

THE Black & Gold Unfold



-Home of the Panthers-

Parkway
Local
Schools



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Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

December 2008



District News

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



School Delays and Cancellations: How is the decision made?

In the winter months, there are many opportunities for delays and cancellations from such things as ice, fog, and snow. Our superintendent, Mr. Greg Puthoff, recently sat down with us to describe his normal morning procedure for the decision to delay or cancel school.

The process begins at five o'clock a.m. when Mr. Puthoff walks to his window and inspects the surroundings. When the weather looks questionable he walks outside and checks the sidewalks for ice and snow and checks the visibility in

If in question about the delay or cancellation, the decision is made based on the safety of the students.

the case of fog. He then decides whether or not to drive the roads. So far this school year, he has only had to drive the roads twice, which has been unusual compared to the weather we have experienced in past years.

While driving the roads he looks

for weather conditions that cause roadways to be unsafe for school buses to drive on. When there is fog present, Mr. Puthoff looks for how many telephone poles in front of him he can see. Usually, if he can see less than two poles ahead of him the fog is considered to be bad enough for a delay. If the visibility is less than two telephone poles, vehicles may not be able to see the bus stopping and starting and might not get stopped in time.

When it is icy outside, the same process is used with a few minor adjustments. Mr. Puthoff starts off driving about 20 mph and hits his brakes to see if his car slides. He does this on the roads as well as bridges. He also pays attention to the weather reports for the upcoming day. He checks multiple weather channels and radio stations. These stations come out of Fort Wayne, Toledo, Dayton, Lima, and Columbus. On the stations he also takes note of other schools that are delayed or cancelled.



Communication is essential while the decision is being made. The bus drivers, Mr. Puthoff, and the superintendents from other Mercer County schools all have a radio with the same station so they can communicate their thoughts on the weather. Since the school district covers such a large area, Mr. Puthoff isn't able to drive the whole district. Therefore, he has a bus

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Upcoming Events

12/19 - Swim Club Chicken Dinner (4:30-7:00)

12/24 - NO SCHOOL
(Christmas Break Begins)

12/26 - Boys Freshman
12/27 Basketball hosts
Holiday Tournament
(11:00 am)

1/5 - School Resumes



District News Continued



Veteran's Day Activities Held at Parkway

On Tuesday, November 11 at 2:00 p.m. the Parkway High School History Department hosted an assembly in honor of Veteran's Day. The FCCLA members hosted a luncheon for the Veterans and their spouses before the assembly. The assembly was student body wore some type of present and past. The assembly playing and choir singing the National Anthem. SSG. Shaun Ruvoldt speech on patriotism. There were guests at the assembly. The choir and the band performed a mixture of the official songs for each branch of the U.S. Military. Veterans were asked to stand when their branch song was played. Mr. Minnich, the American History/Government/Economics teacher, gave a speech on respect to the soldiers, their families, and the time they gave for our country. A brief presentation was given on the true meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone rose and repeated the Pledge as one. The ceremony was closed with the singing of God Bless America.



In addition to recognition at special events such as the Veteran's Day assembly, Veterans are also honored through the military display case outside the high school office. Anyone who has a photograph of a current service man or woman is encouraged to bring the pictures to the Parkway High School office.

School Delays...continued from front page

driver from both Mendon and Willshire call him about the weather conditions in their regions.

After the decision has been made, the proper steps to inform the public are taken. First, Mr. Puthoff contacts the bus drivers. Next, he calls or e-mails TV and radio stations to inform the students and parents. He also puts the delay or cancellation on the phone system. Mr. Puthoff also starts a phone tree for the teachers. Overall, the delay is announced as soon as possible and no later than 6:30 a.m.

While driving, Mr. Puthoff follows key goals to decide whether or not to delay. The overall goal is the safety of the students. If in question about the delay or cancellation, the decision is made based on the safety of the students. He would rather go two hours later than have someone get hurt.

It's a hard decision to make, but with as much planning as possible the students can get to school safely.

Vantage Open House January 12th

Vantage Career Center is celebrating Career Technical Education with an Open House and Scholarship Dinner on Monday, January 12th from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. You may take a tour of the Vantage building where you will meet teachers and students and enjoy the special displays, demonstrations, and activities in each lab. If you don't feel like cooking dinner before heading to Vantage, the Vantage scholarship dinner will be available from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. Adult chicken dinners are \$7.00 and a kids meal consisting of a hot dog and macaroni and cheese will be only \$2.00.

Straight -A Students Can Earn Reds Tickets

Students who earn straight-A's can receive free Cincinnati Reds tickets through the Straight-A Program. The Straight-A Program is designed to reward academic achievement among students in grades 7-12. Students obtaining an A or A- grade average in academic subjects are eligible for the free tickets. Qualifying students will be given an order form redeemable for tickets. Each Straight-A student will be able to select two free View Level tickets for one of the designated Straight-A dates on the Reds' 2009 schedule. Parkway will be participating in this year's Straight-A Program along with hundreds of other schools. Parkway students will be participating during the second nine weeks grading period.



