

THE Black & Gold Unfold



-Home of the Panthers-

Parkway
Local
Schools



Vol. 8 No. 3

Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

November 2015



District News

Brought to you by PHS Junior Caleb Rollins



Volunteers Making a Difference at Parkway



Parkway Schools are very fortunate to have many community members volunteer in different parts of the building. The high school has Heather Barker as a volunteer. The middle school does not currently have any volunteers. However, the middle school will begin their Big Brothers Big Sisters lunch program soon, so they will have volunteers through this program. The elementary has the most volunteers, including: Carolyn Highley, Kathy Gamble, Jenny Armstrong, Susan Sheppard, Kippy Gordon, Ashley Luginbill, Art Bader, and Deb Hecht.

The volunteers at Parkway add to the educational process by doing activities that teachers can't do because the teachers are busy

teaching. In the high school, Heather Barker helps out with the band, a much appreciated contribution as the band classes have the most students of any class at Parkway. In the middle school, the Big Brothers Big Sisters lunch program's volunteers will engage students in one on one activities and conversation during the students' lunch break. Because teachers have to address the entire class with their teaching, students don't usually get a lot of one on one attention at school. Therefore, the personal engagement that volunteers will provide should prove very beneficial. Like the middle school's volunteers, the elementary's volunteers add to the educational process by providing personal attention to students. For instance, Carolyn Highley and Kathy Gamble read with students one on one in the hallway to help students improve their reading skills.

Even though Parkway's volunteers all help out differently, they all have one thing in common: their motivation to volunteer comes from a love for Parkway and its students. For Kathy Gamble, a retired teacher from Crestview, "[volunteering] is a neat way to see [my grandson] progress and be a small part of his school day." For many volunteers, helping at Parkway and seeing Parkway's students grow is especially rewarding because they either taught at Parkway or attended Parkway before they began volunteering. Carolyn Highley, a retired Parkway teacher of 29 years, reported that her favorite part of volunteering is, "meeting the children and grandchildren of my former students." Parkway is built on families who are connected to Parkway at every generation, and Parkway's volunteers are one example of this foundation. However, volunteers are not the only example of this.

Parkway's community member involvement goes beyond volunteers. It includes every community member who attends Parkway's sporting events. It includes every parent

Upcoming Events

Nov 25 - 30: NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break

Dec 6: High School Band
and Choir Concert @ 3:00
p.m.

Dec 22: End of 2nd Term

Dec 23 - Jan 1: NO
SCHOOL Christmas Break

Dec 29 - 30: Chatt
Insurance Holiday
Tournament

Jan 8: Grade Cards Sent
Home with Students



District News



Volunteers

From page 1

who gets their children ready for school every day and supports them throughout their entire academic career. It includes every community member who encourages Parkway's students. Each member of the community plays a role in supporting Parkway Schools by providing a supportive and positive environment for Parkway's students to grow up in. Therefore, Parkway would like to thank our volunteers and every member of our community for their dedication to our school and our students. Without your support, Parkway would not be the school it is today.

From the Superintendent's Office

Parkway Community,

On behalf of the Parkway Board of Education, administration, staff, and students, we would like to thank the district voters for renewing the 8.97 mill levy. This levy will continue to help the district with operating expenses.



In an earlier article, I asked parents to drop off and/or pick up students by pulling up to the curb in the elementary parking lot. By pulling up to the curb it alleviates students having to go between other vehicles. Thank you for helping and continuing to make this a much safer process for the students.

The district is always in need of additional bus drivers for routes and activities. To become certified, an individual would have to attend 16 hours of pre-service classes, have at least 15 hours of on board training, and pass a driving skills test. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver for the district, please contact Dennis Hockett, transportation coordinator, at 419-363-3045 ext 705 or hocketd@parkwayschools.org.

Again, thank you for your positive support. Continued student achievement, financial stability, and community involvement are always top priorities of the Board, administration, and staff.

Greg Puthoff
Parkway Superintendent

Parkway Ministerial Association Thanksgiving Service

The Parkway Ministerial Association held its Thanksgiving service on November 22 at 7:00 p.m. This year's service was held at St. Theresa Catholic Church. The Parkway Ministerial Association consists of churches in the Parkway area and likes to bring these churches together for community events such as the joint Thanksgiving service.

