



## Input Requested in Prairie's Accreditation Process

As Prairie High School works through the beginnings of the Accreditation Process commonly known as a "self-study," the School Improvement Team collects information on a variety of aspects of student achievement. For example, we review our mission statement, our approaches to student intervention, student services and school culture to name a few. We are working on evaluating and/or reviewing almost every aspect of PHS as it relates to student support and academic achievement. In order for Prairie High School to maintain our accreditation, we need your help.

During January and February, the Prairie staff completed a series of surveys addressing school improvement including student intervention, student services, and school culture. The School Improvement Team is now inviting parents to do the same. Please take a few minutes to fill out the online survey and share your thoughts, ideas, and frustrations so that we may work together to make PHS a better place.

The survey is linked to survey monkey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XFQ6RTLPHSParentSurvey>

You can cut and paste the link into your web access account and go directly to the survey. The link will be available online until noon on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Your input is highly valuable as PHS and the School Improvement Team work through this process toward renewed accreditation. We currently have parents who serve on our school improvement team, but we are always in search of a few more. If you are interested in participating on our school improvement team and can commit to attending meetings please contact Mr. Perrins, Principal at 885-5012 or Stephanie Lindstrom, [stephlindstrom@comcast.net](mailto:stephlindstrom@comcast.net). Generally, we meet almost once a month either during the school day or directly after school. Our agendas include items where we can improve with respects to student achievement.

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to participate in this survey. Your input is very important.

## Upcoming Events

**May 19th**  
CTE Assembly  
9:20-10:15 am

**May 24th**  
Advanced Placement  
Information Parent  
Meeting  
7:00-8:00 pm  
Library

**May 25th**  
Mother/Daughter Tea  
&  
Father/Son BBQ  
10:30 am

**May 26th**  
ASL Variety Show  
6:30 pm

**June 2nd**  
Senior Awards Night  
7:00 pm

## Important Reminders

**May 30th**  
NO School  
Memorial Day

## Information Parent Meeting Advanced Placement Program

Is your student interested in going to college or pursuing any post high school education? If you want to know more or are still gathering information about how to best prepare your student come join us for an informational meeting. Learn how your student can develop the appropriate thinking, writing, discussion, and study skills to prepare them for college. In addition, learn about how your student can earn college credit at any university in the country.

An informational meeting for parents and students interested in the Advanced Placement Program at Prairie is being held on Tuesday, May 24 in the Library at 7:00 p.m.

The Advanced Placement teachers will discuss the College Board philosophy and explain the benefits of enrolling in AP classes. AP teachers will discuss their individual classes. Representatives from English Literature and Composition, English Language and Composition, US Government, US History, Biology, Calculus, and Statistics will be in attendance.

Join us in our quest for excellence.

## SAVE THE DATE! For the

## Prairie High School Boosters Auction

**October, 8, 2011**  
Vancouver Hilton

Next year's auction will benefit Prairie High School Athletics. Our theme is Endangered Species. Mark your calendars to attend this fun event and help our athletic programs stay off the endangered species list!

**We need your help now** getting donations for the auction. We all know someone, or know someone who knows someone, who owns a business, vacation home, event tickets, etc. We need you to reach out to your personal contacts, friends & family, who might have an item or items that would be of value for the auction. Think big and think outside of the box! No item is too big or too small. Individual items can be packaged with other items to make them even more valuable.

*The more people we have reaching out to those they know for a donation, the easier it is to get donations and the better our auction will be!*

We are also looking for companies to sponsor the auction. There are varying degrees of sponsorships and advertising opportunities. Go to the PHS Booster Website to learn: <http://www.prairieboosters.org/main.html?src=%2F>. If you, or someone you know has an item they wish to donate, contact the Donations Chair; Stephanie Gawley at [gawleygang@comcast.net](mailto:gawleygang@comcast.net).

Thank you for your help!

The Auction Committee  
Stephanie Lindstrom, [stephlindstrom@comcast.net](mailto:stephlindstrom@comcast.net)  
Stephanie Gawley, [gawleygang@comcast.net](mailto:gawleygang@comcast.net)  
Joy Kinkaid, [kinkaid4@yahoo.com](mailto:kinkaid4@yahoo.com)  
Lesa Howell, [happytobeherelese@yahoo.com](mailto:happytobeherelese@yahoo.com)  
Kelly Stone, [sendtokelly@hotmail.com](mailto:sendtokelly@hotmail.com)

## Annual CTE Student Awards Assembly

The annual Career & Technical Education Student Awards Assembly will be held on May 19, 2010, during third period in the PHS Auditorium. Over 300 students will be recognized for outstanding performance in their CTE classes at Prairie High School. Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs are those that offer occupational credit and provide students opportunities to learn employability and leadership skills as well as technical skills for the world of work.

