

THE EAGLE EXPRESS

PARK ACADEMY

MAY 2009

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring 2009



Paula Kinney, Director

Dear Students and Families, Park Academy students are on their way to becoming college-ready! All Park Academy Students completed the 2008-2009 Oregon Statewide Assessments in reading/literature and mathematics. Students in grades 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11 also took assessments in science and social studies.

The statewide assessments are grade level measures of student progress toward mastery of challenging academic standards, including knowledge and skills in each of the content areas.

We are pleased to inform you that Park Academy students performed very well in comparison to other students **across the state of Oregon**. Over 80% of Park Academy students either nearly met, met, or exceeded grade level benchmarks in reading and literature, 73% in science, and 77% in social studies. Math is the one area where we still need to demonstrate more growth, with 48% of our students meeting or nearly meeting benchmarks. Math will be a primary focus of instruction over all content areas to assist our students in meeting and exceeding state standards in this area. It is apparent our students are working very hard to demonstrate their learning which will prepare them to attain their future goals and aspirations. Our teachers are dedicated and committed to ensure all of our students succeed. I congratulate all staff for helping us attain and continue to carry out Park Academy's

vision and mission of tapping the giftedness of every student by personalizing and aligning curricula to meet the individual abilities and learning styles of our students.

Another primary focus of Park Academy is to ensure students are emotionally and socially safe. This year we offered a class to our middle school students, designed by Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul, and Mary, called Operation Respect. The class teaches about the importance of creating an environment of respect, justice, and anti-bullying. We felt it important that not only our middle school students enroll in this class, but our entire staff be trained so we could incorporate the mission of Operation Respect school-wide. We offered a workshop on March 30th, facilitated by Mark Weiss, Educational Director of Operation Respect. This workshop coincidentally coincided with the newly passed anti-bully House Bill 2599. It is of utmost importance for all of our students to be academically, emotionally, and socially successful at Park Academy!

This is the last newsletter for this school year. It is my prayer that students, families, and staff have a safe and healthy summer. Please spend time reading lots of good books and lie down on plush green grass, gazing up above as you count all your blessings. We are living in a country where we have many privileges. Let us not ever take them for granted.

Sincerely,

Paula Kinney, Director



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Mission Statement

Park Academy empowers students with diverse learning challenges to reach their highest potential of giftedness, while excelling academically and becoming responsible citizens and community leaders.

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*****"THANK YOU'S"*****

- Thank you to the Park Foundation for their generosity and continued support of Park Academy.
- We would like to thank everyone who supported Park Academy's fundraising efforts by purchasing plants. We always receive beautiful plants from New Leaf Greenhouse. They were delivered on April 21 on a very sunny spring day. Perfect timing!! We will all enjoy the color in our yards.

STUDENT SUPPORT

It's time to order your yearbook!

Yearbooks will be ready by the end of summer and can be picked up at the Back to School Picnic or they can be sent directly to you. Place your order with Ms. Bronston today. 2008-2009 Yearbooks are \$20.00

Exhibition Day This is a day for all of our students to demonstrate some of the projects they have worked on this year. May 29th is the big day. We will send out a flyer and e-mail all families with more details at a later date.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

Oregon Food Bank Field Trip

"Foreclosures, layoffs and rising prices are forcing more and more families to seek emergency food." - Oregon Food Bank. According to the Oregonian, Portland has a record number of children going hungry. Park Academy students and the Oregon Food Bank recognize that no one should be hungry.

Park Academy students donated their hand and hearts to help during these tough economic times. They travelled by bus for one and a half hours out to the Oregon Food Bank to repackage donated salmon in a 50 degree temperature controlled room while the sun shined outside. Despite the frigid temperatures, attitudes remained high and the spirit of helping resonated in the air along with the stench of fish. It was a humbling experience, helping students to realize how important it can be to help others in times of need.

Portland Art Museum Field Trip

Park Academy art students went on a field trip to the Portland Art Museum. They had a guided tour of the French exhibit, art in the time of Louis IX. The tour guide was great and communicated about the artists, the content of the paintings and the style. She also placed the paintings in the pre-French revolution historical context during which they were created.

