

# Principal's Newsletter



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**Linda Lelonek, Principal**

November 2011

Dear West Middle Community,

*We can only be said to be alive in those moments  
when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.*  
– Thornton Wilder

For all of us who celebrate Thanksgiving it is common in the month of November to pause and give thanks for all the wonderful things we experience. Needless to say, we often think of family and friends, our home, or our health as we should. With eyes focused on such significant aspects of our lives, though, we often fail to note and appreciate the many small events or episodes that make life a little sweeter – a little more enjoyable. At times I know I get so complacent with the daily routine that I overlook certain special moments and don't give them the appreciation they deserve. I was reminded of this recently. I was in a hurry to get home one late afternoon and I found myself mixed in the usual traffic jam at that time of the day. Waiting for a chance to pull into a seemingly endless line of traffic, I let out a sigh and resigned myself to the fact that this was going to be a long wait. But, was I surprised to look up and see a driver slow down, stop, and motion me into the lane! . . . What? . . . Oh, wow! Quickly, I tried to get the look of disbelief off my face and replace it with a sincere smile of appreciation as I scurried into the lane. That driver had no idea who I was and, most likely, was also on his way home after a long day at work. Yet, he risked the wrath of other drivers as he held up his lane to let me merge. Small thing? Perhaps. Impact on me? Tremendous! This act of kindness lifted my spirits and had a positive effect on my whole evening. Indeed, I appreciated his kindness – what a “prince!” . . . Life was pretty good, after all! . . . And, actually, now that I was thinking about it, there were a zillion more reasons to be thankful for those small things . . .

How about that alarm clock – with snooze control? I can't do without it!

What about the receptionist at the dog groomer who leaves the appointment reminder call on my voice mail? She's terrific!

Then there is my friend who has the uncanny ability to know what I am thinking at any given time which makes it so easy when I need to ask for her help. Priceless!

*Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received.  
Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling.  
Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.*  
– Henry Van Dyke

Contemplating the endless list of appreciation I could make if I thought about the “small things” in life, I took a few minutes to ask some of my colleagues to think about any one little thing they did appreciate. Interesting answers flowed! I heard . . . “Daylight Savings Time,” “the changing colors of the leaves,” “tie shoes that my daughter can’t pull off so easily which makes the mornings easier,” “good, freshly-brewed coffee waiting for me in the morning,” “a call from the Community School secretary letting me know I didn’t put the check in the envelop – *but*, if I could just get it to her soon, she would hold the spot for me anyways,” “the clock that is set five minutes fast which gets me to my meetings on time,” “when my kids sleep in late on the weekends,” and “that little booklight that enabled us to fix the flat tire in the middle of the night on a road in Memphis as we drove home from a family vacation.” Small things maybe . . . but so appreciated at the moment!

*Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.*

– Melody Beattie

Life at West Middle is really amazing and, when you stop to think about it, there are so many things for which to be thankful . . .

The secretaries who really run the place because they are always a step ahead of everyone with their organization and planning, the cafeteria workers who make lunchtime much more pleasant with their kindness and so entertaining with their seasonal themes and costumes, the Computer Resource Specialist who is always available to fix any computer glitch you may have, the custodians who say “Not a problem” when asked for help at the very last minute, the School Resource Officer who can play basketball, bandage a knee, and keep us all safe at the same time, the welcome in the nurse’s office that immediately makes you feel better no matter what is wrong, the school store secretary who cheerfully supplies us with everything we need from sweatshirts to paperclips, all those who teach and are committed to reaching every child every day and who are often found here still working hours after the day is “done,” the parents who serve as volunteers, chaperones, and tutors, and then drive their child back to school to fetch that forgotten book, and the students who come to school each day full of curiosity and potential. It seems like the little things end up being incredibly important after all. It’s something to think about!

*Hem your blessings with thankfulness so they don't unravel.*

– Author Unknown

Enjoy your Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,



Linda Lelonek

# P.T.O. News

Parkway West Middle School

November 2011



Don't forget...

- **November 2** - P.T.O. Social for families at Noodles and Company, 11:00 a.m. - Close.
- **November 8** - P.T.O. meeting 7:00 p.m. - followed immediately by "Internet Safety for the Middle School Student" with Drew McAllister.
- **No P.T.O. Meeting in December.**



## Food, Fun and Fundraising

We invite all of our West Middle community to enjoy a meal at Noodles and Co. on Wednesday, November 2, and raise money for our school. Just take a coupon to the Noodles and Co. at Baxter and Clayton on Nov. 2 between 11:00 a.m. and closing and have a meal with your family and friends. We make 25% of sales *if* you show the coupon that will be sent to you by email as well as available in the office and on our website. Hope to see you there!



## "Internet Safety for the Middle School Student"

On Tuesday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m., we will have a presentation by Drew McAllister, technology integration specialist for Parkway School District, immediately after the P.T.O. meeting. Drew will discuss how to keep your child informed and safe as they explore the internet, social websites and texting. Please mark your calendars to attend this informative meeting.



We still have open positions on the Executive Board - President Elect and Asst. Treasurer. We also need a parent to run the Career Awareness Day in the spring. Contact Libby or Ranu if you are interested in one of these positions.



P.W.M.S. parents now have a facebook page! Please feel free to use this forum to share information and positive comments with other parents. Thank you in advance for not posting any negative comments about students, staff or other parents.



Please remember to support our P.T.O. financially by...

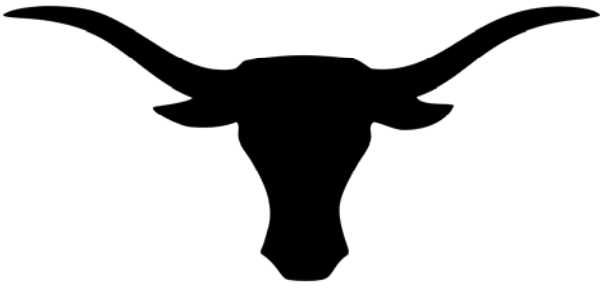
- Submitting your donation to the "So Simple" fundraiser.
  - Thank you to all that have contributed to "So Simple" this year. As of October 7, 2011, we have collected 49.8% of our \$12,000 goal!
- Clipping and submitting "Box Tops for Education."
- Having your eScrip swiped when shopping at Schnucks.
  - See the flyer on the next page.
- Purchasing Spirit Wear (available in the School Store).



- To the 60+ parents who have volunteered to Chair a committee or assist the P.T.O. in all its activities that support our students and staff.
- To the parents that helped with Red Ribbon week and the sixth grade mixer.



**Happy Thanksgiving!**



## Do you already shop at Schnucks?

### You can help earn "Free Money" for Parkway West Middle School P.T.O.!

West Middle P.T.O. is participating in the Schnuck's eScrip Community Project. If you sign up for an eScrip card and use it each time you shop at Schnuck's, up to 3% of your purchases will be contributed to West Middle P.T.O.

#### How to sign up:

- Go to your local Schnucks store and ask for an eScrip card or contact your P.T.O. representative and we'll get you one!
- Activate your eScrip card online at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or by calling 1-800-931-6258.
  - Provide your eScrip card number (on the back of the card).
  - **Select Parkway West Middle School P.T.O.** for your eScrip contributions - account number **6550621**.

#### How to use your eScrip card:

- Present your card to the cashier when you shop at Schnucks.
- Schnucks contributes up to 3% of every purchase to West Middle P.T.O.
- It's free. No catch. Just use your card!

