

---

---

# Python Publications

---

---

Fall 2009

## Parkside Jr. High School

### Respect

#### Principal's Message

We have had a great start to the school year! It is very hard for me to believe that the first nine weeks is complete! I want to thank all of you for making this happen. As educators we share the same excitement that your children and you have about school. The Parkside staff is well prepared and always willing to go above and beyond to make sure students in their classrooms are successful. We hope that you and your child feel the positive environment as they continue their educational journey as a Python. We have enjoyed getting to know our 6<sup>th</sup> graders and observing the changes in our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They all are truly maturing into positive members of our learning community at PJHS. We are proud of their efforts.



Students were administered the MAP test this fall, as opposed to the SAT 10. We are in the early stages of disseminating this information, and using the results as a piece of data to help us inform instruction.

Parkside has an excellent PTO that provides support to students and staff in many ways. We encourage you to become a part of this group; your input as parents is very valuable to us. Please consider getting involved with the Parkside PTO, there are many opportunities to volunteer.

Please be aware of our Activity nights we have at Parkside. These generally involve dancing, basketball, video games, and fun. Stay tuned for more information.

If you would like to become a volunteer at the school, please contact our school administration manager, Monica Brigham to receive information on the volunteer screening process. She can be reached by phone at the school, 309-452-8321, or email: [brighamM@unit5.org](mailto:brighamM@unit5.org)

Please be aware of the no parking signs in front of the school. My concern is that we would have cars parked there and an emergency of sorts would occur, and a response

### Responsibility

vehicle would be unable to get to where it needed to be. Thank you for your help with this matter.

Please remember to give us a call if you have any concerns, as we are here to help your child achieve academically in a safe and supportive environment!

**Have a great Fall,  
Kenny Lee, Principal**

#### Guidance Department News

We want to take this opportunity to offer a special welcome to all families new to our school community and a “welcome back” to all returning families. For those who are experiencing a secondary school setting for the first time, we’d like to introduce you to what goes on in the guidance office and how we can be of assistance to you and your student. First and foremost we want you to know that the guidance office is here to answer any questions for help address any concerns you may have throughout the year. Your child is assigned to a guidance counselor according to the first letter of their last name. **Debbie Brown (888-6809)** works with students **A-K**, and **Sue Lakin (888-6810)** works with students **L-Z**. We also have a graduate student, **Jessica Patrick** doing her internship with us. She is finishing her master’s program in guidance and is available to work with students as well.

Another important person on the guidance team is our administrative assistant, **Bobbie Dobill**. The phone number for the guidance office is **888-6808**, and Bobbie is the friendly person who answers your call. *If you need to request assignments for a student who has been out 2 or more days, Bobbie will assist you.* We ask for parents to call in assignment requests by 9:00 a.m., and assignments will be available for pick up in the guidance office after 3:15. If your student is only out for one day we ask that you have him or her check with teachers for missed work. Now that progress report grades have been posted, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Lakin will start working with teams and with students to address grade concerns. We are available to

brainstorm ideas and set strategies in place to help foster student success. We are here as a resource to parents and welcome your calls or emails in regard to academic concerns you may have at this point in the school year.

We would like to encourage parents to take an active interest in all the opportunities available for your son/daughter in middle school. Encourage your student to listen to the daily announcements to see when activities take place. The best way for parents to stay in the loop is to check out the PJHS website. Daily announcements are posted there, and parents can access those when making family plans. Most clubs operate on a "come as you can" basis and it's never too late to get involved! Middle schoolers often need a "nudge" from home to give a club or activity a try, so check out our website and see what's happening at PJHS!

We look forward to working with you as the year progresses. As Always, feel free to contact us for any reason. Here's to a great 2009-10 school year!

