

Parkway Prints



The Parent Kinnection (from Mrs. Kinn to you!)

As stated earlier, I am using the titles and ideas from Hal Urban's book, Life's Greatest Lessons; 20 Things I Want My Kids to Know as a springboard for my bi-monthly contributions to the Parkway community. This month's topic is "**Kind words cost little, but accomplish much**" and these are truly words by which I live, especially after just having experienced the month of February, also known as "Kindness Month".

Hal Urban relays in his book how he is an avid reader of biographies and two of his favorite people to read about are Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin. He discusses how they both learned to find the best in others, something that helped them to be so successful in life. He states that, "*Lincoln and Franklin had both discovered one of the keys to succeeding in life: affirming others. They understood the great power of the double-win principle and worked hard at helping others bring out their best. In lifting others, they lifted themselves to honored places in history.*"

Hal Urban would use an exercise with his students where he had the students sit in a semi-circle facing a single chair (the hot seat) and then had the student in the lone seat tell the rest of them "What's good about me?" Next, the others tell the person what he or she had left out and the comments could not be about looks or clothing while the person listens. Urban claims that this exercise has a very positive effect and when he asked his students for feedback, they told him the following:

- *There's a lot more good in people than there is bad.*
- *We need to get in the habit of looking for what's good in others.*
- *Building people up is more effective than tearing them down.*
- *Nothing feels better than genuine praise from others.*
- *We all need recognition and encouragement.*
- *It feels good to make someone else feel good.*
- *Affirmation brings out the best in people-everybody wins!*

Wow! Who would have thought that this simple premise to lifting others would be helpful to the person actually doing it? What does this say for us? How can we use this in our lives? How about taking some time to lift up your children at home? How about your mate? How about your friends at work, or even the cashier at Wegman's?

John Holmes says, "*There is no better exercise for our hearts than reaching down and lifting people up.*"

I suggest we all do this important exercise for our hearts!

~Donna Kinn

Important Dates to Remember

March

- 3 - PTO Ladies Night
- 5 - 4th Grade Science Night @ Lenape
- 7 - **EARLY DISMISSAL @ 1:00 pm**
Evening Conferences
- 8 - **EARLY DISMISSAL @ 1:00 pm**
Afternoon Conferences
- 9 - **School Closed** – Teacher In Service
- 11 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 12 - Kindergarten Roundup through 3/16
- 12 - PW Parade of Artists through 3/16
- 17 - HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!
- 20 - Spring Begins!
- 21 - PTO Meeting 7 p.m.
- 22 - **EARLY DISMISSAL @ 1 PM**
Teacher In Service
- 23 - Book Fair through 3/28
- 23 - 3rd Grade Field Trip
- 26 - Yearbook Sale Ends
- 25 - The Harlem Wizards Game @ Lenape
- 27 - Book Fair Family Movie Night
6:00 – 8:30 pm
Circle of Giving Bake Sale
- 30 - **SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED**

April

- 1 - **SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK**
- 9 - **SCHOOLS REOPEN**
- 10 - Flower Sale Begins
- 13 - Mother/Son
Event at Big League Dreams 7-9 pm
- 16 - **THEATER WEEK Through 4/20 (4TH GR)**
- 20 - **Theater Week Performance 7 pm**
- 25 - PTO Meeting 7 pm
- 27 - Report Cards Issued
Flower Sale Ends
- 30 - **PARCC Testing through 5/11**



Parkway School * 142 Ramblewood Parkway * Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 * (856) 235-3364 * Fax (856) 222-9758

Principal - Donna Kinn
Secretary - Linda Randazzo
Counselor - Jessica Tisa
Nurse - Joyce Borawski
Office Aide - Linda Campbell

EMERGENCY CLOSING INFO
-Local TV Stations
-Comcast Channel 19
-www.mtlaurelschools.org
-Area radio stations #659
-Emergency Notification System

Mount Laurel Schools
Central Administration (856) 235-3387
Superintendent: Mr. George Rafferty
Transportation (856) 778-6905
Supervisor: Kat Lewis
Child Study Team (856) 235-3417
Director: Dr. Diane Willard

The Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Jessica Tisa, ext. 8020

jtisa@mtlaurelschools.org



At Parkway, we always like to model kindness and stress the importance of being kind. Friendships are very important to children. We may hear children saying things like, "He's not my friend" or "She won't let me play with her." It is important that we are teaching children how to be a good friend. Children learn from watching positive friendships and interactions from their parents and siblings. All friendships have strengths and weaknesses, but it is important to teach your children how to handle them.

