

Panther Press



STUART R. PADDOCK SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTA PRESIDENTS JEN DEFRANCO AND DARCY KILLIGREW

Welcome to 2009! It always seems more difficult to return to a regular routine after winter break than it does after an entire summer away from school (at least at our house). I have a love/hate relationship with the start of a new year. On one hand, it is a not-so-subtle reminder that time is passing, my kids are getting older, and so am I. That, I do not like. On the other hand, I love the idea of a fresh start. I am the Queen of list making, and the new year provides an excellent opportunity for the creation of countless lists!

I am happy to say my "PTA New Year's Resolutions" – or as I like to call them "goals" – are minimal. The Paddock PTA is plugging along quite nicely, thanks to the hard work and dedication of its numerous volunteers and members. Our fall programs have all proved to be very successful and we are looking forward to an exciting second half of the 2008-2009 school year. We have a lot of exciting things planned including the visit of the Earth Balloon in February! A giant inflatable earth will reside at Paddock for two days, allowing each class to enter the balloon and learn about different parts of the world, and so much more! It is a wonderful program and we are thrilled to be able to bring it to Paddock students to enjoy.

Finally, if you didn't have a chance to join the PTA in the fall, or if you are new to Paddock, we invite you to take part in the PTA. The Paddock PTA provides immeasurable support to the school through our volunteers, financial donations and programs. The partnership the PTA and school have formed benefits our children in more ways than can be listed, even by the Queen of list making!

Happy New Year to all!

Jen and Darcy

REC NIGHT RESCHEDULED

**3-6TH GRADE BOYS
WITH ADULT FEMALE
WILL MEET ON
FEBRUARY 4
7-8 PM (GYM)**



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WHAT'S COMING UP...

...IN JANUARY

- 26** SCRIP order due
- 28** Winter Beginning Orchestra Concert 7-8 PM (gym)



...IN FEBRUARY

- 4** Rec Night 3-6th grade boys with adult female
- 6** Family Fitness Fair 6- 8 PM (gym)
- 11** Board of Education Mtg 7:00 PM (Sundling)
- 13** Valentines Day Parties 1-2 PM
- 16** Presidents Day—NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE
- 17** NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE
- 20** Panther Pride Day
- 23** SCRIP order due
- 25** Rec Night K—2nd grade boys with adult male

Illinois PTA
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REFLECTIONS 2008-2009 ~ WOW!!

The National PTA's Reflections program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. On February 23, 2009, a Reflections Showcase will be held at Carl Sandburg Jr High and ten talented Paddock students will be recognized for the manner in which they artistically captured this year's theme of "WOW!". To have a better appreciation for their accomplishment in having been selected to advance to the District Level, here are some fun facts:

- ◆ There are 6 different categories in which students may express themselves
- ◆ 785 pieces of artwork were submitted at the local level in our Council
- ◆ 412 of those projects were selected to advance to the NWSC (Council) PTA
- ◆ Only 79 projects were then chosen to advance to District #37 PTA and 10 of those chosen were Paddock artists!



The artwork chosen belongs to the following talented artists:

Literature

Marilou Cameron (4) - "My trip to Israel"
Caroline Kendall (3) - "WOW!"

Music Composition

Sophie Meier (4) - "What a Wonderful Day"
Jessica Streepy (2) - "Cubbies say Wow!"

Film Production

MacKenzie Stephens (2) - "Whisper of the Winds"
Jack Messinger (K) - "Things That Wow Me"

Photography

Kai Takao (K) - "The Sunset"
Ian Waller (K) - "Buggie"

Dance Choreography

Sarah Zhou (1) - "Sarah Makes You Say, "Wow!" "

Visual Arts

Neha Prabhu (3) - "Peacock Rain Dance"

It is such an honor and achievement for all the students who participated. You turned ideas into art and creatively demonstrated the WOW factor Paddock students exhibit! What a great "reflection" on you and on our school to see our students' talent and creativity recognized in this wonderful fashion and to have our school represented in EVERY category of the Reflections program at the District Level.

If you missed this year's deadline, plan ahead for next year's Reflections program. The theme for 2008-2009 is "Beauty is...!" If you saw how beautiful each of this year's submission were, you would be inspired to create one of your very own. Fuel your creative spirit and start to brainstorm about next year's creations today!



LATE BREAKING NEWS!

PADDOCK STUDENTS WOW REFLECTIONS JUDGES!

Not one, not two, but FIVE Paddock REFLECTIONS pieces have been selected to advance to STATE!

