



PARK SCHOOL PRESS

WE Are The Park Panthers

PARK ELEMENTARY
 SCHOOL APRIL 2024 NEWS
 “PARK SCHOOL, WHERE LEARNING IS FUN”

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Spring is in the air. It is nice when the weather starts to warm up and students can be outdoors having fun playing, socializing, and being physically active. Please encourage your child(ren) to find a hobby. There are so many fun things in life to explore. With a new season should come new adventures. Our students are talented beyond the books and there are tons of scholarships to support their talent.

Our last marking period for this school year has begun, and students are gearing up to take their End of Year (EOY) testing in IReady Reading and IReady Math. When we return from Spring Break, we will have 36 days of instruction. This is certainly the time for goals to be set so that continued growth can occur and we end the year strong. Park School will continue to monitor homework, math learning paths, reading learning paths, links to literacy, book reports, and classwork to ensure that students are continuing to show responsibility, respect, and a readiness to learn.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude for our teachers and staff at Park School. What a wonderful job they are doing keeping students engaged, learning, and excited about school each day during this school year. We are so lucky to have such a hardworking group of individuals. I hope each of you can show your gratitude in some way or another. Perhaps a card or a gift just to show your appreciation. There is no other place quite like Park!



Ms. D. Wilson
 Park School Principal
 wilsond@district148.net

Happy Spring Everyone

Special Events, Important Dates to Remember:

- 4-1 Spring Break No School
- 4-8 Classes Resume
- 4-19 SIP Day Noon Dismissal
- 4-22 Spring Pictures
- 4-26 4th Qtr. Progress Report
- April 29-May 2nd Fine Arts Week
- 4-29 Artists Reception @7pm
 ECC Harriet Tubman School
- 4-30 Beginner Band/Choir
 @7pm ECC Harriet Tubman School



Park School Celebrates Black History "50 Years



Office News



Ms. Zambrano & Ms. Brown

- * Parents/Guardians when picking up your student for an early dismissal, always sign out the student with the office staff.
- * Call the office at (708) 849-9440 by 8:30am to report that your student will be absent for the day.
- * Please check your student's book bag for important flyers and other communication from Park School.

Social Worker Corner

Greetings Park Parents and families! As the seasons transition from spring to summer, it's essential to ensure our students are equipped to navigate both the changing weather and their mental well-being. With warmer days ahead, it's crucial for students to dress appropriately for the weather.

Just as we prepare our wardrobes for the warmer weather, it's equally important to take care of ourselves mentally. As the school year winds down and excitement for summer builds, it's natural for students to experience a range of emotions. Encourage your child to express their feelings openly and to seek support if they're feeling overwhelmed. Remind them of the importance of self-care activities such as spending time outdoors, practicing mindfulness, and maintaining a balanced routine.

At Park School, we understand that some families may be facing financial challenges, especially as utility bills fluctuate with the changing seasons. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance with utility bills, please don't hesitate to reach out to Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA). They offer resources and support to families in the community, ensuring that everyone has access to essential services. They can be reached at (800) 571-2332.

As we embrace the joys of spring and prepare for the warmth of summer, let's also prioritize our well-being, both physically and mentally. By taking care of ourselves and each other, we can make the most of the season ahead. As always, I am here for you as a resource.

Ms. Paul - School Social Worker



Ms. Paul, MSW, LSW, PEL
District 148 - Park School
Phone: (708) 849-9440 x 227

Park School as we celebrate Principal Wilson's Birthday



Kindergarten

Hello Kinder Families,

We are embarking on the last quarter of kindergarten. In Language Arts, we are stretching sounds in words while incorporating them into our writing. We want our Kinders to be prepared to write short, simple sentences. In Reading, we are learning what it means to comprehend a story, vocabulary words from our stories, retelling, and we are practicing writing opinions and narratives with the teacher.

In Math, our students are doing a wonderful job counting to 100, writing numbers to 20, adding single-digit numbers, subtracting single-digit numbers, and counting by 5's and 10's.

Please continue to support us by reading to your child EVERYDAY for at least twenty minutes. Our goal is to have all students on target by the end of the school year. Please continue to work with sight words.

We are looking for donations for our end of the year celebration! If you want to contribute ANYTHING to our program, please let me know. In the past, we have had parents donate bouncy houses, goodie bags, treats like cupcakes, juices and chips, bubbles, candy etc. Whatever you think would be fun and exciting for the kids, I am all ears!!