- 1) **Treat others the way you want to be treated.** This is something we always tell our students. We say that you don't have to like everybody, but you do have to be kind to everyone.
- 2) **Expect to be treated well yourself.** Children that watch respectful behavior at home set higher standards for themselves as to how they should be treated. They need to learn that if someone does something they don't like, it's okay to let that person know.
- 3) **Show your friends that you value them.** We often see children drawing pictures for their friends or making bracelets for their friends. Children are great at letting someone know how important they are to them.
- 4) **Be mindful of who you surround yourself with.** At Parkway, we stress the importance of picking friends that make you feel good about yourself. If there is anyone who is causing stress or drama, maybe it is best to part ways.
- 5) **You will have fall-outs.** Let children know that it is okay to have a disagreement with a friend. Every friendship goes through that. They need to be taught the skills to try to work through it. If they are constantly arguing, maybe it's not the best match.
- 6) **Forgiveness is key to strong friendships.** Children need to learn to forgive. It is what makes us a better friend.
- 7) **Let your friends in.** You should be able to trust your friends.

- 8) **Look out for your friends.** Friends stick together. The friends that stand by you when things get tough are the ones worth keeping. We want to aim to be a friend who looks out for others.
- 9) **Trust your instinct.** Sometimes we have a feeling about people. It is important to be cautious at first, but know that when you don't feel right, it probably isn't right.



Kindergarten/First Grade Roundup

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year has begun. The majority of the registration process is to be completed online. Simply fill out the forms online and then attend Kindergarten Roundup at your school to provide the required documents. Go to www.mtlaurelschools.org to register your child.

Kindergarten Roundup will be conducted from March 12 to March 16, 2018. Families with children entering Kindergarten in September of 2018 are encouraged to register during Roundup to take full advantage of orientation services. Any student who is currently attending a private kindergarten but will be coming to our first-grade classes in September should also be registered during this special week.

Kindergarten/First-Grade Roundup will be held on Monday, March 12; Tuesday, March 13; Thursday, March 15; and Friday, March 16 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Larchmont, Parkway, Springville, and Hillside Schools. Countryside School and Fleetwood School registration will be on the same days from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

An evening registration on Wednesday, March 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., has been set at all six schools for parents who cannot attend during the day.

Library News

Danielle Bieler

dbieler@mtlaurelschools.org



One School, One Book and Read Across America

One School, One Book will kick off at the end February, during Read Across America Week. On March 2nd, the 2018 book title will be revealed! Various activities will be planned to add to the fun and promote reading together as a community. Students from Lenape High School will visit Parkway to read and celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Thanks to the PTO for funding this wonderful event!



Due to recent news events, we have become sensitive to children who pretend to shoot each other. We teach our Parkway students to be kind and to respect others. Parents, please discuss this with your children and make them aware that this behavior can be very upsetting to others. Please also make your children aware that making verbal threats or visual gestures regarding shooting, may result in consequences.

Phone-damentals

All phone and wireless devices must be turned off and stored in your child's book bag, making it inaccessible to the student during school hours. Such use must not disrupt instructional programs or before/after school activities. Disruption to the teaching and learning process will result initially in confiscation of the cell phone. Further disruptions will result in disciplinary actions.

Parents, it is imperative that we are able to contact you at all times. In the event that you are unable to answer your phone, please be sure we are able to leave a message. If your mail box is full, not set up, or unable to accept messages, you may miss important information regarding your child. We appreciate your efforts in keeping lines of communication open.



PARCC Testing Info

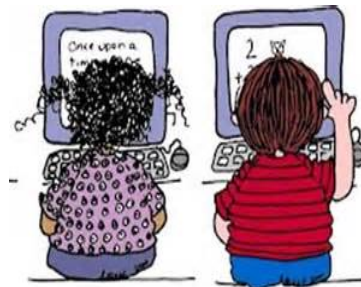
As you are aware, our mid-year Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Testing will be administered at Parkway from Monday, April 30th through Friday, May 11th. Students in grades 3 and 4 will participate in the computer-based test, which according to testing times established by the state, will last no more than 9.5 hours total, for Language Arts and Math.

