



# PARK SCHOOL PRESS





PARK ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DECEMBER 2023 NEWS
"PARK SCHOOL, WHERE LEARNING IS FUN"

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is hard to believe that it is December! Park School continues to evolve and close the achievement gap. Our word for the school year is determination and we have plenty of it to succeed.

Parents and guardians, we are looking for our students to grow academically in reading and math. We are entering MOY (Middle of Year) testing season. It is very important that your child is in school on time and ready to test. Some students with testing accommodations will begin a little sooner, but as a school we will test the week of December 5-8. Principal Wilson will host a "Turn Up Growth Party" in January for students who make significant gains. It is our expectation that students gain 60% or above SGP to meet their typical target growth. Before our students leave for winter break, they will be taking the I- Ready Reading and I- Ready Math district assessments. Students in grades K-5 will have 3 sessions of math and reading. Each session is 30 minutes. Students in grade 6 will have 2 sessions of math and reading. Each session is 45 minutes. Students will test 1 session of each per day. I will post an overview about our testing and share the data of our BOY on Class Dojo.

There are 15.5 instructional days during the month of December. Each day of instruction will be vital with school being out for winter break. We want our students to relax and enjoy their time off and take a little time to read a good book or exercise. Self-care is important.

This year, Park School will embark upon the idea of creating a winter fest in the gymnasium for our students, on Tuesday, December 19 during the school day. This event is for the students only and made possible with your support of our fundraisers. Thank you for your help. Some families are unable to fundraise, and others simply choose not to participate, so again thank you to those who help to make Park School great!



Attendance: Did you know that our school's State Report Card analyzes our attendance when scoring us? Parents, and guardians, student attendance is vital to us. Imagine if your child is15 minutes late to school each day. 15 X 5= 75 instructional minutes. That is time we can never get back! Please send your child to school on time and try to minimize early dismissals.

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

Have a safe and peaceful winter break.

## Special Events, Important Dates to Remember:

Dec. 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Progress Report sent home w/ students

Dec. 5-8 MOY Testing
Grades K-6 Reading & Math

Dec. 8 Sip Day / Noon Dismissal Dress down for \$1 —.50 cents chips— cheese-juice

Dec. 19 Winter Festival for students only during the day Board of Ed Mtg. 6pm

Dec. 20 Winter Band & Choir Concert (beginners) 7pm@Ecc Harriet Tubman school

Dec. 21 Park School's Winter concert 9:45am All are welcome!

Winter Band & Choir Concert (advance) 7pm @Ecc Harriet Tubman school

Dec. 25-Jan. 5 Winter Break

Jan. 8 2024 School Resumes



## Office News Parents / Guardians





- The reason for this season is to show Love, Compassion, and Good Will towards each other!
- All students eat lunch on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday at 11:53am until 12:23pm.
- On Wednesdays all students eat lunch at 11:45am until 12:15pm due to the "Flying Classroom" program.
- Call the office at (708) 849-9440 to report your student's absence by 9:30am on the day of the absence!

## Social Worker Corner

Season's greetings Park Panther parents and families. My name is Ms. Paul and I'm thrilled to join Park as the new social worker. My passion lies in empowering children to reach their full potential. As a school social worker, I'm here to support families by fostering a positive environment for your child's growth and well-being. My role is to enhance the social and emotional development of students. I collaborate with teachers, parents, and staff to create a supportive learning environment. I address behavioral and emotional challenges, provide counseling, and implement interventions to help children thrive academically and personally. Additionally, I serve as a resource for parents, offering guidance and support to ensure a holistic approach to each child's well-being.

Together, let's navigate the journey of education, ensuring every child has the tools to push themselves to greatness.



Ms. Paul Paul J@district148.net



## 1st Grade News

## Kindergarten

## Hey families!

It seems so hard to believe that our little kindergartners have completed their first quarter at Park School! We are privileged to have met and talked with all our families during Parent Teacher Conferences. However, if you still have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please call or message us to arrange a meeting to discuss the needs of your student.