**Thank you for supporting Parkway West Middle School P.T.O.!**

Questions? Contact Linda Giesecking ([tlgieseking@charter.net](mailto:tlgieseking@charter.net))  
or Carie Volz ([scottandcarie@earthlink.net](mailto:scottandcarie@earthlink.net))

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# November 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>B</b> Vision Screening (7th Gr., New 6th)  1	<b>A</b> PTO Noodles & Co. Fundraiser 11 a.m.-9 p.m.  Cross Country Meet at SM 4:00 p.m. B.O.E. Meeting 7:30 p.m. CM 2	<b>B</b> <b>END OF FIRST TRIMESTER</b> (K-8) 3	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>RECORDS DAY</b> (K-8) 4
<b>A</b> <b>BEGIN SECOND TRIMESTER</b> (K-8) 7	<b>B</b> <b>Mix It Up Day</b> P.T.O. Meeting 7:00 p.m. 8	<b>A</b>  Fall Play Preview 3:20 p.m. 9	<b>B</b> Fall Play 7:00 p.m.  10	<b>A</b> Veterans' Day  Fall Play 7:00 p.m. 11
<b>B</b>  Project Parkway South High 7:00 p.m. 14	<b>A</b> Missouri Recycle Day  15	<b>Team 6-Blue Camp Week</b> <b>American Education Week</b> 		<b>B</b> Deadline for Principal's Newsletter Articles! 18
<b>A</b> WH visits Comm Arts 8 Classes 21	<b>B</b> Diversity Day (6th Grade)  22	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> (K-12) 23	 <b>THANKSGIVING</b> 24	25
<b>A</b> Hearing Screening (7th Gr., new 6th & 8th Graders)  28	<b>B</b> 29	<b>A</b> Winter Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.  30	<b>November</b> <b>is</b> <b>Random Acts of</b> <b>Kindness Month</b>	

# December 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			<b>B</b> Winter Band Concert  1	<b>A</b> 2
<b>B</b> 5	<b>A</b> West Area Winter Choral Concert Rehearsal 7 - 9 p.m. (WH)  6	<b>B</b> West Area Winter Choral Concert 7:30 p.m. (WH)  B.O.E. Meeting 7:30 p.m. (Central Middle) 7	<b>A</b> 8	<b>B</b> 9
<b>A</b> Fine Arts Elementary Tour  12	<b>B</b> 13	<b>A</b>  6th Grade Choir Concert 7:00 p.m. 14	<b>B</b> 15	<b>A</b> 16
<b>B</b> 19	<b>A</b> 20	<b>B</b> 21	<b>A</b> Mid-Trimester 22	 <b>WINTER            BREAK</b> 23
 26	27	28	29	30

WINTER BREAK

# Team 6-Blue Owls

Marcum, Schulze, Hagle, Jenkerson, Burkemper

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The 6-Blue Owls have had an amazing First Trimester! We will recognize our First Trimester team accomplishments with a Team Celebration. As the Second Trimester begins, we are ready to head to Outdoor School! We will be leaving for camp Monday, November 14, and returning Friday, November 18. The students will have an exciting week full of activities and memorable experiences. Please keep checking Homework Hotline for team updates.



In our Fiction Unit we will emphasize the elements of plot, figurative language, point of view, and the characteristics of fiction. Students will continue to utilize the reading strategies they have learned to help make meaning of the text as well. In vocabulary we will continue our No Excuse Words, and also learn about different prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Students will also be doing a lot of journaling and reflecting during our week at camp.

## **Ms. Jenkerson – Science**

In the world of Science, things are changing! We are getting ready to start studying about Ecosystems and Populations, so be on the lookout for our new green books! We will be studying how different animals have special adaptations that allow them to live in their particular habitats, and how they compete for food, water, and living space. We will simulate some of these concepts in "The Hunger Games"... no, not the novel or much anticipated movie, but the real thing! We will also connect our knowledge of the water cycle and pollution to study the effects of both on the habitats and lifestyles of different organisms and how they are able to survive in different settings.

## **Mrs. Marcum and Mr. Schulze – Communication Arts**

During the month of November in Communication Arts, we are finishing our Writing Unit, Writing to Understand Myself. Students focused on what makes a good personal narrative story. Later we will move into our third unit, Reading Fiction.

## **Mrs. Hagle – Math**

We are immersed in our study of fractions. We are comparing, rounding, adding and subtracting fractions. Soon we will be multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. After we finish our study of fractions, we will start our study of decimals. As always please check our websites and homework hotline for math worksheets and extra help and assessment dates. Please encourage your child to use the great online practice exercises and quizzes in our textbook.

## **Ms. Burkemper – World Geography**

Students are in the middle of their study of Latin America. We improved our mental maps with an enriching mapping lab, where we studied the physical features of Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America. Currently we are on a quest to answer the question, "How does where you live impact how you live?" by examining the history, culture, government, and economies of each individual region. Don't forget to check my website for homework reminders and handouts.

# Team 6-Red Penguins

Mondschein, Oliver, Gardner, Granger, Unland

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The Penguin team took time to celebrate the accomplishments of students during the first six weeks. Thank you volunteers for donating all of the wonderful treats and trinkets. Jason Sauer and Aris McCurdy have both received “Student of the Month” honors. In addition, many of our students have earned the prestigious honor of “Penguin of the Week,” signified by a penguin decal on their locker. Ask your son or daughter if they have the “Penguin Seal of Honor” on their locker.



We can't wait to wear our student designed team t-shirts! Thanks to Mrs. Gardner and our talented sixth graders, we will be the best dressed team in sixth grade!

## **World Geography – Mr. Mike Unland**

In World Geography, we have just finished up with Canada and the United States and are starting our adventure through Africa - one of my absolute favorite regions! Look for a little more homework as well as an individual project that will include an oral presentation. There are a lot of fun things we can do with Africa, so keep up with us and learn as we move along.

## **Science – Ms. Carole Granger**

Our penguins have been curious about water and its properties, and we have also been curious about Autumn's bounty of beautiful leaves. So to satisfy our curiosities we have had fun studying the water molecule in all its forms and looking for leaves to classify. Our posters of fall images and scenes are on display in the sixth grade hallway for all to enjoy.

## **Math – Mrs. Jeni Gardner**

In math class we are wrapping up Chapter 5, which is our introduction to fractions. We

have been finding the GCF and LCM, along with writing equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions. Our next two chapters work together. In Chapter 6, we will be adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. In Chapter 7, we will be multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. Students will see a lot of word problems in these chapters, so be ready. We will also be exploring how to do the math on our calculators, with continued practice using exponents and order of operations. Fractions are Fun and Fabulous, so be ready to go.

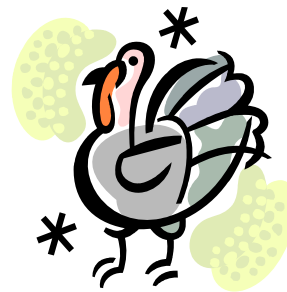
## **Communication Arts – Mrs. Elisa Mondschein and Mrs. Ruth Oliver**

Sixth grade writers are working through the process of creating a personal piece of writing explaining the significance of a treasured object. Within the unit of study, students learn how to use a variety of sentence structures, including compound sentences. Students participate in a variety of mini-lessons designed to help them “show” the reader, versus “tell” the reader. Using precise nouns and strong verbs is also emphasized during the revision process.

Independent Reading and Guided Reading will blend through the end of trimester one. Students are preparing to read fiction. Each student selected one novel to use as their independent and instructional text. Using reading strategies to interpret and analyze the elements of fiction focuses instruction and independent reading, as student prepare for Unit 3: Reading Fiction.

Working with words continues to be integrated into weekly work. Spelling, using, and defining the selected words is emphasized in daily work, as well as on biweekly assessments.

During MOODLE activities, students are practicing reading and writing in an online environment using the appropriate citizenship of a 21<sup>st</sup> century learner.



## Team 6-White Wolves

Lievanos, Babb, Tines, Hensley, Welker

*Thank you to the parents who accompanied us to the Endangered Wolf Center on Oct. 26. We really appreciate your support and help.*

### Science – Ms. Babb

Our students are knee deep in learning about Ecosystems and Populations. We began the unit in October and are continuing to discuss habitats, populations, communities, food webs, symbiosis, and adaptations. Please continue to check our team website for daily and weekly homework for science and all of our classes. In addition, I did offer science fair as an option to the students. I have information on my website available to anyone who is interested. I need to have the application filled out and submitted to me by December 2, 2011, so I can get an idea of how many students plan to participate.

