

The Northstar, January 26, 2018

To Excellence and Beyond

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of January! As you review the upcoming dates in February, you will notice some new clubs for our students. ***Yoga for Buddies*** is tailored for our 2nd and 5th grade students and ***The Rubiks Cube Club*** is for students in grades three through five.

We will begin the month by celebrating Abilities Awareness with our students on February 2nd. The day is meant to celebrate and build awareness around differences. Be sure to ask your child about the guest speakers that will be visiting Ross on that day. February is also the month to celebrate many of our children. Mark your calendars for the 4th Grade Strings Day at West High School as well as our Spirit of Excellence Celebration at UMSL.

Another celebration in February is our final school party on Valentine's Day. One of the traditions during the Friendship Party is passing out Valentines to every child in the class. Please remember Parkway's Food Policy when buying your child's cards. The Valentines cannot include candy.

We hope to see many of our parents for our upcoming PTO Meeting on February 20th. Our topic will be on the Elementary Progress Report and parents will be able to engage in dialogue with Carter Snow, our district Assessment Coordinator.

The Parkway Science Fair and STEM Festival is coming up very soon. If your child would like to participate and enter a project in the District Science Fair and STEM Festival, please use this link for important information
<https://sites.google.com/pkwy.k12.mo.us/parkwaystemfest/ste-m-fest>

Have a great weekend! ~Dr. Luna

UPCOMING DATES

- 2/01 **Rubiks Cube Club 8:10 am**
- 2/02 **Abilities Awareness Day**
Yoga for Buddies 8:10 am
Robotics 8:10 am
- 2/05 **Choir 8:00 am**
- 2/06 **St Louis Blues Night**
- 2/07 **Late Start Day school begins@11:05**
- 2/08 **Rubiks Cube Club 8:10 am**
- 2/09 **Yoga for Buddies 8:10 am**
Robotics 8:10 make up for 1/19/18
- 2/10 **PTO Pancake Breakfast 8-11:00 am**
4th Grade Strings Day 3:45-4:15 at West High
- 2/12 **Project Parkway 6:30 pm (Central High)**
- 2/13 **Spirit of Excellence 6:30 pm (UMSL)**
- 2/14 **Choir 8:00 am**
Friendship Party 3:00 to 3:45 pm
- 2/15 **End of Trimester**
Rubiks Cube Club 8:10 am
- 2/16 **Records Day-NO SCHOOL**
- 2/19 **Presidents Day-NO SCHOOL**
- 2/20 **Parent PTO Meeting 7:00 pm**
- 2/21 **Choir 8:00 am**
Parkway Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 2/22 **Rubiks Cube Club 8:10 am**
African American Read-in
- 2/23 **Yoga for Buddies 8:10am**
Robotics-Session II begins-8:10 am
- 2/26 **Choir 8:00 am**
- 3/01 **Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- 3/06 **North Area Art Exhibit**
- 3/07 **Late Start Day school begins@11:05**
- 3/08 **Spring Picture Day**
- 3/16 **Heritage Night 6-8:00 pm**

To Excellence and Beyond

PTO Officers for 2018/2019

A strong partnership between home and school is vital to the success of the school as well as to the degree in which we can support each and every child. One of the ways parents can serve and support students at Ross is through our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). The organization cannot run without a group of dedicated parents and teachers. Please consider a leadership role on our PTO for next year. We will be actively seeking parents to serve as PTO Officers for the 2018-2019 school year.

Positive Office Referrals

We hope that your children are starting to share the Positive Office Referrals at home. The purpose of the referrals is to celebrate a student that is working hard to show one of our Guiding Lights (***Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty, and Perseverance***). As we teach and model these character virtues, we also want to be sure we celebrate them! When a child receives the referral, they bring it in the office and it is placed in the grade level basket. Each week, we randomly choose one referral of out the basket and that student is recognized as our Grade Level Student of the Week. The names of each grade level student is announced on Monday morning and their picture is placed in the main hallway. The referrals that were not selected are sent home with the students so that families can celebrate their child's successes and read the Positive Office Referral.

Pancake Breakfast

We hope to see many families and community members for our third annual Pancake Breakfast. This is beginning to be a Ross tradition which helps fund our 5th Grade Move-Up Celebration. Please come and enjoy pancakes and community building with one another.

African American Read In

We will be looking for parents and visitors to come to Ross on February 22nd and read to our children in the classrooms. The books highlight African American authors and illustrators! Please reach out to Mrs. Hall if you are interested.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents will have the opportunity to sign up for 2nd semester conferences to be held on Thursday, March 1st. We will follow the same protocol to sign up for a Parent-Teacher Conference as we did back in October. The sign-up link will be placed on our website next week. An email blast will be sent to all families when the link is live.

New Ross Pledge

This year our students took part in creating a new Ross pledge. It has been an exciting process as every child in the school was able to vote on a student/staff created pledge. The pledge continues to highlight our character virtues and is recited each and every morning.

National School of Character

Back in 2012, Ross Elementary was named the first school in Parkway to be selected as a National School of Character. After 5 years, a school must re-apply to maintain the title for another 5 years. The requirements are extensive and Ross must show how they have continued to embed character education into all parts of the school. The process was a great opportunity for us to reflect as well as celebrate our academic growth over the last five years. As I shared back in August, our students reached the 2020 state target in ELA and made nice academic gains in math as measured by the state test (MAP). The academic data was included in our application as well as many new practices that demonstrate how we embed character into the school day. An official from the Washington D.C will conduct a school site visit before the month of April. The visit will allow the official to see the great things we outlined in our application. We hope to hear if we are re-selected sometime in May. Stay tuned!

Clothing Drop

Our school receives money from the clothes that are donated in the clothing drop box. **Please spread the word and drop off your unwanted clothing.**