



Spring Ridge Review

Spring Ridge Elementary

Elkhorn Public Schools

Elkhorn, Nebraska



Newsletter

February 2021

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A Message from Mrs. Petersen

Dear Spring Ridge Families!

The second semester is well underway with the 100th day of school being celebrated the first week of February! Time flies when you are having a good time! Students are making tremendous progress in all academic areas. I am very proud of the growth our students are making! It is very apparent that learning is important to our Spring Ridge students. Thank you for all that you do to encourage learning at home and for emphasizing the importance of school.

Sincerely,

Laurinda Petersen

Calendar of Events

February 1 - NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service

February 1 - PTO Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 PM – 4th Grade Teachers attend.

February 12 - Valentine's Day Parties, 2:15 pm

February 16 - Mid Quarter Reports go home, so parents have them for Conferences

February 17 - 18 Parent/Teacher Conferences via Zoom; Early Dismissal at 2:06 PM

February 19 - NO SCHOOL

It's Again Time for Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 17 and 18 are Parent/Teacher Conferences. We will once again be using the online scheduler, Pick-A-Time, to schedule PT Conferences. A handout was sent home with students on January 22nd explaining this process. Parents were also sent an email with this information. The online scheduler will open for you to sign up at 10 AM on Monday, February 1st and it will close at 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 14th. If you have any questions, please contact the Spring Ridge Office at 402-637-0204. There is an early dismissal on both February 17 and February 18 at 2:06 PM.

NSCAS Testing Timeline

All students in grades three through eight, as well as 11th grades, will take part in NSCAS (Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System). Results from the NSCAS will be used to identify strengths and areas of need across the district, as well as for each individual student. It is important that your student(s) be present during these assessments in order to get an accurate snapshot of their level of mastery in relation to state standards. These results will also allow our teaching staff to guide classroom instruction based on areas of need. Listed below are the scheduled dates for the NSCAS assessments at Spring Ridge. Please be mindful of these dates when scheduling appointments, vacations, etc. If you have any questions regarding NSCAS assessments or scheduled testing dates, please feel free to contact Laurinda Petersen at 402-637-0204.

NSCAS Reading & Math for 3rd through 5th Grade Students & NSCAS Science for 5th Grade Students is scheduled during the weeks of March 29-May 7.

We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do!

REMEMBER: FRIDAYS are Spirit Day!

Encourage your children to wear their Spring Ridge apparel on Fridays to show their school spirit. If your child doesn't have any Spring Ridge apparel, our school colors are blue and yellow. Students can also just wear clothing that is blue and/or yellow to show their Spring Ridge spirit on Fridays. Thank you for your support!



District Reminders

SchoolMessenger Alerts

Both the EPS District and individual buildings regularly use a parent messaging system called SchoolMessenger to send emails and phone calls to parents, including monthly information about building happenings, as well as school closings. If you did not receive a phone call and an email regarding our most recent School Cancellation, please reach out to your building secretary.

SchoolMessenger also allows recipients to “unsubscribe” from its mailing list; please understand that by “unsubscribing” you are completely removing your email address from ALL lists, including both District and building specific emails. If you have previously unsubscribed and would like to begin receiving emails again, please let your building secretary know.

Tech Savvy Parent Tip: Balancing Technology Use

Parents often look for new ways to create a balance between learning and using technology appropriately, and participating in other activities that are essential to a child's development. Finding that balance between the two can be the difference between a healthy relationship and an unhealthy reliance. Several strategies exist to ensure that a healthy relationship with technology is built beginning with the early stages of use.

Understand your pattern of use and create boundaries: Most people don't realize the amount of time they spend using technology unless it is pointed out to them. Take an inventory of your family's use and understand when, why, and how you're using technology. Is all of it necessary? Are you and/or your family benefiting from that time spent with technology? Understanding your pattern of use is the first step in creating boundaries that both you and your family can stick to.

Be intentional in determining downtime: Being constantly connected can hinder active learning, as one becomes passive in taking in new information because he or she is constantly “learning” new things. Taking a step away from technology and the absorption of information allows one's brain a needed break and creates an active learning environment. By being intentional in determining technology downtime, you are giving your brain that break to be able to focus on other things.

