**April 17, 2015**

**Student engagement is the centerpiece of learning. We don’t want students to simply be busy, but actively on task developing better understanding. I saw lots of engaged higher order learning activities at Parkview during Wednesday’s session of the IPI walk throughs. Here are a few:**

* **Several students in Mrs. Ritchie’s class asked me to read their creative writing piece as they completed re-writing the ending to Ray Bradbury’s story, “All Summer in a Day.”**
* **Mr. Bradford’s students engaged in higher order thinking group discussions as they talked about political cartoons from the 1800’s and the historical significance of each.**
* **Mrs. Barton’s class worked in groups to design their own original dance routines.**
* **Mr. Kluesner’s students utilized the lab to dissect apples. The purpose of this was to explore how pathogens on the apple skin keep the apple from turning brown.**
* **Mrs. Clark’s students created outlines for a research paper and then peer edited them.**
* **Ms. Beal’s Math class estimated the size of a box that would hold 216 gummy bears.**
* **Students for Mrs. Wettstein’s Math group measured boxes to determine the volume.**
* **Also in conjunction with Math, students in Mrs. Sponholz’s room used Legos to determine which wheel size traveled farther and then determine the reason.**
* **Ms. Conway’s class created their own original Mythological Monsters. These included their monster’s origin, personality, power and name.**

**Effectively keeping students engaged in higher order learning is not easy and it’s an ever changing process. In one class, I observed a creative writing assignment and students were not getting it. This lesson ranked as a one on the IPI scale. When I visited later, the same class, the same teacher, the same grade level, but a different group of students working on the same assignment, students were busy working and highly engaged with the original creative assignment. This ranked as a six on the IPI scale. This was the same lesson, the same approach, with different results. Great teaching is not easy so thanks to each of you for continuously working to keep students engaged.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**Spring is always a hectic time in education. This is particularly true this year with the PARCC End of Year assessment beginning April 27th. Looking ahead to next year, the scheduling committee meets Wednesday as we continuously seek ways to improve. The final round of MAP testing will be completed in May and we only have 27 more school days until the 8th grade promotion ceremony.**

**The talent show was a fun event and a good opportunity for Parkview students to showcase their skills. Thanks to Tammy Conway and student council for organizing this activity, Mr. Kluesner for hosting the show, and to Mr. Nettles, Mrs. Clark, and Mrs. Sponholz for judging.**

**Monday’s *Warrior Way* lesson focuses on remaining calm and thinking before acting. As we approach the end of the school year, it is important that we continue to teach, re-teach, and reinforce being responsible, respectful, and safe.**

**“We have to work very hard to make it look this easy.” --Geno Auriemma (UCONN Basketball)**

**“Seldom do the loudest barks come from the smartest dogs.” --Todd Whitaker**

**It is going to be 80 degrees on Saturday so I’m looking forward to mowing and opening up my pool. Thanks for all you do for the students at Parkview School and happy weekend!!! --Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**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.” WGTDD Chapter 16 Julie Wettstein, “Great teachers have empathy for students and clarity on how others see them.”)**

**Wednesday, April 29: Rising Star Meeting from 2:45-3:30—focus on next year**

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

**Friday, May 1: 8:05—tornado drill, 1st & 2nd 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. Guest speaker Jody Burris on Student Learning Objectives. Jeff Kleusner on incorporating the New Illinois Learning Science Standards. Courtney Thatcher, Josh Grys, Carrie Foster on co-teaching. Amanda May on MTSS.**

**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 17 Stephanie Boyle.”)**

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

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

**Tuesday, May 19: BOE Meeting @ 6:00**

**Thursday, May 21: Academic Awards @ 6:00**

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

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

**Tuesday, May 26th: Spring Band Concert @ 6:00**

**Wednesday, May 27th: 8th grade promotion ceremony at East Peoria High School @ 6:30**

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

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

**Tuesday, June 2: Parkview Somer-sault program begins**

**Monday, August 17: Teacher’s Institute Day**