**March 6, 2015**

**This week, fifth graders were assessed on the electronic version of PARCC. Despite concerns, this was a smooth process with few glitches. I thank Holly Callahan for making sure everything was working correctly. From an administrative perspective, there is a huge upside to the electronic version. For the paper version the 7th & 8th grade begin next week, we received eight heavy boxes of testing booklets that we are required to inventory, label, and keep secure at all times. Once the process is complete, we inventory them again, and set a date for UPS to collect them. For students who receive accommodations, the paper version requires a human reader while the electronic version has a text to voice feature. The electronic version of the End of Year assessment, which begins April 27th, is designed so that eventually we will get immediate results like we do with MAP testing. Overall, testing electronically makes the entire process simpler and is an improvement.**

**As we expected, the PARCC assessment is challenging. The reading levels are two above each grade. I have heard numerous students complaining about the extended response questions. For both ELA and Math, these extended response questions are also above grade level and highly complex. While this test complexity is challenging, ultimately the increased rigor is a good thing. As all grade levels at Parkview begin PARCC next week, I feel good knowing that we have done everything possible to put our students in a position to be successful. We will continue to reinforce to students that if they give their best effort, they will succeed. Parkview students are fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring staff working with them each day.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**I am looking forward to Wednesday’s Parkview Science Fair and I want to thank Jeff Kluesner and Stacy Starman for their efforts. Last year we sent 3 different groups to state.**

**As part of their tall-tales unit, Ms. Thatcher’s and Mr. Grys’s students created diorama’s in conjunction with reading “Slow-Foot Sue.” These dioramas demonstrate the student's knowledge of important concepts such as drawing conclusions, identifying cause and effect, and setting. These are displayed in the main cabinet. I’m always looking for cool examples of student learning to display in the cabinet, so please let me know anytime you have something to show off.**

**Last week I failed to mention that Wilma Shulman also has perfect attendance. Again, thanks to each of you for making an effort to be here each and every day.**

**On Wednesday, Parkview hosted an IASB conference with over 100 attendees. Thanks to Terry Weaver and Bobby Stewart for their extra efforts in keeping Parkview looking great.**

**For Monday’s *Warrior Way,* we will review *Warrior Way* “Test taking tips.” The next *Warrior Way* celebration will be held Friday, March 27th. In conjunction with last week’s *Warrior Way* lesson, Katie Ritchie’s students read and discussed short stories related to bullying.**

**“When we listen to someone else moan and groan, it is as bad as second-hand smoke. It is second-hand complaining.” --Jon Gordon**

**Thankfully, the worst of winter is over and it is forecast to be in the 60s next week. We only have 15 more school days until spring break. Happy weekend! --Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**Upcoming Events**

**Monday, March 9: PARCC 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Assessment Begins**

**Tuesday, March 10: Grade level team meetings—(PARCC updates, students in danger of being retained, field trips, 8th grade awards, student/procedural positives/concerns)**

**Wednesday, March 11: Science Fair after School until 4:00**

**Thursday, March 12: Rising Star Meeting from 2:45-3:30—(EOY PARCC schedule, master schedule for next year)**

**Friday, March 13: ICC Band Contest @ 2:00**

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

**Tuesday, March 17: Scholastic Bowl Home vs. EP @ 3:30**

**Tuesday, March 17: BOE Meeting @ LaSalle 6:00**

**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.”**

**Thursday, March 19: PACE Meeting @ Parkview—6:00**

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

**Thursday, March 26: Student Council All School Party—5th & 6th: 4:30-6:00, 7th & 8th: 6:30-8:00**

**Friday, March 27: Warrior Way celebration TBA. Last day before spring break & 1:35 dismissal**

**Saturday, March 28: PACE Breakfast with the Bunny @ Applebee’s 8:00-10:00 am**

**Tuesday, April 7: School resumes**

**Wednesday, April 8: Collaboration Meeting 2:45-3:45 (WGTDD Chapter 14 Jeff Bradford)**

**Thursday, April 9: Talent Show Auditions @ 2:45**

**Thursday, April 9: Sports Awards @ 6:00**

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

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

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

**Friday, May 1: SIP Day—11:00 dismissal**

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

**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!**