

THE Black & Gold Unfold



-Home of the Panthers-

Parkway
Local
Schools



Vol. 1 No. 3

Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

November 2008



District News

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



From the Desk of Athletic Director, Mr. Doug Hughes

Fall sports have ended and winter sports are now underway at Parkway Local Schools. Numerous teams and individuals excelled in the fall. The All-MAC teams included two male and two female athletes from Parkway High School.

The Varsity Volleyball Team concluded an extremely successful season. The Lady Panthers ended up 18-6 and placed third in the always competitive Midwest Athletic Conference. Marian Bevington was named First Team All-MAC, First Team All District Eight, and Second Team All-Ohio. Marian will also represent Parkway as she plays in the very prestigious State All-Star volleyball match in Wooster on Sunday, November 16th at 1:00 pm. Ashley Stose and Emily Crowell were both named to the All-MAC Second Team. Emily was also named Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The football team wrapped up its season with a thrilling 25-20 victory over Versailles. The boys battled through many injuries and capped off the season by winning two of their last three games. Josh Fisher was named First

Team All-MAC as a defensive back. In Golf, both Emily Winings and Tyler Oliver made First Team All-MAC. The Cross Country team was led throughout the season by sophomore Landon Brehm and senior Chad Shellabarger. Landon had a personal record time of 18:31.

The girls' basketball team started practice on Monday, November 3rd and the boys will begin on November 10th. Both teams will have scrimmages the weekend of November 14th and 15th. The Pizza Preview will be held on Saturday, November 29th. All players in grades K-12 will be scrimmaging on this day. The High School Boys' Basketball teams will scrimmage Greenville during the Pizza Preview. On December 2nd the Girls will open up their season at Wayne Trace. The boys' basketball team will open with two home games on December 5th and 6th. Please support the Panthers in what is sure to be another exciting season of basketball.

The High School Boys' Basketball teams will be traveling to Indianapo-

lis, Indiana on Friday, November 28th. Parkway will scrimmage Celina at Conesco Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers. The scrimmage will take place at 2:30 pm. The Pacers will play the Charlotte Bobcats later that evening at 8:00 pm. Tickets for the Pacers game are on sale in the athletic office for \$25 each, and will get you in to watch the Parkway vs Celina scrimmage.

Upcoming Events

11/20 - Elementary Book Fair

11/21 - Interim Reports

11/24 - Parent Teacher
11/26 Conferences

11/26 - No School
12/1

11/29 - Basketball Pizza
Preview

12/3 - iSafe Presentation





District News Continued



Rachel's Challenge Introduced to Parkway Students

On Thursday, October 13th approximately 600 Parkway students in grades 6-12 heard the life changing message of Rachel's Challenge. Shane Hammon presented this five step challenge which was created to commemorate Rachel Joy Scott. On April 20, 1999 one of the worst school shootings to ever occur happened at Columbine High School. Rachel Joy Scott was the first victim of the attacks. Rachel lived a life of kindness and compassion that she used every day to inspire everyone around her. After her death Rachel's father, Darrel Scott, started the Rachel's Challenge program. The goal of this program is to bring positive change to the youth of our communities. During the program Parkway students were challenged to accept the following goals:

1. Eliminate Prejudice - Look for the best in others.
2. Dare to Dream – Write goals, and keep a journal.
3. Choose your Influences – Input determines output.
4. Kind Words – Perform little acts of kindness and you will discover huge results.
5. Start a Chain Reaction – If you help someone else or say a few kind words you can make a difference.



As a result of the program Parkway students have accepted Rachel's Challenge in many different ways. The high school, for example, has started a Friends of Rachel (F.O.R.) program. The F.O.R. program is designed to continue the chain reaction that Rachel believed in. There will be at least 30-40 leaders from our school that will organize events, assemblies, and fund raisers that will help our school and our community to become a better place where everyone is equal. If you want to start the chain reaction and become a Friend of Rachel all you have to do is remember L.I.F.E. Life stands for L- Labor, I- Influence, F- Finances, and E- Expertise. To learn more about Rachel's Challenge or to find out more ways that you can get involved visit www.rachelschallenge.com

Internet Safety Presentation to be Held for Community Members

On December 3rd from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Parkway Local Schools Auditorium, Mr. Curtis Hamrick will be sharing the iSAFE program to educate parents how to protect their children from the dangers lurking on-line. Over 48 million children ages 5-17 regularly use the Internet. A recent iSAFE study reveals 40% of children don't discuss Internet safety with their

parents. Most children agree that if their parents knew what they were looking up on the Internet they would have concerns. The best protection for Internet safety is for parents and children to learn the skills to act responsibly and to develop the wisdom to navigate on-line safely. Children on-line without proper Internet safety are at a higher risk of

becoming victims of Internet related crimes. For more information and/or details please contact Mr. Hamrick at 363-3045 or visit the iSAFE website at www.isafe.org. All parents and community members are invited to attend this presentation.



