

# THE Black & Gold Unfold

-Home of the Panthers-

Parkway  
Local  
Schools



Vol. 1 No. 8

Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

April 2009



## District News

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



### Parkway Prepares for State Wide Testing Dates

#### Ohio Graduation Test

Since 2001 the state of Ohio has required high school students to pass the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) in order to graduate. The subjects included on the test are social studies, math, science, reading and writing.

Students first take the test as sophomores. During the week of March 16th - 20th, the high school was on a two hour delay schedule. Juniors and seniors received the two hour delay as a reward for passing the tests as sophomores. The sophomores and any juniors or seniors who still needed to pass one or more of the subject areas took one test per morning. This gave them two hours to complete each test. The freshmen came in during the delay as well, but they took a practice OGT to help teachers get a better idea of which students need more preparation. Sopho-



Miss Kris Penhorwood helps sophomore Tiffany Bienz with an extended response question in preparation for the OGT

mores started preparing for the OGT as early as the second week of school. In English, Mrs. Etgen used many different strategies to benefit the students. Notes were taken first on the writing style required for the OGT. Writing prompts were a key tool used for students to apply this writing style (continued on page 2)



6th grade students practicing for the Ohio Achievement Tests

#### Ohio Achievement Tests

The Ohio Achievement Tests (OAT) are given to students in third through eighth grade. The tests are used to measure students' knowledge in math, science, social studies, reading and writing. They were originally known as the Ohio Proficiency Tests.

To prepare for the OAT, teachers have students take practice tests. The teachers look for im-

provement each week. An incentive is also offered for students who show improvement from week to week. Examples of incentives are bonus points, pizza parties, or extra recess. Another useful tool is Buckle Down books which cover every aspect of each subject.

Parkway's 3rd-8th graders will be taking the tests the week of April 20th.

#### Upcoming Events

**4/10-4/13** \*NO SCHOOL  
Spring Break

**4/13** \*8th grade leaves for  
Washington DC

**4/15** \*FFA Banquet

**4/18** \*8th grade returns from  
Washington DC

**4/21-4/22** \*Kindergarten  
screening-No school for  
current kindergartners only

**4/24** \*4th Nine Weeks Interim  
Reports Go Home

**4/26** \*Senior Music Banquet

**4/30** \*Senior Class Book  
Fees Due in Full



# District News Continued



## Winter Sports Seasons Filled With Success

Winter sports have now concluded and spring sports are underway at Parkway Local Schools. Numerous teams and individuals excelled this winter. The All-MAC teams included Josh Fisher, Zach Bates, Levon Archer, Jamie Guggenbiller, Tara Luth, and Hannah Harshman. The girls' basketball team finished with seven wins, which was the most wins in a season since 1996-97. The boys' basketball team was the best defensive team in school history, as they yielded just 52.8 points per game. The previous record was set by the 1997-98 team who gave up 53.1 ppg. Josh Fisher broke the school record for points scored in a career at Parkway High School. Josh scored 1,192 points in his career. He surpassed Greg Morrison who scored 1,134 points.

### **JOSH FISHER**

- FIRST TEAM ALL MAC
- VAN WERT ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM
- DISTRICT EIGHT SECOND TEAM
- DISTRICT EIGHT ALL STAR GAME SELECTION
- FIRST TEAM ALL NW DISTRICT
- NORTH SOUTH ALL STAR GAME ALTERNATE
- SELECTED TO PLAY IN THE INDIANA-OHIO BORDER WAR GAME
- ALL OHIO SPECIAL MENTION

### **ZACH BATES**

- SECOND TEAM ALL MAC
- HONORABLE MENTION ALL NW DISTRICT
- DISTRICT EIGHT ALL STAR GAME
- VAN WERT ALL-AREA SECOND TEAM

### **LEVON ARCHER**

- HONORABLE MENTION ALL MAC
- VAN WERT ALL AREA HONORABLE MENTION

### **JAMIE GUGGENBILLER**

- SECOND TEAM ALL-MAC

### **TARA LUTH**

- SECOND TEAM ALL-MAC

### **HANNAH HARSHMAN**

- HONORABLE MENTION ALL-MAC



Photo Courtesy of Fox Photography

### **Ohio Graduation Test (continued from page 1)**

to their work. Self edits and peer edits helped students to grasp the format needed to pass the test. Miss Penhorwood taught facts throughout the year that were needed to answer questions on the OGT, but she buckled down two weeks prior to testing. In the

two weeks, she covered the main topics such as Economics, Government, American History, etc. Miss Penhorwood used overheads, PowerPoints, and worksheets to help students understand the type of questions asked on the test. Each day, an extended response question that was on previous Ohio Graduation

Tests was given to the sophomores.

