

THE Black & Gold Unfold

-Home of the Panthers-



Parkway
Local
Schools



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December 2009



District News

Brought to you by: Haley Burtch and Tasha Walls



Preparing for Winter Weather: School Delays and Cancellations

A regular day for Superintendent Greg Puthoff starts as early as 5:00 a.m. when he peers out the window to judge the weather. If he notices any questionable conditions, he will begin his journey of deciding if school will be delayed or even cancelled.

Puthoff may drive up to 40 miles in the morning, traveling around the district viewing possible driving dangers. Others, including bus drivers living in the district, also inspect areas for bad weather. In the case of heavy fog, Mr. Puthoff will check how many telephone poles he can see in front of him at one time. On most occasions, if he can only identify two or fewer poles, school will be delayed. When snow and ice are the obstacle, he accelerates up to a speed of 20 mph and then applies the brakes. If this maneuver results in sliding there will, in most cases, be a delay. Some of the decision is also based on schools surrounding the Parkway district and what they have decided to do.

Once the decision to delay has been made, Puthoff will relay the message to bus drivers, local radio/TV stations, and post the information on the Parkway website.

He noted when the decision to delay or cancel must be made, student safety is the biggest factor.

Information on Parkway's delays and cancellations can be heard/seen on:

- Channel 8.1 (NBC - Lima)
- Channel 21.1 (ABC - Fort Wayne)
- WOWO 1190 AM
- WIMA 1150 AM
- WIMT 102.1 FM
- WCSM 96.7 FM
- WKKI 94.3 FM
- WDOH 107.1 FM
- WERT 1120 AM
- www.parkwayschools.org
- 419-363-3045 option 7



Upcoming Events

December 21- 7th and 8th Grade Band/Choir Christmas Concert @ 7:00 pm in the Auditorium

December 23- First Day of Break
-Freshman Boys Basketball Host Freshman Holiday Tournament @ 6:00 pm

December 26- Freshman Boys Basketball Host Freshman Holiday Tournament @ 11:00 am

December 29-JV Girls/Boys Basketball Hosts Parkway Holiday Tournament @ 11:00 am
-Varsity Girls Basketball Hosts Chatt Insurance Holiday Tournament @ 4:00 pm & 5:45 pm
-Varsity Boys Basketball Hosts Chatt Insurance Holiday Tournament @ 7:30 pm and 9:15 pm

December 30- JV Girls/ Boys Basketball Hosts Parkway Holiday Tournament @ 11:00 am
-Varsity Girls Basketball Hosts Chatt Insurance Holiday Tournament at 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm
-Varsity Boys Basketball Hosts Chatt Insurance Holiday Tournament @ 5:45 pm & 9:15 pm

January 4- School Resumes



District News Continued



Parkway Students and Staff Contribute to Those in Need

Parkway staff and students have been charitable this holiday season by donating new toys to the Toys for Tots Foundation. The Parkway High School chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America is sponsoring the Toys for Tots campaign. Donations of toys and money are being accepted through December 16th. The goal of Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is to support the U. S. Marine Corps in presenting a physical form of hope to disadvantaged youth at Christmas. Operations are performed yearly in as many as 500 communities including all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Local donors offered new unwrapped toys to the cause, which are being collected in barrels located in the elementary, middle school, and high school offices.

Straight-A Students Can Earn Reds Tickets

Once again, students who hit a home run academically can earn free Reds tickets. 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 dates on the Straight-A order form. Half-price tickets are available for additional family and friends.



Cards for Soldiers

Mrs. Brandt's second grade class recently made cards for our soldiers serving overseas. The cards will be delivered this holiday season to help make the holidays special for the service men and women who won't be home for Christmas.



Together At Christmas Dinner

On December 25, Rockford United Methodist Church is inviting everyone to join together at the Community Building at Shanes Park in Rockford for Christmas Dinner from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. If you are alone on the holiday, or if you are hungry and in the area or have a houseful of family and guests, please join the feast. The menu includes turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, dinner roll, and sweet potato casserole. Many desserts will also be available.