Parkway Local Schools Telephone Listing

Several people have noticed that Parkway Local Schools are not listed correctly in the Embarq phone book. The listing appears in the "BUSINESS LISTINGS" under "Schools" as St. Mary of the Assumption Superintendent-Treasurer.

In the Verizon phone book the listing appears in the "ROCKFORD" section as Schools.

Parkway Local Schools can be contacted by dialing 419-363-3045. The phone system can be navigated by using the attached guide or by listening to the options from the automated attendant. When dialing a direct extension the # key must be pressed before entering the extension number.

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



National Honor Society Inducts 21 New Members

October 14th was a night of recognition for thirty-six Parkway students. As twenty juniors and one senior were inducted into this organization, sixteen members of the senior class were honored by a teacher of their choice by having the teacher say a few words about them.

President of NHS, Chad Shellabarger, started with an introduction with four other senior officers, Rick Shindeldecker, Deanna Knapke, Samantha Thomas, and Jason Schatzer, describing the requirements to be eligible for National Honor Society.

Requirements include a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and the completion of seven academic classes; seniors must have a 3.5 and



Above: The 20 juniors inducted into NHS.

have completed nine classes. All candidates are then evaluated by a high school faculty committee on the basis of leadership, service, and character.

Inducted members include: Senior: Brittany Smith; Juniors: Caylan Agler, Taylor Behrs, Alissa Belna, Claire Burtch, Sarah Deitsch, Alexander Dicke, Corbin Hellwarth, Jordan Henkle, Paige Kelley, Jacquelyn King, Tara Luth,

Danielle Matthews, Michael Nuttle, Amanda On, Andrew Peel, Erica Rodriguez, Adam Schlemmer, Shirissa Seibert, Lindsay Shellabarger, and Amanda Shindeldecker.

The night ended with a reception in the commons area. Congratulations to all the outstanding students involved in NHS. 🍀

Parkway Students Go to Jail

On October 15th Parkway students in Mr. Browning's Street Law class and Mr. Minnich's Government classes traveled to Celina to visit the court house, the firehouse, and the county jail.

The students' curriculum at the time fit very well with the field trip, as they were learning about the judicial process. Mr. Browning felt it was appropriate to see the

judicial process in action.

While visiting, the students had the chance to meet and talk to Judge Zitter, who is in charge of juvenile law. She explained the difference between adult law and juvenile law.

All in all, the day was a great learning experience for all involved. 🍀

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



Parkway High School's FCCLA Attends District Rally

Article submitted by Naomi Evans

Thirty-three Parkway Family, Career and Community Leaders of America members recently attended the Vantage District Rally held at Jehmm's in Van Wert. One hundred ninety students and advisers in the Vantage district participated in the rally presided over by District President Alissa Belna, a junior at Parkway. As FCCLA State Secretary, Alissa also gave greetings from the State Executive Council. She then presented a power point highlighting Ohio FCCLA state projects.

As a part of the FCCLA's new state Cancer Campaign project, students heard a presentation by Marybeth Torsell, a representative from the American

Cancer Society. She discussed cancer warning signs, cancer causes, and cancer statistics. Deb Smith, also from the American Cancer Society, informed attendees about the possibility of hosting Mini-Relays for Life. Following these activities, students each made a UV Sensitive bracelet. The beads on the bracelet change colors indicating the intensity of the UV rays. The bracelets inform wearers when to reapply sunscreen, put on a shirt, or go inside.

After a break for lunch, John and Delores Myers from the Van Wert First United Methodist Church Food Bank spoke about the services provided at the food bank. Members presented

collected food items and money to Mr. and Mrs. Myers for the food bank.

Members also enjoyed mixer activities, songs and cheers, and door prizes donated by area chapters. The meeting closed with the Candle and Installation Ceremonies led by Miss Belna. Parkway's Amie Baker was installed as Corresponding Secretary.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. (FCCLA) is a nonprofit national career and technical student organization for young men and women in Family and Consumer Science Education classes in public and private schools grades six through twelve. 🐾

High School Students Operate The Panther Pantry

This year at Parkway High School, students in Mrs. Chris Barlage's class have been operating a "concession stand" in the staff workroom. They call their stand the Panther Pantry. Money raised from the concessions is used to pay for field trips throughout the year. Funds are also used for their multi-county prom which includes students from Mercer, Auglaize, Shelby, Allen and

Montgomery counties.