Students who struggled on the ninth grade practice OGT were pulled out and given more help. Teachers gave those students more one on one attention. It was mainly a confidence or motivational booster so the students believed they could succeed.



# High School News

Brought to you by Claire Burtch and Tara Luth



## Parents Who Host, Lose The Most

Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. In a recent national survey of parents and teens by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, one-third of teen party goers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol, smoking pot, or using cocaine, ecstasy or prescription drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, nearly half (46 percent) of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

Drug-Free Action Alliance has developed the Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a Party to Teenage Drinking public awareness campaign to provide parents with accurate information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth. The campaign encourages parents and the community to send a unified message at prom and graduation time that teen alcohol consumption is not acceptable. It is illegal, unsafe, and unhealthy for anyone under age 21 to drink alcohol.

Here are the facts:

There are many health-related consequences of youth consuming alcohol including negative effects on brain development, deviant behavior including stealing and skipping school and a greater risk of becoming alcohol-dependant



later in life.

Parents who give alcohol to their teen's friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law.

Parents who knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted and everything associated with such a violation can be confiscated, including personal property.

Parents can be sued if they give

alcohol to anyone under 21 and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property. Underage use of alcohol is a serious problem that too often leads to harmful consequences for youth and their families. Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these guidelines when hosting parties for their children:

- Host safe, alcohol-free activities and events for youth during prom and graduation season
- Refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in your home or on your property
- Be at home when your teenager has a party
- Make sure your teenager's friends do not bring alcohol into your home
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events
- Report underage drinking

Our youth deserve to live and grow to adulthood in an environment where alcohol is not misused. Let's be unified in our message, and host alcohol-free parties with plenty of fun activities to show our youth that we care about their future. 🍀

## Band and Choir Go to Districts

Parkway High School Band and Choir recently participated in District contests at Van Wert High School. Each group traveled to Van Wert on Saturday, March 7th. Results are as follows: PHS Women's Chorus received a 2, which is the

second-highest rating, also known as excellent. PHS Men's Chorus received a 2 as well, and PHS Full Chorus received another 2. PHS Band carried on a long-standing tradition when they received a 1, which is the highest rating, also known as

superior.

The band will continue onto state contests on April 25th at Gahanna Lincoln High School. Good luck band! 🍀





# High School News Continued



## Spanish in the Elementary



*Senior Jordon Coffman teaching the second graders Spanish.*

Mrs. Imwalle, the high school Spanish teacher and her third year Spanish class have been spending time in the elementary. Starting Monday, March 23rd, the twelve Spanish III students traveled to two of the four second grade classrooms and then

traveled to the elementary once again on Thursday to teach to the other second graders.

This program will last for five weeks, occurring two times per week. The second graders are learning vocabulary such as, colors, animals, classroom objects, transportation, and food. After the high school students teach the class, Mrs. Imwalle does a follow up lesson to teach them more in-depth information. For example, if the high school students teach the second graders about colors, Mrs. Imwalle may follow up by asking



*Spanish III students, Russell Knowles, Corbin Hellwarth, Samantha Beerbower, Alex Dicke, and Kaelia Crawford, teach colors to second graders.*

the students what their favorite color is and teaching them how to answer.

This is a great opportunity for high school students to get involved with the rest of the school in a fun, educational setting. 🍀

## Success for the FBLA



*FBLA members pose for a picture at their awards banquet.*

The Parkway High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) returned from the 2009 FBLA State Leadership Conference with many awards. Before the two-day conference, Parkway FBLA members took tests on different business topics such as personal finance, business communications, and many others. Once they arrived at the conference in Columbus on March 12th, the Parkway

FBLA Chapter participated in a variety of activities including informational sessions on business skills, motivational speakers, an awards banquet, and a dance.

The eleven members of the Parkway chapter that traveled to the state convention did very well receiving a total of 22 awards in a wide-range of topics.

Congratulations on a successful trip! 🍀

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 Stephen Baumgartner, 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](mailto:hamricc@parkwayschools.org)



# Middle School News

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



## Pennies for Patients



The Pennies for Patients program raises money to help find new and better medicines and hopefully someday a cure for Leukemia and other blood cancers. Some of the money collected is going to patient services, which helps newly diagnosed families learn more about the particular cancer they are personally fighting. These patient services also help the families with their travel expenses and sometimes even assist with insurance co-pays. The Pennies for Patients campaign currently has over 400 Central Ohio schools participating to teach their students “the power of a penny”. Parkway Middle School students participated in a spirit week. They had to donate money to dress up. They are also holding a competition between all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes to see which class can raise the most money. The class that brings in the most money will receive an incentive in their language arts classes. Parkway Middle School is proud to have students who are willing to raise money for causes such as the Pennies for Patients. For more information on the Pennies for Patients campaign you can visit their website at [www.schoolandyouth.org/coh](http://www.schoolandyouth.org/coh).