At PHS, CTE programs include Agriculture, Horticulture, & Natural Resources; Air Force JROTC; American Sign Language; Auto Technology; Business & Marketing; CASEE; Engineering & Design; Family & Consumer Sciences; Fire Science; Health Sciences Careers; Machine Technology; Photography & Graphic Communication; and Video Productions.

## Spring reminder of Dress Code: The No Bare Zone



The "No Bare Zone" is represented by the shaded portions of the figure to the left and on page 18 of your student's Falcon Planner. The shaded portions of the body must be covered at all times in all positions e.g. sitting, standing, reaching, bending, walking etc while attending school.

Clothing that could cause a disruption to the educational process should not be worn at school. No cleavage, cracks or undergarments are to be showing. Pants must be worn at the waist, no sagging. Skirts, shorts, and dress lengths must be longer than mid-thigh and not shorter than 3 inches above the knee. Shoulders require 3 inches or more of covering. Footwear must be worn at all times and be appropriate for the class/activity.

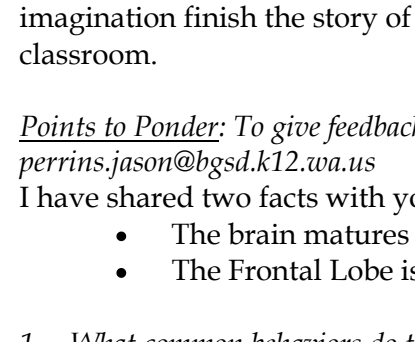
If a student is asked by a staff member to make a change to their clothing to meet dress code; the student must make the change. If the student does not have something to change into the main office has clothing which can be "checked out", or the student can go to the office and call home for something appropriate. Failure to meet dress code can result in discipline consequences.

## The Falcon Brain Factor

*"The true link between teaching and learning"*

By Jason Perrins, Principal

Parents and readers:  
The growth of the brain, as it develops and matures over the years does not grow equally as a whole, nor does it grow all at once. In addition, the brain doesn't fully finish its development cycle until approximately the age of 25. Some scientists stretch that further to the age of 28. The brain matures or begins its development in the back (Occipital lobe) and matures forward, finishing its development in the frontal cortex region; commonly known as the "forehead." Why is the understanding of the brain's growth so important to understand? How does this understanding help us understand teenagers?



Each area of the brain has its primary function (keep in mind the brain is so complex that all areas of the brain work together in many respects). The Occipital Lobe is the first to develop. Its primary function is related to the vision and visual perception. The Frontal Lobe area, which develops last, is what is most fascinating and of significant interest to me. It is my opinion that it should be of interest to all parents of teenagers and teachers of teenagers as well. Why is the Frontal Lobe area so important for adults to understand?

The Frontal Lobe is that part of the brain which is responsible for, decision making, assisting in making predictions, and helping in planning, and organizing. Much of our personality is found in this area of the brain as well. It provides structure for our world in many aspects. The Frontal Cortex is commonly referred to as the CEO of the brain by many scientist and doctors. To illustrate how the brain works, I will explain by using an educational example I think most will understand. Imagine a classroom of about 28 thirteen or fourteen-year-old students. There is about 10 minutes left of class. The teacher finishes the lesson early. Imagine that the teacher represents the Frontal Cortex of the class. The teacher announces that she has to go to office and won't be back until the next period. She asks the students to dismiss themselves when the bell rings. Without explaining further, I will let your imagination finish the story of what happened when the teacher left the classroom.

*Points to Ponder: To give feedback or share your ideas please email, [perrins.jason@bgsd.k12.wa.us](mailto:perrins.jason@bgsd.k12.wa.us)*

I have shared two facts with you regarding the brain.

- The brain matures and develops from back to front
- The Frontal Lobe is the CEO of the brain.

1. What common behaviors do teenagers exhibit that can be associated with the underdeveloped front cortex?
2. What steps as parents and educators should we be taking to ensure that students can appropriately develop their FC during their teen years?