High School Student Council Contributes to Angel Tree This Christmas

The Parkway High School Student Council is helping make the Angel Tree project a success in the community again this year. High school student council members are helping the project by volunteering to shop for the gifts and wrap them. Students are given a "wish list" along with the \$30 donations that the Angel Tree project has received. The students are responsible for purchasing and wrapping the gifts.

The Angel Tree project helps provide Christmas gifts for less fortunate children who may otherwise not have gifts to open. This is the second year that the Parkway High School Student Council has helped with this cause.



High School News

Brought to you by Taylor Bates and Michael Nuttle



Parkway High School Holds Veteran's Day Assembly

In honor of Veteran's Day, Parkway High School hosted an assembly to recognize and honor local veterans who have served and are serving in the armed forces. The day started with the traditional playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the high school band followed by the band and choir combining for a rendition of "God Bless America." The final musical selection was "United We Stand" performed by the choir. Following the musical pieces, a video was shown featuring Libby Myers, a former Parkway student currently serving in the armed forces. Earlier in the year, students in Mr. Minnich's government classes wrote questions for Libby. Mr. Minnich emailed the student's questions to her. The video consisted of Libby answering the questions asked by the students. After the video, the students listened to Army Sgt. Ruvoldt speak about remembering those who have served and those who are serving. He talked about not only remembering them, but also honoring them in any way you can. Mr. Minnich followed up this speech by giving students examples of ways that one can honor all of those who have served. Thank you to all of those who have served as well as those who are currently serving to protect our country!



Boys Basketball Team Travels to Indianapolis

On November 14th, Coach Hughes and the boys basketball team traveled to Indianapolis to scrimmage the Bellbrook Eagles at the Conseco Fieldhouse. Conseco is home to both the Indiana Pacers of the NBA and the Indiana Fever of the WNBA. The boys got up early Saturday morning to begin the trip to Indianapolis. After a couple hours on the bus, the team stopped at a Golden Corral for a pre-game meal. From there they travelled to Conseco where they scrimmaged a very talented Bellbrook team. After the scrimmage, the team walked to a local restaurant, "Dick's Bodacious Barbecue." After eating, the boys went back to Conseco to watch the Indiana Pacers play the Boston Celtics. The Pacers won an exciting game full of great plays and lots of drama. After the game, the team went to their hotel for food, swimming, and even a few movies. Overall it was a great experience for everyone involved!

Parkway Athletic Department Hosts Pizza Preview

On Friday, November 20th the Parkway Athletic Department held the 5th annual Pizza Preview at the Panther Gymnasium. The pizza for the preview was provided by Little Caesar's Pizza in Celina. It was a night full of excitement, giving Panther fans a glimpse at how this year's boys and girls basketball teams will look. The boys varsity and junior varsity played against the Greenville Green Wave and the varsity and junior varsity Lady Panthers played the Ayersville Pilots. All teams displayed promising features for what we hope will be successful seasons.



Business Students Travel to Florida

On November 19th, Mr. Kevin Browning and five Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members traveled to Orlando, Florida to participate in this year's FBLA Fall Leadership Conference. Those five students were Rachel Roebuck, Kaitlin Roehm, Taylor Lautzenheiser, Caleb Frank, and Michael Nuttle. On Friday, the group participated in meetings that consisted of various workshops on leadership. That evening they travelled to Downtown Disney for fun, food, and of course, a little bit of shopping. The next day consisted of more meetings and workshops. After the closing session, the kids relaxed at their hotel while ordering in some pizza and enjoying cheesecake at the bistro connected to the hotel. Sunday was spent at Universal Studios riding roller coasters until everyone was either sick or dizzy. On Monday, the group enjoyed a safe flight home to the great state of Ohio where everything is less expensive and it is a little colder.

The group gained valuable knowledge on being successful businessmen and women in the future. Thank you to all of those who helped make this trip possible!



(L to R): Caleb Frank, Kaitlin Roehm, Taylor Lautzenheiser, Rachel Roebuck, and Michael Nuttle at the FBLA Fall Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida.



High School News Continued



Helping With the College Search: What Kind of Helicopter Are You?

