



Parkside Penguin Press

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January/February 2007
Notes from the Principal



Dear Parkside families,

Unbelievably, the school year is already half way over! Second semester is the time in which we see the most growth from the students. Review of the previous year has taken place and students are being introduced to new concepts on a regular basis. Students are putting together several skills and are focusing on application. Even though performance on standardized tests is important, we don't want students to just be able to perform in a rote manner. We want them to make connections, to apply learning to everyday life.

When I think about students who struggled when I was at the middle school level, it was the students who couldn't get organized, or who couldn't apply knowledge to a situation or couldn't make connections between different concepts. We really want Parkside Elementary students to be able to do all those things.

Of course, who better to reinforce these skills than you? Parents can involve children in cooking, in shopping, in reading all sorts of material that reinforces the concepts that we teach in school. While we can provide a simulation of a real life learning experience, you have access to your students during a wealth of potential learning time. Best of all, the children won't even realize they're learning!

All of us here at Parkside Elementary recognize that our families are important teaching tools. Please take the time to look over worksheets, reading material, and assessments so that you're familiar with what's happening at school. We value you as our partners, and know that by working together our kids will make great strides in the second half of the year.

Mrs. Erickson

Tips from Title 1

Make time for reading this winter!

- *Put books in all rooms of your house, including next to the TV (Which is more important?)
- *Put books in your car. When you stop for an appointment take some books with you to read as you wait.
- *Create a cool reading spot in your home to make reading more appealing.
- *Encourage your child to read whenever they have some "quiet time."
- *Set a timer for 30 minutes each night for quiet reading and writing.
- *Encourage your children to read in bed before they go to sleep. Let them keep "lights on" for 15 minutes

Some great January book ideas...

The Mystery Mitten Mystery by Steven Kellogg
My Penguin Osbert by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
My Brother's Side by Tiki and Ronde Barber
Llama Llama Red Pajamas by Anna Dewdney
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Henry and Ribsy by Beverly Cleary



Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies *Bee Responsible, Bee Respectful, and Bee Safe!*

As we examine our data, we are finding that students have a hard time lining up without problems. We constantly have to deal with the age old issue of "he/she budged me!" We are working very hard on lining up with our hands to ourselves and in a calm and orderly fashion. We discuss how "we are all going the same place at the same time." However, it's still a problem. Please discuss the whole waiting in line concept with your child as it comes up in everyday life. While I certainly wish I *never* had to wait in line, that hasn't happened yet. So, this is a life skill our students will need. Please encourage children to be respectful about not "budging" and about leaving some space so they don't have their hands/ feet on others.

News from the Nurse

February is Dental Health Month!!

The American Dental Association wishes to remind us all to:

BRUSH at least TWICE A DAY using a fluoride toothpaste!

FLOSS EVERYDAY to remove food and plaque brushing misses!

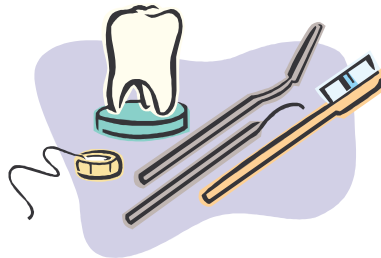
EAT NUTRITIOUS FOODS & SNACKS like fresh fruits, raw vegetables, low fat dairy products and **STAY AWAY from SUGARY TREATS and DRINKS!!** Soda - one can, contains up to 13 teaspoons of sugar!!

VISIT your DENTIST REGULARLY, every 6 months!!

WEAR PROTECTIVE MOUTHGUARDS when participating in sports!!

A HEALTHY SMILE IS ALWAYS IN STYLE!!

The following websites provide excellent information and interactive activities for children:
American Dental Association - www.ada.org and Crest - www.crest.com



Study Island - A New Study Tool for ISAT

We have purchased access to a web based computer program called Study Island. The program provides assessment and review for the students in both reading and math, and students in grades 3-5 have access to it. I know that the teachers have put information in their class newsletters, so it is likely you have heard of it. If you can get on the internet, you can access the program. Go to www.studyisland.com. Students should know their user name and password and how to proceed through the program. If you would like more detailed information on how to use the program, please contact me and I will send it home with your child. We are hoping this extra practice will improve our test scores!



As the weather gets colder, encourage your students to do something outdoors, even if just for a short period of time. A family walk to or from school or around the block would help everyone get their heart rates up! If it's too cold for outdoor fun, try www.healthiergeneration.org/kids, a website created by The Alliance for a Healthier Generation. The website was created by the William J. Clinton foundation and the American Heart Association to help reduce childhood obesity.

February 2, 2007 is National Wear Red Day. Take part in the fight against heart disease in women. Visit www.GoRedForWomen.org. When you have your health, you truly have everything!



Important Dates!

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| 1/26 | No School - School Improvement Day |
| 2/05 | PTO at 6:30 - Child Care provided |
| 2/09 | No School - Institute |
| 2/12 | No School - Lincoln's Birthday observed |
| 2/14 | Valentine's Day parties at 2:15 |
| 2/22 | 4 th /5 th grade music program, 6:30 |
| 3/01 | Regional Spelling Bee at IWU, 9:30 |
| 3/05 | No School - Casimir Pulaski observance |
| 3/12- | ISAT testing begins (grades 3-5) |
| 3/22 | SAT testing begins (grades 1-2) |

PTO News

Your PTO has made a lot of progress in the last couple of months! Santa's Secret Workshop and the holiday room parties went well, thanks to our committee chairs and all the people who volunteered to help.

Acting on a suggestion from Mrs. Erickson, we were able to fund the purchase of the 1st binder of the "Project Wisdom" program at a cost of \$450. This will take some effort on the part of our Treasurer to manage the budget accordingly, but the membership at our January meeting believes it will be worth the effort. Project Wisdom can be a real asset to Parkside since it will improve our character education resources. More binders can be purchased in the future if the program is a success.

We will not have a nominating committee this year as all four members of the PTO board (Co-Presidents, Treasurer and Recording Secretary) will be returning next year. However, several committee chairs will not be active next year since they are moving out of the area or their youngest kids are moving on to Junior High. This will be a great opportunity for any interested parents to take over as a committee chair. Several key positions will be opening up, check out our next PTO meeting for more details. It may seem a little early to be recruiting volunteers for next year already, but this year has been quite the learning experience for your PTO co-presidents and we are determined to plan ahead and be prepared so next year goes as smoothly as possible. With your help, PTO will continue to build on our successes and continue to benefit our children's school even more in the future.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 5th in the multi-purpose room. See you there!

Chris Rhodes and Dianna Cordero
PTO Co-Presidents

Attention All Parkside Dads!

The PTO is forming a playground committee to help do some work to improve the playground at Parkside Elementary. We have identified some of the areas in need of attention, such as the gravel spilled outside the play areas, railroad tie placement and/or replacement and several pieces of playground equipment in need of sanding and re-painting. As soon as weather permits we will be planning a day to work around the playground. This is the perfect PTO project for Dads to get involved with, and we could really use your help on this one!

Anyone interested in helping out with this worthwhile project should contact playground committee chair Chris Nichols at normalnichols@verizon.net.

