



# Spring Ridge Review

## Spring Ridge Elementary

Elkhorn Public Schools

Elkhorn, Nebraska



### Newsletter

#### September 2017

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#### A Message from Mrs. Petersen

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! It is hard to believe that we already have 2 weeks under our belt! Students have transitioned well from summer break to the start of a brand new school year. Thank you for your help in making this transition go very smoothly!

On behalf of the students and teachers, I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to our PTO for decorating the school campus for our first day, assisting the teachers with classroom materials, and making Back to School 101 and Open House a success. In fact, 98% of our families attended Open House! Thank you for your support in making Spring Ridge Elementary a great place to learn.

Our school theme continues to be "Soaring STRONG Together"! We know that through strong teamwork between parents, staff, and community members, we can ensure that each child will reach their individual potential academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for your commitment to this teamwork!

Please know that throughout the school year my door is always open. Never hesitate to set up a time to meet with me. You can also email me at [lpetersen@epsne.org](mailto:lpetersen@epsne.org) or you can call me at 402-637-0204. Thank you again for a great start to this school year!

Laurinda Petersen  
Spring Ridge Principal

2017 - 2018 School Theme:

"SOARING STRONG TOGETHER"

## Traffic Reminders

It's no secret that Spring Ridge Elementary is not the easiest to navigate when dropping and picking up children. Even veteran Spring Ridge parents find it easy to forget the specifics of daily drop-off and pick-up. The utmost priority is the safety of our children. One accident at the school is one too many.

### Morning Drop-off Procedures

1. Students may be dropped off curbside between the designated orange cones at the front of the building. Always enter the drive from the east and remain in the right lane (curbside). **Keep moving forward as far as possible. Please stop only once between the orange cones.**
2. Students may be dropped off along the west curb of 178<sup>th</sup> Street. Note 178<sup>th</sup> Street is a one-way north between the hours of 7:00 A.M.-9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. Students may use the sidewalks along the staff parking lot or the sidewalk along the front of the building to bring them to the appropriate entrance. Please do not use the staff parking lot to drop off or pick up students.

### Afternoon Pick-up Procedures:

1. Students are to be picked up curbside at the front entrance of the building. Always enter the front drive from the east and remain in the right lane (curbside). **Keep moving forward as far as possible, picking up children between designated cones.** Please do not use the drive-through lane for picking up children. Students are not allowed to walk through traffic. Please do not leave your car unattended if you are parked curbside as this disrupts the flow of traffic.
2. Students may be picked up along the west curb of 178<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Please do not park in front of a safety cross walk. This places our safety patrol students in a dangerous position. The parked cars can obstruct the view of on-coming traffic. Thank you!**

## Please Sign in at the Office

All visitors (including parents) who enter the building must sign in at the office. This procedure is in place as a part of our safety plan. This includes parents walking their children to their classrooms in the morning. I encourage you to have your children walk to their classrooms themselves after you drop them off in the morning. It instills a sense of independence for them.

## September - Calendar of Events

- September 4 - Labor Day NO SCHOOL
- September 13 - Mid Quarter Reports Go Home
- September 14 - First Grade Field Trip to Arbor Day Farm
- September 15 - Celebrate Spring Ridge BBQ
- September 18 - NO SCHOOL- Teacher In-Service
- September 21 & 22 - 5th Grade Outdoor Ed.
- September 26 - Family Fun Night @ Oscars

### Helpful Reminders

The beginning of the school year is a great time to remind students and parents about general procedures followed at school each day. These will help ensure a successful day and year for children, families, and teachers. Thank you!

- Look through your child's backpack and go over the items sent home each day with your child.
- Help your child remember to return papers as they are due.
- Help your child arrive to school on time.
- Call the office **402-637-0204** each day your child will be tardy or absent.
- Sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge every time you are in the building.
- Deliver forgotten items to the office, not the classroom.
- Send a note with your child if he/she is doing something different after school (car-pooling instead of walking, etc.)
- Come into the office to sign your student out during the day.

### Meeting with Teachers

Parents wishing to confer with teachers are asked to call the school office or e-mail the teacher. If the teacher is unable to take your call, we will gladly leave them a message to return your call at their earliest convenience.

If wishing to meet in person with a teacher, please schedule an appointment in advance. Often,

teachers feel bad when a parent arrives at school to confer with them and they cannot meet

with that parent due to other demands and responsibilities placed upon them. By scheduling an appointment they will be prepared to meet with you to address your questions and/or concerns.