High School News

Brought to you by Claire Burtch and Tara Luth



Miss Jazwiecki: A New Addition to PHS's Staff

As you may know from our previous newsletters, Parkway High School welcomed five new teachers this year. Along with Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Browning, Miss McConnell, and Mr. Firks, is Miss Adrian Jazwiecki, the high school's new mathematics teacher.

Miss Jazwiecki, who grew up in Toledo with two brothers, claims that she has wanted to be a teacher since she was in the sixth grade. Because of her interest in teaching, Miss Jazwiecki traveled to Hillsdale Michigan, where she attended Hillsdale College. She was a

math major and received a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Prior to coming to Parkway, Miss Jazwiecki taught one year of math and one year of science at Bryan High School. She also coached the freshmen girls' basketball team during this time.

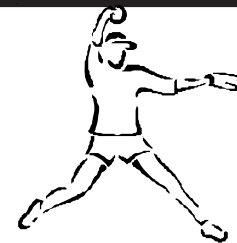
Speaking of coaching, not only is Miss Jazwiecki a math teacher, she also coaches the varsity girls' basketball team. She really enjoys coaching, but also finds her biggest struggle corresponds with it. "Managing my classroom responsibilities, as well as my coaching responsibilities at the same time is difficult," she states.

Basketball is not Miss Jazwiecki's only pastime; she also enjoys other sports as well. In her free time, she likes to go snowboarding and at one point she almost had her black belt in martial arts.

The year is going very well for her so far. "My students are continuously improving, and I enjoy teaching them," she explains.

The students and staff of Parkway High School welcome Miss Jazwiecki and wish her the best of luck in the classroom and with the basketball season. 🍀

Esselstein to be Inducted into Softball Coach's Hall of Fame



The Ohio High School Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association has selected long-time Parkway coach, Mark Esselstein, for induction into their Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be held at the Easton Hilton in Columbus on January 16, 2009. Other inductees for this year include Angelo Forte, Greg Newland, and Chuck Shuman.

In twenty-two seasons as the coach of the Lady Panthers, Esselstein has a record of 351-114, with 7 league championships, 20 sectional championships, 9 district

championships, 2 regional championships, 3 regional runners-up and 2 appearances in the state final four. He has been honored as Northwest District Coach of the Year in 1999 and 2005 by his peers. He has also produced numerous athletes who have played at the college level.

"It is an honor to have such a great coach, and it is a privilege to play on his team," commented Hannah Beougher, a senior varsity softball player. 🍀

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



High School News Continued



4th Annual Pizza Preview

On Saturday, November 29th, the Parkway community gathered at Parkway High School to enjoy an intense night of basketball. Scrimmages started at 2:00 p.m. with the Girls Youth League which was followed by the Boys Youth League, Girls Junior High, and Boys Junior High. The thirteen members of the Girls JV/Varsity team split up and scrimmaged each other. Following this exciting scrimmage was the Boys Freshmen team scrimmaging Greenville. The boys played hard, and both teams did a great job. Boys JV then scrimmaged Greenville as well. Finally, the Boys Varsity

team scrimmaged Greenville. The Varsity played a total of six intense quarters.

The Athletic Boosters sold pizza provided by Little Cesar's of Celina and other concessions throughout the night. The 4th Annual Pizza Preview was a great success, and we would like to thank all of those involved.

You can see the Parkway Basketball program back in action on the following days: Girls JV/Varsity at Ft. Recovery on Thursday, December 18th, Boys Freshmen at Wayne Trace on December 18th, and Boys JV/Varsity Friday, December 19th at home. Come and support the Panthers! 🐾



Parkway senior, Zach Bates, goes up to block a shot from a Greenville player.

High5 Boys Basketball Raffle

The Parkway High5 Organization will be holding a raffle during the boys basketball season. Tickets will be available every home until all 100 tickets are sold. The cost of tickets will be \$20 each. During each of the 10 home boys basketball games, the last digit of Parkway's score and the last digit of the opposing team's score will be used to determine the winning ticket number. The winning ticket holder will receive \$100. The proceeds of this fundraiser will support activities for Parkway Elementary students.

News from the High School Guidance Office

Juniors recently attended "Career Day" at OSU-Lima/Rhodes State where they had the opportunity to attend several sessions on college and career choices. Sophomores will visit Vantage Career Center on January 7th to explore two vocational areas offered there. Applications for enrollment at Vantage for 2009-10 will be available after the visit. PLAN

results for sophomores have arrived and have been reviewed with those students who participated and PSAT results are anticipated to arrive soon. On January 16th, freshmen will have an assembly on "Are You Getting the Message?" This will be presented by a Parkway graduate, Mike Clouse. Freshmen will get information on planning their high school courses for the

next three years.