### Outdoor School

Learning outdoors can be a fantastic experience! Our students will have this very opportunity at our Outdoor School week at the end of February. Students have the opportunity to spend a week away at a real camp in the midst of the Ozarks at YMCA Camp Lakewood. In the meantime, mark your calendars for January; our team will be holding a parents only meeting to discuss Outdoor School (6<sup>th</sup> grade camp) on Thursday, January 12, 2012, in the WMS



library at 7:00 p.m. Our O.S. week will be February 27, 2012, to March 2, 2012. We have a lot to prepare for before then, so keep looking in the newsletters for updates.

### Math – Ms. Tines

We have finished Chapter 1, Number Sense and Algebraic Thinking, where we worked with exponents, variables, and estimation.

We also learned the four steps to problem solving to enhance our number sense. We are now hard at work on our in-depth study of fractions. First, we cover number patterns, such as divisibility, prime factorization, greatest common factor, and least common multiple. We will use these skills to compare fractions and write equivalent fractions. Then, we will round, estimate, and add and subtract fractions. Finally, we will multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers. Don't forget that you can access the team's homework and worksheets on our team web page [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us). As always, please contact Ms. Tines with any questions or concerns.

### World Geography – Mr. Lievanos

Mr. L's Geo class has just finished up their trek through the U.S. and Canada. We had an awesome map building project which could not have been done without several lovely moms. Thank you! We will be jetting across the Atlantic to tour Europe. Expect quizzes every other Friday beginning November 11.

## **Communication Arts – Mrs. Hensley and Mrs. Welker**

Students are completing their unit of study of the many strategies they can employ to help them make sense of their reading. They have been focusing upon the post reading skills of comprehending, interpreting, analyzing and evaluating text. Our wolf cubs have been practicing summarizing and paraphrasing skills, as well as reviewing how to predict, connect and visualize text. They continue to read independently on a daily basis, enjoying books of their own choosing. They then apply the above mentioned skills, proving to their teachers at mini-conferences their progression and level of expertise with these skills. Our students will next focus on a writing unit. We will begin our study of why people write, or the author's purpose; there are four basic reasons for writing and four basic genres or types of writing that

result from these reasons. They are descriptive, expository, persuasive, and narrative. Students will be taught the difference between genre and mode of writing, and will then dabble in writing different pieces this year. First up is a narrative piece, which relates a story in the form of an anecdote, personal essay, memoir, autobiography etc. We will, of course, work with students on editing and proofing skills throughout the year. We hope to give our students a realistic taste of what it is like to go all the way through the writing process – and actually have your work published – when we inspire them with an in-school field trip with a visit from our “resident author,” Linda Nowak, on October 28. Her daughter is a graduate of West Middle and West High. Be on the lookout for an order form within the next week or two.



## **Team 7-Blue Tigers**

Jackson, Leach, Heilich, Di Fiori, Rager

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### **Tiger Greetings!**

The Blue Tiger Team is off to a roaring start! We have already completed our Open House and fall parent conferences, and both were a huge success. The Tiger team was able



to adopt a tiger at the zoo with team donations and had a wonderful day visiting on Friday, September 29. We really appreciate our parent volunteers for helping with the Zoo field trip.

*We are looking forward to a grrreat year!*

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## **BLUE TIGER TEAM TEACHER NOTES...**

### **Pre-Algebra – Mrs. Heilich**

We have covered several concepts thus far this year. Many of which have been review topics from sixth grade. Your child should be able to work with number patterns, order of operations, mean, median, mode, range, and most recently number theory. They should be able to change fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions (in lowest terms).

As we move forward we will dive into proportionality, which is the work with ratios and proportions.

### **Challenge Pre-Algebra – Mrs. Heilich**

Going from order of operations and evaluating expressions to solving equations, we have opened our eyes to the world of integers. We will continue to repeat and review these concepts as we encounter more algebraic topics.

We currently are working with fractions and negatives as we continue to prepare for algebra.

### **Science – Mrs. Di Fiori**

In science, all students have been working hard and having a lot of fun!

### **World History – Mr. Jackson**

All of our classes have studied the early periods of mankind. Many ideas were learned with an emphasis on key concepts such as: Geography relationships, survival skills, rise of roving bands, villages, and cities as men evolved from hunters and gatherers to become farmers and specialized workers. We have also focused on the many inventions and contributions that developed in early times and are still utilized today.

1. In addition, we worked hard to become proficient in understanding what is essential to know when working with maps.

2. Focus on mastering the essentials and creating their own map continues as we also are exploring the Atlas as a resource.

3. We analyzed the Pledge of Allegiance and there was an opportunity for extra credit for a small amount of research and a quick viewing of Red Skelton's heartfelt presentation.

### **Communication Arts – (Reading / Writing)**

#### **Ms. Lautenschlager**

In Communication Arts, we are beginning this year's first writing unit, "Writing to Understand My Community." We will be applying our learning from our reading unit to learn strategies to write in a way that others value what we have to say. Your child will begin writing descriptively by writing a descriptive piece portraying their favorite scene from our zoo field trip. We will be writing freely throughout this month to begin to feel comfortable writing about our lives, which will help students to begin writing a memoir at the end of the month.

#### **Mrs. Leach**

This month our writing unit continues with memoir writing. We are encouraging students to use the skills learned earlier in the year concerning descriptive writing to polish their memoirs. Each memoir will focus on a "slice of life" or a moment in which the writer discovered something new about himself or his environment. The grade level expectations we are focusing on are revising, editing, using complex and compound sentences (sentence fluency) and conventions. Check my web page for directions and expectations for the memoir assignment.

The students are involved in a pleasure reading program sponsored by Pasta House. Students have a standing daily assignment of 30 minutes of free reading in their own selected novel. This will allow them to reach their goal of over 500 pages per month. Please assist us in helping them obtain that goal by carving out some dedicated reading time in your family schedule. Thanks for signing their daily READING LOGS too! ☺

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**TEAM TIME...** *Feel free to make an appointment or call us any time.*

*During 7<sup>th</sup> hour from 1:45 – 2:15 p.m.    Phone (314) 415-7421    Mrs. Heilich's Room # 3612*

Mrs. Heilich	- Math	#5-5410	Ms. Di Fiori	- Science	#5-5458
Mr. Jackson	- World Hist.	#5-5450	Mrs. Leach	- Com. Arts	#5-5467
Mrs. Eckhard	- SSD	#5-7471	Ms. Lautenschlager	- Com. Arts.	#5-5443
Mrs. Burks	- Counselor	#5-7418	Mr. Swartz	- Principal	#5-7405

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### **Homework Center!**

The Tiger Team is offering weekly time after school on M-W-TH for kids to get some extra help, and complete late or missing assignments. Students must sign up with Mrs. Lautenschlager to attend. Students should also let their parents know when they are attending.

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### **TIPS FOR SUCCESS...**

STAY AWAKE IN CLASS.  
LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND.  
PARTICIPATE ALL THE TIME.  
ASK Q's.  
SMILE OFTEN !



# Team 7-Red Bulls

Lampen, Schmitt, Kraner, Swihart, Ash

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The Team 7-Red Bulls are having a great year! Please check Infinite Campus throughout the year to see your child's progress. When first trimester reports arrive, please review them with your child and contact us with any questions or concerns. We appreciate your support, interest, and enthusiasm!!!



walk where students have an opportunity to read the memoirs of their peers.

As always, students always need to bring a reading book to class every day in order to participate in our independent reading program.

**Pre-Algebra** students have been busy working on our Understanding Proportionality Unit by working with number patterns and fractions, ratios and proportions, and percents. Our next unit of study will be Integers and Operations.

**Challenge Pre-Algebra** students have been busy learning! We are just about to wrap up our study of Understanding Proportionality with focus on rational number operations and ratios, proportions, and percents. Our next unit of study will be Data Probability.

