

# PARKWAY today

News and information for residents of Parkway School District  
**Spring 2008**

**Accredited with Distinction**

## Getting It Write

Defying the national trend, Parkway students keep winning big in writing and vocabulary contests. Here's the secret to their success. See Pages 1, 6-7.



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**J**eremy White, a North High senior, delights in the words of the writing judge from the national Poetry Out Loud competition. The judge said Jeremy's performance of Langston Hughes' poem, "Theme for English B," was one of the best, noting that Jeremy recounted each word. "I feel as though Langston Hughes and I share the same voice," says Jeremy.

Jeremy is one of many Parkway students who have dominated local news stories with big wins in writing and vocabulary competitions recently. As much of the nation decries the decline in literacy, Parkway kids continue to flex their literary muscles.

Parkway. (See Page 7.) "Parkway has had quite a few successes in the literacy ballpark this year, but those successes have been par for the course that Parkway has established," says Mike Hopkins, South High communication arts teacher. Hopkins is referring to Parkway's "long-standing tradition of nurturing good readers, writers and thinkers."

Brianna Coppersmith, a Central High senior, has been on the receiving end of

that nurturing. She credits Jason Lovera, her Honors English III teacher, with helping her to become a top-notch editor on her own essays and gently prodding her to enter contests. He, along with countless other Parkway teachers, provides constant feedback to students on their writing, another key ingredient in producing successful writers. (See how constant feedback helped one struggling writer ace advanced English, Page 6.)

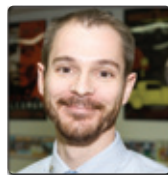
With Lovera's help, Brianna recently won a national award for "Big Frames." The essay's title refers to the huge glasses



Merle Singer, North High, can get average writers to produce unbelievably wonderful writing.



"Parkway has had quite a few successes in the literacy ballpark," says Mike Hopkins, South High.



Jason Lovera, Central High, provides immediate feedback to students.

she once wore as a child, and the introduction focuses on how awkward she felt in those huge frames—until she stepped onto the ballet floor, that is, and forgot about them altogether. "I began the essay by talking about those glasses," she says, "because I wanted them to represent the awkward phases we all go through until we find something we love, which in my case was ballet."

Finding a student's passion is necessary to engage students in writing, according to Eric Dodds, a South High senior. A violinist and guitarist who plays in a jazz music trio, Eric's passion for music led to his big win last year in the St. Louis Symphony Writing Contest—a contest that has students respond creatively to a piece of classical music supplied by the St. Louis Symphony. "I listened to Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony Finale and was struck by the bombastic nature of the piece. I wrote a poem about a godly figure creating a world based on the music."

Merle Singer, a North High communication arts teacher, is mentioned frequently as someone who can get average writers to produce unbelievably wonderful writing because she engages students.

Even a research paper can become a thing of joy in Singer's class. Consider a

rainbow, for instance. Or more appropriately, "What's at the end of the rainbow?" That's the question one of Singer's students had always pondered, so Singer encouraged the student to write a research paper on the subject.

Stephanie Connolly of West High, who won a national award for her paper on vegetarianism, found her own voice by reading and writing about what she loves. In fact, the idea of following her passion is still so appealing that it greatly influenced her college choice. She will attend St. John's College specifically because students there study the 100 greatest books of Western Civilization.

"It's easier for me to write than to express myself verbally," says Stephanie, who is deaf, though most people don't realize that. With amplified hearing aids, she carries on conversations with what seems like relative ease.

Stephanie, who also placed third in the St. Louis citywide round of the National Vocabulary Championship, says her parents have helped her achieve success, backing her every step of the way.

It's a common theme heard in Parkway—quality parents and students. "Without either, we wouldn't even be discussing the topic of why Parkway kids are winning awards," says Mike Hopkins.

Continued on Page 6

## Parkway's Success:

### » Writing Awards



- **National Council of English Teacher Awards**  
Nine of 18 Missouri students who won national awards for superior writing in 2007 were from Parkway.
- **National Vocabulary Championships**  
The citywide winner is from Parkway (See Page 7).
- **Poetry Out Loud Competition**  
North High students have been consistent winners in this national competition. Students are required to interpret and express the general idea of a poem.
- **The Newsweek "My Turn" Essay Competition**  
Central High students in Lou Jobst's class regularly win spots in the Newsweek "My Turn" essay competition.
- **St. Louis Symphony Writing Competition**  
South and West High students consistently receive top awards in this contest that has students respond creatively to a piece of classical music supplied by the St. Louis Symphony.

Awards continued on Page 11

# superintendent's corner

## Getting Out the Word

Dear Parkway Community:

I learned a new word in this edition of *Parkway Today*—from a West High sophomore named Rajiv Tarigopula. Rajiv is the current vocabulary champion, and I will let him introduce the new word to you, which is the longest one in the dictionary. (See *Rajiv's story on Page 7.*)



**Superintendent  
Robert Malito**

Many other Parkway students have also been receiving awards and recognition in writing, vocabulary, and music competitions, plus one Central High student received a perfect ACT score of 36. I take great pride in these successes—and in Parkway's role as a leader and cultivator of our promising students.

As superintendent, I want to ensure our students have the best

environment in which to learn so they can continue to excel.

I am pleased with our academic environment. Thanks to Prop R, we've been able to reduce class sizes, purchase new textbooks, and commit more resources to reading, writing, math and technology.

Our physical environment is more troubling and challenging. We have made building improvements and repairs in some of our schools, thanks to the 2004 bond issue. But there is still more work to do. In our recent "Town Hall" meetings, parents and citizens reviewed our aging buildings and discussed how much more work our schools will require in the next 10 years.