## Test Taking Tips and Strategies

As the Ohio Achievement Tests draw nearer we have some test taking tips and strategies to share with all of you.

### General Test Taking Tips

- Get plenty of rest
- Eat a good breakfast
- Be confident
- Give your best effort

### Types of Questions

1. Multiple Choice
2. Short Answer
3. Extended Response

### Multiple Choice Tips

- Read the entire question before attempting to answer it.
- First try to answer the question without looking at the choices then look at the choices to see if your answer is the same or close to any of the answer choices.
- Do not continually change your answer.

### Short Answer / Extended Response Tips

- Read the directions carefully.
- If the question is asking for facts do not give your personal opinion on the topic.
- Reread your response once it is completed.
- Answer all parts of the question.
- Focus on one main idea per paragraph.
- If you have time left at the end of the testing, proofread your work.

## Ohio Achievement Test Dates

**April 21**

Reading  
grades 3,4,5,6,7,8

**April 23**

Math  
grades 3,4,5,6,7,8

**April 28**

Science grades 5 and 8  
Writing grades 4 and 7

**April 30**

Social studies  
grades 5 and 8

## Upcoming Events

*April 7 at 7:00pm*

**Spring Band Concert**  
grades 5, 6, 7, and 8

*April 8 at 9:00am*

**Jr. High Solo and Ensemble** students will be performing at the Laurels of Shane Hill

*April 20 at 9:00am*

**O.A.T. Kick Off Assembly** for all students taking the O.A.T. to prepare them for the tests

*Character Word  
of the Month:  
Fairness*



# Middle School News Continued

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



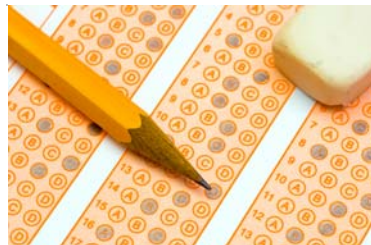
## Buddies Program

Mrs. Smith (Math Teacher) and Mrs. Ontrop (Guidance Counselor) have set up a "Buddies Program" within the F.O.R. club. Buddies is a program in which sixth, seventh, and eighth graders help fifth grade students prepare to become confident and friendly middle school students. Bullying has been an ongoing problem this year in the fifth grade. One thing this program is going to do is try to help keep bullying from happening, but it can't be done just by students; parents also need to help us explain that bullying can seriously damage people. Currently members of the buddies program are talking about body language, how to read it, and what to do about it. They are also focusing on assertiveness, aggressiveness, and passiveness. Members of the buddies group will teach the fifth graders about these words, the benefits of becoming more assertive, the negative points of being aggressive and the disadvantages of being passive. At the end of the session they will play a dice game where the children will be given different scenarios with bullies and, depending on what number they roll, will have to give an assertive, aggressive, or passive answer to the question, and decide which would be the best option to follow through with.



## Tips for Managing Test Anxiety

The Ohio Achievement Tests are just around the corner. The teachers and students are busy preparing to do their absolute best on these tests. Unfortunately, some students feel a little anxious before tests. They may have trouble going to sleep the night before, they may have a belly ache or a headache in the morning, or they may be irritable. A little stress or anxiety before a test is normal, but too much anxiety may interfere with performance. Here are some helpful ways you can help your child deal with test anxiety:



Be positive. Teach your child to use positive self talk such as, "I am calm and in control" or "I know I will do well on this test." It is important for students to think positive about themselves and to stop saying negative comments. Henry Ford once said, "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right."

Help your child prepare for the test. Study and review the material your child's teacher has sent home. Nothing makes a student more confident than knowing the material.

Teach your child to breathe deeply. Deep breathing can be done anytime, anywhere. It provides extra oxygen to the blood and causes the body to release endorphins, which are naturally occurring hormones that reenergize and promote relaxation. Slowly inhale through your nose, expanding your abdomen before allowing air to fill your lungs. Reverse the process as you exhale. Teach your child to do this exercise for three to five minutes whenever they feel tense.

## Students of the Month

Parkway Middle School announces its students of the month for March. These students have shown exemplary skills in five of the pillars of character; responsibility, respect, kindness, honesty, and effort: Olivia Smith, Morgan Steinbrunner, Michael Eckhart, Mariel Schreima, Chloe Prichard, and Kayla Walls.





