

THE Black & Gold Unfold

-Home of the Panthers-

Parkway
Local
Schools



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Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

February 2009



District News

Brought to you by Hannah Harshman, Hannah Beougher, and Danielle Matthews



TEACHERS LEARN NEW SKILLS

On Wednesday, January 14 Parkway Local Schools had a scheduled 2-hour delay for students so that teachers could have an opportunity to learn new skills. There are a total of three scheduled 2-hour delays each year for this purpose.

At the January 14 session, teachers could choose from a variety of topics including Moodle, SMART Boards, the Senteo system, and learning how to use the equipment in the auditorium.

The teachers that chose the Moodle class learned that Moodle is a course management system, also known as a virtual learning environment. It has become very popular among educators as a tool for creating on-line dynamic Web sites for their students. Using Moodle, teachers can upload Web pages, post assignments, and give students information they need. Students can also sign on with their own accounts and post comments and upload assignments.

Several teachers chose to learn about the district's new SMART Board. A SMART Board is an interactive whiteboard. Combining

the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer, the SMART Board interactive whiteboard engages students in lessons. The SMART Board gives teachers and students the ability to fully operate computer software with their fingers on a whiteboard large enough for the entire class to see.

The third choice gave teachers the opportunity to learn about the Senteo audience response system. With the push of a button on their Senteo remotes, students can instantly tell teachers how much they know.

With this technology, teachers no longer have to wonder whether students are keeping up with the lesson material, since they can see precisely how well each student is doing. That insight helps teachers adapt lessons based on students' responses or test results.

The final choice was a class that showed teachers how to use the auditorium equipment properly. With many different teachers using the auditorium each year, learning about all of the equipment is critical to a



successful program or presentation.

Overall, the training was very beneficial for the teachers. They will be able to use their new skills to help our students learn with a wide variety of tools.

Upcoming Events

- 2/13- NO SCHOOL-
- 2/16 President's Day Break

- 2/15 High School Winter Band Concert (3 p.m.)

- 2/20 Interim Reports Go Home

- 2/22 High School Winter Choir Concert (3 p.m.)

- 2/24 Mercer County Special Olympics (6 p.m.)



District News Continued



Parkway FCCLA Hosts Mini Relay For Life

On Friday, January 30th the Parkway High School chapter of FCCLA hosted a Mini Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society. To start the evening, area cancer survivors gathered at a reception where they ate a meal together. Then, during halftime of the varsity boy's basketball game the cancer survivors were recognized as they made a lap around the gym. They were greeted by the crowd with a standing ovation.

At 11:00 p.m. the opening ceremony for the Relay for Life was held in the High School Gym. After the ceremony, the approximately 32 teams each placed one member on the track and they began walking.

Throughout the night various games and tournaments were held as well as different forms of entertainment. Some of these games included basketball, hillbilly golf, dodgeball, corn hole, as well as video games. At 4:00 a.m. Craig Muhlenkamp performed a juggling act in the high school gym. His juggling act went from tennis balls to bowling balls and from axes to chainsaws.

During the event, the walking was temporarily stopped so everyone could participate in a luminary ceremony. The participants recognized family, friends, and loved ones that have or are currently dealing with cancer. The people who lost their battle with cancer were also recognized with lit luminary bags with their names written on the outside. Everyone walked around the gym to view the luminaries.

Two ceremonies were held in the morning. The first was the Fight Back Ceremony. This consisted of people talking about ways to fight against cancer and to prevent getting it. The last event for the Relay was the closing ceremony. Awards were given to teams for their spirit and participation in the event. A breakfast for all participants was served at the New Horizons Community Church following the ceremony.

The Relay For Life earned over seven thousand dollars. The event also had three participants cut and donate their hair for Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for people with cancer. The FCCLA would like to thank the community for participating in this great cause.

Eating a Good Breakfast and Lunch is Important for Students

The cafeteria staff at Parkway feels it is very important for all students to get a good breakfast and lunch so they can do their best with their school work. With the National School Lunch Program families can qualify for free or reduced prices on breakfast and lunch if their gross income falls within the range indicated in the chart below.

If you applied at the beginning of the school year and your household size has increased or your income has decreased you may reapply to see if your status will change. Families can apply anytime during the school year. You may pick up an application at the elementary, middle, or high school offices.

If your student chooses to get more than the menued lunch/salad they will be charged extra for those items. Extra items (ala carte) are allowed for grades 3-12.

Stay healthy, eat smart!

