



Orientation Packet August 2026

Each month a newsletter is distributed through Kangarootime and posted on the website to keep you up to date with news and all the exciting events happening at Prairie Pals! This issue is full of important classroom and school information for your reference. We look forward to meeting you and your children at orientation!

Reminder of orientation times are as follows:

August 31- **MWF 9:00** at 9 am, **MWF 9:30 & M-F 4s** at 10:30 am, **PreK** at 12:00 pm

September 1- **TT 9:00** at 9 am, **TT 9:30** at 10:30 am

First day of class!

First day of class!

- Wednesday, 9/2
 - MWF, M-Fa and all PreK classes
- Thursday, 9/3
 - TT classes

****Normal pick-up and drop-off procedures begin on these days.****



Remember to **set up your Kangarootime account and pin before the first day of school**. Each person that will be picking up your child needs to have the app and their own pin.

Pick-Up & Drop-Off Procedures

Enter the lot on the south end of the building and pull around to door #5 (in the back).

Stay to the left (straight arrow) when entering the shared driveway. **DO NOT BLOCK THE ENTRANCE TO THE PARKING LOT.** Childcare families and staff need access throughout the day.

Stay in your car throughout the car line process.

Unbuckle your child when you are safely in the car line. Staff will escort students from the passenger side of the vehicle when your vehicle is in "park". We do not buckle or unbuckle your child's seat. After pick-up, pull to the side of the building to buckle your child.

Have your Kangarootime app open and ready to check in/out your child.

Please remember we are a school zone so keep your speed below 10 mph and your cell phone away until needed for check-in/out.

If you are running late, please come to the front door 33E to drop off/pick up your child.

There is a late fee for picking up after class time. There is a flat charge of \$10.00, plus \$1.00/minute. This is for each occurrence.

Daily Activities

Circle Time

During circle time, students learn the days of the week, months of the year, weather, counting, letters and their sounds, listen to stories, explore the weekly theme, plus get introduced to Spanish & Sign Language.

Table Time

Children complete art projects to go along with the weekly theme. They also complete a letter/math concept page.

Center Time

Children participate in self-directed activities and enjoy the act of learning through play while growing their social skills.

Snack Time

Snacks are provided by Prairie Pals.

We are an allergy safe school.

Large Motor Play

Children receive 15-20 minutes of large motor play everyday.

Many factors determine if large motor time will be outside on the playground or inside in the large motor room.

Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. We ask that children **wear sneaker type shoes** to minimize the risk of injuries.

Christian Program

Our program is Christian faith based. The children start their classroom day with a prayer, say a prayer of thanks before snack, and explore an age appropriate Bible theme weekly that parallels our curriculum theme.

Chapel Chat occurs once a week to learn about God and Jesus in a group setting. We also focus on the Christian elements of the holidays.

Potty Policy & Bathroom Independence

Please have your child use the bathroom prior to arriving at school. Teachers typically take the entire class to 3 scheduled bathroom breaks.

If your child needs to use the bathroom at any other time during class, he/she will need to let the teacher know and a preschool staff member will take him/her to the bathroom.

ALL* of our Preschool programs require that your child be independent in the bathroom which includes:

- Using the toilet without assistance
- Changing clothing without assistance
- Pulling up and down his/her own clothes
- Washing and drying his/her hands

*Children enrolled in our 2s classes may come to Preschool in a diaper or pull-up.

For all programs, you will be contacted to come change your child if he/she should have an accident at school that they are unable to manage changing themselves.

School and Teacher Communication Tools

Kangarootime

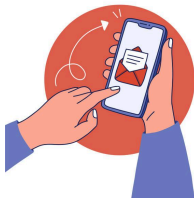
Check your KT Connect app for classroom and school news!

-Message teachers:
Messaging/Student

-Message office staff:
Messaging/Account

-Announcements:
Messaging/Account/
Announcements

-Classroom photos/
notes:
Gallery or Activity Feed



Email

Please be sure to save the following email addresses to your contact list to ensure our office emails don't land in your spam folder.

