**April 10, 2015**

**Yesterday I attended a collaboration meeting with representatives from East Peoria and Robein to discuss educational issues. For example, we are all in varying stages of the student growth model and we all agreed that while the Danielson evaluation system is not perfect, it is an upgrade over the old model as it helps define “excellent.” Each district expressed frustration with the PARCC assessment process and none of us feel that this year’s results will be meaningful. One of the topics brought up by my group was the great need for social emotional learning and that it is more important than ever. If a student is not in a good place emotionally, it is impossible for them to perform well academically. This is particularly true for students at Parkview where typically at sixth grade, hormones become such a factor. While this is a difficult age for everyone, many of our students struggle with issues such as poverty, the deaths of family members, abuse and neglect.**

**We are fortunate to be able to provide so many social emotion opportunities for students as this is an important part of the educational process. I appreciated Kathy Harvey’s HARTS group welcoming students back from break with a “kindness” card and a “Welcome back to Kindness” banner. Megan Rose, who is also from the Center, visits on Tuesdays and Fridays to work with 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students on the Second Step program. Sylvia Murphy, Amanda May, and Laura Burdick all do a great job working with kids. Through United Way funding, we will again be able to offer our Summer-sault program. As Dr. J Anderson says, “The best way out of poverty is through education and relationships—what better place than school for both of these?”**

**Kudos & FYI**

**Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marilyn Brown whose daughter Theresa Murray lost her battle with cancer on Tuesday. Services are tonight at the Remmert Funeral Home in East Peoria.**

**April 2nd was World Autism Awareness Day. Thanks to Sarah Beal, Joan Melissant, and Wilma Schulman for creating the Autism awareness tree and mural hanging in the cafeteria.**

**Mr. Aldridge visited with the 5th grade and presented to them about Egypt and also answered many of their questions. This is in conjunction with students reading the novel *The Egypt Game.***

**Congratulations to Jeff Kluesner and all of our science fair participants who competed at the Regional Science Fair. We received 15 first place finishes and one special award.**

**This past week students in Mrs. Wettstein’s and Ms. Beal’s class have been testing 4 different brands of Chromebook computers. Their students absolutely love using them. Technology will never take the place of great teaching but it can significantly enhance and improve instruction.**

**Next Wednesday we will conduct our 3rd round of IPI walk throughs with the purpose of measuring student engagement while working to incorporate more higher order learning activities into lessons.**

**Last night we held our sports awards. Thanks to Paul Nettles for successfully organizing all of our athletic activities. All of his hard work makes the task seem easy.**

**The student council party was fun and a big success. Thanks to Ms. Conway for volunteering, Mr. Kluesner for donating his DJ services, and for so many of you who helped chaperone.**

**We only have 29 school days until 8th grade promotion. Happy weekend!!! -Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**Tuesday, April 14: Lifetouch Spring Pictures**

**Wednesday, April 15: Collaboration Meeting 2:45-3:45: Design Team Update (WGTDD Chapter 14 Jeff Bradford, “Before making any decision or attempting to bring about any change, great teachers ask themselves one central question: What will the best people think?).**

**Wednesday, April 15: #4 Mid-Term ends**

**Wednesday, April 15: Parkview Talent Show @ 6:00**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2015—Scheduling Committee Meeting from 2:45 to 3:15 (Julie Wettstein, Stacy Starman, Nicole Clark, Courtney Thatcher, Joan Melissant, Emily Turner, Becky Barton)**

**Thursday, April 23: Scholastic Bowl home vs. South Pekin @ 3:30**

**Monday, April 27: PARCC End of Year Assessment begins**

**Tuesday, April 28: BOE Meeting @ LaSalle—6:00**

**Wednesday, April 29: Mid-terms go home**

**Wednesday, April 29: Full Teacher’s Meeting 2:45-3:15 (WGTDD Chapter 15 Paul Nettles, “Great teachers continually ask themselves who is most comfortable and who is least comfortable with each decision they make. They treat everyone as if they were good.”**

**Wednesday, April 29: PACE fundraiser night at Pizza Ranch in Morton from 5:00 to 8:00**

**Friday, May 1: 8:10—tornado drill, 2nd & 3rd hour 5th & 6th yearbook signing, 7th & 8th hour 7th & 8th grade yearbook signing. 11:00 dismissal**

**Friday, May 1: SIP Day—Lunch on your own, Student Learning Objectives, Science, TBA . . .**

**Monday, May 4: Educator Appreciation Week!**

**Monday, May 4: “May the fourth be with you”**

**Wednesday, May 6: Full teacher’s collaboration meeting from 2:45 to 3:45 (WGTDD Chapter 16 Julie Wettstein and Chapter 17 Stephanie Boyle.)**

**Thursday, May 7: Academic Awards @ 6:00**

**Tuesday, May 12: Drama Performance @ 6:00**

**Friday, May 15: 8th Grade Trip to Six Flags**

**Monday, May 18: Spring Band Concert @ 6:00**

**Thursday, May 21st: 8th grade promotion ceremony at East Peoria High School @ 6:30**

**Friday, May 22: End of the 4th Grading Period—1:35 dismissal**

**Monday, May 25: Memorial Day—no school**

**Friday, May 29th: Institute day—no school**

**Monday, June 1: Last day of school!**