

PARSONS MIDDLE SCHOOL

March, 2007

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Dear Parent,

It's that time of year again. Throughout the month of March and the beginning of April your student will be taking State Assessments in Math and Reading. You may recall, all students grades 3 through 8 are required to test in these subject matters each year. These tests are a comprehensive appraisal of the State Curriculum Standards to date.

Teachers from each grade level at PMS have set up a testing plan that will allow each student to work in a distraction free environment. Snacks, drinks, and pencils will be provided. All students need to bring is a positive attitude and effort. Our teachers have spent the entire school year preparing each individual for these tests. Our curriculum at PMS is fully aligned to these Standards. If our students will focus and try their best, they should do well. Unfortunately on occasion this is a big "If". Each year we have some students who do not give their best effort to the test. Students are aware that these tests have no bearing on their quarterly grade, so it is tempting to breeze through without concentrating. This is a risky venture for the student, as well as our school.

Enrollment and placement decisions are made on a variety of sources of data; one of those being State Assessment scores. It is possible that if a student does not try, and performs poorly on a test, they could be placed in the wrong class next year. On a larger scale, the Kansas State Department of Education will determine the accreditation of our school based solely on the performance of our students on these tests. It is vital to our school, and our community that all students do well.

Here is what you can do to help. Talk to your children. Explain to them why it is important to do their best. Make sure they are well rested. No one is at their best when they are tired. Make sure they have eaten a good breakfast. Finally, assure them they are capable of doing well. A little confidence can go a long way!

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding on this matter.

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, March 7, 2007 at the Parsonian Hotel at noon. The following students will be honored at that time:

- Cody Hall*
- Jessica Nickelson*
- Bliss Betzen*
- Kyle Aguilera*
- Jevon Lawson*

**SEVENTH GRADE
EAGLES**

The following students will be honored at a luncheon on Thursday, March 8 at the Parsonian Hotel at 12:00 Noon:

Destineelee Fuhrman & Charles Nash

**EIGHTH GRADE
OUTSTANDING
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

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

Samantha Hodgden & Damonte' Taylor



We can only hope!!

**NO SCHOOL
FRIDAY,
MARCH 2**
Teacher In-Service
**NO SCHOOL
FRIDAY,
MARCH 9**
**SPRING BREAK
WILL BE
MARCH 19
TO
MARCH 23**

**Internet Chatting is Becoming
More Common in our Society!
Part II**

A year ago I wrote about a problem that is manifesting itself in our community and other communities. We have had a couple of situations occur that resulted from students having conflicts with each other that began over the use of the chatting rooms on the Internet. Please read the following and discuss this with your child.

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.

Last month I wrote the above paragraph regarding this topic. It is apparent that individuals in communities across this country inappropriately use this means of com-

munication by saying unkind things or making veiled threats to others. I have spoken with several parents about contacting their Internet provider to stop such people from abusing this form of communication in their homes. Please be assertive in asking that your provider of these services assist you in removing anyone abusing your Internet connection. If they can't help you maybe another Internet provider can. Also let the proper law enforcement authorities know that you are having problems. They will do their best to assist us all on stopping this from occurring in our community.

Also, make sure you know whom your child is communicating with on the Internet. If someone will not reveal to your child who they are, I as a parent, would not feel comfortable with my child communicating with them unless I knew them myself.

Labette County Spelling Bee

After weeks of preparation after school, Parsons Middle School was proud to send Gabriel Nehrbass as our representative to the Labette County Spelling Bee. Gabriel is in the 6th grade and the runner up, Alyssa Stouder, an 8th grade student.

Mrs. Mason, spelling bee sponsor, took the students to Mound Valley on Thursday, Feb. 8, where Gabriel went up against thirteen other spellers from the county. It was unfortunate when the judges called Gabriel out of the bee. Mrs. Mason stepped forward and protested to the judges concerning their call on the spelled word—the audience felt he was correct in his spelling; however, the judges said that he had replaced “e” for the “v” needed in the word, ‘arrival’. As with any competition, the judges have the last word. Sorry, Gabriel, we tried. On the upside, next year is a brand new competition. Let’s look forward to the next competition and place this one in the past.

Everyone at P.M.S. congratulates Gabriel and thanks him for his willingness to put forth the time and effort needed to compete!

The Importance of Being on Time

The need for students to be on time at school is apparent. All of us know how important it is for all students to be on time each day. Just as in the adult world we rely that business, employers, and government offices have set hours and abide by them. In so doing our country has been able to develop into a great nation built on this concept of being responsible. If we are late to work others have to pick up the jobs and responsibilities that are ours. If we go to the postal office and it is not open as is posted then we are inconvenienced and perhaps cannot take care of some of the errands we had for the day. If governmental offices did not open at designated times then it would be chaotic to plan on conducting business with them and as a result havoc would occur.

If a child is late to school, not only is your child missing out on instruction that started on time in the classroom, other students are impacted. By your child coming into class late then the teacher must stop teaching those who are punctual and address the issue of marking your child present in their attendance book and must try to get your child up to speed with the lesson at hand. Consequently, the learning that was occurring prior to your child coming in late to class has now stopped in an effort to address your child's situation. If two or three or even more children arrive after your child, then the process repeats itself and learning stops for your child too. So it is important that your child is at school on time each day. We understand that there are times that you have a family situation that causes you to have your child arrive late to school just like in the work place. However, even in the work place there is policy that specifies how many times you can be late without consequences occurring to the employee.

As a middle school educator for over twenty years I know that many students depend on their parents to get them to school on time. Please make sure that your child is here on time and in so doing you are preparing them for the responsibilities that they will need to demonstrate in the workplace. We have seen fewer students tardy this year due to the efforts of all of us to teach this important concept.

TIME IS ALMOST UP!

March 8th is the last day to pre-order a memory book. The Advanced Keyboarding class has worked really hard in making this a great book. The book has been expanded to 32 pages and will have lots of pictures. Since the first ordering date has passed, the cost is now \$12. Stop by the office and purchase one before March 8.

SPRING PORTRAITS ARE COMING!!!

Parsons Middle School will be having spring portraits taken on Tuesday, March 27. They will be fun and casual portraits, which may be full-length or 2/3 body poses. Send no money at the time of pictures. Everyone's photograph will be taken. A proof will be sent home with an order form, so you can preview the pose(s) before you purchase.

*Don't forget
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
March 6 & 8
4:00 to 7:30 p.m.*

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

The month of March is Music in Our Schools Month and the Extended Learning Students will be learning an appreciation of different musical styles and an understanding of how music has influenced society. Music is a universal language that reaches not only across subjects and grade levels, but across borders! They will also study the aspects of Broadway shows using word attack skills to match descriptions with the actual titles of different Broadway shows.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In effort to accommodate family members, we have decided to move this year's Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony back to the evening. It is now scheduled for Tuesday, May 22 at 7pm. We hope that all students and parents will observe the ceremony in an appropriate manner. Students are being promoted to high school, rather than graduating from middle school. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.



*Don't forget
Daylight Savings Time
begins March 11
Set your clock ahead
1 hour*