

THE
Black & Gold Unfold
-Home of the Panthers-



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Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

January 2024



District News

Correspondent: Brynlea Houser



In Loving Memory of Andrew "A.J." Taylor

We will all miss A.J.'s humor, his personality, and his friendliness towards others. He played an active role as one of the high school correspondents for the Black & Gold Unfold, as well as helping with the video announcements every morning.

Forever missed; never forgotten.

*Anna Bell, Caiden Berry, Hayden Castleman,
Brynlea Houser, Emma Prichard, Alexavier Samples,
and Leah Etgen*



Mobile Dentist

The Smile Programs Mobile Dentists came to Parkway on Monday, January 1. When the mobile program dentists arrived, a mini dental clinic was set up and twenty-eight students were seen for teeth cleanings and teeth sealing. The mobile dentists also have the ability to do x-rays, fluoride treatments, fillings, and other basic care that the children may need. The mobile team consisted of licensed, local professionals. With more than 25 years of partnering with schools, we can be sure to count on these dentists! The Smile program dentists are looking forward to returning next year.

Smile Programs
...the mobile dentists





High School News

Correspondent: Xavier Samples



Artist Spotlight

Throughout this school year so far, Mr. Kuhn's art classes have been working diligently on a variety of art pieces. For example, in advanced ceramics, students have made teapots, sculptures, dishes, along with various additional projects. Senior, Casey Popp has done an exceptional job at all of these projects.

Mr. Kuhn describes Casey as "attentive, creative, and self-motivated" in the classroom. Casey shared that her favorite project she has done so far this year is her pumpkin teapot. She is currently working on an intricate clay sculpture that consists of three pigs and a chicken on top of a hay bale. This sculpture she has now worked on for five weeks, while the teapot took her just about two weeks to complete. Casey's reasoning for enjoying art is because she gets to express her ideas and creativity in her projects, along with having fun all at the same time. Congratulations to Casey on her great work!



Casey Popp with her pumpkin teapot.

Explorations Flower Sale

Parkway's Explorations Club is hosting their annual flower sale from January 29 - February 19. The proceeds will go towards student fees for the trip to Costa Rica in 2025. If possible, consider splitting up flower orders between multiple students please. For any questions or for the list of students who are selling, contact Shannon Painter-Carpenter through email at paintes@parkwayschools.org.

Scholarship Opportunities

Attention all Seniors and parents: Right now is scholarship season, meaning there are many scholarship opportunities available. Information on these scholarships can be located outside of Mrs. Ontrop's room on her bulletin board or within her Google Classroom. In total, there will be about 40 local scholarships and 80 area scholarships handed out to this year's seniors, which tallies over \$48,000 in total scholarships. Take advantage of these opportunities!

Biology Lessons

Mrs. Morton's Biology classes have been learning about molecular genetics. The students have begun applying their knowledge of genetics through a gel electrophoresis lab. Gel electrophoresis compares DNA strands by sending electrical currents through gel in order to see how far the DNA will go. This lab can often be seen in crime shows in attempt to match DNA.



Students analyzing and discussing their gel electrophoresis lab.

Upcoming Events

February 12 - Freshman Orientation
March 1 - Priority deadline to apply to Vantage
March 5 - All Juniors take the ACT



Middle School News

Correspondent: Brynlea Houser



Most Valuable Panthers

The 5th grade MVP for December is **Kendall Rasberry**. Kendall is the daughter of Eric and Kristin Rasberry. She is a hard working, quiet student who keeps to herself. She demonstrates a good work ethic by having her work done in a timely manner, being focused at the appropriate time, and not causing drama. Kendall is a positive role model for her peers. This is why Kendall deserves being Student of the Month.

The 6th grade MVP for December is **Frank Houser**. Frank is the son of Joseph Houser and Amanda Brown. Throughout the first semester, Frank has consistently been a positive student to have in class. He always comes to class prepared with needed materials and completed homework. Frank participates in class discussions, has a great personality, and gets along well with all of his classmates!

The 7th grade team selects **Stella Sinning** for the December MVP. Stella is the daughter of Nathan and Melissa Sinning. Stella is a very responsible, polite, and kind girl. She works hard and completes her work on time. She is willing to work with anyone and rises above the daily drama. Stella is respectful to all the people around her and leads by example.

Caleb Poe is the 8th grade MVP for the month. Caleb is the son of Adam and Emily Poe. Caleb consistently puts forth his best effort in each class. He had solid academic progress despite challenging content. Caleb also maintained a 100% DOJO mark for the month. Congratulations Caleb!



L to R: Kendall Rasberry, Frank Houser, Stella Sinning, Caleb Poe

8th Grade Orientation

The Eighth Grade Orientation is scheduled for Monday, February 12 beginning at 6:30 PM in the auditorium. The purpose of the orientation is to help prepare eighth graders and parents to transition smoothly into high school. Students and parents will learn about the requirements for graduation, important Seals for graduation, as well as important information they need to know to succeed as a Freshman. It is highly recommended that all eighth graders and their parents attend, as this is an excellent opportunity to learn and ask questions about high school.



Elementary News

Correspondent: Emma Prichard



MAP Testing

MAP Growth measures what a student knows and how they are growing academically. This testing method allows teachers to track a student's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years. MAP Growth also provides teachers and families with the ability to understand how the student's performance compares to his or her peers. MAP Growth is a computer adaptive test—which means every student gets a unique set of test questions based on their responses to previous questions. The purpose of MAP Growth is to determine what the student knows and is ready to learn next. As the student answers correctly, questions get harder. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions get easier. By the end of the test, students will have answered enough questions to inform a teacher about what they know and what they are ready to learn. Parkway Local Schools administers MAP Growth and Fluency three times per year – in the fall, winter, and spring.

New Interim Principal

Dr. Ken Schmiesing is serving as the Interim Elementary Principle. Dr. Ken, as he likes to be called, recently retired as the Celina City Schools superintendent. Dr. Schmiesing has previously served as an elementary school principal for over 12 years during his 36 years of education experience. Dr. Schmiesing is a Cleveland Browns, Cincinnati Reds, University of Dayton Flyers fan, and now, a Parkway Panthers fan. He grew up in Minster and has been married to his wife, Kathy, for almost 42 years. We welcome Dr. Ken to Parkway Schools.



Helping Hands

The Elementary participated in Helping Hands. Helping Hands manages with the support of volunteers and donations from individuals throughout the community. The second grade collected toys for Helping Hands. The third and fourth grade donated canned food items.



PBIS Reward

Elementary students who earned a 94% or higher for **Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports** on Class Dojo enjoyed a morning-long activity where they traveled from grade level to grade level to participate in fun activities. Pre-school provided a train ride for everyone, where Mrs. Hay dressed like a conductor. The Kindergarten level decorated cookies in the cafeteria. First grade played a *Roll a Christmas Tree* game, and the 2nd grade had relay races in the gym. The 3rd grade played Christmas Bingo, where the winners received a candy cane. The 4th grade hosted a sing and dance along to Christmas songs in the music room. Congratulations to all students for their positive behavior!

Please go to Parkway's Homepage, under Newsletter for more information and pictures.