

# Parkside Penguin Press

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

APRIL 2009

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## Thoughts from the principal

Hello Parkside Families,

When you receive this, your children have probably raced in the door and thrown their backpacks in the corner in anticipation of spring break. Or, maybe you're going through the backpack on the Sunday before the children return to school after break. Whatever the situation, spring break marks the beginning of the end of the year. ISAT tests are over, there are no more major breaks, and the children are looking forward to the fun activities at the end of the year.

Before we get to May, however, we still have all of April to help the children progress. We really need to make use of this

time. April is a great time to set and meet some goals that have been left undone in the beginning of the year. For students who are teetering on the edge of reading at grade level, extra practice after school can help push them over that edge.

Whatever area your child needs to improve in, encourage him to figure out how to meet those goals. We are only in session for 9 months out of 12, and there are so many days off and distractions from our job of learning. We want to make the most of the time we do have. Let's make April AWESOME!

*Mrs. Shelly Erickson*



## Outside Again!

Now that the weather has **finally** warmed up again, the children can finally be outside. While this is great news, there are a couple of reminders for everyone. Students may NOT wear flip flops out

on the playground. This is an unsafe situation, and the children need to have athletic shoes for PE class anyway. If your child wears flip flops to school, please make sure they have shoes and socks for

PE and recess.

Please layer the students' clothing, as we will be lining up outside in the morning except for Mondays, and it can be chilly at 8:00 a.m.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **April 3; Scrip orders due.**
- **April 3; fundraiser items to be picked up between 3 and 4:30 p.m.**
- **April 6: PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m., multipurpose room.**
- **April 9; No school, School Improvement day.**
- **April 10: No school, board holiday.**
- **April 17; Family Fun Night from 6 to 8 p.m.**
- **Show your school spirit—volunteer!**

## School Improvement for 2008-2009

As you all know, improving our students' reading levels is the primary goal of our school improvement plan. One way of doing this is to teach, reinforce and promote the 7 keys to comprehension. To encourage our students to continue to use these strategies, they have all brought home a packet of assignments to do with you. When the students return the assignment they receive a sticker on their key. So far, about 30 students have completed all seven keys.

If you haven't been working on these very worthwhile and useful assignments, please get started! Remember, the reward for completing all 7 assignments is going to the theatre to see a movie. The packets are due on April 30. I know that the students who don't complete their keys will be very disappointed to miss the movie. While the incentive is important, our goal in sending the packet home is to encourage parents to actively participate in their students reading development.

As I have reviewed reading levels and students' progress for the year, it is clear which students read outside of school. These are the students making dramatic growth.

Please take the time to invest in your child's future by reading at least 15-20 minutes daily. **You** are an important part of our school improvement plan!

## PBIS Update

Every month we use the Skyward program to run data on office referrals. We monitor this closely, and work toward decreasing the number of referrals we have on a monthly basis. Interestingly, as we compare the number of referrals from last year to this year, the numbers are almost identical. We had 158 referrals

last year by the end of February, compared to 159 this year. The months vary somewhat, but the totals are almost exact.

***PTO meets at 6:30 p.m.  
Monday, April 6; free  
childcare is available.***

We still have time to reduce our referrals in the

upcoming months. Please review strategies for your children to follow so they can be respectful, responsible and safe. Physical aggression continues to be a concern at Parkside. Encourage your child to use words, move away from the situation, and to get an adult when they encounter a problem. They'll feel grown up by handling things in a mature manner!

### **Orientation for 5th graders at PJHS**

It's that time of year! Soon our 5th graders will leave us and move up the road to Parkside Jr. High. It is hard to believe these students will be moving on to middle school.

PJHS does a wonderful job of orienting the students to the ex-

pectations of middle school and in helping them begin to feel comfortable with the idea of leaving elementary school.

