

Parkside Penguin Press

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER, 2008

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Thoughts from the principal

Hello Parkside Families,

I want to thank everyone who was able to attend our Open House. We had almost 200 families; what a great turnout! I have also noticed many new parents volunteering in the building for various jobs. Thank you to everyone who is stepping up to the plate to support our school, children and teachers.

October is one of my favorite months! The weather is usually awesome, bringing high pressure, sunny days and cool nights. We're all in the full swing of the school year with expectations and routines fully established. This year, October is especially exciting at Parkside as we prepare to

start our new reading program. All of the students have been assessed and the teachers have been working *incredibly* hard to get new activities and plans ready to roll.

As I go into classrooms to observe and work with students, I continue to communicate to them how very important their reading improvement is to all of us, but especially to them. As we have progressed through this election year, I am continuously reminded why this democracy works. It's because we have an educated population, which is a true privilege. I'm honored to be a part of helping children become educated adults.

Mrs. Shelly Erickson



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Oct. 6: PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room.*
- *Oct. 13: No school, Columbus Day.*
- *Oct. 17: early dismissal at 1:15 p.m. for homecoming.*
- *Oct. 29: No school, parent-teacher conferences.*
- *Oct. 31: Halloween parade at 2 p.m. with class parties afterward.*

24-HOUR CALL IN LINE

- *For your convenience we have a 24-hour absence call-in line. Just dial (309) 862-5015 to report a student absence. This helps Mrs. Bosquez assist students who are in the office early in the morning without her phone ringing so often. We do ask that calls be made prior to 9 a.m. whenever possible. Thank you!*

Phone Calls to the Office

We are experiencing some real difficulties in the office with families calling to change plans for their students, some on a daily basis. Throughout the day, but especially at 2:00, the

phone rings nonstop with parents asking us to get messages to their children. This is a big concern on many levels. Every time we call a classroom, we disrupt instruction and children

are sometimes upset. PLEASE send a note in your child's backpack reflecting a change of plans, instead of calling. We will **not** be able to deliver messages for calls **after 2:45.**

Family Reading Night

Mark your calendars for **October 7 from 6:15 to 7:45**. Parkside will be hosting a Family Reading Night, and the whole school is invited. We are especially excited about this night because it will feature the 7 Keys to Comprehension.

Perhaps you remember that students earned 7 keys to help them unlock the magic of reading last year. The 7 keys are an excellent blueprint for reading im-

provement. By coming to the school and participating in the program with your child, you can learn how to use those keys when reading with your students at home.

The 7 keys are *visualizing, making connections, asking questions, determining importance, inferencing, synthesizing, and using fix-up strategies*. They are all truly “key” to students becoming proficient readers. If you are interested in purchasing

the book, [The 7 Keys to Comprehension](#), you can order it online or through a local bookstore. It’s easy to read and gives great ideas for parents as well as educators. We will also have a Book Swap that night in the IMC, an activity that students really enjoy, and it’s FREE!

We will serve cookies and punch, not a full meal on October 7. We hope you can join us for some reading and fun!

SCRIP Program

PTO Scrip Program

Scrip is just a shorter word for gift cards and gift certificates. You can buy Scrip to give as presents, to use toward special purchases, or just your every day purchases. PTO/Parkside benefits by getting a percentage of your order, while you don’t spend any more money

than you would have anyway!

Orders are due the first Friday of the month and cards are distributed by the second Friday of each month.

Please call the office to schedule a parent-teacher conference if you were unable to sign-up during Open House.

Don’t forget to order a Noodles & Company card this month and spend it at the Normal Noodles on Noodles Day/Night; both the card purchase and your food purchase will benefit PTO and ultimately all Parkside students.

Correction

A calendar recently went home with an incorrect date.

Classroom Christmas parties ARE scheduled for Thursday, December 18th at 2:15 p.m.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Box Tops for Education

Please clip and send in all your Box Tops for Education from products you use each and every day.

Each Box Top collected is worth 10 cents. While that may not sound like much, Parkside collected nearly \$1,000 worth of Box Tops last year alone. That money then went directly toward items for our school.

Box Tops for Education can be found on thousands of products; just cut them out and send them to school with your student.

Box Tops can be found on many frozen foods, Kleenex, Juicy Juice, Hefty bags, Ziploc bags, General Mills cereals and more. For a complete list go to:

www.boxtopsforeducation.com

PTO News

Our next PTO meeting is Oct. 6. Dr. Niehaus will be present to meet Parkside parents, listen to our concerns, and answer questions people might have. Our first meeting had a great turn out! Let's keep that trend going!