Your PJHS Guidance Counselors	
Debbie Brown	Sue Lakin
A-K	L-Z
888-6809	888-6810
<a href="mailto:browndd@unit5.org">browndd@unit5.org</a>	<a href="mailto:lakins@unit5.org">lakins@unit5.org</a>

## PBIS at PJHS

PBIS is our *Positive Behavior Interventions and Support* program here at PJHS, which in everyday language means that this is our program to teach expected behavior and to reward students for being respectful, responsible, and safe throughout the year. This will happen in a variety of ways:

- Quarterly Rewards: Students with no office referrals and no F grades on their quarterly report card will automatically earn a quarterly reward. (Q1: ice-cream at lunch, Q2: movie at NCWHS, Q3: lunch at the food court, Q4: treat at lunch)
- Green Slips: Staff members will acknowledge positive behavior on an ongoing basis by giving students green slips. Green slips can be redeemed for popcorn on Fridays, to go through the lunch line first, or for monthly drawings for prizes (i.e.: pizza lunch with 2 friends, McDonalds gift certificates, treats for your whole lunch table, etc.). There will also be monthly "Out of the Blue" days where green slips will be drawn for a treat for a student's whole class period or for their whole lunch table.
- Character Rewards: Beginning in October teams will nominate students who exemplify the character traits of: Citizenship, Respect, Caring, Responsibility, Fairness and Trustworthiness. These students will be recognized with a certificate, a treat, and their picture on the Character Counts bulletin board.

When it is necessary to correct a student for inappropriate behavior in the classroom or in the general school environment, red slips will be issued. There is a continuum

of interventions that will take place for students who receive multiple red slips. Parents will be notified if red slip issues become frequent and will be involved in the teaching/remediation process.

PBIS hosted the first Activity Night of the year on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup>. A variety of activities were offered for kids to participate in as well as a DJ and food to purchase. Profits from this event help fund PBIS activities throughout the year.

We would also welcome parent support in helping us obtain fun things we can offer in our monthly green slip reward drawings. If you have contacts that can help us get free gift certificates, tickets or "cool stuff" middle school students would enjoy, please let Debbie Brown know. We count on parent support!

We are looking forward to a great year encouraging all of our students to grow academically, behaviorally and emotionally. PBIS is one of our tools to help make this happen and we thank parents for all you do at home to encourage your kids to be the best they can be!

## PJHS PTO News

Welcome back to a new year at PJHS. I would like to extend a welcome to the new families of PJHS and invite you to attend our meetings. We meet the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. It is always nice to see new parents at the meetings. If you are curious about the PTO, please check out our link on the PJHS website.

PJHS offers our children a wonderful place to learn and grow as individuals. There are many clubs and activities for a student to be involved at school. There are also opportunities for parents to volunteer and become involved. PJHS has Activity Nights, Pack the Place sporting events, Popcorn Fridays, and others. Please remember that to volunteer you must submit an online background check. You can do this at any unit 5 school. It only take 2-4 minutes and remember to bring your driver's license to complete the online form.

The goal of the PTO is to support the staff and students of PJHS. We do this through volunteer opportunities, and by purchasing items for the school. We offer the "No Hassle Fundraiser" (voluntary donation of \$30 per family) each year during registration to help raise the money to purchase items for the school, such as books, PBIS awards, popcorn Fridays, refreshments & awards for the spring awards night, and other items that may be requested by faculty and staff to help in educating our children (such as heart rate monitors for P.E., etc...). If you missed the "No Hassle Fundraiser" but would still like to make a donation, you may place it in an envelope and send it to the school office with that noted on the envelope.

Have a great year!  
Valerie Ambrose, PTO President

## From PJHS Food Service

On Monday, Sept 21st PJHS began its breakfast program. Breakfast is from 7:20 A.M. to 7:40 A.M. Those students that qualify for a free or reduced lunch will qualify for a free or reduced breakfast. Regular pay students pay \$1.05 for breakfast and reduced students pay .30 cents. Breakfast menu will be "grab and go" type items that they were accustomed to in elementary school. The milk vending machine is also operational before and after school. A variety of Prairie Farm milk flavors and juice will be available for \$1.00 per bottle. Students are expected to eat breakfast at designated tables in the cafeteria and be on time for 1st hour classes.

Deposit Envelopes: Please encourage your student to properly fill out lunch deposit envelopes. They must use their legal name. No nicknames or initials. Catherine not Cate, Thomas Smith not TJ Smith. Parent name is HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD as it is on your child's student records. Encourage your child to write legibly so that we can read deposit envelope information. These steps are needed to assure that money gets deposited into the correct account. Lunch deposits need to be made by 9:30 A.M. to be entered into your child's account that day.

