

THE Black & Gold Unfold

-Home of the Panthers-

Parkway
Local
Schools



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Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

October 2009



District News

Brought to you by: Haley Burtch and Tasha Walls



Marcia Hoffhines Retires After Many Years at Parkway

Twenty-six years to be exact. Marcia Hoffhines, former secretary for Parkway Elementary School Principal Bob Ransbottom, retired from Parkway Schools on September 30, 2009. Since Ransbottom's retirement, Marcia has been the secretary for Parkway School Psychologist, Mr. Dave Lamb. When asked what she would miss the most, Marcia replied that she will miss the staff and students greatly. Marcia plans to travel with her recently retired husband and hopes to spend more time with her five children and six grandchildren. The staff of Parkway would like to congratulate Marcia and thank her for her many years of helping elementary students and their parents feel welcome at Parkway Local Schools.



Mini Relay for Life to be Hosted by FCCLA

Once again the Parkway High School FCCLA will be holding a Mini Relay for Life. A Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease.

Festivities will begin during the basketball game versus New Knoxville on Friday, January 22 and continue until around 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 23. FCCLA members are looking for interested individuals, groups, or organizations to help. Whether you would like to serve on a committee, sub-committee, volunteer on the night of relay, or form a team, please let a member of FCCLA know.

Tree Planters are Custodians of the Earth

On September 24, 2009 Parkway history students and members of the community gathered at the home of Mr. Mike Schumm for a ceremony commemorating Johnny Appleseed. Mr. Schumm's house is significant to this event because, on his land, John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) planted apple trees. Sharing in this memorable celebration was a member of the American Forest Association. The American Forest Association is currently the oldest active conservation group. At the event Mayor Amy Joseph said a few lines on the behalf of the community of Rockford. She believes it is important to pass down the history of our area to the Parkway students. Mayor Joseph stated that she was glad to see the history classes present.

To end the ceremony, a true living-link of an original Johnny Appleseed tree was planted. Assisting in the breaking of the ground were Parkway representatives Tiffany Deitsch (freshman), Megan Fisher (sophomore), and Matt Dugan (senior).



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 10/23 | -End of First Quarter
-Senior Night during football game vs New Bremen |
| 10/28 | -Two Hour Delay |
| 10/30 | -Grade Cards Go Home |
| 10/31 | -Band at Bluffton University/Band at Willshire Parade |



District News Continued



Meet the Parkway Board of Education Candidates

The November election is coming up and three seats on the Parkway Board of Education are up for election. Three local community members will be seeking the three open seats. Members of the board of education are important as they make decisions about the policies for our school district. Let's meet this year's candidates:

Terry Keiser will be a new face on the Parkway Board of Education. She is married to Jim Keiser, Pastor of Mount Tabor Church of God. Terry is a homemaker and has two sons, Dustin and Adam. When asked about her future goals for the Parkway district she answered that she would like to see the Parkway School District receive an "excellent" rating from the state of Ohio's Department of Education. According to Terry, in order to achieve that goal, faculty and staff, along with the administration, must be passionate in their efforts to produce students that are eager to make their community a better place. She states, "My reasons for running for school board are simple. I love the community. Many of the children and youth currently attending the Mt. Tabor Church of God are Parkway students. As a pastor's wife and Sunday school teacher, I'm not only interested in their spiritual growth, but I also want to see their minds and eyes open to view a world of endless opportunities. I'd like each student to be prepared, positive and proactive, ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow."



Tom Lyons will be yet another new face to the Parkway Board of Education. Tom is running as a write-in candidate. Tom is married to Amy Lyons and together they have three children, Hayden (6th grade), Connor (3rd grade), Rylan (2 years old). He is currently employed at Van Wert County Hospital. He hopes to continue to provide a safe learning environment for the children of our district which in turn allows the success Parkway has demonstrated in years past to continue in the future. Tom plans to also maintain our current academic standings and keep in mind that there is always some area that we can improve on. He has thought about running in years past, but decided against it at the time. The present time feels right to Tom and he is looking forward to being on the board.

Robert Ransbottom is the only incumbent member of the Parkway Board of Education seeking reelection. Bob is married to Mary Kay, and together they have two children, Holly and Heidi. He was an administrator and curriculum coordinator for Parkway Local Schools for twenty five years. Before coming to Parkway he taught and coached in Ft. Wayne Community Schools and Adam Central Schools for 11 years. Bob presently works part time at Lee's Ace Hardware in Van Wert. Ransbottom's main goal for the Parkway Local School District is to continue to help make it become one of the best school districts in the state for students to receive an excellent educational experience-academically, socially, and athletically. He feels that his past experience as an educator will help him make sound decisions to make Parkway Local Schools a better place for students to learn.