You might be surprised to learn that the average Parkway school is 40 years old, and roughly \$10 million is required annually to maintain our 29 school buildings. This is without factoring in major renovations to classrooms and improving areas such as science labs. So later this year, the board of education will consider whether to put a no-tax-increase bond proposal on the ballot in November 2008.

.....

**"I want to ensure our students have the best environment in which to learn so they can continue to excel."**

.....

A no-tax-increase bond issue will keep our physical environment more in tune with our academic environment and ensure the opportunities for our students to excel in the 21st century.

As always, I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Malito, Ph.D.

## Prop R Funds to Reduce Class Sizes at Middle and High Schools

**R**educing class sizes at each of Parkway's five middle and high schools is a top priority in 2008-09.

The board of education has given preliminary approval to reduce class sizes in grades six through 12 this year.

With smaller class sizes, "we expect to see gains in student achievement," says Bill Myer, assistant superintendent of secondary education. "A student's sense of well-being increases so deeper learning can take place."

Elementary students and teachers have already noticed these benefits because Parkway reduced elementary class sizes last year.

With Prop R funds, Myer is also confident all schools will continue to provide a comprehensive curriculum.

Additional Prop R funding in 2008-09 will be used to support SMART Board installations at every school, 400 in all, and create 20 new high-technology prototype classrooms—one in each of four core subject areas at every middle school.

A preliminary budget will be presented to the board of education on April 9. The board is scheduled to adopt a final budget on June 18.

For more information on Prop R progress to date, or to sign up for special "R News" e-mails, visit the Parkway Web site at [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/propR](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/propR).

Preparing 1960s Schools for the Next Generation

# Bond Issues Help Repair and Renovate Aging Schools

With passage of a bond issue in 2004, Parkway was able to implement the first phase of a rolling 10-year maintenance and repair plan to complete a variety of projects at every school, including critical technology and security updates. Now in year five, phase one is almost complete and projects from the 2004 bond issue will be finished this summer as scheduled.

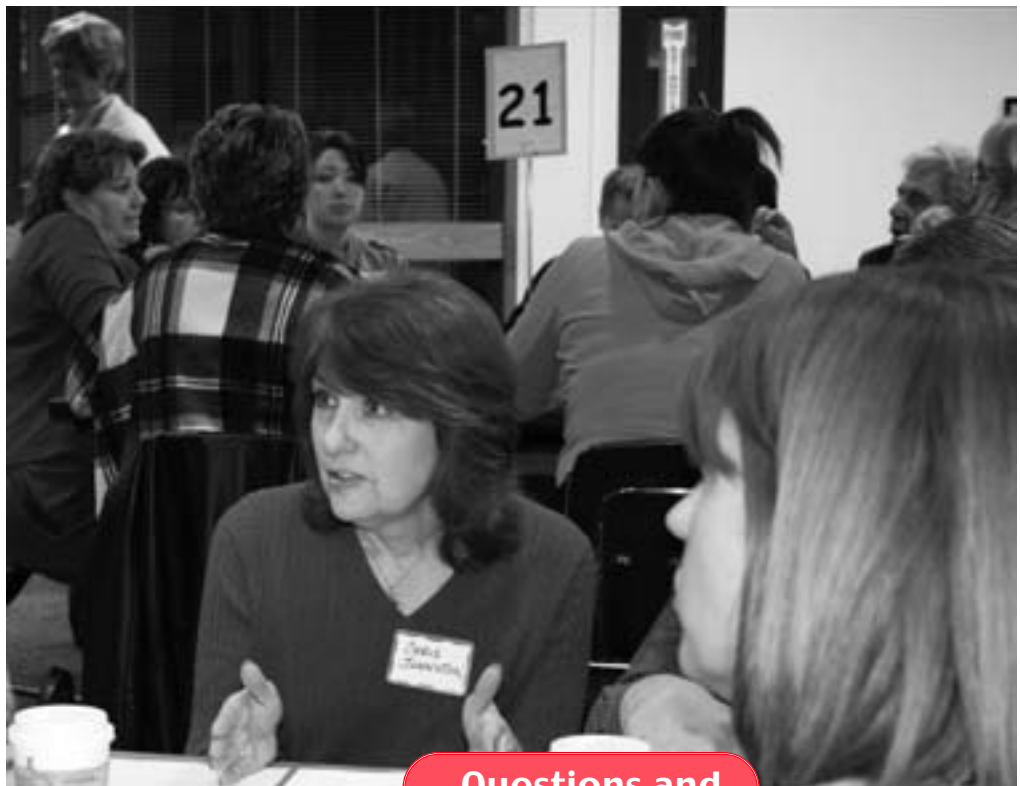
In February and March, more than 200 residents participated in a series of "Town Hall" meetings to discuss the next five years of repair and maintenance needs in our schools. Many participants were surprised to learn that the average Parkway school is 40 years old and continues to need costly maintenance to stay in good working condition—no different than a 40-year-old home. Buildings also have reached the point of needing renovations to support technology and to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment that is vital for our students' future. With the 2004 bond projects nearing completion, the district must prioritize and determine how to best fund the next phase of repairs and improvements to our schools.

Topics discussed at the recent town hall meetings include:

- An overview of Parkway facilities, including the status of 2004 bond projects;
- Budget and finances, including a discussion of bonds vs. operating revenues (Prop R);
- Results of a community survey on facilities and potential no-tax-increase bond issue;
- The importance of up-to-date learning environments for student success.