## No Dogs on School Grounds



Just a reminder that dogs are not allowed on school grounds when school is in session. Even the most well-mannered dogs, when surrounded by little hands and loud voices of children, may react in a way that we would not expect. In addition, some of our children are allergic to dogs. Thank you for your help with this!

## New and returning families, the PTO welcomes you!

### Dear Spring Ridge Families,

A warm welcome back to school for new and returning Spring Ridge families. We are once again excited to provide enriching services and events to support our wonderful school! The PTO supports many Spring Ridge activities, such as supplemental field trips, classroom needs, Green Team, Book Swap and Drama Club. We are also looking forward to several exciting events, including Celebrate Spring Ridge BBQ, Bingo 4 Books, and several Family Fun Nights and Family Events throughout the year. We will conclude the school year with the popular Spring Ridge Carnival in May! In order to do all of these, we need your support! Please consider donating your time to the PTO!

### Website

Our new website is up and running, thanks to Cam Vacek. Please refer to the website for all things PTO related. Bookmark [springridgepto.com](http://springridgepto.com)!

### Fall Fundraiser

14 of the original smart boards used at Spring Ridge will need to be replaced in the next few years. They are quite an investment, at \$2900 per unit, but well worth it as every student in every classroom benefits from their use. *Therefore, this September, the PTO will be conducting a no sell fundraiser to raise money for as many as possible.* Please look for the donation form on our website or in Friday folders. Thank you for supporting our school and our students!

### Celebrate Spring Ridge

As a thank you for your donations, and as a kickoff to fall, the PTO will once again host a Celebrate Spring Ridge BBQ on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. New this year are FOOD TRUCKS! We are currently in the process of securing two food trucks and one dessert truck to serve our families. Additionally, we will be raffling off Spring Ridge "experiences" (principal for a day, front row music program seats, etc.), holding a dance party complete with DJ, and having fun on an inflatable obstacle course. Please join us to celebrate our school!

### Family Fun Night

Our first Family Fun Night will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at Oscars! Plan to grab a pizza that night with other Spring Ridge Families! A portion of sales will be donated back to PTO. We will have more opportunities to meet at area businesses throughout the year, planned by Beena Burg and Jenny Zetterman. Look for more information on our website, in Friday folders and on Facebook.

### PTO Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who attended our first August meeting. We meet in the school library on the first Monday of the month. Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. on October 2. Please consider attending. It's a wonderful place to meet other parents, learn about the goings on in Spring Ridge, and to get involved. Childcare is provided by wonderful NHS students from Elkhorn South High School.

If you have any questions about what we sponsor or want to get to get involved, please contact us at [springridgeelementaryPTO@gmail.com](mailto:springridgeelementaryPTO@gmail.com). Check out our website at [www.springridgepto.com](http://www.springridgepto.com) and like us on Facebook @ Spring Ridge ElementaryPTO.

Sincerely,  
Kati Cramer  
President

## PTO Thanks You

Thank you to all our PTO volunteers this August! Jacque Brisson made our first day of school amazing, along with Trish Kathol and Becky Rooker. Susie Kaup did a wonderful job painting the school windows as well! Melanie Hergenrader designed some awesome new spirit wear. Thanks to Jennifer Mytty for once again organizing wish lists for teachers. Chaley Chandler is hard at work securing sponsorships. Jodi McShannon made sure everyone arrived safely at school with our safety signs. Thank you to Beena Burg, Matt Hoppe, Katie Liekweg & Jenny Zetterman for helping at Back to School 101. Karamie Vala volunteered to lead the copy committee this year. All our workroom volunteers started well before school: Ricci Nisley, Jackie Warren, Robbie-Jo Hunzeker, Amy Parks, Teresa Svoboda, Jenny Zetterman, Beena Burg, and Jenny Haase. Finally, a big thank you to Cam Vacek for creating our brand new PTO website. It looks fantastic! As always, thank you to Deependra Rawal for making our newsletter look fantastic!

Check out the new PTO website at: [springridgepto.com](http://springridgepto.com)

## Landscape/Garden Committee

The landscaping committee will be off and running in September. In order for Spring Ridge to look beautiful, we need your help! A team of volunteers meets several times a month in the fall to de-weed, cut back, and plant new flowers. Meeting time is usually in the morning. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jodi McShannon at [jmcshannon@cox.net](mailto:jmcshannon@cox.net).



