



Donald W. Reynolds Facility

P.A.R.K. Makes Honor Roll...AGAIN!

By Blenda Downs, Curriculum Coordinator

The students showed up and worked very hard, the staff was there too and helped with the charge.

We all succeeded with increasing the knowledge,

I can't wait to see if it lead P.A.R.K. students to college.

Hat's off to P.A.R.K. staff and students for another great summer! One of our summer goals was to "fill in potholes" and equip the students with the necessary tools needed to succeed this school year. Thanks to a very enthusiastic staff, the students increased their pre and post-test scores in all academic areas.

Once again the younger students rotated on an A-day, B-day schedule. The students had three classes on Monday and Wednesday and three different classes on Tuesday and Thursday. They attended: math, English, Spanish, skills tutor, science and study skills. Each class was held for 50 minutes and focused on the following skills:

1. Math focused on everything from adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions to solving equations and recognizing equations in slope-intercept

form to ACT prep.

2. English focused on nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns and paragraph writing.

3. Spanish focused on the basics of Spanish, which included numbers, days of the week, and months of the year, seasons, and colors. By the end of the summer, the students were also able to name their clothing in Spanish, describe the weather conditions and name family members.

4. Skills Tutor is an on-line tutorial that acts as a personal tutor and designs an individual study plan for each student. This class focused on reading Comprehension and basic Math such as Understanding Numbers and Using Addition & Subtraction.

5. Science focused on the Scientific Method and completing a successful Science Fair project. P.A.R.K. held its very own Science Fair and awarded a first, second and third place winner with trophies and gift certificates to the mall and the Rave Movie Theater!

6. Study Skills focused on organizational skills, note taking skills and test taking skills to name a few.

Our older students in the Accelerated Learning Center focused on ACT prep, writing essays for college applications and scholarships, as well as Career Orientation and Life Skills.

Our report card indicates that all potholes have been filled with a substance that will never create a void - EDUCATION! The entire staff feels confident that all of the participating students are better prepared for the 2006-2007 school year!

P.A.R.K.'s Report Card

Math – Average pre and post-test scores increased from 39% to 45%

English – Average pre and post-test scores increased from 42.2% to 53.6%

Spanish – Average pre and post-test scores increased from 22.5% to 61.8%

Science – Average pre and post test scores increased from 44% to 65%

Study Skills – Average pre and post test scores increased from 54.8% to 76.6%

Skills Tutor — Average pre and post-test scores in Understanding Numbers increased from 72% to 77%.

P.A.R.K. Welcomes Additions to Our Family

By Tamra Patterson, Chief Student Life Manager



Please join P.A.R.K. in celebrating 64 new additions to our family! This celebration will continue throughout 5 years as we watch these students grow, mature and develop to their full potential. There will be times of study and times of play. We will go on field trips throughout the city, state and country. Our family will give back to our community through service opportunities. We will have lots of guest speakers and visitors during

these five years. We will send off some of our family to bigger and better opportunities and welcome even more into our P.A.R.K. family. It is guaranteed to be educational, fun and exciting with plenty of adventures along the way.

Every day won't be a picnic. There will be lots of convincing and compromising that will have to happen. There will be modifications made and rewards given. There will be an evolution that is inevitable. But

through faith, determination and prayer, as we minister to the whole student- spirit, soul and body, there will be an evolution that is inevitable. I hope that you will join us on this wonderful and exploratory ride. I am sure it will be memorable for all involved!

We prayed for this child and the Lord has granted what we asked of him- 1 Samuel 1:27

A Green Bay Experience

Keith's Corner



Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the "Frozen Tundra" before the freeze in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Packers were playing an opening game against "Da Bears." The event was to honor the 1996 Championship Team. I can't believe it's been 10 years since we beat the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI. It's events like these that force one to examine those special moments.

The events of life come at you so fast, it's hard to appreciate the moment. Something special is taking place but you can't enjoy it because you've been bombarded by the cares of this world. The 1996 Green Bay Packers are listed as the sixth best team of all-time. To the players in the midst of it, we just practiced and played games weekend in and weekend out. We knew there was something special about this team but didn't have the luxury to bask in the experience.

So, on Sunday, September 10, 2006, at the ten year anniversary celebration of the 16-3 world champions, I slowed down; and to a standing ovation I took my bow and felt appreciated. As a player, I've run out in front of many crowds, but this one was different or was I seeing it for the very first time.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses . . .

All of us who work, donate or volunteer don't have to wait until we get to Heaven to be appreciated. There's a cloud of witnesses that gives us a standing ovation every time we help a person in need. On behalf of the 94 students who have had the college experience, I applaud you. So many of those in Heavenly places, especially the Hebrew Hall of Famers looking down, take notice of your generosity.

It's because of this generosity, every 3rd Thursday in May, our graduates get to have a special moment. They have a P.A.R.K. graduation with family members, staff, donors, volunteers and board members. This is a busy time in a 12th grader's life: invitations, class rings, caps & gowns, commencements and parties all while taking a glimpse of the future. It is just another milestone in their young life. P.A.R.K. has celebrated seven (7) graduating classes. These students will have the same revelation that I did with my Green Bay experience. They are thankful at this juncture, but many years later these students will have a greater appreciation for what we all sacrificed to get to the goal line. Touchdown!



