

Prairieview PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)

Who We Are: We are parents, teachers, and school staff who believe that we should work together as a community to provide our children and teachers with appropriate resources and support to meet their maximum potential. We are in charge of planning and coordinating many of the fundraisers at Prairieview.

The Board: President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Members at Large, Committee Representatives (ie: Citizens Advisory Committee, 'CAC'), and the Principal.

Our Mission: To improve our children's lives through parent and teacher cooperation; to promote friendship within the school community of parents, teachers and students; to bring into closer relationship home and school so that parents and teachers may cooperate in the education of our children.

WE NEED YOU!!! There are many ways you can participate in PTO:

- Volunteer for one or more events
- Attend our monthly meetings
- Donate items and or \$ to make our events and school more successful
- Volunteer to help with events at home: pre-event prep on your own time!

What We Do* & How You Can Help:

A. Monthly Meetings:

- **When:** Once a month for approximately 1 hour (There is childcare provided). The meetings are generally in the evening but occasionally we hold meetings after school for Staff to join us.
- **Where:** The school library (Learning Resource Center)

- **What:** Meet and discuss district issues that impact our school and community (ie: school closings, bus and traffic concerns), school needs (ie: gym equipment, grounds maintenance outside etc), and plan family nights and fundraisers.

B. Book Fair:

- **When:** 4-5 days long usually in Oct/Nov and again in April/May. Children go to the fair with their classroom during their scheduled day for approximately 20 min and then they can also attend the book fair one night in the evening
- **Where:** Held in a vacant classroom #110 on the first floor or LRC
- **What:** Provided by Scholastic. This is an opportunity to purchase books for your child at a discounted price. A portion of the sales go directly to Prairieview funds. You are also able to purchase books for teachers in the school including the library as indicated by a Teacher Wish List. A donation label is placed in the book with your child's name. This is very exciting because other classes and children will see your child's name when reading that particular book! You can also donate \$1 in the All for Books program. Just donate and sign your name on a slip to be displayed on a wall at the Book Fair for all to see. All of the money collected goes directly to purchasing more books for Prairieview's Library, our classroom libraries, and the Volunteer Reading Tutor program. Parent volunteers are needed to be cashiers, set-up/clean up, and help children pick out and pay for their books.
** You can sign up to go with your child's class**

C. Talent show:

- **When:** This occurs in conjunction at the end of the school year (April).
- **Where:** In the Commons (school cafeteria & general assembly area)
- **What:** Various acts perform is a student hosted talent show! Sing, dance, perform magic.

D. **Ice Cream Social Night Paused:**

- **When:** This occurs in conjunction with the “spring” book fair. It is one evening usually from 6-8.
- **Where:** In the Commons
- **What:** Children can make their own sundaes and eat them with family and friends compliments of the PTO! Other snacks are also available for purchase. Once again there are tables in the lobby which include: spirit wear (clothing with the school logo) and cub/girl scouts information.

E. **Gardening/Grounds Committee NEED Volunteers!!!**

- **When:** Fall and Spring as your time permits!
- **Where:** Outside on the school property
- **What:** Help keep our school beautiful. Pull a few weeds, plant some flowers, do a little watering, or just pick up trash around the school grounds

F. **Scholarship Committee:**

- **When:** Two afternoons or evening in the spring
- **Where:** Location to be determined
- **What:** Prairieview alumni are eligible to apply for a scholarship of \$2000 for college provided by the Prairieview PTO. Parent volunteers are needed to review the applications and help with the interviews.

G. **Spiritwear:**

- **When:** In the fall and the spring
- **Where:** You can order at home from your order form
- **What :** The PTO offers clothing with the school logo for purchase. Items such as hats, shirts, sweatpants, shorts etc. A portion of the sales goes back to Prairieview. A parent is needed to assist with distributing and collecting order forms and

orders. Fridays are school spiritwear day! Wear your Black and Gold Panther colors!

H. **Family Dinner Night:**

- **When:** These occur monthly depending on parent coordination. They run generally all day or during dinner hours in the evening.
- **Where:** Any local restaurant willing to participate
- **What :** Parent volunteers join the committee and plan for one family dinner night or more. The parents choose local restaurants to contact and set up one night where families can go and eat while also supporting the school. You simply go the designated restaurant with family and friends. You give the restaurant a school flyer and 10-20% of the sales goes directly to Prairieview school. It’s a great opportunity to take the night off from cooking and support the school. Everybody wins!!!

I. **Fun Fair: One of the biggest nights of the year!!!**

- **When:** Takes place in March but planning begins in January. The event occurs one night from 6-9pm.
- **Where:** Games for kids are held in the gym, some classrooms, and the hallways on both floors of the school. A cake walk is held in the Commons along with a giant themed-basket raffle. The Commons is has Concessions open at this time for drinks and foods for purchase. One classroom is designated as the ‘Redemption’ prize room, in which, students trade in their tickets earned from games in exchange for prizes.
- **What :** A night of fun and games!!! Games include: basketball toss, hockey shooting, football toss, bean bag toss, Minute to Win it games, lollipop tree, Pie our Principal toss, and book walk. Children can pay for each game individually or pre-purchase hand stamps for unlimited playing. They are given tickets for winning and those are then exchanged for prizes.

J. SouperBowl Cook off/Dance Party/25th Anniversary

- **When:** Late January/early February or Beginning of school year
- **Where:** school Commons and Gym
- **What :** Parents enter their favorite chili recipes to compete for Top Chili Chef at Prairieview! Prizes awarded! Join us as a DJ mixes it up spinning current hits in our transformed gym/dance hall!

Volunteering comes from the heart!! You give as much time as you can, whether is it helping the day of an event, helping to plan the event or cleaning up at an event. There is ALWAYS room for more parent/family participation at school! Please know that a lot of these events and fundraisers are very special to our children and would be greatly missed by all if we didn't have enough parent support to plan and coordinate them. Also, the school greatly benefits from the extra funds that are received by our caring and supporting families and community. Our PTO strives to support the Staff at Prairieview to enable them to provide our children with the best education possible. Your support is needed and appreciated!

***Please note that all events are tentative and depend on parent volunteers. If an event does not have enough volunteers it may be discontinued or paused for a year.**

K. Other Social Events:

- **Daddy Daughter Dance:** February
- **Epic Air Night:** January
- **Mother Son Event:** March

L. **Fundraising:** PTO raises funds which go directly to your child's classrooms, 2015/2016 wishlist totaled over \$15,000.

Ways our PTO supports the Staff and Provides for the Students at Prairieview:

- **Equipment for the school**
- **Additional supplies for Specials (P.E., Art, Music)**
- **Extra items for classrooms that are not in the district budgets**

The PTO Board is always available for questions regarding anything related to our school and PTO. Thank you for supporting your child's education!

Contact PTO President: Jeanette Wells, 630-372-9080 or Jeanette.wells1@comcast.net