

Parkside Penguin Press

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

School Improvement	2
PBIS update	2
PTO information	3
News from the nurse	4
Upcoming dates	4

Thoughts from the principal

Hello Parkside Families,

By the time you receive this newsletter, October will be over and we will have "fallen back" into November.

I was pleased to see that we had an excellent turnout for parent/teacher conferences. If you did not get to meet with your student's teacher, it is not too late. Please contact us to schedule a time to meet. So much more information can be gained from a face to face conference than an email or even at times a report card.

Speaking of report cards, these will come home on November 20th for our first trimester. Because

we are on trimesters, quite a bit of time has passed before parents get this first formalized evaluation from the school. Please take the time to discuss the report card with your student. Have him set goals in areas he wants to improve upon, and then talk about **how** he can take steps toward meeting those goals. For most of our students, improving her reading skills should most likely be a goal. Talk with your child about how this can happen. Is it reading a certain amount every night? Turning off the TV for at least an hour a night? Goal setting is a vital skill for productive students and practice helps!

Mrs. Shelly Erickson



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Nov. 2, PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room.*
- *Nov. 6, Scrip orders due.*
- *Nov. 16, Butter Braid Sale*
- *Nov. 20—1st trimester report cards go home*
- *Nov. 25, Institute Day, no school.*
- *Nov. 26-27, Thanksgiving vacation, no school.*
- *Our 24-hour attendance line phone number is 862-5015; call with school absence information before 9 a.m., when possible.*
- *If you shop at Office Depot, 5% of what you spend comes back to us. Parkside's number is 70033739.*

United Way Giving

Every penny counts!

Parkside collected donations for one week in October from staff and students. Each day students brought in pennies, dimes, quarters

and bills. We watched as the coins filled our money jar.

Staff made donations that totaled \$710, and students brought in \$264.83 for a grand

total of....

\$974.83!!

Thanks to everyone who made a donation, no matter the size.

School Improvement for 2009-2010

Parkside's CORE team met on October 28 to review data and to discuss students who need additional intervention to support their reading skills. The CORE team is made up of various teachers, our school psychologist and Mrs. Erickson, the principal.

As a school, our goal is for 80% of our students to read **at grade level**. We are not there right now. The team looked at different pieces of data: DIBELS

(which measures fluency); Fountas & Pinnell (it measures decoding and comprehension); and ISAT scores for reading (decoding and comprehension).

For students who are at risk, or below grade level, the team discussed being able to put different interventions in place. Lexia is a computer program that teaches and reinforces phonics skills. Many of you heard about this from your child's teacher at conferences. You are able to

access Lexia at home so your child can practice. Some of our students are also receiving direct instruction in phonics in small groups with a program called SRA.

As always, reading at home and discussing what your child reads is very important reinforcement for our students. Please partner with us to help Parkside meet its goal. If we work together, I know we can meet (and possibly surpass) our goal!

PBIS Update

During morning assembly we reviewed with the children the concept of "no bubbles" and "robot arms." I know this can sound silly to adults, but as we have reviewed our data, much physical aggression comes from that old bugaboo, "budging" in line! Of course, as someone who has glared at adults who did this at Dis-

ney, I can identify with the children's frustration. When children edge out of line to look ahead, it makes the students

Ask your child what she has spent her Penguin Points on lately!

ahead of them think they are trying to budge. This

leads to pushing and shoving. If their arms are not like a robot (by their sides) it also leads to pushing and shoving. This is unsafe and disrespectful to others. We are all going the same place and will get there at close to the same time. Please encourage your child to stay in line and follow the rules; it helps make Parkside Elementary a safer and a fun place to be!

CAC Survey on PTO

I am working with a group of parents on the Citizen's Advisory Committee on best practices for PTOs. They have developed a survey that will be available soon. It will be linked to our website. Please take about 15 minutes to fill it out. It will yield important information!

Aerosols, Sanitizers, Etc.

We seem to have had a rash of students bringing a variety of these items to school. Perfumes or colognes in an aerosol can are almost too much for students to resist spraying. And, while we want children to sanitize, it needs to stay to themselves. Please discuss this with your children.

Happy Feet Days

On October 27th, 34 students gathered to paint pumpkins and eat apples with caramel dip. Why? They used their penguin points to buy Happy Feet. In November, a zookeeper from Miller Park will bring animals to pet and to talk about with students. Following rules pays off!

