

# THE Black & Gold Unfold

-Home of the Panthers-

Parkway  
Local  
Schools



Vol. 1 No. 7

Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

March 2009



## District News

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



### Congratulations Mr. Esselstein on Being Inducted Into the Ohio Softball Hall of Fame!

The person I am introducing today has found success in many aspects of life. He has been married for nearly 20 years to Annie, together they have a beautiful daughter, Emerson. United, they are pillars in the community, leading by example and dedicated to helping others.

What we are here about today is another integral component of Esselstein's success: Softball. After graduating from WSU he coached a variety of sports while also teaching and achieving a masters degree in educational administration. In 1987, he erected the softball program, laying a firm groundwork for a victorious program. As the program flourished, a JV squad was later added and eventually 2 Junior High teams. The program continued to blossom and so did Esselstein. He was named the elementary principal at Parkway. He is the lone head coach of Parkway, leading the

Panthers in all 22 seasons. With an astounding record of 351-114, he has amassed 7 league championships, 20 sectional championships, 9 district championships, 2 regional championships, 3 regional runners-up, and 2 state final four appearances.

(Part of Terri Samples' introduction speech at the Hall of Fame banquet)



### Congratulatory Words

What an amazing feat to have accomplished! Best of luck in the '09 season!

-Coach Samples

Coached JV for 12 years

Coach E established a wonderful winning tradition! I'll never forget when we won the 2002 District Championship and we had the fire trucks meet us at the edge of town and announce our arrival. It was awesome!

Coach Penhorwood  
Coached beside Esselstein  
for 7 years

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### Upcoming Events

**3/16 - 3/20** - OGT Testing for Sophomores - 2 hour delay for Juniors and Seniors

**3/18** - Spring Sports Pictures in High School Gym

**3/20** - End of 3rd Nine Weeks

**3/25** - Two Hour Delay due to Teacher Inservice

**3/27** - Grade Cards Go Home with Students

**3/28** - Junior High Solo and Ensemble at Minster



# District News Continued



(continued from page 1)

As the athletic director and also as an umpire I have enjoyed to watch the way that Coach E motivated his girls to play up to his expectations. Just his knowledge of the game, how he anticipates plays, reads other coaches, knows where hits are going, ect. is impressive.

Coach Esselstein has made Parkway softball an excellent program. I enjoy watching the kids and seeing him coach. He makes me proud of Parkway sports.

Mr. Minnich

Umpire and former Parkway Athletic Director

I first met Coach Esselstein in 1995 on the softball field at Elida, where Parkway was playing Coldwater. As an opposing player I always admired Coach E and his coaching style. Years later I received a wonderful opportunity to join his coaching staff. I have learned so much from Coach E, first as a former opponent and then as a member of his coaching staff. Coach E is wonderful to coach with and has the respect of his players and his other coaches.

Coach Evans

JV assistant coach for 6 years

As a former softball player of over fifteen years, I have learned the value of positive and effective coaching while making my way from T-ball to the collegiate level. Parkway softball has become a well known program because of the dedication Mark Esselstein has put into it. As I make the transition from player to coach, I am honored to have the opportunity to learn from the best.

Coach Leighner

First year varsity assistant

I have had Coach Esselstein as a coach for three years. He has taught me things that go beyond the softball field. Hard work, dedication, and appreciation are just a few life lessons I will carry with me throughout my future. I would like to congratulate him on his achievement and induction into the Hall of Fame.

Hannah Beougher

Senior Softball Player

## Delay Information Available Online

An online delay and cancellation calendar is now available for parents, students, and members of the community. To access the calendar, visit the Parkway Local Schools homepage at [www.parkwayschools.org](http://www.parkwayschools.org) and click on the School Delay and Cancellation link.

## Preschool Screening

A Preschool screening for 3,4, and 5 years olds of the Parkway Local School District will be conducted at the Rockford United Methodist Church on May 1st, 2009. We will be screening youngsters in a variety of developmental areas. Possible screenings include vision and hearing acuity, fine motor coordination, speech and language development, visual and auditory memory/perception, and general knowledge. If you are interested in having your child screened, please call the elementary office at 419-363-3045 ext. 720 by April 24, 2009 to register. This is a free service provided by Parkway Local Schools in cooperation with the Mercer County Educational Service Center.

## 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](http://www.parkwayschools.org)



# High School News

Brought to you by Claire Burtch and Tara Luth



## Robotics Team Places 2nd in S.T.E.M. Challenge

Last issue, we reported on three Parkway students who were competing as a team in the S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Challenge, part of the National Robotics Challenge. Parkway High School is proud to announce that the team of seniors Brandon Riley and Tyler Garwood and junior Corbin Hellwarth placed second in the event.

Although Parkway is not a STEM school and had not been working on robots since the beginning of the school year like other STEM schools, they applied their knowledge from the classroom and made an impressive robot.

