



# Paideia Academy

December 21, 2012

## Calendar:

**December 24 through January 11** Winter Break

**December 24 through January 1** Office closed

**January 2** - Grades available in Schoolview, 8:00 AM

**January 21** - Martin Luther King Day, No school

**January 23** - Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

**Practice your math skills over break! Every student at Paideia has a membership to IXL math. Go to [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com) to log in. Please contact Maggie Ekrem if you need a reminder of your password [mekrem@paideiaacademy.org](mailto:mekrem@paideiaacademy.org).**

### Our Vision

We envision a new generation of engaged, productive global citizens.

### Our Mission

The mission of Paideia Academy is to challenge and inspire learners by providing a rigorous, content-rich, classical education incorporating languages, music, and the arts while nurturing positive character development.

## From the Director

Dear Paideia Community,

As we come to the end of 2012, I find myself reflecting on what has been a very eventful year for Paideia, myself, the country, and the world. While I may not always be able to draw crystal clear connections between global events and our daily lives, I find myself considering them constantly. What will the world look like when our young students reach adulthood, and what will they need to be successful at that time? As adults, will our students have the knowledge and skills to lead in times of crisis and calm? Are we preparing our students to effectively resolve conflict in their personal and professional lives? How do we support students to be unique individuals with cooperative spirits? Which of our children will be local, national, or international leaders? In which fields will they truly make a difference in the world? What is Paideia doing to encourage their development?

In the six months that I have been at Paideia, I have seen your children grow physically, emotionally, and socially. We have celebrated lost teeth, new sneakers, haircuts, trips to grandparents' houses, achievement in sports, and performances. We have mourned deaths and illness, and we have figured out ways to help children stay inspired to do their best and enjoy each day even through some tough or scary times. This is what all schools must do, but, here at Paideia, I think we do this especially well. Our teachers and instructional assistants greet every child and family member with a smile, our special education staff and counselors focus attention and effort on the unique strengths and challenges of their students, and our office staff makes sure the whole thing runs as smoothly as possible. I am truly thankful to work with such an amazing staff!

We thank you for all the wonderful and delicious gifts you have bestowed on this week! I think we have all gained at least one pants size because of it, but it was certainly worth it. Most of all, however, we thank you for the gift of trusting us with your children every day. We all wish you a fantastic holiday season with your delightful children! See you in the New Year!

Happy Holidays,  
Marci Levy-Maguire  
Director

## December 18, 2012 Board Meeting Highlights:

- Paideia is in outstanding financial shape. 41% of the school year has gone by, and both our revenues and expenditures are in line with our revised budget. Our projected enrollment has been adjusted to 380 students, and we are currently at 379 students.
  - Round 2 of teacher observations have been completed, and professional development plans will be created with staff in January based on observation data. The December 13th Open House was a tremendous success; props go out to all of the families, students, and staff who participated in the Open House and helped develop new marketing materials. The second round DDI assessments are taking place this week, and re-teaching and enrichment plans will be developed for the first week of third quarter.
  - Safety protocols have been reviewed with staff, students, and families. Potential improvements and additional safety measures are being researched.
  - The Programming Committee, HR Committee, Technology Committee, and Transportation Committee have been hard at work looking at planning for the 2013-2014 school year. Initiatives being researched include full-day kindergarten, retention and compensation of exceptional teachers, 1:1 computing for Upper Academy students, and a new contract with Twin City Transportation.
  - Major technology initiatives of the month include: use of Apperson software for generating DDI reports, a new inventory system for all resources at Paideia, TIES and Cognos student data trainings, report card preparation, a student Technology Committee to help with basic maintenance of current technology, website management and development.
- PTO update: parent spirit wear coming soon, Wendy's monthly fundraisers coming soon - Paideia gets a portion of all proceeds, January 14th is the next meeting - will focus on safety and lockdown procedures.

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00. Please join us!!!**

## PTO

Dear Paideia Families,

This letter is not the end of quarter letter I planned on writing. As a parent it is difficult to not put yourself in the shoes of the families in Connecticut who received calls or texts on Friday informing them of an emergency at school and to not feel the panic at the thought of your child scared, hurt, or worse. I hope you will take a moment over the coming days and weeks to think of these families and hold them in your hearts as they experience and go through our worst nightmare.

Like me you have probably received the e-mails from administration informing you of practice lockdown drills. Have you wondered what that entails? I have asked Mrs. Levy Maguire to join us at our January PTO meeting to review this procedure. This will be your chance to ask questions about our safety practices at school. Having the police department less than a block away I hope is a deterrent to anyone wanting to do harm at our school, but I too would like to know more about the other safety measures our school takes. I also find that it is easier to reassure my children when I know what I am talking about.

The PTO Meeting will be held in the large commons at school on Monday, January 14th. We meet from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. This presentation will take place first and we will then proceed with PTO business.

I hope you treasure this winter break with your children as every second spent with them (good or bad) is a blessing.

With deep respect,  
Ginie Klopp  
PTO President

### **SPRING CARNIVAL:**

Planning is underway for the 2013 Spring Carnival. We have filled the following Chair positions: Finance, Volunteer Coordinator, and Silent Auction. We are still looking for a Food/Concessions Chair and a Marketing Chair. Please see Ann Schomisch or contact her at [annscho-misch@gmail.com](mailto:annscho-misch@gmail.com) if you are interested in either of these roles. Note we have many people that have done this in the past and provide support where needed.

## **Gifted & Talented**

### **Gifted and Talented Group Expanding**

A decision was made to increase our pool of Gifted and Talented Students. Mrs. Pettinger will be reviewing MCA data for students with scores between 85% and 89%. She will conduct any necessary testing at the start of Quarter 3 week. Letters went home today with any students in this testing pool. Any students qualifying for services will begin the fourth week of January. All parents being notified. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pettinger.

### **Creative Writing Club**

I am excited that our creative writing club is so successful! Currently I have 32 students registered. With such a large group, it was necessary for me to split the group. Grades 2 and 4 will meet with me every other week, and grades 3 and 5 will do the same. Students should be working on their writing packets at home as well as during our club.

### **Spelling Bees Slated for January**

Kudos to all of the students who qualified for our school spelling bees! Families are invited to attend the bees. The bee for grades 5-8 is Tuesday, January 15 at 2pm in the Great Room. The bee for grades 2-4 is Tuesday, January 29 at 2pm in the Great Room. Please join us.

**3rd Quarter Club  
flyers on the website,  
please sign up  
before January 16th!**