Congratulations to the 5 Paddock students who have advanced to the STATE level of the Reflections program! Our talented students who advanced are: Jessica Streepy - Music, Sophie Meier - Music, Mackenzie Stephens - Film, Sarah Zhou - Dance, Kai Takao - Photography. This is the most entries we have had advance

from Paddock in recent years. Their projects will be traveling the state on display over the next couple of months and winners will be announced in March/April. If you would like to view all the projects that advanced to the State level you can see them at the Reflections showcase on February 23rd at Sandburg at 6pm. All PTA members are invited to attend this event. Please RSVP to Jen or Darcy.

Go Paddock Panthers!!!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD

Spotlight on the Board is a synopsis of notes and recordings taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Frank C. Whiteley PTA's school board liaison, Jennifer Mondy. They are meant to help parents and staff who are unable to attend the Board meetings stay informed about the issues and plans affecting the district. These notes are not endorsed by District 15 or the Board of Education.

Go to http://fcwpta.org/pdf/d15_dec_10_2008.pdf for full detailed notes from the December 10th board meeting.

EARTH BALLOON COMING TO PADDOCK!



February 24-25 -The **Earth Balloon** will be at Paddock for two days, sponsored by the Paddock PTA's Multi Cultural Committee and Programs Committee. The Earth Balloon is an inflatable 20' diameter model of the earth,

made up of a high resolution satellite image with true to life colors. The Earth Balloon is constructed from 24 panels, one for every time zone. Every inch on the Earth Balloon is equal to 30 miles on the earth. Go to www.earthadventure.org/Earth_Balloon.cfm for more information.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!

**BLOOD DRIVE
JANUARY 28
2 PM-8 PM IN THE GYM
AT PLUM GROVE JR HIGH**



Appointments can be made directly by calling Life Source at: 847-803-7943. When you call, you should give the blood drive date/location that you are making the appointment for. Walk ins are also welcome.

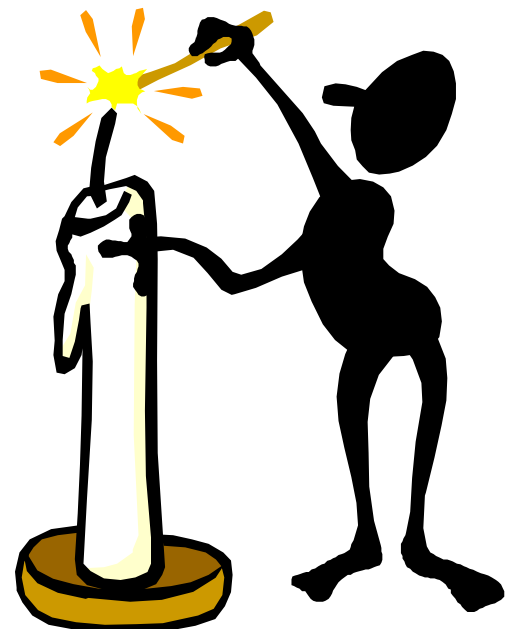
SPARK

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ACCESSING RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE

**January 26
Junior High and High School Transition
@ Sundling 7:00 - 8:30 PM**

District 211 and District 15 Transition Teams

For most of our kids, transition can be hard—especially when they are changing to new schools with new special education teams. Two rooms will be set aside to help parents who have children transitioning to junior high or to high school. These transition teams will discuss what's involved in transition and try to answer your specific questions about how to make it successful and exciting for your child.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION UPDATE



Super Bowl Season is here!

As you purchase snacks for the big game, be sure to watch for the Box Tops for Education logo. It is found on many items from Pillsbury, General Mills, Betty Crocker, Hefty and many, many more! Remember, each Box Tops coupon is worth ten cents. Let's keep up the great work and keep clipping!

Visit www.boxtops4education.com/Promotions/ and enter the Gametime Giveaway contest where four lucky winners will win 10,000 Box Tops for their school. That's \$1,000! You can enter once per day until February 1, 2009.

Are you a creative cookie baker?

If so, why not submit your recipes on line and take a chance of winning 1,000 Box Tops for Paddock?!? Go to www.boxtops4education.com/Promotions/ and enter the Mix it up with Betty contest through February 15, 2009.

Which class won the December Box Tops contest?

Ms. Monaco's 5th grade class collected the most Box Tops for the month of December and won a class party. Congratulations to Ms. Monaco's entire class! Mrs. Kiehl's 3rd/4th grade class, Mrs. Rosenbarger's first grade class, and Ms. Carrillo's 3rd grade class all submitted over 100 Box Tops too! Where do all of these Box Tops come from?

The January submission deadline is Friday, January 30.

Keep your eye on the Friday folders as there will be a special Box Tops contest for the month of February!



CHANGES TO THE PADDOCK BOOK CLUB!