At the competition, all teams received a basic kit of body frames and a selection of motors, wheels and other parts. They unpacked the kit for the basic robot and in six hours put together their main structure.

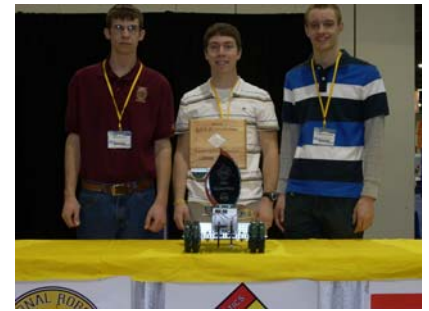
After a few revisions to their first attempt, the team made a robot with two long moveable arms and dual wheels, which were installed for ramp traction.

After they faced the first-place robot, the team realized they could have changed a few points of their strategy to make their robot more successful. Changes, such as a better arm design and a little better climbing ability would have helped during

the competition.

Overall, the competition was a success, and the group had a lot of fun. Congratulations to the 2009 Parkway High School robotics team! 🐾

*From left to right: Brandon Riley, Tyler Garwood, and Corbin Hellwarth pose with their 2nd place award and robot at the STEM competition.*



## Students Celebrate Super Bowl

On February 6, 2009 students in Mrs. Barlage's classroom celebrated the Super Bowl in a unique and fun fashion. Although the game with the Arizona Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Steelers was the previous Sunday, the class celebrated later in the week due to uncooperative weather.

Six Parkway students met their



friends from Celina and Coldwater at the Coldwater Bowling Alley where they ate pizza and had fun bowling. All the students had a great time and can't wait until next year's Super Bowl. 🐾

*Top: Chris Huber going for another strike.*

*Left: Jeff Hausman getting ready to bowl.*

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)



# High School News Continued



## Friends of Rachel

At the beginning of the school year, all Parkway High School students attended an assembly about Rachel Joy Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shooting. The assembly was based on combining kindness with leadership and starting “a chain reaction.”

This assembly had a great affect on students at Parkway and now we are continuing to make possible the changes we would like to see in our own school. Friends of Rachel (F.O.R.) is a club designed to encourage students to act with kindness everyday.

Students signed up to join the F.O.R. club and could also choose to lead a group. The sign-up was a great success as 93 students signed up to be members and 18 signed up as leaders.

Those who wanted to lead a group attended a half day training session at New Horizons Community Church. After an introduction and ice breaker, student leaders participated in four different sessions: Problem

Solving, Getting Organized/ Setting Goals, Growing as a Team, and Communication is King.

On Thursday, February 12 student leaders were able to apply their new knowledge at the first F.O.R. group meeting. The lesson topic was “An Introduction to Each Other”, which helped students and teachers acquire knowledge, attitudes, and interpersonal skills to help understand and respect themselves and others.

During this lesson students participated in a group activity in which nine students from each of the four groups were “players” and the remaining students were “observers”. The players tied headbands on their foreheads with phrases that they could not see, but the other players and observers could see. The headbands were labeled: laugh at what I say, treat me as a leader, show disgust at what I say, agree with my comments, disagree with my comments, turn your chairs/back away from me, don’t listen to me, seek my

advice, and be friendly to me. Next, the players were given a topic to discuss like, “how to overcome apathy in our school.” The players had eight minutes to solve this. During the discussion, each player had to react to the player who was speaking according to what was written on the speaker’s headband. To conclude, the players had to guess what was on their headband based on how they were treated by the other players during the activity. Following the activity, students contributed their thoughts in a discussion about how the activity made them feel. This first meeting was thought to be successful and there is much excitement for the upcoming meetings which will be about every two weeks for the remainder of the year. Future topics include: cheating and school ethics, tolerance and acceptance of others, alcohol and substance use and abuse, self image, and an evaluation where students will re-do a previous survey to see if there have been positive changes. 🐾

## Parkway Basketball Celebrates Senior Night

Parkway High School’s varsity basketball teams recognized their seniors on separate senior nights during February.

The boys team honored their seniors on Friday, February 13 in their last home game against Delphos St. John’s. It was a close game, but in the end the Panthers came out on top outscoring the Blue Jays 53-48.

Seniors on the team include: Levon Archer, Zach Bates, Craig Bills, Josh Fisher, Drew Luginbill, Tyler Oliver, Chad Shellabarger, and Rick Shindeldecker.

On Thursday, February 19 the girls team played New Bremen at home. This was the final home game for seniors Jamie Guggenbiller and Jen Thomas. Although it was a tough loss, the

*CONGRATULATIONS!*

girls played hard the whole game.

