**March 20, 2015**

**With the voice command feature on my phone, I can ask it questions about simple facts and receive the answer in a matter of seconds. As we have immediate access to facts, it is no longer what we know that is important as much as it is what we can do with the information. That was part of the focus of last Friday’s presentation by Scott Estes and Heather Bowman as they discussed asking essential questions. Meaningful education is more about higher-order thinking skills and less about teaching simple facts that you can Google. The PARCC assessment reinforces the necessity for asking students essential questions and many of you already use this process daily.**

**Jay McTighe and grant Wiggens define the 7 characteristics for asking essential questions as: 1) Open ended 2) Thought provoking and intellectually engaging 3) Higher order thinking 4) Points toward important ideas that can go across multiple disciplines. 5) Raises additional questions 6) Requires support or justification 7) Refocus over time and can be revisited. Asking essential questions to students is important and helps open doors to better understanding.**

**The time we spend with students is valuable and there never seems to be enough. That is why it is critical that we spend this time with kids on the things that have the greatest impact. Using these essential questioning skills is another tool we can use with students to improve instruction.**

**Kudos & FYI**

**Parkview suffered a sad loss last weekend as Gloria Despines passed away. Gloria was an incredibly strong and straightforward person who always demonstrated how much she cared about Parkview students. Gloria was also one of the most giving and caring people you’ll ever meet and spent many years helping in the community. Thanks to everyone for coming together with donations for Amber and her family during this difficult time. Gloria spent nine years as a cafeteria helper at Parkview and she will be missed.**

**As we conclude the PARCC Performance Based Assessment next week, it has been a smooth process. The Rising Star Team determined that we will follow a similar schedule for the End of Year test that begins April 27th. Thanks again for ensuring that each student does their best.**

**We have lots of successes to be proud of here at Parkview. Congratulations to Mr. Wanack and the Parkview Band who received 13-first place finishes at the ICC band concert last Friday. Congratulations to Mr. Kluesner and Ms. Starman who are sending 15 groups to the regional science fair at WIU. Congratulations to Ms. Barton and Ms. Myers and the 8th grade volleyball team who made it to the regional championship game at Illini Bluffs before losing to Dee-Mack.**

**There are great examples of student learning displayed all throughout Parkview. Earlier this week Mrs. Boyle’s students described for me how they blended different types of animals together to create their own and write about them. These are hanging outside her door.**

**Monday’s *Warrior Way* lesson focuses on planning ahead and we have our next celebration Friday.**

**“I am an optimist. It does not seem to be much use to be anything else.” –Winston Churchill**

**We only have 5 school days until spring break! During break I’m looking forward to reading *The Testing* series by Joelle Charbonneau. Thanks for all you do and happy weekend! --Brad**

***Student Focused—Results DRIVEN!***

***The PAST is THERE.***

***The FUTURE is HERE!***

**Upcoming Events**

**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**

**Saturday, March 28: Regional Science Fair Competition at WIU**

**Tuesday, April 7: School resumes**

**Wednesday, April 8: Collaboration Meeting 2:45-3:45 (WGTDD Chapter 14 Jeff Bradford, “Before making any decision or attempting to bring about any change, great teachers ask themselves one central question: What will the best people think?)**

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

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

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

**Wednesday, April 15: #4 Mid-Term ends**

**Wednesday, April 15: Grade level team meetings**

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

**Wednesday, April 22: #4 Mid-Terms go home**

**Wednesday, April 22: 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. They treat everyone as if they were good.”**

**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: PACE fundraiser night at Pizza Ranch in Morton from 5:00 to 8:00**

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

**Monday, May 4: Educator Appreciation Week!**

**Wednesday, May 6: Full teacher’s collaboration meeting from 2:45 to 3:45 (WGTDD Chapter 16 Julie Wettstein and Chapter 17 Stephanie Boyle.)**

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

**Monday, May 18: Spring Band Concert @ 6:00**

**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!**