FEDERAL INCOME CHART
For School Year 2008-2009

Household size	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	19,240	1,604	370
2	25,900	2,159	499
3	32,560	2,714	627
4	39,220	3,269	755
5	45,880	3,824	883
6	52,540	4,379	1,011
7	59,200	4,934	1,139
8	65,860	5,489	1,267
Each additional person add:	6,660	555	129



High School News

Brought to you by Claire Burtch and Tara Luth



Introducing Mr. Firks

As you may know, the Black and Gold Unfold has featured each of the new high school teachers in one of the previous issues. This issue features our fifth and final interview, Mr. Justin Firks.

Mr. Firks is not your ordinary teacher. In fact, Mr. Firks has done many exciting activities including: skydiving, bungee cord jumping, and parasailing.

After growing up in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Mr. Firks moved to Coldwater, Ohio, where he attended high school. Because he excelled in baseball, he committed to play at Ashland University. He had always wanted to be a teacher so he decided to pursue a degree in education,

specifically in social studies. He also attended Wright State University for special education and is currently attending Bowling Green State University for administration.

Mr. Firks has had a lot of experience in teaching, as well as coaching. He spent four years teaching and coaching at New Bremen as the head baseball coach and assistant varsity football coach. He also taught and coached at Jackson Center where he was the JV boys basketball coach for one year.

This year at Parkway, Mr. Firks teaches special education and in the spring will be coaching

baseball, one of his favorite pastimes. Other pastimes he enjoys are traveling and spending time with his two daughters, Kendall, age 2 ½ and Michaela, age 7 months, and his wife.

Mr. Firks has found the year enjoyable so far due to the friendly teaching staff and a great group of students. Teaching a group of only 5-6 students has its challenges though. "The most challenging part," he says, "is getting to know many students because I have so few."

We wish Mr. Firks the best of luck for the rest of the year and in the upcoming baseball season. 🐾

Winter Homecoming 2009

Parkway High School celebrated it's annual Winter Homecoming on January 31st. Attendants were: freshman, Haley Burtch; sophomore, Stephany Hesse; junior, Tara Luth; and seniors Hannah Beougher, DeeDee Knapke, and Michelle Linn. DeeDee Knapke was crowned Winter Homecoming Queen of 2009. Following the game, the Parkway Pep Club hosted a Glow-in-the-Dark themed dance. Overall, the night was a success. Congratulations to all the attendants and to Winter Homecoming Queen DeeDee Knapke. 🐾



*The 2009 Winter Homecoming Court
From Left to Right: Haley Burtch, Michelle Linn, DeeDee Knapke, Hannah Beougher, Tara Luth, and Stephany Hesse.*



High School News Continued



The 2009 S.T.E.M. Challenge

An exciting, new opportunity was offered to the students and staff of Parkway High School this year by being accepted to participate in the S.T.E.M. Robotics Challenge that is part of the National Robotics Challenge.

The goal of this event is to encourage Ohio schools to engage students in meaningful technological project-based learning experiences that will strengthen students' mastery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts.

There will be ten teams from ten different Ohio high schools with three students each and three teachers participating per team. Parkway will be represented by the following students: junior Corbin Hellwarth and seniors Brandon Riley, and Tyler Garwood. Because the focus is on mathematics, science and

technology, teachers were picked from these subjects. Teachers involved include: Mr. Hamrick (technology), Mr. Henline (mathematics), and Mr. Post (science).

Being accepted into this contest is an honor as the selection progress included quite a few steps. For example, the following questions had to be answered with a combined effort of the teachers and students: Why is your team applying to participate in the 2009 S.T.E.M. Challenge?, what team experiences have the individuals in your group had that will create a good S.T.E.M. team?, what experience has your team had in designing, building and/or programming robots, as individuals and as a group?, and how important do you think robotics will be in the future for today's high school

students?

The contest will take place at the eTech Conference in Columbus on February 2-4.

On the first day of the event, each team will complete a rigorous training tutorial that will familiarize the team with the robotics platform being utilized for the challenge. At the beginning of the second day, each team will be given the complete challenge including the criteria for the final evaluation. During the remaining time of day two each team will use their math, science, and technological knowledge to design, build, program, and test their final robotic solution. On the final day of the event, each team will demonstrate their final solution in a competition.

We are proud to have a team participating in this prestigious event, and we wish them the best of luck. 🐾

Rockford Chamber of Commerce Makes a Donation

The Rockford Chamber of Commerce recently made a donation to the Parkway FBLA. Mr. Browning's Web Design class designed a Site for the Chamber of Commerce so they helped out the FBLA by making a donation. The \$500 donation will be very helpful, being put towards the state convention for Parkway FBLA members.

Eleven students will be attending the state convention this year on March 12 and 13. The Parkway FBLA would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for the donation. 🐾



FBLA President, Sam Bedwell, and FBLA Advisor, Mr. Browning, accept the check from Chamber of Commerce Treasurer, Bob Thompson.