# Elementary Unleashed

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



## Keep Me Alive

Nicole Hawk, District Administrator of Soil Conservation, presented a water pollution demonstration to the second graders. Ms. Hawk demonstrated water pollution to the students with a toy fish named Freddy inside his fish tank. She then showed what the water would look like if it was polluted; she filled the fish bowl up with dirty water, pepper, and other polluting toxins. The students then realized what could happen to "Freddy" if water in general wasn't taken care of.

## Ask a First Grader

"What are your plans for Spring Break?"

"Visiting my friends."  
-Macy H.

"Going to a lot of zoos."  
-Avalon G.

"I don't have plans."  
-Rachel B.

"Playing football with my brother."  
-Hunter G.

## D.A.R.E. Graduation

The 5th graders of Parkway Elementary graduated from the D.A.R.E. program on March 13. The ceremony was kicked off with a brief word from Officer Sue and then the essayists read their winning essays that were picked by their classmates. The composition winners were: Abby Stephenson, Clayton Bollenbacher, Selena Burtch & Zach Croft. Proceeding the essays were medals given to a select few students reaching above and beyond what they had to do in D.A.R.E. class. The D.A.R.E. graduation finished off by giving each student their D.A.R.E. certificate, and everyone signing each others shirts.



## 100th Day of School

Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school by doing different activities based on the number 100. Students made necklaces with 100 fruit loops and made art work by placing 100 different items such as stickers or marshmallows on paper. Then, they concluded the day with a snack.



## Tips For Helping Your Child Learn

There are many things you can do as a parent to help prepare your son/daughter for school. You can help your child by reading to them before they go to bed. You can also help by taking walks and having your child look at the different plants and animals that they see on the walk. Your child can also learn so much from their own toys; for example, they can observe the differences in weight and the buoyancy in water. They can also learn to tell the differences of size and colors in different objects such as blocks and puzzles.

## An Encouraging Talk for the Second Graders

On Wednesday March 25, Jordan Thompson, a former 2008 graduate from Parkway, visited Mrs. Brant's classroom to talk to the 2nd graders. He talked about his football career at Parkway and playing at Ohio University. The students had many questions dealing with football and about making smart decisions in school.

# Elementary Unleashed

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

“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.”- Henry Thoreau



## *It's Time for Spring* Bobbi Katz

My sweater is tight and itchy.  
My snow pants are too small.  
Last week I lost a mitten.  
I can't find my scarf at all!

My woolen socks have lost  
their toes.  
My boots have lost their tread.  
And I have lost the love I had  
for words like "skis" and "sled"!

But . . . my fishing rod still fits.  
And . . . my baseball bat still  
hits.  
I have a kite that wants to fly.  
So . . . winter, call it quits!

### **Spring Safety Tips**

Since spring is quickly approaching, that means more outdoor activities for children, such as swimming, camping and bike riding. This can also mean that it is going to be a little bit more difficult keeping your child safe, healthy, and mentally engaged.

**Gardening Tips:** plant flower seeds, find bugs, and have your child plant his/her own garden to help children get more interested in gardening.

**Insect Repellents:** The best insect repellent that is safe and effective includes those with deet, citronella, and soybean oil.

**Sun Screens to Prevent Sun Damage:** Sunscreens that have a SPF of 15 or higher or contain a high UVB or UVA protection keeps your kids safe from the sun.

### **Caution: Kids Playing**

Spring time is back once again, which means kids are playing outside. Spring and summer is an enjoyable time for kids, but can turn deadly very quickly. The dangers of kids getting hit by cars is real, and it does happen. So when you see stop signs, make sure you stop and when you see kids at play make sure you slow down. Please do your part to make sure children have a safe and enjoyable summer.

### **Math Tips for Parents**

Math is a difficult subject for many students. It's sometimes very hard to motivate students to complete math assignments. Here are some tips to help your children to overcome their math fears:

**Encourage Them!** Keep your attitude and tone positive because students can pick up on negativity. Congratulate them on getting a problem solved correctly.

**Follow Up on Homework** Make sure the students understand their

homework assignments. Monitor your child's progress to make sure they are doing fine. Present any problems to the teacher.

### **Demonstrate the Use of Math**

Use math skills in everyday living. Next time when you go to the movies have them add up the total price of the tickets. Use a piece of pizza to work on fractions. This will show that math has a true value in their lives.

**Get Them to Talk!** Ask your child what he or she is thinking when solving a problem. This will allow you to monitor he/she's thinking process. You will then detect the problem areas when your child is talking through the steps to solve a problem.

**Make Math Games** Making math fun will make your child more eager to learn. Monopoly, Life, and Rummikub are just a few games that involve mathematics. Even using flash cards is an effective way to get your child excited about math.