Ms. Natalie:
PSDDirector@prairiepals.org

Ms. Kelly:
FrontDesk@prairiepals.org

Ms. Tara:
Finances@prairiepals.org

PrairiePals.org

Our school website has links to this orientation packet, all monthly newsletters, and calendars. Click **Preschool/Forms & Information**

Facebook

Follow us on Facebook for quick reminders and a peek inside our weekly activities.

Oops / Ouch Reports

Paper reports for "Oops" or "Ouch" incidents are sent home from school in the provided home folder if your student has a potty or physical accident. This is a communication tool to make you aware of a situation that happened while your student was in our care. Two copies will be put in your child's clear folder. **Sign and return one copy for our records** and keep the other for your records.

Change of Clothes

Children need a complete set of "weather appropriate" clothes in their backpack at all times. Please make sure they are the correct size and place them in a large Ziploc bag with your child's name on it. Please include underwear and socks.

Home Folder

Each student will receive a home folder with their name. This is a clear envelope folder to **keep in your child's backpack at all times.**

This home folder will be used for correspondence between parent and teacher throughout the school year. **This is the only place we will check in backpacks.**

We encourage our families to check backpacks every school day; there is a lot of information coming home and beautiful projects to see!

DCFS

We are licensed through DCFS and follow all rules and regulations accordingly.

Important Information to Know!

Absences

If your child will be absent from school, please self report on the Kangarootime app (KT Connect). **Please do not reach out to the classroom teacher to report an absence.** If you have any questions, please call our office. 630.551.7143

School Closings

Prairie Pals follows the Oswego School District #308 schedule as closely as possible, including emergency days.

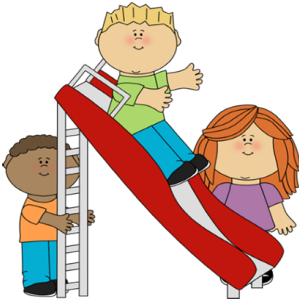
Any FULL days the District has off are days off for us as well.

Early dismissal days do NOT affect our schedule.

Assistants

We have 2 assistants that help in our classrooms: Ms. Colleen and Ms. Tierney (morning).

The aides help with projects, bathroom breaks, snack set-up, carline, and making sure the day runs smoothly.



JOY Classroom Management System

The teachers use JOY for our classroom management system. The emphasis on teaching Jesus Others Yourself encourages students to embrace the qualities that Jesus asks of us, share them with their classmates, while making positive choices for themselves. This concept is a wonderful way to strengthen school friendly behavior, acknowledge good choices, and reinforce our classroom expectations. Our hope is that the concept of Jesus Others Yourself is one our students will learn and carry with them always.

Classroom Parties

We have Halloween, Christmas, and Easter parties. Classroom party dates can be found on our calendar and will occur during your child's regularly scheduled class.

Toys

Please do not send any personal toys from home unless requested by a teacher.

Volunteering

At orientation, each teacher will provide a volunteer form for opportunities to help in the classroom. If you are interested, please sign up or reach out to Ms. Natalie.

- Room Mom
- Class Party Helper
- Mystery Reader
- Sharing special expertise, talent, and connections
- Help teachers from home
- Fundraiser Help

Spirit Wear

Once a month we have Prairie Pals Spirit Wear Days. Included is a Spirit Wear flyer which links to the online store for ordering. You must click the link in the flyer to order. The due date for Spirit Wear orders is Monday 9/7 (late orders cannot be accepted).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Spirit Wear Store opens!
2	3 School Supply drop-off 9-12	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 School Supply drop-off 9-12	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 School Supply drop-off 9-12	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 School Supply drop-off 9-12	25	26 Ice Cream Social 4:30-6:00	27	28	29
30 Last week to order Spirit Wear!	31 Preschool Orientation (MWF, M-Fa, all PM PreK classes)					

