

PARSONS MIDDLE SCHOOL

February, 2007

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Dear Parent

I was asked recently if we have a bullying problem at Parsons Middle School. The answer is "Yes." Bullying is a middle school problem. If anyone can find a middle school where bullying does not exist, please contact me; I want to send my kids to that school. Awareness is nothing without action. At Parsons Middle School, we take bullying very serious, and act accordingly when we encounter it.

The first week of school we had an orientation assembly in the auditorium where I specifically addressed the issue. Students were informed the policy is zero tolerance! The topic is also addressed in Advisor Base, as well as Classroom Guidance with the counselor. Unfortunately, there are some students who do not hear us. We will always take matters seriously, and assign severe consequences for bullies. However, I also realize the problem will persist.

It is therefore necessary to take proactive measures as well. This semester we have a few extra things lined up to help combat this problem. Speech and Drama students will perform skits for the entire student body portraying different types of bullying. Students will then be asked to sign a contract to not engage in any bullying activity. Finally on March 1, Buffy Coleman, former Harlem Wizard will bring a basketball show that attempts to inspire youth to refrain from drugs, violence, and bullying.

We all know that the adolescent years are difficult. Please talk to your kids about bullying. We will be much more effective working together. Your cooperation will be appreciated by many.

Sincerely

Terry Smith
Principal



Lancer News

KIWANIS B.U.G.

The B.U.G. (Bring Up Your Grades) Award Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at the Parsonian Hotel at noon. The following students will be honored at that time:

*Isaac Virtue
Angeliah Stover
Treven Magner
Serena Shaw
Heather Knight*

The January BUG winners were *Kiersten Whipps, Samantha Donham, Syvauna Mitchell, James Carson, and Billy Ford*. Their luncheon was held on January 10, 2007.

SEVENTH GRADE EAGLES

The following students will be honored at a luncheon on Thursday, February 15 at the Parsonian Hotel at 12:00 Noon:

Sawyer Woodworth & Kevin Merz

The January Rotary Eagle recipients were *Sarah Ong and Parker Robertson*. Their luncheon was held on January 18.

EIGHTH GRADE OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The following students will be honored at a luncheon on Tuesday, February 6 at the Sirloin Stockade at 12:00 Noon:

Ryan Henry & Amanda Bolinger

The January Lions' students of the Month recipients were *Anthony Fix and Lindsay Ong*. Their luncheon was held on January 9.

FIT OF THE FITTEST

Congratulations to the following students who scored at the Exemplary Level on all of the fitness tests - sit-ups, push-ups, mile run, and flexibility: Dakota McCuiston, Bailey Foster, Tyler Beardmore, Quinton Kelly-Sparks, Samantha Donham, Tyler Clingan, and Logan Shelton. Also, congratulations to Parker Robertson who scored exemplary on 4 fitness tests - sit-ups, mile run, push-ups, and flexibility. These students have set a good example of living a healthy, active life and have worked hard to achieve this high level of fitness.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

For school cancellations, announcements will be made on:

KLKC FM Radio - 93.5
KLKC AM Radio - 1540
KOAM TV, Pittsburg
KODE TV, Joplin
KKOW AM Radio - 860
KSN TV, Joplin

Parent/Teacher Conferences March 6th & 8th

The Middle School will be holding conferences in March. The dates and times will be Tuesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 8 from 4:00- 7:30 p.m. Students will attend school all day on both of these days. Conferences are often the best way for you to get a clear picture of your child's academic and social progress. They also help teachers better understand how to reach and teach your child.

We have restructured our conferences so that you will meet with your child's Advisor Base teacher initially to receive their 3rd quarter grade card and discuss their progress. If you are satisfied with the information you have received from the Advisor Base teacher, then your conference is complete. If, however, you have additional questions or concerns, you are

able to sign up with additional teachers at the conclusion of your conference by signing up for any available time slot on the sheet posted outside each teacher's door.

You will be receiving more information regarding Parent/Teacher Conferences, including the date and time of your prescheduled conference. Please call us at 421-4190 if you have any questions or need to reschedule. We look forward to seeing you!

Failing is Not an Option!

Our Middle School staff works as hard as they can to ensure that students are learning. We ask that you help us by insisting that your child studies hard at school and seeks out assistance from you or from us if they are struggling with their lessons. It is imperative that we work together for your child's success. We have an after school program available for students who need additional assistance with their subject matter. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Internet Chatting is Becoming More Common in our Society!

Since so many homes now have access to the internet, many children and adults are using this tool to assist them in research and in other ways. I have had several parents report in the past two or three years concerns they have with their children chatting to friends through different messenger boards that are available. It reminds me of the old party line telephones that were in place many years ago. The concern from these parents and others is that sometimes these chats that are taking place on the internet are more argumentative and involve gossip more than one would imagine. All of us as parents need to monitor our children as much as possible in this new technological age that is upon us.

Mrs. Correll's ELP Class

Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

Parents now have a resource to help them understand the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal education legislation and how it impacts their children and their children's schools. The new federally funded Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) is a partnership between eight regional and statewide parent advocacy, parent education, and school-based organizations. A major goal of the KPIRC is to support parents in helping their children meet the Kansas Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) standards. The KPIRC will assist parents in understanding the new legislation, inform them of their rights under the legislations, and enable parent input and voice in school policies and practices that shape their children's Title I and other educational programs covered under NCLB. The KPIRC will share resources and work with schools to assist them in communicating more effectively with parents, and provide resources, strategies, and training to parent groups to help them assist their children's learning.

Our web site, www.kpirc.org, features many parent and educational resources and links. For more information or answers to questions you may have about the No Child Left Behind legislation or the KPRIC, call 1-866-711-6711.



The month of February is International Friendship Month and the Extended Learning Students will be choosing pen pals or having friends from other countries come in and speak to the class. Through discussion and reflection, the students will develop an appreciation of friendship and the many different kinds of friends a person can have.

Banana Split Party

On Friday, January 19th some eighth grade students were rewarded with a special treat. The eighth grade team decided to recognize all students who made the A/B Honor roll in the first and second quarter of this school year. These students were invited to the community room for a Banana Split Party. Approximately 44 eighth graders enjoyed the fruits (and sweets) of their labor. Just one more simple, yet effective way to motivate our students to do well!



10 WAYS TO RAISE A READER

1. Read to your child every day. It is never too early to start--even newborns respond to hearing you read.
2. Continue reading together even after your child learns to read. Older children still enjoy listening to others read.
3. Make stories come alive for your child when you read. Be animated and use different voices.
4. Be patient--let your child read aloud at his or her own pace. Offer help only when needed.
5. Discuss what you read together. Ask questions, and listen attentively to your child's answers.
6. Make reading time special. Cuddle up in a quiet, comfortably spot. Your child will associate reading with feeling secure, relaxed and loved.
7. Encourage your child to read at least 15 minutes a day, either to you or independently.
8. Take along your child's favorite books wherever you go. Read on the bus, in line at the store, or in waiting rooms.
9. Take your child to the library often and check out a variety of age-appropriate reading material.
10. Be a role model--read on your own. By seeing how much you enjoy reading, your child will learn that it is a great source of information and fun.