Warmly and with love,
Mrs. Guyton and Mrs. Johnson/Mrs. Williams



Mrs. Guyton shawg@district148.net



Mrs. Johnson johnsonk@district148.net

1st Grade News

Greetings Parents and Guardians!

We are in the final stretch of the school year! The 4th Quarter is upon us, and we will be taking the EOY in IReady Reading and Math. Just a few gentle reminders: Daily attendance is critical for our students to maintain and strengthen their academics. Homework should be completed and turned in daily. Students should come to school ready to learn and prepared to do their very best. We are working hard to close the achievement gap and have our scholars adequately prepared for 2nd grade. Monitor students as they practice reading, writing, and math as this will reinforce and improve the skills they have been learning.

In the month of April, the first part of the final quarter of the school year, the academic focus will be on the following:

Reading: Students will learn how to compare and contrast details in different make-believe stories.

Math: Add and subtract tens; addition of two-digit numbers. These tasks will rely on what students have learned previously about counting and place value.

Science: Students will learn to describe patterns of the sun, moon, and stars. Students will also be able to build upon what they learned about plants and animals in relation to the patterns of the sun, moon, and the stars.

Social Science: Integrating literacy and building vocabulary by reading aloud selections from our Scholastic classroom library that target social science concepts. Learning about community economics: saving, spending, money management.

A big thank you to all the parents who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences. We appreciate your continuous support in helping our first graders become life-long learners. Enjoy your Spring Break and stay safe!

Ms. Moyenda moyendad@district148.net



Ms. Huff hufft@district148.net



2nd Grade News

Hello Parents and Guardians!

We are almost at the finish line! We are intensively exposing our scholars to the academic skills they'll need to be successful in life and intentionally preparing them for third grade. Here's what our 2nd grade scholars will be learning for the month of April:

Magnetic Reading - We are learning about different vowels that have a controlled-r to help our scholars decode words and improve their phonics skills.

Ready Common Core - We are learning about point of view, sound & meaning in stories, and rhythm & meaning in poems and songs to deepen their understanding of different texts.

Writing - We are diligently working to strengthen our sentence structure, using transition words, using expressive language, and adding details to our writing as we practice writing paragraphs.

Math - We are learning about place value, addition, and subtraction of three-digit numbers. We will also be learning geometry skills.

Social Studies - We will be learning about the conservation of natural resources. We will also be learning about the history and rights of people with disabilities.

Science - We are learning about animal conservation through our Flying Classroom program with Captain Irving.

Reminders:

Read with your scholar for 20 minutes daily to build fluency

Ask and answer questions throughout the story to reinforce comprehension

Practice math facts daily to strengthen fluency of skills

Purchase a Park sweatshirt for \$15 – hoodies are not allowed to be worn in class

Your support in helping our scholars succeed is greatly appreciated!

With Care,

Miss Watson and Ms. Buckley



Miss Watson watsond@district148.net



Ms. Buckley buckleyt@district148.net

3rd Grade News

Greetings Parents/Guardians:

Happy Spring to all our Third Grade Parents. We are still working hard to cover as much content as we can by the end of the school year. The weather is getting warmer, and the students are ready to be outside more, but they also need to actively participate and complete assignments. We still have more exciting things to do before the end of the year. Our goal is to prepare the students for 4th grade and beyond. IAR is over, but we still have more to accomplish.

In reading and in mathematics we will work on the current target goals that you were given during Parent-Teacher Conferences. In Science, Flying Classroom has started again since the IAR Assessments are complete. The students will independently read for at least 20 minutes a day and continue to complete book reports for Links to Literacy. Also, they must work on their I-Ready Learning Path to reinforce the strategies and skills that we work on in class. We want them to maintain their peaceful attitudes in the classroom so that they can continue to perform at the highest level possible. Please remind your students about our mission for Park School: "Do your work and behave." The weather is getting warmer, and they will get more opportunities to have fun outside. Thank you for all your help and support from home. Please reach out with any questions through email or Class Dojo. The Old African Proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child", rings true during this time in history. This means that a child does not just grow up within a home where there may be a single parent or a combination of parents, but a child will grow up in a community, a village, and that child will not grow up just in a home but in a social world with input and understanding from the village. We must keep our village strong even during this time of uncertainty! Please continue to be safe and healthy.