Other activities taking place in Mrs. Barlage's class include the chili cook-off the class attended on October 24 in Coldwater. Parkway's very own Mr. Fortkamp was a guest judge, and although the class didn't win, they had a lot of fun eating the great food. 🐾

Right: Shana Wright and Jeff Hausmann stocking the products for the Panther Pantry.



Above: Nick and Chris Huber count inventory.





Middle School News

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



Middle School Balloon Release

Parkway Middle School students followed the Rachel's Challenge assembly with a balloon release. Students attached their goals for the year along with a return card to their balloons. Several of the students' balloons have been found all over Ohio, and a few even made it to different states. Here are some of the student's balloons that have been found. Tiffany Deitsch- North Star, OH, Kayla Walls-Mount Vernon, OH, Mackenzie Berry-Port Jefferson, OH, Rachel King-Shreve, OH, Zoey Pond-Galion,

OH, Olivia Smith-Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Austin Barna-Columbus, New Jersey, Andrea Houser-Bellfountaine, OH, Zach Crider-Bradford, OH, Jordan Strader-Augusta, OH, Dakota Schaffner-Augusta, OH.



Red Ribbon Week

Parkway Middle School Students recently celebrated Red Ribbon Week. On Monday, October 27th the students watched a video called Natural High Two. After the video they discussed it and followed with activities. Also, they received badges which said "I Elect To Be Drug Free". Tuesday through Friday names were randomly drawn on the morning announce-

ments. If the students whose names were drawn were wearing their "I Elect To Be Drug Free" badges they won prizes including t-shirts, duffle bags, and wrist bands. Red Ribbon Week is to reinforce the message that drugs are not cool. It's to prove to students that doing drugs is not the responsible decision and it affects their body and brain to an extreme extent.

Students of the Month

Parkway Middle School announces its Students of the Month for October. 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): Jordan Bollenbacher, Tiffany Deitsch, Marissa Hunter; front row:

Camille Hellwarth, Kayle Heckler, Austin Stukey. Not pictured: Turner Bransteter.



CHARACTER COUNTS Week!

October 19-25 was CHARACTER COUNTS Week. This week was focused on the six pillars of character: caring, citizenship, fairness, trustworthiness, respect, and responsibility. CHARACTER COUNTS is the most widely implemented approach to character education, reaching millions of youth. The PHS FCCLA Chapter emphasized this week throughout the Middle School by having excerpts read about the different pillars of character on the announcements each day. Each pillar also has a specific color that represents it and the students were asked to wear the designated color each day. They were also given the opportunity to win prizes by answering a question pertaining to each specific day's character pillar. The winners were: Lando Bruns, Katelyn Kroeger, Kayla Stephenson, Kayle Heckler, Kylene Murphy, and Brianna Coon. Each winner will be awarded with appropriate prizes. Thank You to all that participated and helped to make CHARACTER COUNTS Week a success!

Character Word of the Month: *Citizenship*



Counselor's Corner... Focusing on Citizenship

What Does it mean to be a Good Citizen?

- Good citizens do their share to help their families and communities to be better.
- They are good neighbors.
- They obey rules, laws, and cooperate with others.
- They respect parents, teachers, and others in authority.
- They protect the environment.
- They stay informed about important issues and vote.
- They are responsible for themselves.
- They demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- They have a positive attitude.

Things You Can Do To Raise Good Citizens

- Minimize waste. Recycle and conserve.
- Reinforce the importance of school rules and that they must be followed.
- Reinforce the importance of sportsmanship.
- Reuse boxes and shopping bags.
- Notice nature around you. Watch a sunrise or sunset. Look for animals. Appreciate the flowers and trees around you.
- Plant a garden with your children. Allow them to help with the yard work and gardening. Grow your own herbs or vegetables.
- Plant a seed or tree and watch it grow.
- Turn the water off while you are brushing your teeth or doing the dishes.
- Participate in a park clean up day or plan your own for your family for an hour. If not the park, use your street or side ditches.
- Carpool or walk instead of using a car.
- Encourage your children to watch shows on nature, science, or animals to broaden their knowledge and appreciation.
- As a family, research and select a charity to donate to. Encourage your children to donate a portion of their allowance. Plan to participate as a family to donate to the local food pantry, volunteer at a nursing home, or help an elderly neighbor.
- Have discussions about current events so that your children can become aware of what the important issues are and how politicians or community officials are handling them. Have your children see you reading the newspaper, watching the news and getting involved in community services.
- Observe and follow traffic rules.
- Show and explain to your children how the election process works and how to utilize resources to stay informed of the issues before you vote.
- Model citizenship behaviors and notice when your children are being good citizens in order to reinforce those desired behaviors.



