

# PANTHER TRACKS

1815 N 155th Shoreline, WA 98133 (206) 368-4150

Laura Ploudre; Principal

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Oct 13th: NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day

Oct 16th: NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day



Dear Parkwood Parents and Guardians:

What a wonderful start to the 2006-2007 school year! Our Back-to-School Barbecue (Thanks to our fantastic PTA!!!) and Curriculum Night (Thank you staff and International Committee!!!) were outstanding events for all of the members of our school community. It reminds me once again how powerful and important it is for staff and parents to team-up and work together to support our children's success in school.

We are continuing with some very positive programs at Parkwood this year that have a direct impact on your child's learning experiences...

**Arts Impact**

This is the second of our two-year commitment to this intensive teacher training program in the arts. Nearly every classroom teacher and several specialists are receiving training in the fundamentals of dance, theatre, and visual arts. Additionally, they will partner with an artist/mentor who will co-plan and co-teach lessons in the arts this school year. Your child will then attend a cultural study trip related to the arts focus in his/her classroom (Seattle Asian Art Museum, Seattle Children's Theatre, Pacific NW Ballet, or UW World Series performances). Our goal at the conclusion of this year is to rely on our comprehensive teacher training and teacher-developed lessons and activities to sustain powerful arts instruction for many years into the future.

**SPELL**

This program—Schoolwide Preparation for English Language Learners—brings training, materials, and specialists from the University of Washington to assist our teachers in enhancing their instructional practices to support English Language Learners. Our training and exploration will include understanding the stages of language acquisition, instructional strategies and lesson design that promote learning for all students, particularly those who are still working to be proficient with English, as well as learning and practicing a protocol for examining student work to inform our next steps with instruction.

**Ackerley Partnership with the University of Washington**

Parkwood is also partnering with the UW as part of the Ackerley Network. This program involves hosting a small group of outstanding Teacher Interns from the University, as well as Principal Interns. This partnership also provides Parkwood with access to resources and funding for teacher training and support programs—particularly for teachers who are new to the profession. We are fortunate to access these resources to enhance the quality of our offerings to our students.

If you have any questions about these programs or other initiatives at Parkwood, please do not hesitate to call me (#368-4150). Also, please take a moment to review our most recent WASL score results in this newsletter. If you are the parent of a 4th, 5th, or 6th grade student this year, you will soon be receiving your child's WASL Score Report from last spring. (It is being mailed to your home by our district's Assessment Department.) Your child's classroom teacher and I are also happy to answer your questions about this information.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful and creative students with us each day. And thank you for all that you do to raise thoughtful, hardworking students.

Best wishes,

Laura M. Ploudre

# FROM THE NURSE - Linda Condit

## Listen Learn then Talk

Welcome to the New School Year. I hope you are ready and eager for a wonderful year of learning and growing at Parkwood. I spent some time learning better ways to listen at the end of last school year because all of us --- parents, kids, teachers, staff, including ME -- all will be happier, get what we need from other people and feel better about ourselves if we are communicating with everyone in clearer and more thoughtful ways. Often times we don't really pay attention to how we talk with our kids, our co-workers, or our spouses/partners. We CAN make talking and listening to others much more successful if we follow some tricks that have been tried and found to REALLY work.

Here are a few tips to help improve the way you TALK and LISTEN.

1. Make good and frequent eye contact with the person you are talking to.

The eye contact focuses you upon the other person, keeps your mind from wandering and works because our EARS and our EYES are linked!!! If we are looking there is a better chance we will be listening.

2. Look at the lips of the speaker, this way you can fill in the gaps that your ears miss. You also are going to pick up lots of clues as to the emotions and feelings of your speaker if you look at lips.

3. Watch the signals you give during a conversation. Your job is really to listen HARD while they speak. You should be LOOKING (as above) but also nodding, gesturing, murmuring (yes, ah, well, hmm, ah, oh, eeeeehhh, etc). When the speaker hears us responding they know we are following their words and are making sense to us. Your good listening signals will foster harmony and rapport between you and your speaker. Good for really great communications.

4. Then to show that you really heard him or her and are on the same 'wavelength' as the speaker, now simply paraphrase or echo a few words the speaker has said and ask a question or two to verify that you understood correctly. Saying back ".....made you really mad" will encourage the speaker to continue to share more and go deeper. At this point you are still collecting information about what the speaker is saying. Hold on to your thoughts until you have a complete grasp of what your speaker is saying. One thing we all tend to do is to jump into the conversation before the first person has finished expressing their thoughts.