Thank You,
Mrs. Gatheright & Mrs. Robinson
Third Grade Team

Mrs. Robinson
robinsonm@district148.net

Mrs. Gatheright
gatherightg@district148.net



4th Grade News

Dear Fabulous 4th grade Parents,

Welcome to Spring!

We hope that all is well. It's that time of year again. As the weather continues to change, students are getting sick! Please help us all by ensuring that your child gets enough sleep, washes their hands, and remind them to continue to bring a sweater to school each day when needed. Thank you so much for attending the 3rd Quarter Parent-Teacher Conferences. This was a wonderful time to celebrate your child's growth and to look forward to next year and the growth still to come. Most of our students have finished the Illinois Assessment for Readiness. Thank you all for encouraging your child/children to do their absolute best. It is hard to believe that we have so little time left in the school year. We would like the students to prepare themselves for the end-of-the-year testing. We are working hard to make sure that every child will be successful and achieve their growth goal this school year. By working together, we can make sure that the last few weeks of the school year are positive and successful for your child.

Here are a few suggestions that you can use to help your child succeed:

- 1. Make sure that your child is in attendance every day and on time.**
- 2. Make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep.**
- 3. Make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast at home or arrives early to school to receive breakfast.**
- 4. Continue to encourage your child to do their best each day.**

If you have any questions or concerns please let us know. Thank you for sharing your child with us each day!

Mrs. Smith
smithre@district148.net

Mrs. McPherson
McPhersonC@district148.net



5th Grade

As we Spring ahead into the 4th quarter, students have completed IAR testing. We have been researching important women in history and their accomplishments. Students are using note-taking skills, synthesizing information, and presenting skills. We are so proud of the way students have adapted to using technology to gather information and present. We will continue to discuss the importance of "reliable sources" as we move forward.

As we continue to prepare our scholars for 6th grade, we will work on new skills to help students master research-based skills and using citation. Additional skills we are reviewing will include inferencing, identifying themes, and finding main ideas and details. We encourage students to share their thoughts using think-pair-share strategies and peer editing. Further, parents are encouraged to have students read 30 minutes each night.

Fractions and decimals are related. Therefore, we will continue to review multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions. We are going to dive deeper into fractions and decimal equivalents.

Students need to keep working on their My Path lessons to prepare for the end of year assessments.

In Science, we are looking at the importance of plants and how they grow. We are also looking at the difference in animal and plant cells.

Please continue to encourage your child to stay focused and practice the 4 B's: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Prepared.



Mr. Gant
gantp@district148.net



Dr. Merriweather
merriweatherd@district148.net

6th grade News

“A gush of bird-song, a patter of dew
A cloud, and a rainbow’s warning
Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue
An April day in the morning.”
— Harriet Prescott Spofford

Thank you for attending Parent Teacher Conferences. As we head to the end of the school year, we are working diligently to prepare our students for Junior High. We will be reviewing concepts that were taught throughout the year, encouraging students to stay on their learning paths, and reading every night.

6th Graders will cover the following:

Reading: Students will analyze how sentences, chapters, and scenes fit into the overall structure of a text. Recognize how the description of events in a story or poem are influenced by the narrator or speaker. Identify and evaluate evidence an author uses to develop an argument and its effectiveness.

Math: Students will learn that a percent is a special type of rate. Students will apply the distributive property to algebraic equations. Students will understand and relate positive and negative numbers and locate them on a horizontal and vertical number line.

SEL/Social Studies: Students will learn about Earth Day. During SEL students will discuss honesty and creativity, executive functioning, teamwork, social and personal responsibility.

Science: We took a pause from Flying Classroom in March to focus on the IAR. This month students will continue to engage and explore with the focus being on the ecosystem within the amazon and ORBIS: Flying Eye Hospital. ORBIS is an aircraft with an operating room, classroom, and recovery room.

Writing: Students will write an argument to support their opinion, a persuasive essay that is for or against a topic, and they will write an ending to a story.
As the weather is changing, please encourage your child to stay focused on their learning. End of the year testing will be coming soon. Students are required to complete a minimum of 3 learning paths in reading and 3 learning paths in math on a weekly basis. They must receive a 70% or higher passing rate for the activity to count towards the 3.