Upcoming Choir Concerts

Sunday, December 6- High School band and choir- 3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 7- 7th and 8th grade band and choir- 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 10- 1st and 3rd grade Christmas concerts- 1st at 6:00 p.m., 3rd at 6:45 p.m.

Monday, December 14- 5th and 6th grade choirs (no band) - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15- 2nd and 4th grade Christmas concerts- 2nd at 6:00 p.m., 4th at 6:45 p.m.



High School News

Brought to you by PHS Senior Karie Gangwer



Parkway FFA Attends National Convention

On October 26, 2015 Parkway FFA students loaded a bus along with students from Coldwater and St. Henry for the 88th National FFA convention which was held in Louisville, KY. This was the biggest year yet, breaking the record with a total of 64,000 students and advisors attending. Because the convention has grown so much, it will be held in Indianapolis, IN next year.

The students had an opportunity to take some very interesting tours while on their trip. Their first stop was the Corvette factory and museum. That same day the group also toured the Auburn leather factory and Mammoth Cave. Day two consisted of seeing a cattle and tobacco farm, Omni meats (a processing plant), and the opening convention session with guest speaker Rick Rigsby. The third day began at the career show and shopping mall in the Kentucky Expo Center, and then continued by touring the Buffalo Trace Distillery and attending the Buckeye Bash where the students had a blast, and in the spirit of Halloween they finished the day at a haunted house. The fourth day students explored the Kentucky Expo Center again, toured Foxhollow Farms (an organic farm in Crestwood, Kentucky), and went to a convention session where guest speaker Brad Montaque (creator of Kid President) received a standing ovation for his inspiring speech. Finally, on the last day the group watched the American Degree ceremony and took the long journey home.

Students who went to the convention said that it was a lot of fun and a great experience. The students would also like to extend a special thank you to Mercer Landmark for sponsoring the group jackets, they looked awesome!

In other FFA news, Parkway students participated in the job interview CDE on November 10. This contest requires students to put together a resume, apply to potential job, and be interviewed by a judge just as they would be in an actual job interview. Students who participated included: Taylor Hesse, Abby Stephenson, Maggie Houts, and Haylee Stukey. Abby and Taylor both placed first in their divisions, and Maggie placed second in hers. Haylee also did very well in her division. Good luck to Abby, Taylor, and Maggie as they move on to the district competition!



Parkway Volleyball Raises Money For Cancer Association of Mercer County

The Parkway JV and Varsity Volleyball teams raised \$700 for the Cancer Association of Mercer County (CAMC) during their "Spike Out Cancer" night on September 28 as they took on Lima Central Catholic. Many local businesses donated prizes for the raffle and t-shirts were sold with all proceeds going to the CAMC. The teams are shown presenting the check to CAMC Board Member, Marge Gehle.





High School News



Red Ribbon Week at Parkway High School

Parkway High School students celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 26-30. This year's theme was "Respect Yourself, Be Drug Free." The focus was on self-worth and dignity, encouraging students to make positive lifestyle choices. Parkway's FCCLA chapter decorated the hallways with red ribbons and posters with inspirational sayings and also hosted elementary and middle school assemblies to show the younger students what drugs and alcohol can do to their bodies. At lunch, the students got a red ribbon to pin onto their shirt after signing their name on a poster. Red Ribbon Week was also celebrated with a different theme each day. Monday was 'compliment each other day', instead of tearing each other



**Red
Ribbon
Week**

down, build them up by giving positive compliments. Tuesday was 'crazy hair day', forget perfectionism, give yourself a break because everyone makes mistakes. Wednesday was '80's workout day', try something and be proud of your bravery, exercise everyday. Thursday was 'super h e r o day', help others, seek out volunteer opportunities and be brave. Friday was 'wear red day', know the things you can change and accept those you cannot change like eye color, body type, and race. The Parkway FCCLA chapter would like to thank the students for participating in Red Ribbon Week. It is our hope that all Parkway students can resist drug and alcohol use. Respect yourself and be drug free!

