



PARK AVENUE HERALD

Park Avenue Elementary School

Mrs. Kathleen Affigne, *Principal*

Ms. Jude Mehlenbacher, *Head Teacher*

Mrs. Mary Luthin, *Editor*

Principal's Corner

Mrs. Kathleen Affigne

Principal



I'm hoping that all of our families made their way through the most recent snow storm without too much discomfort. If any family is still suffering the effects of the storm and needs assistance, please contact our main office. Between the building staff and our wonderful PTA, we can probably offer some assistance that may make things easier for you and your family.

An important reminder, a parent emailed me today letting me know that she again witnessed parents driving on Park Avenue the wrong way. Please keep in mind that this is a very serious traffic violation that can potentially cause dangerous consequences for our young children and our parents who, with good reason, do not look toward Burt Street when crossing the street. I realize that it does take time to drive around the building; however, safety is always more important than being late for a meeting or work.

I would like to congratulate Helena Kenny, Caroline Huey and Lauren Singer who will participate in this year's Elementary All-County Music Festival which will take place on May 1st at Warwick Valley High School. They will be performing as a member of the Elementary All-County Chorus along with about 200 fifth and sixth grade students from Orange County.

I would like to thank Tara Kruger for her work with James Mezzetti, from Tuxedo Ridge, as they organized our first Park Avenue Tubing Night this past February. It was a wonderful evening; everyone enjoyed themselves because it was a great activity for all family members to participate in.

Our PARP program was kicked off on Thursday, March 4th with an outstanding assembly. The program encourages parents to help their children develop good reading habits at home. The theme of this year's program is "Read. . .Read. . .As Much As You Can! The Gingerbread Man." We will celebrate school-wide with many fun activities based on a theme of *The Gingerbread Man* and how sweet reading

Important Dates:

March 1—March 5

Manner Moment

Please walk quietly in the halls



March 4

Park Avenue PARP Kickoff



March 8—March 12

Manners Moment

Please do not "cut" in line

March 11

PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

March 15—March 19

Manners Moment

Please go out of your way to do something nice for someone

is!

A reminder, our next PTA meeting has been rescheduled for this Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 PM and will take place in our Family Resource Center.

Theresa Mandracchia, from the Warwick Soccer Club (845-987-1454), has asked the district to participate in a collection of soccer equipment by placing collection boxes in entry ways in the district's schools. The soccer club will be collecting, cleaning, and selling cleats and shin guards and using the money that they raise to scholarship any child who can not afford to play. Children will also be able to take the cleats and shin guards they need at no cost. If any Park Avenue family would benefit from this assistance, please contact Theresa Mandracchia at the above number.

I would like to again thank our parent volunteers who have worked in our family center this past month. A new signup sheet is available in the family center for the month of March. In addition, we are forming a Family Resource Center committee to facilitate the development of the center. This committee will consist of parents and teachers. If you are interested in being a member of the committee, please email the PTA @ park-pta@wvcsd.org.

Our Manners Moments for March are:

Please walk quietly in the halls

Please do not "cut" in line

Please go out of your way to do something nice for someone

Please do not litter on school grounds

Until next month, keep warm and healthy.

Fondly,

*Kathleen Affigne
Building Principal*

Music News - March

Mrs. Mindy Kessler, Music Teacher

Kindergarten students continue to develop basic singing skills as they begin preparation for this year's kinderfestival. We are working hard on remembering the tonal center of our songs and using the head voice (singing high notes).

First grade students continue to perform note values in different ways. They are learning how to add beats together in

Important Dates Cont.

March 17

St. Patrick's Day



March 19—20

Park Avenue Play
Wizard of Oz

March 20

First Day of Spring



March 22—March 26

Manners Moment
Please do not litter on school grounds

March 29-April 5

Spring Recess
Schools Closed

order to form rhythm patterns with a "fair share" of beats (forming measures). They continue to practice singing and pitch reading skills as well.

