



# PARK SCHOOL PRESS

WE Are The Park Panthers

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

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

As we prepare to end this school year, please join me in thanking our staff and the PTA for the help and support they have provided to our students and school. We truly appreciate their support.

I would also like to thank our families for your cooperation this school year. It has been a great school year! The students have worked hard and have done a good job arriving to school on time, in uniforms, and ready to learn.

This school year was filled with so much educational fun, growth and empowerment. We learned a lot through Flying Classrooms and other school curriculums. The weapons detectors were new and everyone made the adjustments while feeling safe. More importantly we created a powerful staff who supported homogenous grouping to boost our teaching efforts. I am so proud of all stakeholders and this work takes a team effort.

Our last day of school is Wednesday, May 29, 2024 and it is a full day of school. Report cards will be sent home with the students. There is a waiting list for the Summer Learning Academy so please call us immediately if you want your child to be added to the waiting list.



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

### Special Events, Important Dates to Remember:

- May 1st Principals Day
- May 2nd Fine Arts Festival @ ECC
- May 6-10 Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
- May 9 Band & Choir Awards Night 6pm @ Lincoln
- May 17 SIP Day Students are dismissed at Noon
- May 22 8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduations
- May 24 Kinder. celebration 9:30 am  
6th grade celebration 1:00pm
- WJH 10am / RLH 12pm / L JH 2pm
- May 27 No School due to Memorial Day
- May 28 Board of Education Mtg. 6pm
- May 29 Last day of school for student  
4th qtr. report cards will be sent home with students

June 10—July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Summer Learning Academy  
8:30am-12:30pm

and

The Physical Education Camp

P.T. A. Sponsored Sneaker Ball of 2024  
*The Crowned Queen: Sequoia S. & King: Julian B.*



**Tom Kress** motivational speaker presents his program entitled “Your Power Project” to our Park Panther students. Concepts that were discussed were:

- Knowing what an uncomfortable touch is
- Knowing you have the power to say “Stop” and “No”
- Identifying their own personal hero
- Keep No Secrets
- It’s not the child’s fault if someone touches him or her





# Have a Safe and Happy Summer

## *Social Worker Corner*

Hello Park families, I am excited to announce that Spring is here, and Summer is near!!! Please be sure to send your students to school. Attendance at the end of the school year is crucial when it comes to grades, learning, and finishing out the year strong!

Self Care Tip: Now that the weather is changing, and the sun is shining more, get out and enjoy the fresh air. Did you know fresh air and sunlight can relieve stress and anxiety? Give it a try.

Ms. Jasmen Paul, MSW, LSW, PEL  
District 148 - Park Elementary School  
Phone: (708) 849-9440 x 2277



Ms. Paul  
PaulJ@district148.net



## Kindergarten

Congratulations! We are in the last quarter of kindergarten!

In Reading and Language Arts, our young learners are segmenting words with three and four sounds and incorporating them into their writing. They are blending sounds to read unfamiliar words and recalling our sight words. They are learning vocabulary words from our stories and retelling familiar stories. Please continue to support us by reading with your child daily for at least twenty minutes. Our goal is to promote and increase reading fluency in the students.

In Writing, we are continuing practice with writing sight words, creating rhyming words, and forming simple sentences. We are looking at beginning, middle, and ending sounds to help us write out words. We are also focusing on sequencing without stories and daily activities.

In Math, our scholars are doing a wonderful job counting to 100, writing numbers to 20, adding and subtracting numbers within 10, and counting by 5s and 10s.

Remember to check ClassDojo daily for announcements and assignments. We should have a finalized date for the Kindergarten celebration soon! Again, we are accepting donations!!

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



Mrs. Guyton [shawg@district148.net](mailto:shawg@district148.net)



Mrs. Johnson [johnsonk@district148.net](mailto:johnsonk@district148.net)

## 1st Grade News

Greetings Parents and Guardians!