Be the example and set the expectation: Kids learn by following an example - following the same technology use rules you set for your children is the best way to show them a healthy relationship with technology. Setting usage time limits, creating intentional face-to-face opportunities, and implementing device-free zones are all ways to ensure too much time isn't spent on technology for entertainment purposes.



Supporting Young Children's Growth and Development

Workshops for Parents/Relatives of Children Birth to Age 5
Sponsored by Elkhorn Public Schools Planning Region #25

When: Thursdays (dates below), 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
Where: Online via Zoom
Link will be sent on Tuesday before the session to everyone registered

January 14, 2021

Oh, the Things You Can (still) Do When It's Cold Outside (winter activities)

Even when it's cold and wet outside, you and your child can still be active around your home and neighborhood. This workshop will introduce a number of age appropriate activities for young children to help you keep them moving and learning.

February 11, 2021

What's Going On in There? (brain development in the early years)

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than at any other time in life. Learn more about the crucial role you play in building your child's brain and some fun "brain-building" activities.

March 11, 2021

Creating Real Connections with Young Children (fostering attachment/attunement)

Two key components of bonding are attachment and attunement. Both are important to the way a child views the world, feels safe and forms relationships with others throughout life. Come discover ways to enhance attachment and attunement.

April 8, 2021

So Many Places You Can Go in the Community (community supports and resources)

This session will explore ways to turn everyday activities like going to the grocery store into successful experiences and fun learning opportunities. Resources to support families will also be shared.

May 13, 2021

Let's Talk about It (supporting language and literacy development)

Strategies to promote and support literacy development through play, music, rhyme and rhythm, reading books and interactions with adults will be shared.

To register, please contact Denae Nuismer
dnuismer@epsne.org or 402-289-2579 ext 11000



A maximum of 20 registrations will be accepted for each workshop



Workshops sponsored by Elkhorn Public Schools Planning Region #25 in partnership with Early Learning Connection (ELC) Omaha Region. ELC Omaha Region works collaboratively with regional partners in the counties of Cass, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington to ensure that a wide variety of professional learning opportunities are offered in response to the needs of those who work with and care for children birth through age eight.



A Note from the Nurse



- If you received a health screen referral letter within the last few months please visit the appropriate medical professional and have them complete the bottom portion of the letter and return it to school with your child.
- Please remember to continue to send a couple of *clean face masks to school with your child each day (one to wear and one just in case the other one gets dirty or breaks during the day.)*
- Please notify the office if your student has had an exposure to someone with COVID-19. We want to continue to do our best to keep our students and staff as safe and healthy as possible.
- Here is the Covid symptom screening tool from the Douglas County Health Department:
[Requirements for Screening, Exclusion, and Readmittance of Ill Students and Staff](#)
- If your student does have any symptoms or has had an exposure, here is the link to the updated quarantine guidelines:
[14 day full quarantine](#) | [10 day shortened quarantine](#) | [7 day shortened quarantine](#)

Thank you!

Sara Bird, RN, BSN

sbird@epsne.org

Stay Connected with Spring Ridge's PTOWebsite: www.springridgepto.com

Facebook: Spring Ridge Elementary PTO

Email: springridgeelementarypto@gmail.com**2020 - 2021 Spring Ridge PTO Board**Presidents: **Tami Candy and Melanie Patton**Presidents Elect: **Mandira Khanna**Secretary: **Antara Gabinet**Treasurer: **Sara Bartruff****THANK YOU!**

A huge shout out to Mandira Khanna for the Family Fun Nights at Charred! As we start into the second half of the school year, we want to want to send big thank you's to Karamie Vala for sharing great information through our Facebook page, to Kristen Kelley for managing our Spring Ridge PTO web page, and to Deependra Rawal for his continued amazing work on this newsletter!

Get your 2020-2021 yearbook!

Remember this school year forever with a Spring Ridge yearbook for only \$20! Sales close 2/28, so order soon!