A preliminary report summarizing feedback from the meetings will be presented to the Parkway Board of Education on April 23, and a final report given on May 28.

► **Photo top right: Chris Johnston, North High, was one of more than 200 people who attended two town hall meetings to discuss the ongoing needs of Parkway's aging buildings and classrooms.**



## Questions and Answers about Bond Issues

**Q: How old is the average Parkway school?**

**A: 40 years.**

**Q: When were most of our schools built?**

**A: Sixteen of Parkway's 28 schools were built between 1963 and 1971. Eight of these 16 were built in a two-year period (1967-68).**

**Q: How do schools use bond issues to benefit students?**

**A: A bond issue allows schools to devote most of their operating budget for classroom instruction instead of repair work. With a bond issue, schools can pay for costly repairs and renovation over time instead of having to pay all at once. It's a lot like a homeowner who takes out a home equity loan to pay for a roof—the roof costs too much for the homeowner to absorb in his or her daily budget.**

**Q: When was the last Parkway bond issue, and what was the money used for?**

**A: The last Parkway bond issue was in 2004. Ninety percent of the money was devoted to building maintenance and repairs, and 10 percent was earmarked for computers and new technology. All projects from the 2004 bond issue will be completed this summer, and a list is available on the Parkway Web site.**

**Q: Can Parkway issue more bonds without increasing the current tax rate?**

**A: Yes. As old bonds are paid off, our schools can borrow more money by issuing new bonds. Voters must approve this, even if it will not increase their tax rate.**

**Q: Where can I get more information?**

**A: Visit [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us) and click on the "Old Schools...21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners" logo in the lower right corner of the page. Or call the Parkway Public Affairs Department at (314) 415-8077.**

# New 'Albert Award' Honors Teachers

**T**o recognize teachers who inspire others at the earliest stages of their career, the Parkway Alumni Association recently created the Albert Award. The award is named in honor of Dr. Al Burr, a retired teacher, coach and distinguished principal in the district.

Three teachers will receive the Albert Award, one each at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Along with the award comes a \$1,000 cash prize and a plaque. All recipients will be recognized at the Parkway Appreciation Night in April and the Parkway Alumni Hall of Fame celebration in November.

The main criterion to receive the award is excellence in teaching.



▶ Al Burr, a retired teacher, coach and principal

## Parkway Day at Six Flags

**P**arkway and Rockwood residents will have Six Flags all to themselves on Sunday, April 13.

Tickets for this exclusive "Rock the Park" day are \$27 per person and include free parking. This same \$27 ticket can be used to



purchase a season pass for an additional \$32.35, but only on April 13 at Six Flags "Rock the Park" day.

For more information on how to purchase tickets, visit the Parkway Alumni Association Web site at [www.parkwayalumni.org](http://www.parkwayalumni.org) or call the Six Flags hotline at (314) 415-8155.

## This is Parkway... *at a glance*

▶ "Accredited with Distinction" by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

▶ Recognized for "Distinction in Performance" by DESE for 6 consecutive years

▶ 14 U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards

### ENROLLMENT

2007-08 Enrollment: 17,724  
18 elementary schools  
5 middle schools  
4 high schools  
1 non-traditional high school  
1 early childhood center

### FINANCES

2007-08 Residential Tax Rate: \$3.230 per \$100 of assessed value

### EMPLOYEES

2007-08 Teacher Salaries:  
\$35,000 (Lowest)  
\$55,251 (Average)  
\$78,441 (Highest)

▶ Percentage of certified staff with master's degree or above:  
Parkway: 71.8%  
Missouri: 54.1%

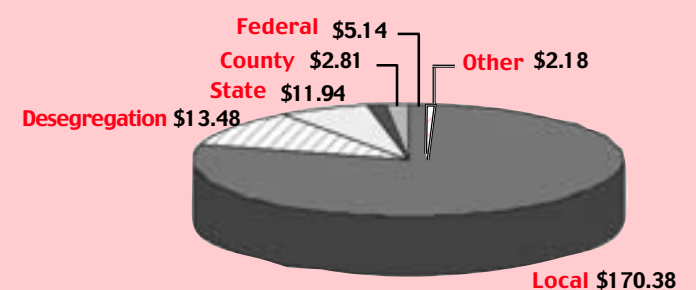
## ACHIEVEMENT

▶ 2007-08 National Merit Students = 73  
Semifinalists: 39  
Commended: 34

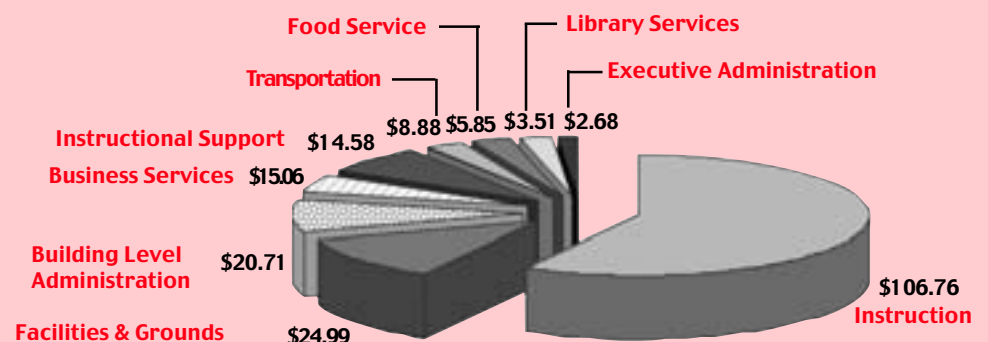
▶ ACT Composite Test Score  
Parkway: 24.3  
Missouri: 21.6  
USA: 21.2

▶ SAT Combined Test Score  
Parkway: 1803  
Missouri: 1775  
USA: 1511

2007-08 Operating Revenue: \$205.93 million



2007-08 Operating Expenditures: \$203.02 million



To view the 2007-08 budget projections, visit the Parkway web site: [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/finance/index.cfm](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/finance/index.cfm).

