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**Prairieview Elementary School**  
January 2025 Board Report

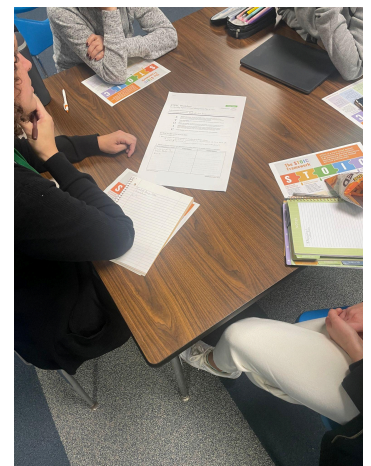
**Goal One – Learning**

Our 3rd graders took on an exciting STEM challenge inspired by The Great Turkey Race! Students designed and built creative transportation devices to help their turkeys cross the finish line. This activity encouraged problem-solving, teamwork, and engineering skills while sparking their imaginations. What a fun way to combine STEM with a Thanksgiving twist! Thank you to our classroom teachers and STEM coach, Mrs. Gemmell, who continue their collaboration in implementing new ways to create hands-on problem-based learning in the classroom.



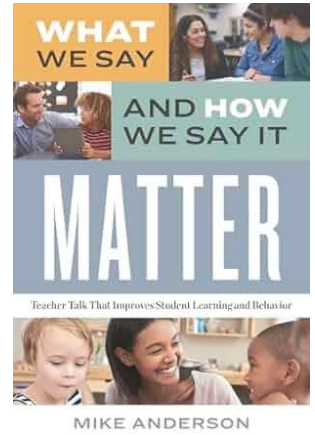
Our 5th grader engineers showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills in a recent STEM activity where they designed and built mini floats. Using Ozobots, they coded parade routes to bring their floats to life! This hands-on project combined engineering, design, and coding, allowing students to explore collaboration and critical thinking while having fun. These Ozobots were the product of a Team 66 Grant, so thank you to Team 66 & Mrs. Csorba for making these happen!

On December 11th, our teachers learned about the next steps in becoming a CHAMPS school. With CHAMPS being the student-facing framework (*Conversation Level, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation & Success!*), STOIC is the teacher-facing framework that creates the environment for CHAMPS to be successful. Teachers collaborated with colleagues across the building to create implementation plans for this practice. STOIC means: *Structure for Success, Teach Expectations, Observe, Interact Positively and Correct Fluently*. Staff received this framework positively, as consistency between classrooms is clear for students and easier to implement consistent expectations. With so many new staff members at Prairieview, it's helpful to begin identifying shared values such as these. Thank you to the CHAMPS team for helping organize and implement a meaningful plan for teachers!



## Goal Two – Whole Student Development

Our next “Habit of a Champion” is: **Communicator!** *An effective communicator conveys their message thoroughly and is receptive and responsive to others.* Throughout January, we’re reflecting on how we communicate with each other - verbally and non-verbally. Our students have very different influences on their communication skills than many of us adults did, so we’ll need to work together to be understood and ensure we are communicating with respect and kindness. As adults, this is important for us, too. Thanks to the generosity of another Team 66 grant, our paraprofessionals are doing a book study utilizing the book “*What We Say & How We Say It Matter.*” For adults, this is important for us since we model the kind of communication we expect from our students & children.



Winter is another busy time for our student ownership initiatives. Under the leadership of our Student Experience Coordinator, Ashley Sanchez, students are organizing many different clubs and activities to expand on their social and academic interests. After reviewing over 60 applications, 20 students were chosen to be part of the next Student Leadership Team. Their first task was to review all 60+ applications to review ideas their classmates had, so they could be included in this new leadership team’s efforts to improve our school. All Panthers have a voice in making Prairieview feel like *OUR* school.

## Goal Three – Environment

Our whole-school field trip to the Tivoli is a years-old tradition at Prairieview. Thanks to Team 66’s generous purchase of tickets, this trip is free to all students and staff! Thank you to Team 66 for their support of this tradition - it’s wonderful to experience a trip to the movies as a whole school!

From time to time, it’s important for our building’s climate and culture that we come together as a school to celebrate our successes. While our clothing drive took place in November, last month we celebrated the championship habit of collaboration with a full school assembly. This assembly featured performances from our band and choir, too. Successful collaboration takes many forms, and I’m proud that our students and school community brought in over 50 giant black bags of clothing to donate to Metropolitan Family Services of Dupage!



Part of what makes our community so special is coming together for each other. When our students learned that long-time paraprofessional Dawn Wrzesinski was retiring, they wanted to throw her a party! On Friday, December 20th - Mrs. W's last day - Mrs. Herndon's current and former students joined her to wish her well and say goodbye. Our paraprofessionals do a lot of work to help all students and add to the collaborative environment at Prairieview - I'm proud that our students recognized that and wanted to celebrate her. Thank you for your years of service, and good luck, Mrs. W!