We are continuing our work on letter names and sounds, sight words, initial sounds, ending sounds, rhyming and counting syllables. Please continue to encourage your child to write their name, letters, and numbers to reinforce handwriting. We are encouraging the students to work neatly. In math, we are continuing to count objects up to 20, write numerals 0-20, and recognizing and counting numbers up to 50. We are practicing the basic addition/subtraction skills with add one more and take one away. Also, be sure that you are reading with your child for at least twenty minutes each day. Remember, reading sight word flash cards counts towards the reading log.

Thank you for partnering with us!

With love, Mrs. Guyton and Mrs. Johnson





Mrs. Guyton shawg@district148.net



Mrs. Johnson johnsonk@district148.net

## First Grade Parents:

In reading, we are working in Unit 2 of our i-Ready reading program, which entails Key Ideas and Details in Informational Text. In this unit, we will focus on identifying the main topic and retell key details in a text, asking and answering questions about key details in a text, and describing the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text. We are continuing to build our phonemic awareness and phonological awareness skills through segmenting, blending, and chunking words. We are also reading independently for 20 minutes daily to build fluency. As it pertains to math, we are working on doubles and near doubles, solving word problems to 20, and graphing. In science and social studies, we are learning about plants and animals and economics (wants, needs, goods, and services), respectively.

Just a few reminders:

Working on i-Ready at home will be beneficial for your child. We ask that you please continue to read with your child each night. Reading a story repeatedly aids with building fluency (reading smoothly and with expression). Additionally, asking your child questions throughout the story builds comprehension. Homework is an extension of what is taught in class. Homework should be completed daily and returned to school the next day unless otherwise specified. Completing homework helps strengthen skills and concepts. Your child should practice addition and subtraction facts to attain automaticity.

Thank you for your continued support! The First Grade Team Ms. Huff & Ms. Moyenda



Ms. Moyenda moyendad@district148.net

Ms. Huff hufft@district148.net



## 2nd Grade News

Happy Holidays Parents and Guardians!

Middle of the Year (MOY) testing is right around the corner. Here's what our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade scholars will be learning for the month of December: **Magnetic Reading** - We are learning about predictable and unpredictable vowel teams to help our scholars decode words with the long a, e, i, o, and u vowel sounds.

**Ready Common Core** - We are learning how to find the central message of informational and literature texts and how to determine the author's purpose for writing a text.

**Writing** - We are practicing using proper sentence structure, using transition words, and strengthening our writing by adding details.

**Math** - We are focusing on Unit 4: Length. The scholars are learning about measurement with different units, comparing lengths, and reading line plots.

**Social Studies** - We are preparing for our schoolwide winter music program.

**Science** - We are learning about bats and jellyfish 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

Winter Break will be from December 25<sup>th</sup>-January 5th

I-Ready MOY Testing Dec. 5th-7th

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

We appreciate your continued support in helping our scholars succeed!

Have a happy and safe holiday season,

Miss Watson and Ms. Buckley

 $Miss.\ Watson\ watsond@district 148.net$ 

Ms. Buckley buckleyt@district148.net

## 3rd Grade News

Happy December, Third Grade parents! Our students are working hard, and Mrs. Robinson and I are putting forth 100% effort to make sure that our students receive the best quality education. Thank you for those parents/guardians who were able to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences! We appreciate all the support and concern that you have shown thus far.

This year we have introduced Target Goals with I Can Statements. Our focus skills that we are working on are Main Idea and Details and Steps in a Process in our Magnetic Reading books. There are I Can Statements along with Academic Vocabulary to with these skills that we gave all of you during Parent-Teacher Conferences for Quarter 2 and every skill that we will teach in Reading this year.