# A Hands-On Assignment

Are seventh-grade science students too young to design prosthetic hands? Not in Quinn Curran's class at West Middle.



West Middle science teacher Quinn Curran is still surprised by all of the media attention she received last December for an unusual assignment she made to her seventh-grade science class. She asked each student to design a prosthetic hand that would grasp something, pick it up and then release it.

"I wanted them to see how our bodies work, how one bone rolls over another, how our own thumbs are so needed," says Quinn, who modified the idea for the project from a new Parkway textbook featuring enrichment lessons.

"I saw it as a way to enrich the curriculum we already have and take it a bit further," she says.

A few parents saw it another way—at least at first. Quinn received calls to say the project was too difficult for seventh graders. Some told her that older engineering students can do this type of project, but not seventh graders. Part of the problem, as some parents saw it, was that Quinn did not present any examples that students could follow for the project.

"I think they can do this, and I want their original ideas," Quinn said of her students. But she began to waver ever so slightly.

Then she saw the project that one of her students produced, and his delight in his accomplishment. "He loved the 'hands-on' [no pun intended] aspect of the project."

So did other students, as it turned out. One by one, they turned in their prosthetic hands, all of them different but meeting the requirement to grasp something, pick it up and then release it. "We had fingers, we had hooks, we had clamps," says Quinn. "No holds barred."

Before long, newspaper and television reporters were showing up to film the results—and Quinn was receiving e-mails from teachers across the region asking for her lesson plan.

As a postscript to the lesson, Quinn



also had a Missouri Shriner visit the class to view the students' prosthetic hands. Missing a leg himself, the Shriner told the class how important their "first-rate" work was.

"I'm still a little embarrassed by all the attention this got," says Quinn today. But she will always believe that students don't have to be in honors classes to master challenging lessons.

**"I'm still surprised by all the attention this assignment got," says Quinn of her students' prosthetic hands, above. But she will always believe that students don't have to be in honors classes to master challenging lessons.**



► “I love the the Conleys,” says South High senior Eunice Theodore, far right, of Donna and Pat Conley, above. With the Conleys’ help, Eunice became an “A” writer.

## A Struggling Writer Aces Advanced College Composition

**A**s a struggling writer in ninth grade, Eunice Theodore never dreamed she’d be earning an “A” in an advanced college composition class her senior year. At the time, she seemed more likely to fail. “I really messed up,” she recalls of that time. “The transition to high school was especially difficult for me, and I got in with the wrong crowd.”

Furthermore, English had never been a good subject for her. “The teachers always wanted me to be descriptive, and elaborate on my thoughts, and I just didn’t get it. “I would write, ‘My mother sleeping,’ and they wanted me to write, ‘My mother is sleeping as the birds sing in the yard.’” Barely squeaking by in English I, she recalls the class as a “blur.”

In 10th grade, however, Eunice formed a friendship with a girl who routinely looked up words in the dictionary. Eunice envied her friend’s sophisticated vocabulary and began to look up words herself. She liked repeating the words to herself and showing off her expanding vocabulary. She also liked the assignments Mr. Lieble, her 10th-grade English teacher, gave the class. Mr. Lieble told his students to choose words from songs that had particular meaning in their lives and then make a poster of the words. For the first time, Eunice recalls, English began to interest her. “Mr. Lieble helped me every step of the way.”

By 11th grade, Eunice had found two other advocates, Donna and Pat Conley, who provided daily encouragement and help. Donna is a teacher’s aide in the South High writing lab and Pat teaches Advanced Placement Composition, an advanced English composition class that counts as college credit. Every day after school, Eunice would check in with Donna at the South High lab before proceeding directly to the weight room, where Pat, though not her teacher, looked over her papers. “He taught me everything I should have learned in English I,” says Eunice.

“There is no magic bullet with writing,” Pat says. “The teaching technique is quite simple: constant revision, constant encouragement, constant communication.”

Eunice puts it another way. “I love the Conleys,” she says. They were straight with me. Mr. Conley would tell me when my counter-arguments didn’t make sense. He would tell me how important it was to have a good grade point average.” Eunice began to love English.

Both Conleys encouraged Eunice to take AP Composition her senior year. “Oh no, I couldn’t,” Eunice protested. “The problem, is, well, Mr. Conley,” she added. “He has a reputation as one of the most difficult teachers at South High.”

“But you’ve been taking your papers to him all through 11th grade,” countered Donna.

“That’s different,” Eunice continued. “In AP Comp, I won’t be able to get any more babying. The level will be so high.”

Finally, after Pat told Eunice she could transfer out of class if it got to be too much, Eunice accepted the challenge. As the Conleys predicted, she has been earning an “A.”

“I’m glad I took the challenge,” she says today. “I’ve learned a lot about myself as well as English.”

## Writing on the Wall

➤ The following teachers provide additional insight into the techniques they use to reach students.



**LOU JOBST**  
Central High

Lou cultivates writers by telling “corny jokes” and encouraging his students to dream. His students consistently win spots in the national *Newsweek* “My Turn” essay competition.



