

PARKER PANTHER PRESS



The Parker Community Celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday. K-6 students sang while Parker 5th graders signed “Sing About Martin”. Parker staff accompanied the students on their ukuleles.

Parent Engagement Planning Continues

Three subcommittees have formed and are meeting regularly to address the “3-As” goals:

1. **Attendance Every Day**
2. **Achievement Every Year**
3. **Attainment Over Time**

The **Attendance Every Day** subcommittee brainstormed ideas to support the 95% attendance goal. Action planning includes:

- Encouraging healthy habits
- Acknowledging good attendance
- Providing guidelines for parents of children who are ill
- Problem-solving with families to improve attendance
- Working together to ensure that children keep up with assignments missed.

The subcommittee meets monthly. The next meeting will be held on **February 6th at 6:15 pm** in the Parker library.

The **Achievement Every Year** subcommittee has used a problem-solving approach to promote achievement for all students. We have shared our research and are beginning to make recommendations for specific activities. We have also drafted a Vision for Parent Engagement that includes:

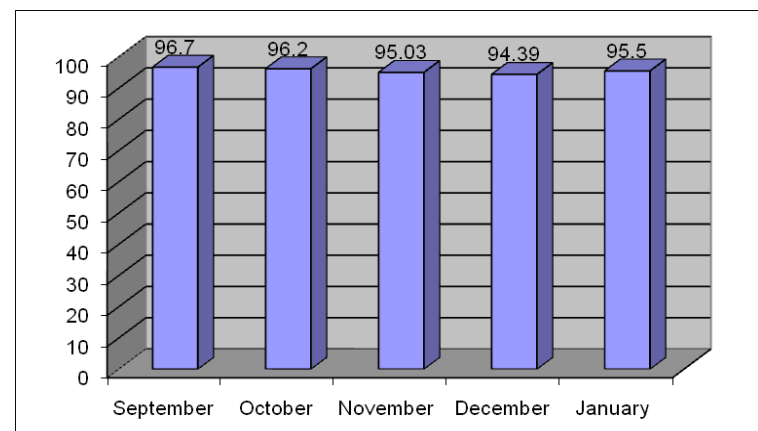
- Empowering all people
- Offering opportunity for parental presence
- Sharing an understanding of academic standards

- Making personal connections
- Fostering comfort level, rapport and trust
- Valuing strengths, perspectives, cultures
- Developing a shared purpose
- Consistent routines for engagement
- Creating safety for risk-taking

The subcommittee meets monthly. The next meeting will be held on **February 6th at 6:00 pm** in the Parker conference room.

The **Attainment Over Time** subcommittee will define 4 or 5 activities to encourage student goal setting for the year 2012-2013 and beyond. We will present the final plan to the school community for review and feedback prior to a fall implementation. This subcommittee meets once a month. The next meeting will be **February 13th at 5:30 pm** in the Parker library.

Parker Daily Attendance Rates for 2011-12

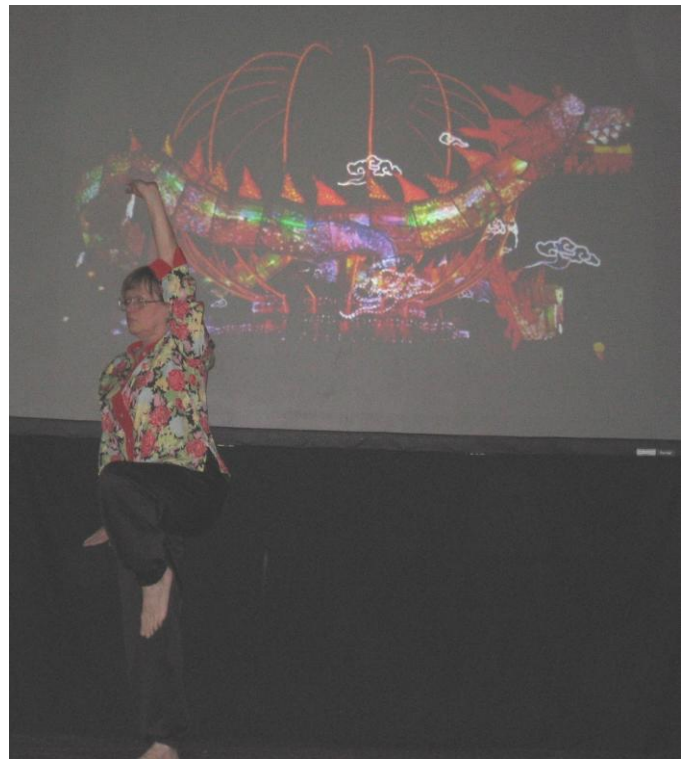


Parents, you can sign up for important email notifications from Parker School and the Cortland City School District. For more information or to sign up, please go to:

<http://www.cortlandschools.org/emailregistration/>.



Students set goals for the New Year in Miss Didio's reading groups.



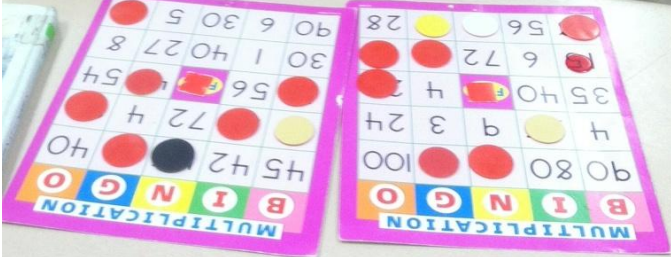
Ms. Bond celebrates Chinese New Year in Morning Program.