Read 20 minutes each night. This can be a physical book or online with Capstone or Epic (kids.getepic.com/students Code: rdd5715 for Merritt and Code: YVM0605 for Lovejoy). Students will submit a weekly activity associated with their book every Friday which will culminate in a book report.

Ms. Merritt merrittj@district148.net



Ms. Lovejoy lovejoyp@district148.net



Spring is right around the corner! We've moved our clocks forward one hour so that means the days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer. This is a time when children are getting anxious about summer. It is important to help your child stay motivated in school by sticking with before and after school routines and staying with a consistent schedule until summer break is here. **WE will be**

starting End of the Year (EOY) I-Ready Reading and Math testing at the end of the month and into May. We look forward to seeing the growth made by your child.

Exhaustion is setting in, especially for reading. Students' motivation has really decreased for independent reading. Have you ever asked yourself, "Why doesn't my child enjoy reading"? Some children are enthusiastic about reading while others see reading as a chore. Getting your reluctant reader to enjoy reading begins with building the activity into their daily schedules and being consistent. Here are some strategies to get your child started:

1. Choose books related to your child's interests. Let the child pick the book. This allows them to have ownership of and feel good about their choices.
2. Make reading a social experience. Instead of reading alone, try reading to and with others. This impacts their own motivation to read.
3. Read aloud to your child, even when they are older. This helps them with comprehension, listening skills, attention span, and imagination.
4. Take advantage of technology. Allow your child to read stories on the computer, iPad, kindle, or smart phone. This can help with boredom and excuses.
5. Be a role model. When children see adults reading and discussing the text, they will see that you choose to read and will see that reading has value.
6. Camouflage reading into unrelated daily activities. Some activities include reading menus, directions to a game or recipe, labels on foods, and schedules.
7. Be sure children read books that are appropriately challenging. Attempting to read text that is too difficult can result in frustration instead of enjoyment. Use the 5 finger rule: When reading the summary of the book or the first page, if 5 words are difficult to sound out, then the book is too challenging. This is the type of book you should read together with your child.

A BIG THANK YOU FOR THOSE PARENTS WHO ATTENDED PARENT TEACHER CONFERNCES ON MARCH 28.

As always, if you need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Ms. Huff / huffk@district148.net

Mr. Pandy / pandyp@district148.net



The Physical Education Department

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Parents, as the weather begins to change, we will be having more outdoor activities and games conducted in the playground area. Parents, please contact the school nurse to ensure we have all inhalers and any other support that will prevent your child from having any flare ups due to the allergy season that is vastly approaching us.

Parents, I am pleased to report that our scholars have started their post physical fitness assessment and, as expected, they are showing tremendous growth in all areas. There has been a 45 – 53 percent increase in stamina and endurance. Students are asking more questions regarding fitness activities for life, which indicates they are taking their health and physical fitness to another level. Our hope and goal is to continue to create that mindset that success is great; however, success without good health will prevent you from enjoying that success to the fullest.



Mr. Watkins — watkinso@district148.net

Art Part

Greetings from the Art Room

Kindergarten has been drawing people and patterns. They will work with paper folding to make 3-dimensional objects soon.

First grade just began drawing dinosaurs in landscapes. Working with clay to make coil pots is coming up next.

Second grade is off to a great start with their Kente pattern works. They will soon use clay to make and paint faces.

Third grade recently started using paper to make 3-dimensional birds and birdcages. Paper home interiors will follow.

Fourth grade is finishing their Pop Art hearts. The Greek myth of Icarus will be the subject of the class's next collage project.

Fifth grade is finishing their wonderful musician collages. They will next use oil pastels to create portraits.

Sixth grade is also completing their fantastic musician collages. A very colorful watercolor project will be their next endeavor.

Please keep on eye on Class Dojo for Star Student announcements. Feel free to contact me on Class Dojo or at jordanr@district148.net with any questions or concerns.



Sincerely,
Mr. Jordan
Art Teacher
Park Elementary School



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings to all Park School families!

Spring is now upon us. Here are some ideas for your family to enrich the learning opportunities at home while giving students a much needed break away from their laptop screens. This is a great time to involve your children in baking and cooking meals with supervision. These activities will enhance your child's reading and math skills and give them the gift of quality time with you and your family. Quality family time can also be spent playing board games, word games, and even drawing. Take advantage of the springtime weather by taking the children for a walk outside at the nearby forest preserve. Make it fun and do not forget to make some time to read together! Remember, any moment is a teachable moment. Happy Spring!