**SEAN ROCHESTER**  
Central High

“I improve student writing with a simple philosophy: establish a standard of excellence and then devote as much one-on-one time as possible to pushing students beyond it.”



**MICHELLE DEMPSEY**  
South High

“I write and share with my students nearly every assignment I ask them to write.”



**JEAN MARIE NALBANDIAN**  
South High

“Parkway teachers provide informal mentoring to each other, which really helps guide English instruction.”



**JULIE GERDING**  
West High

“I give early feedback and make comments to students all during the writing process. I’ve seen some exponential growth in students’ writing skill with this method.”



**CAROLYN DIXON**  
West High

“As students write on their laptops, I go around class and sit next to each one, providing instant feedback. Students love it when you sit next to them and interact one-on-one.”



**JEFF DEE**  
West High

Jeff is the vocabulary coach for Rajiv Tarigopula, opposite page, a vocabulary champion. “My coaching is minimal to Rajiv’s effort, but I’m a big believer in learning vocabulary in context.”



**MELISSA LYNN POMERANTZ**  
North High

Melissa provides both oral and written feedback on her students’ English papers. They listen to her oral evaluations on their iPods to get a better idea of what they need to do to improve.

# Are You Smarter than a 10th Grader?

Test your mettle against vocabulary champion Rajiv Tarigopula, a West High sophomore.



Are you smarter than Rajiv Tarigopula, a West High sophomore, who recently took first place in the St. Louis citywide round of the National Vocabulary Championship?

Before we ask you to define the word that Rajiv correctly identified to seal his victory, and win \$5,000, we should give you fair warning.

He is number one in his class, and he has been entering national competitions, including spelling bees, since the fifth grade. He has already appeared on national television four times in national spelling bees, and he readily admits that he likes the spotlight.

A voracious reader, Rajiv has had a library card since just over the age of 2, and in elementary school, he began reading *Time* and newspapers, all of which “broadened his knowledge base,” as he puts it, and helped increase his vocabulary. Taking up Spanish in sixth grade, Rajiv says studying another language helped him identify word patterns, another factor in his success. Later, speech and debate also gave him a competitive edge.

Calm and composed under pressure, Rajiv says he “comes alive” during competitions. In March, he’ll advance to the final rounds of the National Vocabulary Championship, sponsored by the Princeton Review, where he’ll compete against 49 U.S. students, most of them juniors and seniors, for \$40,000 in college money. The upper classmen don’t faze him. “I think I can take them,” he says with a smile. “I work well under pressure.” (The championships will be televised in April on the Game Show Network.)

Rajiv credits Parkway, and the sense of belonging he feels in the community, for much of his success. “I’ve lived in Parkway since second grade, and I went to Lindbergh for the gifted program for a time, but I wanted to come back here for the sense of community I felt. I’m really excited to represent Parkway. I’ve had a lot of great teachers.”

Eventually, Rajiv says he would like to become a surgeon and a politician because he wants to help and inspire people and to make the world a friendlier, more tolerant place.

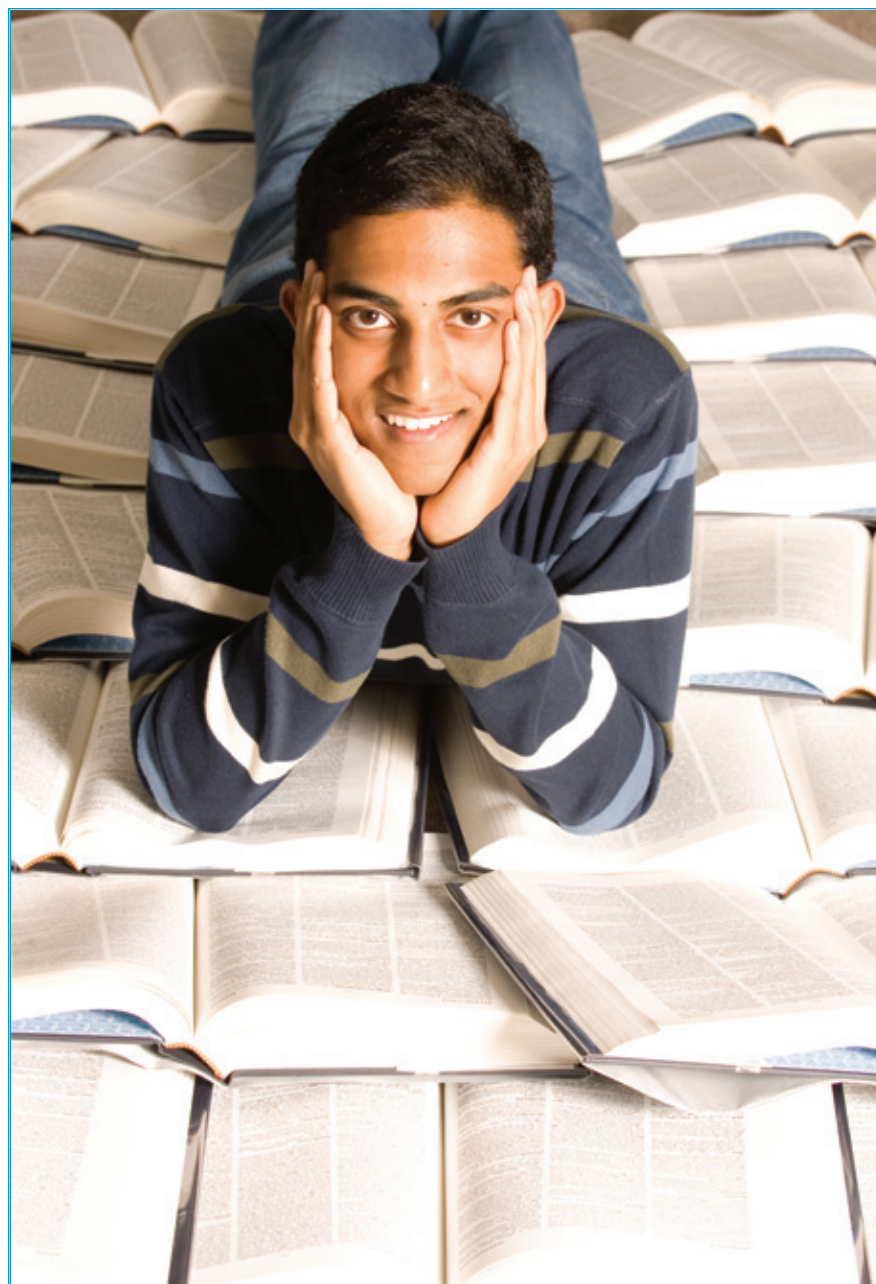
Meanwhile, the words beckon. His two favorite words are defenestrate and pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis.

