

# Parkers Prairie Elementary Newsletter

## May 2009



### It's May!

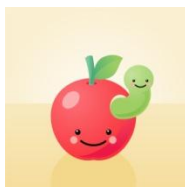
It is hard to believe that it is already May. Part of that is because we have waited for this spring weather for such a long time. There is also the fact that as educators we spend so much time racing to the next thing that when we arrive at the last month of school we really need to take a moment to catch our breath.

Classes around the building will be participating in cumulation activities. There will be lots of opportunities to talk about growth made over the year. Our students have increased skills in so many areas. Looking at recent NWEA testing scores it is fun to see how students have grown academically throughout the school year. Another favorite area of growth for me is watching students during non-structured times. I have seen so many demonstrate maturation with how they treat each other. Much of what we do focuses on getting students to see that they are an important part of our community, and that school is a safe place to practice those skills.

### Looking to Next Year

While the faces remain the same, some of our teachers will be working in different grade levels next year. It is a great line up – take a look!

Pre-School	Melisa Brever (ECSE) Deanna Lipinski (School Readiness) Heidi Plasek (ECFE) Ramona Wippler (ECFE)
Kindergarten	Julie Duberowski & Jenny Erickson
First Grade	Bonnie Carlson & Leah Kellen
Second Grade	Kari McDaniel & Steve Radtke
Third Grade	Alicia Buvarp & Kim Parsons
Fourth Grade	Karen McBrady & Sarah Suchy
Fifth Grade	Phyllis Christopherson
Five/Six Combo	Derek Denny
Sixth Grade	Bill Wagner
.5 Math/.5 SpEd	Rachel Grabow
Special Education	Jane Bartlett
Speech Language	Robin Backlund
Title One	Deb Olson
Music	Deb Pearson
Phy Ed	John Noga



### Lovin' Your Library ALL Summer!

The PPES library will hold regular hours over the summer months. Library hours will be Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00 – 3:00 throughout the summer.

New Family Fun at the Library this summer!!!!

Book Bingo – Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.. Wow! Books will be prizes that families can keep. Families will enjoy playing Bingo together. Book Bingo is FREE for families and will include prizes, snacks, and beverages. How cool is that? Mark your calendars 6/10, 7/8, and 8/12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Library.

Popcorn and PJ's – First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Wear your P.J.'s , bring a pillow and come to the library! An interactive story will be read by a guest reader followed by a movie shown in the library viewing area. Eat popcorn and drink lemonade while chilling out in the library over the warm summer months. June 3<sup>rd</sup> will kick off with the book Skippyjon Jones and the movie Beverly Hills Chihuahua. Mark your calendars for 6/3, 7/1, and 8/5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Library.



During regular summer library hours the CCC lab will also be available. CCC is a computer based program that works on reading and math skills at the student's level. To use the CCC lab over the summer students can check in at the library.

Another way to access reading over the summer months would be to borrow books from the Read and Share program. Books for this program can be found in the following locations - Urbank Ag Service/Grocery, Leaf Valley Mercantile, Sheila's Place in Rose City, PP Vet Clinic, and PP City Hall. The program's mission is to give children access to books. Families take books home and exchange them when they are ready for more.

## What to do?

Keeping students brains engaged and ready for learning all year long is a big challenge. Summer time is often viewed by students as non-academic time. Last fall when reviewing fall assessment data with some students, many commented on skills that they had lost over the summer months. Working together we can prevent this from happening.

Read, read, read! Choose a book or book series to read together as a family. All students benefit by hearing something read aloud. As a family you could take turns with paragraphs, pages or chapters. Setting a time to do this each day would keep it a part of the routine.

Use questioning within reading activities. Try to predict what will happen next, or at the end as a family. Prompt with questions about the characters in the story – maybe there is one with qualities like someone known by the family. Often times story lines involve character development (in books for all ages), discuss and question about choices made and how they would see themselves in similar situations.

Numbers are a part of our world and make math challenges possible on a regular basis. For students still learning math facts use drive time in town as an opportunity for practice with house numbers. Students can pick a house number and parents can tell them what operation to use (add, subtract, multiply, divide), or even a combination of operations. Kids can also benefit from some age appropriate exposure to economics. At the store how much would 3 boxes of Mac and Cheese cost, or looking at an overall receipt what percentage of things purchased were from a certain food group.

Good 'ole fashioned board games are great family activities that promote learning opportunities and are rich interaction possibilities. Students in this current generation have exposure to games that many of us could not have imagined while growing up. Despite this they are still very engaged with those that do not require a screen in order to play.



## Reminder - Current Year Calendar Changes

Because of snow days there was a calendar change affecting the end of our school year. May 28<sup>th</sup> is a full day of school for students. On May 29<sup>th</sup> students will attend for a half day, being dismissed at 12:30 from the elementary school.

## Looking to Next School Year

Please mark your calendars now . . . We will be having **Back to School Night on September 2, 2009 from 6 pm to 8 pm.**

## Speaking of Next Year

Staff and students have been working together discussing what makes a successful learning environment. With this input we have created an acronym that we will be using throughout the building. Panther PRIDE will be a focus for us next year. Here is what PRIDE means for us.

### **Practice Kindness**

**Be helpful, consider the feelings of others, use manners, discuss problems**

### **Respect Everyone**

**Be considerate to self, others and their beliefs and property, be tolerant**

### **Include Others**

**Be friendly, take turns, let everyone play or participate, help others, share**

### **Demonstrate Self Control**

**Think before you act, use appropriate school behavior, take ownership for your actions**

### **Everyone Be Responsible**

**Be dependable and accountable, follow school rules, take pride in our school**

We are excited to implement Panther PRIDE in all that we do next year. These concepts are a regular part of our school community already. Focusing on PRIDE will keep us mindful of the skills we all value, and target our teaching to these areas.



