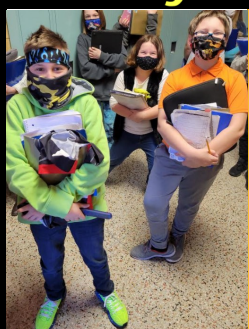
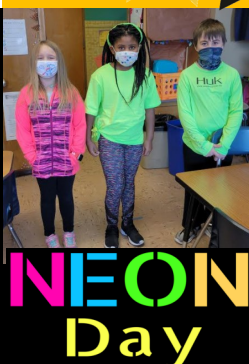




Park Elementary News

February 26, 2021

ISD 423



Contact Information

Park Elementary Office
320-587-2837

Dan Olberg
Principal
Email

Mary Getzke
Assistant Principal
Email

Building Nurse
320-234-2734

School Website
www.isd423.org

Hutchinson Bus Lines
320-234-0888

Important Dates

March 2—Read Across America Day

March 5—No School, Staff Work Day

March 8-12—No School, Spring Break

March 15—Tri 3 Starts

April 2—No School, Good Friday

April 7—2 Hour Late Start



@parkelem

Checks For Children Reward



Students enjoyed some ice cream during lunch time to celebrate raising \$6,510 for our Checks for Children Fundraiser! Way to go, Park Elementary!



PTO CHECKS FOR CHILDREN GOAL THERMOMETER



Clothing Donations Needed

The Health Office is in need of clothing donations again. We are looking for:

- Girls/boys pants. Sizes 5-14, NO jeans.
- New/unused/still in the package boys and girls underwear. Sizes XS-XL
- At this time we do not need shirts.



School Calendar Reminder:

Please notice that the next scheduled 2-hour late start is April 7th.

{ Around The Building }

Park Elementary



Tiger Teamwork

Title 1/Intervention Assistants

Title 1 is a federally funded program designed to provide help for students who need extra support in math, reading and/or language arts. Its goal is to help students succeed in the regular classroom and reach grade level performance. Park Elementary has 15 paraprofessionals who serve in our Title 1 department. These staff members are assigned to help students in all four grade levels. Some of our intervention staff are new this year, some staff have been at Park for 19 years, some are former teachers (with many years of teaching experience) that still want to help students. They are imperative to the successes of Park students and are a great asset to classroom teachers.

THANK YOU, Gwen S., Donna B., Peggy K., Lisa S., Misty E., Patti L., Juli M., Jodi D., Jodi B., Sue S., Joyce L., Jenny A., Jen W., Colleen W., and Kim B.. We appreciate all that you do!



Global Play Day

Mrs. Schumaci's Distance Learning class enjoyed simply meeting one another face-to-face for Global Play Day. They enjoyed time outside with one another playing a quick

game of kick-ball and playing on the playground. It was great seeing the relationships that have developed online in person. Although masks were on, smiles were seen through the eyes of the students.



Snow Ball Game with Mrs. Olberg



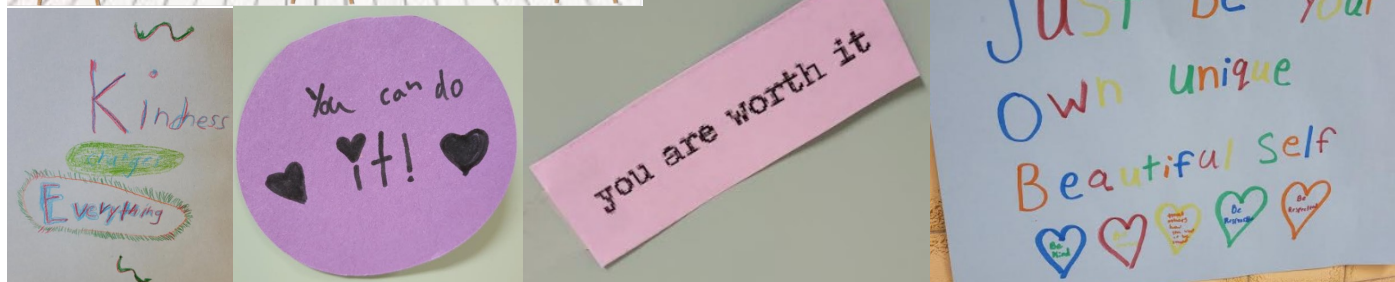
Mrs. Olberg's 2nd graders have been learning about comparing and contrasting. They did a snowball activity to practice comparing and contrasting West Elementary to Park Elementary. Each student had a crumpled up piece of paper with something about the schools written on it - for example: 2 gyms, STEM, 1 principal, 2 principals, Art, etc. To start, the kids and the classroom were divided in half. The kids got to throw the "snowballs" back and forth to each other trying to keep them off of their own side. When the timer went off, they had to pick a snowball up, read what it said, and then go stand next to the sign that was the correct comparison of the two schools. The signs to choose from were: Park Elementary, West Elementary, Both, or Neither. If a student picked up the snowball that said 2 gyms, they would've gone and stood by *Park Elementary*. If they picked up a snowball that said STEM, they would have stood by *Both*. It was a great activity, especially in a week with so many inside recesses! The kids had so much fun, some were even sweating from playing so hard!