## Coming Soon: Classroom Volunteers

The signup to volunteer in your child's classroom is almost finished. Look for an email in the next week with the link to signup genius. Contact Mandi Chaplin with any questions at [mandichaplin@gmail.com](mailto:mandichaplin@gmail.com)

## YEARBOOK PHOTOS

Hello Spring Ridge Families!

This year we will be ordering yearbooks online through Blossom Yearbooks. Ordering information will be available on our website, as well as in Friday folders throughout the year. We are sending you a shout out because you have something that we need....YEARBOOK PHOTOS!!

Yearbook photos can be emailed to [springridgeyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:springridgeyearbook@gmail.com)

Please email only those photos that were taken on school grounds.

Thank you!

Kristin Lewis and Kathryn Gustafson

Yearbook Chairs



### [Hy-Vee's Cash for Students program starts September 1st!](#)

With Hy-Vee's "Cash for Students" program, Spring Ridge can earn \$1 for every \$200 in Hy-Vee purchases simply by turning in store receipts showing any purchase such as food, gas and pharmacy. Send in receipts **dated from September 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>** to your student's teacher, and we will take care of the rest. Ask your friends, family and neighbors to save theirs too. This is a great way for them to help contribute without any out of pocket expense! A cubby is also set up at your Pacific St. Hy-Vee location, so just toss in your receipt in the box on the way out of the store.



## Celebrate Spring Ridge BBQ



When: Friday, September 15 from 5 pm - 8 pm

What: NEW!!!! Ox 'N' Bull BBQ and Ta-Cho-Dilla Food Trucks will be providing food this year!

Why: A fun night at school for the whole family! Enjoy time with friends and getting to know other Spring Ridge Eagles.

Cost: Admission is free. Food Truck meals range from \$6-\$12 per person.

## Order your yearbook online.



1. Visit Blossom Yearbooks website:  
[www.blossomyearbooks.com](http://www.blossomyearbooks.com)

2. Click on "Order My Yearbook"  
on the homepage

3. Enter Code   
or search by our school name

4. Complete order process. Yearbooks will be  
shipped & delivered throughout the school.

5. Order Due Date:

800-893-8902



TOGETHER A GREATER GOOD

Help our school by "tagging" your  
purchases at  
great Omaha businesses.

Download the app to your smartphone and  
TAGG away!



The **Fall Box Tops for Education®** collection is just around the corner!

Box Tops is such an easy way for you to support your child's education. Just by purchasing Box Tops products, clipping the coupons and sending them into school, we earn cash that is used for PTO sponsored events. Last year we won a bonus box top sweepstakes from Walmart for \$5000, bringing our total Box Tops earnings for the year to just over \$7000!!

This fall our Box Tops collection week will be October 16-20. (It will be followed by a second collection period in March.) Our goal is to earn \$1,800 for Spring Ridge, so be sure to tell your friends and family to collect for you! Stay tuned for details about the Box Top counting party later in October.

To learn more about the Box Tops for Education program and to track our school's progress, register at [BoxTops4Education.com](http://BoxTops4Education.com) ([www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com)). Also remember to use the Box Top App to get bonus box top credit directly to our school's account from your every day purchases throughout the year!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. With your help, I am here to make our school's Box Tops program a huge success!

Kim Scarsi

773-220-8838

[kscarsi@gmail.com](mailto:kscarsi@gmail.com)

## Clipping tips



- Box Tops®: Be sure to include the expiration date and discard any expired labels.
- Remember to ask friends and family to collect for your child!
- The class with the most Box Tops or Labels will win a special prize!!

## Tech Tips

### *Portable PowerSchool*

PowerSchool has gone mobile! The PowerSchool for Parents app is available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play. Parents can easily view each child's progress in a single feed to check grades, review assignments and more. After downloading the app, enter code BFTS to find Elkhorn Public Schools and then log in using your PowerSchool parent access login. This app is only available for parents of students in grades 4-12 (4th grade parents cannot access until after the conclusion of the 1st quarter).

