



PARK AVENUE PRESS



Park Avenue Elementary School

Mrs. Johnna Maraia, *Principal*
Ms. Jude Mehlenbacher, *Head Teacher*
Mrs. Mary Luthin, *Editor*

Important Dates:



Counselor's Corner

February 2012

Working Together for School Success

Ms. Jeanette Myrick, *School Counselor/Kings & Park Avenue*
Ms. Grace Geysen, *School Counselor/Sanfordville*

Our Elementary School Counseling program is aimed at helping all students reach their academic, career, personal, and social/emotional potential beyond just the elementary school years. Our mission as student advocates is to provide a comprehensive guidance program that will assist students in acquiring the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to become effective students, responsible citizens, and lifelong learners.

The Ten Most Important Tips for Parents

Provide for the safety of your child(ren). Be sure that their basic needs are met on a daily basis, so that they can use their own energy/resources for their growth and development. Remember that the need to provide a safe environment grows with the child, and is equally important in the teen years.

Give your child unconditional love and acceptance. All children need at least one adult in their lives who is irrationally attached to them, and lets them know it on a daily basis. OR what children need the most from parents is lots of presence (note spelling; NOT presents).

February 2
Groundhog Day

February 8
Elementary Report Cards Sent Home

February 13
Board of Education Meeting
7:00 Park Avenue

1 Hour Early Dismissal

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 15
PTA Meeting
9:30 a.m.

February 17—20
President's Weekend
School Closed

February 24
Food Pantry

February 27
Board of Education Work Session
7-9 p.m.



Make sure to catch your kids doing something right every day. Thanking them, or praising them, in advance for something they will be doing is an excellent way to get their attention and cooperation.

Spend time getting to know each of your children for who they are as an individual. Encourage their interaction and inquisitiveness. Accept them for who they are rather than trying to make them who you would like them to be. When your ideas differ from theirs, let them know what yours are, and that theirs are no less valid.

Consider the type of attention you give your child (ren). It is said that, on average, children receive 30 negative comments for every one positive. Tip the balance and try telling children what they can do or what you like about their behavior instead of what they can't do or shouldn't be doing.

Routines and clear expectations are critical to helping children feel safe and secure. When a child understands the rules and routines of life, they are better able to act as expected. When children feel secure in their daily life, they are more likely to try new experiences that can help them explore life more completely.

Socialization with others is critical to the development of a whole human being. Adults can provide their children with a safe, developmentally appropriate environment in which to interact with peers and other adults. Play is the work of children. It should be treated seriously, with children as the "directors" and adults as the "producers".

Every person, regardless of age, class, position, etc. deserves respect. It is important to act respectful of your child(ren) and to let them know that you expect them to be respectful to you. However, respect must be earned. Remember, that part of respect means allowing your children to make some of their own decisions, which include decisions that are not so good. People learn more from mistakes than successes, so allow your child to make them AND live with the consequences of those decisions.

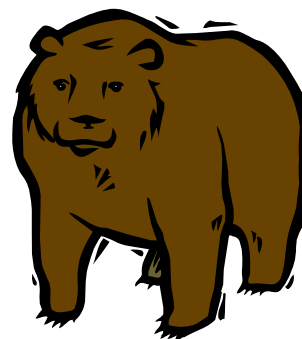
You are your child's first and most important teacher. Children learn in the home appropriate social conduct. Act in ways that model appro-

priate behavior and let your child know that you expect the same of them. If you find fault with their behavior, let them know what it is about their behavior that was unacceptable. Let them know your clear expectations for the future. Try not to equate your negative feelings about their behavior with your feelings about them.

Each child needs a private space to call their own, both physical and mental. Respect their individual need for privacy, their personal goals, dreams and fantasies. Remember that the hopes and dreams for themselves and their future will change over time and may well not mirror your own.

Classroom News

Mrs. Lorie Ingber, Kindergarten



Happy New Year!!!! I find it very hard to believe it is January 2012 already. WOW the year has really taken flight, and it is true what they say, "Time flies when you are having fun." K-208 has been hard at work. This month we are learning all about animals in winter. Many of us know that bears hibernate during the winter, but what about squirrels, moles, birds, deer, and many others? Throughout the month we will also be learning about holidays and traditions of other cultures as we discuss and celebrate the Chinese New Year. Did you know it is the year of the dragon? Our class will be spending time learning about peace and kindness to others as we learn about a great man named, Martin Luther King Jr.

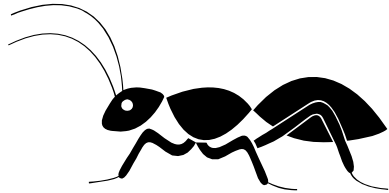
Math will find us continuing to learn about numbers through thirty. We will

be learning how to count objects through thirty with one to one correspondence, form the numbers correctly when writing, and identify the numbers. We will also be learning how to use and read a calendar. Knowing the numbers through thirty will certainly help with this skill.

All of the students in k-208 have become wonderful letter and word detectives, and will continue to learn more and more each day. Our class has been hard at work learning to read words that use the "at" and "an" word families. The students listened to a story by Jan Brett called, *The Mitten*. The class will be involved in many activities using this story. I can hardly wait to get started.....

