

# THE Black & Gold Unfold

-Home of the Panthers-

Parkway  
Local  
Schools



Vol. 1 No. 2

Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

October 2008



## District News

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



### Introducing The New High School Principal

My name is Brian Fortkamp, High School Principal here at Parkway. This letter is to tell you a little about myself and the school. I grew up in Celina and graduated from Celina Senior High in 1991, then attended and Graduated from BGSU (GO Falcons). My first teaching assignment was at Napoleon High School where I taught Chemistry and coached football. In August of 2000 my wife and I moved back to the area and I began teaching Math at Parkway. I have spent the last 8 years teaching at Parkway.

As for my new assignment here at Parkway, I am enjoying the new position and the challenges that it brings. I have been trained for the position, but in all jobs training and doing are two different entities, and I am learning how to put training into practice. As for the leaving of the classroom, I do not miss the classroom yet. But I am sure there will be a point at

which I will. I do however miss the coaching and the level of interaction with the students that I had while teaching and coaching.

Parkway High School has achieved an Excellent rating from the state. My goal is to keep this High School as an Excellent School. We are making changes to improve the school. A few changes that have already occurred are that we now offer Japanese language classes and a school publications class. We are beginning to look at other parts of the curriculum to satisfy State mandates and requirements. The students and staff have worked hard to achieve the Excellent School rating, and are continuing the great efforts to continue this Excellence.

Sincerely,  
Brian Fortkamp  
High School  
Principal



### Thank You to Rockford Businesses

The teachers of Parkway Local Schools would like to thank the Rockford area businesses for their contributions to the gift bags delivered to teachers at the beginning of the school year.

### Upcoming Events

- 10/22 - 2 Hour Delay  
(Teacher In-service)
- 10/24 - Grade Cards Go Home  
- Senior Night (Football)
- 10/27 - Red Ribbon Week
- 10/30 - Washington D.C. meeting at 7:00 p.m.



# District News Continued



## Online Training Courses Offered to District Residents

Parkway Local Schools is offering district residents the opportunity to take advantage of the same InfoSource technology training material that teachers, staff, and students use. Infosource is committed to helping with all of your technology training needs as well as improving your computer and Internet skills. The Digital Literacy Online Training Content Library includes over 730 hours of training including Microsoft Office Applications Training and Internet & Computing Core Certification Training. Parkway Schools are offering 40 accounts to district residents on a first

come first serve basis. The cost is forty dollars per account and allows you to take any course on the course list. There is a complete course list available at: <http://www.parkwayschools.org/infosource>.

For more information, please contact Mr. Talan Bates at 419-363-3045.



## Wanted: Pictures of Current Armed Services Men and Women

Mrs. Kim Carr is organizing a bulletin board at Parkway Schools to honor current Service men and women living in the Parkway school district. She would like to encourage anyone who has a photograph of a current service man or woman to bring the pictures to the Parkway High School Office or give them to Kim Carr. If anyone has questions about this project, please call Kim Carr at (419)495-4014.



## Participants in School Activities Do Better in the Classroom

The results of a recent study by Don Showalter were published in the September 2008 issue of High School Today magazine. The statistics from the study shows that students involved in extracurricular activities do better in school.

The students included in the observations were involved in one or more of the following school related activities: athletics, band, chorus, drama, FFA, and speech. The author of the study used the grade point averages of students enrolled in Mid-Prairie High School in Wellman, Iowa. The results were divided by the students' participation in no activities, one activity, two activities, and three or more activities. The results were also divided into

grade levels. The results showed that as the number of activities that students were involved in increased, their grade point averages also increased. Mr. Showalter remarked in his results that the most drastic difference was noticed between those involved in no activities and those involved in at least one activity. His results showed that the average grade point average went from 2.02 for those involved in no activities to 3.17 for those involved in at least one activity.

There are multiple reasons why students that are more involved in activities do better academically. Some of these reasons include:

- Students are more connected to their school when involved in

activities. These students have pride in their school and their performance in the school.

- Students put in other situations than just a school setting are taught new things by coaches and group leaders. They are mentors who help students with personal skills as well as academic.

- Activities teach a strong work ethic and personal skills, like responsibility.

One of the advantages of being a student in a smaller school like Parkway is that there is a multitude of opportunities for all students to be involved in activities.