## Tech Tips

*Recently we have seen an increased number of requests for information regarding the importance of limiting screen time and engaging kids in other activities. Please read the below article regarding one idea that can be used to transition from a technology-filled day to a device-free night.*

### ***Device Free Dinner***

Did you know that 92% of parents feel that quality conversations at dinner time are essential to connecting with their kids? Yet many worry that devices at the table are taking away from those moments. Curbing technology and device use at the table, including restaurants and not just home, is vital to keeping the conversation going and helping kids see that what's going on in their lives matters. Below are a few ways families can implement a device free dinner and connect over mealtimes:

1. ***"What was the best thing that happened to you today?"*** Get kids talking about their day and discover what brings them joy or what type of things make an impact on their day. It's this type of conversation that may just open your eyes to a new topic or activity that your child has recently discovered. Take this opportunity to find out what activities your child finds enjoyable, who they hang out with, etc.
2. ***It's Your Turn, Pick A Topic.*** Giving each member of the family a chance to choose the topic of conversation allows each individual to express themselves and gives insight into what's going on in each person's head. This can be done during every meal, where each member chooses a topic and it is discussed for a set amount of time, or it can be a daily opportunity, where each day, a different family member gets to choose the topic of conversation for the duration of the meal. Either way, make sure every individual participates, even if it's simply acknowledging a new area of interest for the family member that chose the topic.
3. ***Practice What You Preach.*** Kids follow the example of those around them, so parents taking phone calls and responding to emails or texts during dinner only shows them that the rules you put into place only apply to others. Show your children that you are taking the initiative seriously and give them your undivided attention. That phone call can be returned and the text message can certainly wait, and by doing so, you're showing your child that they matter to you more than the person on the other end of line.

Whether it is a sit-down meal at your family table or a quick run through the drive through, avoiding the use of technology during dinnertime guarantees that families have the daily opportunity to connect with each other. Take the time to listen and learn about every family members' day, you never know what new thing you might learn from it.

For more information on managing a device-free meal, check out

<https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/>

## REMINDERS FROM YOUR SCHOOL NURSE...

If you haven't done so already, please get those required kindergarten physical and vision exams turned in, and copies of updated vaccines.

We want to take great care of your child, and one way to help us do that is to provide the health office with current health information and medication needed for your child.

If your child has any health needs such as Asthma, Severe Allergy, Diabetes, Seizures, etc we must have an *action plan* on file that is signed by the doctor and the parent. This information is very important, so we know exactly what is best to do for your child, in the event of an emergency. Please remember if your student has any medications such as an inhaler, Epi-Pen, Benadryl, etc to be used in an emergency situation, we need to have those available at school, with a signed medication authorization, so trained staff can administer.

If your child requires **any** medication while at school, this includes all prescription and/or all over-the-counter (e.g. ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cough drops, etc), a medication authorization, signed by the physician and the parent is required. All medication must be unexpired and provided in the original store packaging or pharmacy labeled container.

Links to blank forms, or your doctor may use their preferred version.

### **Medication Authorization**

<http://www.elkhornweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Med-Auth-Form-Front-Only.pdf>

### **AireNebraska Asthma/Allergy Action Plan**

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/cfbaa74b1585069c3e62e082be27a34c?AccessKeyId=32029651ABFAD3DBF315&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

I do travel during the week to two buildings in the district, so please feel free to contact me via email [dross@epsne.org](mailto:dross@epsne.org) or leave a message for me at your school's office, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I look forward to a great school year!



DEBBIE ROSS, RN  
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION  
ELKHORN SCHOOL NURSE  
SPRING RIDGE  
WEST DODGE STATION

## Save the Date!

### Celebrate Spring Ridge BBQ

Friday, Sep. 15, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Dear Parents,

We hope your students are off to a great start this school year. We wanted to take a moment to clarify any questions regarding milk purchases.

Milk is available with all meals. However, if a student would like to have milk only it will need to be purchased as a separate item (regardless if your child receives free or reduced meals) which is .45 cents each. You can add money to your students accounts so they are able to purchase as necessary.

If you have any other questions regarding the dining services please feel free to contact us at 402-289-0443.

Thank You,  
Sodexo, Food Service Department  
Elkhorn Public Schools

## PTO MEETING

(Free childcare for all ages!)

Join us on Monday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. for the Spring Ridge PTO meeting. Meetings are held in the school library.

Check out the PTO website at:

[springridgepto.com](http://springridgepto.com)



Find us on  
Facebook

## Classroom Parties

Calling ALL Head Party Parents!!!



Are you interested in being the Head Party Parent for your Child's classroom Halloween or Valentine's Day Party?

Party Planning is done by grade level and is a group effort! Watch your email for a link to sign up!

If you have questions or know you want to help with planning, please contact Karamie Vala at kbfly@hotmail.com

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

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