

# Raider Reporter



Parkside Middle School 1800 Church St.,

March 2010

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Homework Hotline

815-223-2035

## From the Desk of Lori Madden, Principal

### STAY INVOLVED:

Your child may act like she wishes you would disappear sometimes. But when it comes to school success, middle graders still need their parents around. Research shows that when parents get involved, student achievement soars. Children score higher on tests, turn in better projects, and participate more in class if they know their parents care.

### Focus On 7th Grade

**Language Arts:** students are currently participating in the Newspapers in Education program sponsored by the News Tribune. This program provides the students with copies of the paper to use as a foundation for writing and grammar activities in the classroom. They are also continuing their presentation of the morning announcements. The up and coming units include a public-speaking mini-unit and a storybook creation unit.

**Literature** students have spent the beginning of the third quarter reviewing the elements of literature and preparing for the ISAT. Following the first week of March, they will begin working on a poetry unit in which they will analyze and create various poetry pieces. The third quarter literature project will be a book talk presented by the students on the independent text selection of their choice.

**Social Studies** classes are currently reading and working on skills about Medieval Japan. In March we will move through the Middle Ages in Europe and enter The Renaissance Period. The students will be working on a

You can be involved in your child's learning at any time of day. Check out our website to see their progress, or talk about homework while you're making dinner. Visit a museum or read a book together. *They're never too old to read to.* You'll show them that learning is important, and that you care.

Let them know that cell phones and computers will be monitored too. Don't just assume everything is fine—Be Proactive!

project during the Renaissance as an alternative assessment.

**Science** students have just completed another successful year of science fair projects. The project is of the highest critical thinking process you could ask of junior high students. This year we will again honor ten of these projects with a chance to compete at regional competition, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the NIU Field House. Since wrapping up the local exhibition, the students have jumped into their Environmental Science unit. They are currently exploring the different ecosystems and biomes found throughout the world. Soon after their completion of this unit the students will team up to investigate an environmental crisis in our world today. The team will then debate on which crisis deserves a government grant to help alleviate the impact of the crisis on the local environment.

**Math** students have been practicing short and extended responses in preparation for the ISAT. We will be completing St. Jude Math-A-Thon in March.

## Raider Highlights



Raider Volleyball teams recently completed yet another very successful regular season at every grade level. The fifth grade team lost only two matches all year—both to 6th grade teams at our own Spiking Raiders Tournament. The sixth graders captured the championship of the same tournament and finished the year with a record of 13-2.

The 7th and 8th grade teams lost to rival Mendota in the championship matches of the Starved Rock Conference and Mendota

Tournaments. The 8th graders tied for first place in the SRC regular season and the 7th graders finished in second overall.

Parkside will host the 7th grade IESA 3A Regional, which begins on Saturday, Feb. 27. Peru will play at 11:15AM. 8th graders are seeded second in the Seneca regional and have earned an opening round bye. They will play the winner of the Seneca and Dwight match on Tuesday, March 9th.

### BEST OF LUCK RAIDERS!!!

## Spotlight on Student Leaders

Eighth grade students Greg Goodman and Meiya Carter were recently selected to receive the John Ourth Student Excellence Award. This is the fourth annual award which is sponsored by the Starved Rock Chapter of the Illinois Principal's Association. The honor is presented to one boy and one girl at the exit level of all schools in our region. Winners were selected from a list of nominees based on the following criteria: a good work ethic, social and civic responsibility,



community service and a positive attitude.

The students and their parents were honored at a recognition breakfast on February 18th

at Streator High School. Both students are involved in a variety of activities at Parkside School. Greg participates in basketball, Band, Chorus, and Student Council. Meiya is equally busy with Basketball, Volleyball, GATE, and the Yearbook Club.

Both are terrific ambassadors of Peru Public Schools and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments. We wish to extend our CONGRATULATIONS to them and their families!

## Student Council Update

*As February quickly comes to a close, it has been a very busy month for the Parkside Student Council members.*

*A Fifth and Sixth grade Activity Night was held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended by the students. Activities included a hula hoop contest, interactive dances, and four games of Deal or No Deal. Congratulations to all of the big winners!*

*Attention all seventh and eighth*

*graders: The final Student Council dance of the year is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30. Admission to the dance is three dollars. Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day a little early with the Parkside Student Council members!*

*Remember these famous words of encouragement when being a student leader: "Think big, believe big, act big, and the results will be big."*