The Window of Opportunity Stays Open at P.A.R.K.

By Melanie Jackson, Community Outreach Coordinator

Often times people asks me, "What can I do to help P.A.R.K.?" My response is usually, "Anything you *can* do will be appreciated." However, for some, that answer doesn't always suffice. They want to know specifically how they can be a blessing to P.A.R.K. This is when I pull out the wish list clipboard in my mind and name off everything I can think possible.

After several occasions of being approached with the same question; I be-

gan to realize there are many people who want to do for and give to P.A.R.K. but need direction as to what and how much. Maybe you are wondering how you can play a part in P.A.R.K.'s ongoing quest to make a difference in this world "one child at a time."

P.A.R.K.'s window of opportunity for sponsorship is always open. The Graduation/Student Recognition ceremony at the end of the school year, class rings for the seniors, monthly birthday

parties, the Christmas party, as well as, our quarterly newsletter, *The P.A.R.K. Progress*, are just the beginning of numerous opportunities to take advantage of. There is never a time limit on giving at P.A.R.K.

Thanks to P.A.R.K. supporters, we are able to open up windows in the lives of so many youths whose windows would otherwise remain shut. God Bless you.

NO GOOD DEED GOES UNNOTICED

By Junious Babbs, Little Rock School District Superintendent over Secondary Education and P.A.R.K. Board member



We as individuals oftentimes live in a society that focuses on the “here and now” and take far too many things for granted. While some merit may exist to support this thought, it is important to go on record that in addition to the many parents, sponsors and friends of the P.A.R.K. family, Little Rock School District also wishes to say **THANK YOU.**

When taking into account en-

ergies of the P.A.R.K. staff and the array of experiences afforded young people under your tutelage, you consistently go above and beyond the call of duty.

Recognizing the role of responsibility to educate our (LRSD) students remains non-negotiable. Efforts to instill this instructional foundation toward established educational standards of “proficient or advanced” are

gravely enhanced with positive tenants (After School Instruction/Summer Enrichment programs, Recreation, Community Service, incentives, parent involvement and College Prep) being instilled by P.A.R.K.

There is little question in my mind that the 215 students now being served recognize that they are fortunate to be on board. We applaud and embrace concepts of your

Pay It Forward

By Jacinda Jones, Student Lift Manager

Pay It Forward refers to repaying the good deeds one has received by doing things for other unrelated people.

This fall, P.A.R.K. students will begin viewing the movie *Pay It Forward*, as an introduction to ongoing community service projects that will help create a movement of inspirations toward helping others.

The idea was sparked after viewing the movie myself and making a personal commitment to volunteer more in my own community, then listening to P.A.R.K. students rejoice on how happy they were that both school and P.A.R.K. had started back because they were bored and did not have much to do after the summer program ended only inspired me further. But how could this be, I thought? There is always worthy work that needs to be done in all types of communities.

No matter how young, old, rich, poor, overeducated or just simply educated by the streets, there is a lifetime of work to be done and each one can teach one.

In the movie *Pay It Forward*, the term is described as an obligation to do three good deeds for others in repayment of a good deed that one receives. That such good deed should be things that the person cannot accomplish on his own. The recipient of such acts of kindness is then expected to do three good deeds for others in repayment for the help he received. In this way the need to help each other can spread through society, creating a social movement with the hopes of making the world a better place. (*Wikipedia*)

The simple idea of doing good works for others to repay the good that has happened to you is one that

can easily be conveyed to our P.A.R.K. students. It will hopefully inspire them to be socially aware and take a role in making the world a better place.

We hope that this school year our students will tap into their souls to “pay it forward.” There are several community services and volunteer opportunities for our P.A.R.K. students to participate in to make this idea of paying it forward come to past. Opportunities like, behind the scenes work to events leading up to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Lions World Service, raking leaves for hospice patients, and participation in National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, just to name a few.

Without the good deeds of the P.A.R.K. program, who knows where some of our students would be. The movement will continue here!

If Kids Could Fly

By Kareem Moody, Program Director

I often wonder what the world be like if kids could fly. Would they run along through life, and when danger came their way they would just lift up and blast off, or would they just bypass pain and heartache all together? If kids could fly, would we look up from time to time and see them soaring high above the clouds gracefully maneuvering through dreamy scenery confident and determined to reach a destination of their choosing? Would they be able to see the world with a bird's eye view, decide the things they should stop and be apart of and the things they should adjust their altitude and coast by? If kids could fly, would they stretch their wings wide so the world could see their full beauty? Would they take on mountains and tough terrain with ease and perseverance? If kids could fly, would they just fly and fly, resting only for energy to fly again? If kids could fly, would they make the world a better place? Would they take food to those who could not get their own or carry non-flyers to safety? Would they teach and nurture the ones who couldn't fly? Would they encourage and motivate the ones who didn't know they could fly?