The **Math** textbooks are available on-line. Please have your child ask Ms. Kraner for a sheet with the directions on how to register their book if they have not done so already. There are great resources available such as lesson reviews, homework hints, section quizzes, and chapter tests.

In **Communication Arts**, we are involved in a study of the genre memoir. We are reading excerpts from memoirs and uncovering the characteristics of an effective memoir. Students will then begin writing their own memoirs. We will be focusing on incorporating compound and complex sentences, using strong verbs, and crafting effective introductions and meaningful dialogue. This unit culminates in a gallery

In **Social Studies "World History,"** our cultural exploration has continued as we've traveled around the world throughout our studies. As we have moved into the month of November, Team Bull students have concluded their sojourn through the mysteries of the ancient river valley civilizations with our study of the Ancient Nile River civilizations of Egypt, Kush, Nubia, Hittites, and Assyrians. Midway through November, Red Bull students began moving their way into India and the Indus River valley civilization. As December rolls around, we will continue our studies with a close inspection of the ancient river valley civilization along the Huang He River (Yellow River) in China, and conclude with a look at the intricacies of the Hebrew civilization. Then, we will end this 2011 year with our mid year common assessment right before winter break.

In **Science**, upon completing our Heat unit, we moved on to our next large unit of Sound and Light. We began learning about waves as most of the students could relate to ocean waves. Many wished they could go back to the beach. Learning about the parts of waves and how they interact with their surroundings let the students create their own experiment with waves in "More Wavy Motions." We continued our study of the experimental design process as well as utilizing the knowledge gained from our

Wave unit. Sound was next. Our students learned about sound waves and their interactions with the outside world by creating their own sound "flipbook." We will be wrapping up our Sound unit very soon and move into our Light unit. Our challenge classes are researching and creating awesome analysis articles each week, and it is amazing to see the wide variety of interests in all areas of science.



## Team 7-White Eagles

Curran, Ramirez, Jaques, Schmidt

### **The Eagles Homework Center**

meets after school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:20 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.. All students on the Eagle team are encouraged to stay and work on homework, organization, and/or study skills with a team teacher. Monday's Homework Center is held in Ms. Jaques's room and Wednesdays are in Mr. Schmidt's room.



**Homework Woes?** Check homework hotline and the team website to ensure that students are coming to school prepared everyday!

**Runny Noses** We would greatly appreciate any Kleenex donations that you could share with us this allergy season. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

### **Science – Mrs. Curran**

Our students started October by finishing up studying the concepts of Sound. Students then TRANSFERRED the concepts of sound into the study of Light. We "looked" at all of the types of light that we cannot see, as well as the very minimal part of the spectrum that is visible.....interesting. Students were able to recognize the

similarities and differences between light and sound.

### **Pre-Algebra 1 – Mrs. Ramirez**

Students are starting to work on the Unit: Understanding Proportionality. They started with writing, comparing, and ordering fractions and ratios. They are now working on Chapter 8, Ratios and Proportions. They will also start working with percents by the end of the month. Remember, students can come to Homework Center on Mondays or Wednesdays to work on homework, get caught up if they have been absent, or review before a test or quiz.

### **Challenge Pre-Algebra – Mrs. Ramirez**

Students will be working on ratios, proportions, percents, and probability by the end of the trimester. They will do a lot of work with doing mental math with percents and percent application. There will also be an introduction to counting methods while working with probability. Remember, students can come to Homework Center on Mondays or Wednesdays to work on homework, get caught up if they have been absent, or review before a test or quiz.

### **World History – Mr. Schmidt**

World History students will continue our examination of the key river valley civilizations, finishing Mesopotamia with a brief study of the early Hebrews, and then switching focus to India and China. Focus will be on how the geography of each of these areas influenced the development of civilizations in these areas; why those civilizations rose, developed, and fell; how the achievements of those civilizations affect lives today; and an analysis of beliefs, religions, customs, writing, and art of these areas. In addition, we will be looking at three major modern world religions that developed out these civilizations: Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

### **Communication Arts – Ms. Jaques**

Ms. Jaques's Communication Arts classes have been focused on becoming more

effective writers. Students have been learning the importance of identifying their audience, developing focused topics with relevant and specific details, and choosing appropriate formats to best achieve their purpose in writing. In addition, students are enhancing word choice and freshness of voice in their writing through integration of craft lessons and grammar awareness. At the same time, students are practicing the essential writing process, moving from pre-writing through revision, editing, and final publication. Throughout this unit, students will produce writing in the descriptive, expository, and persuasive modes.

**Thank you** to each of the parents on the Eagles Team 7-White for your continued support of your student's education!

## **Team 8 -White Eagles**

Curran, Ramirez, Ryon, Schmidt

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### **8<sup>th</sup> Graders: Take Responsibility for Your Success!**

As our students move closer to high school, it becomes increasingly important for them to stay on top of homework and school assignments. Please encourage your student to check homework hotline and the team website to ensure that they are coming to school prepared everyday! Our team website has links to daily homework, team updates, and links to the teachers' websites. You can link to it from West Middle's homepage under the Teachers link at the top of the page.

**Homework Center** meets on Mondays and Wednesdays for all eighth grade students on the Eagle team. Mondays are in Ms.



Jaques's room and Wednesdays with Mr. Schmidt.

*"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."*

-Thomas Edison

### **Science – Mrs. Curran**

Students have been previewing and reviewing the concepts of Matter and Energy. We have reviewed investigations of heat from our seventh grade experiences as well as previewed and investigated the four properties of matter. This inquiry will transition us into "Weather" and how heat and matter's reaction to heat play a key role in what we experience in our atmosphere.

**Pre-Algebra 2 – Mrs. Ramirez**

Students are working on ratios, rates, proportions, and solving problems using percents. They will also use counting methods to determine the number of combinations of various real world situations and learn about the probability of occurrences to wrap up the second unit. Remember, students can come to Homework Center on Mondays or Wednesdays to work on homework, get caught up if they have been absent, or review before a test or quiz.

**US History – Mr. Schmidt**

Eighth graders have just finished looking at the geopolitical regions and the original 13 British colonies that become the United States. We will now look at the tensions and irreconcilable differences on both sides of the Atlantic that led to the American Revolution. Through these studies, students should gain a better appreciation of American liberties and freedoms, as well as the sacrifices made to achieve United States independence.

**Communication Arts – Miss Ryon**

Students are continuing to practice grammatical tools and rules through our WOW Writing Of the Week. A grammatical tool a day keeps the red pen away! We are also finishing our Multi-Genre Writing Unit – Writing to Communicate with the World in which students studied the Six Traits of writing by composing works in a variety of different genres, including poem, brochure, newspaper article, short story, and letter. Their final project will be to write about one topic in three different genres.

Our next unit is a fiction reading unit over the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. We will begin with a contextual background study of the novel. Students will use resources from the library and internet to research topics pertinent to understanding the novel, and then create a multi-media presentation to teach their topic to the rest of the class. After completing our contextual study, we will begin reading the novel, examining the transformation of the main character. We will be composing well-organized paragraphs and constructed responses aimed at tracking the progress of the main character, Buck, throughout the novel.

Check out my Moodle website for electronic copies of handouts, study guides, and other helpful extras. You can link to it from our team website or from West Middle's homepage under the Teachers link.

**Thank you** to each of the parents on the Eagles Team 8-White for your continued support of your student's education!



# Team 8-Blue Pathfinders

Kelly, Roff, Goldman, Litteken, Lorenz

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Autumn greetings to all of our families! Thanks for meeting with our team during fall conferences and strengthening the learning connection between home and school. We appreciate your time!