# High School News

Brought to you by Claire Burtch and Tara Luth



## Parkway Hosts Blood Drive

On October 1st, Parkway High School had 59 students and teachers participate in a blood drive. There was a great turn out, and 52 units of blood were collected. Because the goal was only 45 units, the blood drive was a huge success. This blood will help many people, as it goes to the Red Cross in Ft. Wayne. In fact, one unit of blood can be divided into three parts, and in turn help three people.


In past years, only those students who were seventeen could donate blood, but a new rule has been approved that allows those sixteen years of age to donate as well. However, this rule will not be in affect until the next blood drive at Parkway on March 4th, 2009. Donating blood is encouraged, and there are steps you can take to make sure giving blood is a positive

*Corey Ratliff, a senior at Parkway High School donates his blood as Tami Metz, a 2001 Parkway graduate, monitors his progress*



experience for you. For example, "Eating a good breakfast is vital," Mrs. Fryinger, who headed the Parkway blood drive, stated. Actually, students from her Nutrition and Wellness class helped prepare a breakfast for those who gave blood. Another thing blood donors can do to ensure a positive experience is drinking plenty of fluids, before and after giving blood. If you would like to donate blood,

contact Lela Siebert, Blood Services Chairperson, at 419-586-7652 or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

The next blood drive in Mercer County will be October 22nd at St. Henry's American Legion from 12:30-6:30 p.m.. Rockford's United Methodist Church will be hosting a blood drive December 11th from 12-6 p.m. 

## Partners in Active Learning Support

High School students in Mr. Post's agriculture classes have been participating in an excellent program with the elementary students. PALS, a mentoring program that matches high school agriculture students with elementary youngsters, was developed by the National FFA Organization. This program helps those involved to build trust in others and develop positive self-esteem.

Each of the agriculture classes


*Senior Dustin Merry teaches students from Mrs. Miller's 2nd grade class about pigs.*



team up with an elementary class and throughout the year they meet once a month to teach the elementary students interesting agricultural related subjects.

On Thursday, September 18th, for example, Mrs. Miller's second

grade class visited the Ag. Business II class to learn about pigs. High school students Ashley Trafzer, Jenifer Thomas, Kara Heiser, Dustin Merry, and Brandon Riley taught the class by playing games, hosting a coloring contest, and bringing in an actual pig for the students to see. The students followed these activities with a snack.

PALS is a great program for students, high school and elementary, to be involved in. It's a fun way to approach learning, and it was obvious that the students enjoyed it. 



# High School News Continued



## Mr. Hamrick: New Teacher at Parkway

As you read in the September issue, one of the new high school teachers, Miss McConnell, had blue hair in high school, but did you also know that another of Parkway's new teachers learned how to fly an airplane while he was a high school student?

Parkway High School got a total of five new teachers this year. Mr. Curtis Hamrick, a 1997 graduate of Parkway High School, is one of the new business teachers, and yes, he's the teacher who can fly a plane.

Mr. Hamrick teaches several classes at the high school including: desktop publishing, accounting, yearbook, and digital photography and video. Mr. Hamrick also teaches student publications, a new class at


Parkway. He is responsible for the publication of *The Black and Gold Unfold*, as well as the high school newsletter, *The Black Cat News Chat*.

After high school, Mr. Hamrick attended Wright State University in Dayton, OH. Although he considered a career in agricultural business, he decided to get his Bachelor's degree in Education. After this, he received his Master's degree in Administration as well as his Principal's license from Bowling Green State University.

Once he was finished with college, Mr. Hamrick taught at Vantage Career Center for one year. Next, he received a job at Ft. Recovery High School, first as a business teacher and then

as the district's technology coordinator.

After being employed at Ft. Recovery for six years, Mr. Hamrick came back to his own high school to teach, which is one of the reasons he likes working at Parkway. Another reason is the fact that he enjoys seeing the younger siblings and cousins of his own Parkway classmates. So far, he says, the year is going very well. He is happy with the progress of the school publications class, and his students are respectful.

While technology is his specialty, he finds that it is one of his biggest challenges. "Staying up to date with technology," he says, "is difficult because it changes so often." 

## PHS Marching Band Travels to Bluffton

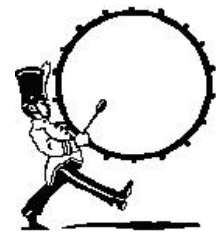
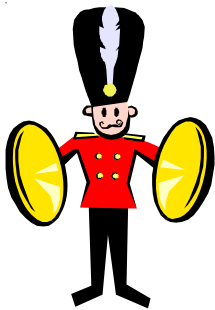


Photo submitted by Casey Nuttle, who traveled with the band to Bluffton.

