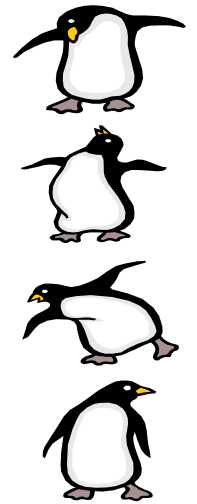


Parkside Penguin Press

1900 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal Illinois 61761 862-5014
Attendance Line: 862-5015

December, 2006

Notes from the Principal



Dear Parkside families,

As we enter the very busy holiday season, I hope that you can all maintain some semblance of normality to your schedule. It's always a challenge! There seems to be little time for regular meals and quiet time for homework and reading with the children. However, the more you can keep to a predictable routine, the better children do. Try to remember that sometimes we see our students "melt down" when they are too rushed at home.

You should have had a chance to look over the SAT10 scores from tests taken in September. Grades 1-5 took these achievement tests, while students in grades 2 and 5 also took the Otis-Lennon ability assessment. I met with all the teachers to discuss how to use the information we received. We will continue to keep an eye on the NCE (normal curve equivalent), which measures growth from year to year. It is also supposed to correlate to students meeting on the ISAT tests if it is around 55%.

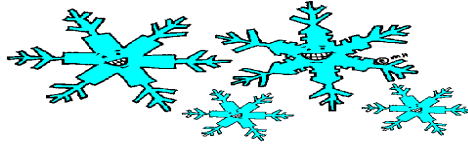
We will be having an after school program for students whose performance indicates they might not meet on ISAT. It will begin in January and last for 13 weeks. Students will be invited with a letter. We will also have a program for first grade students who are indicating a need for extra reinforcement in reading and math. That program will begin in December and last until March. Parents will be notified of that shortly.

While we cannot work with all the students who need extra reinforcement, much of what you do at home can help. Try to read to your child every day, even if it's for a short time. Talk about money and let them count coins or bills. Of course, please continue to work on the math flashcards that came home.

Thank you for all that you do to help the children succeed. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Mrs. Erickson

Tips from Title 1



Winter is the perfect time to snuggle up with a good book! Find time to read aloud to your children every day. Even your older elementary students will enjoy the time you spend with them reading. Here are some fun books to read this December:

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

Bear Stays Up for Christmas by Karma Wilson

All You Need For A Snowman by Alice Schertle

Stella Queen of the Snow by Marie-Louise Gay

Reading aloud....

- ✓ *Stimulates your children's imaginations*
- ✓ *Develops interest in reading and in books*
- ✓ *Improves your children's listening skills and builds vocabulary*
- ✓ *Creates a bond between you and your child*
- ✓ *Helps children to become independent readers*
- ✓

Have a warm and wonderful December!

Lunch Information

Some students have been buying 2 lunches. As long as we have the additional lunch figured in our count that is okay. However, we will require a parent note giving the student permission. We want to make sure parents know where the lunch tickets are going. We also want to make sure parents approve of children getting that much food at one time. Our observation is that students usually can't finish 2 lunches.

Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies (PBIS) Update

We continue to work on appropriate behavior with the students. One area that persists as a problem area is lining up appropriately. Everyone wants to be first! Of course, that is not possible. We discuss with the children that whether they are first, last, or somewhere in between, there will not be a huge difference in time of when they arrive at their destination. Obviously being first in line for lunch or recess is desirable, but we have problems even when children are lining up to go back to class. Keeping their hands to themselves is also a concern in line. Students can earn bee bops when they do this appropriately, but you can help by discussing this at home as well. Try to reinforce how everyone has to wait in line at times. Discuss how you would feel if someone came up and "budded" in line after you'd been waiting awhile. This is truly a life skill that you can be a great role model for. Thanks for your help!



End of the Day/Early Dismissal Arrangements

It's hard to imagine snow while the temperature is in the sixties, but it won't be long! Please make sure to have arrangements made in case of an early dismissal due to weather. If your child will leave with another parent or relative, make sure to send that information to your child's teacher (and the office) so we know what is happening when we get out. Remember, it can be hard to get through on the phone on an early out day.

Even on a regular day, please remember that we need a note if your child is doing something different. Sometimes children get their days confused and think they are to be picked up when they are not. If a parent is not here when the bus comes and we don't have a note, the child will ride the bus. We try to call and make contact with parents, but it is not always possible to reach people on the phone. The more informed we are the better!