Mrs. Kuzmiak's Corner

Mrs. RoseAnne Kuzmiak, Second Grade

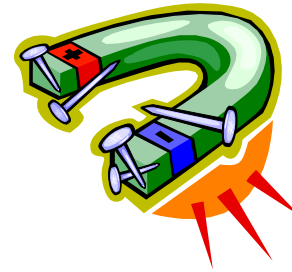


The New Year has started with a bang and some snow too! We are so busy working and learning! In math we are adding and subtracting two digit numbers with and without regrouping. Knowing our basic facts really makes adding and subtracting a snap! We have been "round the town" in ELA. We have visited Chinatown, a firehouse, a barrio in San Francisco, a subway station and a corner grocery store. And who can forget all the community workers, road workers, delivery men and store owners? Ask us to tell you about our favorite story. We are enjoying reading about some amazing animals. Ask us to tell you some interesting facts about ants! In science we have been learning about the earth. Did you know some of the earth's natural features include rocks, mountains and oceans? We have also learned about outer space and the other planets. Ask us to sing some of the great outer space songs we learned. We are

looking forward to learning about weather and different weather tools, Groundhog Day and celebrating Presidents' Day and Valentine's Day.

Moving Right Along!

Mrs. Greiner & Mrs. Etheridge



Winter has been very kind to us so far! It is hard to believe that this warm weather is here in the winter months. We are already at the end of the second marking period! WOW!

In math, some students have been working on geometry and time and others have been working on mental math and addition of two and three digit numbers with and without regrouping. We continue to work on mastering our addition and subtraction facts.

In ELA, all of the second grade students continue their work learning cursive writing. The students also wrote stories about snowflakes. They even made their own snowflakes out of paper. The students continue to work on rules for syllabication and making singular words plural.

In Social Studies, we learned about the three types of communities-rural, urban and suburban. Students enjoyed completing rebuses, power point presentations, making small booklets, and literature books on the topic.

In Science, the students studied force, magnets and electricity. They enjoyed making complete circuits with a battery and a bulb. Students found objects which were attracted to a magnet and which repelled a magnet. The students really seem to enjoy

exploring and learning in science.

February News

Mrs. Dori Myers, Special K/I



It is hard to believe half the school year is almost over. All the children have been working so hard and have made many nice gains. I would like to thank all the parents for supporting their child's school work at home.

January was a fun filled month as our class learned about hibernation and migration. The children particularly enjoyed the story, "The Mitten," by Jan Brett. We worked on sequencing and story retell. All the children pretended to be an animal from the story and wrote what they would say if they were that animal in the mitten.

We learned about the life of Martin Luther King and how to be kind to all people. The children enjoyed our experiment with looking at a white egg and a brown egg and making comparisons before it was cracked, after it was cracked and then after it was cooked. Their conclusion was the color on the outside does not matter as the eggs tasted the same. Of course we added a little toast and butter to the experiment. Some children even learned to eat scrambled eggs and toast!

We would like to thank Ms. Berghahn's class for inviting us into their class for a week to learn about Chinese New Year.

PTA News

Eilleen Gagliano, PTA President

The Park Ave Science Fair was a huge success. Thank you to Michelle Cervone-Richards for chairing this event. The participation exceeded previous years and as usual the school was buzzing with creativity.

"There are many wonderful things that will never be done if you don't do them." - Charles D. Gill

Last month we offered up the 1-hour volunteer challenge. If you've haven't volunteered for the PTA yet and are apprehensive about the commitment, we promise to only ask for one hour of your time. Email us at ParkAvePTA@gmail.com to let us know when you're available. Or, take a look at some of the volunteer opportunities below and let us know if you can help out.

Up Next:

PTA Meetings: February 15th 9:30 AM

Enrichment: Spanish & Photography coming in March!

Volunteer opportunities:

Mrs. Vanderkruik is looking for help in the school library (flexible scheduling) PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) – email parkavepta@gmail.com.

Enrichment – pass along a passion or favorite hobby. Be a back-up monitor for an enrichment class after school. We'll only call you if one of our monitors is out.

Staff Appreciation Week (May 7th-11th): We need volunteers to set up and clean up (This can be done by one or two people each day). Go to Volunteerspot.com through our link on ParkAvePTA.com

Are you a musician? Could you play for twenty minutes at the Family Picnic (June 1st)? The equipment will be set up and all you have to do is plug in.

Did you know?

You can sign up for several PTA events through Volunteerspot.com. The link is on our page at www.ParkAvePTA.com

School Closing

From Mrs. Maraia, 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 snow-storm or drifting conditions, or an emergency situation such as loss of power dictate an early closing, announcements will be made via the district website and the SNN email and text messaging system. Announcements will also be made on the following local radio stations:

TV STATIONS	FM STATIONS	AM STATIONS
WABC-TV	92.7 WRRV	1110 WTBO
WNBC-TV	94.3 THE WOLF	1340 DISNEY
FOX 5/NNYW	96.9WRRV	1390 DISNEY
HUDSON VALLEY NEWS 12	97.3 MIX 97	
	97.7 MIX 97	
	100.7 WHUD	
	106.1 WPDH	
	106.3 WFDH	

Invitations

Mrs. Johnna Maraia, 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.

Lost and Found

Please be sure to check the Lost and Found by the Cafeteria. You might be surprised at what you find!

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.

Tardiness

From Mrs. Johnna Maraia, 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.