**February 13, 2015**

**I was back at Midwest Central High School for Ayla’s youth basketball game and she pointed out my name in the trophy cabinet. While I would have liked to have been immortalized for academic or athletic glory, the only place where my name can be found is for when I received the award for “Best Actor.” Some of my best memories as a student are from my involvement with extra-curricular activities. The different activities kept me productively active and busy. The confidence I received while learning to be in the habit of working hard is still beneficial for me today.**

**Research indicates that the benefits from extra-curricular activities are far reaching and students who are involved in them are more likely to be successful both academically and social emotionally. One concerning trend that was documented in a national study featured in *Voices in Urban Education,* is that there is a greater trend in that high poverty students are less likely to be involved in activities. This is the result of the significant cost that is involved and that parents may not have the means to support their children in these activities.**

**While Parkview has a high poverty rate, I am proud of the wide variety of activities that we are able to offer students that keep them actively and positively engaged. What’s particularly good is the wide range of activities that appeal to all types of students. This week alone we have students participating with the chess team, student council, yearbook, bridge builders, basketball, volleyball, scholastic bowl, and the circus. While we work to keep students actively engaged in the classroom, these outside experiences can have just as much impact on their lives as the classroom ones.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**Good luck to Coach Meyers and Coach Barton as our 7th grade volleyball team hosts the Tazewell County Tournament tomorrow. This is an all-day activity that we host once every four years. Thanks to Paul Nettles for his detailed planning that goes into this big event.**

**As a science STEM project, students in Ms. Conway’s and Ms. Beal’s classes designed and created bridges using toothpicks and gum drops. The purpose was to see how much weight they could hold.**

**Thanks in advance to each of you volunteering to work the Chili Supper next Friday. PACE members have been at Parkview each day working for the candy bar fundraiser that benefits Parkview School. Also, thanks to Becky Kern for organizing the Scholastic Book Fair.**

**Jeff Kluesner has been asked to present at the IPA Education Leader’s Summer Conference in June on “Writing in Science to Meet Diverse Needs with the New Illinois Science Standards.”**

**I’m happy to welcome Jamie Simpson to Parkview as she fills in for Mrs. Despines in the cafeteria.**

**Tuesday’s *Warrior Way* lesson focuses on dealing with confrontation appropriately.**

**“I don’t believe in, ‘They were in the right place at the right time.’ I believe ‘They worked hard to become the right person and do the right things and this prepared them to be in the right place when the right time happened.’” --Jon Gordon**

**While February is dark and cold and we have a lot of work to with the upcoming PARCC assessment, the days are getting longer and we only have 29 school days until spring break. Happy Valentine’s Day and happy three day weekend! --Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, February 14: 7th Grade County Volleyball Tournament @ Parkview (all day)**

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

**Tuesday, February 17: Design Team Meeting @ Parkview @ 2:45**

**Tuesday, February 17: Volleyball home vs. Bartonville Grade @ 5:00**

**Tuesday, February 17: BOE meeting @ LaSalle at 6:00**

**Wednesday, February 18: Mid-terms go home**

**Wednesday, February 18: Full teacher’s meeting 2:45-3:15. *What Great Teachers Do Differently Chapter* 11 Mrs. Melissant, “Great teachers work hard to keep their relationships in good repair to avoid personal hurt and to repair any possible damage.”**

**Wednesday, February 18: 5th & 6th BBB Home vs. Washington Middle @ 5:00**

**Thursday, February 19: Teacher Induction Celebration at the District Office 3:00 to 4:30**

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

**Saturday, February 21: Tazewell County Chess Tournament @ Georgetown**

**Saturday, February 22: VB 8th Grade County Tournament @ Dee-Mack**

**Wednesday, February 25: 5th & 6th BBB Home vs. Oak Grove @ 5:00**

**Wednesday, February 25: Full teacher’s meeting 2:45-3:30 (PARCC Assessment Review).**

**Thursday, February 26: Volleyball Home vs. Peoria Heights @ 5:00 (8th grade recognition night).**

**Thursday, February 26: Scholastic Bowl home vs. Robein @ 3:30**

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

**Wednesday, March 4: Collaboration Meeting 2:45-3:45 (*WGTDD* Kathy Sponholz Chapter 12: “Great teachers have the ability to ignore trivial disturbances and the ability to respond to inappropriate behavior without escalating the situation.”**

**Thursday, March 5: Science Fair in the gym after school**

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

**Wednesday, March 18: Full teacher’s meeting 2:45-3:15 *WGTDD* Carrie Foster Ch. 13, “Great teachers have a plan and purpose for everything they do. If plans don’t work out the way they had envisioned, they reflect on what they could have done differently and adjust accordingly.”**

**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**

**Thursday, May 28th: Institute day—no school**

**Friday, May 29th: Last day of school!**