Parkway Students Attend Information Technology Career Day

Edison Community College hosted their tenth annual Information Technology Career Day professional conference for young women on Friday, November 13 to encourage girls' increased involvement with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.). The program is designed to provide a broad-based introduction to S.T.E.M. and its application to different careers. During the day students gathered into small groups and used technology to work on real world solutions. Topics of the breakout sessions included: math, chemistry and physics experiments, robotics, networking, computer hardware, programming software, computer forensics, and more. The 14 freshmen and sophomore girls who attended included: Allie Ford, Melissa Hauter, Bailey Strickler, Stephanie Schaaf, Tessa Thatcher, Madison Kroeger, Mecaylah Hesse, Claire Armstrong, Alexis Bickle, Paige Cron, Haley Hawk, Laura Barrett, Bailey Bates, and Kayla Pennell.





Middle School News

Brought to you by PHS Sophomore Sophie Prichard



Parkway Middle School Welcomes Ms. Suzanne Staley

Ms. Suzanne Staley is new to the Parkway staff this year, teaching 5th grade language arts in the middle school. Ms. Staley attended The Ohio State University, where she earned her Bachelors degree in 2012 and Masters degree in 2013 in Science Education. Ms. Staley has subbed at Parkway, Crestview, and Antwerp for the past two years, and this is Ms. Staley's first year as a full time teacher. Her interests have always been in teaching because some of her earliest memories were playing school with her stuffed animals when she was a little girl. "My favorite part of teaching is seeing the 'ah-ha' moment in my student's eyes," Ms. Staley explained. The reason she chose to teach in the Parkway District is because she is an alumna of Parkway, graduating in 1997. She also enjoys

working in the close-knit communities of Rockford, Willshire, and Mendon. Ms. Staley chose the middle school age level

because it is a time of transition between elementary and high school, when students build the foundation of their knowledge. "Some of my best and most favorite teachers were in middle school, and I hope to be as much of an

inspiration to my students as my teachers were to me," remarked Ms. Staley. We hope that Ms. Staley enjoys her time here at Parkway and feels welcome by all the staff.



"My favorite part of teaching is seeing the 'ah-ha' moment in my students' eyes."

-Suzanne Staley

Middle School Choir to Perform at Ft. Wayne Komets Hockey Game



Continuing a tradition for the Parkway choral program, the Parkway Middle School Choir will be singing "Our National Anthem" at the Ft. Wayne Komets game on Sunday, December 13 against the Evansville Icemen. Game time is 5:00 p.m.

Presale tickets are available by contacting Mrs. Wagner at wagners@parkwayschools.org or by calling (419)-363-3045 Ext. 133. Order forms are also being sent home with students.



Middle School News



Middle School Students of the Month

5th Grade - For the student of the month, the 5th grade team nominates Herminie Williams. Herminie is a unique individual with a positive attitude who is not afraid to be herself. She also shows great character in her interactions with other students, while being modest about her achievements in the classroom. This is why we choose Herminie as the student of the month. Herminie is the daughter of Adam and Lisa Williams.

6th Grade - Camdyn Clay was selected as the 6th grade student of the month. Camdyn received this award because of his hard work and continued improvement in the classroom. Camdyn is always showing respect to his teachers and classmates. His positive attitude and hard work is refreshing to see every day. Camdyn is the son of Ryan and Ashleigh Clay.

7th Grade - The seventh grade team is happy to nominate Abigail Browning as the student of the month. She is a hard worker and does well in every class. She is a kind girl, and does her best to make others happy. She exemplifies what a good student and good person is. Abigail is the daughter of Kevin and Trenna Browning.

8th Grade – The 8th grade team has chosen Breyden Bruns as the 8th grade student of the month. Breyden earned this award because of his outstanding work ethic, leadership in the classroom, and his unwavering positive attitude. Breyden isn't afraid to help out a classmate in need, making him a selfless learner who is an asset in the classroom. Breyden is the son of Gregory and Misty Bruns.



Parkway Middle School Celebrates Red Ribbon Week



During the week of October 26-30, Parkway Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon Week. This week is to remind the students to stay away from alcohol and drugs and to tell students all of the consequences that could happen. The students had a different theme each day to participate in. On Monday it was "I moustache you to wear red" (wear red and moustaches), Tuesday was "Bow Tie Tuesday," on Wednesday the theme was "Sock it to Drugs" (wear crazy socks), Thursday was "Team Up Against Drugs" (wear a team jersey), then Friday finished the week with "Black Out Drugs" day.



