

PRAIRIE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Winter 2022 Update

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- Now That's A Big Check!
- Alumni Email Signup
- Master Minds Trivia Results
- Pride of Prairie Award Recipient
- Thank You Donors



Prairie Fest 2023 - Slumber Party!

Thanksgiving has passed and Holiday shopping has already begun! As you ponder your shopping, we thought you should know that our annual Prairie Fest, the Prairie School Foundation's major fundraising event, is scheduled for March 25, 2023. Why bring that up now? Well, our theme is Slumber Party and we'll be "Jammin in our Jammies."

Tickets will go on sale in January but we thought you might want to add new Jammies to your Holiday shopping list. We really don't care whether your jammies are old or new, just come and have fun at our Slumber Party.

Big Check Presentation Homecoming Game 2022

Members of the Prairie School Foundation's board of directors gathered together again this year to present its annual Big Check to Superintendent Doug Wheeler. The check was presented during halftime of the Homecoming football game. It represented \$73,215.00 that has been earmarked for the enhancement of the excellent educational opportunities in the Prairie schools for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The Foundation provides funding for essential items that are simply not available from the regular school budget. When the board of directors receives requests for funding they ask: Is the request directly related to education, will the funds benefit a large number of Prairie students, and will the requested funds have a long term positive effect in the classroom?



Do you want to be added to our Prairie Alumni Newsletter for the latest updates on alumni happenings? If so, please email: psfalumni@crprairie.org

Prairie Hawk Master Minds 2022

The foundation hosted its second annual trivia night, Prairie Hawk Master Minds, in October at the Swisher American Legion Hall. This year we were able to meet in person as opposed to last year's virtual gathering. The event was hosted again this year by Dan Deibert with HIPTRIVA. Dan's professional delivery of the questions on a big screen, with entertaining background music and some fun banter with the teams throughout the competition, made for a very fun and sometimes a little crazy evening.

"Team Terracon" won first place in the evening's competition. Terracon Consultants was one of our event sponsors.

Second place was brought home by "Team Smartini", coached by Kerry Kilker, Community Engagement Specialist for the College Community School District.

Taking 3rd Place was "Enter Team Name", sponsored by T&K Roofing and Sheet Metal.

We thank all of the sponsors and participants for this very entertaining event. The net proceeds from the evening will be added to the Foundation's Kids Fund.



Master Minds Trivia 2022 Winners: Team Terracon

Pride of Prairie Award Winner

The Pride of Prairie Award is given to those who have demonstrated loyal commitment and service to the Prairie Schools. The first award was presented in 1985. The 37th winner of this prestigious award is Kendra Hanzlik.

Kendra has supported Prairie in many ways. She has been dedicated to helping with the Prairie Cares Food Pantry each week through the distribution of food, clothing, and hygiene items within our Prairie community.

She also worked with those displaced during the flood of 2008 and helped serve meals during the COVID shutdown period. Last summer, Kendra headed up the Prairie Flight School that provided summer learning opportunities for students from Kindergarten-6th Grade.

Kendra joins her extended family in volunteering at Prairie. Her late father, Kenneth, was a long-time volunteer strength coach for the Prairie Hawks Football team. The family created a fund in his memory to benefit Prairie athletes when he passed away. Congratulations to Kendra for her outstanding service to Prairie as a teaching professional and volunteer!



Back Row, Left to Right: PSF Vice President Tyler Tjelmeland, Chris Carter, Britton Carter, Gary Trimpe
Front Row, Left to Right: PSF President Julie Kelly-Molander, Kendra Hanzlik, Judy Trimpe, Pat Hanzlik

Thank You Donors

The primary function of the Prairie School Foundation is raising funds to enhance the education of our Prairie Kids. Our mission statement is "Collaborating for Excellence in Education". We always appreciate the opportunity to thank our donors. One way we do that is recognizing outstanding donors at our annual Prairie Foundation Society Breakfast.

This year we celebrated grants from Cargill totaling \$150,000 to help launch Prairie's Agricultural Education and FFA Program. Patrick Duerksen, a Strategic Marketing Lead at Cargill and Prairie Parent, accepted the award on behalf of Cargill.

We also recognize significant gifts from an individual or couple. Chuck Peters received this year's award for his support of students at Prairie Point. He funded two years of Word Flight, a tool to identify students who need to improve their proficiency in reading.

All gifts, whether large or small, are greatly appreciated by the foundation as we help to fund equipment, materials, and programs for Prairie's classrooms.



Pictured Left to Right: Laura Brecht (Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor), Belle Netolicky (FFA Treasurer), PSF Vice President Tyler Tjelmeland, Patrick Duerksen (Cargill Representative), PSF President Julie Kelly-Molander, Will Vlasek (FFA President), Mitch Mahoney (FFA Sentinel)

Collaborating for Sustained Excellence in Education

While 2022 draws to a close, it is only natural to think of the many challenges that individuals, families, and organizations have faced this year. In spite of these challenges, many of you have shown your appreciation for the Prairie School Foundation through your financial support. We are especially grateful for that during this holiday season. If you haven't made a gift yet this calendar year we hope you will consider the foundation in your yearend giving. Your dollars help us further enhance the educational experience of our Prairie Students! You will find a link [here](#) to our online giving tool or if you prefer, simply mail your check to the address shown below. Your investment in education today will pay dividends in our community's future.

Prairie School Foundation, 401 76th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.



Our Contact Information

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