**December 5, 2014**

**When I was an 8th grader in science class, one memorable activity was studying land formations in Illinois. We researched how glaciers formed hills and valleys throughout the area and how erosion continuously reshaped Illinois Rivers. We took a trip to the Mackinaw River where we explored and mapped our findings. It has been almost 30 years later and I remember this activity vividly.**

**While there were other interesting projects in this class, the other thing I mainly remember is all the notes. The teacher would put them on an over-head projector for us to copy. While he was explaining the notes, I was mainly focused on writing them neatly enough so I could read them later. If I was able to read my sloppy hand-writing, I would attempt to memorize this information for the test. Once this was over, the notes went in the garbage and I immediately forget what I had learned. Research proves that there is little retention of knowledge in lessons taught with notes.**

**The note taking method of learning is how most of us were taught science and it is not effective. That’s why it makes sense for Illinois to adopt new science standards. Formerly known as the Next Generation Science Standards, they are now called the Illinois New Learning Standards for Science and will be implemented by the start of the 2016 school year. The emphasis behind these new standards is for students to become scientists by researching, asking questions, making discoveries, and writing about what they learned. Stacy Starman and Sarah Beal have been working with educators from East Peoria, Robein, and LaSalle to build content at each grade level. For instance, we don’t want to teach dinosaurs every single year. This discovery method of learning is not a new approach but it is certainly more effective. We have great science teachers at Parkview and I’m proud that we have been “ahead of the curve” in consistently taking a hand’s on approach.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**Speaking of memorable science experiments, Ms. Beal, Ms. Conway, and Mrs. Wettstein’s science classes enjoyed dissecting owl pellets. This process involves piecing together animal bones from owl droppings. This was a highly engaging activity that was fun and educational. Student projects are hanging across from the lounge in which they describe “How owls survive.”**

**I appreciate everyone’s participation with the “All Day Reading Day” and we want to encourage students to continue reading and taking tests. We will have class competitions again in the spring.**

**Mrs. Callahan’s students enjoy practicing their math skills against one another with Sumdog competitions. Thanks to PACE who purchased the Sumdog program.**

**Mr. Liske’s Encore students have been making posters to show-case their ability to problem solve.**

**Monday’s *Warrior Way* lesson focuses on apologizing. The holidays can be a difficult time for kids so it is a positive thing that students are excited about the Apple iPad Mini give away.**

**“Today we are shapers of the world of tomorrow.” --Walt Disney**

**Only10 more school days until Christmas Break! Thursday, December 18th, is our pot-luck/feast day and I hope all of you are able to attend the Parkview Christmas party on December 19th at 6:00. Looking, ahead, the 8th grade promotion ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at EP High School. The year is flying by quickly. Thanks for all you do and happy weekend! --Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, December 6: PACE Lunch with Santa @ LaSalle 11:00 to 1:00**

**Monday, December 8: Santa’s Secret Shop all week at Parkview**

**Monday, December 8: Positivity group meeting from 3:15-4:15**

**Wednesday, December 10: Collaboration meetings from 2:45 to 3:45: WGTDD Chapter 7 Nicole Clark “Great teachers know that they are the variable in the classroom. Good teachers consistently strive to improve and they focus on something they can control; their own performance.”**

**Thursday, December 11: Rising Star Meeting from 2:45 to 3:30**

**Monday, December 15: BBB Home vs. Tremont @ 5:00**

**Wednesday, December 17: Grade level team meetings from 2:45 to 3:15:**

**Thursday, December 18: PACE Meeting @ LaSalle 6:00**

**Thursday, December 18: Fannie May Fundraiser Machine during lunch**

**Thursday, December 18: Fest Day/Potluck Day**

**Friday, December 19: 1:35 Dismissal—Warrior Way Celebration—Last day before break!**

**Friday, December 19: Parkview Christmas Party @ 6:00**

**Monday, January 5: Back in session!**

**Wednesday, January 7: MAP Testing Begins**

**Wednesday, January 7: Collaboration Meeting 2:45-3:45 (WGTDD Chapter 8 Becky Barton, “Great teachers focus on students first, with a broad vision that keeps everything in perspective.”)**

**Friday, January 9: 1:35 Dismissal—end of the 2nd nine week grading period**

**Monday, January 12: MAP testing all week**

**Tuesday, January 13: BBB home vs. Georgetown @ 5:00**

**Wednesday, January 14: Teacher’s meeting TBA**

**Thursday, January 15: BBB home vs. Monroe @ 5:00**

**Friday, January 16: Report Cards Go Home**

**Monday, January 19: No School! Martin Luther King Day**

**Wednesday, January 21: Full teacher’s meeting 2:45-3:15 (Amanda May with BESST Web), (WGTDD Chapter 9 Emily turner, “Great teachers create a positive atmosphere in their classrooms and schools. They treat every person with respect. In particular, they understand the power of praise.”)**

**Monday, February 16: President’s Day—no school**

**Friday, February 20: PACE Chili Supper 5:00-8:00**

**Monday March 2: PARCC Performance Based Assessment begins**

**Friday, March 13: School Improvement Day—11:00 dismissal. End of the 3rd grading period**

**Friday, March 20: Report Cards go home**

**Friday, March 27: Last day before spring break**

**Tuesday, April 7: School resumes**

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

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

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

**Tuesday, May 26th: Institute day—no school**

**Wednesday, May 27th: Last day of school!**