



# Park Elementary News

ISD 423

*Celebrating lifelong learning and building a school community  
that encourages learning, respect and communication.*

Volume 1  
September 10, 2018

## Contact Information

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320-587-2837

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Principal  
[Email](#)

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Health Office  
320-234-2734

School Website  
[www.isd423.org](http://www.isd423.org)

Hutchinson Bus Lines  
320--234-0888

## Important Dates

September 10— 3:45 PTO  
Meeting at West Elem.

September 21—School  
Picture Day

September 24—PTO/  
Cherrydale Fundraiser  
Ends

September 28—Reading  
Celebration Day

October 1—3:45 PTO  
Meeting at Park  
Elementary

October 3 - Two Hour  
Late Start

October 8-12—  
Homecoming Week

October 16-17—Fall  
Conferences

## A New Year has Begun

Notes from Principal Olberg

On behalf of the entire staff, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at Park Elementary. We had a successful first couple weeks and look forward to building relationships with your children throughout the school year.

Open House was a huge success! Success for children is dependent upon the involvement triangle of parents/guardians, school, and student. Our repeating theme in morning announcements this year is from our new reading curriculum for third through fifth graders, which is, "Collect, Interpret, Apply." (See bottom article for more information). Your support in helping your child(ren) identify meaningful goals for learning and demonstrate a "stick-to-it" attitude to overcome challenges in achieving those goals is important. By attending Open House, you have already begun to model this involvement. Thank you!

### Tips for School Success

**Get to know your child's teacher right away, at the beginning of the year.** Don't wait for problems to converse with your child's teacher. Talk now. Let him/her know your hopes, fears, and thoughts for your child. Then, if there are problems, you have a foundation on which you can build ideas for your child's success. And always—communicate, communicate, *communicate* in a positive, non-threatening manner.

**Create learning opportunities.** Celebrate successes during the school year. Encourage your child to post his/her writing assignments, art work, math test, or play an instrument at home. We can learn from our mistakes, too. Do not make excuses for your child. It is important that they feel the uncomfortable nature of failing a test, the consequences of skipping school, or the discipline that occurs if they hurt someone else. Let your child know you love them but also that we all have consequences in life. Finally, let them feel the consequences, discuss how to do things differently next time, and move on with the hope that the mistake will not be repeated.

## New Reading Curriculum Debuts in Grade 3-5

### *Read Side by Side*

This year, your student is participating in a special reading program, which is known as *Read Side by Side*. The program is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. *Read Side by Side* seeks to increase students' love of reading through rich, complex literature while using the C.I.A. approach (Collect, Interpret and Apply). This approach is a framework for reading that breaks the task down into manageable steps for elementary readers.

1. The initial part of reading instruction focuses on *listening and language comprehension*.
2. The latter part of the lesson challenges students to transfer the strategies and skills learned in read-aloud time into text that they are reading themselves; it's known as *reading comprehension time*.

Have more questions about the program? Please visit the website by [clicking here](#).

*Special Note: Second grade adopted the National Geographic™ curriculum during the 2017-2018 school year. This curriculum program is designed for K-2 students. In 2nd grade, students focus on mastering phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency.*

# For Your Information

## Have you Heard?

- **Lunch prices** were increased for the 2018-2019 school year. Student lunches are now \$2.65 whereas an adult ticket is priced at \$4.35. Adult meal tickets are available for purchase in the Park Elementary Office.
- Our school continues to connect with families through **text messages**, averaging two to three times per week. If interested in this service, send a text to the number: 40404. In the message body of your text, type the words, "follow parkelem". Standard text rates will apply. You can stop receiving messages at any time by sending a text to 40404 with the message, "unfollow parkelem". This is a terrific way to stay informed about school events along with cancellations and closings. This message service is provided by Twitter, although you do not need a Twitter account.
- **Campus Messenger** is an email tool that is frequently used to communicate with parents/guardians. If you're not hearing from us, please call the office at (320) 587-2837 so that we can verify your correct email address.
- **Picture retakes** are scheduled for Friday, November 9.

**5th Grade Band Information Meetings** will be Tuesday, September 11, in the Large Music Room. Meeting times will be at 4:00, 6:00 or 7:30 PM; choose the time that works best for you.

**5th Grade Band Sign-Up** will begin after school on Monday, September 17.  
Hope to see you there!



## Important Reminders

- If you need to pick-up your student from school prior to dismissal, please contact your child's teacher through either a note, email or phone call. You must sign-out your student in the office prior to leaving the building.
- **Important school times are as follows:**
  - Drop-off** students no earlier than 8:15 AM.
  - Free **breakfast** is served, starting at 8:15 AM.
  - School begins** at 8:45 AM. Students are tardy if not in class.
  - School dismissal** is at 3:25 PM.
- Student-featured multimedia Daily Announcements are available to view on the Park Elementary homepage. [Click here](#) for today's episode!
- You will soon be notified regarding the online conference sign-ups. Conferences will take place October 16-17.

## PTO: Be in the Know

### We Need You!

The first meeting of the school year is scheduled for Monday, September 10th. It will begin at 3:45 PM in the West Elementary Library. Please come to learn the important role our PTO plays in supporting both Park and West Elementary. In addition, it is a terrific way to meet other parents/guardians who are committed to making a difference!

If you are unable to attend the first meeting but would like to stay informed about various PTO happenings, "like" them on Facebook! Additional information and resources can be found by [clicking here](#).