Kindergarten/First grade Music Program

We're looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, December 14 at 6:30. The students have been working hard! There's nothing like children singing to put you in a holiday mood, so don't miss it!

News from the Nurse

The **COLD & FLU** season is upon us. **HAND WASHING** is a simple way we can **ALL** help prevent the spread of germs that cause illness!

- Remember to scrub the front and back of the hands, between the fingers and your wrists for at least 15 seconds with soap!
- Singing the Happy Birthday song once is a good example of the time recommended for proper hand washing especially with younger children.

This fun little song is to the tune of Frosty the Snowman:

NASTY THE SICK GERM!

Nasty the sick germ is a mean and sneaky soul.
He will make you sick and he'll do it quick,
That's his one and only goal!
Nasty the sick germ is a fairy tale they say.
But the children know how he likes to go,
To school with them each day!
There isn't any magic in the way he likes to
Spread.
But if you wash him down the drain -
I'll guarantee he's dead!
So....down to the washroom,
Where we know there is still hope.
If we want to kick him out of school,
We need water and some soap!!

Thumpety thump thump, thumpety thump
Thump; To the sink we go!
Scrub a dub dub, scrub a dub dub dub;
Look at ole Nasty go!!

By: Pam Sinnet, RN



Important Dates!

12/04	PTO, 6:30
12/07 & 08	Santa's Secret Workshop, 2:00-5:00
12/14	K, 1 Music Program, 6:30
12/21	Winter parties, 2:15
12/22	End of 2 nd grading period & last day before break
12/25-1/05	No School - Winter Break
1/08	PTO, 6:30
1/12	Report cards go home
1/15	No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday
1/26	No School - School Improvement Day

PTO News

Hello again! First of all we would like to thank all of the parents who have been supporting PTO through our various fundraisers so far this year. We realize many of you may be experiencing "fundraiser fatigue" this time of year, but keep in mind there is no more worthy cause than our kid's education. We'd also like to thank all the PTO committee chairs that have been working so hard this year to make our group a success. They really have put forth the effort and we appreciate it.

And special thanks this month goes out to Mrs. Erickson for all her help with our various PTO projects, such as coordinating the magazine sales assembly and choosing the float participants. These were two areas where we needed some help and she really got things done for us.

Many parents have been wondering just what the PTO does with all the money we take in from our fundraisers. We have a detailed budget which is available to any Parkside parent at our monthly meeting. Thanks to the hard work of our treasurer Michele Sampson, every penny is accounted for and you can see exactly how your PTO is spending the money. This month we have been working on the teacher's wish lists, helping provide worthwhile classroom items that directly contribute to improving the learning environment. Another big plus this month has been the addition of an assembly. At our last meeting the parents voted to bring the "Yes You Can!" program to Parkside for all the kids to watch and learn from. The "Yes You Can!" program features USA Paralympic volleyball team player Lloyd Bacharach who is devoted to inspiring and motivating others to reach their full potential. You can find out more about this program at www.yes-you-can.net.

And you can always find out more about what your PTO group is up to at the monthly meetings! The next one is Monday, December 4th at 6:30 in the multi-purpose room. See you there!

Chris Rhodes and Dianna Cordero
PTO co-presidents

Room Parties Update

Thanks to all of you who helped the Fall classroom parties be a success. I am now working on the Winter parties. I still need party coordinators for Mrs. Burger (2BU), Mrs. Purcell (3P) and Mrs. Goldman (5G) Please let me know if you can help. Thanks.

Kathy Berry
PTO Room Party Coordinator Liaison
452-1505

Scrapbook

I'm in charge of the scrapbook this year, and I am looking for the first day of school pictures, homecoming parade pictures, Halloween party pictures and pictures from the winter parties that are coming up. These kinds of pictures would be a perfect fit for our scrapbook. They can be left in the PTO box and I will check it every once in a while.

I'm working with prints only at this time, so please no digital photos on disc, but if you can print out your digital photos for me, that would be great!

Thanks a bunch!!

Jeanne McLoda

268-9100



Box Tops Are Back!

The Box Tops collection boxes are back in the classrooms and we are ready to start collecting those Box Tops! Many parents have been asking about it and we finally have a system in place. So now you can send all those General Mills Box Tops for Education you have been saving in to school with your students.

This has been a very successful program in the past for raising money for our school and it doesn't cost you a cent. Check out the boxtops4education.com website for a list of products that have the Box Tops if you're not already familiar with the program.

All we ask is that you trim the Box Tops neatly so our coordinator doesn't have to spend hours doing it. If you have any questions contact LaNell Greenberg at 452-4869.