Can you identify them? The answers, as well as his reasons for selecting these favorites, appear below.

Now, on to the final challenge. Rajiv won the vocabulary championship by correctly identifying the synonym of “belie” in the following sentence: “Eliza’s letters to Victor abound with hackneyed, platitudinous bromides that belie her perspicacity and her forte for witty badinage.” Can you correctly identify the synonym of belie? The answer appears below.

## Answers:

1. Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis is a fancy word for lung disease. Rajiv chose it because it’s the longest word in the English language.
2. Defenestrate means to throw something out of a window. Rajiv likes this word because he wonders why it is needed to describe throwing something out of a window.
3. Belie is a synonym of misrepresent.



To prepare for competitions, Rajiv, above, customarily relies on his trusty standby, the American Heritage Dictionary. But because he is good-natured and gracious, he agreed to surround himself with Oxford English dictionaries for this photo.



# Board highlights

## Meet the Board Candidates

Three, three-year director positions on the Parkway Board of Education are open in the April 8, 2008 election. Ten candidates have filed for the three positions. Below are the photos and biographies as submitted by each candidate.



**Dee Mogerman**

Dee Mogerman joined the Parkway Board of Education in June, 2004, and presently serves as its president. She acquired her Missouri State School Boards' certification in October, 2004, and is working towards advanced board certification. She and her husband, Cary, have three children: two are Parkway graduates and one is currently enrolled in a Parkway school. Dee earned a B.A. in Economics/Computer Information Systems from Drake University.

A volunteer in the Parkway School District since 1992, Dee has held many leadership roles at the individual school and District level. She worked on the steering committees for the successful 2004 Proposition 1 Bond issue and the 2006 Proposition R campaign and believes Parkway students are benefiting greatly from those efforts.

Dee is committed to keeping the Parkway Promise to the community and supported the board's recent voluntary tax rollback of 57 cents so that the district would receive only the financial assistance originally sought, without a revenue windfall. "I believe in putting children first in all decisions and that teachers are the backbone of our diverse school community. My knowledge and experience in the District help me make informed decisions and advance the vision of the Parkway Schools for our children."



**Antonio (Tony) Perez**

Tony Perez believes that education is the key to success. Tony wants to apply his business management, analytical and technical expertise as a Parkway Board member to achieve its goals and to continuously improve the learning environment for students to graduate with greater knowledge and better tools for a successful future. After all, the students are our future.

After transferring to Southwestern Bell Telephone (SWBT), Tony, his wife Romelia and their four children relocated October 1974 to Manchester, MO. Tony served four years in the Air Force as a Flight Simulator Specialist, and 14 years as an Engineer Associate at Western Electric Company on several Research and Development assignments.

Tony earned a BS in Systems and Data Processing from Washington University and an MBA from Fontbonne University.

As a Systems Supervisor, Tony accepted early retirement from SWBT December 1991. Maritz, Inc. then hired him, as Senior Systems Analyst, responsible for accounts in Mexico, Brazil, and Canada until March 2000. The American Express Incentive Services Company subsequently hired Tony April 2000 as an IT Project Manager where he worked until December 2003.

He would like the opportunity to serve the Parkway community as a board member.

Melvin Klearman: age 78; married 50 years; homeowner 44 years; retired; fixed income. Wife and I work part-time to keep our golden years from tarnishing.

• Fact:

If St. Louis county appraised office and commercial buildings the same way they appraise our homes - Parkway receives much more money - homeowner taxes much lower.

Under current commercial appraisal methods, owners do not pay their fair share. We can change this!

• Today's inflation extremely challenging.

Parkway must also focus on increasing non-tax revenues.

I have the expertise to accomplish this!

Before retirement, overcame 1970's "oil embargo inflation" and 1980's savings & loan credit crisis with innovation and diversification of assets.

• As a start, increase non-tax revenues from current "community education programs:

Parkway must offer new courses which will enable all Americans preserve their American dream" threatened by our current global economy:

Parkway teachers have proven excellence.

Parkway can, for a reasonable fee, offer the necessary courses.

Salaries and benefits are the greatest part of Parkway's budget.

Teachers can supplement their salary by teaching the courses.

• For more non-tax revenue suggestions, contact me: melklearman@att.net



**Melvin Klearman**

I would like to submit my name to the Board of Education for the April 2008 election.