**Special note:** We are about to launch the Cherrydale fundraiser! Once the kick-off begins, packets will be sent home with your child. Packets will be due back to the Main Office on September 24.

**Park Elementary Teachers thank  
the PTO for  
all their donations!**

# Department Updates

## Back-to-School Health Checklist

Antonia Barrick, ISD 423 District Nurse

Help your child get ready for a healthy and successful school year:

- Schedule a school physical or annual checkup.
- Make sure vaccinations are up-to-date and get a copy of the record to your child's school
- Update emergency contact information for your child's school and keep this current (this is who staff contact if your child is ill or injured and you are not able to be reached).
- Share important health and medication information with the school nurse and any other staff members you feel need to know.
- Make sure your primary care provider completes an Emergency Care Plan for any serious conditions and share it with the school nurse. Include authorization forms for your child/school health staff to administer medications.
- Plan to drop off any medication your child is prescribed for school with the school health staff. (Students cannot bring on their own. A trusted adult must drop off/pick up medication).
- Choose backpacks that are lightweight, include wide padded shoulder straps and a waist belt, and adjust easily.
- Provide healthy snack options for your child.
- If your child is celebrating their birthday, try a non-food item as a treat (stickers, pencils, bubbles, erasers, notepad, small coloring activities). Think outside the box and have fun!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Health Office at 320-234-2734.

## Counselors' Corner

Jill Bridge & Valerie Huepenbecker, LSC



At Park Elementary we are fortunate to have two school counselors, Valerie Huepenbecker and Jill Bridge (pictured left). The counselors rotate the grades they serve in order to work with the

same group of students all their years at Park Elementary. For example, Jill Bridge currently works with grades 3 and 5, therefore, next year Jill will work with grades 2 and 4. Valerie Huepenbecker works with grade 2 and 4 this year and will rotate to grade 3 and 5 next year.

*Article is continued in next column.*

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We want your child to be as successful as possible at school. As such, we are here to help your child know how to learn and how to get along with others. We will be using the *Second Step* program in your child's classroom to teach these critical skills. The four areas that we will be focusing on are: skills for learning, empathy, emotion management, and problem solving. Along with these classroom lessons we also work with students in different group settings, one on one, and with families. Feel free to contact us at anytime if you have any questions or concerns.



## Department Spotlight

### Student Supervision

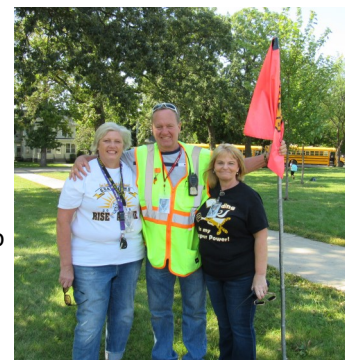
Supervising 850 students is no easy feat, but we have six employees who are devoted to ensuring that all children remain safe while outside on the grounds of Park Elementary. Prior to the beginning of school, during staggered recess times, and after school dismissal, these individuals brave the natural elements to supervise students. Some members assist the crossing patrol, others provide assistance to students getting on/off the bus whereas most monitor the playground during recess.

Together, this department has a combined total of 55 years of experience! We appreciate their commitment to keeping our students safe.



Pictured near the playground from left to right is: Jen, Kris (sitting), and Dedee.

Pictured near the bus line from left to right is: Gwen, Sam, and Wanda.



## Park Elementary Celebrates Reading

### A New Design is Selected

As a continuation from years past, our school will acknowledge the importance of reading each month in a fun, public way: by wearing gold and black or a reading-themed t-shirt. This year's design is pictured at the right. It will be used for both this school year and the 2019-2020 school year. Interested in ordering a shirt? [Click here](#) to get started! Please note, this is not a fundraiser. The \$9 is the direct cost of printing the shirts. The deadline for placing your order is September 12.

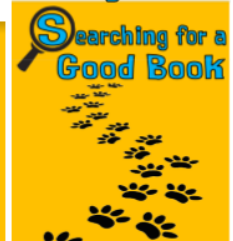
Mark your calendars for this school year's **Reading Celebration Days**; dates are provided in the image to the right of this article.

## 2018-19 READ

### Shirt Days



September 28  
October 26  
November 16  
December 14



January 25  
February 22  
March 29  
April 26  
May 24

## Park got Caught Reading this Summer!

### Reading in all Spaces and Places

Students and staff were challenged to be captured reading throughout the summer months. The Library had a terrific response! Members of Park Elementary were found reading in various spots, both near and far. See the submitted images, provided below.



# First Days Back at School

## A Civic Tradition Continues

### Local Lions Club Makes Annual Donation

Third grade students were the proud recipients of their own personal dictionary, courtesy of the Lions Club. Pictured right is from the Lions' presentation to the students. This has been an ongoing tradition for decades, fostering opportunities where students can improve their writing and other academic abilities. We thank the Lions Club for their time and generosity! To read more about The Dictionary Project, [click here](#).



## Classroom Activities

### From Around the Building

Students throughout the building have been busy, from first day of school activities to transitioning into learning new subject matter. Provided below are some snapshots submitted by classroom teachers.



First Day picture with Mrs. Wheatley's third graders!

Mrs. Schumaci's students were tasked with creating some rules for the classroom.



First Day picture with Mrs. Padynos' third graders!

Students worked on a team-building exercise with their peers in Mrs. Rude's room.



Despite the rainy start to the first day of school, it was a great day for our students and staff!