Congratulations to all the seniors. All of your hard work and time throughout the years is appreciated. 🐾



# Middle School News

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



## Magazine Sales

The Parkway Middle School concluded their magazine sales on February 2, 2009. Their sales totaled an incredible \$14,530. The students were able to choose from an abundance of incentive prizes. The top five sellers were as follows: first place= Raegen Bransteter (\$536), second place= Tegan Felver (\$432), third place= Turner Bransteter (\$427), fourth place= Julie Whitten (\$397), and fifth place= Olivia Smith (\$375).

There were 35 students who took a limo ride to Pizza Hut in Van Wert for lunch as an incentive for selling. The sixth graders sold the most magazines out of the entire middle school. They sold over \$5,000 worth. This year the students worked very hard once again to create a successful magazine sale.



**Character  
Word  
of the Month:  
Loyalty**

## Mercer County Spelling Bee Champ

The Mercer County Spelling Bee was held on February 2, 2009. There were many students from all schools in Mercer County that came and participated in it. The winner was a student from our own Parkway Middle School, Jeremy Tribolet. He beat out two 7th graders; one was from Coldwater and the other was from St. Henry. Jeremy will advance to the regional contest on March 21 in Lima at Rhodes State College. Good luck Jeremy!



## Bransteter Competes in Rubber Band Contest



Raegen Bransteter recently participated in the Rubber Band Contest for Young Inventors and was chosen as one of the 15 finalists in the contest. The contest, open to students in grades 5-8, challenged students to stretch their imaginations by designing and creating an invention made with

rubber bands. The students were judged by: 35% creativity, 35% practicality or usefulness, 15% benefit to society, 10% cost effectiveness, 5% clarity of essay including spelling and grammar.

Raegen represented Parkway Middle School well with her invention of "No-Sew Curtains." Congratulations on a job well done.

## Fun Night



On February 27, the Middle School Student Council and the Middle School F.O.R. (Friends of Rachel) Club sponsored a Fun Night for all middle school students. The admission to the event was \$5. All of the proceeds from the Middle School Fun Night will be given to students who need some assistance paying for their Washington D.C. trip. The night was filled with many fun activities. Activities included a volleyball tournament and dodgeball tournament. There were many people in attendance and it really was a Fun Night!



## Tips on Disciplining Young Teens

Disciplining your children was probably easier when they were younger. You used to be able to issue a time-out or threaten to take play time away and they would straighten up. But as children enter adulthood, they try to test the boundaries - and display a poor attitude - more often than you would like.

There are ways to set limits and enforce consequences that respect your children and remind them how they're expected to behave. Here are some suggestions:

1. Be specific. Spell out your expectations. Instead of saying, "Clean your room," try, "Hang up your clothes and make your bed."
2. Explain penalties beforehand. Don't spring new punishments on your teen. Fill them in ahead of time - "If you get another Friday school, you'll lose your video games for a month". This way they'll have a chance to change their behavior.
3. Don't discipline in anger. If your teen comes home after curfew, don't lay into them while you are seething mad. Instead, take time to calm down. "I am really angry right now. We will discuss this tomorrow." And make sure you do discuss it the next day! Sometimes a little anticipation of what the consequences might be doesn't hurt!

4. Have them recite the rules. Make sure they "get" the rules by having them repeat what you said aloud: "If I curse again, I'll be grounded for a week." This helps clear up any discipline-related misunderstandings before they happen. (Source: David Walsh, Ph.D., *WHY Do They Act That Way: A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You and Your Teen*)

## Are you Getting the Message?

In conjunction with the "Are You Getting the Message?" presentation by Mike Clouse on February 2, the eighth grade students and their parents also had the opportunity to learn about scheduling their high school classes. High School Principal, Brian Fortkamp and Middle School Counselor, Lisa Ontrop spoke to the students about graduation requirements. The students were given the 2009-2010 curriculum guide for Parkway High School courses. They also learned that descriptions of the classes are available through the online curriculum guide located on Parkway Local School's Website. One of the new additions to next year's classes is Financial Management in the Family and Consumer Sci-

ences. Beginning next school year it is required that all schools in Ohio offer a course related to managing one's finances.

In addition the students also received an informational paper about the O.G.T. (Ohio Graduation Test). The students also received a book titled, "How to Get the Most Out of High School." High school teachers were also available to answer questions and provide assistance to the students. Middle School Counselor, Lisa Ontrop stated that it was a very successful night.

## Students of the Month



Parkway Middle School announces its Students of the Month for February. These students have shown exemplary skills in five of the pillars of character: responsibility, respect, kindness, honesty, and effort. Pictured are back row: Kayla Stephenson, Katelynn Kraner, Wyatt Evans, Aaron Brehm, Jordan Strader; center row: Courtney Dicke, Allison Gaerke, Chloe Dailey; front row: Raegen Bransteter, Kateri Myers, and Whitney Rollins.