In Math, we are finishing up multiplication and will be starting division. Please practice addition, subtraction, and multiplication at home to help with fluency. As we finish up with our Multiplication Unit, the students will continue to use a variety of strategies such as arrays, repeated addition, and grouping to name a few. An at home connection that Mrs. Robinson and I will introduce will be from I-Ready, and this will be able to help you have a better understanding of what your student is working on in math.

In Science, we have our Flying Classroom program that the students really enjoy. They are engaged in hands-on activities. Also, in Social Studies we are continuing to talk about being thankful and traditions because of the holiday season.

Our students are working very hard with learning how to write paragraphs, learning the components of paragraphs, types of sentences, peer editing, and in January they will learn how to write in cursive.

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. As we move into our winter season, we would like you to please remind your students to dress for the weather. We want all our students to be in school every day.

Mrs. Gatheright and Mrs. Robinson Third Grade Team

Mrs. Robinson robinsonm@district148.net

Mrs. Gatherightgatherightg@district148.net





## 4th Grade News

Dear Supportive 4th grade Parents,

We thank you for your continued support and dedication to your child's education. If possible, please make sure your child is present and on time every day as we prepare to show growth! Also, classroom supplies are running low, and we need items like tissue and hand sanitizer. If you can donate an item, we would appreciate it! Thank you to those parents who have already donated supplies! :)

## Reading

Fourth graders will be working this month on elements of poetry, dramas and plays, text structures, and point of view.

## Writing

Students will use the writing process to write opinion pieces. Students will provide facts and evidence to establish their point of view. As students revise and polish their work, they will focus on proper capitalization, punctuation, and word choice.

Students are refining their understanding of fractions. Students will explore adding and subtracting mixed numbers with like denominators. Students will apply the skill of multiplying basic factors to multi- Science will continue to soar, build, and create with our flyplying fractions. At the end of the month, we will move to adding decimal fractions.

### Science

Please mark your calendars for our all-school Science Fair that will take place Dec 6,2023. Additional information will be shared regarding the exact time. Parents and guardians are invited to participate in this wonderful event.

## **Social Studies**

Students will continue working with skills meant to improve their social and emotional health. Students will continue to use Suite 360 to target topics such as goal setting, problem solving, and teamwork. Just as a reminder...Students are expected to read 30 minutes every night. Students should continue to read and complete book reports as often as possible to build fluency and comprehension skills. Students should also continue to practice math facts every night using multiplication flash cards. At any time if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

> Sincerely, The 4th Grade Team Mrs. McPherson & Mrs. Smith-Bussie

## 5th Grade

Greetings and Salutations,

The winter is near, and as we dive into our second quarter, scholars are preparing for their middle of the year (MOY) iready Diagnostic Assessment which will be administered December 4th through December 8th, Scholars will be assessed in both math and reading. I am asking that in preparation students continue to access and complete lessons on their (my-path) at home on i-Ready.

In our adventure filled classroom, we are always growing and developing. Our math unit this quarter will have students practicing their skills in decimals, adding and subtracting fractions, and word problems. In reading, we will continue with our literary texts and comparing and contrasting two or more texts.

ing classroom curriculum. Our adventures will not end because our social studies will transport scholars to explore ancient Egypt where they will create projects and learn about mummification.

Finally, please remember to check Class dojo for updates and events. Because we are moving into the cold/flu season, I am asking that you please donate hand sanitizer, Kleenex, and sanitizing wipes to our classroom.



Mr. Gant gantp@district148.net



Mrs. Smith smithre@district148.net



Mrs. McPherson McPhersonC@district148.net Dr. Merriweather merriweatherd@district148.net



It's the most wonderful time to be a part of the Park Panther Family! The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team would like to say thank you to all who participated in the parent-teacher conferences. We had a great turn out!

6th Graders will cover the following:

Reading: Students will focus on vocabulary and informational text. Students will be able to understand that words may have more layers of meaning beyond the literal; analyze how a sentence, paragraph, chapter, or sentence fit into the overall structure of text; and determine an author's point a view about the topic of informational text.