Students were attentive, observant, and asked great questions. They left with a new appreciation of the power of art to communicate, as well as the technical challenges of creating light and shadow. They had a good time, and even continued learning on the bus trip. There were three blind passengers with two guide dogs who were kind enough to answer all their questions about how the dogs were trained and how they bonded with their owners. It really was a great trip!

"Dyslexics Have More Fnu"

Middle school students performed their original play, "Dyslexics Have More Fnu" for students and parents at Park Academy. The middle school theatre class created the play in order to give grade school students information about being dyslexic and having other learning challenges. They will take the play to a nearby grade school to perform in May. Students did a great job performing and have created a unique, informative play that we hope to take to conferences on Dyslexia as well. The play provides an insight into the activity in the brain while trying to learn, and is both humorous and touching. Great job Middle School!!!

Picturing America

Thank you to Park Academy's Administrative Assistant, Fawn Morris for submitting an application for "Picturing America", a project of the **We the People program of the National Endowment for the Humanities** in cooperation with the **American Library Association Public Programs Office**. Park Academy received 40 full-sized, laminated reproductions of masterpieces of American art, as well as a teacher's resource book which can be used to facilitate the use of the works of art in teaching core subjects - US history, social studies, language arts, literature, art, library and media. You can find more information at: <http://www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov>.

Save The Dates!

- May 25, 2009 Memorial Day
- May 29, 2009 Exhibition Day
- June 8, 2009 Graduation 7:00 PM
- June 9, 2009 Carnival/Last Day of School
- September 8, 2009 Back to School Picnic 6:00 PM

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STAFF NEWS

Our teacher and author, Carol Ann O'Connär, has been included in a publication from The Klingenstein Center for Independent School Leadership Teachers College, Columbia University. Mrs. O'Connär's contribution concerns academic uses for rubrics in the classroom and internet resources for teachers who wish to use them. Rubrics are a method of communicating expectations and assessment standards to students.

WRITING A SONG TOGETHER!!

The middle school had a magical day with Steve Seskin, songwriter extraordinaire! Steve started our day with a concert in the multi purpose room. He introduced us to a few songs he had written (one the day before at a Lake Oswego school) and an old favorite, "Don't Laugh At Me."

When he came into our classroom, he was carrying his old guitar and his Mac laptop computer. He had us brainstorm topics we wanted to write a song about. We had a lot of good ideas. The choices got down to a few, and then we surprised him by choosing history as our topic.

He listened (and Ms. Lauren took great notes: to all of our ideas about things we knew about history. We had a lot of knowledge. Chelsea spoke out and said "Well the thing about history is it keeps happening over and over." . . . And that's how we got started on our song.

Mr. Seskin said usually songs are written verse first, but we went chorus first. We liked our chorus: "History, history we keep repeating history."

As soon as we completed something, he recorded it on the computer. We heard our own voices singing!

When we finished our song, we looked at the clock. . . It had taken just one hour and forty minutes! We were delighted. You can hear our song at: www.steveseskin.com/schoolsongs/.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Nate Arnold to Attend

Landmark College Summer Institute

Congratulations to Nate Arnold who was awarded a \$3500 scholarship to attend the three week high school summer institute for aspiring college students at Landmark College in Vermont. The Landmark College Summer Institute is designed to give students a chance to experience college life, prepare for more challenging and complex coursework, and begin a successful transition to college. In addition to their college level coursework, students will engage in other critically important learning experiences in the residence halls and during informal and formal sports and outdoor activities.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

OMSI puts the WOW in science and Park Academy put the WOW in OMSI this May. Students celebrated their science skills by testing bottle rockets, making water dance, seeing how LEDs are changing the future of energy, seeing the inventive and artistic genius of Leonardo Davinci and watching an Omnimax film about the physics of flight. Students were able to apply the skills they gained in science in a fun hands on environment. The day was explosive, just like the bottle of diet coke as they reacted with mentos!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Page 4 of the newsletter is an addendum to Volume 3, Issue 3.

If you would prefer to receive your copy of the Eagle Express by email, please send a message to:

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to be put on the list.