**May 22, 2015**

**At Parkview we do everything we can to be proactive in identifying, preventing, and ultimately stopping bullying from taking place. One of the things that make this difficult is that often times there is a misunderstanding of what actually constitutes bullying and the term becomes misused. For example, frequently a general conflict between two students becomes mislabeled as bullying. Monday morning I had a student in my office who wanted to go home because she said her friend was bullying her. By the end of the day the two girls were best friends again. This was not a bullying situation. Not to mention junior high age students inevitably enjoy engaging in horseplay which sometimes gets out of hand. While this behavior is not appropriate—it is not bullying. Also when students are teasing one another, it is not bullying. I once had a parent tell me his child was being bullied by another student because a kid smiled at him. I had a parent tell me their child was bullied by a teacher when the kid received a detention for bad behavior. This is not bullying.**

**The Illinois school code and our district policy defines bullying as a *severe* or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct. If there is a question if something is bullying, we can ask ourselves did the situation: 1) Place the student in reasonable fear of harm. 2) Cause a *substantial* detrimental effect. 3) *Substantially* interfere with the student’s academic performance. 4) *Substantially* interfere with the student’s ability to participate in school activities. Bullying is an incredibly serious issue so it is important that we help students and parents understand what it is and not misuse the term.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**While watching one of our amazing ring performers at the Blue Star Circus last week, I happened to be standing next to Mr. Kluesner when he said, “I think it’s broken.” I’m thinking, “Is the ring broke?” I didn’t realize that someone was singing a solo behind the ring performer and her microphone was not working. One of the amazing things about the performance was there was so many different layers that not only made it fun to watch, but there could be a mistake and you’d never notice. It was great to see the positive publicity from the PJ Star and being on WMBD.**

**If you check out the Parkview web page, Holly Callahan has updated it with a video of the circus performance and also the new anti-bullying video created by Kathy Harvey and her HARTS group.**

**PARCC is an improvement over ISAT but my complaint has been the amount of time spent testing. Thankfully the ISBE announced this week that next year there will be just one testing session and students will take two fewer tests. This is still a lot—but it’s an improvement.**

**Ms. Starman’s, Mr. Liske’s, and Mrs. Boyle’s Encore classes created barrels out of paper and cups and had a competition to determine which one would hold the most weight.**

**I enjoyed Mrs. Clark’s students explain their *To Kill a Mockingbird Projects*. These included such activities as creating diorama’s, recreating the court room, and making related games.**

**“Perform at your best when your best is required. Your best is required each day.” --John Wooden**

**It’s awesome being in a profession that allows me to ride roller coasters all day. Our 8th graders had a great time at Six Flags and I’m going to miss them as they are promoted Wednesday. We only have four more days with students. Have a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend. –Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**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**

**Wednesday, May 27th: 5th grade field trip to Sommer Park**

**Wednesday, May 28th: 4th Grade visit Parkview**

**Wednesday, May 28th: 7th grade field trip to Wildlife Prairie Park**

**Friday, May 29th: Teacher’s Institute day. Full teacher’s meeting from 8:30 to 9:30. WGTDD Chapter 17: Stephanie Boyle “Great teachers keep standardized testing in perspective. They focus on the real issue of student learning.” WGTDD Chapter 18 Sarah Beal—“Great teachers care about their students. They understand that behaviors and beliefs are tied to emotion, and they understand the power of emotion to jump-start change.” WGTDD Chapter #19 Katie Ritchie, “Clarify your core.”**

**Friday, May 29th: Luncheon at the China Village Buffet @ 12:00**

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

**Tuesday, June 2-19: Parkview Blue Star Circus camp for 5th through 8th grade from 9:00 to 12:00**

**Monday, June 8: Parkview Office closes**

**Thursday, June 18: Parkview Blue Star Circus open house from 6:00-7:00**

**Monday, June 22-26 Parkview Blue Star Circus Camp for 4th grade from 9:00-12:00**

**Monday, July 27th: Parkview Office Opens—work in your rooms!**

**Monday, August 3 & 4: Baseball tryouts from 9:30-11:30**

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

**Wednesday, August 19: Awesome-ness begins**