

*Prairie Press*

Mr. Tyler Broders - Principal  
Mrs. Kathie Fiorillo - Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Jen Young - Secretary  
Mrs. Janice Dwyer - Secretary

Dr. Lori Motsch  
Superintendent

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

During this season of giving and thanks, we reflect on all of the things for which we are grateful. We are thankful for the students who are smiling and prepared to do their best each day. We are thankful for the parents who make those home sacrifices that prepare our students for learning. We are thankful for the teachers who dedicate time and energy to excellent instruction and to the creation of a positive learning environment. We are thankful for the staff, who handle all those small details that keep our school running smoothly for students and teachers. We are also thankful for the New Lenox community that continues to support the needs of our children. May you find things to be thankful for during this holiday season.

*Happy Holidays,*  
Mr. Tyler Broders, Principal  
Mrs. Kathie Fiorillo, Assistant Principal



*December Important Dates*

1 - Spanish Quest, 3:40-4:40 p.m.  
3 - Future Warrior Day - Wear your black and orange  
3 - PTO Pie Sales end  
7 - Young Rembrandts, 3:40-4:45 p.m.  
8 - Spanish Quest, 3:40-4:40 p.m.  
9 & 10 - Nelson Prairie Book Fair  
13 - PTO Dine & Donate - Raffy's Candy Store

*December Important Dates*

14 - Young Rembrandts, 3:40-4:45 p.m.  
14 - School Board meeting at District Office, 6:00p.m.  
15 - Spanish Quest, 3:40-4:40 p.m.  
16 - PTO Meeting at Martino Jr. High, 7:30 p.m.  
17 - Wear your festive, winter or holiday sweater today!  
20 - 1/3/22 Winter Break

*January Important Dates*

1/4- Classes resume



## **NELSON PRAIRIE MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Nelson Prairie School is to prepare all learners with the skills needed to become successful citizens of their community. We will provide our students with a positive learning environment that will enrich the development of each child's social, emotional, and academic growth.



### ~ "Nosy" News from the Nurse ~

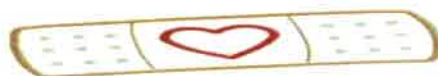
Winter is upon us and the heated indoor air can be the source of winter nosebleeds as the heated air may dry out nasal passages and make tiny blood vessels more fragile. Here are a few suggestions to help curb those nosebleeds:

- Use a saline nasal spray, saline nose drops or saline gel two or three times a day.
- Place a small amount of antibiotic ointment or petroleum jelly on the end of a cotton swab and gently insert the cotton tip into your child's nostril and apply it to the center wall of their nose. Using a fingertip to apply the ointment also works.
- Place a humidifier in your child's bedroom. Humidifiers send a fine mist of water into the air and this keeps the air from being too dry. When the air is damp, their nose is less likely to feel dry inside.

If nosebleeds are frequent and severe, contact your pediatrician.



If your child received a Covid-19 vaccine, please send documentation to the office once your child is fully vaccinated. Thank you!

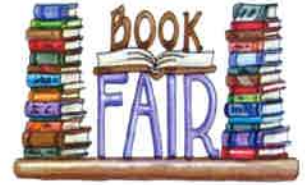


To find free COVID-19 vaccines near you:  
[Go to vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov)

## Lines from the LRC

December brings lots of fun activities to our library, beginning with our Two Day Book Fair. Students will be watching a short video the week of November 29th. This video will highlight some of the books that will be at our fair. Students will be bringing home a flier of books and a schedule with their shopping time after their library day that week.

Our Two Day Fair is scheduled for Thursday, December 9th and Friday, December 10th. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions we are unable to invite family members into the school to shop with students during the school day. If you would like your child to be able to purchase items from our fair please send cash or check, made out to Nelson Prairie School and a note in the memo line with a spending limit, in an envelope on December 9th and 10th.



As always if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, [clasak@nlsd122.org](mailto:clasak@nlsd122.org).

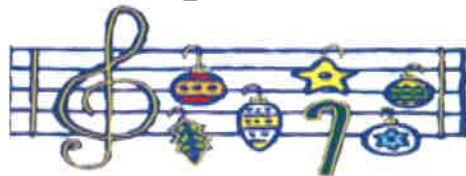
Happy Reading,  
Mrs. Lasak

## “NOTE” WORTHY NEWS FROM THE PRAIRIE MUSIC ROOM Ms. Bendy’s Music Class

It is amazing to see the great strides the students have made since the beginning of the school year. Students are moving to the steady beat, listening, and playing in an ensemble, and singing together!

Students are reviewing basic notation for quarter notes, quarter rests, and eighth notes. These note values are being reinforced with instrument playing and singing. We will be working on holiday songs such as: Whacky Old St. Nick, The Nutcracker March, Trepak, Sleigh Ride, and Carol of the Bells.

