

Paw Power Newsletter



February 2011

www.orgsites.com/ct/parkmanpto/

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From the Principal's Desk

Connecticut Mastery Tests begin March 2nd. Your children will have a Practice Test, which they will bring home, on Thursday, February 24th. Testing will be held Tuesday through Friday the first 3 weeks of March. Monday will be used as test make-up days, with the exception of Monday, March 14th when 5th and 6th graders will complete a math test.

It would be greatly appreciated if you made every effort to ensure that your grade 3 – 6 students are on time for school every morning as testing begins around 8:45 and goes until approximately 11:00, depending on which test is being administered. If a child comes in after testing has begun, he/she will have to wait in the office until the end of the testing period. The student will then take the test either that afternoon or on another make-up day. If you have any questions about the testing, please stop in and see me or call me at 253-6571. Parental support and encouragement is an essential part of ensuring that your child does the best that he/she can do on the CMTs.

I do want to thank all the children and parents who participated in our annual "Bring Your Parent to CMT Night" last Thursday, February 3rd. We had a wonderful turn-out and appreciated your efforts to attend on such a snowy evening. I also want to thank Mrs. Stanio, Mrs. Wadden and Mrs. Foss for sharing their expertise in language arts and math with you.

As many of you know, the parking lot is not in the best condition due to the overwhelming amount of snow we have had over the past 3 weeks. Parking spaces are at a premium. I am asking that you be patient when you are waiting to get through the parking lot. It appears that many cars are back to double parking on the gym/library side of the building. This is an accident waiting to happen. Parking in these illegal zones makes it very difficult for cars to safely drive through the parking lot. Please do not park in these areas. If no parking spaces are available we ask that you exit the parking lot onto Weymouth Road and re-enter. Your children will be safely monitored by the teachers on bus duty until you are able to safely park your car. I do appreciate those parents who are trying to abide by the rules set up for our parking lot in order to make it a safer place for all.

Finally, our One School/One Book project will kick off on Friday, February 25th with the announcement of the book title at a school assembly for the staff and students. Each family will be given a copy of the book we are going to read this year as a school community on that date along with a calendar indicating the chapters that should be read each week. Clues for the author of the book will be sent home the weeks of February 14th and 21st. A weekly trivia contest will be held when the actual reading begins. Questions taken from the assigned chapters will be given to your children. If they return the questions answered correctly, they will be entered in a weekly drawing to win a small prize. Each grade level will have a weekly winner. I hope you and your family enjoy reading the book as much as I did.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or make an appointment to see me.

Sincerely,

Maureen Sampl

<p>From Dr. Gallacher:</p> <p>At the last Board meeting the Board approved first readings of proposed changes to three policies (# 3545.1 Transportation of Students; # 5113 Attendance Policy K-12; # 5131.1 Students – Transportation Bus Conduct). Per their procedure the Board will hold final readings on the proposed changes at their next Regular Meeting scheduled for February 22 at 7:30 PM in the Kennedy Middle School Cafeteria. Please note the location change to JFK Middle School.</p> <p>My secretary is in the process of putting the proposed changes on the Board's web site (www.enfieldschools.org). However, the purpose of this e-mail is to make you aware of the intent of the proposed changes and ask that you make the parents/guardians in your school aware of them.</p> <p>Please note the basic intent of the proposed changes:</p> <p>A. All students will be required to attend their assigned school based on the child's residence (i.e. A 4th grader living in the Parkman School zone must attend Parkman School);</p> <p>B. If your day care provider also resides within the zone assigned to your child based on his/her residence your child is eligible for bus transportation to the assigned school (i.e. Parkman 4th grader goes to a day care in the Parkman School zone is eligible for bus transportation to Parkman if eligibility for bus service is met);</p>	<p>C. If your day care provider resides outside the zone assigned to your child based on his/her residence your child is NOT eligible for transportation service to the assigned school. (i.e. Parkman 4th grader goes to a day care provider in the Crandall zone then the parents are responsible for transporting their 4th grader to Parkman School);</p> <p>D. The proposed policy requires students in grades K-8 to attend the school assigned based on their residence with NO exceptions. School administrators, including the Superintendent, are prohibited from granting exceptions to attend a school outside of the child's assigned school based on the child's residence. ;</p> <p>E. Bus service eligibility for grades K-2 is 1 mile; grades 3-5 is 1 ¼ miles; grades 6-12 is 1 ½ miles.</p> <p>The Board realizes that these proposed changes will require a number of parents to seek changes to their day care arrangements. Therefore, the Board wants to ensure that parents know of the proposed changes and have the opportunity to communicate their opinions to the Board. An audience section is on the agenda for February 22. Parents can also call or e-mail the Board members.</p> <p>In an effort to assist parents seeking day care accommodation the Board, working with KITE, plans to hold a Day Care Fair in the near future.</p>
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Event Information