The guidance counselors will visit and talk about the classes and what the students' day will be like. Then our students will visit PJHS and spend time with peers at the middle school. Most importantly, they will get to eat

lunch there! Finally, PJHS will hold an orientation for students and their families on **April 21 from 6:30-7:30.**

Please feel free to call if you have questions. As a former teacher and assistant principal at PJHS, I would be happy to answer questions or concerns you might have.

## PTO News

PTO would like to thank all of the students and parents who sold butter braids and spring fundraiser items! We appreciate your support and your time to help raise money for your PTO. The spring fundraiser items will arrive Friday April 3, and can be picked up between 3 and 4:30 p.m.

PTO would appreciate any parents who are available to come to the school to help organize and distribute orders between 12:45 and 4:30 p.m. that day; please contact Lisa Castleman if you are available.

### **Mark your calendars!!**

Family Fun Night is Friday April 17th. Watch for information on admission pre-sales in April. This is an annual night of games, food and fun for the family. Please contact DiAnn Naden at

### **PTO Board members**

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

We will be honoring our retiring speech teacher, **Mrs. Laffey** on Thursday May 21, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the school. We will be having cake, cookies and punch to celebrate her retirement and to thank her for all she has done for so many Parkside students over the years! We hope present and Parkside graduates and their parents will attend this very special occasion.

PTO invites parents who are interested in being a part of

jj.naden@comcast.net to volunteer, or Melanie Johnson at johnsonmelanie98@yahoo.com with any questions.

Spirit Wear order forms will be sent home April 8, and are due back by April 17. The

Treasurer:  
Melissa Traum, 451-3224  
atraum@comcast.net  
Secretary:  
Jennifer Barlow,  
888-9777,  
jjbarlows5@yahoo.com

the playground planning committee to attend a meeting lead by Chris Nichols on Monday, April 6 at 7:45 p.m. The second meeting is scheduled for Monday May 4 at 7:45 p.m.

Please don't forget to place your SCRIPS orders by Friday April 3rd. It is an easy and great way to help raise money for PTO with little effort. Watch for the Scrips form to come home at the end of the month.

new selection of items will be on display during Family Fun Night so be sure to stop by the table and be ready to complete your order. Car magnets will also be available for the low, low price of \$5.

Show your Parkside Pride!



## NEWS FROM OUR NURSE

### **No exams, No immunizations...No school!!**

In November, the Unit 5 Board of Education adopted a change in the policy that deals with the exclusion date for physicals and immunizations. Those students who will be entering kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades this fall must turn in a physical exam and all immunizations by the first day of school or they will be **excluded!** We are encouraging

parents of incoming kindergarten children to go ahead and get the required physical exam, any needed immunizations, and their eye exam NOW, and turn them in at kindergarten pre-registration. Pre-registration is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., here at Parkside Elementary.

Illinois State law requires all kindergarten students to have an eye exam with proof of the

exam turned in on or before the first day of school. In addition, all kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grade students are required to have proof of a dental exam by May 15th of the school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or visit the Unit 5 website for more information.

Paula Birsa, RN, BSN  
Certified School Nurse

### **Upcoming Important Dates**

**April 3** — Scrip orders due.

**April 9** — No school, school improvement day.

**April 17** — Family Fun Night from 6 to 8 p.m. at Parkside.

**April 3** — Fundraising item pick-up from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**April 10** — No school, board holiday.

**April 21**-6th grade orientation at PJHS, 6:30-7:30

**April 6** — PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m., multipurpose room.

**Is your child working  
on the 7 Keys to  
Comprehension  
packet?**

**April 30**-7 keys packet due

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Do you know any children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1? If so, please pass along to their family that kindergarten registration is May 7. We will have two meetings, one at 9:00 and one at

6:30. Both meetings will take place in the multi-purpose room. Families may bring their kindergarten child as they will work with our kindergarten teachers.

Families should also bring with them: a certificate of live birth, any recent physical

and immunization records, and emergency phone numbers we can have in the computer where they can be reached.

We're looking forward to meeting our new students and families!