On Saturday, September 27th, the Parkway High School Marching Band traveled to Bluffton University to perform a pre-game and a half time show at the Beavers football game against Kalamazoo. It was a new and exciting opportunity for the band as they have not done this

event in the past.

The band was invited by Bluffton's Athletic Director after he saw them perform at the Bath Band Spectacular in Lima.

Besides performing, the band got to sit with Bluffton's pep band and enjoy the game, which was an exciting one. The Bluffton

Beavers beat Kalamazoo 23-15. The Parkway High School Marching Band will be in action once again this Friday the 24th at the Parkway/Versailles football game. Come out and support the Panthers!





# Middle School News

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



## Student Council

The Student Council has been coming up with fascinating ideas to accomplish in the next month. Mrs. Ontrop, advisor, has informed us that they will be participating in a Character Education program. They have created "Welcome Bags" for the eleven new students who have arrived. They included a Parkway t-shirt and school supplies. The students have also been working on making School Spirit t-shirts that help show off their Parkway Pride! A Fun Night is also being planned for February or March to benefit those students who would like to go on the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip.



2008-2009 Middle School Student Council Members

## Time to Go To the Big City 8th Graders!

On October 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. a meeting will be held in the Auditorium concerning the Washington D.C. trip. K&K Tours are asking that the

students sit with their parents during this meeting. You will receive information in regards to prices, payment schedules, trip information, and important dates and deadlines to be announced. This year's trip is scheduled for April 13-18. Parents that are interested in being a chaperone may pick up an application form at this meeting.



## Colonial Paper Quilts

Mrs. Plasterer's eighth grade History classes are currently studying our nation's original thirteen colonies. They made paper quilts using colored pencils and a sheet of paper. They drew things such as Native Americans, Pilgrims, boats, and other things pertaining to the colonies. When the students were finished they glued their work to a large piece of construction paper, forming a quilt.



## Students Of the Month

Parkway Middle School announces its Students of the Month for September. 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): Madison Roehm, Sierra Fent, Brandon Leonard; front row (L to R): Taylor Suzuki, Julie Whitten, Natasha Baker.

## In Memory of Raymond Whetsel



**You will be missed by the staff and students at Parkway.**



# Middle School News Continued



## Character Education at the Middle School

When the word character appears, what comes to mind? I'm sure that a variety of things come to mind, but we will be focusing on the type of character pertaining to your attitude, actions, and personality.

Throughout the course of the 2008-2009 school year, the middle school students will be participating in a Character Education program, which will be led by the Middle School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Lisa Ontrop. A variety of activities and events will take place to implement the program and its meaning.

Each month there will be a designated Character Trait of the Month. This word will be focused on in many ways, including classroom guidance lessons as well as discussions and teaching led by the classroom teachers. In addition to this, there will also be a "Question of the Week" that will be posted outside of the Middle School Guidance Office each week. The question will pertain to the Character Trait of the Month. Students will have the opportunity to write their answer on a slip of paper and drop it into the designated container. At the end of each week, a winner will be drawn and rewarded for submitting their answer.

On October 16, all students in middle school (and high school) will be attending an assembly titled "Rachel's Challenge." This assembly focuses on students having the power to make PERMANENT, POSITIVE, CULTURAL CHANGE in

their schools and communities by accepting the challenge of Rachel Scott to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. To learn more about this visit [www.rachelschallenge.com](http://www.rachelschallenge.com). Following the assembly, a Kick-Off Celebration will take place. All of the middle school students will be participating in a Balloon Release. They will be identifying their goals for the upcoming year and attaching them to a balloon. They will then release their balloons, while making a promise to do their very best to reach the goals they set. Students from Parkway will also be participating in "Get REAL Week" (Get Responsible About Life). They will be participating in conjunction with students from Coldwater, Ft. Recovery, and St. Henry.

The focus of "Get REAL Week" is to become the best person that you can possibly be. It will take place May 4-8, 2009.

In addition to Mrs. Ontrop and the Middle School Staff working towards the success of the Character Education Program, the Middle School Student Council and High School FCCLA Chapter will also be lending a helping hand. So, just take a minute to think about how you could help the community be a better place through your character. If you have any questions, comments, or con-

cerns you may reach Mrs. Ontrop at [ontrop1@parkwayschools.org](mailto:ontrop1@parkwayschools.org).