During the month of November, Ms. Kelly and Mr. Roff's **Communication Arts** classes will begin studying fiction. We will start by discussing the various elements of fiction, and how understanding these elements increases our knowledge of the fiction we read. Our study will also focus on the question of historical context, namely, how does the context of a story affect our understanding? Students will read two works by Jack London. First will be his short story *To Build a Fire*. Next, we will carefully read and study *The Call of the Wild*, the famous story of a sled dog, Buck, and his journey into the Klondike. Most of the reading for this unit will be completed during class. However, outside the classroom students will be completing analysis paragraphs. By carefully explaining their thoughts, students will make meaning of the text and practice their skills. In addition to the class reading of *Call of the Wild*, students will continue their independent reading. Each student should be reading a book both inside class and outside class and completing pit stops after every 100 pages.

**Math** classes are diligently building knowledge and applying concepts. **Pre-Algebra 2** students are working through Unit 2. We have been focusing on ratios, rates, percents and proportions. Classes will continue exploring probability, combinations and permutations. **Challenge Algebra** students are studying coordinate planes, transformations, and functions. After

working through chapter 4, our focus will move to writing linear equations.

**Science** classes moved from October's atmosphere project to a study of weather. Students will be learning all of the factors that determine our ever-changing Missouri weather: proximity to large bodies of water, latitude, altitude, prevailing wind currents, amount of solar radiation, and locations of hills and mountains. Their mission will be to create their own local forecasts and compare their predictions to those of the experts. While collecting and interpreting data, students will experience the complexities of predicting our weather. Finally, the students will apply their knowledge and skills to develop weather forecasts for other regions of the United States. The differences between weather and climate will be studied next. Students will complete a climate project. They will investigate how the climate of an area determines so many features of a place, such as lifestyles, housing, jobs, and recreational activities.

On the road to revolution, **history** classes will take a virtual field trip to Colonial Williamsburg to investigate life in the mid-1700s. Just as if they are on the streets of the city, students will explore trades and daily life by viewing slide shows, videos, and interactive games on the website [www.history.org](http://www.history.org). As they study the causes of the American Revolution, students will be analyzing the different perspectives of the colonists –the loyalists, the patriots, and those who remained neutral. After assuming a historical identity, all will be joining in a town hall meeting to debate independence from England. Political signs, slogans, and arguments will be created for the gathering.

When the war has ended, its effects will be studied through primary sources. Then, it will be time to agree on the best plan for government!

Let's keep in touch! Our list of online school and home connections continues to grow! Keep the West Middle page <http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/westmiddle/index.cfm> bookmarked. The page provides links to Infinite Campus, our Team 8-Blue page with the homework calendar, and team teachers' web pages. MOODLEs <http://parkwayone.org/> can be accessed with student enrollment keys from participating classes. This private learning space offers resources unique to each online class. Math, science, and American history classes have

online textbooks available; students have been assigned user names and passwords. Always available by phone is the Homework Hotline, 314-415-7400, select 5, 3, then 1 for Team-8-Blue. Your team teachers hope you will find these resources helpful!

As we enjoy the autumn days and anticipate and plan for Thanksgiving celebrations, our team will be remembering the less fortunate in St. Louis. Our goal is to provide 125 Thanksgiving dinners – one per member on our team. The challenge is to earn the \$2.00 to provide the cost of the meal. Thanks for encouraging your child to participate. Happy Thanksgiving to your family!



## Team 8 -Red Star Dragons

Byrd, Schloeman, Schulz, Zurek, Wilson

We enjoyed meeting with many families at conferences last month. It was particularly helpful to meet with you so early in the year. We are pleased that we were able to provide you with feedback that can help your child continue to excel, improve, and work up to his or her potential throughout the last half of the trimester.

In **pre-algebra** students found ratios and unit rates, wrote and solved proportions, and solved percent problems using equations and proportions. Students applied percents to solve discount, markup, and other price



problems. They also found probability of simple events. They will continue the unit using tree diagrams, the counting principle, permutations, and combinations to count choices or possibilities of events.

In **algebra** we have seen that the relationships between variables may be expressed in algebraic form as an equation or in geometric form as a graph. We have graphed linear equations using a variety of techniques including tables of values, two points, and a point and the slope of a line.

As most of you know, Missouri is a meteorologically dynamic place. In science, we are learning the factors that make our weather so difficult to predict. Once we have an understanding of Missouri, we can investigate different parts of the country in order to contrast the various climates.

In **history** we continued our study of the colonies. Looking at the similarities and differences among the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies was included. We continued to examine how the ways of life of the early settlers were determined by the geography of the region in which they flourished. In the same way, we studied the idea of regional specialization and how that contributed to the economy of the colonies. We also began to look at democracy taking root in the colonies.

More recently, we began our study of the English victory in the French and Indian War. The war not only made the colonists more self-reliant, but it also made the British want tighter control over the colonies. We will round out the month with a study of the American Revolution.

Revision occupied a good bit of our time as we strengthened leads, endings, and



sentence beginnings. Revising for our five brush strokes was occupying our time and attention, too. The addition of participles, absolutes, appositives, and adjectives to our writing improved our pieces at the sentence level. That work will continue all year throughout every unit.

We have moved from living the life of writers to building a community of readers. Getting to know Jack London, the notable author, kicked off our study of Call of the Wild. In this unit utilizing pre-reading, during reading and post-reading strategies will be our focus. In addition, we will be analyzing literary elements and strengthening our paragraphing skills. Furthermore, understanding the harsh conditions the geography and climate of the Northland presents for both humans and animals is essential to our study of setting and conflict.

At this point in the year, we are emphasizing the idea of personal responsibility and requiring students to write down each assignment in their planners – the use of the planner is essential for their success in high school.

We have collected many pairs of shoes for the Kenya Shoe Drive! Please clean out your closets and ask your friends to do the same. Keep up the great work Team 8-Red!

If you have any books at home that your child has finished reading, and you would be willing to donate to either Mrs. Byrd's or Mrs. Schloeman's classrooms, we are always trying to build up our classroom libraries. Just have your child bring them into their respective communication arts teacher, and we will happily put them on our bookshelves. Especially now that we have implemented our Indy 500 reading program, it is essential that we have lots of books that our students can choose from during class. We appreciate any books that you can donate to our classrooms!

# DEPARTMENTS

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## World Languages

**French A:** Students have done a wonderful job learning how to “learn a language!” Their pronunciation and understanding are improving every day! They are able to talk about likes and dislikes, use verbs in the negative, and will begin to describe their family.

**French B:** Students are now able to talk about food, meals, and going to a restaurant. They also learned about some cultural differences between French cuisine and American cuisine! We enjoyed some traditional French foods on our Café Day!

In **Future Pathways**, we are looking at the importance of learning another language and culture. Hopefully, we are also seeing the fun of language learning! The enthusiasm is exciting! Ask your sixth grader what career possibilities they would be able to explore if they continued to study a language.

**German A:** In German A your student just learned how to talk about family members and tell time. Soon they will be starting in Chapter 3 where they will learn how to talk about what they do in their free time. Ask your student to talk about what they like to do in their free time!

**German B:** In German B your student just finished learning to describe what others are wearing. In the next chapter they will be learning how to talk about birthdays, other celebrations & gift giving. They will also learn how to describe the home and what is in it. Be looking for a floor plan project near the end of the month!

**Latin A:** Students have done a wonderful job picking up the Latin language. They are able to read sentences using all three persons and comprehend stories about the Caecilius family in Pompeii. Students have also learned about the culture of ancient Romans living in the first century C.E. and are already started to compare the differences between our lives and theirs. In the next month, students will continue to improve their grammar and vocabulary by learning plurals and begin to look at the Roman Forum.

**Latin B:** Students are off to a great start in their second year. After reviewing key points from Latin A, students began to utilize and expand their knowledge of verb tenses. Students also began studying the eruption of Vesuvius and how that affected the town of Pompeii, in which their book is based. Over the next month, students will begin a new chapter of history in Britannia and learn a new verb tense.

**Spanish A:** Students are off to a great start in Spanish. Students are quite proficient in asking and giving some basic information about themselves. In our next chapter, students will be describing people and things using newly learned adjectives. Also, they will be talking about what they like or don't like. Our new location is the sunny island of Puerto Rico.

