



# THE P.A.R.K.

# PROGRESS

## Donald W. Reynolds Facility

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### Men of Blessing (MOB) on the Road

By Ryan D. Davis, Student life manager

In the last weekend of October, I had the pleasure of doing what most adults might not consider pleasurable. I, along with Student Life Manager Jason Lanier, Program Director Kareem Moody and Group Leader Kelvin Parker took a group of twelve young men to Dallas to see the Dallas Cowboys play against the Arizona Cardinals as a reward for their efforts in school and at P.A.R.K. This excursion was sponsored in part by Men of Blessing (MOB). What was initially an incentive trip, for young men who met a whole list of requirements, became a bonding time, a time to revitalize MOB and its scope and mission. We wanted this to be a chance to build relationships and trust, as well as show them that good actions have good consequences.

We set out mid-day Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> loaded down with snacks ready for the gridiron action. The five hour drive (give or take) lent itself to conversation ranging from sports to college life, about which the chaperones were able to offer a lot of good information and advice. We arrived at our hotel, the Hilton North Dallas, in the early evening. The accommodations were top rate and the few Play Stations we brought along added to our comfort. The room situation, three students per chaperoned room, again, was a good way for the staff to get to know the students better and vice versa.

The highlight of the trip was, of course, the Dallas Cowboys game. The game was the first NFL game for most, many of whom had never seen any type of professional sporting event. The fact that the Cowboys played one of their best games so far this season and that we were able to take pictures right on the star at the 50 yard line made it that much more special. And we had a great time, together.

This is how families are built. These young men some who I have never heard utter so much as a word, really became familiar and it spoke volumes about how intrinsically good they are. It is this type of familiarity that makes P.A.R.K. more than just an after-school program. I think I speak for more than just myself when I say we definitely look forward stepping out with these young men again.



# Keith's corner



# P.A.R.K. Does Change Lives

By Melody Sims Stanley, P.A.R.K. Volunteer

I have recently been blessed with the opportunity to help even more young people become extraordinary adults as the new director of Ministry to the Inner City-Bank of the Ozarks Run for Their Lives 5K, an event that supports not only P.A.R.K., but also Fellowship of Christian Athletes, S.T.E.P., Young Life, LTCare, and Ministry to the Inner City. Although it meant leaving my position as Director of Development for Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids, this is a challenge that I am eagerly approaching and hope it will grow as P.A.R.K. has grown over the last ten years and impact the community in the same way.

P.A.R.K. is in my blood forever!! My former position as Director of Development for Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids has made an everlasting impact on my life. I met the young kids that will become our future leaders in the community. I know first hand what your donations are doing to change lives. My husband Steve and I will always volunteer and continue to sponsor the "One Child at a Time" program. As always, thanks for making a difference in many young lives. P.A.R.K. changed mine forever.



## P.A.R.K. Students Show They Can Perform!

By Tamra Patterson, Chief Student Life Manager

P.A.R.K. believes in commending our students for a job well done. Our incentive program, known as P.A.R.K. Performers, is designed to reward students for their commitment to carrying out the P.A.R.K. game plan and for contributing and participating in their academic success.

This school year we have earned the title of P.A.R.K. Performer through consistent attendance and participation in the program. These students are able to use their awarded points in a silent bidding program for a wide selection of events. So far this school year, students have had the opportunity to bid on seats to the Arkansas State Fair, the Atlanta Hornets NBA game and a performance at the Robinson Center. Students who continue to earn points can look forward to a range of exciting events including: a viewing of the movie "The Gospel", dinner at the Repertory Theater as well as



Tierra Little, Morgan Sims, and Shayla Dowd chow down at Fair

already had 75 students to bid on seats to the Atlanta Hawks vs. New Orleans Pelicans dance performance at the Music Hall. In addition, this honor will be able to bid on trips including: a viewing of the movie "The Gospel", dinner at the Repertory Theater as well as

By rewarding our students we not only create positive avenues, but we also are able to broaden students' horizons through a variety of activities that many of these students would not otherwise get a chance to experience.

The following poem was is  
from the creative mind of one  
of P.A.R.K.'s senior students!



## Broke in Pain

By Jasmine Thomas  
Senior, Parkview High School

Times are hard  
I need money.  
Every time I turn around  
It's gettin' away from me.  
Gas is high  
'cause Bush won't admit.  
Plus, lunch just went up  
50 "doggone" cents.  
It's my senior year...  
the most expensive of all;  
prom, trips, banquets, pictures,  
and the winter ball.  
Sometimes school  
is one big fashion show;  
but to get the clothes  
you gotta have the dough.  
Now they say you don't need a  
job  
just concentrate on school.  
But school is expensive  
and money is the main tool.  
Oh yea, let's thank Huckabee  
for losing all that weight.  
Now, because of him  
I got to pay.  
Look at me,  
weight I need to gain,  
all this nutritious "stuff"  
is just bringing me pain.  
Now to look at the world  
It's more hurt than help.  
My pockets are feeling  
like Jesus did when he wept.

# P.A.R.K. Plans for a Proficient Year

## Students Will Get Down to Work After Christmas

By Blenda Downs, Curriculum Coordinator

P.A.R.K.'s Academic Program is dedicated to moving all students to higher levels of academic performance as Arkansas Law, Act 2243, requires schools to place students who are not proficient on the Benchmark and/or End-of-Course exams on an Academic Improvement Plan. Students at the elementary and middle school level who fail to participate in this process will be retained and will not be promoted to the next grade level. At the high school level, students who are identified as not meeting satisfactory pass levels for an End-of-Course exam, and fail to participate in the plan will not receive credit on their transcript for the course.

Arkansas students score in one of four performance levels on the Benchmark exam: below basic, basic, proficient and advanced. A student scoring proficient is considered to have mastery of the skills and materials set forth in the frameworks for each subject and each grade. The statewide percentages of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students performing proficient or advanced on the

2005 Benchmark exams are as follows:

<u><b>Math</b></u>	<u><b>Literacy</b></u>
33%	57%

(Thompson, Julie Johnson. New Era for the Arkansas Benchmark Exams Begins. [Online] Available <http://www.arkedu.state.ar.us>, October 5, 2005.)

At P.A.R.K. the fall educational opportunities emphasize instruction and tutoring in the areas of English, Math, Science, Study Skills, Reading Comprehension, Spanish, Computer Skills, and more. Beginning in January, we will have a six-week intense Benchmark prep session for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Instruction is designed to aggressively attack academic deficiencies while developing divergent thinking and creativity and fostering positive growth. The goal is to not only prepare our students to be **Proficient** on the exams, but to also enable them to reach their ultimate educational potential and to equip them to meet the challenges of the Twenty-first Century!

### 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 at-risk 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.

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HaHabakkuk 2:2

“...Write the vision, and make it plain  
upon tables, that he may run that  
readeth it.”

*Thanks for making  
God's vision a reality*

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*Invest In The Future*



**P.A.R.K.**

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REACHES KIDS

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