Teaching self-control, evidence-based tips:

1. Help kids avoid temptation. Out of sight, out of mind
2. Create an environment where self-control is consistently rewarded
3. Support young children with timely reminders
5. Give kids a break
6. Help children develop their attention and working memory skills.

So if you seem to be locked in a battle of wills, it's helpful to consider your child's needs for autonomy. If you talk with your child and consider his or her perspective, you may find ways to adjust your demands and inspire more cooperation.

Sincerely,
Ms. Brush
MTSS Facilitator
Park School
Brushl@district148.net



Darlene McMillian, M.Ed
Safety Facilitator, Park School
Dolton West School District 148
mcmilliand@district148.net



"Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

News from the Nurse

Dr. M. Chase / chasem@district148.net



Dear Parents and Guardians,

There has been an increase in illnesses within the school. Please help us control the spread of illnesses by keeping your students home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Contagious diseases such as flu, COVID-19, or pink eye

In April, remember to participate in World Health Day on April 7th and Every Kid Healthy Week during April 22nd-26th. During this time and all throughout April, find new ways to incorporate healthy habits. Here are a few fun ways to incorporate a new healthy habit:

- Master skipping or jumping rope
- Have a dance off
- Take a safe walk
- Swap a not so healthy meal for a new healthy recipe
- Add some stretches for 15 minutes
- Hula hoop challenge
- Play a sport
- Be still and breathe for 10 minutes

Keep me informed of the healthy habits that you created and completed in April and try to keep at it! Be safe and keep trying. Every day is another chance. What a joy to be alive!

Endlessly and Humbly Grateful,

Nurse Chase

C.A.R.E. News

We have made it to April. Physical Wellness Month is celebrated in April every year. This time of the year, everyone is encouraged to check on themselves and observe a healthy lifestyle. Here are several tips to a healthy and prosperous April:

Get regular exercise. Just 30 minutes of walking every day can boost your mood and improve your health.

Eat healthy, regular meals and stay hydrated. Add a few colorful fruits and veggies to your plate.

Make sleep a priority. Establishing a routine for bed and consistent sleep patterns are helpful.

Try a relaxing activity such as sitting quietly, meditating, or listening to soft music.

Practice gratitude. Your situation is only temporary. Plan strategies to improve on being a better you.

Attitude is important! Focus on the positive. It's easy to get sucked into negative thoughts.

Make an appointment to visit your primary care physician, dentist, and optometrist.

Starting off the month being consistent and practicing a few of these tips can lead to a healthy lifestyle.

Live Well, Be Well!

Mr. McKnight C.A.R.E. Facilitator
Park School



Congratulations to our 2nd grade classroom who were the top sellers for our Double Good Fundraiser. We would like to thank everyone for your participation.



Hello Parents and Guardians

For the month of April students are learning about beat and rhythm and how to differentiate between the two sounds. In addition to learning about beats and rhythm, students will practice and perform basic beats and rhythm. They will continue to learn about notable composers and their music periods. Students will continue learning about musicians and their various styles of music. Students will learn about and be able to distinguish between quarter notes, half notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. They will continue to learn about different instruments and what families they belong to. For example, percussion and wind instruments. Students will also start to learn the letter names of notes. Students will continue to recognize how music affects emotion. Skills and concepts will vary by grade level.

Kind regards,
Ms. Flowers

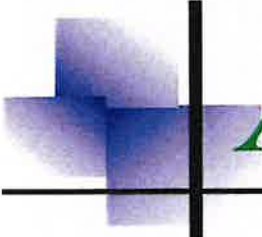


SCHOOL DISTRICT 148

Park Elementary School
 14200 Wentworth Avenue
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SCHOOL DISTRICT 148 MISSION:
THE MISSION OF THE DISTRICT IS TO CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT ALL STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE.

We are on the web!
 Go to: www.district148.net



APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		No School		Spring Break		
7	8 Classes Resume	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 SIP Noon Dismissal	20
21	22 Spring Picture	23	24	25	26 4th Qtr. Progress Reports	27
28	29	30	Fine Arts Week is April 29 th - May 2 nd			
	Artists Reception 7pm ECC@ Harriet Tubman School	Beginner Band/Choir 7pm ECC@ Harriet Tubman School				