February 3

CMT Night

February 9

PTO Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

February 18

Snowperson Day - Wear a scarf & hat. Be like a snowman/woman.

February 25

Student Showcase - A night to view special pieces of work from our Parkman students.

March 2

PTO Meeting at 6:30 p.m. *All room parents are required to attend this month's meeting.*

March 8

6th grade committee meeting @ 6:30pm in the Parkman Library. Parents only. Updates on yearbook progress, also discussing distribution and picnic planning.

March 18

Sports Day - Celebrate March Madness with your favorite sports team attire.



From the Library

The Votes are in! Parkman's fourth, fifth and sixth graders have voted for their favorite Nutmeg book! We had 23 fourth graders, 25 fifth graders and 21 sixth graders who were eligible to vote, and the Nutmeg nominee book that received the most votes was... "The Lemonade War" by Jacqueline Davies. Now we will wait to see if the rest of Connecticut agrees with Parkman's choice as well! Which author will receive the Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award? Stay tuned to find out...

Happy Reading!
Linda Nadeau, Library Aide

Bottle & Can Collection

5th Grade Committee is still collecting bottles and cans until April vacation. So please continue to send them in until then. To arrange for a pick up call Sue Rivera at 860-741-3527.

Sixth Grade Committee

The 6th grade committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30pm in the Parkman Library. Parents only. We will be getting an update on the yearbook progress, discussing distribution, and we'll also begin the picnic planning.

Room Parents

Calling all room parents! We need you to be present at the next PTO meeting, where we will be discussing the coordination of raffle baskets for the Ice Cream Social and planning the end of the year celebration picnic. Please make every effort to be at the meeting on March 2nd.



Nurse's Notes

During the month of February, the School Nurse will be screening students in the 5th and 6th grades for Scoliosis. Scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine which sometimes becomes visible as the child grows. Fifth grade students will see a video prior to the screening explaining the procedure. If 6th grade students have had their required 6th grade physical during this school year, the screening will not be done in school. If the physical was done prior to the start of the current school year, the screening will be done by the School Nurse.

The procedure for screening is a simple one. The nurse will inspect the child's spine as he or she stands and bends forward. If a problem is suspected, the child will be re-

checked at a second screening. If further consultation is recommended, parents will be notified and will be asked to see their own physician for further evaluation.

On the day of the screening, please have girls wear or bring a 2 piece or open back bathing suit or a sports bra. They will have an opportunity to change into them if they wish rather than wearing them under their clothing. Boys should wear a t-shirt and elastic waist pants if possible. They will be asked to remove the t-shirt for the screening.

If your child is currently under treatment or being observed for a spinal problem or if you have any questions about the procedure, please call me at 253-6572.

Attached to this newsletter, you will

find a page of information about the use of aspirin & aspirin-containing products in children and teens. There is a serious disease called Reyes Syndrome which has been associated with use of aspirin during a viral illness. Please read the information about the disease and check the Reyes Syndrome website for lists of different types of products which contain aspirin or its ingredients. Please note that even common, over the counter medications such as cold medicines, Pepto-Bismol and non-medication products such as sunscreens, facial & hair care products, lotions, and other topical product can contain aspirin. More complete information can be found on the FDA website. www.reyessyndrome.org.

Sue Peterson, RN

REWARDS PROGRAMS – EASY PTO FUNDRAISING!