Middle School News

Brought to you by Alissa Belna, Abby Hodge, and Zach Strobel



Guest Speaker in Science Classes

Mr. Steinke and Mrs. Muhlenkamp's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes all enjoyed guest speaker Bonnie Wurst. She presented better waste management techniques which included litter prevention, recycling, proper use of landfills, and reusing crafts to help keep our environment clean, safe and enjoyable to live in. The classes are now participating in a recycling program that helps students learn to classify items into recyclable and non-recyclable, learn how and why recycling is important, and construct graphs and charts that will show the amount of trash gathered and recycled. They will also learn about conservation and how humans and their activities affect the environment. The students will also read and study plans for landfills, learn how landfills can create pollution on the land around it and what can be done to help the pollution from spreading. Students will then create a small, edible model of a landfill to finish the project.



Bonnie Wurst presents tips on recycling to Parkway Middle School students

Pizza Hut Reward

Outstanding students at Parkway Middle School that have shown great diligence in getting their homework done, keeping grades up, and treating other students with respect and care are being rewarded for their excellent behavior. On January 28th, students earned a trip to Pizza Hut. The following students attended this incentive:

8th Graders:

Luke Bates, Brandon Berry, Tyra Brooks, Tiffany Deitsch, Sam Dellinger, Lexie Ford, Seth Houts, Marissa Hunter, Kaylie Jutte, Alicia King, Katelynn Kraner, Kyler Lawrence, Paige Lovelace, Tyler Matthews, Tommy McDonough, Brandon Moorman, Jarret O'Neill, Cain Pontsler, Caden Rodriguez, Kameron Roehm, Jack Roth, Alicia Samaniego, Taylor Schaffner, Cody Schmitt, Olivia Smith, Damon Springer, Jordan Stephenson, Mikayla Stetler, Jordan Strader, Amber Swander, Kayla Temple, Jeremy Tribolet, Lindsey Walls

6th Graders:

Kami Albright, Matt Boznango, Brenna Brazle, Luke Cron, Chloe Dailey, Grant Dugan, Allison Gaerke, Alexis Hague, Kayle Heckler, Emma Hippy, Allie Kelley, Ryan Lautzenheiser, Grace Linn, Jared Puthoff, Madison Roehm, Seth Rollins, Whitney Rollins, Serina Siano, Amanda Stachler, Kayla Stephenson, Ryan Tinkham, Kayla Walls, Terra Walls, Erin Weirrick, Samantha Wood

7th Graders:

Adam Carr, Dakota Schaffner

Students of the Month

Parkway Middle School announces it's Students of the Month for January. These students have shown exemplary skills in five of the pillars of character: responsibility, respect, kindness, honesty, and effort. Congratulations, students! Pictured are back row, (l to r): Emilie Baker, Emilie Fisher, Rachel Hesse; front row: Ashley Baughman, McCade Harner; Not Pictured: Tiffany Cavinder.



F.O.R. Club

The Friends of Rachel Club is working toward helping students treat each other with kindness. Using the "Golden Rule" as an example, members of the club are teaching students to treat others as they would want to be treated.





Middle School News

Brought to you by Alissa Belna, Abby Hodge, and Zach Strobel



Are You Getting The Message?

“Are You Getting the Message?” is a free, one-hour program that inspires students to start thinking about and preparing for life after high school. The “Are You Getting the Message” program was developed by the Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators’ (OASFAA) Early Awareness Committee which consists of volunteers from OASFAA, the Ohio College Access Network (OCAN), and the Ohio Association of College Admissions Counselors (OACAC). OASFAA is a state-wide organization dedicated to ensuring access to higher education through the promotion of financial aid awareness.

Mike Clouse, a Parkway graduate, presented this program to students and parents on February 2 before parents and students talked to teachers about their schedules for next school year. Mike is an Implementation Specialist for Great Lakes Higher Educational Loan Services.



Character Corner

The character word of the month is effort. Effort does not always come naturally for children – we need to teach them how to show effort.

Following are behaviors children can learn that will help them to show more effort in school.

1. **SIT CLOSE TO THE FRONT** or near the center of the class (if the teacher has not already assigned seats).
2. **BE INTERESTED** in what the teacher is saying. Sit up straight and look the teacher in the eye.
3. **BE ON TIME FOR CLASS** or early. Bring pencils, paper, and any other needed supplies with you.
4. **RAISE YOUR HAND** and volunteer answers frequently.
5. **ASK QUESTIONS** when you don’t understand.
6. **TAKE NOTES** and be organized. Write down all directions and assignments.
7. **BE ESPECIALLY QUIET** and well behaved when the teacher is instructing the whole class.
8. **ASK FOR HELP** when you need it.
9. **DON’T ARGUE** with the teacher in front of others. If there is something you don’t think is fair, talk to the teacher in private.
10. **HAVE YOUR WORK COMPLETED ON TIME**; if you don’t understand the question, try to work through it and ask the teacher about it before class.