Second grade students have begun to prepare for the arts and jam festival which will take place on the evening of April 13th. A letter providing more information will be sent home to parents of second graders within the next couple of weeks.

Third graders have just finished learning about instruments of the orchestra and continue to learn folk songs from various parts of the world. At the same time, they are reviewing note reading skills in preparation for playing the recorder.

Fourth grade students have finished their unit on form and are moving on to review of pitch and rhythm patterns which will include melodic dictation activities. They will also be reviewing how to transfer solfege names of pitches to letter names on the treble clef.

Fifth grade students are beginning to learn about the development of music in America. The students begin this unit by listening to and discussing various types of music that began in our country. They will end it with group presentations on American composers.

Moving Right Along!

Mrs. Carrie Anne Greiner, Grades 2/3

At the beginning of February, our class enjoyed doing the morning announcements on the school PA. The students each received a few turns to do so. They really did a nice job and should be very proud of themselves!

The groundhog saw his shadow and we are now enjoying six more weeks of winter! As a result, we also enjoyed a few snow days in February.

In math, some of the students have been working on multiplication and division facts and patterns. Other students have been working on money skills. They are practicing identifying and counting coins.

In ELA, the students have been practicing making lists as well as categorizing items. The students are making great progress with cursive. Before you know it, we will all be writing in cursive

regularly! We wrote stories to submit to the Advertiser, the local newspaper. Unfortunately, only three can be printed per class but the students did a wonderful job! This month we are participating in the PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) program. Reading is fun!

In Social Studies, we have discussed the people who help us learn, and that we learn in groups, like teams, clubs, etc. We also learned that communities have rules and laws. It is very important to be a good citizen!

In Science, we learned about force, gravity, magnets and electricity. The students enjoyed experimenting with magnets in the classroom. Do you know that a magnet can pick up about 45 paper clips? We practiced making complete circuits with a battery and learned that a battery stores electricity! Each student made their own electrical safety poster demonstrating how to work with electricity safely. VERY IMPORTANT! The students enjoyed a few videos on these topics as well.

We enjoyed a few visits to the computer lab with Mrs. Fuca. We worked on storybird.com and wrote our own stories to go with the picture and artwork provided. The students really enjoyed this activity.

We can't believe that spring break is coming upon us so quickly! We hope everyone enjoys their vacation.

Happy Chinese New Year!

Mrs. Dori Myers, Special K/1

The K/1 class has been busy learning about many of the Chinese traditions celebrated during their new year. All the children loved learning about the Chinese horoscope and the animal related to the year they were born. While the children enjoyed making their own lion puppets, they really enjoyed the special lion dance put on by our fifth grade reading buddies during the wonderful Chinese luncheon.

The children have really enjoyed all the time they have spent with their reading buddies.

We recently enjoyed listening to the story, "Snowballs" by Lois Ehlert, followed by the children creating their own lists of supplies needed to build their own snow people. Oh, what fun it was to watch all the children, young and old, initiating social expression through words and creativity. Stop by the second floor to see our winter wonderland.

Valentine's Day was a fun celebration. The children used simple sign language while singing a song to deliver their special valentines. Thank you so much to all the parents and their thoughtful contributions.

I think we are getting ready for Spring!

Making Masterpieces in March with Art

Mrs. Nicole Heller, Art Teacher



Kindergarten artists have just finished their self-portrait drawings. We are continuing to learn about portraiture with drawings of Native Americans and we are also learning how to draw bodies using shapes.

First grade artists will be looking ahead to warmer days with Lois Ehlert's, "Eating the Alphabet" and we will create our own spring garden paintings with yummy colors good enough to eat by using fruits and vegetables from A-Z!

Second grade artists will be creating fabric dinosaur collages inspired by Byron Barton's "Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs." We will overlap tons of colored fabrics and textures to create the dinosaur shapes and we will add a little bit of glitter to show the glow of the lava and their habitats.

Third grade artists will be inspired by Japanese art to create clay fish dishes. We will create slabs of clay and then carve out fish. Once we glaze them, they will be ready to be taken home and used! These dishes will be functional

and can decorate any table.