Ask your families, friends, and neighbors if they'll support Parkman & Parkman PTO by doing the following:



Box Tops for Education:

Look for this logo on specially marked packages. Go to www.orgsites.com/ct/parkmanpto/ and click on 'Rewards Programs' to download a Box Top collection sheet. All attached Box Tops must have a valid expiration date. Place your name and room number on the sheet and deposit it in the collection container in the Visitor's Room. **We earned \$956 this year!**



Earn 5% for our school online or in Foot Locker stores, using code **FNLT**. This code also works for 1-800-Flowers, where you will earn 8% for our school!



Target Take Charge of Education:

Enroll your REDcard with Parkman's school code (#38661) online, or by calling 1-800-316-6142, and Parkman will receive a percentage from your everyday purchases!

We have 20 cardholders signed up and we earned \$188.63 this year!



Does your employer donate to charities, offer a matching gift program, or have local schools listed as a United Way beneficiary? You may be able to raise funds for Parkman utilizing your human resource department!



Campbell's Labels for Education:

Send in the UPC codes from specially marked products and we'll earn school products! A collection container is located in the Visitor's Room. To sign up for the eLabels for Education program, go here: www.softcoin.com/Sites/Campbells_eLabels
We have 21,693 points so far this year!



mycokerewards for schools

Enter codes from Coca-cola products at www.mycokerewards.com, and then select Edgar H. Parkman Elementary School to donate points. **We have 1,280 points so far this year!**



ShopRite for Education:

All you need to do is register your ShopRite Shopping Card for Parkman in order for our school to earn much needed educational equipment. Sign up here: www.shoprte.com/educatemain.aspx



Teach kids the importance of recycling while raising money for our school. Staples will donate \$3 to our school for every ink cartridge we collect. A collection box is located in the Visitor's Room.



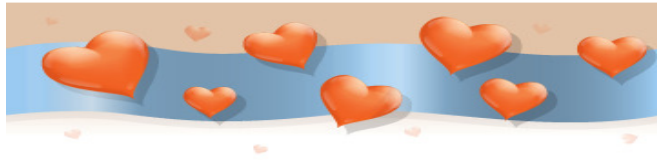
Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards:

With A+ School Rewards, points accrue with each purchase made. Sign up with our school code (#08956) here: www.stopandshop.com/aplus



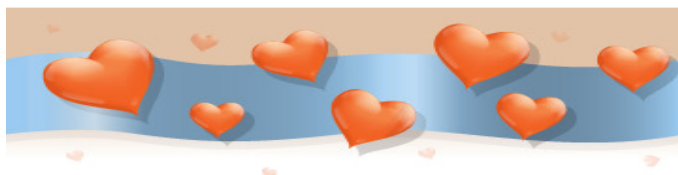
Bottle and Can Drive:

The 5th grade committee is collecting returnable bottles and cans. A collection bin is located between the front doors of the school. Call Sue Rivera (860-205-0098) if you have a large donation.



February 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Early Dismissal	16	17	18	19
20	21 No School	22 No School	23	24	25 Student Showcase	26
27	28					

March 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		





REYE'S SYNDROME

Reye's Syndrome is a very serious disease that you should know about. Some people develop Reye's Syndrome as they are getting over a viral illness, such as the flu or chicken pox. Reye's Syndrome usually affects people from infancy through young adulthood; however, **no age group is immune**. Although Reye's generally occurs when someone is recovering from any viral illness, it can develop 3 to 5 days after the onset of the illness. Its main targets are the liver and brain, it is noncontagious, and too often is misdiagnosed as encephalitis, meningitis, diabetes, poisoning, drug overdose, or sudden infant death.

