

Dear Families,

Welcome to Positively Prairie for the 2017-18 School Year! We have worked hard developing lessons for our entire school to help our students develop skills to make them extraordinary learners, friends and community members.

Our theme this year is based on an incredible book titled, "Agate: What Good is a Moose?" by Joy Morgan Dey and Nikki Johnson. This book is about learning that everyone has differences and abilities that make them amazing. The main character, Agate, is a moose who thinks he's not as good as his friends. In the end he finds that he is just as wonderful as his friends in his own unique way.

On the first day of school, each classroom teacher read their students this book. The students were asked to reflect on what makes each one of them unique. Our staff t-shirts celebrate this with the phrase from the end of the book: "Be glad they're them and you are you.... We're each a gem in our marvelous school!" As a beautiful visual reminder of our uniqueness, your student will be painting a rock in art class in the coming weeks to be put on display in our rock garden in the front of the school.

This packet is a collection of what your student did today. We had our kick-off to the school year and all of the students participated in five lessons taught by our staff. These lessons help students reinforce school-wide expectations and also learn self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making. These five skills make up the core components of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL).

We hope you'll take a look at the discussion prompts with your student and ask them what they learned today.

We are looking forward to a WONDERFUL school year! Thank you for contributing to our community's uniqueness! Look for some neat parent learning opportunities regarding Prairie's SEL via Prairie's fabulous PTO Network.

Sincerely,

The Positively Prairie Committee
Erin Sauer, Nicole Vecchie, Maria Reichert, Chris Morris, Kim McShane, Marcy Ortegon, Kaitlin Giannos, Holly Heintz, Roberta Souza, Nicole Barba, Chris Weede, Lanie Spivack, Reyna Sandoval & Kim Yutakis

Discussion Questions for your kids:

1. What was this book about?
2. What was Moose worried about?
3. What did Moose realize in the end?
4. Parents- tell your kids times that you didn't feel good enough, and what you did to realize how unique and great you are.
5. Ask your kids how they are unique and special.
6. Ask your kids something they learned about someone else today. (They did a get to know you bingo)
7. Ask your kids about the art project they'll be making this month



P.S. If you're interested in purchasing the book, "Agate: What Good is a Moose?", please note you can find it on Amazon.