**Spanish B:** Students are enjoying a chapter about a very important topic: food. Next time you go to a Mexican restaurant have your student order the meal in Spanish. They even know how to ask for the bill.



## Fine Arts

The eighth grade Arts and Crafts students completed a computer art drawing based on doing a close up view of an insect and its surroundings. They now are working on two assignments simultaneously. One is a soft pastel drawing of a human or animal head, and the other is a realistic scene with wood burning.

The seventh/eighth grade Fine Arts Block (visual art) students finished a computer art project that asked for drawing the room of a Halloween character like the mummy, werewolf, or another creature. They also did an oil pastel idea that involved showing pipes three dimensionally bending and curving on the page. A watercolor seascape painting is nearing conclusion as well.

The sixth grade Fine Arts Block (visual art) students did a computer art activity that combined a realistic main subject with an abstract background. They then had a watercolor assignment that focused on using the wash, wet on wet, technique. A clay unit will follow.

Future Pathways (visual art) students are nearly done with a cartoon assignment and have been practicing computer art in preparation for an assignment later in October. They are about to begin creating a picture frame made of clay.

West Middle is proud to have student art on display at the Parkway Administration building for the month of October.

## Choir



Congratulations 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir on your outstanding All-District performance! Thank you for the hard work you put into learning all of the music so quickly!

### Upcoming December Dates:

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Choir will rehearse for the Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 6, at West High School at 7:00 p.m.
- 7/8 Winter Concert will be the following night, Wednesday, December 7, at West High School at 7:30 p.m. Rehearsal and concert information and forms will be coming home soon.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will participate in the Elementary Tour on Monday, December 12. We will sing at all five West area elementary schools. The tour is during the school day and will last all day. We will go out for lunch!
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert will be held Thursday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Middle School Cafeteria. Concert information and forms will be coming home soon.

Pam Silverio and Megan Roland



Second trimester in sixth grade, students will be participating in a problem-based mystery unit, called *Mystery Disease*. In this unit students will learn about contagious diseases, biohazards, public health, disease control, social science, and public speaking. The unit will be a “fuzzy challenge,” an open-ended assignment, which helps students learn new information in a way that is very similar to real-world situations. Students will work in teams to discover the cause of an outbreak in a small town. Team presentations will be before winter break.

In seventh grade, students finished building, programming and testing their robots. Second trimester, they will begin a unit on the Renaissance Period. Students will learn research skills and will do a research project on the topic. Presentation dates will be posted on the website soon. Presentations will be before winter break.

In eighth grade, students participated in the field trip to The Truman Library on October 21. This is always a wonderful culminating activity for The White House Decision Center project. Second trimester, eighth grade students will be working on an independent research project. After working through a research packet, students will develop a product and presentation. Presentation dates will be posted on the website soon. Presentations will be after winter break.

Congratulations to Luke Christensen who was our student of the month for September. Luke’s *October Sky* essay was outstanding.



## Physical Education

As the first trimester comes to a close and the second trimester begins, we would like to welcome the seventh graders back to daily physical education and send the sixth graders to begin alternating A and B days between health and P.E. (check in the health section for health updates and rotations). Also, please help your students to remember to wear their tennis shoes on the days they have physical education or to bring a pair to change into. This is a good time to remind everyone that snow boots and Uggs are not safe physical activity shoes and will result in students not being able to participate in class for safety concerns.

In November, the sixth graders will be participating in volleyball and the seventh and eighth graders will be in basketball. During this time all three grade levels will be alternating in the fitness room and concentrating on fitness concepts and movement principles. These concepts and principles will help students analyze their fall fitness scores and set goals for improvement in the spring. The eighth grade students will develop a personal fitness plan that concentrates on the health and skill related components they feel they need/want to improve. Please take the time and talk to your students about how they did in our fall fitness testing and what their goals are for improvement.

*“Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.”*

John F. Kennedy



## Health

With the first trimester of school ending November 3, seventh grade students are concluding health classes with Miss McClinton or Mr. McNabb and will return to everyday P.E. for the second and third trimesters.

Sixth grade students will begin attending health class with Miss Dahl, Mr. DeLia, or Mr. McNabb every other day during their regular P.E. period for the entire second trimester of school which begins November 7. Eighth graders will attend every other day health classes as a part of their third trimester Health/P.E. classes with Miss Benson or Mr. Bueltemann.

Our West Middle Health curriculum is available on line for parents and other interested persons to view on the Parkway School District website under curriculum. Each grade also has grade specific classroom textbooks that support our approved curriculum for our Health Units of Personal Health and Wellness, Nutrition, Personal Safety, Disease Prevention, Substance Education, and Healthy Relationships and Human Sexuality.

West Middle School health classes are held in a regular classroom setting in room 3402. Students earn Health/P.E. grade credits on in-class health projects by working in small groups and individually to create health informative posters and pamphlets on selected health topics. During some units, students might participate in role play to model skills for abstaining from substance abuse or other at risk behaviors. Students also keep a food log for two or three days for the purpose of evaluating the nutritional value of their diet and to evaluate behaviors and lifestyles that might affect their food choices. Assignment credits earned in health are averaged with a student's P.E. participation/effort grades to determine the student's Health/P.E. grade for the trimester in which they take health and P.E. classes on alternating days.

West Middle School health classes afford an opportunity to truly work towards educating the whole child. Please contact our Health/P.E. Department staff if you have questions or interest in what is happening in West Middle School health classes.



## INTRAMURALS

## Intramurals

As the second trimester is set to begin, the Cross Country, Fleetball, and Wrestling teams have completed their seasons, and now we will set our sights on basketball. There will be separate teams for boys and girls at each grade level. Sixth grade will meet on Mondays beginning November 7, seventh grade will meet on Wednesdays beginning November 9, and eighth grade will meet on Thursdays beginning November 10. There will be

competitive contests against the other Parkway middle schools in January. A schedule will be included in the December newsletter.





## Counselor's Corner

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Leigh Klawiter 314.415.7416  
[lklawiter@parkwayschools.net](mailto:lklawiter@parkwayschools.net)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Lisa Burks 314.415.7418  
[lburks@parkwayschools.net](mailto:lburks@parkwayschools.net)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Chris White 314.415.7417  
[cwhite@parkwayschools.net](mailto:cwhite@parkwayschools.net)

### Upcoming Events

- **Week of October 1** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade-Everyone Makes a Difference
- **November 8** Mix It Up Day
- **November 21 & 22** 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Begin High School Educational Planning
- **November 22** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade-“Together We’re Better” Program
- **April 2 – 27** District MAP Test Window

Everyone Makes a Difference is a lesson that will be presented to seventh graders through a core class the week of October 31. The focus is on the power each of us has to build a positive school community.

Mix It Up Day is a yearly celebration designed to expand students’ social experience and connect with new peers. For one day, students are asked to spend lunch time with a new group of students. Through activities and discussion, they will look for common interests and experiences and strengthen their sense of belonging in our school community.

Counselors from West Middle and West High are collaborating to provide experiences in career and academic planning that will help students to see the connection between their current coursework and future goals. After completing an interest inventory and career exploration activities in October, eighth graders will work with high school counselors to understand how their academic choices and course selection can lead to success. In addition, a panel of high school students will offer their perspectives on ways the middle school students can best prepare for a positive and successful high school experience.

Sixth graders will explore their ability to create a positive learning community through recognition of the value of each member’s unique characteristics. Guest speakers, discussion, activities and role play will help children see the talents they contribute to the group, as well as their capacity and responsibility to help others to feel included.

Parkway middle schools will be administering the MAP test during the month of April. If there are appointments to be made during this time, we ask that you try to make them outside of the school day. While some absences are unavoidable, we find that students perform best when the test is taken during the regularly scheduled administration. The state of Missouri requires that all students complete assessments in communication arts, math, and, for the eighth grade, science. In addition, eighth graders who are enrolled in Algebra will also be taking an End of Course Exam during the last week of April. More specific information will be sent after the first of the year.