Can you believe the end of this school year is here? May 29, our last day of school, is quickly approaching! We are going to complete this year solidifying the first grade math and reading concepts, and the students will be introduced to second grade reading and math skills. We will also be doing many STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) activities as well.

Over the summer, we ask that you read with your child daily. Reading daily with your child will enhance his or her reading skills, which will help prepare them for second grade. They should read a story repeatedly as reading a story repeatedly aids with building fluency (reading smoothly and with expression). Visits to the local library would be great! Additionally, asking your child questions throughout the story builds comprehension.

Lastly, your child should practice addition and subtraction facts to attain automaticity. They should also begin learning multiplication facts in preparation for second grade. We would like to express our appreciation for all of your support in making this school year a productive one for your child!

The First Grade Team,  
Ms. Moyenda and Ms. Huff



Ms. Moyenda [moyendad@district148.net](mailto:moyendad@district148.net)



Ms. Huff [hufft@district148.net](mailto:hufft@district148.net)



## 2nd Grade News

*Happy Spring Parents and Guardians!*

*We are down to the final quarter of the school year! Our scholars are one step closer to being third graders. Here's what our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade scholars will be learning for the last month of school:*

**Magnetic Reading** - *We are learning about diphthongs and 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 sound & meaning in stories, rhythm and meaning in poems and songs, and explaining how images support text 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 ending the year by researching, exploring, and creating a variety of STEAM activities and projects.*

*Thank you for your continued partnership in helping the scholars succeed! Practice reading, writing, and math skills daily over the summer to help your scholar retain it for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Have a wonderful summer!!!*



#district148

*With Care, Miss Watson & Ms. Buckley*

Miss Watson [watsond@district148.net](mailto:watsond@district148.net)



Ms. Buckley [buckleyt@district148.net](mailto:buckleyt@district148.net)

## 3rd Grade News

Spring is here Third Grade parents. Our students are working hard, and Mrs. Robinson and I are putting forth 100% 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 concerns that you have shown thus far. If you were not able to attend, please feel free to contact Mrs. Robinson or myself so that you can schedule a meeting about the report card.

During I-Ready Reading, we are focusing on skills that your student will need moving forward into fourth grade. Can you believe it! Your student will be moving on to the fourth grade. We are very proud of their efforts in reading. They have been reading books and writing book reports. Awesome job third grade!

In Math, our focus is on multiplication and division. We are also working on other skills that will be beneficial for your student moving forward in fourth grade. Please continue to practice those multiplication facts at home to help with fluency. We are working on word problems as well. An at home connection that your student would benefit from is using manipulatives to demonstrate these skills like dry beans or small pieces of uncooked pasta. The End of Year Assessment was also completed and the results will be sent home soon.

In Science, we are finishing up with Flying Classroom. The students have had a great time exploring and building this year. We will be exploring some spring topics as the year comes to a close.

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.

Mrs. Gatherright & Mrs. Robinson  
Third Grade Team

Mrs. Robinson  
[robinsonm@district148.net](mailto:robinsonm@district148.net)

Mrs. Gatherright  
[gatherrightg@district148.net](mailto:gatherrightg@district148.net)



## 4th Grade News

The school year is quickly ending. While we are excited that summer is approaching, we will miss seeing our 4th grade students every day. We are extremely grateful to have such an amazing group of students this year. Our students have worked very hard and have grown leaps and bounds over this past school year. We are extremely proud of the hard work they have shown. Parents, thank you so much for your hard work as well. We know that this has been a very busy year, and we thank you so much for your continued support. We feel so fortunate to have gotten the opportunity to work with you all. Please make sure that your child continues to read throughout the summer and continue to practice their math facts. Students will be able to access I-Ready Math and Reading for extra practice. This will help them keep their skills sharp while they are out for the summer. Also, please take advantage of the free online digital support websites that exist on Clever to help your child review skills consistently. Academically aside, we encourage you to have an enjoyable and restful summer. We hope you can find some time to have fun with your child as well as spend several days resting with your loved ones. Remember to cherish the small moments with your child. Enjoy them when they happen as they will overpower the tough times. Take time each day to reflect on a moment with your child. Then, go off and create more. Have an awesome summer, and we will see you all in the fall!