Parents Quiz. The term “helicopter parents” typically refers to parents who are intensely involved in their child’s college search. But other types of helicopter parents exist, too. Answer these questions to see which kind of helicopter you might be.

1. Your child has an interview with the admission dean at a potential college. You:

- A. Offer to ask sample interview questions and help with transportation.
- B. Sit next to your child during the interview and answer questions.
- C. Tell stories from your college days.
- D. Ride up to campus and take in a football game during the interview.

2. The deadline for the college application essay is approaching. You:

- A. Offer to proofread for spelling and grammar.
- B. Write the essay.
- C. Proofread, adding a few paragraphs of your own because you are familiar with both the college and your child.
- D. Point out that there are pencils in the desk drawer.

3. The best college for your child is:

- A. Whichever school offers my child a chance to succeed in a comfortable yet challenging environment.
- B. Harvard.
- C. My alma mater.
- D. Whichever, as long as we can afford it.

4. When do you think it is best to call the counselor at your school:

- A. When the process appears to be stalled and deadlines are approaching.
- B. Daily.
- C. Whenever they suggest schools I don’t approve of.
- D. I need the counselor’s name.

5. Discussions about paying for college include:

- A. You provide your student with need-to-know information about expected family contributions and cost constraints, but allow your student to make final decisions.
- B. Your plan to complete the financial aid and scholarship applications without your child’s knowledge.
- C. Your child has no say in this process. You are the only voice to be heard or followed.
- D. You change the topic every time your child asks about family involvement in paying for college.

6. When college information arrives in the mail what do you do?

- A. Place it with other college mail on the child’s desk.
- B. See which schools look promising; look them up online, request applications.
- C. Sort it, dropping unknown or unwanted colleges in the trash.
- D. Drop it on the kitchen table.

7. Should you call the college president’s office to discuss your student’s application?

- A. No.
- B. Calls should be frequent.
- C. I donate money to the alumni club. I can talk to the president if I want.
- D. What application?

8. What college search activities have you scheduled for your child?

- A. Low pressure chats about what my child needs, what we can afford and what might be a good fit.
- B. A 12-state, 54-school summer road trip. We’ll hit Harvard twice.
- C. A tour of your former dorm.
- D. Watching college football on Saturdays.



Your Helicopter Type:

If you answered mostly A’s: Kiowa’s Recon Helicopter

You play a supporting role providing information about the road ahead. You scout out potential pitfalls, and make sure your child is prepared for what lies ahead. You provide prep materials, deadline reminders and encouragement.

If you answered mostly B’s: Apache Helicopter.

Aggressive and forceful, your actions can cause collateral damage that can negatively impact your child’s college search. It’s good to be involved, but you need to give your child some space and let him or her take charge of the college search. Your child should write his or her own essay, ask questions on college tours and be the only one to interview with the college. Do not call the college and ask to speak to the president.

If you answered mostly C’s: Police chopper.

You enforce your college views on your child. You lay down the law making demands about where your child can apply and what’s best. Have you thrown away brochures from schools because they’re not on your list? Painted your living room the colors of your alma mater? The best college for you may not be the best for your child. Let your student’s needs and desires dictate the college search.

If you answered mostly D’s: Air Ambulance.

You’re only around in life threatening situations. During the college search your child will need your help and guidance. Get involved. If you don’t know where to start, start small. Talk with your child about what he or she enjoys about high school, and what he or she might want to do afterwards.



Middle School News

Brought to you by Grant Ripley and Andrew Peel



8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip Information

Parkway 8th graders are preparing for their annual Washington D.C. trip scheduled for April 12-17, 2010. The first parent/student meeting was held with K&K Tours on October 29, 2009 and the final meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Some of the places the students will be touring include: Gettysburg, National Archives, Jefferson Memorial, Mt. Vernon, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Korean and World War II Memorials, US Capitol, Air and Space Museum, American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery, to name a few. To prepare for this trip, the students will be studying and doing reports in history class covering all of the sights they will see. The bus will also serve as a traveling classroom with the guides from K&K Tours teaching about the Constitution and other historic documents while traveling around Washington D.C. The estimated cost for this year's trip is \$542.00. This price includes all meals, lodging, transportation, and admissions to all touring sites. A payment of \$150.00 was due November 20 and another \$150.00 payment is due January 15 with the balance due on February 26. As in the past, students sold fish fry tickets for the Lions Club to help with the cost. Several student fun nights are also being planned to help raise money for students who are having problems making their scheduled payments.

