

# Parkside Penguin Press

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

MARCH 2009

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## Thoughts from the principal

Hello Parkside Families,

With any luck spring will arrive as quickly as March has! It has been a long winter for everyone and I know that our students are eager to be outside in the fresh air for recess and physical education as much as possible.

This week begins ISAT testing (March 2-March 13) for 3rd thru 5th grades. We educators have mixed emotions about statewide testing. We do like to see student progress documented from year to year. There is a consistency to goals that the children are expected to meet.

However, the high stakes that are associated with these tests make us all a little nervous. We want to make sure that all of our children are prepared to meet the state goals and

standards, but this can be a tall order. And, many of our children would rather show their learning in tasks other than a standardized assessment. We all realize that this is a fact of life, and Parkside teachers and staff work very hard to help all of our students achieve to their maximum level.

What is your role? You've heard this many times before. Please make sure your children get a good night's sleep. Eating a breakfast that will stick with them longer than 1 or 2 hours is important. Talking with them about doing their best, even when they get a little tired or frustrated, is also helpful.

By March 2, the foundation has all been laid. I know our kids will do a great job!

*Mrs. Shelly Erickson*



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **March 2: PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m., multipurpose room.**
- **March 2-6; Scholastic Book Fair.**
- **March 6: Scrip orders due.**
- **March 10-11: Meathead's fundraiser.**
- **March 2-13: ISAT testing for 3rd, 4th and 5th**
- **March 23-27: No school, spring break**

## Spelling Bee Participants

On January 22 some outstanding 4th and 5th grade spellers vied to be the one to represent Parkside at the county spelling bee. The contenders were: Abby Berry, Riley Davis, Bryan Greenberg,

Tanner Longfellow, Nia Morris, Nick Piller, Ben Rhodes, and Chuminique Ricks. Ryan Traum, though he won the contest in 4H, was ill the day of the spelling bee. All of the students did a great

job! Nick Piller was the runner up and Ben Rhodes represented us at IWU in the county bee. Ben did a fabulous job, hanging in for 3 rounds. Kudos to all, especially Ben, for a job well done.

*Please call the office if you need your Skyward account login-password so that you can check your food account balance, grades, attendance and more.*

## School Improvement for 2008-2009

I hope all of our Parkside Penguins are working hard on our 2 reading incentives. The 7 keys to comprehension continue to be reinforced throughout the school day during lessons in every subject. The children should be working towards completing their packets at home. Students who complete the entire packet will be rewarded with a trip to a movie theatre for a movie. Packets are due by April 30, and must be done entirely at home. Teachers will not be working

with students on them at school. We really believe that if children work on these skills during the day as well as at home, the growth will be that much larger. Please help your children complete the packet. I will hate to see the sad faces when they cannot attend the movie.

The second incentive involves students reading for pleasure. A calendar will come home every month. Students need to write how much time they read in each

box, for a total of AT LEAST 6 hours. After a parent signs it, the calendar can be turned in at the end of the month. Students are competing for the top reader title at each grade level. I am amazed at the number of minutes some children have read!

Teachers are also participating, and Mrs. Purcell is the top reader with over 63 hours so far. She's really set the bar VERY high!

## Scholastic Book Fair

### Lights.... Camera...Book Fair!

The Hollywood fanfair will be held March 2-6. Daily hours will be from 10 a.m. until 3:35 p.m. (closing at 3 p.m. Friday).

Once again we will have the *One for Books* program to earn books for children in need by raising money. Students try to guess the

number of popcorn pieces in the jar; winner gets \$25 in free books for themselves and their classroom. Your child can make

a guess each day using this schedule:

***Book Fair!***

***Book Fair!***

***Book fair!***

- **Monday**-guess for a penny
- **Tuesday**-guess for a nickel
- **Wednesday**-guess for a dime
- **Thursday**-guess for a quarter
- **Friday**-Winner revealed

### Extended hours:

We will keep the Book Fair open throughout the day Monday until a few minutes after the PTO meeting. Parents who attend the PTO meeting will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a free book.

Thursday will be our "Grand" event and the fair will be open until 6 p.m.; on this day pictures

will be taken on our "Walk of Fame" for students who make a purchase. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles are all invited to come for their 'photo op.'

Book Fair preview sheets will be coming home with your student soon. Please look it over with your child. If you plan to make a purchase from the sheet, please remember that tax isn't included until the actual sale is rung-up.

If you are able to help with the Book Fair, we can always use volunteers. Please call the office to sign-up.

If you have questions please visit our school website through [www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org)

Mr. Starr, IMC Specialist

## PTO News

### ***From our PTO Board***

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

Family fun night is from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 17. We hope you and your family will join us for a fun evening of games, food, face painting, inflatables, an obstacle course and more!

This night is only possible with everyone's help; please contact DiAnn Naden at

jj.naden@comcast.net to volunteer 35-45 minutes of your time.

You can help run a game, sell food in the cafeteria, or work the cake walk. It's fun to be a part of a great evening at our school.

Please eat at Meatheads on March 10 or 11; a percentage of the sales will go directly to Parkside PTO.

Our next PTO meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 2. Please join us and learn more about Parkside. Free childcare and snacks are provided. The next PTO fundraiser

will be from March 2 through 11. Every item will be \$5. Profits will be used toward updating the Parkside playground. More information will be coming home with your

### **Parkside Pride**

If you haven't already, please purchase a Parkside Elementary magnet for your car. The cost is only \$5; just send your payment in an envelope with your student and we'll send your magnet home with them.

child this week. Products will be delivered April 3. The top two selling classes will be treated to a pizza party!

### **PTO Board members**

Co-presidents:  
Jenny Demosthenes,  
828-4662,  
jenlou@mchsi.com;  
and Elizabeth Tomera,  
454-8349,  
tomeras@verizon.net

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



## NEWS FROM OUR NURSE

### ***Important....***

#### **New policy:**

Students who will be entering kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades in the fall MUST turn in proof of a physical exam and all immunizations by the first day of school or they will be excluded from attending school. This is a

change from Unit 5's previous Oct. 15 deadline.

State law also requires that all kindergarten students have an eye examination by Oct. 15, and all kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grade students to have a dental exam by May 15.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me anytime.

Paula Birsa, RN, BSN  
Certified School Nurse  
(309) 452-8031

### **Upcoming Important Dates**

**March 2** — PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m., multi-purpose room.

**March 2-11** — PTO fundraiser.

**March 2-13** — ISAT testing for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades.

**March 6** — Scrip orders due.

Report cards sent home.

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

**March 10-11** — Meat-head's fundraiser.

**March 23-27** — No school, spring break.

**April 17** — Family Fun Night; be sure and volunteer!

### **Pre-registration**

We are encouraging parents of incoming kindergarten children to get a physical exam and any need immunizations completed now and turn them in at kindergarten pre-registration, which is scheduled for May

Flu season has hit our area. Symptoms include:

High fever, chills, headache, body aches, ear ache, nausea, vomiting and/or a dry cough.

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

A fever of 100.4 or higher, or has the above symptoms.

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. Over-the-counter medications should not be sent with your student.