High School News

Brought to you by Michael Nuttle and Taylor Bates



Parkway's 2009 Fall Homecoming Court

This year during the Marion Local football game, Parkway High School held their annual fall homecoming. Miss Danielle Matthews was crowned homecoming queen. Congratulations to all the girls who were voted onto the court!

Queen Danielle Matthews is the daughter of Todd and Brenda Matthews. Danielle is from Ohio City. Her school activities include softball, volleyball, basketball, AM newscaster, science club, FFA reporter, NHS reporter, senior class secretary, FTA, FBLA, and book club. Danielle's favorite pastimes are playing sports, collecting sunglasses, talking, reading, shopping, walking, and hanging out with friends and family. Danielle attends Zion Lutheran Church in Schumm. Her future goals are to go to OSU and major in Ag business or Ag accounting.

Senior Queen Attendant Tara Luth is the daughter of Mark and Charyl Luth. Tara is from Celina. Her school activities include volleyball, track, basketball, FBLA, science club, student council president, AM newscaster, NHS, and book club. Tara's favorite pastimes are spending time with family and friends, shopping, going to garage sales, playing sports, swimming, and rollerblading. Tara attends St. John's Lutheran Hopewell Church. Her future plans are to attend a four year college and major in pediatric nursing.

Senior Queen Attendant Lindsay Shellabarger is the daughter of Randy and Colleen Shellabarger. Lindsay is from Rockford. Her school activities include volleyball, basketball, softball, science club, FTA, AM newscaster, district newsletter, NHS, and boys' basketball statistician. Lindsay's favorite pastimes are dance, scrapbooking, playing sports, playing guitar hero, going to youth group, and spending time with friends and family. Lindsay is a member of Mt. Tabor Church of God. Her future plans are to attend college and major in pediatric nursing.

Junior Attendant Amie Baker is the daughter of Brian and Lorna Baker. Amie is from Willshire. Her school activities include band, marching band dancer, pep band, science club, and FCCLA. Her favorite pastimes are hanging out with friends and family, shopping, and dancing. Amie attends Zion Lutheran Church. Her future goals are to attend college and major in the medical field.

Sophomore Attendant Becca Harshman is the daughter of Jim and Kristie Harshman. Becca is from Ohio City. Her school activities include volleyball, basketball, track, band, science

Parkway Announces Players of the Week

Each week, the Parkway Athletic Department will honor one athlete as the Player of the Week. Head coaches from each sport nominate a player for this award. Winners the past month have included:

Aug 31: Emily Winings-shot a 43 and a 41 to help the girls golf team get two solid MAC victories.

Sept 7: Emily Crowell-led the volleyball team to a strong start the first week as the girls started 4-2.

Continued on page 4 (POW).

club, and Friends of Rachel. Becca's favorite pastimes are spending time with friends and family, tennis, swimming, riding horses, and watching movies. Her future goals are to attend a four year college and major in early childhood development.

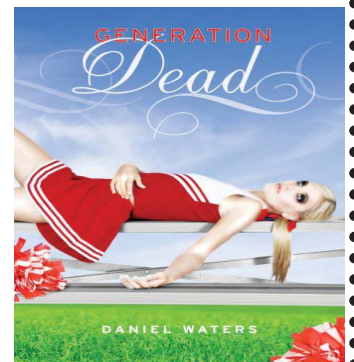
Freshman Attendant Amber Swander is the daughter of Brad and Nikki Swander. She is from Willshire. Amber's school activities include volleyball, track, band, and student council. Her favorite pastimes are spending time with friends and family and her youth group. Amber attends Praise Point UB Church in Willshire. Her future goal is to become a teacher.



From left to right : Sophomore attendant Becca Harshman, Senior Attendant Lindsay Shellabarger, Queen Danielle Matthews, Senior Attendant Tara Luth, Junior Attendant Amie Baker, and Freshman Attendant Amber Swander.

Mr. Falk's To Read List

- For a modern take on the zombie phenomenon, there is
- Generation Dead by
- Daniel Waters. What
- happens when dead
- teenagers reanimate and
- go back to high school?
- How will the "living-
- impaired" fit in? What
- will their social life be
- like? Find out in this
- funny but also thoughtful
- look at how a minority
- group stands out and can
- be discriminated against
- and attacked for being different.





High School News Continued



Parkway Welcomes Two Students from Germany

This year Parkway High School has two very special visitors. Through the foreign exchange student program, Vera Weber and Romona Hess are attending Parkway. They are both very excited to be here. We here at the Black and Gold Unfold caught up with both girls to see just how their year is going so far.

Vera Weber

How old are you? : 17

Do you like America? : *Yes, I like it! There isn't much difference between America and Germany.*

What do you miss most about Germany? : *I miss my family and my friends.*

What is your family like? : *I have my parents and one brother, 30, and one sister, 27.*

What is your favorite food? : *Milkshakes!*

What is your favorite part of Parkway? : *I like the people!*

Do you enjoy going to school events? : *Yes! I have attended most of the football games this year.*

Who is your favorite teacher? : *Mr. Minnich. I really like his humor. He is a funny guy.*

Is there a big difference in our school and your school back home? : *My school is completely different from yours. We have more subjects we study, but we don't go as long each day as you guys here.*

Who is your host family? : *Robert and Anessa Abromavich*



Ramona Hess

How old are you? : 16

What is your favorite part of our community? : *I like that there are no mountains, and there is more fast food.*

What do you miss most about Germany? : *I miss my family and friends.*

What is your family like? : *I have two sisters 12 and 18 and I miss them.*

What is your favorite food? : *Peanut Butter and Jelly.*

What is your favorite part of Parkway? : *The school spirit.*

Do you enjoy going to the school events? : *Yes! I have fun with the band!*

Who is your favorite teacher? : *Mr. Minnich (very funny)*

Is there a big difference in our school and your school back home? : *The days are longer here and the classes are much easier here.*

Who is your host family? : *Scott and Deb Call*

National Honor Society Holds Ceremony

On Wednesday, September 30 the National Honor Society, led by Mrs. AnneMarie Imwalle, held their annual ceremony to recognize incoming members and celebrate the returning members. In all there are 39 members. Twenty-two of those members are seniors. The other 17 are juniors. The juniors were each welcomed to the NHS by a senior. Then, each senior had a teacher of their choice speak on their behalf. The members are as follows: Seniors; Caylan Agler, Taylor Beahrs, Alissa Belna, Claire Burtch, Sarah Deitsch, Alexander Dicke, Caleb Frank, Hannah Harshman, 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. Juniors; Amie Baker, Chris Brazle, Logan Canary, Morgan Cron, Tyler Deitsch, Abby Evans, Jason Ford, Lindsay Garwood, Olivia Houts, Logan Hunter, Audrey LaVergne, Brooke Rammel, Brandi Roehm, Jesse Roth, Kirsten Shreima, Laura Smith, and Amanda Tribolet. Congratulations to all National Honor Society members.



Parkway Marching Band is on the Move

Mr. Ryan Twigg and the Parkway High School Marching Band are loud and proud and ready to play this year. Of course you can catch them at the halftime of any football game, but they are also playing in a few other places as well. On September 19th, Mr. Twigg took his band to the Bath Band Spectacular in Lima. In all eight bands marched and played their own show. On October 31st, the band will also be performing their pre-game and halftime shows at the Bluffton Beavers' home football game. If that is too far to drive, they can be seen that same night at Willshire's Halloween Parade. So come on out and enjoy some music and maybe a little bit of dancing too!

(POW continued from page 3)

Sept 14: Brandon Beeks-shot a 4 over par 73 at the Antwerp Invitational. Brandon finished 2nd out of 55 golfers.

Sept 21: Tara Luth-led the volleyball team to four wins over the week averaging 6 kills, two aces, and 18 digs per match.

Sept 28: Shawn Miller-rushed for 174 yards on 24 attempts against Fort Recovery.

Congratulations to all Players of the Week!



Middle School News

Brought to you by Andrew Peel and Grant Ripley



Incentive Program

The Parkway Middle School Incentive Program is designed to encourage students to complete homework assignments with great effort, obtain passing grades, be organized, and demonstrate the Middle School Character Pillars of Respect, Honesty, Kindness, Effort, and Responsibility. The students are awarded Panther Bucks for demonstrating these qualities. Students can earn Panther Bucks by completing homework with great effort, earning their character cards, completing a weekly parent paragraph, passing locker and agenda book checks, midterm and nine weeks grades, having no more than 5 days of absence, getting to class on time, and scoring well on the practice achievement tests. Students are rewarded for earning these Panther Bucks with different prizes. In order to earn these prizes at the end of each month, certain requirements must be met including no office referrals for 4 weeks preceding the event, no current grades below a C, and no missing assignment Friday school for 4 weeks preceding the event.