On January 6th at 7:00 p.m., we will have a presenter from BGSU on "Choosing a College" and then a session from WSU-Lake Campus on "Applying for Financial Aid". All juniors and seniors planning to attend college in the next few years and their parents are encouraged to attend. Valuable information on completing the FAFSA form to be eligible for federal student aid will be shared. 🐾



Middle School News

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



Busing Reminder

Please be reminded that students may ride from one place every morning and to one place every evening on the bus. Students are not permitted to get on and off at different locations. A student must be picked up and dropped off at their regular location each day. Notes from parents are not accepted for students to be dropped off at a friend or relatives home.

As we approach inclement weather, it is even more imperative that the bus driver not be distracted by mischief on the bus. To help insure a safe ride to and from school, please review the following rules with your child:

1. Sit properly in your seat.
2. Keep hands to yourself.
3. Abusive language is not permitted on the bus.
4. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
5. Do not push while loading or leaving the bus.
6. Be at your place of pickup prior to the arrival of the bus.
7. Do not leave the designated "Point of Safety" until instructed by the driver.
8. Electronics, music, or cell phones are not to be used on the bus.



Friends of Rachel Club in Action!

Parkway Middle School is taking the October 16 assembly of Rachel's Challenge to the next level by forming a new club open to all middle school students called Friends of Rachel or F.O.R. The club will focus on kindness, compassion, respect, helping others, and making our school and world a better place. Membership applications were made available to all students in the middle school. 46 students stepped up to the challenge and became members.

Middle school staff members Mrs. Ontrop, Mrs. Clay, Mrs. Smith, and Ms. Braun are serving as leaders for the group which will be meeting twice a month during 10th period. The group will mainly focus on two things to help start the new club. The first focus area will be to help new students who enroll during the school year. A group of 5 students from F.O.R. will meet with the new students on the first day the students are enrolled. The F.O.R. members will walk the new students through the school helping them with their schedule, introducing them to their teachers, and eating lunch with them. Each day after that, 5 other members of the F.O.R. group will introduce themselves to the new student. Each of those F.O.R. mem-

bers will sit with the new student at lunch. At the end of the week, the new student will be invited to join the F.O.R. club if interested. The next focus area is called Clickity Clack Day. This special day will be held on the first Thursday of each month. Students are encouraged to sit with students they normally do not sit with at lunch. Teachers are also asked to sit with the students that they may not be familiar with or have in class. Most students sit in the same seat every day even though they may sit where they choose. This is an attempt to try to get students to meet and make new friends. Other areas that may be implemented in the future by the F.O.R. group include an outreach program consisting of writing letters of kindness to custodians, cooks, and other school workers each month as well as mentoring Elementary students by reading books to them and helping them study and organize homework assignments. The first F.O.R. meeting was Friday, November 21. During the meeting a "funeral" was held for put-downs. Members decided that they were tired of all of the put-downs we hear every day and said good-bye to them. They will work as a team to not put others down, and when members hear others being put down, they will combat it with kind words about the victim.



Middle School News Continued



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

Colonial Incentive

Outstanding students from the Middle School that get their homework done, get good grades, and have good character are getting rewarded for their excellent behavior. On Tuesday, November 18th, students earned a trip to Colonial Nursing Home where they had the choice to help decorate or play games. They also participated in bingo. The following students attended this event: Jessica Everage, Tiffany Carinder, Megan Everage, Alex Thaxton, Raya Beerbower, Wyatt Evans, Seth Rollins, Kyle Lawrence, and Ashley Baughman. Great work and effort students!

Vantage Visit

The eighth grade students from Parkway Middle School recently visited Vantage Career Center in Van Wert. The students were able to tour Vantage and learn about a variety of things that take place there. They were able to learn about high school programs that are offered in the following areas: trade & industry, business, and service occupations. There are a variety of career choices within each area. The programs offered at Vantage include: Ag & Diesel Mechanics, Auto Body, Automotive Technology, Building & Grounds Maintenance, Carpentry, Electricity, Industrial Mechanics, Precision Machining Technology, Welding Technology Fabrication, Network Systems, Interactive Media, Medical Office Manage-

ment, Health Careers, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Food Services, and Early Childhood Education. The eighth graders were also given the opportunity to speak with current Vantage students and learn about their experiences. The eighth graders told us that the Vantage students were very nice and loved being part of the Vantage Career Center!

