



Park Elementary News

ISD 423

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

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Contact

Information

Park Elementary Office
320-587-2837

Dan Olberg

Principal

[Email](#)

Mary Getzke

Assistant Principal

[Email](#)

Health Office

320-234-2734

School Website

www.isd423.org

Hutchinson Bus Lines

320--234-0888

Important Dates

January 17—Evening
Conferences/Scholastic
Book Fair

January 18—No School
for Students/Conferences

January 21—No School
for Students (MLK Jr. Day)

January 25—Reading
Celebration Day

February 4—PTO Meeting
at Park Elementary, at
3:45

February 6—Two Hour
Late Start

February 15—No School
(Snow Day #1)

February 18—No School
(President's Day)

February 22—Reading
Celebration Day

Winter Conferences Update

From the Park Elementary Office

Park Elementary will be hosting conferences next week! Evening conferences will be held from 4:00-8:00 PM on Thursday, January 17th whereas the day conferences will be held from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM on Friday, January 18th.

In addition to your scheduled conference, you are encouraged to visit the building's Specialists (Art, Library, Music, Phy Ed, Science Lab, Keyboarding and Tech Time).

Scholastic Book Fair

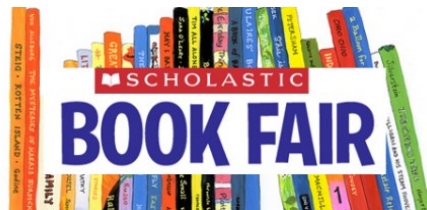
Coming Soon to Park Elementary

During conferences, Park Elementary is excited to host a Scholastic Book Fair!

The hours are as follows:

Thursday, 1/17: 3:30-8:00 PM and
Friday, 1/18: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Come to the Foyer to check out the wonderful array of reading materials!

Hope to see you there! Questions or concerns? [Email](#) Ms. Shadis.



Having a "Plan B"

Early School Dismissal Information

Minnesota weather can be unpredictable, especially during the winter months. It's important to have a "Plan B" in place so that you and your child(ren) know what to do if school is dismissed early due to inclement weather. It is recommended to outline what your child should do (go to daycare or have alternative transportation in place). An excellent place to record your plan is in your child's homework planner or taped to your child's take-home folder.

Here's an excerpt from Superintendent Daron VanderHeiden's Inclement Weather letter:

Early School Closing Information:

Closing time will be expressed in terms of number of hours early (e.g. 2 hours early means that if your student normally arrives home at 3:30 pm and school is let out two hours early due to inclement weather, your student will arrive home at approximately 1:30 pm). Please be mindful that bus transportation may be delayed due to the inclement weather and road conditions.

Bus routes will run the same as other days but will be earlier. In the extreme case where buses are unable to transport students, these students will be sheltered in the school until the parents/or guardians pick them up or other arrangements are made. [Click here](#) to read the remainder of his letter.

A New Face in the Park Office

Introducing Alicia Roepke

As of January 2nd, Alicia Roepke has assumed the role as Lead Administrative Assistant in the office. Previously, Alicia has worked as the Unit Secretary at the Inpatient Mental Health Unit at Hutchinson Health. She was raised in Hutchinson and is happy to be part of the Park Elementary Team! Alicia can be emailed at alicia.roepke@isd423.org



Department Updates



Department Spotlight

Library Assistance

Over 15,000 books, audiobooks, and magazines can be found at the Park Elementary Library! Mrs. Deal and Mrs. Fairbanks are the two educational assistants that happily help students and staff with material circulation (both are pictured below). On a weekly basis, they assist all 840 students find reading materials that are suitable, challenging, and engaging. When asked what book they'd recommend to our students (a hard task to single out one novel) Mrs. Fairbanks responded with, "The Penderwicks" series by Jeanne Birdsall. Mrs. Deal recommends the "I Survived" series by Lauren Tarshis. She also recommends the picture book "Grandpa's Teeth" by Andrew Clements. Together, they have a combined total of nearly 30 years of experience!

We have a certified Teacher-Librarian, Ms. Shadis, who is shared between Park and West Elementary. She oversees the Library, delivers media literacy/technology lessons, and carefully curates the available reading selections. On an average week, approximately 2,500 items are checked-out!



Pictured left to right: Mrs. Deal and Mrs. Fairbanks

Attention 5th Grade Band Parents!

The first band concert is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 7th.

PTO

Be in the Know

There will be a dance for PTO Family Fun Night on March 7th. Information will be emailed to parents/guardians once details are finalized.



Parents/guardians are invited to attend the next monthly meeting. It will be held at the Park Elementary Library on Monday, February 4th, at 3:45 PM.

From the Health Office

Important Reminders for Winter

With the winter months upon us, it is important to review the school's guidelines for when a child should stay home from school. They are listed below:

- A child with a fever of 100 degrees or higher should not be in school. He/she should stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- Additionally, children with vomiting or diarrhea should not be in school; they should stay at home for 24 hours after the last vomiting or diarrhea incident.
- When antibiotics are prescribed by your physician, children should be on their medication for 24 hours, before returning to the classroom.

IMPORTANT: Please send an extra pair of clean, dry socks with your child over the next few weeks for students who get wet feet from the rain/snow. Thank you!

Allergy Reminder

Park Elementary is a peanut and tree nut aware school. Please be mindful when sending treats to school for celebrations. If you have any questions please contact the Health office: **234-2734**

[Park Programs and Activities]

Students Walk to Fight Hunger

Hospice Thanks and Remembrance Tree Project

Prior to the holiday break, our students participated in the annual "Walk for Hunger" Food Shelf Drive. This event paired a wellness activity with an enriching community service project. Students donated food and pledged to walk a brisk 30 minutes on a set course during their PE class. A total of 1,343 pounds (and \$50) was donated to the McLeod County Food Shelf! The following week, Student Council members helped deliver the goods.

The staff at the Food Shelf was very appreciative of all the donations. Many thanks to the families that donated either money and/or nonperishable goods. In addition, thank you to the numerous adults who volunteered to supervise the walk.

Another charitable event that was held was the Tree of Lights fundraiser to support local area hospice care. To create these paper trees, a "bulb" was added, in memory of a loved one, after each \$2 donation.

In all, an impressive \$672 was raised for the Allina Hospice Fund, in coordination with the Hutchinson Area Foundation for Health Care. Again, our deepest gratitude to those who donated to this cause!



TigerBots Go Into Orbit

Mr. Durham, FLL Coach



The ISD423 FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team blasted off into space with this season's "Into Orbit" theme challenges.

LEGO League teams around the world were challenged to find a problem involved in extended space travel and develop a solution to the problem. After a lot of research, the TigerBots decided to take on comfort of sleep in outer space. During space travel, many astronauts find sleep difficult and most astronauts do not get nearly the amount of refreshing sleep NASA says they need to be at top performance level. The solution: the StarBed. The TigerBots invented the StarBed, a sleeping bag with inflatable air pockets which make astronauts feel as though they are sleeping in a bed, rather than floating in zero gravity.

The team has also built a robot using only LEGO parts and programmed it to complete space-themed missions on the robot game table. The LEGO League program puts a great deal of emphasis on the Core Values which focus on teamwork and cooperation with other teams.

The TigerBots received the Project Award at a regional tournament on December 8th and were selected to move on to the sectional tournament on January 12th in St. Paul. Learn more, see photos, watch videos, and follow the team's progress at the Sectional Tournament on the team website: tiny.cc/parkLEGO.

