

# Parkside Penguin Press

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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## Thoughts from the principal

Welcome back!

We are well on our way into another successful year, full of progress and growth, academically and socially.

At the end of the school year, we're all anxious for summer vacation, but the beginning of the school year.....now that's another story! There's a new teacher, new classmates, new supplies, and the promise of new activities and responsibilities. There's nothing like the beginning of a brand new year!

How can we keep that enthusiasm and motivation for a great year rolling? As a parent, there's a great deal you can do. Start by making a commitment to check your child's backpack each

and every day. For students in grades 3-5, let them know that the assignment notebook is a priority and look at it every day. Take the time to discuss what's written in there and to help children set priorities for homework completion.

Please discuss reading progress with your child. We are going to be working hard to see that every child is progressing toward and meeting grade level benchmarks here at Parkside. Parents will be a big part of that, and you will hear more at the Open House on Sept. 4.

I'm hoping 2008-2009 will be the best year yet!

*Mrs. Shelly Erickson*



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Parkside will be using Penguin Points designed by students. Congratulations to Kristi Brougher, Isaiah Farris and Chuminique Ricks for their drawings.*
- *PTO is Sept. 8th at 6:30. Please join us in the Multi-purpose room.*
- *Don't miss Open House on Sept. 4 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.*
- *If you shop at Target you can designate Parkside to get 1% of your purchases. Sign up at Target.com/tcoe. Thank you!*
- *Scrip orders are due on September 5. Please consider using this service as a painless way to support Parkside! See the PTO section on page 3 for more details.*
- *If you shop at Office Depot, 5% of what you spend comes back to us. Parkside's number is 70033739.*

## Dropping Off/Picking Up

Perhaps you have seen Mrs. Greenberg or Mrs. Erickson asking people to stay in their vehicles when dropping off students, or to not park in the traffic lane. Please help us keep traffic flowing smoothly and all of our children safe!

When dropping students off in the morning, it is critical that children get out of the car as quickly as possible so your vehicle can pull forward and the line moves smoothly. Anytime a parent exits their vehicle, the process breaks down.

At the end of the day if you are unable to wait in front of the first strip of sidewalk, please park in the lot and walk up to get your child. Otherwise, you are blocking our only entrance to school, resulting in cars parking on College Ave. Thank you!

## School Improvement for 2008-2009

Reading improvement continues to be our main focus for the upcoming year. In May's newsletter I discussed the new program we're implementing. All of the classrooms will have one hour of blocked time for guided reading. We will be using materials we call Reading A-Z for instruction during this hour of direct teaching. The benefit of using A-Z materials is that your child will be instructed at his or her level. This will allow your child to make the maximum amount of

growth possible during the year. Because we will be assessing all the children 3 times throughout the year, we will also be able to track their progress more closely.

We are still going to discuss the 7 keys to comprehension with the students, and will teach lessons on the keys during reading time. The 7 keys are absolutely necessary for producing capable and competent readers.

We will offer additional information on what you can do at home when reading with your child. Hopefully you can attend our Open House on Sept. 4 from 6-7:30 p.m. Our Title I reading specialists will be offering tips on how to make the most of your reading time. Another chance to get great ideas for home will be at a Family Reading Night for kindergarten thru fifth grade families on October 7th, also from 6:00-7:30. Please join us; we would love to see you here!

## PBIS Update

The Positive Behavior Intervention System team has already met and started planning exciting activities for the school year. As we return to school, students are reviewing or learning PBIS lessons in all the different areas of the building. When a class has had all the lessons presented, we'll be giving them a "shout out"

on the intercom.

We'll be continuing with Penguin Points this year, as well as the once a month cart and Happy Feet activities.

*If you can spare an afternoon to take the cart around to the classrooms, please sign up at Open House on Sept. 4!*

We want to continue to reduce our office referrals every month.

Last year 71 different children had referrals. We'd like to decrease the number of children with referrals by continuing to reinforce the PBIS rules and expectations.

A PBIS school is a safe and productive school!

### News from our new Nurse

Dear Parkside Families,

Hi! My name is Paula Birsa, and I am the new school nurse at Parkside Elementary. I have been a registered nurse for over twenty years and this is my first year working as a school nurse. I am very excited to be working with all of you and your children.

I will be in my Parkside office everyday from 11 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

I would like to remind you that Illinois state law requires all students entering kindergarten, sixth or ninth grades or transferring from out of state, have a physical examination. The examination must include a complete immunization record and medical history. **The exclusion date for incomplete health records for Unit 5 is October 15.**

For any student entering the district as a transfer, complete and compliant records must be on file within 4

weeks of entry to school. Also, all kindergarten and second graders are required by law to have an oral health exam prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> of this school year. Kindergarteners also need an eye examination as well. So, if your child has not had all of his or her examinations, please do so as soon as possible.