Fourth grade artists will be finishing their Egyptian prints with oil pastel hieroglyphics. We will then will begin creating warm or cool animal silhouettes using layers of tissue paper and construction paper.

Fifth grade artists will continue to work with clay and will sculpt 3-dimensional animals from a ball of clay. These animals will be hollowed and glazed. They are sure to come to life and capture your eyes and your hearts.

If you would like to see some of the great art that is created in our classroom and want to check out great local art items please visit my art blog at mrshellersartblog.blogspot.com.

The art room is really in need of hand soap and plastic baby food jars with lids. If you can send in any of these materials it would be greatly appreciated!

Just as a reminder our annual art show is growing near. I have been collecting artwork and will continue to hold some artwork for displays in the hall and our art show. All other artwork is distributed to the classroom teachers at the completion of a lesson.

Park Ave Really Shows That They Care

On behalf of Mrs. Thompson and Ms. Berghahn's classes we'd like to thank you all for your generosity. Collectively we raised \$2005 for the UNICEF collection going to the children of Haiti! We hope that each and everyone of you received a thank you note of some kind. However, if you were missed we again want to share our appreciation for every penny that was brought in. It is our hope that this money will help support the "safe" houses that were created for the children who have been separated from their families as a result of the earthquake. It is so wonderful that we can reach out and do our best to send a caring thought across the world from Park Avenue Elementary School. Please remember that your donations are tax deductible and

thank you again for kindness.

Read...Read...As Much As You Can!

PARP Committee



Beginning March 1, 2010 Park Avenue School will be participating in the Parents as reading Partner reading program. The program encourages parents to help their children develop good reading habits at home. The theme of this years' program is "Read. . .Read. . .As Much As You Can! The Gingerbread Man." We will celebrate school-wide with many fun activities based on a theme of *The Gingerbread Man* and how sweet reading is! Look for more information in the near future.

Time to Travel!

*Mrs. Jamie Canevari, Mrs. Claudia Gerbino and
Mrs. Tia Thomson, Fifth Grade*



Our classes have been following the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada and have been very excited about the different events. We are proud of all the participants and especially the medal winners! We are using the winning times for math lessons and other information for ELA and Social Studies Lessons.

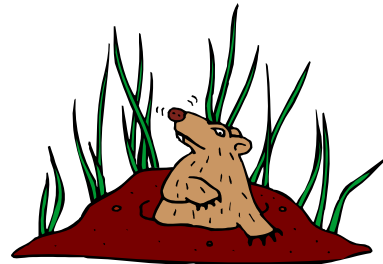
Students are learning about the Southeast

region of the U.S. in Social Studies class. We have completed a "suitcase" project with information on historical sites and other sites presented in class. I think many of us are wishing we were in the Southeast region after all this snow!

The fifth graders have also enjoyed a water conservation program. Miss Sarah Archibald from the Orange County Water Authority visited our classrooms. Each day was filled with many interesting and fun activities. The lessons taught us the importance of conserving water and the steps necessary to keep it clean!

February, A Month of Celebrations

Mrs. Donna Berghahn, Kindergarten



February has to be one of the busiest and most enjoyable months of the year. Our class began the month learning about Ground Hogs Day and making our own predictions as to whether the little guy would see his shadow or not. Our class predicted he would and don't you know it, he did! So we all will have to get used to a little more winter.

Next we took a trip to China. There we learned about the special events and happenings surrounding Chinese New Year. Each day we learned something new about the Chinese culture. We all practiced writing Happy New Year in Chinese with paint and brushes. The final product was a beautiful red scroll to hang on the wall at home. Dragon masks were our next project. We enjoyed making them and then going on a parade! We all hope that the new year will bring a lot of good luck to us all. We also learned the proper

way to clean the house, how children get new clothes for the new year, and about the little red envelopes that are hidden and contain money. Our studies were topped off with a Chinese New Year celebration complete with rice, low mien, fortune cookies, green tea and a fifth grade dragon parade!

