

Raider Reporter



Parkside Middle School 1800 Church St., Peru

May 2010

815-223-7723 / 815-223-0285 (fax)

Homework Hotline 815-223-2035



In the Spotlight

Students must meet minimum behavioral, attendance and academic requirements to attend the end-of-the-year field trips with their class. Are you doing what you need to do to qualify?

One of our most beloved staff members, Denise Soberalski will retire at the end of the current school year to spend time with her first grandchild who will be born this summer. Mrs. Soberalski is a graduate of LPHS and IVCC, and is the proud mother of two daughters.

Denise began her career in education as a kindergarten teacher at Holy Family School in Oglesby, where she taught for six years. She left in 1973 to start her own family. Denise was first hired by Peru Public Schools as a substitute teacher in 1978. After several years she was ready for a change. She moved to a position

where she split her time as a classroom aide and secretary. Denise remained in that position for two years before moving to a full-time position in the office.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Soberalski has filled many roles, including Cheerleading sponsor and musical choreographer. She is dedicated and unselfish, always putting the needs of others ahead of her own. Denise serves as mother, nurse, mentor, counselor and friend to students and staff alike. She greets everyone with a smiling face and a caring demeanor. We are very sad to see her go, but we wish her nothing but happiness in her retirement.

We Love ya Niecy, don't be a stranger!

Fifth Grade a Welcome addition to Middle School

When asked what they like about middle school, many fifth graders are likely to answer, expo classes and lunch. But there's so much more going on at Parkside. Students are in a self-contained environment and spend most of their day with their homeroom teacher. They transition into middle school life gradually by changing classes daily for science or social studies, PE and expo courses such as art, computer, music, health, and study skills.

Fifth Grade Curriculum Update:

Here ye, here ye, the 5th grade classes have embarked on their studies of Medieval

Times. We have traveled back to the Middle Ages to research our family names, study parts of a castle, learn new vocabulary and read about Medieval Life. All of this will prepare them well for their annual field trip to the Medieval Times Dinner Theatre in Shaumburg, May 21st.

In Math, students have combined their knowledge of geometry and measurement to complete the project "Honey I blew up.....". The Civil War is about to break out in social studies, and Science students are examining the human body. So much to do and so little time before the end of the school year.

Response to Intervention (RtI)

You may have heard the phrase, but many of you still may not know what RtI really is. RtI is a problem-solving process designed to help schools focus on high quality interventions that are matched to student needs. It can be very frustrating for parents and teachers when a child falls behind academically. With RtI, students are monitored on a frequent basis and the information gained from the RtI process is used by school personnel to make decisions regarding the student's educational program.

Peru Public Schools, including Parkside, has chosen to focus on Reading interventions this year and we hope to expand the program even further



next Fall. The first step in the RtI process is a strong core reading curriculum for all students (Tier I). All students are screened with a variety of assessments, including AIMSweb, MAP and ISAT; and differentiated instruction is emphasized to assist students with individual deficit areas.

Those who are indentified are provided with additional instruction based on their individual needs (Tiers II and III). For the first time, we also have the expertise of a reading specialist to help guide our reading instruction and provide high quality interventions.

Student Council Update



Fourteen Parkside Student Council delegates attended the 51st IASHSC Convention in Springfield on April 16 & 17. Co-sponsors Mrs. Cary and Ms. Smigel organized the trip for the third straight year to give students an opportunity to meet other young leaders and help them hone their leadership skills while having a great time in the process. The students attending included eighth graders Andrea Burkart, Greg Goodman, Rachel Gunia, Josie Kampwerth,

Katie McManus, Kylea Starkey and Eric Woodshank; seventh graders, Ellen Anderson, Lauren Gunia, Paige Scoma, Karlee Starkey, and Kristi Wallin; and sixth graders Emily Draper, Michael Rosenberg and Thomas Scholle. Also in the picture was keynote speaker Jill Espelin from California who met with Parkside students in Peru on April 15th after presenting an assembly to all students.

This years convention theme was *“Continue to Rock the World with Leadership”*