**Ms. Bendy**  
**Nelson Campus Music Teacher**



## Preschool Screenings

New Lenox School District will be screening children from ages three to five in the areas of motor, cognitive, and speech/language development. Early childhood educators will present "game like" activities to your child which assess various development skills. All preschoolers who reside in our district are eligible to attend free of charge. This is a preschool screening, *not* a kindergarten readiness screening. This year the screenings will be held at Cherry Hill Elementary and Early Childhood Center.

### 2022 Screening Dates

March 11th      May 6th

Call Cherry Hill School at 815-462-7831 to schedule an appointment.

## ACES

Our district is partnering with the New Lenox Park District ACES program. This program takes place at Nelson Prairie School to provide before and after school care. For more information, call 815-485-1737 or [www.newlenoxparks.org](http://www.newlenoxparks.org). Click on "Child Care" and then click on "ACES Powerplay! Before & After School Program."



❄️  
Happy Holidays!  
❄️

## PTO 5K Run/Walk



At every stage of life, mental health is important. It impacts our ability to handle stress and our overall feeling of well-being. Come out for a day to support your mental health and our community at our **5K for Mental Health and Wellness** 🌟 on Saturday, 5/21! **Register by 11/26 for our Black Friday rates!** 📱 Not up for 5k? Join one of our free fitness classes we'll host throughout the day! Learn about ways our community supports mental health by visiting one of the many wellness-promoting businesses at the Wellness Fair. Visit [bit.ly/5kNewLenox](http://bit.ly/5kNewLenox) to learn more and register.

This non-profit event is presented by the New Lenox School District 122 Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and Wellness Committee. All proceeds and donations will be evenly presented to 2 nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Will-Grundy and NLS122 PTO.

# The School Social Work Spotlight

First Grade will be learning about the character trait/pillar of responsibility. The students will hear the story, *Sometimes I Feel Like a Storm Cloud*, by Lezlie Evans, and discuss the emotions and feelings in the book. As a group, a variety of situations will be presented and the students will demonstrate what feeling they would experience, happy, sad, mad, or scared with their faces and bodies. Each student will receive a *Safe & Caring When I Feel Angry* mini-poster after reviewing it during the lesson.



Finally, students will brainstorm different ways to cool down from feeling angry.

Students in Second Grade will learn there are many ways they can be responsible at school and at home. One way the students will learn they can be responsible is with their feelings and emotions. The students will be able to identify how they feel in different situations and learn the importance of sharing their feelings in positive ways. Students will review a *Safe & Caring* mini-poster, *What Happens When I Get Angry?*, which highlights several ways for children to cool-down from mad feelings.

Third Grade students will discuss the responsibility they have in choosing how they respond to anger. This month the lesson will focus on the trait/pillar of responsibility. The book, *The Way I Feel*, by Janan Cain, will be read and as a group we will discuss the various feelings the character describes. Each student will receive the activity sheet, *What Can I Do When I'm Really Angry?* This activity will highlight the importance of transforming angry feelings to calmness.

*For every minute you are angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness.*

~Author Unknown

Mrs. Willey, MSW, LSW

School Social Worker



# The Character Corner

"When you have a choice and don't make it, that in itself is a choice." – William James

## Pillars of Character

The Character Corner will present suggestions for modeling good character to your child and ideas for helping your child understand, and incorporate, the traits into his/her own thinking and behavior. In addition to the monthly character trait/pillar, a different Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) skill will be highlighted. In December, the School Social Worker will be visiting the classrooms to read a book, discuss, and/or do an activity on the skills listed below. In December and January, the lessons will focus on the character trait/pillar of Responsibility and the SEL skill Discovering Our Feelings, with emphasis on Awareness and Appropriate Expression of Feelings and Anger Management. According to the *Safe & Caring Schools* curriculum, being "emotionally fit" helps children face daily challenges in positive ways.

## December's Focus:

- Character Trait: Responsibility
- SEL Skill: *Discovering Our Feelings* - Awareness and Appropriate Expression of Feelings and Anger Management

## Character Color Wednesdays

Every Wednesday during December, your child is encouraged to wear green to show their character.

## What is...RESPONSIBILITY?

As described by Character Counts!, Ansvar the Elephant is the animal for responsibility. A responsible person does what they are supposed to do. They think about what effects their actions have on others, and they accept the consequences of their choices. They work hard and do their best. They use self-control and have good work habits. The color of responsibility is green (think of recycling or keeping track of money).

## Ideas for Home:

- Watch the movie, *Inside Out*, and practice different ways to cool-down: count from 10-0, take three deep breaths, go to a cool-down spot for 1-2 minutes, etc.
- Give examples of being responsible this month at work/school.
- Play Feelings Charades, instead of acting out books or movies, act out feelings.
- Practice giving "I-messages" to each other during the month. For example, "I feel...when you...I need..."