Soon after the Chinese New Year we celebrated our kindergarten friendships with a week full of friendship lessons. This unit ended on a happy note with a Valentine party! Sharing cards was a fun time for all of us.

The 100th day finally arrived after a few snowy days. We each were busy creating a collection of 100 items. They are on display in our classroom. Each of us also brought in 100 small food items to create a class trail mix. A special lunch was had in the classroom with pizza from Frank's pizza and a cake made by Ben's mom that looked like the number 100! It's so hard to believe but yes everyone is 100 days smarter in our class! We hope you had a great February took and we all look forward to welcoming spring in six weeks.

Busy Fourth Graders

Ms. Julie Smith, Fourth Grade



We have been very busy fourth graders! In ELA, we read some stories that were absolutely AMAZING. In one story, it was so hot the corn started popping in the field! In math, we have been dividing one-digit numbers into two or more digit numbers. Ask us about our "division plan" that has helped us to master division. In science, we just finished up the chapter on the

weather. We even went on the edheads.org website and learned how meteorologists predict the weather. In social studies, we have been learning about New York drafting a state constitution. Learning has been fun!

Sweet Celebrations

Mrs. Maureen Nelsen, First Grade



We have enjoyed the snowy weather this month, along with many fun learning adventures! We learned about cause and effect in our Language Arts stories. The children wrote their own "story" using cause and effect. The effect of studying their spelling words is that they spell them correctly and earn a 100! In Math, we learned how to tell time to the hour and half hour-keep a look out at your clocks at home and point out the time when appropriate. Now, we have begun the next chapter in Math: numbers to 100. We will practice skip counting and interacting with numbers up to 100.

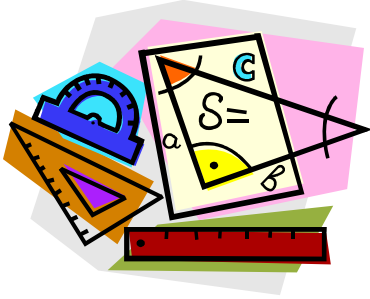
There were many celebrations in February. The groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter, which was a celebration for those of us who love skiing or sledding. We celebrated the birthday of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and learned some facts about these very important men. We liked learning that George Washington had a horse named Nelson and Abe loved to read books, just like us. The 100th day of school brought us enjoyment as we moved around the room to different centers focusing on the number 100. We made centibugs with 100 thumbprints and made wonderful creations out of 100 pattern blocks.

We also reminded each other about taking good care of our teeth in honor of Dental Health Month. We gave advice to Buddy, our friend from the Weekly Reader magazines, and told him why it's so important to go the dentist twice a

year. We look forward to spring and much more fun! Keep up the good reading at home and practicing high frequency words nightly.

Mrs. Kuzmiak's Corner

Mrs. Roseanne Kuzmiak, Second Grade



This month was a very busy one and short! Five snow days in the shortest month of the year! We celebrated Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. Did you like our groundhog songs? Thank you to all of the parents who sent in lots of treats and goodies for our Valentine's Day party.

Math was fun as we learned about solid figures and symmetry. In ELA we read about some very amazing animals. There is so much to learn about all sorts of animals. We are reading both fiction and nonfiction selections. Ask us about our favorite story.

In social studies we learned about maps, direction words and different communities. Our class is getting ready to welcome spring!

"Luck o' the Irish"

Mrs. Noreen Meehan, Second Grade



Happy St. Patrick's Day one and all! We look forward to celebrating this festive day, with

shamrocks, leprechauns, and magic clover wands.

Even with all the snow, the students are working hard in class this blustery quarter. In Math, we mastered addition and subtraction with regrouping. We move into Chapter 7 where the students and I will be working with shapes, figures, lines of symmetry, and fractions. Keep practicing those Math facts.