Math: Students will continue practicing their math fluency. To help prepare them for the upcoming Middle of the Year (MOY) Diagnostic the focus will be on measurement, fractions, geometry, and algebraic thinking.

**SEL/Social Studies:** Students will learn about their emotional development by focusing on self-regulation, gratitude, social media safety and taking initiative. We will also work on current events for the month, **Science:** Students will complete a Bats Project as well as a Jelly Fish Lake Project with our new Flying Classroom Program.

Writing: Students will author an explanatory essay using passages from their readings. Students will build on their understanding of compare and contrast and write about two of the extreme sports they will read about.

District Requirements: Students will also be required to complete a minimum of 3 learning paths in reading and 3 learning paths in math weekly with a 70% or higher passing rate. To help students reach their goal they will receive 30 minutes of reading and 30 minutes of math on their learning path. Students are required to 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. Lovejoy lovejoy @district 148.net



Ms. Merritt merrittj@district148.net







## December is ALREADY here!!!

December brings the cold weather in, and the daydreaming about Winter Break begins. It's important to remember that, December remains a critical month to our LEARNING. The beginning weeks are filled with I-Ready Reading and Math assessing. December also means there are about 3 months until the Illinois Assessment for Readiness testing begins for grades 3-6. We will be continuing to teach strategies for this test and building up the stamina for the passages. Keep your child reading and practicing math facts daily.

Here's a few websites to work on to practice basic math concepts.

<a href="https://www.factmonster.com/math/flashcards">https://www.factmonster.com/math/flashcards</a>

<a href="https://www.sheppardsoftware.com/">https://www.sheppardsoftware.com/</a>

Students can always get on their My Path.

Here's a few websites to work on for reading.

Higher grades: <a href="https://www.wordville.com/ReadingComp/">https://www.wordville.com/ReadingComp/</a>

Lower grades: <a href="https://www.starfall.com">https://www.starfall.com</a>

Students can always get on their My Path.

Here is a great way to help your child(ren) build writing stamina and practice writing while away on winter break! Explain that a good writer always works hard to improve their writing. Remind your child(ren) to use complete sentences! A complete sentence is one that has a subject and predicate and makes a complete thought. It also begins with a capital letter and ends with punctuation.

## Here are some ideas for writing:

Keep a writing journal and write about daily experiences.

Ask a question for them to write about: What do you think about dolphins? Do you like McDonalds or Wendy's better? Tell me why.

Pick a topic to write about (describe your favorite book/movie/person, etc.)

Start the writing with a sentence starter (At the store I saw....)

Write letters/emails to family members

HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL WINTER BREAK AND KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!



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:** 

Tis the season to be jolly, wishing you and your family a safe and prosperous holiday season!

This school year is moving at such a fast and exciting pace. The primary students have been participating in hand eye coordination skills and activities. Our students are progressing with the fundamentals and seem to be enjoying themselves. The intermediate students are currently participating in volleyball.

Upon completion of the volleyball unit, students will begin a basketball unit. Emphasis will be placed on the fundamentals, rules, and regulations that govern this activity.

Parents, just a brief reminder that we strive for maximum participation from all scholars here at Park School. Students will not be allowed to participate if they do not have their sneakers on days they are scheduled for physical education. Again, thank you for your cooperation and continued support. Together we can make it happen!



Mr. Watkins ..... watkinso@district148.net

<u>Kindergarten</u> has been doing a wonderful job with color. They will continue to explore color the rest of the month.

First grade is also working with color. They will be painting with watercolors soon.

<u>Second grade</u> is finishing their Starry Night paintings and will learn about warm, cool and neutral colors soon.

<u>Third grade</u> just finished their seascapes and cityscapes. They will be working with complementary colors next.

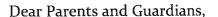
<u>Fourth grade</u> have been painting and making colors lighter and darker and will be creating a winter landscape.

