

Parkside Penguin Press

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

MAY 2009

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Thoughts from the principal

Hello Parkside Families,

We are close to wrapping up another year, which always seems a little hard to believe. Working with young children marks time in such a significant way, that it's impossible not to notice its passage. As always, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to get to watch the students learn and grow so much every year. I simply cannot imagine having a job where I didn't get to see this progress.

On a more business like note, our end of the year is a little strange because of our snow days. After Memorial Day, we have 4 full days of school. We will send report cards home on Friday, May 29. Because we have a school improvement day on June 1, I believe that many children will not return for the hour on June 2, and that many would not get their

report cards. To avoid having to mail a very large number of cards, we will send them home on Friday. However, we would love to have the children all attend on June 2 so we can say good-bye.

We will send registration forms home in report cards. Please, please mail these in even if you wait to pay fees until August. We really appreciate knowing who will return before August 6, which is registration.

I hope you enjoy spending time this summer with your children. I always loved summer days that were more loosely scheduled so we could do activities on the spur of the moment, or just lie around the back yard. After all, August will be here before you know it!

Mrs. Shelly Erickson

PBIS Raffle

You may have heard the students talking about the baskets that are on display at the front of the school. For the next two weeks, students will be able to earn raffle entries for any number of 39

baskets. They range from water toys to Star Wars to High School Musical 3 CDs, to movies and candy. Students will have until May 8 to get as many coupons as they can to win their basket



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **May 1; Scrip orders due.**
- **May 4; PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m.**
- **May 7; Kindergarten registration at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.**
- **May 12; Monical's night fundraiser.**
- **May 25; no school, Memorial Day.**
- **May 29; last full day of school.**
- **June 1; No school, school improvement day.**
- **June 2; last hour of school.**

choice. Of course, they earn coupons by following our PBIS rules of respect, responsibility and safety. Ask your child which basket she's trying for. I wish everyone the best of luck!

School Improvement for 2008-2009

As we approach the end of the year, teachers are busily assessing students' reading growth since January. Some of the teachers have completed their assessments a bit early, and the results are extremely exciting! Several of our classes have 70 to 80% of their students at or above grade level. Needless to say, all of us are celebrating this growth!

One of the main ideas we have tried to communicate to both students and their families this year is that

reading is thinking. While it is necessary for anyone to learn to decode words before they can understand them, decoding is a prerequisite skill. While children are reading, we want them to be making connections to themselves or to other books, we want them to predict what they think will happen based on the text and their own experience, and we hope they are storing all of that information in their brains through those strategies. If children are to learn how to USE what they read, these processes must all take place.

When I work with my reading groups and I hear the children talk about connections or inferences, I am filled with a sense of satisfaction.

Please keep working on these skills over the summer! We don't want any of our hard earned progress to slip away during June, July or August. We have such wonderful libraries in town; take the time to visit. The Normal Public Library will present to the children on May 20 and get them fired up for the summer program. I hope you can sign up for the program and attend. We'll know who did in August!

Beyond the Books

Last spring, Parkside First Grade was awarded a **Beyond the Books** grant for \$800.00 for their "Magnificent Math Minds" project. Ms. Sprau, Mrs. Aper and Ms. Wamhoff began a weekly "Guided Math" day where the children rotated between Work Stations, re-teaching and

enrichment lessons, and practice activities. The grant money was used to purchase

math games and ma-

First Grade benefited from a grant and a mini-grant!!

nipulatives for the children in First Grade to use during the Guided Math time. The program has been a big success! First graders look forward to Wednesday afternoons when they know they will be interactively learning math skills with their peers.

First grade was also awarded a \$300.00 mini-grant from Beyond The Books for their "Dramatic Adventures" project. The grant money was used to help pay partial ticket price for First Graders to attend two children's plays at the Bloomington Center For The Performing Arts. First grade attended "Stone Soup"

and "Harry The Dirty Dog" during the first trimester. It was a great opportunity for the children to experience live theater, a musical and a children's book brought to life. If you would like to learn more about Beyond The Books, or to see this year's recipients, please visit:

<http://www.unit5.org/districtinformation/partnerships/beyondthebooks.shtml>

Beyond The Books grants are an amazing support to teachers in Unit 5 and District 87 and donations are always welcome.

PTO News

Mark your calendars...

Our last restaurant fundraiser of the school year is at Monical's on May 12th. Please treat your family to dinner and help out your PTO. A portion of the evening's sales will be donated to PTO.

PTO has car magnets for sale to help you show your Penguin Pride! They only cost \$5 and are available by sending a note to school with your child along with your \$5 payment.

We couldn't have had a successful evening without all the volunteers who helped to organize, plan and help. We appreciate all the hard work and time donated, as well as all the items for the cake walk. Parents and teachers stepped up to make sure

The magnet will then be sent home with your student.

Or, feel free to contact Melissa Traum at 451-3224.

PTO has committee positions open for the 2009-2010 school year; they include chairs for Fall Fundraiser, Caring, Box Tops and Family Fun Night. Please be sure and contact a PTO board member for more information.

Our Playground committee is busy making decisions about

games, activities and ticket sales went smoothly. **A special thank you** to Chris and Lisa Nichols and the entire Nichols family for putting together all the food and drinks, and for running the kitchen the entire evening. Thanks also go out to Melanie

our playground expansion and we would like you to come and see what exciting things are in store! The next Playground Committee meeting will be held directly after the May 4th PTO meeting. Please bring your ideas, questions and support. In order to make this a lasting project, we need your help, time and energy!

PTO would like to thank all of the parents and faculty who helped make our Family Fun Night a huge success!

Johnson and Teri Schmidt who worked many, many hours making sure the basket raffle had great items and that the entire night ran well.

Lastly, thanks to DiAnn Naden who put together all the volunteers! Thank you!!

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



NEWS FROM OUR NURSE

No exams, No immunizations...No school!!

- Students entering Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grade in the fall of 2009 MUST turn in a physical exam and all immunizations by the FIRST DAY of school or they will be EXCLUDED ON THE FIRST DAY!
- Get those physical exams and any needed immunizations NOW and turn them in at registration.
- All incoming kindergarten students are required to have an eye exam by Oct. 15th, 2009.
- All incoming kindergarten and 2nd grade students are required to have a dental exam on file by May 15th, 2010.
- All kindergarten and 2nd grade students THIS

YEAR must have a dental exam by May 15th, 2009.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or visit the Unit 5 website for more information at www.unit5.org

Kindergarten pre-registration is Thursday May 7th at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Paula Birsa, RN, BSN
Certified School Nurse

Upcoming Important Dates

May 4 — PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m., multipurpose room.

May 5 — 7 Keys movie reward in a.m.

May 7 — Kindergarten Registration, 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m

May 13—Young Author's breakfast 7:30

May 19—Family Game Night, 5:30-7:00

May 21—Mrs. Laffey retirement recognition, 3:00-5:00

*Registration is August 6 from 3-7, but you can just mail yours in!
Don't forget!*

May 25 – No School, Memorial Day

May 27—Talent Show, 1:30

May 28—Playday in P.M.

May 29—Playday rain date & last full day of school

June 1 — No school, school improvement day.

June 2 — 9:15 dismissal

Under the Sea, Come write with me!

**Please join us for:
The Young Author's
Breakfast....**

Who: Parkside Students who wrote a Young Author's book, and their parents (sorry, no siblings).

Why: To honor all the writers and display all the fantastic books.

When: Wed. May 13

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Where: Parkside Elementary Gym

See you there!

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