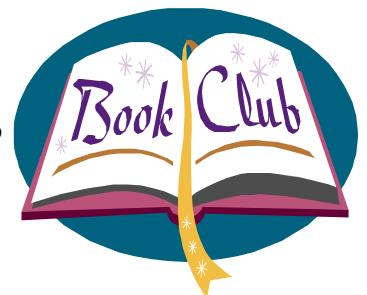
Due to time constraints and a change in format, this year the Paddock Book Club will be offered to fourth graders only. In the past the PTA has sponsored the Jr. Great Books program. However, this year we are experimenting with a book discussion format. Students will read one book over the course of eight weeks and participate weekly in a student-driven, parent-monitored discussion. Our ongoing investigation into running a successful book club suggests that they work best when initially choosing one grade level and reading only one selection. Hopefully, with a year of experience and more availability of parent volunteers next year, we will be able to open the program to more students next year. Thank you for your support.

ATTENTION FOURTH GRADERS!

Would you like to read a book and meet with your peers to discuss it just for fun? Well, now you can! Paddock PTA is sponsoring a book club and you are invited to participate. The Paddock Book Club will meet on Fridays during lunch in the Resource Center.

We will be reading one book over the course of eight weeks. This year's book club will meet every Friday beginning in February through March 20. Keep looking for an announcement regarding this year's book selection.

Questions? Contact: Jenny Kendall 847-358-3876 or waskin1@comcast.net





Family Fitness Fair



Save the Date!

Friday, February 6, 2009

6:00 PM—8:00 PM @ Paddock School

Please plan to attend this fun, educational and interactive family event designed to promote physical activity, eating right, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Every family will receive a goody bag full of free health and nutrition items!

There will be raffle prizes also!

Some of the booths you'll see that night are:

Family Dance Party - learn party and line dances from the gym teachers

Tae Kwon Do - encourage movement and stretching through the art of TKD

Obstacle course - agility and strength training shown through the competitive course

Wheel of BMI (run by licensed nurse) - learn what a health body mass is and check your own BMI

Pedometer Road Rally - Walk the school with a map of various locations to count your steps!

Examining family traits - body image and genetic traits

School Lunch - review 5 components of a healthy meal and build your own healthy lunch.

Lunch Box Makeover - Whole Foods provide samples of great healthy food choices, plus nutritional facts and recipes...

AND MANY MORE GAMES, RELAYS AND INTERACTIVE BOOTHS!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help run these stations! No training necessary.

If you are interested in helping, please contact:

Gina Streepy, 847-202-9254, gina.arbonne@gmail.com

Look for more complete details in a flyer in English and Spanish coming home in backpacks.



All materials associated with the event are being printed and paid for by grant money from Northwest Community Hospital.

PARENTAL CONTROLS BECOME EASIER TO UNDERSTAND AND INSTALL

No more excuses — parental control software helps parents supervise their children's computer usage, even when the parents are away from the computer, and the software is becoming simpler to use, according to TheOnlineMom.com.

Nearly everyone knows of a friend or neighbor's child that stumbled across an inappropriate website or accidentally deleted important files. How can you make sure this doesn't happen in your house? It's easy... and getting easier, according to TheOnlineMom.com. And it's even more important in this post-holiday season with new laptops and desktops received as gifts. Use this primer to learn about parental controls.

What are parental controls?

Parental control software allows parents to:

- ◆ Manage time spent on the Internet or on the computer
- ◆ Limit what their children are allowed to see and read online
- ◆ Select which computer programs children can use
- ◆ Monitor and log all Internet activity



Managing computer time

For all children, managing time spent at the computer is as important as monitoring the amount of time spent watching TV. Like the TV, computer use should not be an automatic right; rather it should be a privilege earned by good behavior and respect for the rules of engagement.

Most parental control software allows scheduling of times when the computer, and by extension the Internet, is and isn't available to your children.

Filters and blocking software

When it comes to controlling what children are allowed to see and read, most security suites will typically offer to block websites matching specific categories such as pornography, violence, drugs, or chat. Some blocking software will refer to its own database of matching sites, which is constantly updated for new additions, and others will analyze page content in much the same way that search engines do.

Protect files and turn off applications

All parental control software programs will also allow parents to "turn off" applications that are normally available to older users. Typically these would be e-mail services but could also include financial applications, games, movies, or other entertainment programs available off the desktop or elsewhere.

To spy or not too spy?

Finally, there is the "spyware" side of parental controls. This can be a useful tool if you want to monitor how adventurous your children might be getting with their Internet searches. Typically, these monitoring features will log every attempt to visit a banned website or simply record every website visited, good or bad. They can even send notifications real-time, so you can be at work and see which sites your children are attempting to visit.

This abridged article is reproduced from a two-part series on parental controls originally published on TheOnlineMom.com, a website offering tech information and advice to parents.



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K-2ND GRADE BOYS
WITH ADULT MALE
FEBRUARY 25
FROM 7- 8 PM (GYM)