Early diagnosis is crucial. An individual should be watched during the next 2 to 3 weeks following a viral illness for these symptoms, usually occurring in this order:

- ***Relentless or continuous vomiting**
- ***Listlessness** (*loss of pep and energy with little interest in their environment*)
- ***Drowsiness** (*excessive sleepiness*)
- ***Personality change** (*such as irritability, slurred speech, sensitivity to touch*)
- ***Disorientation or confusion** (*unable to identify whereabouts, family members or answer questions*)
- ***Combativeness** (*striking out at those trying to help them*)
- ***Delirium, convulsions or loss of consciousness**

Reye's Syndrome should be suspected in anyone who vomits repeatedly. Phone your doctor immediately if these symptoms develop. Voice your concern about Reye's Syndrome. If your physician is unavailable, take the person to an Emergency Room promptly. Two liver function tests (SGOT, SGPT) can be done to determine the possibility of Reye's Syndrome. There is a 90% chance of recovery when the syndrome is treated in its earliest stages by physicians and nurses experienced in the treatment of Reye's.

Studies have shown that using aspirin or aspirin-containing medications to treat the symptoms of viral illnesses increases the chance of developing Reye's Syndrome. If you or a member of your family have a viral illness, **do not use aspirin or aspirin-containing medications**. In fact, you should consult your physician before you take any drugs, particularly aspirin or anti-nausea medicines, to treat flu, chicken pox or any viral illness. Anti nausea medicines may mask the symptoms of Reye's Syndrome.

The National Reye's Syndrome Foundation (NRSF), the U.S. Surgeon General, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that aspirin and combination products containing aspirin not be taken by anyone under 19 years of age during fever-causing illnesses.

Aspirin is part of the salicylate family of medicines. Another name for aspirin is acetylsalicylate; some drug labels may use the words acetylsalicylate, acetylsalicylic acid, salicylic acid, salicylate, etc., instead of the word aspirin. Currently, there is no conclusive data as to whether other forms of salicylates are associated with the development of Reye's Syndrome. Until further research has answered this question, the NRSF recommends that products containing any of these substances not be taken during episodes of viral infections.

The NRSF is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization with affiliates located in 45 states. The NRSF has pioneered the movement to disseminate knowledge about the disease in an effort to aid in early diagnosis and also provides funds for research into the cause, cure, care, treatment and prevention of Reye's Syndrome.

For additional information, please contact:

National Reye's Syndrome Foundation
426 N. Lewis Street
PO Box 829
Bryan, OH 43506-0829

Phone: 1-800-233-7393 or 1-419-636-2679
Fax: 1-419-636-9897

E-Mail: nrsf@reyessyndrome.org
Web: www.reyessyndrome.org

PARENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Be the change you want to see.

More than ever Enfield needs the active input of parents in the decision-making processes that affect our children.

Explore and develop your leadership potential! The Parent Leadership Academy (PLA) will teach you how to:

- run productive meetings,
- plan successful projects,
- network with key community leaders
- understand and manage conflict and
- improve your ability to speak effectively to any group

all about issues important to you and your family.

Explore your leadership style!



Orientation and Teambuilding Retreat
March 5, 2011 9:30am -3:30pm

Academy Workshops:
Thursdays 5:30-8:30pm
12 weeks beginning in March
At Asnuntuck Community College Conference Center

Join us for our 6th year helping Enfield parents discover the leader within. Our workshops are guided by professionals from around the country and world and will give you the tools and the confidence you need to ask for and receive positive change in your life and in your community.

TIME COMMITMENT: PLA will meet for one Saturday session and then once a week in the evening for a total of 12 weeks. Each workshop is 3 hours long and includes dinner. Participants will graduate after completing the sessions and participating in a group chosen community project of at least 10 hours. The only requirement for participation is your willingness to invest your time and energy.

COST: FREE OF CHARGE to any Enfield parent, thanks to a generous grant from **SERC\CT PIRC**.

CHILDCARE: FREE OF CHARGE to those who request it at the time of registration

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 16th but are reviewed as they are received and approved on a rolling basis.

Enrollment is limited to 15 participants, so apply early!

To receive your application and more details please call or e-mail one of our Program Coordinators:

Amy Witbro
Enfield Public Schools
awitbro@enfieldschools.org

Lisa Rogers
Parent Leadership Academy
lr Rogers03@snet.net
860-749-4852

Download an application at: www.enfieldkite.org
or http://enfieldschools.org/district_departments/home_school_community_partnership/parent_leadership/

* Application deadline extended to **Friday, February 25th**. There are applications in the office at Parkman.