If you would like to make a donation to help students who are in need, please contact the middle school office at 419-363-3045 option 3. If you know of any 8th grade students going on the trip, you may want to contact them to help rake leaves, baby sit, or shovel snow to help defray their costs.

Team Ventures

There are a select group of Parkway Middle School students who were chosen to participate in Team Ventures. Team Ventures is a day of creative problem solving and team building activities, which takes place on Friday, December 18, 2009 at Wright State University, Lake Campus.

Students were selected to participate based on their grade point average from the first grading period. The students going will be combined with six other area schools to accomplish different goals throughout the day. Teamwork is one of the goals of the program. By working with students from other schools, students will be putting their teamwork skills to use. Students will also be using their creative problem solving skills throughout the day as they work on a variety of activities.

Team Ventures is a great way for students to learn in an environment that is both fun and exciting while meeting students from other area schools.

7th Grade Students Create Medieval Castles

The 7th grade students in Mrs. Plasterer's social studies classes created castles as part of their study of medieval times. The students designed and created their own castles and their grounds. Students made castles out of various objects such as food, construction paper, and even legos. Students have been learning about the different roles of people in the social pyramid during this time era and learned about how castles looked and how they all had a similar structural design to them. Creating castles is an annual project that Mrs. Plasterer's 7th grade students look forward to each year.

Be E³ Smart

Parkway 7th graders have been taking part in the Be E³ Smart (energy efficiency education) program sponsored by the Ohio Energy Project (OEP) and funded by Dayton Power and Light. The program teaches how energy is produced and used. The students recently prepared presentations about one specific source of energy that they chose to research. They presented their findings to their classmates during science class. The students also learned easy ways to conserve energy and increase energy efficiency in their homes. They are taught that the information they are learning in the classroom should be applied to their lives at home so they can learn to conserve energy. Students will be given items that measure energy use, which they can take home to their parents to help reduce electricity and fuel use in their homes. A questionnaire was sent home that parents filled out with their children, so the parents can have an active part in learning about energy saving with their children.



Middle School News Continued



How to Teach Your Children to be Kind

As I go through my day, I often notice that our students are not being kind to each other. Sometimes kids are downright mean to each other. After one particularly challenging day, I went to my computer and started surfing the net, hoping to find some solution to the problem. I ran across this article from ehow.com that I thought was pretty good. I hope it helps.

Parenting is a difficult responsibility, and it's not easy to teach children to be kind, especially when they are exposed to a variety of outside influences. Follow these tips, and you may be able to pass a little kindness on to your child.

Step 1: Praise your child's helpfulness. There are times when you're in the middle of a chore that would get finished much faster if you did it yourself, but you find your children tagging along, trying to help. Let them. When you acknowledge their assistance, it encourages them to do acts of kindness more often.

Step 2: Discourage your children from putting each other down. When you are together and you hear your children insulting or demeaning each other, put a stop to it. Kindness truly does begin at home, and your children have to learn to be kind to one another if they are to carry on the behavior outside the home.

Step 3: Provide opportunities for children to exhibit kindness. Gently nudge your child toward being kind by making suggestions to help others. Avoid forcing the issue, though, because your child won't feel like being kind if you do; they'll feel like you are dominating their decisions instead.

Step 4: Catch your children being kind. Be on the lookout for your child pushing a friend on the swing, helping a sibling with homework or opening the door for a senior. Acknowledge and praise their great choices and for taking the opportunity to show others their kindness.

Step 5: Recognize your child's individual gifts and talents. Make an effort to see your child for who they are and don't compare them to their siblings or friends. This will only build resentment. If you praise them for their uniqueness, they'll learn to see it in others and appreciate them in the same way.

Step 6: Realize the value of an apology. Teaching your child to be kind isn't exclusively about all the good stuff. Sometimes, probably more often than you care to admit, it is about knowing when you've made a mistake and saying you are sorry. That will also teach your child compassion and responsibility.