Elementary Unleashed

Brought to you by PHS Senior Trent Sarasin

Kindergarten Students Make Caramel Corn

On Thursday, October 22, Mrs. Evans' kindergarten class made caramel corn in preparation of the upcoming Halloween holiday. By making caramel corn, the students learned to follow directions about the five senses: feeling, tasting, hearing, smelling, and seeing the caramel corn. After the students finished the somewhat messy project, they were allowed to take home some of their homemade caramel corn. Mrs. Evans said "I love teaching the kids new things, and this is something different I knew the kids would like." The whole class said their favorite thing to do was to eat the freshly made caramel corn. Simple cooking activities like this are an example of activities parents can do with children to make great family times.



Parkway 4th Grade Students Visit Quarry

On Wednesday, November 4, the 4th grade staff and students went on a field trip to Stone Co. Inc. in Celina, OH and to the Coldwater Park. At Stone Co. the students got a tour of the facility and learned what normal day to day operations are. After that, the students had the opportunity to sort through rocks to look for fossils. The students went to the rock quarry because they are learning about the identification and classification of fossils. The students then compared the fossils to present day organisms according to their similarities and differences. While looking through the rocks, the students found Trilobite, Crinoids, Snail, and Nautiloid fossils. After visiting Stone Co., the students and staff went to the Coldwater Park to eat lunch and collect leaves from different trees for Mr. Steinke's class.



The students classified the leaves according to the types of trees they came from. Mr. Steinke's favorite part was picking leaves and eating lunch in the park on a beautiful day. The students loved the trip and hope to have more educational experiences like this one.

The Black & Gold Unfold is created by high school students in the School Publications class. The advisory committee for this publication includes Superintendent Greg Puthoff, High School Principal Brian Fortkamp, Middle School Principal Brian Woods, Elementary Principal Mark Esselstein, and Advisor Curtis Hamrick. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about this publication, please email them to Mr. Hamrick at hamricc@parkwayschools.org



Parkway Elementary Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Students celebrated Red Ribbon Week by learning about the dangers of drugs and about peer pressure. Red Ribbon Week was Monday, October 26 through Friday, October 30. This was a district and nationally supported week to help keep our students stay "Drug Free." This campaign began in 1988 when Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a drug enforcement agent, lost his life fighting illegal drug traffic. The week to help students be "Drug Free" quickly swept the nation. This celebration provides an opportunity for students to renew their commitment to a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. Students showed their support for saying "no" to drugs and "yes" to healthy choices by dressing up each day during the week. Monday was- Follow your dreams, don't do drugs! Wear your pajamas! Tuesday was- Black out Drugs! Wear all Black! Wednesday was- Too Hot for Drugs! Wear all Red! Thursday was- Staying Drug Free is No Sweat! Wear Exercise Gear! (Sweat pants and sweat shirts) and Friday was- These Paws Don't Touch Drugs! Wear Panther Gear. On Oct 23 members of the National Guard spoke with elementary students about saying no and making healthy choices and on Oct 30 the Parkway High School FCCLA chapter preformed a skit to finish up Red Ribbon Week.



Elementary Choir Sings at Senior Night

On Friday, October 28 the Elementary Choir sang the National Anthem under the direction of Mrs. Shannon Wagner. The Choir practiced very hard for several weeks, tuning their notes and hitting pitches just right. One elementary student said "I was just very nervous to sing in front of a big crowd."



3rd Grade Students Helping Kindergarten Students Learn

Parkway's third grade and kindergarten students have teamed up for some educational activities. The third grade students have been reading to the kindergartners. This is good for the third graders because they get more reading experience and also good for the kindergartners because they get to see what reading level they will be at in a few years. The kindergarten students are more likely to pay attention and pick up new words when they are read to by their peers. Along with reading, the two groups have also done homemade projects together like making witch hands for Halloween by putting candy corn in a glove as fingernails and popcorn for the rest of the hand. Both groups have had a wonderful time doing all these great activities together and the students have quickly become friends.