In Language Arts, we will be learning about singular and plural possessive nouns. In addition, the students will learn when to use the pronouns, I and me, correctly in a sentence. The final skill the students will master for unit 4 will be cause and effect. I am looking forward to the students' cause and effect flip books as part of their writing assessment for this skill.

As a second grade team, we chose the story, "The Three Little Pigs" for Park Avenue's wonderful PARP program. Please take a moment to check out our bulletin boards in the second grade hallway. Also, make sure you sign up to read in our classroom.

Finally, thank you for making our Valentine's Party such a wonderful success. I appreciate all the generous donations and the time spent in class helping the students create beautiful Valentine boxes.

Have a wonderful month of March!

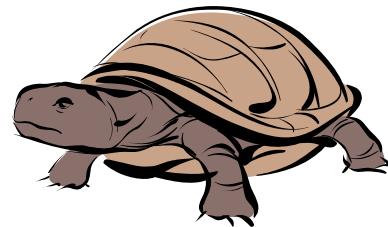
"For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish
your way.

Good health, good luck, and happiness for today
and every day."

Anonymous

Fun in Kindergarten

Mr. Rich Pellegrino, Kindergarten



Our class has had much fun reading many different folk tales. Sometimes we would read fables. We learned that a fable has a moral at the end

of the story. One of our favorite fables was *The Tortoise and the Hare*.

In the science area, we have been learning about our natural resources. It is good to conserve water and to recycle whenever we can. Our class has a wonderful love of nature. We will be looking forward to planting seeds in cups in the spring.

The Wizard of Oz

Mrs. Nicole Heller, Drama Club Director



We would like to invite everyone to come see the Park Ave production of "The Wizard of Oz" on Friday, March 19 at 7pm and Saturday, March 20 at 12pm in the Park Ave auditorium. Tickets will be on sale at the door. Children 16 and under are \$2 and adults tickets are \$5. The entire cast and crew is very talented and we know you will enjoy this magical performance. So click your heels three times and we will see you there!

PTA

*Mrs. Jeanine Wadeson and Mrs. Maura Peddle
PTA Co-Presidents*

Was that a penguin? A polar bear? No, it was Park Avenue students and families zipping down Tuxedo Mountain on giant rubber tubes!! The first ever Park Avenue PTA Tubing Night was held Thursday February 11 and a great time was had by all! Thank you to Tara Kruger for her organizing efforts and to James Mezzetti and his wonderful staff at Tuxedo Ridge for putting on a great event.

Read, read, read, as much as you can! It's Parents as Reading Partners month at Park Avenue. Stop in and look around at the wonderful nursery rhyme decorations all over, and get ready for the building to be covered in Gingerbread

Men! Fifteen minutes of quiet reading time each night with your child: what could be better?

Boxtops are still going strong, don't forget to keep collecting these and sending them in with your child. We had a great response for the Fall Boxtops Program and received a large check to help fund great PTA programs for everyone. Thanks to Rosie Madden for continuing to spearhead this effort!

The PTA has a lot planned in the coming weeks and months! This month the PTA is hosting its "Someone Special for Boys Event"....called **Bowling With Our Boys**, it will be held on Sunday, March 14th from 12:30 to 2:30 at Pin Street in Warwick – fliers are being sent home this week. The "**Someone Special Dance for Girls**" is scheduled for April 16th at the Middle School....stay tuned, more details to follow!

We are in the early planning stages of the after-school Enrichment Program. If you have a talent you would like to share with our kids, please contact either Maura Peddle (bink@warwick.net) or Jeanine Wadeson (jwadeson@optonline.net). We'll be sending some information home shortly regarding this great program; remember, the more volunteers we have to teach and to help run the program, the better for all our kids!

Important Note: This month's PTA meeting has been moved to Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 in the Library. Please mark your calendars!

Lunch Time

From Mrs. Affigne, Principal



School lunch periods are times when our children have an opportunity to interact with their

peers outside the structure of their classrooms. It is an important social component of their school day, where they can sit with whomever they want to and have conversations that are not guided by an adult or are educationally oriented. We also recognize the importance of parents visiting their children during lunch periods and enjoying this special time with their children. In order to balance our students' need for social interaction with their peers and the parent visitation component, we invite parents to have lunch with each of their children **once** per month. Thank you.