Fifth graders in Mrs. Griffin's and Ms. Johnson's room work on fraction activities. Ms Johnson is a co-teacher from SUNY Cortland.



PTO President Robin Cataldo recently presented Mrs. Neuman with an ice maker for the Health Office. Thank you PTO!



Jakob from 4V is playing multiplication facts bingo as a way to study/review his basic facts.



KIX: Kindergartners and sixth graders read together.



We welcome Mrs. Geiss, our guest teacher during Mrs. Snyder's maternity leave. She has previously taught 4th grade in Virginia and graduated from SUNY Cortland with a BS in Childhood Education. She also has earned a MA in Reading. She resides with her husband in Baldwinsville, NY. She enjoys reading, Syracuse basketball, and exercising. She is eager to get to know the 4th graders and parents right away!



In Mrs. Davis' kindergarten class, students learned how feathers (rubber glove) help to keep the penguins warm.



Third Grade – Mrs. Dineen and Ms. Sclafani-

The third graders have been working hard to learn their multiplication facts. We have been using flash cards and drills to help us memorize our facts. We are responsible for learning all the facts through the 12's. Ask your child to demonstrate an "array", one of our favorite ways of showing a multiplication fact.

In reading we have enjoyed many non-fiction texts. We are working on taking notes to help us to remember what we read.

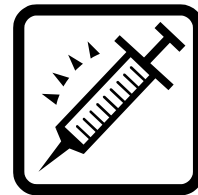
Many thanks to Mr. Kline, who organized an ice skating field trip. A fun time was had by all! Remember we go outside in the winter weather; students need to wear hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants.



To Parents of 5th Graders:

Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, and Acellular Pertussis) is a new immunization mandate that started September 1, 2007.

All students entering sixth grade need to receive the Tdap immunization prior to the first day of school. Please contact your local provider to set up an appointment in preparation for next year. Your child will not be allowed to remain in school after the first 14 days of school without this medical documentation.



Please contact Mrs. Neuman, the school nurse, at 758-4164 if you have any questions.

Notes from the School Health Office



Many parents ask, “When is my child sick enough to stay home from school?”

This is not always an easy question to answer! I hope that these tips can help!

A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff. I suggest making a plan for childcare ahead of time so you will not be caught without a comforting place for your child to stay if he/she is ill.

You ***should not*** send your child to school if he/she has:

- Fever in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting in the past 24 hours
- Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Strep Throat (must have been taking an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school)
- Bad cold, with a very runny nose or bad cough, especially if it has kept the child awake at night
- Head lice – until your child has been treated according to the nurse or doctor’s instructions

If your child becomes ill at school and the school nurse feels the child is too sick to benefit from school or is contagious to other children, you will be called to come and take him/her home from school. It is essential that your child has a phone number on record where you can be contacted during the day and an emergency number in the event you cannot be reached. Please be sure that arrangements can be made to transport your child home from school and that childcare is available in case of illness. If your daytime or emergency phone number changes during the year, please notify the main office or your child’s teacher immediately.

Please call Mrs. Julie Neuman at 607-758-4164, the school’s Health Office, if you have any questions or concerns.

February Fun

@

Cortland Free Library

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

School's Out!

Wednesday February 8th

In a galaxy far far away...(Or just downtown at the library) -- Star Wars Crafts! -- Ages 5-12

Wednesday February 22nd

Horton Hears a Who -- Fun based on the popular Dr. Seuss story. -- Ages 5-12

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Girl Talk

Tuesday February 7th

Mother--Daughter Book Club for girls in grades 4-6

7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Books Before Bed

Monday February 27th

Don't forget your PJs -- For the whole family

Don't forget Preschool Storytime every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

**Cortland Free Library
32 Church St.
Cortland, NY 13045**

To register for library events please call or e-mail -- cortlandlib-youth@twcny.rr.com ;
607-753-1043

HEAD START PRE-SCHOOL

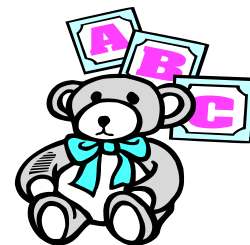
The Cortland County Head Start Program is accepting applications for the 2012-2013 program year. Head Start offers home-based and center-based program options at no financial cost to you!

The Home Based option, primarily for 3 year old children, involves a Home Visitor coming into your home and working with you and your child for one, 90-minute visit per week. Approximately two times per month your child may attend our socialization center to play with other children the Home Visitor serves. In the Center Based option, primarily for 4 year olds, children attend school Monday through Friday.

To be eligible for the Head Start Program, your child must:

1. Live in Cortland County
2. Be 3 or 4 years old by December 1, 2012
3. Be within our income guidelines or receive one of the following: Public Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Food Stamps, Medicaid, HEAP, Child Care Subsidy. (We serve 20 children program-wide above the income guidelines.)

Applications for the Head Start 2012-2013 program year are available at CAPCO Head Start. Please call 607-753-6781 and we will mail one to you, or you may pick one up at 32 North Main Street, Cortland, at the CAPCO building.



January was a busy month in physical education at Parker School!

Kindergartners are bowling during our bowling unit. Bowling is a great indoor activity during the winter.



“Exergames” or video games that require exercise are always a hit! To the left a 1st graders are seen using the Wii Balance Board and the Xbox Kinect. Below 6th graders are playing Wii Just Dance and 4th graders are on using DDR pads.



In February we will start gymnastics. Balance is a fundamental skill to prepare students. Above some 3rd graders are seen trying some cooperative balancing tricks and a 5th grader performs a “tripod” (a skill to prepare for headstands).