# Elementary Unleashed

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

## TIPS FOR PARENTS TO HELP CHILDREN GAIN READING SUCCESS

Reading to your child is a very important part of your child's life. It develops your child's literary, comprehension, and reading skills. It also helps you to bond with your child. The child always values the time spent with his/her parent. Take these reading tips and apply them to your next reading adventure with your child.

### Reading Tips:

1. Playing word games (like Scrabble) is a great way to expand your child's vocabulary.
2. Read at bedtime. Tell your child he or she can choose between reading or sleeping. Your child will treasure this time spent with you.
3. Be patient. When your child is sounding out an unfamiliar word, give your child enough time to do so.
4. Have your child re-read his or her favorite stories.
5. Create a book together. Make a book out of folded pieces of paper and staple them together. Your child can illustrate and make a story.

(Source: <http://www.readingrockets.org>)

## Elementary Students Visit Petting Zoo

On February 19, 2009 as part of FFA week, elementary students in preschool through fourth grade had the opportunity to visit a petting zoo hosted by the Parkway High School FFA chapter. Students had a chance to pet the animals and ask questions as they circulated past the pens.



Students were able to see turkeys brought in by senior Brandon Riley, chickens brought in by senior Jennifer Thomas, goats brought in by senior Michael Ford, pigs brought in by senior Dustin Merry, sheep brought in by junior Caleb Caffee, rabbits brought in by junior Mark Sheets, ducks brought in by senior Paul Brown and a cow brought in by junior Danielle Matthews. In addition Linda Kremer brought in a donkey and horses for the students to enjoy. The elementary students and teachers would like to thank the FFA members for providing this fun and exciting opportunity to learn about animals.

## "Air Extreme" Excites the Elementary

On February 27, elementary and middle school students who sold at least three magazines during their annual sale had an opportunity to burn some energy on a Friday afternoon by playing on the large inflatable games from Air Extreme. This is an annual incentive that students look forward to each year.



### Ask a First Grader

"What is your favorite part about Spring?"

"Only swimming"  
Trevor B.

"Driving a tractor"  
Aaron K.

"Riding horses"  
Macy H.

"I like the sun"  
Grace R.

"Swimming"  
Katie H.



# Elementary Unleashed

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

## St. Patrick's Day – Celebrating the Green

St. Patrick is believed to have driven the snakes from Ireland. Once a pagan himself, St. Patrick is one of Christianity's most widely known figures.

The modern secular holiday is based on the original Christian saint's feast day also thought to be the date of the saint's death. In 1737, Irish immigrants to the United States began observing the holiday publicly in Boston and held the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City in 1766.

Today, the tradition continues with people from all walks and heritages by wearing green, eating Irish food, and attending parades. St. Patrick's Day is bursting with folklore; from the shamrock to the leprechaun and to pinching those that are not wearing green.



## DID YOU KNOW?

St. Patrick was born in 385 AD somewhere along the west coast of Britain, possibly in the Welsh town of Banwen. At age 16, he was captured and sold into slavery to a sheep farmer. He escaped when he was 22 and spent the next 12 years in a monastery. In his 30s he returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. He died in Saul in 461 AD and is buried in Downpatrick.

The name "leprechaun" has several origins. It could be from the Irish Gaelic word "Leipreachan," which means "a kind of aqueous spirit." Or, it could be from "Leath bhrogan," which means "shoemaker."

34 million Americans have Irish ancestry, according to the 2003 US Census. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland, which has 4.1 million people.

### St. Patrick's Day Word Find

banshee  
blarney  
boondoggle  
boycott  
brogue  
donnybrook  
leprechaun  
limerick  
saint patrick  
scones  
shamrock  
shillelagh  
shimmer  
smithereens  
stew  
stout  
sweepstakes  
tanistry

S	E	P	V	E	E	S	G	O	E	U	S	R	Q	M
R	A	C	K	U	E	L	T	L	H	W	M	B	I	Q
T	G	I	G	K	V	H	G	O	E	J	I	P	J	A
Q	A	O	N	S	O	G	S	E	U	B	T	O	W	C
L	R	N	A	T	O	O	P	N	L	T	H	V	R	F
B	F	P	I	D	P	S	R	A	A	M	E	S	E	H
C	D	L	N	S	T	A	R	B	O	B	R	H	M	G
N	N	O	V	A	T	N	T	D	Y	T	E	A	M	A
X	O	J	K	M	E	R	B	R	I	N	E	M	I	L
B	K	E	Q	Y	R	Y	P	I	S	N	R	H	E	
D	S	L	I	M	E	R	I	C	K	C	S	O	S	L
N	U	A	H	C	E	R	P	E	L	S	K	C	D	L
S	C	O	N	E	S	J	X	Y	M	T	L	K	O	I
N	G	R	T	T	O	C	Y	O	B	E	Q	J	R	H
Y	Q	C	P	D	I	K	R	Y	X	W	T	N	D	S