### Character Trait of the Month: Courage

*You can teach what courage is through stories, role-playing, and discussion, but children can only learn to have courage through your own example. It is important to model courage for the children. Point out courage when it happens. Tell your children about the difficult things you do that take courage. Don't be boastful or brag about it, but point out to them that some things are difficult even for adults to do. If you had to speak to someone that made you feel uncomfortable, tell them about it. If you had a difficult task, tell them about it. If you said no to peer pressure, tell them about it. We all get a little nervous sometimes, our heart starts pounding a little faster, we become a little scared, but we can still do what is right anyway. That is courage.*



# Elementary Unleashed

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

“To be happy, we must not be too concerned with others” - Albert Camus

## Parkway Elementary Holds Accelerated Reader Kickoff

**READ READ READ READ**



Officer Sue teaches D.A.R.E. to Mrs. Shellabarger's 5th grade students.

### D.A.R.E.

D.A.R.E. is a school related activity that takes place during the school day. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. D.A.R.E. is a program in which an officer comes into the classrooms and talks to the students about drugs and alcohol, the effects that come with doing drugs and alcohol, and the consequences that can occur if caught.

### Ask a First Grader

Since it is fall, and we are right in the middle of football season we asked the 1st graders:

**What is your favorite football team?**

**"Michigan"**

- Shia S.

**"Ohio"**

- Breanna H.

**"Parkway"**

- Derek S.

**"Buckeyes"**

- Isaiah R.

**"Parkway"**

- Christina K.

**"Colts"**

- Chad D.

Thursday, September 18 was the beginning of this year's Accelerated Reader (A.R.) program. This year's western theme was presented when Bev Piper and her cousin Denny Piper brought in their horses Abe and Diamond. Throughout the school year children who reach their A.R. goal will receive a prize. Prizes are 1st nine weeks: t-shirt, 2nd nine weeks: pizza party, 3rd nine weeks: book bag, and 4th nine weeks: cash box. If a student reaches their A.R. reading goal three of the four nine weeks they will receive a ticket to a Grand Lake Mariners Game. If a student reaches their goal all 4 nine weeks, they will be rewarded with a western party at the end of the year.  
**~GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE PARKWAY BUCKAROOS!~**  
**READ READ READ READ**



Bev Piper and Denny Piper on their horses Diamond and Abe.



Second Graders enjoy the horse demonstration by Bev Piper and Denny Piper on a beautiful Thursday morning.

### Kiss The Pig

The week of September 22 through September 26 Parkway Local Schools held a fund-raiser called "Kiss the Pig" to raise money for Leigha Wieman. Leigha Wieman was a former Parkway Cheerleader Advisor who was diagnosed with Leukemia. Parkway proudly donated \$600 to Leigha. The Elementary students were very excited to see their principal, Mr. Esselstein have to "Kiss the Pig."





# Elementary Unleashed

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

“To be happy, we must not be too concerned with others” - Albert Camus

## 5th Graders Attend Camp Willson

The 5th graders of Parkway Elementary recently took their annual trip to Camp Willson on October 6th and 7th.

Every student dreams of the day they are finally 5th graders and can travel down to Bellefontaine to spend two days and one night at Camp Willson.

Camp Willson revolves around helping students in academic areas or other specific focuses. The students learn the YMCA values of CARING, HONESTY, RESPECT, & RESPONSIBILITY. When the students arrive at Camp Willson they are put in separate girls and boys cabins labeled with different names such as: Shawnee, Delaware, Blue Jacket and Kenton just to name a few!

The students then have many areas of concentration to cover over the course of two days. They are: Aquatic Studies, In-



stincts, Team Challenge, POET tree, and Horseback Ride/ Horse Sense. Aquatic Studies takes students into a dive of aquatic life. They study characteristics of aquatic animals and travel to the lake to collect samples and to use microscopes to identify their findings. Instincts teaches students the concepts of food chains, the balance of nature, and life cycles. Team Challenge promotes the skills of cooperation and communication through different activities. POET tree concentrates on writing skills using nature to create various types of poetry. Horse Sense occupies the students in a discussion of the physical and mental capabilities of a horse. They learned grooming techniques, how to rope a horse, and other abilities as well. Other activities that the fifth graders participated in included recreational time, square dancing, a camp fire and the final cook out.

Camp Willson is a fun and ex-



pecting place for every fifth grader and it's such a sad time that it has to end.

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)