### **Self-Evaluation**

Where did the first trimester go? As we come to the end of the first term, this is a good time to evaluate current progress. Celebrate success! Encourage commitment to continue working to reach academic as

well as social and personal goals. If new or additional strategies are needed, here are some ideas that might help:

**Check Out Our Website:** Next time you are reviewing the West Middle website, look under Information on the Home Page and you will find links to the Guidance Department. Program information, as well as resources and referrals, are available.

<http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/westmiddle/homepages/home.cfm?userid=wmscounselors>

**Co-Curricular Activities:** West Middle's *After School Activity Booklets* have been distributed to all students. Our co-curricular programs are a great way to extend the learning opportunities during the middle school years. Please encourage your child to stay after school to participate in activities; it can foster self-esteem, develop social skills and strengthen a sense of belonging to our West Middle Community! An electronic version of the Activities Guide can be found at the following address:

<http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/westmiddle/activities/documents/Activities%20Book%2011-12.pdf>

**Call On Us:** Your grade level counselor will be glad to work with you and your child to identify next steps and support their growth and achievement. We value your partnership and appreciate your support.



## ***NURSING NEWS FROM VICKI MARX MSN***

The school year is off to a great start. Most children are happy to be back at school and most parents are happy also! It is hard to believe that we are already into the second trimester. Hopefully everyone is getting ready for colder weather and flu season. Remember to get yourself and your family their annual Influenza Vaccinations.

### Just a few reminders:

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION:** If you have not already returned your children's yellow census verification form, please do so as soon as possible. Emergency contact information needs to be updated every year. Remember to keep you home, work and emergency phone numbers up to date throughout the year. Emergencies do not happen often but when they do the school, especially the nurse's office, needs to be able to contact you. We also need your signature on the verification form if needed for emergency treatment if necessary.

**IMMUNIZATION LAW FOR 2011/2012:** All students who are in the eighth grade this year have had their immunizations updated to include the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) vaccination. Missouri state law pertaining to the tetanus booster changed in 2010. So students in seventh grade this year will be required to have the Tdap booster before the first day of school for 2012/2013. This is something to keep in mind if you are taking your child for a physical or a doctor's appointment. Remember to send a copy of your student's immunization record to the nurse's office whenever new vaccines are received. You can check your student's immunization record on Infinite Campus if you are not sure that we have the most up-to-date record.

### **PRN POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Parkway Health Services is always looking for Substitute Nurses. You can choose to work in a certain geographic area, certain grade levels, or be available for all areas. RN required, BSN and relevant experience preferred. If you love children and are interested in working in a dynamic environment, contact Lisa Harnacker at 314-415-5064 or at [lharnacker@parkwayschools.net](mailto:lharnacker@parkwayschools.net)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Student of the Month

One way that West Middle recognizes our students' achievements is through "Student of the Month" awards. These students are chosen for various reasons including academic achievement, improvement in grades, citizenship, participation, or special projects. The following students have been selected for September:

Ashley Avery, Sarah Booth, Luke Christensen, Colin Conway, Debbie Das, Brittany Davega, Hermahn Faulkner, Ritoma Ganguly, Ben Herrmann, Haran Kumar, Aris McCurdy, Will Meyer, De'Monica Mims, Jack Morgan, Jessica Novik, Julia Patterson, Nikki Seraji, Greg Shank, Tamia Taylor, Angela Tsao, Rachel Wang, Isaiah Williams, Ellie Workman, Wyatt Yess, and Lauren Zhao.

*Congratulations and keep up the good work!*

## Three Ways to Get Parkway News Online!



1. Read the latest monthly e-newsletter online: [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/eNews](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/eNews)
2. Receive monthly e-newsletters via e-mail: Sign up for eNews at [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us)
3. Read the latest Parkway news stories: [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/news/getNews.cfm](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/news/getNews.cfm)

November 6 - Daylight Savings Time Ends



# YEARBOOK 2011-2012

**ORDER NOW!!!!**



**DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ORDER A  
YEARBOOK AT A REDUCED PRICE (\$22).**

**YOU CAN ORDER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM](http://WWW.YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM) OR  
FOLLOW THE LINK ON THE BOTTOM  
OF WEST MIDDLE'S WEBSITE.**

**YOU CAN ALSO COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FORM  
AND RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL STORE.**



# Sorrento Springs PTO Crop 'n Shop 'til you drop!



**When:** Friday, November 4, 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**Where:** Sorrento Springs Elementary Gym  
390 Tumulty Drive/Ballwin, MO 63021

**Cost:** FREE for *shoppers only*  
\$15 for *croppers & crafters* (pizza and soda provided)

**What to bring:** Friends, family, neighbors,  
craft projects you are working on!

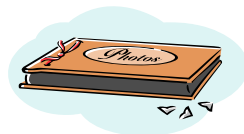
**\*attendance prizes for croppers!\***    **\*get your holiday shopping started!\***

**Vendors on site:** *Stamp it up; Pampered Chef;  
31 purses; Orrick Creations (headbands, key fobs & jewelry);  
Lia Sophia Jewelry; Tupperware; Mary Kay;  
At Home America; Crossing My heart- hair bows; Scentsy;  
Home Baked Goods; Creative Memories (& more added daily!)*

Sorrento Springs' PTO is hosting their first ever Craft Night! Come scrapbook, make cards, organize your photos, knit, or whatever you like (even if it's just to socialize and/or shop the vendor tables!).

**Please RSVP by October 24 to: [sstone315@aol.com](mailto:sstone315@aol.com)**

*Send checks to Sorrento Springs/390 Tumulty Dr/Ballwin, MO 63021 Make checks payable to: "SORRENTO PTO" – please specify "Crop 'n Shop"*



# Middle Years

Working together for school success

## Short Stops

### The art of compromise



The next time your middle schooler disagrees with a friend, use the opportunity to help her learn about compromise. Encourage her to think of solutions that are acceptable to everyone. For example, she might say, "So you pick the movie this week, and I'll choose one next week."

### Attention, please

Help your child get the most out of class time. How? Share the SLANT method with him: Sit up straight and near the front, Lean forward, Ask questions, Nod to show you understand, Track the teacher with your eyes.

### Curbing foul language

Middle graders might think swear words make them sound cool or grown-up. But explain to your youngster that cursing gives others a bad impression of her and is not acceptable. To help stop it, consider creating a "swear jar"—it will cost a quarter each time a family member uses bad language. At the end of each month, donate the money to a charity.

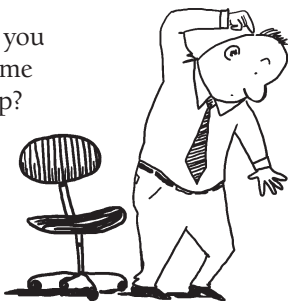
### Worth quoting

"Gratitude consists of being more aware of what you have than what you don't." *Anonymous*

### Just for fun

**Q:** What do you lose every time you stand up?

**A:** Your lap.



## Discipline that works

Your usually pleasant middle grader kicked his brother when he got frustrated. Or he invited friends over when he was home alone. You know you need to discipline him, but what's the most effective way at this age? The right consequences can be a useful tool to help your child improve his behavior. Here's how.



### Make it fit

Decide on consequences before you need them. That way, you can choose them carefully. If you wait until your child breaks a rule to announce what will happen, you're more likely to overreact and come up with something that's difficult to enforce. ("You're not going anywhere for a month!") Be sure to tell your tween about the consequences up front so he knows what to expect.

### Make it matter

Tie the results of your middle grader's behavior to his actions (say, not being able to go out next weekend if he lied

about where he was last weekend). And choose consequences that matter to your child so he cares about their impact. For example, if he texts at the dinner table, he's likely to be more upset about losing cell phone privileges than being sent to his room.