Construction Zone

Mrs. Muhlenkamp's classes recently constructed models of plant and animal cells. All of the models were made out of materials that were not able to spoil or fall apart easily. The students' projects had to include a cell wall (plant cell), cell membrane, ribosomes, nucleus, mitochondria, vacuoles, cytoplasm, endoplasmic reticulum, lysosomes, and chloroplasts (plant cell). Their models were graded on the following questions: Is the cell type identified? Are all organelles included? Are the relationships between the parts shown correctly? Are the materials acceptable? Below are a few students showing off their projects.



Students of the Month



Parkway Middle School announces its Students of the Month for November. 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): Bieke deBruyn, Kayla Temple, Amber Swander, Amanda Stachler, and Seth Rollins; front row: Ryan Tinkham, Rachel King, and Jordan Stephenson.

**December
Character Words of
the Month:**
*Caring, Kindness,
and Compassion*

Daily Announcements Online

Daily Announcements can be found on the Parkway website at:
www.parkwayschools.org
Click on the link, Parent Stuff.



Elementary Unleashed

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

“The best way out is always through.” - Robert Frost



Kindergarten Classes Host Family Day

On Friday, November 14, Parkway’s kindergarten students welcomed their grandparents and parents for Family Day. The students, grandparents, and parents enjoyed donuts and juice together. After breakfast the grandparents and parents learned what the kindergarten students work on at school each day.



HISTORICAL BOXES

Mrs. Schwartz’s 4th grade students recently completed reports on Indians. Since November was the month to recognize and honor Indians, it seemed appropriate to do this assignment. The reports were about the history of Ohio over 3,000 years ago before it became a state and the reformation of the Northwest Territories. Mrs. Schwartz said that the students really enjoyed learning about the history of the Indians.

Ask a First Grader “What do you want for Christmas?”

“A STUFFED ANIMAL KITTY CAT”

-Olivia, Mrs. Matthews

“A Battle Ship”

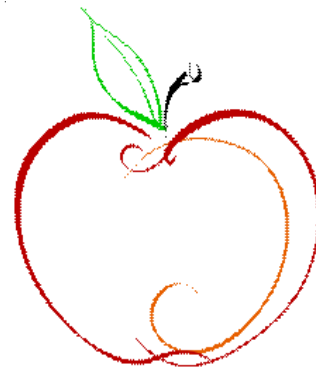
- Gavin, Mrs. Matthews

“GEMS”

- Maddie, Mrs. Poor

“FIRE TRUCK”

-Derek, Mrs. Poor



APPLE LAB

Mrs. Stachler’s 4th grade classes took on the important task of answering the question “How much water is in an apple?” To accomplish this, the class took a triple beam balance to weigh the apple. The mass of the fresh apples was recorded, then the apples were left out to dry. After lots of waiting the answer was finally discovered! After measuring the mass of the dried apples, it was determined that 52% of an apple is water. But this lab is not over quite yet. Another question remains: “Will an apple gain as much as it lost if it is put back in water?” The steps the students have to follow to answer this question include: 1) Measuring the mass of the dried out apple 2) Placing the apple in a container of water 3) Measuring the mass of the apple after it has sat in the water. Overall, the students have learned that water can be found in many different places.



Elementary Unleashed



Elementary Welcomes Firefighters

Firefighters from Rockford and Willshire recently visited Parkway Elementary School to demonstrate safety techniques and to show the students the trucks and equipment they use on a daily basis. The students also had a chance to see the apparel that firefighters wear. Students in grades PK - 2 enjoyed the visit and were talking about it for days. Thank you firefighters for taking time out of your busy days to be with the Parkway Elementary students.



World in a Box

Mrs. Fullenkamp's 3rd grade class has been learning about the continents while making models using dough, pizza boxes, and blue paper. To make the World in a Box students used the blue paper for the water and the dough for the continents. They have also been using the district's new Smartboard to learn about the continents and the oceans. The Smartboard is an interactive whiteboard that allows users to navigate computer programs by touching the screen.



Building Walk Times

As well as being a great place to receive an education, Parkway Local Schools is also a great place to get some exercise. The building is open to anyone who would like to walk on Monday-Friday from 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. The only exception is that walking will not be permitted during home varsity sporting events. Walkers can sign in at the high school entrance.

One for Books

The Elementary had a "One for Books" for the Scholastic Book Fair two weeks ago. Class rooms brought in loose change and competed for a class pizza party. Parkway Elementary collected over \$850 in loose change. For each dollar collected Scholastic matched with money going to Kids in Distressed Situations, Family Literacy, Toys for Tots, and the Rockford Carnegie Library. The winning classes were Mr. Bader for grades K-2 and Mrs. Frahm for grades 3-5.



Parkway Local Schools

Phone: 419-363-3045

Central Office:	Press 1
High School:	Press 2
Middle School:	Press 3
Elementary School:	Press 4
Cafeteria:	Press 5
Delay Information:	Press 7

Website:

www.parkwayschools.org