**Thank you!**

Paula Birsa, BSN, RN

Certified School Nurse

## PTO News

### PARKSIDE PTO

We all hope that you will join us at our first PTO meeting on Monday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are a great way to find out what PTO is doing at Parkside and how you can become involved too.

We have some great positions and volunteer opportunities available for parents who are eager to become a part of the fun! Our most important fundraiser of the year is the Fall Fundraiser, and we are looking for an organized parent or two to be our chairs this year. All it takes is a little time and organization.

We can also use volunteers. You can sign up to come in and help daily, weekly or monthly in the IMC (Instructional Media Center – aka, the Library) or with the Reading A-Z Program, and there is also the Book Fair. We can use your talents on the Hospitality Committee to make our events more special. Cookie donations would be appreciated for the Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> Open House. If you prefer to not donate food we would also appreciate donations of paper products for events. Another volunteer opportunity is taking the PBIS cart from classroom to classroom one afternoon.

We are sorry to inform you that unfortunately Parkside is no longer offering Market Day but we encourage you to continue to place your Market Day orders through Oakdale or Prairieland Elementary Schools.

Lastly, it's never too late to save a family a hassle! We would like to remind you that there is still time to donate through our No Hassle Fundraiser. Remember that all donations are 100% tax deductible.

Thank you!

### Parkside Challenge

**Please plan to commit at least one hour of your time to PTO over the next school year and help make Parkside Elementary School the best elementary school for students, faculty and families!**

### Parkside PTO board:

Jenny Demosthenes, Co-President, 828-4662, [jenlou@mchsi.com](mailto:jenlou@mchsi.com)

Elizabeth Tomera, Co-President, 454-8349, [tomeras@verizon.net](mailto:tomeras@verizon.net)

Jennifer Barlow, Secretary, 807-4391, [jjbarlows5@yahoo.net](mailto:jjbarlows5@yahoo.net)

Melissa Traum, Treasurer, 451-3224, [atraum@comcast.net](mailto:atraum@comcast.net)

### SCRIP Program

Scrip is just another word for gift card or gift certificate. The program is designed to generate money for Parkside Elementary through the sale of gift cards. Gift cards are offered in a variety of denominations. If you want to buy a twenty-five dollar gift card you pay \$25.00. Then, each company donates a different amount back to the school (anywhere from 1 to 25 % of the

face value of the card). A full list of participating companies is available at [glscrip.com](http://glscrip.com)

I think it is a great way to make money for the school. For instance, need groceries? Get a Jewel or Wal-Mart card and get the groceries you need and know that a percentage of your purchase is going to the school. Have a home improvement project? Get a Lowe's, Menard's or Home Depot card -- wherever you would shop anyway--and help the

school. Don't want to cook dinner? Get a Noodles or Red Lobster/Olive Garden or Chili's or Wendy's card and help the school. Not all stores participate, but hopefully you can find one that you like to use that does. Scrip also make great gifts for teachers, mailmen, newspaper delivery people, neighbors, baby showers, and of course at Christmas time. Please consider trying the program. More information will be coming home with your student.

## Inclusive Practices in 2008-2009

Perhaps you've heard your children talking about extra teachers being in their classrooms, or maybe they've discussed some of the needs the included children in their classrooms have. What I am hoping they can talk about is who these children are and what they bring to the class, instead of only seeing them every now and then on the playground or in the lunchroom.

In May I discussed how Unit 5 is

moving toward more inclusive practices. So far we are off to an excellent start! Many of the teachers met over the summer to plan lessons, develop procedures, and work on expectations for students. As we move through the year, we will continue to define procedures and how to handle the needs all students have.

In our first assembly of the year, I set a goal for the children to learn each others' names, not

just those of their friends. One of the steps we can take to recognize everyone's belonging in the school is to learn names. I have also challenged my teachers to learn all the students names that they see regularly, not just those in their classrooms.

Please encourage your children to be open and accepting towards others, especially those who are different. The world would be a boring place if we were all exactly the same!

## Upcoming Important Dates

- Sept. 1, school closed for Labor Day.
- Sept. 4, Open House from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 5, SCRIP orders due in the office
- Sept. 8-12, SAT10/OLSAT testing, 1st-5th.
- Sept. 8, PTO meeting at 6:30 in the multi-purpose room

*Please be sure to attend  
Open House with your  
child!*



### New face in the Office!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a new position here at Parkside. Many of you already know LaNell Greenberg as a parent or a member of the PTO. This year, LaNell will be working with Mrs. Bosquez part of her day in the office as an administrative assistant. The

other part of her day will be spent as a School Administration Manager, or a SAM.

The role of a SAM is to take over managerial duties for the principal so that she can spend more time as an instructional leader. Mrs. Greenberg will be in charge of the cafeteria, she will help supervise children

before and after school, and will complete paperwork and other tasks.

I am VERY excited to have the chance to be in classrooms more than I have in the past. I am looking forward to getting to know the students as learners.

Welcome Mrs. Greenberg!