5. Only now, after careful listening, can you begin actively thinking about the meaning and implications of the speaker's words. Have a goal of 'filtering the speaker's words', like a coffee filter that absorbs the flavor of the coffee as well as holding the liquid for later drinking. Compare this to a 'sponge' listener where the words flow in and then run off without sinking in or a 'mirror listener' where everything bounces off and nothing at all seeps in.

6. The key to good conversations is Attention. The audioteape I listened to had a list of over 16 things not-to-do when having a talk time with someone. Try making a list of 5 things you don't like others to do when you are trying to talk to them. Then have your spouse, partner, kids and coworkers add to the list. Here's 3 that I remember: Don't make dumb comments. Don't move around the room doing other things. Don't read the mail!

Good luck trying some of these tactics for good communication. I've found them to make difficult conversations easier and important ones much more meaningful.

Linda Condit

Parkwood Nurse

**\* Health Screening Volunteers needed for this fall.  
If you are interested and have available hours, please  
call Linda Condit at (206) 368-4153.\***

### TOYS/ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL.....

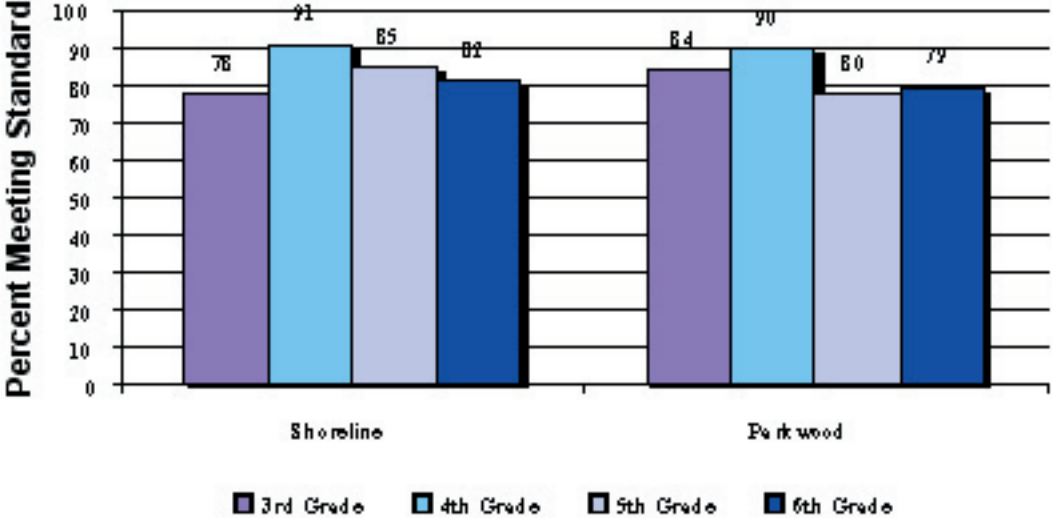
Please note that Parkwood prefers that students not bring cell phones to school. Sometimes for sharing or for the bus ride, there may be an exception, but once the child arrives at school, such things MUST remain in the backpack. The distraction they represent during instruction, the grief that can result when precious items are lost or damaged, and/or issues of "sharing" all suggest we are best served by not having such items in use during the school day.

Also remember that we ask students to leave all toys, trading cards and outdoor toys at home.

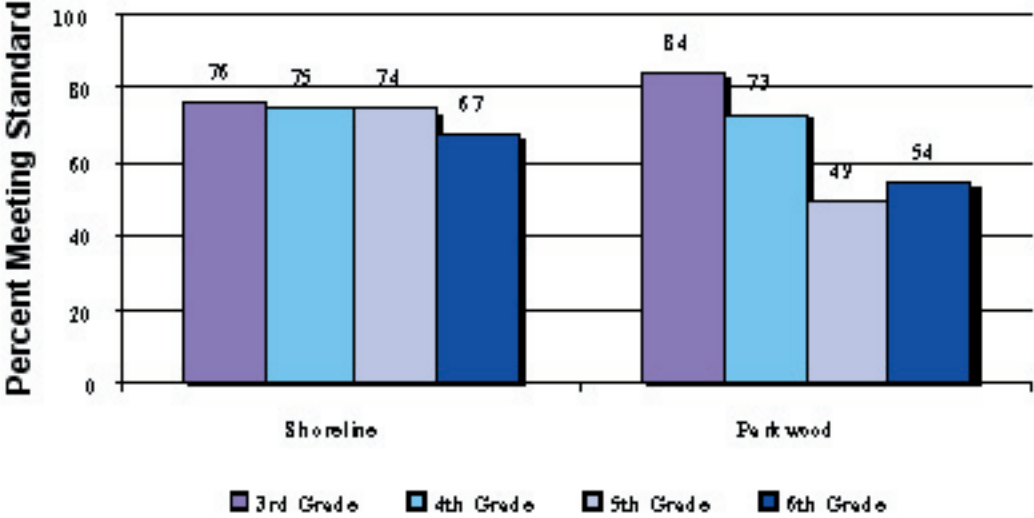
This includes any electronic games, radios, CD players etc.