Let me tell you — Yes! They can! Each and every one can fly. All kids should have the chance to mount up and soar like eagles. It is up to us to put that wind beneath their wings. It is our charge to pass along to them the same fuel of hope, optimism, encouragement and love, and one day we will know that kids can fly.

As I experience the joy of offering a small part in helping a kid believe they can fly; I am reminded of how powerful an educated child with a dream can be when those of us who have flown give hope to those who will one day fly.

STAFF PROFILE

Kareem Moody, Program Director



Kareem Moody has made a valuable contribution to insuring that the P.A.R.K. vision moves forward. As Program Director for the past 8 years, he has been responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring key aspects of the P.A.R.K program strategy . Kareem has been the catalyst behind keeping students and staff motivated to achieve the program mission. His nurturing discipline style helps to set constructive boundaries and expectations for the students while providing a safe and fun place to teach and learn for staff and students.

In addition to his work at P.A.R.K., Kareem spends time working with gang involved youth, as well as ex- offenders and other youth in high-risk situations responding to the belief that, "It is far easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." (Fredrick Douglas) He also enjoys spending quality time with his wonderful wife Rona and two sons Miles and Moses.

Kareem is the author of *Raise Them Up*, the real deal on reaching unreachable kids (available wherever books are sold).

Kareem is a native of Dumas, AR. He attended Henderson State University on a basketball scholarship and graduated with a B.A. in Communications.

Kenneth Edwards, 10th grader

By Jason Lanier, Student Life Manager



You can't judge this book by its cover. At first glance you see a skinny and lanky 15 year old kid. If you take the time to hold a conversation with Kenneth Edwards you'll realize that this kid is special. He is the ideal P.A.R.K. student whose G.P.A. upon entering the program was between a 1.5 and 2.5, but now is

reaching G.P.A.'s as high as 3.75 at J.A. Fair High in School Little Rock.

He is looked upon as a leader among the students which is unusual being in the 10th grade. Kenneth is very active within P.A.R.K., taking leadership roles in Men of Blessings, P.A.R.K. Ambassadors and volunteering wherever he can in and around P.A.R.K. The sky is definitely the limit for this young man.

Young and Saved

By Michael Woods, Personal Assistant to the President

A part of P.A.R.K.'s mission statement declares that *P.A.R.K. exists to build...spiritual awareness in its members.*" The ministry side of P.A.R.K. has been an area of focus over the past year. The focal point of ministry is an endeavor to expose P.A.R.K. students to the benefits of God through a covenant relationship with God.

Developing a covenant relationship with God deepens our understanding of God, ourselves and our covenant relationship with each other. I believe that it is this lack of a covenant relationship that has placed our city and youth in a downward spiral since the first of the year. The city's murder rate has risen sharply (no murder rate is normal) and can be

traced back to the city's population of youth and young adults. When young people are reminded of the opportunity to develop a covenant relationship with God, it places a spiritual consciousness within them. When we are spiritually conscious, we are mindful of spiritual things...the things of God. I believe that P.A.R.K. can play a role in assisting the youth of our city in finding God; developing a covenant relationship with God; and, sharing their relationship with God with other youth.

The summer Bible study's subject was "*God and Me.*" The focus of the study was to introduce students to a relationship with God by identifying five (5) subject areas:

1. *Who is God and what does He want with me?*
2. *What does God think of me?*
3. *What does it mean to be blessed by God?*
4. *How do I maintain blessings?*
5. *God and me forever.*

This summer, four (4) students made a commitment to begin developing a new relationship with God. Praise God.

This fall and next summer's Bible focus is *Young and Saved.* If P.A.R.K. reaches one child at a time, I wonder how many one saved student can reach.

Visit us on the web at
www.positivekids.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Within a positive atmosphere built on love, nurturing and discipline, P.A.R.K. strives to enrich the lives of Central Arkansas's youth. Specifically, P.A.R.K. exists to build the confidence, self-esteem and spiritual awareness in its members, to ensure academic achievement, to expand their horizons, and to instill in them the importance of helping others.

Accelerated Learning Center Update

By Monique Palmer, Accelerated Learning Center Coordinator

As the graduating class of 2007 begins what will be their last year of their high school education, much excitement abounds. Thoughts turn to college choices, completing applications, ACT exams, and college tours to name a few. Looking ahead to what awaits them after graduation, many are filled with hope and dreams of what life will hold.

The Accelerated Learning Center (ALC) has already hit the ground running working to make those dreams become a reality. At the end of September, all students registered to take the ACT exam will be par-

ticipating in ACT prep classes to ensure they achieve the highest score possible.

We have also had a senior parent meeting to inform and educate our parents on pertinent information to help their child have a successful senior year. The seniors also started off the year participating in a goal setting workshop to give them an action plan on how to achieve their goal

In October, the ALC will attend College Night at the Statehouse Convention Center. There students will be exposed to various post secondary education choices. One highlight is

always collecting materials at the college booths from military and vocational recruiters. Finally, our senior class and their parents will have an opportunity to attend a financial aid workshop at P.A.R.K. to assist them in preparing to fund their pursuit of additional educational opportunities. The Accelerated Learning Center is definitely off to a good start! ***Class of 2007 keep up the hard work!***

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