Parkway teachers have been working hard to prepare our students with 21st Century Technology Skills. These skills are also necessary for our students to be successful on the PARCC tests. Students will take practice tests online, watch videos to use in their writing, and develop their computer skills.

As with any standardized test, parents play a vital role in helping their children prepare for testing days. Here are some things you can do to help prepare your child for the test:

- Ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep before each test day.
- Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast on test mornings.
- Ensure that your child arrives to school on time. Testing will begin shortly after morning announcements.
- Remain calm and positive. Our students are ready!

More information can be found on the PARCC website: <http://www.parcconline.org/>.



PARKWAY SCHOOL

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

If you are dropping your child off at school in the morning, please adhere to the following rules. These rules have been established **in conjunction with the Mount Laurel Police Department** and must be followed for the safety of the entire Parkway community.



- ⇒ Please ***obey all directional traffic signs*** that are posted in the Parkway parking lot, and ***do not park in the handicap spots*** if you do not have a handicap license plate or placard.
- ⇒ Children should be dropped off at ***the crosswalk only*** – do not pull up to the yellow painted curbs. This is hazardous and blocks the buses coming into the lot.
- ⇒ A ***single line only*** forms for dropping off our students. Please ***do not pull up along side the cars in this line***. This is extremely dangerous to our staff and students exiting cars.
- ⇒ If you need to get out of your car for some reason, you must pull into a parking space. Please ***do not get out of your car in the drop-off line for any reason***. This holds up traffic and is an inconvenience for everyone else in line.
- ⇒ When meeting a walker after school, ***please park on the street***, not in the school's parking lot. You may get out of your car and meet your child at the A-Wing door, or have your child meet you at the curb.
- ⇒ Please ***be aware of pedestrians*** walking in the parking lot – we have had many close calls when drivers are not paying attention to where they are going!
- ⇒ When dropping your child off at daycare in the morning, please ***drive slowly and cautiously*** through the parking lot since staff members are also arriving at this time.
- ⇒ Please ***be respectful and courteous to our Aides*** who are outside assisting with morning arrivals to school and ***please comply with their directions***. These hardworking staff members are doing their job and are there to help ensure the safety of all our children, parents and staff!

We thank all the many parents and guardians who are already following these rules. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in making Parkway as safe as possible.

Please pass this information onto anyone who is responsible for bringing your child to school in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation!

THE BEST WAY TO KEEP GERMS AWAY



According to the CDC, hand washing is the best way to keep germs from making you ill. It can protect you from colds and flu, and even more deadly germs like meningitis. While we can catch germs through sharing cups or spoons and from those who cough and sneeze without covering up, science has taught us that most germs enter our bodies from our hands. We unknowingly pick germs up from surfaces and by touching our eyes, nose or mouth, allow the germs to enter our bodies.

We call this area of the eyes, nose and mouth - the “T Zone”, and teach children to keep their hands out of this zone until they have been washed. Even a little itch of the eye will allow germs to begin an infection in your body. So wash your hands and follow the rules for good hand washing.

1. ALWAYS wash before eating.
2. ALWAYS wash after using the bathroom.
3. Wash after touching animals or pets.
4. Wash before and after visiting a sick person.
5. Wash after coughing or blowing your nose.
6. Wash after playing outside.

Wash using warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds, which is about the time it takes to slowly sing the ABC's. You don't need to use antibacterial soap; any soap will do.

Take special care of the area between your fingers and around your fingernails. Germs love to hide here because that is the first spot to go in your mouth when you eat. **(Check your fingernails tonight before you go to bed – if they are long and have black under them they are full of germs.)** Have someone you live with help you trim and clean them. So wash your hands and stay healthy during this year.

Parkway School Fights the Flu

All the staff and students are working hard to fight the flu at Parkway. Our staff is encouraging students to keep their hands away from their faces, to cover coughs and sneezes with their arms, and to eat a healthy diet. Our staff is also assisting students in remembering to wash their hands before eating, and extra antiseptic gel stations have been added in the cafeteria. Additionally, our custodians have been working with Mrs. Borawski to track the cases of illness, and giving classrooms a special treatment to kill germs. We'd like to extend a big thank you to parents who have been communicating to us when their children are absent, and keeping them home until they are fully recovered, as this helps to prevent the spread of these illnesses.