Fifth grade will continue to work with tertiary colors

Sixth grade is creating logos with analogous colors.

I wish all of our Park Panthers a wonderful holiday season and a wonderful New Year!!







## Hello Park Parents!

Season's Greetings to all! Thank you to all parents who attended the I-Ready Math Family Night presented by Stephanie Roberts. We hope that you learned more about how your child uses Ready Math on a daily basis and how your child's progress is monitored. With that being said, Middle of the Year testing in Reading and Math will soon be upon us. And with that it is time yet again to celebrate student gains and academic achievements!

We are always striving to attain student growth but remember growth can come in many forms. You can help celebrate and encourage your child at home by:

- Celebrating small achievements such as passing an I-Ready lesson or have 3 or more lessons completed in a week
- Mastering a skill or concept that your child had previously struggled with
- Passing a lesson quiz or comprehension check.
- Raising their scale scores of their I-Ready Reading and Math Diagnostic.

Remember, student encouragement and motivation have a direct link to student success! We wish every student here at Park School the very best of luck as they prepare to show what they know!

Lisa Brush MTSS Facilitator 708-849-9440 brushl@district148.net



Students arriving to school with time to spare have the luxury of settling in, preparing their class materials, and focusing their minds on the lessons to come. They have all the time they need to literally and figuratively wake up. Showing up on time can ameliorate the often-jarring transition between sleepy rides on a bus to concentrating on the day's first lessons. Students showing up to class in the middle of a lesson miss out on this natural transition period and may lose even more of the lesson as they scurry to settle into an academic focus. This ultimately contributes to the lower grades and graduation rates associated with chronic tardiness.

Arriving late to school on a consistent basis can have long-term academic effects. If showing up late to school becomes a habit, students may develop the notion that tardiness is acceptable behavior. This belief can negatively impact their future work ethic and employment opportunities. Alternatively, showing up on time to school every day can help students develop the habit of being punctual with important commitments. This habit can serve elementary school students well through college and into their future careers.

As we close out the old year and prepare for the new year, let's help our students start out by being on time for school.



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

Hello Students, Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community.

It's hard to believe that it's December and soon to be the New Year. This also means colder weather! Please remember if your child is sick or not feeling well and may be contagious, remain at home per the recommended guidelines that were sent last month that are listed below. Sending your little one into school can cause a ripple affect and exposes classmates, staff, and family members to the illness. In addition, the weather conditions can start at sixty degrees at the beginning of the day and rapidly decrease by the end of the day so please have your loved one to keep their coats with them. Fall and winter cold air and viruses can trigger asthma attacks. Please ensure that your loved one has their asthma pump available on the premises and speak with the nurse

Vomiting or diarrhea

Sore throats

Persistent cough

Runny nose with green or yellow discharge

if you have not done so about your child's asthma plan.

Oral temperature of 100 degrees or higher (return after 24 hours with a normal temperature without medications) Headache or stomachache with cold like symptoms

Pinkeye

Suspicious skin rash

Healthy children learn better. Please use one or two of the below healthy habits to reduce illness throughout the year.

Get 8 hours of sleep at night.

Replace morning juice/pop/coffee with water.

Wash your hands after using the bathroom, eating, blowing your nose (or hand sanitizer).

Avoid secondhand smoke at home and in cars.

Reduce candy, chips, and other unhealthy snacks to once a day (not for breakfast or lunch when possible).

Keep skin moisturized after daily bath and showers.

Brush your teeth twice a day.









We have finally made it to December, and it's time for Christmas break. Please remember these tips for a happy and safe holiday.