## Good Reads about Responsibility:

Grade 1: *How Are You Peeling?*, by Sexton Freymann

*All My Feelings at Home: Ellie's Day*, by Susan Conlin and Susan Levine Friedman

Grade 2: *Today I Feel Silly: Other Moods That Make My Day*, by Jamie Lee Curtis

*Matthew and Tilly*, by Rebecca C. Jones

Grade 3: *A to Z: Do You Ever Feel Like Me?*, by Bonnie Hausman

*Angel Child, Dragon Child*, by Michele Maria Surat



## Change in Student Information

Please remember when getting a new cell phone number, a new work number/change in job, or a new home phone number we do need **ALL** that information in the office. We will update PowerSchool, as well as let the homeroom teacher know. It is **very** important that we get this information in case your child is sick, needs to go home, or the teacher needs to contact you.

Please remember that emergency contacts should be able to reach the school within 15 minutes. If you have a change in address, you **must** go to the District Office to change your information as well as provide proof of residency.

## When do we go outside for recess...

All students are expected to go outside unless the following happens:

- The temperature/wind chill is below 15 degrees.
- The snow is extremely wet.
- We are unable to clear a sufficient area of the playground of snow.
- The playground and equipment is too wet.

Please be sure to send your child to school each day with, as we like to call it, their “Magic Five” - hat, coat, scarf, gloves and boots.



## INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE

Whenever your child's routine will be changing, please call the office or send a note to inform the teacher and office staff. For example, if your child usually rides the bus home, but you will be picking him/her up from school that day, please call the office or send a note.

## SAFETY REMINDERS

- Please do not drop off until 9:05 a.m., as that is when a staff member will be present daily. Entry bell is 9:10 a.m. and the school tardy bell is 9:15 a.m.
- Always escort your child(ren) in the parking lot and please be sure to only cross at streets where our designated crossing guards are located. Please respect our neighbors and avoid walking through their lawns and stay on the sidewalks.
- There are two car rider areas: Car Rider Island in the parking lot and Foxwood Drive behind the school. Please make sure to let students out of cars at the designated areas, as these areas are for stopping and dropping off/picking up only. Think of them as a “kiss & go” lane - give your kids a smooch and send them on their way.



## NLSD 122 PTO CORNER

Current events: Pie sale is currently going on and we are so excited to partner with our very own FLECKENSTEIN'S in New Lenox. Pie orders are to be in by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pick up will be Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 7a.m.-3:30p.m. This is a great way to support local and our wonderful school district. Please make checks payable to NLSD 122 PTO.

Pizza kits will be available for purchase starting December 1<sup>st</sup>.

BINGO is January 21<sup>st</sup>, so mark your calendars! If you know of any business' looking to donate baskets for raffle, please reach out to us on Facebook messenger or [www.newlenoxpto.org](http://www.newlenoxpto.org).

BOWLING will be held in February. We are looking for 2 people to co-chair this event. Please reach out if you are interested.

5K walk/run for Mental Health and Wellness registration opens for Black Friday on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Registrants 12 and under will receive a t-shirt, bib and timing chip with their registration. There will also be a Wellness Fair as well with local businesses that promote mental wellness. Volunteers are needed for this event.

Chicago Wolves Hockey would like to do a fundraiser with the PTO. If you are interested in helping, this is an easy way to get involved.

\*\*We would like to send a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all that contribute with our fundraisers. This all could not be possible without YOU!

\*\*If you would like to VOLUNTEER for anything please reach out to us. Being involved with the PTO is so rewarding.

Next meeting is December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Martino Jr. High School. Their own band/choir will be there as well. Come out, we would love to meet you!

[www.newlenoxpto.org](http://www.newlenoxpto.org)



# 5K RUN/WALK

FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Saturday, May 21, 2022

9am | New Lenox Commons

## Featuring:

- Chip & bib 5K run/walk
- Wellness Fair
- Free fitness classes
- Youth activities
- Food trucks

**Donations accepted, and sponsorships are available.**

This is a non-profit event. All proceeds and donations will be evenly presented to 2 nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations: NAMI Will-Grundy and NLSD122 PTO.

TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER  
visit [bit.ly/5kNewLenox](https://bit.ly/5kNewLenox)  
or scan this image



NAMI Will-Grundy (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is based out of Joliet, IL. Its mission is to provide advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

The NLSD 122 PTO (New Lenox School District 122 Parent/Teacher Organization) raises funds to help better the students/ education and wellness through library, music, art and physical education program enhancements, replenishing indoor and outdoor recess equipment, academic support grants and assemblies as well as teacher reimbursements and student scholarships.



*Believe  
You Can*

**5K RUN/WALK**  
FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS



# EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

The Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

LOOK FOR THE LABEL:



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### BUY

#### BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



### SCAN

#### YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



### EARN

#### CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

## SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE?

You can still earn Box Tops for your school with your e-receipt!

See how at [BTFE.com/emailgroceryreceipts](https://www.btfef.com/emailgroceryreceipts)



## BOX TOPS CLIPS

You may occasionally find an old Box Tops clip on packages in stores. **You can still clip them and send them to school**, as long as each clip has a valid expiration date.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfef.com)

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:

