



THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

CARMAN TRAILS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PARKWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

AUGUST 2009

DR. CHRISTEEN RAEKER, PRINCIPAL
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PHONE (314) 415-6100

"TO REACH AND TEACH EACH STUDENT, ALL STUDENTS, EVERY DAY...TOGETHER"

HURRY BACK!

WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN AND LEARNING AHEAD IN 2009-2010!

SCHOOL BEGINS ON AUGUST 17

Carman Trails' hours are 9:00 AM to 3:35 PM. The last day of school is tentatively set for May 26, 2008, with final determination to be made based on inclement weather days.

AN INTERIOR 'MAKEOVER' BRIGHTENS THE HALLS OF CARMAN TRAILS

Last May the Parkway painters crew put a fresh coat of yellow paint on the walls of our corridors and multi-purpose area. Carman Trails' favorite quote has been added to our cafeteria wall: *You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think* from A.A. Milne.

This fall student council members from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will select additional quotes to be placed throughout the building. Funds for these quotes were raised by the Student Council sponsored "Box Tops for Education" program.

NEW STAFF BRING TALENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO CARMAN STUDENTS

Please join me in welcoming our new staff members:

Angela Bruno – librarian

Nichole Reiling – 3rd grade

Joe Schoen – vocal music

John Stamm – 4th grade

Ann Matouschek – Special School District Area Coordinator

THE CT TECHNOLOGY TRAIN REMAINS ON A 21ST CENTURY TRACK

Last year we added interactive SMART boards to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms. This fall SMART boards will be added to our 2nd grade classrooms, with an additional classroom. All classrooms in grades K-5 have document cameras, SMART software, and digital projection equipment.

By the end of the 09-10 school year, every teacher on our staff will have a classroom website for you to access at home.

CARMAN STAFF MODELS CONTINUOUS LEARNING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

Every professional on the Carman Trails staff has participated in summer learning opportunities. We share a strong commitment to continuous improvement to help each child achieve, and summer learning is a wonderful way to sharpen our skills. These learning experiences have included:

- Technology training
- Gender-specific learning strategies
 - Literacy Institute
- Math development
- *Understanding By Design* curriculum model
- Data driven instruction
- Social Studies immersion experience in our nation's capital

The gender, literacy, math, and Understanding By Design workshops were led by highly regarded national speakers who were invited to share their expertise with Parkway professionals. Please ask us about our summer learning! We look forward to sharing our new insights with you and your children.

INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT PORTAL

Infinite Campus is a web-based information system Parkway currently uses for student record management. The Parent Portal of Infinite Campus may be used to view student records. During the 2009-2010 school year, the Parkway School District will be opening the Parent Portal application in Infinite Campus so parents may access their students' records via the Internet.

Dr. Raeker's Message, p2:
Understanding By Design, Family Style

Access to Infinite Campus may only be obtained through the use of an Infinite Campus activation key. Carman Trails will be distributing these activation keys from **7:30 AM- 12:00 PM and 1:00-3:30** on the following dates: **July 15-17, July 20-24, July 29-31, August 3-7.**

mmmm

Dear Families and Friends of Carman Trails,

Making connections to real-life experiences is a powerful way for human beings to learn: As I write this letter, my granddaughters, Abby, age 5, and Ella, age 1, are finally asleep. Their parents are enjoying a much needed vacation, while “Papa” and I are re-experiencing the joys and exhaustion of chasing after two rambunctious young children.

I share this experience to express my appreciation for all you do every day. I remember what it’s like to balance the needs of children, homework, a job, and household responsibilities. Teachers and principals may influence the lives of students, but you have the immeasurable responsibility of caring for, guiding, and supporting your children each and every day. We hope to make your job a little easier by providing a safe, high quality environment in which your children can learn to be socially and academically successful.

Being with young children around the clock has allowed me to think about Parkway’s efforts to re-define our mission and approach to serving students. A new mission statement is now in draft form, as follows:

The mission of the Parkway School District is to ensure all our students and graduates become purposeful, capable and confident learners who are prepared to lead productive and responsible lives in an ever-changing and complex world.

Abby can independently navigate the website www.pbskids.org while I feed the baby. Ella has a multi-sensory toy that allows me to choose English or Spanish as it counts, sings, and identifies colors for her. I truly can’t imagine what their lives will be like twenty or thirty years from now. What will the workplace look like for your children? What kinds of challenges will they face that we haven’t yet considered?

The very best learning we can provide for this generation will prepare them to be critical thinkers in an ever-changing world. Teaching children to be “purposeful, capable, and confident learners” is far

more complex than helping them memorize dates in history, multiplication facts, or the parts of a flower. While this knowledge is part of a well-rounded education, it won’t prepare today’s students to tackle information and technology that we haven’t begun to imagine.

How can we help children reach unknown goals? By thinking backward! We begin by identifying the BIG IDEAS that we most want our students to grasp.

Here’s an example of teaching to big ideas: Instead of limiting our thinking to “the parts of a flower,” we plan lessons in terms of life-long concepts, such as “Animals and plants are interdependent organisms that require one another for survival on planet earth.” At the first grade level, this might involve identifying the parts of a flower and how each part contributes to the life of a healthy plant. In high school biology, the same concept, at a far more sophisticated level, could be taught by studying the respiratory systems of different animal species.

Parkway hopes to review our curriculum, and the processes we use to systematically revise curriculum, with these concepts in mind. These are exciting times in education, as we allow ourselves to consider the ultimate outcome of our work. In the inspirational book, *Turning to One Another*, author Margaret Wheatley said,

There is no power equal to a community discovering what it cares about.

Parkway and Carman Trails are engaging in conversation about what we care about in terms of student learning. I hope you will join the dialogue. Your first opportunity to do so will be at Open House for Parents on Tuesday, August 25. I hope to see you there.

Enjoy the final weeks of summer. We can’t wait to see you and your children walking through our doors.

In Partnership,
Chris

Chris Raeker, Principal

First Day Schedule

Monday, August 17, 2009 will be the first day of the school year. The first day will be a full schedule, 9:00 am - 3:35 pm. Morning kindergarten will be 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, and afternoon kindergarten from 12:35 pm - 3:35 pm. Students will be assisted by adults in finding their classrooms. We encourage you to allow your child to ride the bus on the first days of school.



Bus Routes

Each elementary school child eligible for transportation will be assigned to a specific bus stop, and those wishing to ride the bus will be expected to board at that point in the morning and to leave the bus there in the afternoon. In early August the transportation department will mail notices to parents stating the bus number, location of the stop and approximate pickup time. Please note that the bus run number on this card will match the number posted in the front window of the bus on a white card with red numerals--NOT the number painted on the side of the bus. If you have questions please call 415-8406, Parkway Transportation or 721-8657 VICC Transportation. If your child will leave for school from a sitter's home or a day care OR if the student will be going to a sitter's or day care after school, PLEASE send this information to your child's teacher. This will be helpful to get the students to the proper bus.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedure



If you wish to pick up or drop off children, we ask you to use the car turnaround area at the north end of the building, and drop off your children at the stop sign. No cars will be permitted to park in this lot during school hours. Because of your patience and cooperation in this matter, we have an arrival and dismissal procedure that is safe for cars, buses, and most of all, the children.

Students will be dismissed beginning at 3:35 in this order:

1. Walkers, Riders, After School Programs
2. Kdg and 5th grade bus riders
3. 1st and 3rd grade bus riders
4. 2nd and 4th grade bus riders

Our custodians will serve as crossing guards at the corner of Carman Road and Weidman in the morning and afternoon. In the morning a guard will be on duty from 8:40-8:55. In the afternoon, the crossing guard will assist students from 3:35-3:45.



Walkers

Please send a note with your signature giving permission for your child to walk to and from school. Please review the route with him/her. It is strongly recommended that students walk with siblings or friends.

Student Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the nurse's office message machine - Attendance Line at 314-415-6126 after 4:00 pm or before 9:00 am.

If the school has not received parent notification of an absence by 10:00 am, Mrs. Eileen Lamartina will make a phone call regarding absent children. Please leave a voice mail message for your child's teacher if you wish to have homework sent home.

When Students Are Tardy

Helping your child arrive on time each day is one of the simplest ways to promote school success. Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. (12:35 for p.m. kindergarten students) MUST be accompanied to the office by a parent or guardian to sign in. Parents who do not follow this procedure will receive a letter of reminder mailed to their homes.

Medication at School



Medicine that is to be administered by the school must have a label affixed by a pharmacy. In addition, a parent must come in personally and give the medicine to the school nurse, along with a written request from one of the child's parents asking that the medicine be administered at school. All medication must be kept in the nurse's office (this includes prescription and over the counter medications). Connie

McCluskey, school nurse, is available beginning August 12 at 314-415-6110.

Immunizations for 2009/10

The Missouri Immunization Law requires that students not be allowed to attend class on August 17 unless all required immunizations are on file with the school nurse. If you received a notice that your child requires one or more immunizations, please do the following:

- Take the notice to your physician or clinic.
- Have your physician or clinic document what immunizations have been given and the dates, being sure to obtain an official signature.
- Return the documentation to the school nurse by August 12, 2009.

Open House for Parents ALL Grades K-5 Tuesday, August 25 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Carman Trails' Open House for Parents is scheduled on a single night for all grade levels. You will have an opportunity to visit with your child's teacher and attend a general meeting for all parents. All of our specialists will be on hand throughout the evening to answer questions about their programs.

PLEASE MAKE CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS AT HOME FOR THIS PARENT-TEACHER EVENT.

Carman Trails'



Expectations for Student Dress

In an effort to provide a positive learning atmosphere at Carman Trails, student dress should be comfortable, safe, and appropriate. Please keep the following in mind as you guide your child in the selection of school clothing:

*** TENNIS SHOES ARE REQUIRED AT SCHOOL EACH DAY** for health and safety reasons. Students wearing flip flops, crocs, or high heels will not participate in physical education. Tennis shoes with wheels are not permitted at school.

*All students should wear clothing appropriate to their age and physical development.

*Clothing containing language, messages, and/or designs considered to be suggestive or inappropriate for elementary students may not be worn to school.

*Unless pre-approved special conditions exist, students are not to wear hats or caps in the building.

Thank you for your support in helping our students make age-appropriate clothing choices.

Carman Trails' Expectations for Student Use of Personal Electronics



The following guidelines have been established to maintain a high quality learning environment, and protect the personal property of students at Carman Trails.

- Cell phones may not be brought to school, or on a school bus. There are phones in each classroom that students may use, with permission from the teacher. If special circumstances require that a cell phone be brought to school, a written request should be submitted to the office. In such cases, the student must turn the phone into the office during the school day for safekeeping.
- Hand held electronic games or DVD players, or any other personal video electronics may not be brought to school, or carried on the bus.
- Stereo headphones for listening to CD's or radio may be used, with permission from a teacher or administrator, for long bus rides. Students who bring such equipment to school must turn the item into the office for safekeeping when they arrive at school, and pick it up at the end of the day. No such equipment may be used during the school day, or on the playground. Do not bring costly items, such as iPods, to school.

Professional Development Days 2009-2010

The District calendar provides for three curriculum/professional development days and two conference preparation days. These days are a time for teachers to work collaboratively and grow professionally. Students do not attend school on these days. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

October 2
January 4
April 23



PTO

We are fortunate to have an active PTO at Carman Trails. Besides providing a great deal of funding for learning, our PTO offers an opportunity for family activities and school spirit and support. Please read carefully the PTO newsletter, feel free to come to our meetings and offer the organization your support.

Carman Trails Night at the Ballpark Sunday, September 13

Buy your tickets early!
Carman Trails' 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be singing *God Bless America* when the Cardinals take on the Chicago Cubs, Thursday, September 11,



2008 at 7:00 pm. We have a block of tickets reserved at the discounted price of \$9 each. Tickets will be on sale before and after school September 2 - 5. Tickets can also be purchased at PTO Bingo Night on September 5. Checks can be made payable to Carman Trails PTO. This is an outstanding family event to kick off a great school year.

Care Team and "Problem Solving"

All Parkway schools utilize a Care Team and "problem solving" model for addressing concerns of any type that arise at school about a student. A Care Team is a group of professional staff representing a variety of disciplines. These may include general education, guidance and counseling, administration, school health/nursing, special education, speech/language pathology, school social work, and school psychology.

To the extent warranted, the "problem solving" process involves problem identification (i.e., definition and analysis), the development and implementation of interventions, evaluation of their effectiveness, and, as needed, referral (e.g., for assistance, additional assessment, or services). This process is based on systematic data collection and analysis, documentation, consideration of all relevant and available information, and hypotheses development/testing. Care Teams rely on existing educational information and staff input, but also collect additional data through the intervention process and, when necessary, individual student assessment. Informed parent consent will be requested before any student is

individually observed or assessed by a member of the school staff.

Care Teams also encourage parents to provide any and all relevant information, including from outside professionals or agencies, about their children. Questions about Care Teams and the “problem solving” process should be directed to guidance counselors or school administrators.

Vending Machines and Microwaves

At Carman Trails, as at all Parkway elementary schools, we have vending machines and microwave ovens available for staff members and other adults who come to our building. These machines are not meant for student use. Please do not send money for your child to buy soda or snacks from the machines, or lunch items that require microwaving. Thank you.

School Safety & Security

We love having so many visitors and volunteers at Carman Trails. For the safety of all Parkway students and personnel, it is important that we have a visitor/volunteer identification procedure.

*Sign-in: Please stop by the office when you first enter Carman Trails. There will be a sign-in sheet as well as a name-tag for you to wear. Remember, although you may feel you already know everyone in our school, we may not all know you. Teachers and staff are authorized to question any non-staff

adult not displaying a name tag while in the school building.

*Locked doors: All doors to Carman Trails, with the exception of the front entrance doors, will be locked throughout the day. The interior double doors leading to classrooms will be locked at 4:30 each afternoon.

These procedures are for your children and their safety.

Student Information

Your child will bring home a yellow Census Verification form sometime in August. It is crucial that this form be completed and returned to your child’s teacher. This form provides the school with essential information for keeping your child safe.

Extra Parking Available

To accommodate overflow parking for Carman Trails’ events, First Evangelical Free Church (just across Weidman Road) has offered use of their parking lot. For safety, please use the sidewalk provided and cross only at the corner of Carman and Weidman. Parent nights would be a perfect time to use this extra parking.



String Sensations

Welcome to the 2009-2010 String Program

***CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO
ATTENDED THE
PARKWAY SUMMER STRING
CAMP
WE HAD A FUN AND FABULOUS
TIME!***

THIS YEAR IN STRINGS

Reminder: Updated and most current information is available at:

<http://www.galaxystrings.com>

The new Third Grade Suzuki Superstars have much to anticipate. This free, voluntary program is incredible and I can hardly wait to see the new students.

There will be an exciting Parent's Workshop in January. Our extraordinary concert will take place in May.

Fourth Grade Strings decide what instrument they want to play as a Fourth Grader. The choices are: violin, viola, string bass (by invitation only) and cello. Information came home in the spring and will also be coming out the first week of school. Our dazzling concert will be in May this year.

Exciting Events to look forward to: Parkway Fourth Grade String Day and exciting Honors Orchestra /High Honors Orchestra. I take the first 45 children who sign up. We meet before school. It is amazing what these boys and girls can learn in a year. Remember that they will learn to read music quickly in this class.

Your budding musician will rent their very own instrument from a local dealer and get the book we use in class. We are using the book, **ARTISTRY IN STRINGS**, by Frost and Fischbach, Book I, 2-CD Set. The children can play along with the CD when they practice.

Fifth Grade Stringer Sensations just rock! You already have your books so you do not need to purchase anything. You already know how to play and we just sail away together in the land of music. It is so fun to do another year on the instrument you already know and love. Our glorious concert is in May this year.

Exciting Events to look forward to: Parkway All District Orchestra and Honors/High Honors programs.

I look forward to this New Year with great anticipation,

Gayla Rothermich, Orchestra Director and Suzuki Specialist

School personnel will not take time away from learning activities to locate missing electronic items.

YMCA School-Age Child Care

The West County YMCA operates a Carman Trails child care program called "School-Age Child Care." Before-school hours are from 6:30 to 8:40 am and after school from 3:35 to 6:00 pm. Please direct all calls concerning this child care program to the YMCA office at 636-532-3100.



Non-Discrimination/ Accommodation Notice

The Parkway School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. If an individual with a disability needs accommodations to attend or participate in a school or District activity, please contact the staff member responsible for that event at least four (4) business days in advance. Questions, concerns, or requests for information/assistance can also be directed to the designated District coordinator for each applicable federal law.

Parkway School District Parent Advisory Council for Children with Disabilities (PACCD)

If your child receives special education services, has been diagnosed with a Section 504 disability, or is suspected of having a disability (i.e., being referred/evaluated), Parkway welcomes your involvement in a volunteer parent organization committed to securing quality education for students with special needs.

Parents have opportunities to become involved with the PACCD at both the school and district levels. Parent representatives from each school serve on a district level advisory committee on behalf of that school and are always needed and welcomed. A board of directors is selected by and from the advisory committee. These committees meet with Parkway and Special School District (SSD) administrators and act in an advisory capacity regarding programs and services for students with disabilities. The organization also provides support and information to parents and sponsors general meetings for anyone interested.

The PACCD has both a web site address (www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/paccd) and a voice mail number (314-415-8110). If you have questions, want assistance/information, or would like to be a PACCD representative for your child's school, please contact the school's PACCD representatives Mark Fanning and Molly Schad, special education administrative team Chris

Raeker and Irene Orlando, or Parkway's Special Services Department at the Administrative Center (314-415-8071).

Students With Disabilities/Special Education Programs

Students with disabilities are protected by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities are entitled to a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE), which is defined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP). Staff, parents, or anyone else who has significant educational concerns about a student or believes an individual may have a disability can initiate the special education and/or Section 504 "identification" process by requesting that the school's Care Team consider the concerns.



Students from three (3) through twenty (20) years of age residing in St. Louis County, as well as St. Louis City residents attending Parkway schools, are eligible for special education and related services offered by the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County if they are diagnosed with educational disabilities. The SSD also provides audiological and special education evaluations, hearing and

speech/language screening services, Special Non-Public Access Program (SNAP) special education services for students with educational disabilities attending private/parochial schools, and a variety of adult education and "transitional" programs. Homebound instruction for home or hospital-bound students (both with and without disabilities) and applied technology/vocational programming are also available. Parkway provides accommodations for students with Section 504 disabilities and who are not eligible for services from the SSD. Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents have the right to review, request amendment of, and file complaints concerning the content or maintenance of personally identifiable information about their children. The rights of individuals with disabilities are available upon request from school staff or the Parkway Special Services Department. Appeals of disability related decisions should be submitted in writing to the Parkway and/or SSD Superintendents of Schools. Questions or requests for assistance/information should be directed to the student's guidance counselor, the school's special education Administrative Team - Chris Raeker and Beth Wendling, or to Parkway's Special Services Department at the Administrative Center at 415-8071.

District News

Annual Patriot Spirit Night

Parkway South Area families should mark their calendars and make plans to attend South High School's Spirit Night Thursday, August 20 from 5:00-8:30 pm at Parkway South High. The goal of Spirit Night is to promote community spirit for the six elementary, two middle schools and South High. A community pep rally will showcase fall sports, the Spirit of '76 Marching Band, cheerleaders and poms. Wear your red, white and blue and cheer the Patriots on to another successful season! Food, beverages and Patriot spirit items will be sold by high school groups in the Parkway South Commons from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Fireworks will start at 8:15 pm.

Breakfast, Lunch, Beverages

The Board of Education has approved the following prices for school breakfasts, lunches, and beverages this year:

Breakfast:

Includes cereal and treat plus one milk and one juice or fruit

Student	\$1.50
Student Reduced	\$.30
Adult	\$1.75

Lunch:

Includes main course, vegetable or salad, fruit and one milk

Student	\$2.25
Student Reduced	\$.40
Adult	\$2.50

Ala Carte Beverage Prices:

Juices each	\$.50
Milk each	\$.50

Students approved for FREE/REDUCED meals during the past school year are eligible for them through September 25, 2009. There is an application attached to this newsletter.

A new application must be approved during September in order for students to continue to receive free/reduced meals on October 1, 2009.

Students use a PIN number when buying meals. Returning students will retain the same number. You may contact the Parkway Food Services Dept. at 314-415-8248 for your child's PIN number. Classroom teachers and the school office will have students' PIN numbers as well.

Any balance in the student's account will carry over to this year. Parents are encouraged to write a check made payable to Parkway School District for a week/month at a time.