Lobby Etiquette

From Mrs. Affigne, Principal

Please keep in mind that our main lobby area is a very busy hub in our building. In order to permit a free flow of traffic, it is important to remember that we can only accommodate parents as they wait to pick-up their child(ren) or wait with their child(ren) before the start of the school day which is 8:45 AM. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to accommodate extended stays on a consistent basis. In addition, we are asking that parents stay outside of the red tape in front of the Nurses Office (now designated as a privacy zone) in order for parents and teachers to have private conversations with our school nurse without worrying about what others may overhear. Thank you.

Remember to Bring Home Your School Books!

From Mrs. Affigne, Principal



It is very important that all students check to make sure they have put all their

books, worksheets, notebooks, etc., into their backpacks before leaving the classroom. Due to state regulations, classrooms will be locked at the end of the day.

Invitations

From Mrs. Kathleen Affigne, Principal



Please do not ask your child to distribute party invitations in school unless: All of the children in his/her class are invited to the event or all of the boys or all of the girls are invited. By inviting a select group of students to a party, the uninvited children often have hurt feelings. For this reason we are asking that unless you meet the indicated criteria, all party invitations for events outside of the school day be distributed in another manner. Thank you for your understanding.

Tardiness

From Mrs. Kathleen Affigne, Principal

An important reminder to parents. The school day officially begins at 8:45 AM and any child entering the building after that time needs to go directly to the Nurse's Office and will be recorded as Tardy. **Children must not enter the building before 8:35 AM.** Please understand that if children are dropped off before 8:35 AM, they are being left unsupervised. In addition, dismissal time is 3:15 PM. Parents picking up students at dismissal must do so by 3:15 PM. Students not picked up by 3:15 are unsupervised, which is a safety concern.

Absenteeism

From Mrs. Roberta Brown, Attendance



Just a reminder when your child is out sick, please call the Attendance office that morning at 986-7703 between 9:00 and 10:45, or the main office at 987-3170 before 8:45. When your child returns to school, please send them with a note to their teacher explaining why your child(ren) were absent. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lost and Found



Please be sure to check the Lost and Found by the Meeter/Greeter's desk. You might be surprised at what you find!

School Closing

From Mrs. Affigne, Principal

When there is a scheduled school closing for a holiday or a teachers' conference, a notice will be sent home.

Please do not call the school district regarding school closings. It is important that all lines be kept open for emergency communications.

If the weather conditions, such as a snowstorm or drifting conditions, dictate an early closing, the following procedure will be followed:
AM Dismissal – 9-12 goes home, then 6-8, St. Stephen/St. Edward's then K-5. PM Dismissal – Same sequence as for AM. Dismissal. Announcements will be made via radio and the necessary information can be found on the District's Website, www.warwickvalleyschools.com/.

Occasionally, there will be an **Emergency Closing of School** due to power failure, road conditions or other unforeseen situations. When this occurs, the following radio stations are notified immediately as to the time of dismissal and the necessary information can be found on the District's Website, www.warwickvalleyschools.com/. There will be an approximate 45 minute interval between dismissals.

WDLC-WT Port Jervis 1490 AM 96.7 FM

WHUD-WLNAPeekskill 1420 AM 100.7 FM

WALL Middletown 1340 AM 92.7 FM

WSUS Franklin, N.J. 102 FM

WGNY Newburgh 1220 AM 103.1 FM

WEOK-WPDHPoughkeepsie 1390 AM 101.5 FM

WBNR-WSPKPoughkeepsie 1260 AM 104.7 FM

Daycare Provider Forms

Transportation Department

The Transportation Department would like to remind parents that Daycare Provider Forms are due in the Transportation Department by July 1 2010. The forms can be obtained from the school's website under "Transportation".