- Read for pleasure. Whether your child is in the mood for holiday stories like The Night Before Christmas or the newest installment from his favorite series, winter break provides the perfect opportunity to stash schoolbooks and read for fun.
- Cook up an easy lesson. Invite your child into the kitchen to help you whip up a special dish from Christmas cookies to potato pancakes. All of those half-tablespoon and quarter-cup measurements are great practice with fractions.
- Write thank-you notes. Writing notes of appreciation to gift-givers teaches gratitude and helps polish writing and spelling skills.
- Make the most of car rides. Turn the drive to or from a holiday get-together into an opportunity to practice letters and numbers. You can look for license plates from different states, try to find the alphabet on the license plates, or count the number of red (or white or green) cars you see. Remembering numbers and addresses are very important.
- Maintain reasonable bedtimes. With no school to get up for in the morning, it can be tempting to let kids become night owls. A few days before school starts up again, ease back into the regular bedtime schedule so your child can start the year bright-eyed.
- Have family game night. Card games and board games can be a great time to laugh and be competitive.



Mr. McKnight C.A.R.E Facilitator - Park School mcknightt@district148.net



## Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

To all our Park PTA members, students, teachers, staff, & community. This is the time of the year where acts of kindness are on full display. It is truly a beautiful time of the year. Kindness comes in many shapes and forms, but one thing is for certain: a kind act is a kind act. During this holiday season, we would like to spread some holiday kindness because it goes a long way. With so much going on daily that negatively impacts our community, let's do the opposite and impact our community with positive vibes this holiday season of kindness. Let's celebrate together by completing the 24 Acts of Kindness for the month of December.

- Dec 1. Leave waters on your front porch for delivery drivers.
- Dec 2. Bake holiday cookies for a neighbor
- Dec 3. Draw a card for your principal, teacher, librarian, custodian, or school nurse.
- Dec 4. Paint a kindness rock and hide it somewhere in your neighborhood.
- Dec 5. Offer to help a neighbor decorate the outside of their house.
- Dec 6. Donate dog or cat food to a local animal shelter.
- Dec 7. Help a neighbor shovel their walkway or bring in trashcans.
- Dec 8. Collect warm clothes that no longer fit and donate them.
- Dec 9. Make holiday decorations and take them to a nursing home.
- Dec 10. Donate canned and boxed food to a local food bank.
- Dec 11. Take hot cocoa to the crossing guard near your school.
- Dec 12. Donate a new toy to an "angel tree" or Toys for Tots.
- Dec 13. Help a sibling do their chore.
- Dec 14. Take a warm meal to someone who is hungry.
- Dec 15. Purchase or make small, thoughtful gifts for your siblings.
- Dec 16. Call family members to say "hi" and tell them about your day.
- Dec 17. Make holiday crafts and give them to a neighbor or friend.
- Dec 18. Bring your teacher their favorite drink.
- Dec 19. Bundle up and pick up trash on your street or local park.
- Dec 20. Compliment neighbor's holiday decorations and lights.
- Dec 21. Clean up your toys and books without being asked to.
- Dec 22. Take a warm drink out to your mail carrier.
- Dec 23. Read holiday stories to your sibling.
- Dec 24. Take cookies to the fire station to thank them for working tonight.



## HAVE FUN & BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON FROM PARK SCHOOL PTA

Ms. Keys-PTA President email shalanthakeys@gmail.com

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT 148**

Park Elementary School 14200 Wentworth Avenue Phone: (708) 849-9440 FAX: (708) 201-2144 **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. district 148.net



# DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Progress Reports sent home w/students	2
3	4 Gr	MOY Tades K- 6 I	ESTIN Reading		8 Noon Dismissal due to School Im- provement day Dress down \$1, chips, cheese, &	9
10	11	12	13	14	juice .50 each	16
17	18	19 Park School Winter Festival for students only during the day Board of Ed Mtg. 6pm	20 Winter Band &Choir Concert (Beginners) 7pm @ ECC Harriet Tubman School	21 Park School's Winter Concert 9:45 am All are welcome! Winter Band & Choir Concert (Advance) 7pm @ ECC Harriet Tubman	22	23
31	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28 Capy	1000s	30