Go to www.springridge.blossomyearbooks.com

1. Click "order" or "select" to login or register for an account.
2. Once logged in enter the name(s) of the student(s) and select their grade/teacher. Click "continue".
3. Enter the quantity of yearbooks to order for each student. (If you have more than one student enter qty 1 for student #1 then click continue and enter qty 1 for each additional student).
4. Click continue to enter payment information and complete order.

If you have any photos to share for this year's yearbook, please email them to springridgeyearbook@gmail.com.

Support Spring Ridge

Thank you so much for your support of Spring Ridge. Below are some easy ways to show your support. If you are currently using one or more of these – THANK YOU! Your time and effort is so greatly appreciated! If you are new to these programs, please take a moment to check them out and find an easy way to show your support for our school!

Support Spring Ridge With Your Shopping



Doing more online shopping? Don't forget to use [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and designate Spring Ridge Elementary PTO as your supporting organization and a portion of each of your online purchases will go to support Spring Ridge!

BAKERS COMMUNITY REWARDS



Bakers shoppers: We need your help!!!

Login to your Baker's account online and enroll your Plus Card in the community rewards program.

www.bakersplus.com/communityrewards

Organization Name: SPRING RIDGE ELEMENTARY PTO

Organization Number: YT880

That's it! Every time you shop, Spring Ridge will receive a percentage of what you spend.



**TOGETHER A
GREATER GOOD**

Let's not miss out on a great opportunity to fundraise for PTO at no cost to you! Business lunch with clients? TAGG it! Catering in for a meeting? TAGG it! Out for lunch or dinner with a friend? TAGG it!

HOW THE APP WORKS:

Step 1: Download the TAGG app

Step 2: Visit participating businesses and snap a photo of your receipt

Step 3: Choose which Cause to support (Spring Ridge Elementary PTO). The business will donate to the PTO.

Staff Appreciation Week



STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK!!

March

Virtual ED to a Virtual ESCAPE!

Our outstanding staff have been working their tails off this year. Now its our turn to show our appreciation!

Please use the link below to make a donation.

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/SpringRidgePTO>

-or-

Send in your donation with your child in an envelope labeled Staff Appreciation

Recommendation of \$10/student or any amount. We will be organizing meals, gifts and surprises for all our Spring Ridge Staff. More details to come next month!

**Thank you for your help!
Jenny Zetterman and Beena Burg**

Fifth Grade Graduation

Hello parents of 5th Graders!

We are in the very beginning stages of planning for this year's 5th Grade graduation ceremony, which will take place on the final day of school this year. More specific event details are forthcoming. We are looking for volunteers for this committee, so if you are interested, please reach out to leslie.stubbendieck@gmail.com

We ask that 5th grade parents read this information very carefully!

Yearbook Ads

All 5th grade parents are invited to submit a photo and a short blurb that will be used as an ad in the 2020-21 yearbook. We are asking that parents use this Google form: <https://forms.gle/zL8vDZ1y29KiLeoD6> to send in a short blurb (20 words or less) and then email a photo that is a high resolution jpeg (make sure the file is named with your student's name) to SpringRidge2021GradAds@gmail.com. You can submit a \$5 payment to the PTO's Paypal Account, just mark "5th Grade Yearbook Ads" in the notes--

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/SpringRidgePTO>. **Please DO NOT purchase ads from the Blossom yearbook online store.** Cash or check is also an acceptable form of payment (please send to school with your child and mark the envelope 5th grade yearbook ad) A sample of what the ads will look like when put together will come home in this week's Friday Folder. **The ads will be due no later than Friday, March 12.**

Photos for Graduation Videos - Group and Individual

At this time, we are requesting that each parent send a picture of their child in Kindergarten to SpringRidge5thGradeVideo@gmail.com no later than April 1. The photo can be their school picture or another picture of choice. Please make sure you are sending a high resolution JPEG file. We will be using their 5th grade Lifetouch school photo for a current picture. Please place the child's name in the subject line when sending the picture to the SpringRidge5thGradeVideo@gmail.com account.