# PARKWOOD WASL DATA:

READING WASL 2006  
Grades 3-6



MATH WASL 2006  
Grades 3-6



## COMPLIMENTS FOR PARKWOOD:

In order to recognize the positive things that our students do, we have a compliment jar for staff to note positive acts that they notice. The following students were recognized for their contributions to our community during the month of June & September. Nice job Parkwood students.

**Alex Martinez & Brennan Lebo** for getting the hat that went over the fence.

**Alexis Shumway, Rebecca Hensel, Kate Drake & Kalinda Marvin** for helping Mrs. Hofmeister with the swings.

**Jacob Noorzad & Arthur Pate** for being a good sport and including Matthew on the playground.

**Kalinda Marvin** for sitting with a new friend at lunch.

**Rooms 9 & 11** for a great start to the school year as Blended Classrooms.

**Michael Weaver** for standing in the bus line and "thanking" the safety patrol for keeping him safe.

**Katrina Panzel** for sharing the swing with Ripley.

**Taylor Matheson-Hahne** for helping to set up the swing on the playground.

**Ulysses Brown** for helping a new student at recess

**Freida Ayala** for taking a new student to the office.

**Sumayyah Ali** for waiting patiently as you held the door for Ryan.

**Ryan** for being a good friend to a kindergartener.

**Tina Bea** for showing a kindergartener how to get to the playground.

**Eric** for helping Mrs. Lockett when I needed it.

**Corben** for doing a nice job paying attention in music.

**Stephanie** for a good job working on PE homework at recess.

**Sequoia** for encouraging a friend with your words.



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## NEEDED:

The Food/Nutrition Services needs substitutes. You can go to the Shoreline District web site and click on "jobs" for more details. If you have questions, please call Carolyn Pence; Food and Nutrition Services Technician @ 206-361-4209

## PARKWOOD STAFF

We are very proud of our highly qualified staff at Parkwood Elementary School and would be pleased to share any information regarding the professional qualifications (teaching certificates, endorsements, college degrees) of your child's classroom teacher, Title I teacher, or instructional assistants. As part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, parents have the right to this information. Please contact the principal if you would like to request these facts.

## CHILDCARE AVAILABLE:

The Children's Center will provide care for children on the Oct. 13th & 16th Inservice Days. Please contact the Center @ 206-361-4256 or pick up an enrollment form in the school office.

## KING COUNTY LIBRARY NEWS:

- **Ready-Set-Read**, begins in October. Students are instructed to read for 20 minutes a day for 20 days withing a month to earn a paperback book. Forms are available at the library.
- **On-line database; Kids Infobits**  
log on to [www.kcls.org](http://www.kcls.org); select "databases" then select Homework Resources.
- **Homework Help**; log onto [www.kcls.org/homework/](http://www.kcls.org/homework/) and explore links to the numerous homework help pages.

**STUDENT BANKING** is here again  
Every Thursday morning from  
8:15-8:30 in the hall outside the  
cafeteria, PTA members will be  
available for your child to bring  
deposits. Save those pennies

## REMINDER:

Any student who qualifies for "reduced" lunch,  
can receive a FREE breakfast.  
Breakfast is served in the Parkwood cafeteria  
every morning, beginning at 8:15.  
Get your child's day off to a good start with  
breakfast at Parkwood.

## Register to Vote:

Many important issues are decided at election time. Make sure you are registered to vote so you can have your say. Being a citizen of the United States and 18 years of age are the only qualifications for becoming a registered voter. Mail-in voter registration forms are available in school offices, and in libraries and fire stations in King County. Pick one up today!

## Notice of Student Publicity

From time to time during the year, the school publicizes various student achievements, awards and events. Please let the Front Office know if you do not want us to use an image of your child (photo and/or videotape) for internal and external publicity. Publicity may include both print and electronic publishing (internet and Channel 26, the District's local access channel). Any images of your child on the web will not be accompanied by your child's last name. Thank-you