Elementary Unleashed

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

Imagination is more important than knowledge.” -Albert Einstein

Family Literacy Night



On October 14, 2008 Parkway Local Schools held Family Literacy Night. Parents and children gathered to enjoy reading activities together at various stations. Teachers presented activities that mimicked what children enjoy daily in their classroom. They played reading games, listened to stories, learned about library procedures, read a book and then took an Accelerated Reader Test together. Parkway's afterschool program, Panther Pack, presented information to parents. This program offers afterschool care until 5:30 p.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fridays until 5:00 p.m. for a nominal fee. On Wednesday's, transportation is provided to KIDS CLUB held at Rockford United Methodist Church. Children are provided a snack, homework help, physical activities, literacy and math enrichment, and arts and crafts. The reading intervention program, Title I, also provided additional information to parents and students.

Title I offers smaller classes for individual attention, extra time for instruction, a variety of teaching methods and materials, and improved reading confidence.

The new parent organization, High 5, hosted the evening with cookies and punch and provided the opportunity for families to have their pictures taken. All students were rewarded with door prizes.

The community libraries provided bookmarks and brochures that described weekly and monthly family programs and help with Accelerated Reader books.

The evening was a huge success with 84 families in attendance, totaling over 250 people.

We are excited to have parents that are so supportive and excited about their children's education and success.



Voting Time

The Parkway first graders registered to vote on Tuesday, November 4. (No picture ID required) The students then returned to the polling place in each of their respective rooms. They singed in and were given a ballot. They then went into the voting booth. The children were asked to choose the new President of the United States. The students had to place their ballots into the official ballot box which was later counted. The results were: McCain 49, Obama 28.

Scholastic Book Fair Safari

The Scholastic Book Fair is here again. The Book Fair will be running from November 13 thru November 26 and will be open from 8:15 a.m. thru 3:15 p.m.



Elementary Unleashed

Red Ribbon Week Recognized at Parkway Elementary

Parkway Elementary School held Red Ribbon week October 27th through October 31st. During the week there were a variety of different themes. Monday was band together against drugs so children wore headbands, wrist bands or bandanas. Tuesday was turn your back on drugs so the Elementary wore their shirts backwards. Wednesday the children wore all red to unite for a Drug-Free School and there was also a "Free to be Good" assembly. Thursday was team up against drugs so children wore their favorite sports team gear. Friday the Elementary joined the fight against drugs by wearing their camo to school.

"Free to be Good" Assembly

If you can read and write, you can thank a teacher and today there's a new reason to appreciate our schools. They're addressing an important cultural issue facing our kids, bullying! This timely topic was the focus at Parkway Elementary School on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 when Jerry Jacoby: Kid Motivator, brought his 'Free to Be Good, the Antidote to Bullying!' show to town. The school assemblies were held for kindergarten through fifth graders. Bullying is nothing new but Mr. Jacoby's approach is certainly unique.

This show paints a vividly contrasting picture between bullies and the kids with real strength and character. Bullies are the insecure ones on the playground. The real winners are the kids who are "Free to be Good". The show is high energy and the audience is on his team from the start. Tons of humor, lots of volunteers from the audience, and even a guest appearance by Elmer the Chicken all make the "Free to Be Good" show a memorable experience for kids and adults alike.



Jerry Jacoby has been singing to and laughing with audiences across the country for over twenty years. After more than 6,000 shows at schools, camps, theaters, churches and civil groups, Mr. Jacoby knows the heart of kids. "Kids are quick to be real and they're looking for adults who truly like them and will tell them the truth." He's been sharing timeless truths with kids in his original show "Real Character Is No Accident!" which makes him a returning friend to hundreds of schools each year.

His middle/junior high comedy show 'Junior High: The Best Ten Years of My Life' and its sequel 'Hot Dogs on a Nervous Stomach' encourage today's adolescents to make healthy choices in the face of peer pressure. "I've had lots of role models pointing the way for me, including my parents and some great teachers. It's my privilege to return the favor." Jacoby does just that, pointing the kids in the direction of being mature, courteous members of society. OK, he's a grandfather now and slightly balding, "I've got my hair at a half-off sale at Wal-Mart!", but he's still as high energy and crazy as ever. "I eat dark, leafy vegetables and drink soy milk 'cause I plan to do this for another twenty years!" He just may! Jerry's yearly tour includes some 250 schools, theaters, civic groups, churches and camps. "My wife is the brains of the outfit". Michelle Jacoby handles the office and booking responsibilities.