Step 7: Allow children to take ownership of their own behavior. Just as you tell your children to take responsibility for their own bad choices, you shouldn't take the credit when they are kind to others. You've given them the foundation, but ultimately it's up to them to carry it out. When they do, let them own it.

Remember that children learn largely by example, so take every chance you get to show your own ability to be kind.

*-Mrs. Ontrop, Middle School
Guidance Counselor*

Parkway Middle School Students of the Month

Parkway Middle School announces its Students of the Month. These students have shown exemplary skills in the pillars of character: trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, and citizenship.



Pictured are (back row) Tanner Matthews, Whitney Rollins, Sierra Fent; (front row) Emilie Baker, Hayden Lyons, Grant Dugan. Not pictured: Serina Siano.

Upcoming Events

- 12/21 7th & 8th Grade Winter Concert (Band and Choir) @ 7:00 p.m.
- 12/23-1/3 Christmas Break
- 1/13 2 Hour Delay Teacher Inservice
- 1/14 Magazine Sales Begin
- 1/18 Martin Luther King Junior Day-No School



Elementary Unleashed

Brought to you by Lindsay Shellabarger and Nick Foreman

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

-Sydney J. Harris

Sheriff's Deputy Visits Third Grade

On November 20, all third grade students were able to get a sneak peek into the fascinating life of being a police officer. Mercer County Sheriff's Deputy Doug Timmerman, brother to third grade teacher Mrs. Krista Evans, took time out of his day to talk to the children about his job and answer questions. He also talked to the students about things to do in order to stay safe and out of trouble. In addition, he explained what would happen if someone didn't follow the law or if someone was in trouble and needed assistance. Mr. Timmerman had a special volunteer, Noah Riley, assist in passing out foam footballs to the students who asked questions. By the end of his visit, students were well informed about what he does on a daily basis and were more aware of what being a sheriff's deputy is all about.



Above: Doug Timmerman from the Mercer County Sheriff's Department talks with Parkway third grade students.

Preschool Students are Busy Learning Letters

The Parkway preschool classes have been busy learning their letters. This past month they have learned the letter P and the letter O. They were very excited to learn the letter P as they worked with pumpkins. The kids used a recipe and measured out all the ingredients to make their own pumpkin pie. Pam Smith and Gloria Fisher, cafeteria workers, were nice enough to bake it for them. Then, they enjoyed it for their snack! The kids found out that they were very good bakers!



Above: Jayden Waterman and his mother Libby enjoy the kindergarten parents day activities together.



Above: The five generation family: (left to right) Matt Jackson, Mae Colwell, Glenda High, Renee Flanary, Ashley Jackson, Emily Jackson, and Paige Jackson. Jeremy Jackson and Logan Jackson are not pictured.

Kindergartners Learn about Families

For the month of November, the Parkway kindergarten classes learned all about families. Paige Jackson, a student in Mrs. Smith's class, is lucky to have five generations of her family living and was given the opportunity to have them come in and share a little family history. The great great grandchildren include Paige Jackson, Ashley Jackson, Emily Jackson, and Logan Jackson. Their father is Jeremy Jackson, with a brother Matt Jackson. The children's grandmother is Renee Flanary. Her mother and great grandmother of the kids is Glenda High. Glenda's mother, who is the great great grandmother of the kids, is Mae Colwell. The family came in and took time to reminisce about certain things that were popular in their early years. Mrs. Smith asked each one of the family members what their favorite thing to do was when they were younger. It was interesting to see how different the popular things of the past are compared to what is popular right now. To continue the time spent learning about families, the kindergartners were treated to an activity day. Each child's parents were invited in to observe what goes on in a typical school day and to see how their child was doing. After this, the kids and parents ate a meal together. Later in the day, there was a special arts and crafts activity that they all participated in as well. These opportunities allowed the students to have a fun time learning about families!