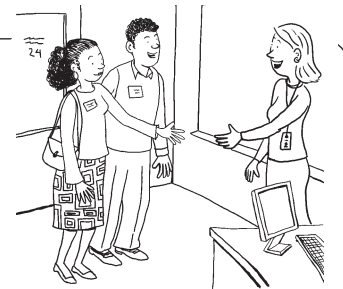
### Make it right

Let your tween know that he must make up for bad behavior. If he throws and breaks the controller after losing a video game, he will have to replace it with his own money. Having to correct the situation will help him stop and think before he does the same thing again. 👍

## Teaming with teachers

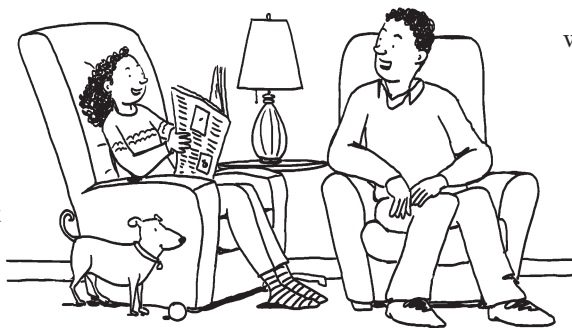
To support your child's education, put parent-teacher conferences high on your to-do list. Here are some tips:

- Review your middle grader's schoolwork and interim reports before the conference. If you see areas where she's falling short, ask her teachers for suggestions.
- Let teachers know about things that might be affecting your child (divorce, parent out of work, deployed family member). This can help teachers understand your child and offer support when necessary.
- If you need a translator at the conference, request one in advance. Or arrange to take along a friend or family member who can help. 👍



# Good thinking!

Can your middle grader come up with more than one solution for a problem? Determine whether something she reads is valid? Draw conclusions based on what she reads? These are all critical-thinking skills—and your child needs them to thrive in middle school and beyond.



when she has a problem to solve, encourage her to think of several ways to handle it.

## Evaluating information

Have your middle grader read an editorial in the newspaper. Ask questions to help her analyze what she has read. *Examples:* What are the writer's credentials? Does he use facts

## Solving problems

Share issues that you're trying to address ("I need to save money on gasoline"). Let your youngster hear you brainstorm solutions: "I could carpool with a coworker, combine errands, or drive the smaller car that gets better gas mileage." Then,

and statistics to back up his views? Are they logical? She'll need to distinguish between facts and opinions and may have to do some research to answer those questions.

## Drawing conclusions

Let your child choose a paragraph from a mystery and read it out loud. What does she think is going on? Suggest that she use what she has read to draw conclusions. For instance, if it says, "His hands shaking, Mark turned the key," she can conclude that Mark is scared or nervous. 👍

## Clever cards

Here's a study technique that can help your middle grader remember facts and formulas.

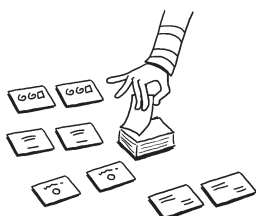


## Sequencing

Sometimes information needs to be remembered in a certain sequence, such as steps in a scientific process or events in history. Suggest that your child write each step or event on a separate index card (without numbering the cards). To study, he can shuffle and reshuffle the cards, putting them back in order until he consistently gets it right.

## Matching

Your youngster can also use cards to study facts. Have him write each term and its



matching fact on separate cards. *Examples:* vocabulary words and definitions, countries and their capitals. Then, he can shuffle the cards, spread them out facedown, and try to match up pairs.

*Idea:* Suggest that he make studying into a game by playing with a classmate or family member. Each person could create a set of cards for the other one to put in order or match. 👍

## Q & A

### Help for ADHD

**Q** My son was just diagnosed with ADHD. How can I help him be successful in middle school?

**A** If your child doesn't already have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or a Section 504 plan, ask the school to create one. The plan should spell out what he needs academically (extra copies of textbooks at home, more time to complete tests, less homework).

Also, it's more important than ever for your son to be organized. Having a daily planner or to-do list can be helpful. He should also sort through his backpack and locker on a weekly basis.

At this age, your child needs to be involved in managing his ADHD. Together, discuss strategies he can use to help himself. For instance, he might call a friend to double-check on assignments each evening or take a homework break every 20 minutes. Suggest that he experiment with ideas and see what works best for him. 👍



## Parent to Parent

### Cooking up healthy meals

Our family had a habit of grabbing fast food because it was convenient. After reading several articles that said home-cooked meals are healthier than most fast food, I decided to make a change.

I started with a goal of three home-cooked dinners a week. I made a list of the items I needed for each meal and went shopping.

One night, I made a tossed salad and salmon and added a loaf of hot, crusty

bread. For another meal, I put chuck roast, potatoes, carrots, and onions in a slow cooker before I went to work, and dinner was ready when I got home.

We still get takeout sometimes, but we're making healthier choices. Last week, we ordered a thin-crust pizza with light cheese and vegetables.

Eating at home is a lot easier than I expected. And my family is eating foods that are more nutritious. 👍



## OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.



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# West Middle School

## November 2011

### Parkway School District

#### Food Services

-- Monday --	-- Tuesday --	-- Wednesday --	-- Thursday --	-- Friday --	Available Daily
<b>Employment:</b> <b>Human Resources</b> <b>455 N. Woods Mill Road</b> <b>Chesterfield, Mo, 63017</b>	1 Chicken Rings w/ Dipping Sauce Carrot Coins Chocolate Pudding	2 Chili Boat w/ Fritos Crisp Corn Fruit Cocktail	3 Spicy Asian Chicken White Rice Oriental Veggies Fortune Cookie	4 <b>Professional Development Day</b> <b>No School K-12</b> 	<b>Salad Bar</b>  <b>Hamburger and Fry Plate</b>  <b>Fresh Fruit</b>
7 BBQ Grilled Chicken on Bun Corn Nibbles Chocolate Cake w/ Icing	8 Juicy Hot Dog on Bun Sun Chips Shape Up Frozen Sherbet	9 Hot Ham & Cheese on Pretzel Bun Potato Rounds Fresh Apple	10 <b>Holiday Dinner</b> Roast Turkey /w Hot Roll Whipped Potatoes /w Gravy Cut Green Beans Pumpkin Pie w/ Topping	11 Chicken Smackers Sweet N Sour Sauce Brown Rice Mandarin Oranges	<b>Longhorn Line T/Th</b>  <b>Taco Salad TH</b>  <b>Nacho Boat M/W</b>
14 Bacon Cheeseburger on Bun Sweet Potato Fries Pineapple Nuggets	15 State Fair Brand Mini Corn Dogs Refried Beans Succulent Pears	16 BBQ Pulled Pork on Bun Potato Smiles Orange Quarters	17 Tyson Chicken Crispito Flavored Applesauce Chocolate Chip Cookie	18 Ham & Beans Corn Bread Spinach Salad Cry Baby Cup	<b>Brand Name Pizza M/W/F</b>  <b>Deli Bar</b> <b>Frito Lay Baked Chips</b>
21 Chicken Wings Celery Sticks w/ Ranch Dip Fruit Cup w/ Topping	22 Turkey N Cheese on Croissant Baked Cheesy O's California Raisins	23 <b>No School K-12</b> 	24 <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> <b>No School K-12</b>	25 <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> <b>No School K-12</b>	<b>Asst. Sports Drinks and Waters</b>  Lunch Prices: <b>Student - \$2.50</b> <b>Adult - \$2.75</b> Extra Entree - \$1.75 Extra Bev - \$.50
28 Al dente Pasta Noodles w/ Red Sauce Shredded Cheese Cinnamon Applesauce Harvest Muffin	29 Krispy Chicken Strips Whipped Sweet Potatoes Vanilla Pudding	30 Mini Egg Rolls w/ Sweet N Sour Sauce Fluffy Rice Mandarin Oranges	<b>Served Daily</b>  <b>Fresh Fruit</b>  <b>Side Salads</b>	<b>Visit us online - Google Parkway School District then Programs / Departments then Food Services</b>	<b>Breakfast Available Daily</b>