**Irs. Smith**  
[smithre@district148.net](mailto:smithre@district148.net)



**Irs. McPherson**  
[McPhersonC@district148.net](mailto:McPhersonC@district148.net)



## 5th Grade

We have made it to the final month of the 2023-24 School Year! We would like to thank all of our students, parents, and guardians for their support and patience through this triumphant year! We could not be prouder of the successes of our Adventurous 5<sup>th</sup> grade powerhouses.

Students have grown academically in math and reading. The scholars stepped up to the challenge in math by conquering lessons in conversions, fractions, exponents, and other numerical skills. We will continue working and evaluating word problems and algebraic expressions. We have discussed strategies to help decode and analyze text features, authors' purpose, and story elements. Please allow time for your scholar to continue to read daily and take the AR test to strengthen comprehension and inferencing skills.

Students took the end of the year math and reading diagnostics, which resets the scholars' learning path for the next school year. Students will have access to their learning paths this summer and are encouraged to login and practice skills.

We hope everyone has a safe, restful, and prosperous summer break! Be ready to work again in August.



**Mr. Gant**, [gantp@district148.net](mailto:gantp@district148.net)

**Dr. Merriweather**, [merriweatherd@district148.net](mailto:merriweatherd@district148.net)



## 6th grade News

**Reading:** Book/Movie Project: Students will read a novel and watch a movie as they compare how each appealed to their senses. Students will write an essay or create a video/TikTok comparing and contrasting the book/movie versions.

**Oratory Skills:** poetry, speech, dialogue, rap. Students will practice oratory skills by reciting poetry and speeches, participating in readers' theater, and improving personal reading fluency. Culminating activity: Students will recite a poem or speech or participate in a Readers' Theater skit.

**Math:** Trunk Day: Students will design a "dream" dorm room using a given budget.

**Project:** Plan a Party/Dinner/Outing. Students will use math skills and the engineering process to create a plan for a party, a dinner, or an outing. Given a budget, learners will have to either plan a party for 20 people or create a plan for a family/group of 4 who goes to a destination of the students' choice.

**SEL/Social Studies:** Students will learn about Cinco de Mayo and Memorial Day. Students' social-emotional learning will relate to self-management, conflict resolution & compromise, honesty & integrity, daily mindfulness, empathy and compassion, and what is self-harm.

**Science:** Earth Day: Call to Action. Students will research environmental issues related to Earth Day and find a cause they deem worthy of support. Students will write a letter or create a TikTok video that acts as a "call to action" for this cause. Students will recycle or provide for the reuse of one of their possessions, either by donating it or repurposing it.

**Engineering/Design:** Students will participate in a series of activities involving the engineering/design process.

**Writing:** The above projects will result in different writing challenges for our students.

Students will also be 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/](https://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 [lovejoyp@district148.net](mailto:lovejoyp@district148.net)



Ms. Merritt [merrittj@district148.net](mailto:merrittj@district148.net)







It's hard to believe an entire school year is almost ending. There are only 20 school days left. Even though the end is near and i-Ready Diagnostics have been done, learning continues and mastery of the IEP objectives remains a priority.

The weather feels more like Spring, and for many of us this means the motivation and focus has shifted to being outside. Learning and positive behavior choices remains a priority at Park School. Please continue to encourage your child to focus on their work, participate during instruction, and complete the classwork and homework. Many teachers are beginning to expose students to concepts they will learn in the next grade level.

Please continue reading and practicing math facts over the summer. Have your child keep a journal about their summer experiences and summarize books they read. Here's a great website to practice math facts: <https://www.factmonster.com/math/flashcards>

It has been a pleasure working with your child and having you included in the SPED Team this year. Continue reading and doing math facts over the summer!!!