Elementary Unleashed

Reader's Theatre

On November 24, Mrs. Stover's fourth grade class split up into three groups to present a skit for "Reader's Theatre." The skit involved a grasshopper, an ant, and a narrator reading the scenes aloud as the other characters acted it out for their classmates. The storyline was how the grasshopper was enjoying her luxurious time out in the sun while the ant collected food for the winter. When winter came, the grasshopper was in search of food but could not find any, so she had to go to the ant for help. The ant revealed the moral to the story, which was that you have to do the work before you can play, so you will be prepared for anything. The students practiced the scenes with their groups the day before over and over again so they would be well prepared and ready to present. Overall, this lesson helped with reading practice as well as public speaking skills in a fun and exciting way.



Above: a group performing their version of the story in Reader's Theatre

NOTICE

The last day of school prior to Christmas vacation is December 22nd! Have a great holiday break!



The Shining Star Award

There is a new award for students at Parkway Elementary School this year. It is called the Shining Star Award. Students are nominated by their teachers for showing healthy social interaction and responsible school choices. These actions, for grades 3-5, might include: making positive choices, respecting others, being responsible, showing compassion, being fair, honest, and cooperative, and developing good self-esteem. For grades 1 & 2: good listening skills, organization, being responsible, completion of homework, and following directions. Elementary students, make sure you are making good decisions so you can join the Shining Star Club!

For the month of September the recipients were:

5th grade- *Alivia Stover & Carson Ford*

4th grade- *Jared Gibson & Haley Hawk*

3rd grade- *Connor Lyons & Melissa Hauter*

2nd Grade:

Best Listener- *Sidney Doner, Gavin Stober, Grace Rogers, & Chandler Brown*

Most Responsible- *Tori Albright, Kris Kirby, Sophia Miller, & Aaron Bruns*

Awesome Organizer- *Chad Drayton, Olivia Rutledge, Cory Agler, & McKenna Temple*

#1 Homework Completer- *Claire Eichler, Macy Henkle, Carley Boeckman, & Breyden Bruns*

Fabulous Follower of Directions- *Kaitlin LaBrun, Ashlyn White, Adam Buffenbarger, & Ashlyn Cornett*

1st Grade:

Best Listener- *Lexie Cottman, Kayla Kuhn, Tyler Tinkham, & Mackenzie Vian*

Most Responsible- *Seth Stukey, Dylan Hughes, Breanna Beeks, & Kelsey Nichols*

Awesome Organizer- *Zoie Huffman, Claire Langenkamp, Bo Bates, & Adam Stephenson*

#1 Homework Completer- *Samantha Noll, Kaden Boroff, Thaddeus Feipel, & Blake Frank*

Fabulous Follower of Directions- *Sydney Waters, Adain Andrews, Elijah Rich, & Bradyn McKee*

October Shining Star Club recipients were:

5th Grade- *Coleton Lautzenheiser and Amanda Ross*

4th Grade- *JD Hileman and Skylr Andrews*

3rd Grade- *Noah Riley and Bailey Strickler*

2nd Grade:

Best Listener- *Kyle Roth, Rachel Barrett, Ansley Burtch, and Hailey Stephenson*

Most Responsible- *McKenna Johnson, Brooke May, Sidney Baxter, and Sidney Feipel*

Awesome Organizer- *Brianna Henning, Preston Browning, Autumn Ellis, and Courtney Harding*

#1 Homework Completer- *Hailey Roberts, Ryan Hesse, Brandy Duval, and Kendall Roof*

Fabulous Follower of Directions- *Justin Frank, Maddy Lamb, Chandler Krogman, and Alex Tisdale*

1st Grade:

Best Listener- *Georgia Gangwer, Madalyn Heindal, Zachary Davis, and Lydia Miller*

Most Responsible- *Liam Ferroggiaro, Claire Rutledge, Olivia Sutter, and Makenna Schumm*

Awesome Organizer- *Mandi Dull, Hunter Gibson, Tayah Tewksbury, and Avery Boroff*

#1 Homework Completer- *Dakota Hays, Haydn Ridenour, Preston Lies, and Anthony Heck*

Fabulous Follower of Directions- *Brody Dorsten, Cassidy Agler, Blake Clabough, and Keaton Black*

Congratulations to all winners and keep up the great work!