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Preschool Orientation (TTh classes)	2 First Day of Preschool (MWF, M-Fa, all PM PreK classes)	3 First Day of Preschool (TTh classes)	4	5
6	7 No Preschool SD308 Closed Labor Day Last day to order for Spirit Wear!	8	9	10	11 Preschool Dress up day: Shirts with letters	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Fall Fundraiser begins: Midland	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	October 1	2 Spirit Wear Dress Up Day Trunk or Treat: 5:30-7:00	3



Fall Fundraisers:

♥ Midland Fundraising

Order fun products! There's an option for everyone!

Sept. 21–Oct. 6

Proceeds used to purchase materials for our children.

♥ Scholastic Book Fair!

Come shop a variety of books at school! Books make great gifts for the holidays..

Nov. 18–20.

Family night Nov. 19

Proceeds used to increase literacy items in our school.



Other ways to donate:

- Sponsor a school event
- Donate items: toys, books, school/office supplies
- Volunteer your time

Together,
We Can Make a
Difference!
Fundraising
2026–27

Winter Giving Project:



Food Drive

Make an impact in our own community! Donate canned food items for the Kendall County Food Pantry.

Dec. 1–16



Spring Fundraiser:



Wee Ones Walkathon (WOW)

The children get their bodies moving to raise funds for special Prairie Pals projects.

April 8–9

Spirit Wear

Online Store
August 1– Sept. 6

**[prairiepals26.
itemorder.com](https://prairiepals26.itemorder.com)**

Join the Volunteer List!

- Fundraiser deliveries
- Scholastic book fair
- Trunk or Treat
- Preschool parties
- Mystery Reader

Signups will be available at Orientation or contact Ms. Natalie for specific opportunities!



2026 / 2027 Spirit Wear

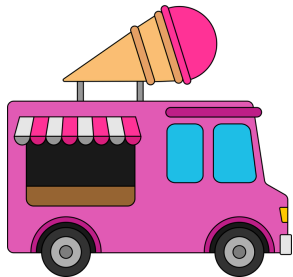
Orders and payment are due no later than
September 7, 2026.

To order, visit the following website:

<https://prairiepals26.itemorder.com/>

* No late orders can be accepted! *

Back to School
**Ice Cream
Social**
at Prairie Pals



August 26th 4:30 - 6:00pm

Ice cream available to purchase
from Foxy's Ice Cream truck

Event Sponsored by:



Chip & Dip

POOL & SPA SERVICE

Back to School
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Social**
at Prairie Pals



August 26th 4:30 - 6:00pm

Ice cream available to purchase
from Foxy's Ice Cream truck

Event Sponsored by:



Chip & Dip

POOL & SPA SERVICE

Typical Daily Schedule

Arrival

Bathroom Break

Circle Time

Large Motor Play

Bathroom Break

Snack

Quiet Reading

Table Time

Bathroom Break

Centers

Bible Story

Dismissal

Prairie Pals Christian Preschool
Weekly Themes Calendar 2026/2027

Dates	2s *	3s *	4s *	Color	Shape	PreK	Theme	Spirit Wear / Dress-Up Days**
August 31 - September 4							Back to School	
September 7 - September 11				Red	Circle	A-C / 0-2	The Name Game	Shirts with Letters
September 14 - September 18				Orange	Square	D-G / 3-6	Make a Joyful Noise	
September 21 - September 25				Yellow	Rectangle	H-L / 7-11	Apple	
September 28 - October 2	A / 0	A / 0	A / 0	Green	Triangle	M-Q / 12-16	Author: Ryan T. Higgins	Spirit Wear
October 5 - October 9	B / 1	B / 1	B / 1	Blue	Star	R-V / 17-21	Fire Safety	Firefighter/Red
October 12 - October 16	C / 2	C / 2	C / 2	Purple	Heart	W-Z / 22-25	Construction	
October 19 - October 23	D / 3	D / 3	D / 3	Pink	Diamond	A-D / 0-3	Tree-Mendous	
October 26 - October 30	E / 4	E / 4	E / 4	Black	Oval	E-I / 4-8	Halloween	Costume
November 2 - November 6	F / 5	F / 5	F / 5	White	Crescent	J-N / 9-13	Spiders	Spirit Wear
November 9 - November 13	G / 6	G / 6	G / 6	Brown	Octagon	O-Q / 14-16	Teddy Bears	Pajamas
November 16 - November 20	H / 7	H / 7	H / 7	Gray	Hexagon	R-V / 17-21	Give Thanks	
November 23 - November 27	Thanksgiving Break							
November 30 - December 4	I / 8	I / 8	I / 8	Rainbow	Trapezoid	W-Z / 22-25	A Savior is Born	Spirit Wear
December 7 - December 11	J / 9	J / 9	J / 9				Tis the Season	
December 14 - December 18	K / 10	K / 10	K / 10				Sparkle and Shine	Christmas Best
December 21 - December 25	Winter Break							
December 28 - January 1	Winter Break							
January 4 - January 8	L	L / 11	L / 11			features of print / 1 to 1 counting	Author: Jan Brett	Spirit Wear
January 11 - January 15	M	M / 12	M / 12			question words / 1 to 1 counting	Brrr	
January 18 - January 22	N	N / 13	N / 13			phonics: beg. sounds / comparing numbers	Hibernation	Pajamas
January 25 - January 29	O	O / 14	O / 14			phonics: beg. sounds / comparing numbers	Author: Jo Witek	
February 1 - February 5	P	P / 15	P / 15			phonics: end. sounds / grouping numbers	Love Your Smile	Spirit Wear
February 8 - February 12	Q	Q	Q / 16			phonics: end. sounds / grouping numbers	Loads of Love	Red & Pink
February 15 - February 19	R	R	R / 17			rhyming / addition	Pirates	
February 22 - February 26	S	S	S / 18			rhyming / addition	Kings & Queens	Crowns & Robes
March 1 - March 5	T	T	T / 19			syllables / subtraction	March Madness	Spirit Wear
March 8 - March 12	U	U	U / 20			syllables / subtraction	He is Risen	
March 15 - March 19	V	V	V			story context / counting by 5s & 10s	Some Bunny Loves You	
March 22 - March 26	Spring Break							
March 29 - April 2	W	W	W			story context / counting by 5s & 10s	Scrub a Dub Dub	Spirit Wear
April 5 - April 9	X	X	X			phonics: blending sounds / measurement	April Showers	
April 12 - April 16	Y	Y	Y			phonics: blending sounds / measurement	Bring May Flowers	
April 19 - April 23	Z	Z	Z			phonics: vowels / clocks	Butterflies	
April 26 - April 30	Review	Review	Review			phonics: vowels / early geometry	We All Scream For...	
May 3 - May 7	Review	Review	Review			Review	Summer Safety	
May 10 - May 14	Fun Week	Fun Week	Fun Week			Fun Week	Fun Week	

* Numbers Covered: 2s (0-10), 3s (0-15), 4s (0-20), PreK (0-25). Number review will start over and repeat after each class has reached their highest number covered.

** Spirit Wear & Dress-Up Days will be on Thursday for T/TH & ALL afternoon classes and Friday for MWF and M-F am 4s classes.