I have been on a few boards of directors in my life of business and social work. I managed my own company, Paddle & Saddle, for over 25 years. We manufactured ladies sportswear and was responsible for over 300 people, employees and contractors.

I served on a board of manufactures and as president helped to negotiate, sign and implement a regional contract between our group and the union.

I served on the Southwest Bank board for 18 years and was chairman of the C.R.A. committee. It was responsible for overseeing the fair lending policies. We reported to state and federal auditors.

I also served on the board and was president of Shelter the Children, a charitable organization. We administered to the health, housing and well being of abused, adolescent girls.

I am presently an A.B.A. (teacher aide) in the Special School District. I am assigned to a student that attends Parkway South.

Myself and my family have mostly attended Catholic schools.

I was guilty of thinking why do the public schools really need more money, more taxes, why aren't their grades better, etc., etc., etc.

Now having been a part of the public school system, I see what a



**Donald (Zina) Bolazina**

wonderful work they are doing and also their need for helping many areas. I am willing to do my best to help and improve. My decision on voting will be based on this criterion. Is it good for the well being of the kids and/or will it improve the quality of education?



**Bruce W. Major**

I am a 45 year old parent of two Parkway students (kindergartner and high school junior) and have lived in the district since 1999. My wife is a Parkway teacher. Education has been a priority since my earliest memories because my father, uncle and grandfather were college professors and my aunt was a high school teacher. A 1981 graduate of a public high school (Golden Senior High School in Golden Colorado), I subsequently earned a BA (History) from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and a JD from Washington University School of Law here in Saint Louis.

Professionally I have 13 years experience as an attorney in solo private practice here in the Saint Louis area. I retired from the Navy Reserves in 2007 with the rank of Commander after 21 rewarding years of active and reserve service including command and staff experience leading and managing enterprises with up to 1,000 personnel and annual budgets up to \$20 million. I believe my qualifications and background would allow me to make a useful contribution to the Board of Education in carrying out its mission.



**Daniel E. Regelean**

Mr. Regelean, a graduate of Parkway West High School, has lived in the Parkway School District for nearly 25 years. He is married with two pre-school age children. He earned a B.S. from Maryville University, and an M.A. in HR Management from Washington University. He is employed by Ameren.

Mr. Regelean believes that the prosperity of communities and school districts are interwoven. He elected to run for the board based on a sincere desire to make the Parkway School System the district of choice for educators, students and residents.

He believes he has a skill set uniquely fitting to help achieve this goal. He has attained specific experience in interacting with state and local agencies, recruiting, performance evaluations, labor relations with multiple union contracts, employment law, succession planning, strategic planning, corporate reorganizations, policy enforcement, training corporate diversity initiatives, compensation management, addressing disciplinary issues, and much more.

Additionally, he has been involved in numerous charitable activities throughout his life, such as working with Junior Achievement, volunteering with Life Crisis Services, assisting high school student with interviewing skills, assisting an inner city school during registration, among others.

Mr. Regelean would sincerely appreciate your vote.



**K. Gregory Williams**

K. Gregory Williams currently resides in Creve Coeur, MO with his wife, Kenyatta. They have two boys (Gregory and Carter who attend Bellerive Elementary) and a daughter Lillian. Mr. Williams is a native of St. Louis, MO, graduating from Hazelwood East High School. He has received his Masters of Business Administration from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO and his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Jackson State University. He has several years of education experience working as a

supervisor for admissions at Full Sail Real World Education, a college in Orlando, FL, and as an instructor at Sanford-Brown College.

He also has an extensive career as an IT consultant and have worked for several companies including MasterCard International, St. Louis Cardinals, and World Wide Technology. He is involved in his community from volunteer work at Bellerive Elementary and working with several local charities through his local lodge of P.H.A.-F.A. Masonry. It has been a life long dream for his children to attend schools in the Parkway School District and he feels this is the ultimate way to give back to a community that has given his children so much support.

Dr. Alan D. Heisel, Ed.D., is Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Communication at UMSL. He earned his Doctorate of Education from West Virginia University in 2000 after completing a joint program offered by the Department of Communication housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Human Resources and Education. His B.A. (1995) and M.A. (1997) were completed at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio. He has served as a mentor for at-risk elementary students in an inner city public school, participated in education-related research, and taught seminars for K-12 teachers on instructional communication. He has been recognized for excellence in teaching, has conducted studies involving student motivation and teacher-student communication, and currently serves on the editorial board of the peer-reviewed journal, *Communication Education*.

Alan and his wife, Leigh, moved to Ballwin in 2003 because of their support of public education and the reputation of the Parkway School District. They have two small children, a son and a daughter. Their son attends kindergarten at Henry elementary.

Born and raised in St. Louis, MO, I graduated from Lindbergh Senior High School in 1987. Prior to graduation, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corp and served from 1987 to 1991, including 9 months in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Upon returning to St. Louis, MO. and being Honorably Discharged, I enrolled in college and graduated with a BS. in Accounting from University Missouri St. Louis and then received my Masters in Business from Fontbonne College. I have worked in the corporate field for 14 years as an Accountant, currently in the Kirkwood area for a local manufacturing company.

My wife, three children and I live in the Manchester area where our children attend the Parkway South schools.

Mr. Charles Jacob was born in Long Beach, California. He is a resident of Ballwin where he has resided since 1989. Mr. Jacob received a BBA degree from the University of Houston with a major in Finance and Business Administration.

Mr. Jacob has been employed and worked in St. Louis for Emerson Electric, McDonnell-Douglas and Comsys Technical Services. Mr. Jacob's expertise was manufacturing systems and Information Technology consulting. Since 1997 Mr. Jacob has worked to help his wife's company, NextGen Information Services, move forward to become a national supplier of IT staffing personnel.