PTO will have free childcare available at the meeting for any parents who would like to bring their children along. We will also be providing sweets to enjoy. If you are planning to attend and will be taking advantage of the childcare, please let a PTO board member know by Thursday, Oct. 2nd so we can ensure adequate coverage.

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, atrium@comcast.net

Reminder from the nurse

If you have a child in kindergarten, they need to have a current health physical and immunization record on file.

If you are new to the district, a physical and immunization record is needed as well. Unit 5's exclusion date for incomplete records is **October 15**.

GET YOUR NOODLES!

Noodles Day/Night is Monday, November 3. A percentage of every sale that day at the Normal Noodles & Company goes toward Parkside Elementary PTO.

Please plan on having lunch or dinner at Noodles Nov. 3rd! Better yet, order a Noodles Scrip card this month through our Scrip Program and use the card that night.

We are still encouraging parents to donate to our No Hassle Fundraiser. Simply make a donation to Parkside PTO. All donations are 100% tax deductible and insures that every dollar you give

goes directly toward our school.

HOMECOMING

Homecoming is Friday, Oct. 17. We have early dismissal at 1:15 p.m. that day.

The 5th graders are going to be busy making a homecoming float for the parade to help cheer on Normal Community West High School!

We are still in need of a fundraising chair, or co-chairs. If you are interested in helping out, just let a board member know.

CHESS CLUB

If you have an interest in leading the Parkside Chess Club, please contact Mrs. Erickson for more information!

So, if you haven't turned them in yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information. Thanks,

Paula Birsas, BSN, RN

Certified School Nurse



Parkside Penguins Rock!

Meet the New Staff at Parkside

I did not have room in the first newsletter to introduce some of the new staff at Parkside this year. By now, many of you will have met some of our newcomers.

Mary Renollet, a Title I reading teacher, comes to us from Prairieland Elementary School. She's been teaching in Unit 5 for 10 years and is married with 2 children. She loves to read and travel.

Isoke Pridgen is our new learning disabilities teacher. She comes to us from Hammitt High School where she taught for five years. Mrs. Pridgen is married and has 3 boys who attend Unit 5 schools. Isoke loves working with children. She enjoys music (she wears her headphones after school) and she likes to cook.

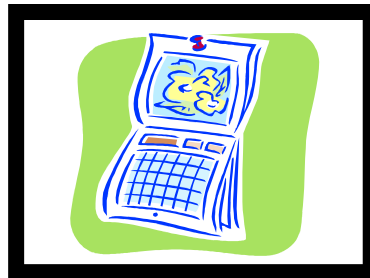
Another new teacher for the 2008 year is **Kristen Wamhoff**. Kristen is teaching our primary

special education class. She also works with Mrs. Siebert in kindergarten and with Mrs. Aper in first grade. Ms. Wamhoff grew up in LaSalle. She has taught a year and a half in Spring Valley and Cherry. Scrapbooking and reading are some of her favorite activities.

We are excited to have 3 new teachers here at Parkside and hope you get to meet them.

Upcoming Important Dates

- **Oct. 3**, Scrip orders due in the office.
- **Oct. 6**, PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room.
- **Oct. 13**, school closed for Columbus Day.
- **Oct. 17**, Early Dismissal at 1:15 p.m. for Homecoming.
- **Oct. 29**, no school due to parent-teacher conferences.
- **Oct. 31** Halloween parade at 2 p.m. with class parties afterward.
- **Nov. 3**, PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room.



2008-2009 Student Council Members

Congratulations to the students who have been chosen to work on Student Council this year!

5th grade: Jana Arthur, Jamie Biancalana, Brandon Cary, Shannen Doherty, Jazmine Esmaeli, Amari Funderburg, Ar-

mani Henderson, Chloe Pappineau, Sabrina Poston and Katie Schmidt

4th grade: Shelby Burmeister, Amy Gourley, Olivia Haas, Bryce Rudge, Brandon Sarpong and Dayton Tynan

3rd grade: Brady Cupples, Caleb Evans, Katie Ford and Caitlin Tippy

2nd grade: Jackson Castleman, Shea Cupples, Ashlyn Gibson, Caleb Mangruem, Riley Nichols, Nathaniel Oakley

1st grade: Hallie Biancalana, Zane Davis, Abby Naden and Abby Traum.