PTO News

Be a part of Parkside PTO

Thank you to all of the students and parents who worked so hard to make our fall fundraiser a success! Orders will be delivered by mid-November; a note will go home with students about when pick-up day will be. Our top sellers were Trinity DeBord from Ms. Stachnik's 4th grade class, and Jillian Orozco from Mrs. Siebert's kindergarten. Thank you to Alethea Morse for all of her hard work in organizing the fundraiser.

Thank you to all of the parents and 5th graders who helped to

make the Parkside float for the NCWHS Homecoming parade! The students did a great job constructing the float, and it wouldn't have been possible without a lot of parent support, donations, creativity and time. A special thank you to the Marsaglia family for storing the float, and to the Waldschmidt and Haas families for their help in securing the truck!

An easy way to support our PTO is by purchasing gift-cards through the SCRIP program. Look out for your Scrip order form to come home next week. If you order cards from stores you

always shop at, Parkside gets a percentage of that money spent, but you haven't spent any extra money over what you would normally spend. If every Parkside family ordered at least one gift card each month, PTO would receive over \$2,000 each school year. That is easy money that goes directly to our playground and other projects.

In order to boost November Scrip sales, anyone who orders through Scrip will be entered in a drawing to win a free gift card.

PTO continues to collect Box Tops for Education—they can be found on thousands of food

and household items. Just clip them and send them to school with your child.

Mark your calendar—for Dec. 12th. PTO is organizing a few hours of babysitting so that families can have a break or go holiday shopping. Details will be going home soon!

We appreciate all that our parents do to support PTO. A great way to find out what PTO is doing for our school is to attend a meeting. Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Monday November 2. Free childcare is provided so please take this opportunity to come and find out more about PTO, and our school.

Parkside car magnets continue to be available; just send \$5 in an envelope with your child and they will bring home a magnet to put on your car. It's a great way to show your penguin pride!

Your PTO board members

Co-presidents:

Jenny Demosthenes, 828-4662, jenlou@mchsi.com, and Elizabeth Tomera, 277-8293, tomeras@verizon.net

Treasurer: Melissa Traum, 451-3224, atraum@comcast.net

Secretary:

Jennifer Barlow, 888-9777, jjbarlows5@yahoo.com



Parkside Penguins Rock !

Notes from our Nurse

Take good care

With the flu season well upon us, flu prevention can be as easy as 1-2-3:

1—Get a seasonal flu shot

2—Get the H1N1 flu shot and remember:

3-C's: **CLEAN** your hands

COVER your cough/sneeze, and

CONTAIN your germs by staying home if you are sick.

Remember the importance of breakfast:

- Hunger can decrease your ability to concentrate.
- Students who eat breakfast are more alert and do better on tests.
- Students who do not eat breakfast are tardy or absent more often.
- Morning hunger can reduce muscle coordination and problem-solving skills.
- Eating breakfast can help

with weight control.

- Eating a healthy breakfast provides your body with many important nutrients.

Please encourage your child to eat breakfast everyday. Parkside offers a breakfast at school for \$1.05 per meal; it is taken off of your child's lunch account. Let them know if it is okay with you that they eat breakfast at school, or be sure to get him/her something to eat at home before coming in. Being hungry makes for a long school day!

Upcoming Important Dates

Nov. 2 — PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

Nov. 20—1st trimester report cards go home

Nov. 20—PBIS cart

Nov. 24—Happy Feet, Miller Park Zoo Visit

Nov. 6 — Scrip orders due.

If you completed the background computer check at the beginning of the school year, your badge is ready for pick-up at the front office.

Nov. 25 — Institute Day, no school

Nov. 26-27 — Thanksgiving vacation, no school

Nov. 12—Vision and Hearing screenings

Should I send them to school?

If your child is sick, the best place for him/her is to be at home. Please keep your child at home if he has:

A fever of 100 or higher, or the any of the following symptoms:

Chills, headache, body aches, ear ache, nausea, vomiting or a dry cough.



A student should not return to school until he/she is fever-free for 24-hours without medication.

Remember: medication can only be taken at school if a written request form is completed by the student's doctor and a parent. This includes over-the-counter medications.