Prairie Pals Christian Preschool School Calendar 2026-2027

Day	Date	Event
M	August 3 - August 31	Supply Drop-off Mondays; 9am - 12pm
W	August 26	Ice Cream Social; 4:30-6:00pm
M	August 31	Preschool Orientation: MWF, M-Fa and all PM classes
T	September 01	Preschool Orientation: TTh classes
W	September 02	First Day of Preschool: MWF, M-Fa and all PM classes
Th	September 03	First Day of Preschool: TTh classes
M	September 07	No Preschool - District 308 Closed - Labor Day
	September 21 - October 6	Fall Fundraiser: Midland
F	October 02	Trunk or Treat; 5:30-7:00pm
F	October 09	No Preschool - District 308 non-attendance day
M	October 12	No Preschool - District 308 Closed - Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day
Th	October 29	Halloween Party: TTh classes
F	October 30	Halloween Party: MWF, M-Fa classes, all PM classes
M	November 02	No Preschool - District 308 non-attendance day
T	November 03	No Preschool - District 308 Closed - Election Day
W-F	November 18 - November 20	Scholastic Book Fair- Family Night Thursday 5:00-6:30 pm
F	November 20	No Preschool - Parent Teacher Conferences; 2027-28 Preschool VIPP Enrollment
M-F	November 23-27	No Preschool - Thanksgiving Break
	December 1-16	Giving Project- Food Drive
M	December 07	2027-2028 Preschool Legacy Enrollment Kicks Off
W	December 16	Christmas Parties; MWF Classes
Th	December 17	Christmas Parties: TTh, M-Fa, All PM classes
F	December 18	No Preschool - Christmas Program
M-M	December 21-January 4	No Preschool - Christmas Break
T	January 05	Return to Preschool; 2027-2028 Preschool Open Enrollment Begins
M	January 18	No Preschool District 308 Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Th	February 04	Vision and Hearing Screening: TTh classes, All PM classes
F	February 05	Vision and Hearing Screening: MWF, M-Fa classes
Th	February 11	Valentine's Parties: TTh classes
F	February 12	Valentine's Parties: MWF, M-Fa, All PM classes
M	February 15	No Preschool - District 308 Closed - President's Day
F	February 26	No Preschool - District 308 non-attendance day
Th	March 04	School Pictures: TTh, All PM classes
F	March 05	School Pictures: MWF, M-Fa classes
Th	March 18	Easter Parties: TTh classes
F	March 19	Easter Parties: MWF, M-Fa, All PM classes
M-M	March 22 - March 29	No Preschool - Spring Break
T	March 30	Return to Preschool
T	April 6	No Preschool - Parent Teacher Conferences (308 non-attendance day)
Th-F	April 8-9	Fundraiser: Wee Ones Walkathon
M-F	May 3 - May 7	Staff Appreciation Week
Th	May 13	Last Day of Preschool: TTh classes
F	May 14	Last Day of Preschool: MWF & all M-Fa, All PM classes
		Preschool Promotion Ceremony: MWF 4's, M-Fa 4s, All PM classes

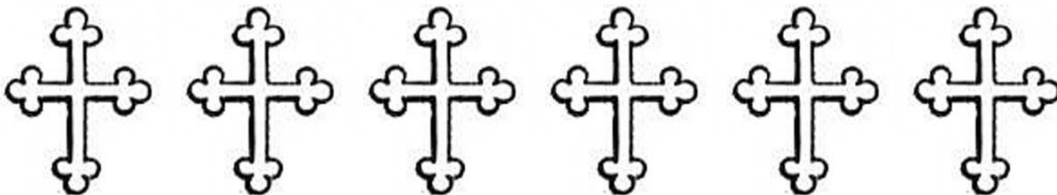
FAMILY FAITH FRIENDS

Our families mean the world to us! We understand that you are the foundation to which we base our daily ministry. We are excited to announce a unique opportunity for our families to place a cross on our Faith Wall.

This collection of crosses will be a showcase for all to see. The relationships we have shared and the children that have come through our doors will be honored for years to come.

If you would like to sponsor a cross on our Faith Wall please fill out the bottom portion of this form and return it to Prairie Pals.

Thank you for your support and Faith in Prairie Pals Christian Preschool and Childcare.



Family Name (to appear on name plate) _____

Number of Crosses sponsored _____

Paid \$25.00 (per cross) _____ Cash _____ Check (made out to OCF)