[Around the Building]

KINDNESS WEEK

@ PARK



Just Breathe: Tips from Mrs. Huepenbecker

Take a breath, a deep, slow breath that fills up your lungs and makes you sit up straight. Now slowly blow the air out through your mouth like you are blowing out a candle. These are the words I use to help teach kids belly breathing. Belly Breathing is one of the strategies taught in the classroom through our Second Step Curriculum. It is used to teach kids to calm down strong feelings, but it can also be used to focus in the classroom, relax at bedtime or anytime a child needs to be calm.

This strategy has been researched and has been shown to have positive effects on one's health and can aid in stress relief. This year has been filled with unexpected, challenging times for our kids (and adults). Teaching and practicing belly breaths is just one of the many strategies one can use to help our children cope with stress. Other strategies taught include counting to 10, positive self-talk, and visualization. Parents can help their children practice belly breathing by doing it with them.

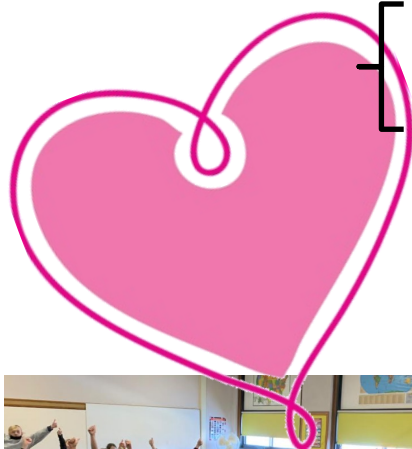
The next time you see your child struggling to calm down or they need to be still or quiet, try modeling slow deep breathing. I have found that leading by example or modeling as we call it, can be more successful than simply telling a child to take some deep breaths.

Try it. Go ahead and close your eyes, and focus on your breathing. Feel the air slowly move in and out of your lungs as you bring all your attention to your breath. Take some big breaths through your nose and then slowly blow the air through your mouth until you are squeezing your belly tight. Feel the tension in your body start to relax as you focus on your breathing. Taking these moments to focus on your breath might seem overly simplistic, but it can be such a powerful strategy that is good for both the mind and body.

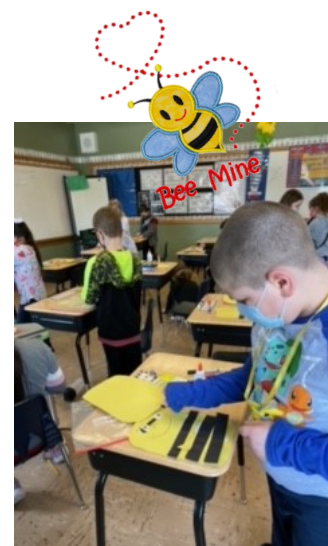
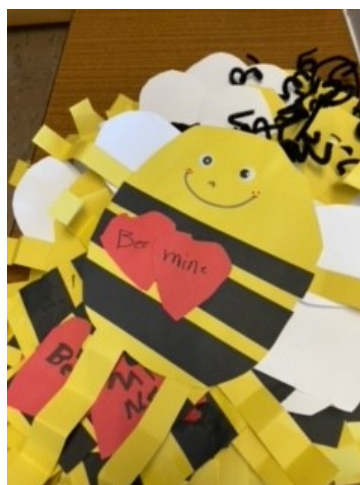
Above is the Second Step Poster for How to Calm Down. All Students at Park Elementary have completed these lessons, although it is something that is practiced and reviewed all year long. Below are some helpful resources.

- This video is for 2nd and 3rd grade: <https://youtu.be/P8TliPQNfsc>
- This video is for 4th and 5th grade: <https://www.youtu-be.com/watch?v=26TnRsPx9w&feature=youtu.be>
- This is a digital space filled with relaxation strategies: <https://sites.google.com/isd423.org/relax/>

Thankful for Friendship



Mr. Langins' students celebrated Valentine's Day while watching a movie, playing games, and eating candy!