Panther Bucks Prizes Include:

- \$2500** Afternoon Mystery Trip (May) –Possibilities include Overdrive, Family YMCA, bowling alley, mini golf
- \$2000** Pizza Lunch (January and May)
Fun Outside Day (April)
- \$1000** Breakfast On Me! (November) –Let the teachers make breakfast for you!
Game Day (January) –Spend the afternoon playing board games
Ice Cream Sundae Party (April) –During 10th period
Lunch with a Favorite Teacher, Coach, or parent (Anytime)
Movie in Auditorium (May)
- \$500** Parkway Sporting Event Ticket (During Fall and Winter Sports Seasons)
Help at Nursing Home (Various Times)
Read to an Elementary Classroom
Certificate to TJ's
3 tokens for Extra Food Items in the Café
- \$250** Mystery Bag
1 Pack of Snacks
Cool School Supplies

Test Taking Tips

Every year middle school students are required to take tests in a variety of subjects. These tests can really stress out students. Below are some tips to help middle school students do their best when taking tests:

1. Always start with a good breakfast. Your diet can influence which areas of the brain are active at certain times.
 - Eat whole grains
 - Drink plenty of water
 - Avoid sugar & caffeine. Sugar can limit your attention span and ability to focus and concentrate.
 - Avoid sausage, bacon, hash browns, donuts, and butter. These take a long time to digest which slows blood flow to the brain.
2. Relaxation is the main key to avoiding anxiety.
 - Stretching can help alleviate stress and make you feel more loose and relaxed.
 - Deep breathing is a big factor in emotional and performance control.
 - Visualization can also relieve a student of stress. Think of a “Happy Moment.”
3. Believing is the key to achieving. As corny as it may sound, there is a lot of truth to this. Belief is what can determine success or failure in what ever you do. Try thinking one of these before going into a test:
 - I am a fast thinker.
 - I am a super test taker.
 - I solve problems very quickly under pressure.
 - I am always calm and confident under pressure.





Middle School News Continued



Friends Of Rachel

Friends Of Rachel (F.O.R.) is a club that originated from the death of Rachel Scott during the Columbine shooting of 1999. Rachel had always challenged herself to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. The F.O.R. club is designed to keep her chain reaction going by focusing on kindness, compassion, respect, helping others, and making our school, community, and world a better place. The club will usually meet during school hours, but there may occasionally be activities outside of the school day. If students in the middle school are interested in joining the F.O.R. club, they can see either Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Ontrop sometime during school.



Pictured above and below are students in the F.O.R. club decorating pumpkins at the nursing home.



Harlem Wizards

On October 11 the middle school students were visited by the Harlem Wizards. The Harlem Wizards is a team similar to the Harlem Globetrotters. They create awe-inspiring and fun-filled basketball experiences, in a variety of settings and event types, such as in gyms or arenas, blacktops or playgrounds, and even in parades all over the country. The Wizards were in town to promote their upcoming game at Coldwater High School to raise money for Operation Freedom Support, a foundation the Wizards started to raise money to support our troops in Iraq. Mr. Neff, Mr. Gause, and Mr. Florence were part of the Mercer County team the Wizards played.



Fish Fry

The 8th grade students are having a fish fry as a fund-raiser to help pay for the cost of their Washington D.C. trip. The Rockford, Willshire, and Mendon Lions Clubs are sponsoring the event. The fish fry will take place Saturday, November 7 at the Rockford Community Building from 4:30-6:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to the 8th grade students. The cost of the tickets are \$6.50 each. Tickets can be purchased from any 8th grade student. Please support the 8th graders by attending the fry.