You are encouraged to track your student's lunch account through Skyward Family Access. Here you can track what your student is eating each day and keep track of lunch account balances. If you have misplaced your family access password you may call the PJHS office to obtain it.

Food Service questions can be directed to:  
Theresa Sanders, PJHS Food Service Manager @ 888-6828  
or Jeana Leu at the Unit 5 Food Service office @ 862-5063.

Dear K-Team Parents,

Parent/Teacher conference day is Friday, October 23. You have two choices for this day. The first option is a traditional parent-teacher conference with your child present. As a group, we will discuss your child's progress and share information and concerns that might exist. These conferences will take place between 12:30 and 3:45 and will last no more than 15 minutes. The second option is a student-led conference. Students will share their progress using a portfolio. Parents can listen, ask questions and provide feedback and encouragement while viewing student work. All team teachers will be present and available to assist. These conferences will take place between 8:00 and 11:00 and can last up to a half hour.

Please consider the conference that will work best for you and your child. Contact Mrs. Dobill in the guidance office at 888-6808 after October 1, 2009 to schedule your preference.

Thank you,  
K-team Teachers

## Python Pageturners

Python Pageturners is Parkside's monthly after school book club. It is open to all Parkside students and staff who have read the selected book. Snacks will be shared as we discuss the book.

The selected book for September is *Someone Named Eva* by Joan M. Wolf. Look for 7<sup>th</sup> grader Brie Mahnke's review of this book in this newsletter. Python Pageturners will meet to discuss this book on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:10-3:45 in room 104.

The chosen book for October is *Elephant Run* by Roland Smith. Look for 7<sup>th</sup> grader Wesley Tung's review of this book in this newsletter. The date to discuss this book will be November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact Mrs. Coyle or Mrs. Vittitoe at 452-8321 if you have any questions.

### *Elephant Run* Roland Smith Book Review by Wesley Tung 7<sup>th</sup> K-team

In this story, the main characters, Nick and Mya, are plunged through a series of events that change their lives. Nick is an English boy who is sent to Burma by his mother. Mya is a girl who lives on a plantation for raising elephants. This story takes place in World War II in Burma. The genre is historical fiction. The main conflict is that Nick and Mya are captured by the Japanese and they need to escape with Nick's father and Mya's uncle without getting caught or killed. So, Nick and Mya are caught by the Japanese, imprisoned in a house, and, and... and who else knows what happens. I think people who would really enjoy this book are people who love history and adventure.

*All the Lovely Bad Ones*  
By Mary Downey Hahn  
Review by Brycen Kirklín  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade K-team

The book's main characters are Corry and Travis. They are sent to their grandma's house, an old inn. It's business isn't very good so when Travis and Corry hear an old legend about it being haunted by ghosts they make a plan to bring it back to its old glory. They soon awaken something old and evil. "I feel something yank on my hair and start to hear giggling. Then I hear a voice, "We're the bad ones, the bad bad bad ones". Read this book to figure out this mystery and ghost story.

This book was very intense and a page turner. I was disappointed at the end, but it was great until then. The author also has many other books about ghosts if you like this one.

*Someone Named Eva*  
Joan Wolf  
Book Review by Brie Mahnke  
7<sup>th</sup> grade K-team

*Someone Named Eva* is a book about Milada, a young catholic girl living in Czechoslovakia during World War II. She is taken from her house, along with all of her neighbors, to a gymnasium. The women and children are separated from the men. Hitler likes blond haired, blue eyed children; he considers them to be “perfect children.” Milada happens to be one of those “perfect children.” She is stripped away from her mother, grandmother, and sister and taken to Germany with all of the other “perfect children.” There she receives a German name (Eva), learns German, and German customs. She is then adopted into a German family and leads the life of a German girl. In the end you find out what happens to her family.

I enjoyed this book because the writing makes you feel as though you are there. Anyone who likes historical fiction and things about the Holocaust would enjoy this book because it captures your attention, and is an easy book to read.