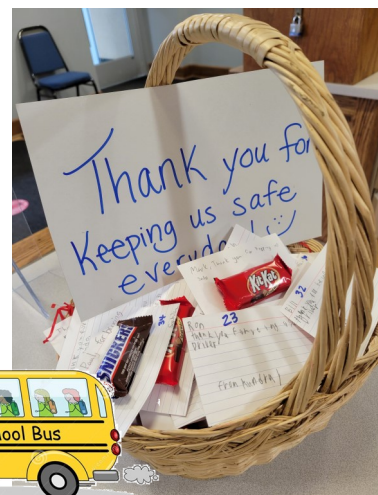
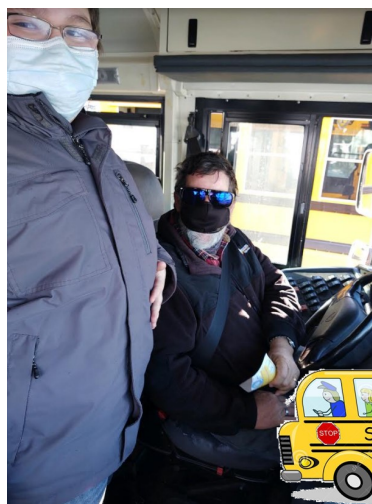
3rd Graders in Mrs. Padrnos' class made Valentine Bees for the residents at Prince of Peace. They're Bee-YOU-Tiful!



Mrs. Larson's 4th graders celebrated Valentine's Day by exchanging cards and playing 7-up!

Bus Driver Appreciation Day

Thank you, Bus Drivers!





Music
Mrs. Barat &
Mrs. Hoefft

Specialist Spotlight

Music

Park Elementary

The students at Park Elementary have been successful musicians this year in spite of the many restrictions placed on us whether we are in person, hybrid or distance learning. Singing with our masks on is not easy, but it is possible to hear each other while practicing rounds and singing other fun songs. To play recorder we have had to use bell covers and play with a special recorder mask with an opening for our mouthpiece, but we make it work! We have been especially creative finding ways to dance together, play singing games, and doing partner activities without touching each other. Even though it has been difficult this year, there is still lots of music happening at Park Elementary!

During distance learning, we managed to come up with our own instruments to play during songs and rhythm activities, such as pencils for sticks, plastic buckets with lids for drums, and keys for jingle bells. 4th and 5th graders worked on creating their own concert program for an orchestra. 4th graders worked on a Christmas themed program while 5th graders explored several themes and genres of music.



Since returning to school from distance learning, students have been busy working on many music projects. Fifth graders created "pie rhythm" patterns in small groups and practiced playing them on tubano drums. They have also been busy working on earning their Recorder Karate belts.



Fourth graders worked with a partner and a set of measure cards to create rhythms using sixteenth notes. They practiced saying and counting their measures while clapping or using rhythm sticks. A fun song to sing that has sixteenth notes in it is *Kookaburra*, a folk song from Australia that can be sung as a round in three or four groups. The recorders have been ordered and fourth graders are eager to play as soon as they arrive.



Third graders practiced singing a round in two groups for the song *Hey Ho, Winter's Here*. They also worked on an Israeli dance called *Zum Gali Gali* that uses the grapevine step. Other songs and games we sang and played were *Che Che Kule*, *Old Raggy*, *Oliver Cromwell*, and the *Pussycat Handjive*.

Second graders learned about octaves, and had fun jumping around the music room while singing *Pogostick*. They sang the song *Aikendrum* about the man in the moon and created their own pictures about what he looks like. They also worked on a composition project that practices stepping notes, skipping notes and repeated notes. After composing their melodies, they played for each other on xylophones and glockenspiels.



All of the grades enjoyed playing a variety of instruments to orchestral music while following a visual map with the online music program called *Musication*.



Keep making music, Park Students!

- Mrs. Barat and Mrs. Hoefft

[Around the Building]

Park Elementary



Together Again

Mrs. Marino and her band students can finally rehearse together! The band was split into two groups; the Black and the Yellow groups. They meet every other week on Wednesdays in the Little Theater.



Mask Up, Park Elementary!

Park students who are noticed wearing their mask properly by Park Staff get their name added to a drawing. Names will be drawn weekly for a special activity of decorating face masks. Great Job, students!



STEM Creations

3rd grade STEM students have spent the last couple of weeks learning about classifying, habitats, adaptation and natural selection. They are now in the process of creating and building their own animals that can adapt to a given habitat. In other words, they are building the "Ultimate Animals of Survival!" *Pictured Below: Mrs. Bussler's students.*