**Alan D. Heisel**



**Tom Welker**



**Charles Jacob**

# class acts

Parkway students and teachers win top academic, athletic and music awards.



► Wonderful is a word often used to describe Loren Abramson who was selected as the Missouri Elementary Strings Teacher of the Year.



## Loren Abramson

Wonderful is a word often used to describe **Loren Abramson**, strings teacher from Shenandoah Valley and River Bend Elementary Schools. "She never talks down to students, and they actually look forward to going to orchestra practice on the weekends," says one parent. Abramson was recently named Missouri State Elementary Strings Teacher of the Year at the state music conference at the Lake of the Ozarks.

A violinist and conductor, Abramson has taught instrumental strings for 22 years at the elementary, middle and high school levels. In her spare time, what little of it there is, she also takes

photographs. "I love teaching music," she says, "but in my next career, I will be a photographer."

## Russell Barton

**Russell Barton**, science teacher at North High, was named the Missouri Environmental Education Association Teacher of the Year for 2007-08.

## Lou Jobst

Stanford University student Anant Vinjamoori recently named **Lou Jobst**, Central High communication arts teacher, as the most influential secondary school teacher in his life. As one of the top 25 graduating

seniors in Stanford's School of Humanities and Sciences, Anant is allowed to invite Jobst to Stanford to attend an awards ceremony and luncheon honoring his academic achievement. It is the college's policy to pay for all of Jobst's expenses since Anant identified him as his most influential secondary school teacher. "I am so excited," says Jobst.

## West High Wins AP Award

**West High** was one of 50 schools nationwide to win the Siemens Award for Advanced Placement. The award recognizes West High's commitment to,

and success with, Advanced Placement classes. Along with the award comes a \$1,000 grant to support science and math education.

**Young Artist Winner**

**Katherine Li**, seventh grader at Parkway South Middle, was chosen as the Guild Award Winner in the Alton Symphony Orchestra Marie Stillwell Young Artist's Competition for 2007-08. She will perform Haydn's D Major Piano Concerto with the Alton Symphony Orchestra as part of the Marie Stillwell Young Artists Concert in April.

**Music Achievement**

Three Parkway students were selected to perform with the **National High School Honors Orchestra**. **Raymond Chen** and **Max Geissler** from Parkway Central High and **Monica Godbee** from Parkway North High will join 120 musicians from around the country in a performance with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. Chen plays the violin. Godbee and Geissler play the cello.

**International Notes**

**Eight orchestra students from Central High** were the first in the United States to complete and pass a Scottish music exam. The testing was conducted by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama as part of a week-long artists-in-residence workshop at Central.

**Perfect ACT Score**

**Judy Wen**, a Central High junior, achieved a 36, the highest possible composite score, on the ACT college entrance exam in February.

**A First in Table Tennis**

**Justen Yao** of Central High was the first 14-year-old to play on the U.S. junior team at the World Junior Table Tennis Championships in Palo Alto, CA.

**Golf Champion**

**Catherine Dolan** of West High earned a state championship title in girls golf.

**Going the Distance**

**Eric Fernandez** of West High and **Diane Robinson** of Central High won state championship competitions in boys and girls cross country, respectively.

**Environmental Achievement**

Parkway's **Environmental Services Department** won the **Outstanding Government Achievement Award** from the East-West Gateway Council of Governments for their exemplary efforts in environmental stewardship.

**Parkway's Success:**

**» Writing Awards**

*Continued from Page 1*

▶ **Wednesday Club Poetry Competition**

Lou Jobst's students are consistent winners in this annual poetry competition, developed by a well-recognized local organization of women who support poetry.

▶ **WordMasters**

North High student **Nada Ali** was one of 16 sophomores nationwide to earn a perfect score on this reading and analysis test.

▶ **National Council of Teachers of English**

Three of the nine Parkway students who won these national awards are mentioned on page one. The other six are: **David Levary** of Central High; **Kathleen Beilsmith**, **Vanessa Catalanotto**, **Michelle Kreter** of North High; **Kelly Doyle**, **Amber Mohrmann** of South High; and **Wendy Wang** of West High.

**Your School Board**

Putting faces with names

**Dee Mogeran**  
President



**Helen Casteel**  
Vice-President



**Jay Davis**



**Kelley Garbero**



**Dudley McCarter**



**Greg Powers**



The board meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at various schools. For more information on board meetings or policies, please visit our web site at: [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/boe/boe.cfm](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/boe/boe.cfm).

# Calendar

[www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/calendar/calendars.cfm](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/calendar/calendars.cfm)

**April 25**  
Inclement  
Weather  
Makeup Day,  
School in  
Session

**May 21-23**  
Finals  
(Grades 9-12)

**May 23**  
Last Day of  
School  
(Tentative)

**June 2**  
First Day of  
Summer  
School

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*Parkway School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. If an individual with a disability needs accommodations to attend or participate in a school or district activity, please contact the staff member responsible for that event at least four (4) business days in advance. Questions, concerns, or requests for information/assistance can also be directed to the designated district coordinator for each applicable federal law by calling (314) 415-8100.*



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Keep up on the latest news and events from Parkway School District by signing up to receive the district's monthly e-newsletter. Sign up online at [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us), or send your e-mail address to [ParkwayToday@pkwy.k12.mo.us](mailto:ParkwayToday@pkwy.k12.mo.us) and include in your message that you would like to receive "Parkway eNews."

## Parkway eNews



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