### 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish I

¡Vamos a Puerto Rico! The 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes are traveling in their classrooms to Puerto Rico the first semester. Students will learn about how Puerto Ricans spend their free time. They will also learn to express what they do in their free time, talk about places they visit around town, and express how they feel about those activities and places. Students will create invitations and present phone conversations inviting their friends to these places and events. Sports, especially baseball, are a popular topic. Students will be expressing their preferences and making comparisons with different sports. Finally, our classes will discuss the weather. Who wouldn't like to discuss the weather of Puerto Rico! Don't be surprised if your student comes home with a coquí in their backpack.

Students in our classes are also reading a novel called ‘**Pobre Ana**’ which tells about the life of a teenager visiting Mexico for the summer. Our students are relating their experiences to Ana's experiences, and reaffirming grammar and culture topics taught in the classroom.

October 27<sup>th</sup> will be the next Spanish Club event celebrating ‘Día de los Muertos’. Don't miss out on making either masks, marigolds, or dancing skeletons. Students will also get to eat the dead bread.



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Deutsch (German)

We're off to a great start in 8<sup>th</sup> grade German! We spent several weeks reviewing before delving into the nominative and accusative cases. Ask your student to explain these cases—they're all well on their way to being experts on this tricky topic!

Now we're in the thick of Chapter 5—clothing! Your student can describe what he/she is wearing & comment on what others are wearing.

Students who attended Deutschklub (German Club) in August made their very own Schultüte. Our next meeting in October will feature German food.

Frau Mohr

### FLEX (Foreign Language Experience)

Bonjour! In our FLEX classes, we just finished the Spain portion of our trip to Europe and got our passports stamped as we entered France. We will be discovering how to navigate the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, creating an advertisement for a French TV show, creating a mobile to reenact a French restaurant scene, visiting tourist attractions in Paris, visiting art museums and creating our own art, and going shopping in Paris department stores. All homework is posted on my website weekly:

<http://www.unit5.org/flex.htm>

Stay tuned for our first FLEX club event! All 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders may attend!

### Le français

I am so excited to be back at PJHS this year teaching your child! In 8<sup>th</sup> grade French I we have been doing a lot of review to be sure that we have a good foundation of French skills. We are working on 4 important skills in a foreign language, which are speaking, reading, listening, and writing. We are starting lesson 11, where we will learn to describe others. An online version of the book and a separate workbook are available on my website if your child should forget or need them. This website (classzone.com) also has a lot of review activities, such as flashcards and quizzes that can help your child check his/her comprehension and/or prepare for an upcoming test. All homework is listed for at least the upcoming week on my website, so please take advantage of this. There is also a French dictionary and other useful and fun links students can explore. <http://www.unit5.org/pabst>

### Le club de français

In French club, we do one event per month related to the French language and French-speaking cultures. We just had an informational meeting to plan for the year. Students should sign up in their French classroom to participate in different events. Encourage your child to get involved!

## Student Health and Wellness Program

Parkside Jr High is participating in “Fuel Up to Play 60,” a free in-school program supported by the National Dairy Council (NDC) and the National Football League (NFL) that empowers youth to take action for their own health by implementing long-term, positive changes for themselves and the school community.

By combining the powerful nutrition expertise of the NDC and the NFL’s fitness expertise, “Fuel Up to Play 60” provides students with the tools and resources needed to increase consumption of healthier foods and opportunities for getting more physical activity each day.

Within the program is the Fuel Up to Play 60 Competition, which is an opportunity for your child to make long-term healthy changes while winning great prizes for themselves and their school. Students track their healthy eating, physical activity and program participation to accumulate points towards winning exciting prizes! For more information, visit

[http://www.fueluptoplay60.com/index\\_flash.php](http://www.fueluptoplay60.com/index_flash.php).

## The PJHS Attendance Line

For your convenience we are using **888-6806** as our attendance line. This line has voice mail to take your before and after hours calls as well as throughout the school day.

Please call the attendance line by 9:00 a.m. if your student is absent, will be late, or needs to leave early.

Please do not call the attendance line to leave a message for a teacher or a student. Please use the main office phone number, 452-8321.

---

### **Parkside Junior High Attendance Line**



**888-6806**

***Please call the attendance line if:***

- ***Your student is absent***
- ***Late for school***
- ***Or needs to leave school early***

**Main Office – 452- 8321    Guidance – 888-6808**

---