Upcoming Events

- 10/23 Drug Free Assembly 1:00-1:45 P.M.
- 10/23 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-8 P.M.
- 10/28 2 hour Delay for Teacher in Service
- 10/29 Washington D.C. Meeting in auditorium at 7 P.M.
- 10/30 Grade Cards go home
- 11/6 Picture Retakes

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



Elementary Unleashed

Brought to you by Lindsay Shellabarger and Nick Foreman

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.
Eleanor Roosevelt

Second Grade Science Experiments

On Tuesday, September 22, “Cosi on Wheels” came to Parkway to share different kinds of fun science experiments with the elementary students. To get ready for the event, second grade teachers Mrs. Traci Robbins and Mrs. Kay Brandt performed two of the different Cosi experiments in their science classes. Mrs. Brandt’s class performed the science experiment called “Snake.” This experiment helped the students better understand the transfer of heat energy to motion in a fun, hands-on way. It involved constructing a triangular tower that included a two-inch door at the bottom, and making a snake to hang over the tower, to receive the heat energy, and causing the snake to move in a circular direction. The kids then got to test their inventions out in the courtyard.

Mrs. Robbins’ class got to do a different experiment called “Solar Oven.” For the week of September 8th, the students were constructing their ovens out of Pizza Hut pizza boxes. On Monday of the following week, they tested their ovens. The test included putting a graham cracker topped with their choice of butterscotch or chocolate chips, inside their ovens, and seeing if the chips would melt as the sun reflected off of the aluminum foil. About half of the students predicted the experiment would work, as the other half of the class thought otherwise. When asked what they learned in this experiment, the students said that they learned about energy and how the sun can provide heat energy.

By doing these experiments, the students got to learn about wind, heat, and solar energy, and also how molecules work in solids, liquids, and gasses. The students eagerly participated in these experiments and had fun predicting what would happen and seeing what actually happened.



Above: Mrs. Brandt’s class testing their solar energy experiment



Above: Students viewing a Cosi-On-Wheels experiment



Above: Mrs. Robbins’ class making their solar ovens



Left: Brooke May testing her solar tower



Above: Students getting instructions before Cosi-On-Wheels begins



Above: A solar oven in action!

Elementary Unleashed

3rd grade Ohio Achievement Test



Johnny Appleseed Assembly

On September 24 all elementary students attended an assembly in the high school gymnasium in honor of Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman. While the assembly only lasted about a half hour, the students were walked through Johnny Appleseed's entire life. Of course, the real Johnny Appleseed did not give the presentation. However, Hank Fincken played the role of Johnny Appleseed, even going as far as to dress the part. Fincken gave, in great detail, an overview of some of the most important things that went on in Appleseed's life, while also incorporating the students and teachers into the presentation by asking them questions and answering questions they had.

This presentation was performed in honor of Johnny Appleseed's birthday (September 26, 1774) and also in preparation for the tree planting ceremony that was held at Mr. Mike Schumm's property later in the day.

On Wednesday, October 7 the third grade students took the reading section of the Ohio Achievement Test (OAT). This test is administered once in the fall and once in the spring and is also mandatory for all third grade students to take and pass, according to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Test results will be available in late November. Students who pass the test this fall will be rewarded with a pizza party! Also, if students receive an advanced score on the test, they will be exempt from taking the reading section of the OAT in the spring and they will be treated with a trip to Bob Evans for breakfast with Mr. Esselstein. Parents, if your child does not pass the test in the fall, don't let him or her get discouraged. There is a second chance to take it again in the spring. If you have internet access, there is a website available at <http://ohio3-8.success-ode.state-oh-us.info/> for students to take extra practice tests. On this website, there are practice tests in reading and mathematics. It would be beneficial to go over the math portion also, as students will be taking the math OAT in the spring.

Since your child will be taking several tests over the course of the year, whether it be an OAT or just a simple vocabulary test, below are some helpful tips in preparing your son/ daughter for the tests.

- Get a full eight hours of rest on the night before the test
- Eat a healthy breakfast, including sugar free foods
- Encourage your children to do their best, take their time, be careful, and read directions thoroughly
- Remind your children they do not have to be the smartest kid in the class to pass the test. If they read carefully, take their time, and give it all of their effort, they can do it!
- Review tests that are sent home. Go over results and review questions that seem to be a problem for them.

Mayor Joseph visits the 3rd Grade

Rockford Mayor Amy Joseph paid a visit to all third grade social studies classes on Friday, September 25. During the half hour, students got to hear about what she does every day and what it takes to be the mayor of the village of Rockford. Students got to ask any questions they might have had, including, "What's the hardest thing about being mayor?" or "What do you do as the mayor?" She answered each question and the students got an insight as to what being a mayor of a city/ village entails. The students actively participated and some even showed interest into possibly being a future mayor!

Left: Mayor Joseph talking to third grade students



Left: Hank Fincken as "Johnny Appleseed"

