf of the faculty, let me state that everyone is excited and eager to be back with the children again. The beginning of the school year is also an appropriate time to provide an update on some of the improvements that will be occurring at Prairie School.

Thanks to funding provided by the Prairie Home & School, the Art Room and Music Room will be equipped with ceiling mounted LCD projectors and Elmo document cameras. The same tools are already being used for instruction in all of the classrooms at grades 2 through 5. Funding for technology, provided by the School District, will allow each of the first grade classrooms and the special education classes to be equipped with LCD projectors and Elmo document cameras. It is anticipated that this will occur during the first trimester. Also, students in fifth grade will have the opportunity to utilize wireless laptops in their classrooms. Fifteen wireless laptops have been added to Prairie's inventory to replace outdated equipment. The teachers will be working with Prairie's Technology Integration Specialist, Jackie Rouse, to maximize the use of these new tools.

New coat racks for student use will be installed at grades K, 1, 2, 3. Hopefully this will have been accomplished by the time you receive this newsletter. As a result the students will have more space in the hallways and there will be less congestion as the children place their backpacks and outerwear at their assigned locations.

In addition to reading the monthly newsletter there are two web sites that are excellent sources of information. You may want to add them to your Favorites on your computer. The District web site is www.ncusd203.org and Prairie's website can be accessed from there. Or you can get to it directly at www.ncusd203.org/prairie. Another electronic resource is **Talk203**. It is a self-subscribing e-mail system which allows District 203 administrators to communicate directly and quickly with subscribers. If you have not had the opportunity to subscribe yet, you are encouraged to consider enrolling by simply visiting the District's web site or Prairie's web site. Look for the Talk203 registration box provided to begin the process.

There are two upcoming events that are being sponsored by the city of Naperville in conjunction with District 203. September 15th is designated as "Ready, Set, Relax Day" by the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce. It will give us an opportunity to examine the balance of work, play, personal, and family time that we all try to achieve. October 6th is "International Walk to School Day" to promote walking or biking to school. Additional information is available at www.walktoschool.org or by contacting Kathy Rendek at the City of Naperville at (630) 420-6709.

A copy of the *Safe Route Walk Map* can be located on the District web site. Click "Site Map" then at the Schools column scroll all the way down to "Maps." At this point select the school map for Prairie.

A final note...Mrs. Judy Frankland deserves thanks for designing and creating the display on the front bulletin board to welcome the students back to school.

Looking forward to visiting with you at the annual Ice Cream Social on the evening of Thursday, September 23.

Mary-Ann Porter