We are also asking for group pictures that you've taken over the last 6 years. Here are a few guidelines: group pictures taken only at school events will be accepted; this includes the first day of school, last day of school, classroom parties, Eagle Report, the carnival, field trips, Battle of the Books, Girls on the Run, Destination Imagination, etc. We would prefer that the picture have 3 or more kids included. Please do not send pictures of only 1 child, birthday parties or athletic teams. Pictures should be emailed to SpringRidge5thGradeVideo@gmail.com by April 1.

If you have any questions OR would like to VOLUNTEER to help with this 5th grade graduation committee, please contact Leslie Stubbendieck at 703-216-9359 or leslie.stubbendieck@gmail.com

PTO Election Information

The election of the PTO officers for the 2021-2022 school year is just around the corner! Each year, we elect a new Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary to our Executive Board. A brief description of each position is listed below. **A few hours of your time is all it takes each month so we hope you will consider one of these positions.** If you have any questions, please refer them to a member of our nominating committee.

Vice-President- The office of Vice-President shall be filled by election to serve a one-year term as Vice-President followed by a one-year term as President. The Vice-President conducts PTO meetings when the PTO President is not available, helps with committees as needed, assists the President with the performance of his/her duties, and is available to help with all PTO business. The Vice-President is also responsible for coordinating and handling all aspects of our monthly Family Fun Nights and organize the school supply kits.

Secretary- The Secretary is responsible for keeping an accurate record of all meetings of the organization as well as the Executive Board and for providing copies of meeting minutes to the officers and the organization. The secretary will also reconcile the monthly bank statements, post the minutes from each meeting on the website, purchase/send greeting cards and thank you notes when necessary, and prepare announcements of monthly PTO meetings and other activities as needed.

Treasurer- The Treasurer is responsible for receiving all monies of the organization, checking the PTO drawer for bills and reimbursement forms a minimum of twice a week, paying all bills on or before their due date, keeping an accurate record of receipts and expenditures, and disbursing funds as authorized by vote of the organization or the Executive Board. The Treasurer is also responsible for providing the PTO President with a current budget report at least two days prior to each monthly meeting and for presenting this report at each PTO meeting.

As outlined in the bylaws, the office of Treasurer and Secretary are elected to serve a one year term and are eligible for re-election to the same office. These officers may serve at any one position for a maximum of two years. No officer, excluding the school principal, shall serve on the Executive Board for more than three years.

The Nominating Committee will present the nominations for officers at the March 1st meeting and the election of officers will be held at the April 12th meeting.

If you are unable to become an officer at this time, please consider becoming a chairperson/co-chairperson of one of our PTO committees. Contact Mandira Khanna
mandira_khanna05@yahoo.com

Please complete the attached PTO Nomination Form indicating how you might like to become involved with the Spring Ridge PTO. Please return the completed form to the school by **February 24th, 2021.**

PTO OFFICER NOMINATION FORM

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

___ I am interested in serving on the 2021/2022 PTO Executive Board

___ Vice-President

___ Treasurer

___ Secretary

___ I would like to nominate _____ for the office

of _____.

___ I am unable to be an officer at this time. However, I am interested in becoming a chairperson/co-chairperson for one of the PTO committees.

This is the committee I am interested in: _____

Contact me at: _____

Valentines Classroom Parties

Cupid is coming! This Valentine's Day at Spring Ridge, our classroom parties will be a little different. We are still unable to have volunteers assist with the parties, so teachers and helpful aides will host the fun. The parties will be held in classrooms Friday, February 12th from 2:15-3:00 p.m. Each classroom will celebrate during this time with a Valentine game, a craft, and a game of BINGO for Books! Every student will win a book to take home. In addition, the children will bring home their Valentines from other classmates to enjoy over the weekend.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

OSCARS NIGHT

Tuesday, February 23rd from 5-8 p.m.

Enjoy a night off from cooking and grab some take out from OSCARS (17330 Lakeside Hills Plaza) on February 23rd, from 5-8 p.m. Mention that you are supporting Spring Ridge Elementary and they will donate a proceed of sales right back to our school!

PTO MEETING

The next PTO meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00pm. Please contact Tami Candy at tamicandy81@gmail.com for the link to the meeting.

The *Spring Ridge Review* is a monthly newsletter published by the staff and volunteers of Spring Ridge Elementary School, Elkhorn Public Schools

in

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