Important Dates:

Ohio Achievement Test Dates:

Grades 3-8

Tuesday, April 21- READING

Thursday, April 23- MATH

Tuesday, April 28- WRITING (grades 4 and 7)
SCIENCE (grades 5 and 8)

Thursday, April 30- SOCIAL STUDIES (5th and 8th grade)

February
Character
Word of the
Month:
****Effort****



Elementary Unleashed

Brought to you by: Taylor Lautzenheiser, Samantha Beerbower, and Cody Slone

“They can because they think they can” - Virgil

DIBELS - Reading Fluency

Dibels stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. On January 15 & 16 students in grades K-5 were tested on their reading skills using the Dibels program. Dibels was developed using the curriculum-based measurement designed through the Institute for Research & Learning Disabilities at the University of Minnesota in the 1970's and 1980's. It was designed to assess the core aspects of reading such as: Phonological Awareness, Alphabetic Principles, Accuracy & Fluency with Connected Text, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. The teachers behind getting the Dibels program started are: Joyce Dicke, Elementary Aide; Tara Baltzell, 3rd Grade English; Stacie Kraner, 5th Grade Language Arts; and Caroline Chittum; Title 1 Teacher. ■

Counting Money: Monopoly Style

Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Samples, third grade teachers at Parkway Elementary, wanted something cool and fun for their students to practice their newly acquired money counting skills. The teachers decided that playing Monopoly would be a fresh way to practice, and since it was right before Christmas break it worked out perfectly. The teachers put both

classes together, and got right down to playing. The students also practiced making change, teamwork and counting dice. Mrs. Samples said, “The kids



really enjoyed it... it helped them add and subtract 3 digit numbers.” Four students were asked what they liked about Monopoly. Paige Cron said, “I liked that you could spend and buy things.” Logan Huff stated, “When you buy a state you can get money for it.” Sky Andrews replied, “You get to buy stuff and get money when people have to pay for landing on your estate.” J.D. Hileman answered, “Whenever you got to pass go you got money.”

It is pretty clear that these students really enjoyed Monopoly. ■

Living Abe Lincoln

On January 26, the kindergarten and first grade students had an assembly called ‘Living Abe Lincoln’ in celebration of his birthday next week and a newly elected president. A man came to the school impersonating our nation’s sixteenth president. He came

to ask the students what they knew about this president’s history; and he even gave more information about his life and his journey to becoming a president. ■

ASK A FIRST GRADER

“WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT VALENTINE’S DAY?”

“That you can care for people.”

-Sophia, Mrs. Poor’s Class

“You can make sweet cards for people.”

-Briana, Mrs. Poor’s Class

“I like the songs.”

-Avalon, Mrs. Matthew’s Class

“You can make a lot of crafts and give it to somebody.”

-Kris, Mrs. Poor’s Class





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“They can because they think they can”- Virgil



Valentine's Day Fun



Valentine's Day History

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine. Gradually, February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. The date was marked by sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers. There was often a social gathering or a ball. In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first Valentine cards. Commercial Valentines

were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialized. The spirit of good continues today as Valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange Valentines Day cards at school.

JOKES - FULL OF LOVE!

What did the envelope say to the stamp?

(Stick with me and we'll go places.)

Do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?

(Sure they are very scent-imental)

What did one light bulb say to the other?

(I love you a whole watt!)



Fun, Easy Recipes

Hot Fudge Ice Cream Bar Dessert

This is an incredibly easy rich and satisfying ice cream dessert made with ice cream sandwiches and fudge sauce. This keeps in the freezer very well, and can be eaten straight from the freezer.

Ingredients:

1 (16oz) Can of Chocolate Syrup
3/4 Cup Peanut Butter
19 Ice Cream Sandwiches
1 (12oz) Container Frozen Whipped Topping, thawed
1 Cup Salted Peanuts

Directions:

1. Pour Chocolate Syrup into a medium microwave safe bowl and microwave on 2 mins. high. Do not allow to boil. Stir Peanut Butter into Hot Chocolate until smooth. Allow to cool to room temp.
2. Line the bottom of a 9" x 13" pan with a layer of ice cream sandwiches. Spread 1/2 of the whip topping over the sandwiches. Spoon 1/2 the chocolate mixture over the topping. Top with 1/2 the Peanuts. Repeat layers. Freeze until firm, 1 hour. Cut into squares and serve.