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

Ms. Huff / [huffk@district148.net](mailto:huffk@district148.net)

Mr. Pandey / [pandyp@district148.net](mailto:pandyp@district148.net)



## The Physical Education Department

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Parents, the students have done a tremendous job this school year with their dedication and effort. We have truly enjoyed watching the progress that the students have made on their quest to enhance their physical fitness not only physically but mentally as well.

Some of our scholars have approached me with questions pertaining to exercises and workouts that they can perform during the summer months to stay on their quest for physical fitness. We have recommended some fun-filled activities and exercises that require minimal space and can be performed with family members, friends, and individually. I personally salute our scholars on a job well done and look forward to providing that support and direction as they continue their journey for total success!

Mr. Watkins — watkinso@district148.net



## Art Part

Greetings from the Art Room,

Kindergarten just began using clay and will continue to use other sculpture materials.

First grade is finishing their dinosaur landscapes and will also soon be working with clay.

Second grade also used clay to make faces and paint them. They will also work with different sculpture materials

Third grade is putting the final touches on their 3D birdhouses. Clay will also be their next endeavor.

Fourth grade just finished their landform landscapes. 3D projects will be upcoming.

Fifth grade is almost done with their portraits. Clay names will be their next lesson.

Sixth grade is nearing completion of their graffiti names. The classes will create clay people next.

It has been an honor and privilege being the Art Teacher this year and watching the young artists develop their crafts.

I wish everyone a happy and safe summer. See you in August!



Sincerely,  
Mr. Jordan  
Art Teacher  
Park Elementary School

The weather is getting warmer and the school year is winding down. Summer break will soon be upon us! Remember, learning can still continue at home throughout the summer. The best way we can teach summer learning is by modeling reading, showing enthusiasm and a love for learning, experiencing new things together, and having healthy habits. Here are some tips for this summer to make learning fun:

**Have a scavenger hunt with words and letters.** Words and letters are all around us, even outside! If your kids are learning to read, have a scavenger hunt for letters on street signs. Navigate directions, like east and west, without the use of online maps by reading street signs.

**Turn to nature.** A pile of rocks or a handful of wildflowers are common sights to find outdoors and can be exciting tools for learning letters without a screen. Make a word with things you find in nature then ask your child to identify the letters and make the word again themselves. Then, see how many letters of the alphabet you can create together with the things you find outdoors.

**Create and run a grocery store.** Instead of throwing out empty cereal boxes or canned goods, recycle and give them to your children to create and run their own grocery store. Saving your grocery receipts can be a fun way to include math by having the children add up how much they can spend. Give them an imaginary budget, and see how far they can make their money stretch.

**Get kids into the kitchen.** Invite your kids to read through a cookbook, find a recipe, and write or draw a grocery list of ingredients. As they shop with you, try pointing out healthy snacks by picking fresh fruits and vegetables for the week. When cooking, you can let them read the recipe to you, follow the directions, and measure ingredients.

**Write a letter.** The pandemic has kept us from visiting and seeing our loved ones in person over the last year. Writing letters to connect with friends and family is a great way to practice writing skills as well as stretch their creativity and imagination.

**Get creative with music and the arts.** Research shows music can speed up brain development in young children, helping them develop language and reading skills. If they are not interested in music, drawing, dancing, or writing plays are also great ways to get in tune with their creative side.

**Be physically active.** Physical activity is not only good for our bodies but for our minds. Children who are physically active have better grades, focus, and behavior. Luckily, exercising doesn't have to be expensive or boring. Grab some chalk to play hopscotch, have a relay race, or play on the jungle gym. It's a great way to keep kids' bodies and minds moving during the summer.

**Experiment with science.** Sometimes we think science is too complicated, but parents can have science time at home too. It can be as simple as watching ice melt, watching grass grow, taking daily pictures of a plant or a flower and then being able to see it grow, playing with magnets, or collecting leaves or rocks.

**Do a good deed.** Have your children help a neighbor by offering to cut their grass, organize a clean-up project at your neighborhood park, or set aside some of their allowance money or a toy for charity. This will help them feel good and teach them valuable life lessons to cherish forever.

**Don't forget sleep.** During the summer, parents often allow children to go to bed later. That is okay from time to time, but sleep is critical all year round. It's very important to maintain a regular bedtime routine, even during the summer, to encourage healthy habits and good sleeping patterns.



Ms. Brush, MTSS Facilitatory

Brushl@district148.net

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## How to Help Your Child Focus on School and Avoid Spring Fever

The school year might be winding down, but this is one of the most challenging times of the year when it comes to student attendance and focus. The beginning of good weather, plus the stress of intensive winter studies and activities, all combine to produce a sort of "spring fever" that hits kids of every age, making them restless and inattentive. This is also the time of year when attendance numbers plummet, starting from April and worsening through June. Studies show that after the April testing season there's typically a 5.8 percentage drop in attendance not only for high school students but for students of all ages.

## What Parents Can Do to Help

For parents this can be a frustrating time of the year. You're sympathetic about your child's restlessness but also concerned about keeping grades up, especially when it's time for final exams.

The good news is that with a bit of extra attention and creative thinking, you can be proactive in helping your child during these difficult last weeks of school. Here are a few tips which can easily be implemented into your daily routine. To help your child stay motivated and focused until the bell rings for summer vacation.

1. Give your kids plenty of time out doors
2. Make sure your kids get plenty of sleep
3. De-clutter work/study space

With your help, your child will have the satisfaction of seeing just how rewarding it is to finish the school year on top, and you'll both be ready for the summer season.

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."



## C.A.R.E. News

We have made it to the final month of the 2023-24 School Year! We would like to thank all of our students, parents, and guardians for their support and patience through this difficult year!

Students will be able to continue working on their learning paths over the summer, which will help them to retain skills they have learned. They have already taken an end of the year reading and math diagnostic to show what they have learned, and this will reset their learning paths.

Please have your child read over summer break for practice and to gain more background knowledge.

**Enjoy the warm weather and get rejuvenated for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.**

We hope everyone has a safe and restful summer break. Be ready to work again in August!

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



Greetings Parents and Guardians,

I can't believe the last month of school is here. Before the school year ends there is still some music instruction for students to learn for the month of May. Students in all grade levels started out learning about beat and rhythm and how to demonstrate their knowledge of the difference between the two. For the month of May students will learn about a Staff, Treble Clef, and Bass Clef and about their purpose. Students will learn the proper names for loud and soft music. They will also demonstrate their knowledge of when to use the letter "f" in music and when to use the letter "p".

Students will learn about the different notes in music and how to demonstrate each note using various instruments. Students will learn about the different notes on a Staff and how to recognize any note when shown on a Staff. Students will continue to explore different instruments and where they fit into the world of music.

Skills and concepts will vary according to students' grade level. Thank you for your continued support.

Please contact me at [flowerss@district148.net](mailto:flowerss@district148.net) with any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Ms. Flowers

[Flowerss@district148.net](mailto:Flowerss@district148.net)

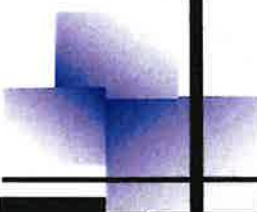


**SCHOOL DISTRICT 148**

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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](http://www.district148.net)



# MAY 2024

**May 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> is Teacher & Staff Appreciations Week**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Principals' Day	2	3	4
	6	7	8	9 Band & Choir Awards Night 6pm @ Lincoln	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 SIP Day Noon dismissal	18
19	20	21	22 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduations WJH 10:am RLH 12:00pm LJH 2:00pm	23	24 Celebrations Kindergartens- 9:30am 6 <sup>th</sup> Grades -1:00pm	25
26	27 No School 	28 Board of Education Mtg. 6pm	29 Last Day of School 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Report Cards sent home w/students	30	31 <b>Summer Learning Academy</b>  June 10—July 2 <sup>nd</sup>  8:30am-12:30pm	