

Paideia Academy

Newsletter August 16, 2013

Calendar:

August 20 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM
August 22 Special Education Advisory Meeting
National Junior Honor Society Induction Meeting
September 2 & 3 Labor Day, No school
September 9 Monday Morning Meeting
September 17 Picture retakes
October 7-18 Fall Break, No school



From the Director

Dear Paideia Community,

Happy Friday! It's been another exciting week here at Paideia. Some of the highlights of my week were watching Ms. Largent introduce her 2nd grade Health students to a "Positive Hot Potato" game, examining some of the 7th & 8th graders' Draw-A-Scientist drawings, and talking with Kindergarteners about what I do in my role as Director and finding out more about what they want to be when they grow up (some responses included chef, ballerina, environmental biologist, and fireman).

The week started off with two great committee meetings – the School Culture & Communications Committee (SCCC) and the Marketing & Enrollment Committee (MEC) meeting. It was wonderful to have strong parent participation in the SCCC as we discussed our definition of culture (per Merriam-Webster – *"a set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize an institution or organization"*), shared our own viewpoints on our school culture, and analyzed how our communications can help us strengthen our culture. The Marketing & Enrollment Committee meeting dovetailed nicely on this conversation because we focused on what we're doing well and how we can let more people know about it. All of the members of the Committee provided great insight and creative ideas for reaching out to prospective families who would both appreciate and contribute to Paideia!

Thank you to all of you who attended last night's Curriculum Night! I hope our teacher presentation format and our 2013-2014 Curriculum Guide provided you with a strong understanding of the curriculum, assessment, and instruction that will be provided for your child/children this year. We are working hard to make our instructional work more transparent and consistent within and across grade levels, which was the major impetus for our inaugural Curriculum Guide. In the future, our Academic Excellence Committee will take the lead on this document, so I hope you will share your thoughts with them about how we can continue to strengthen it.

Thank you also to the PTO for running this week's uniform swap! It was a great help to the office staff, and I hope that families found it valuable as well. We look forward to a great year of continued collaboration!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Marci Levy-Maguire
Director

Important Updates

Absences:

Please report to the office if your child is going to be absent. Phones are answered starting at 7:30 AM. (We ask that you call or email the office, not your child's teacher.)
952-953-6200 or swatkins@paideiaacademy.org

Wednesday Dismissal Update

Please note that students are dismissed on Wednesday afternoons at the end of 7th period at 2:32pm (not 2:25pm). Our Family Handbook has been revised to reflect the accurate dismissal time. Beginning next Wednesday, August 21st, students will not be dismissed from their classes until 2:32pm, and dismissal will not start until 2:35pm. We appreciate your flexibility in making our new program model work!

If you have not paid for your student's planner, please drop off payment in the amount of \$5.00 per planner. All students in Grades 3-8 have received a planner for 2013-2014.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue reminds parents to save their school supply receipts. There are two tax options that help Minnesota families pay expenses related to their child's education. [See information about the refundable K-12 education credit and the K-12 education subtraction on the Department of Revenue website.](#) Both programs reduce the tax parents must pay and could provide a larger refund when filing a 2013 Minnesota Individual Income Tax Return. [Read the August 7 Department of Revenue press release.](#)

NJHS parents/students,

The NJHS induction ceremony will take place at Paideia on Thursday August, 22nd at 6:30 pm. During this ceremony your son/daughter will be officially inducted into Paideia's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. If you have any questions about the ceremony or Paideia's NJHS chapter please contact Brittany Niehoff at bniehoff@paideiaacademy.org.

Give with Target is back!

Vote for Paideia Academy!

<http://givewith.target.com/>

The advertisement features a red border and a corkboard background. On the left, a torn piece of paper displays the 'GIVE with TARGET' logo, which includes a red bullseye target icon. In the center, large blue text reads 'More Votes = More Money for Schools'. Below this, smaller text states: 'It just takes 25 votes to start. After that Target will donate \$25 to your school. And even better? Each additional vote equals \$1 more. #GiveWithTarget'. On the right, a photograph shows a young boy with dark, curly hair, wearing a blue shirt, looking thoughtfully at the camera with his hand on his chin. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text 'find a school' followed by two white buttons: 'Paideia Academy' and 'Apple Valley', separated by the word 'or'.

PTO

Dear Paideia Community,

Two weeks under our belts and we are already seeing an improvement in morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Thank you for your patience as we go through our training/retraining period. It will continue to get better and everyday all our children get home safely is a good day even if it took longer than perhaps it should.

As school gets rolling and volunteer opportunities open up in the classrooms, please remember that you need to have a background check if you will be interacting with students. This includes PTO events like dances, movie nights and many other events. These checks need to be done annually so yes, if you did one last year you need to do one again this year. Also, if you can please donate the \$10 it costs the school to run these checks. Keep in mind that \$10 can go toward instructional material rather than background checks.

INNISBROOK FUNDRAISER - By now you should have received your Innisbrook catalog and instructions. Our goal is to raise \$7,000 with this fundraiser. You ask what for? Well, Paideia's wish/needs list includes upgrading our computer lab, science lab supplies, school library, workbooks and extracurricular activities. We do not encourage door to door sales, please be sure your children know who they are selling to. Have family and friends who want to help but live outside the local area. See the parent sheet in your packet and follow the directions to send an e-mail link. Please note that you will need to enter the orders online before September 3, again see the parent sheet in your packet for instructions. Received multiple packets but you only need one? Return extras to the table outside the first floor restrooms. Didn't get a packet? Check the table outside the first floor restrooms.

Mark your calendars for the All School Dance on September 27th. Planning is under way and it is a great way to meet other families. Everyone in the family is welcome as it is fun for all ages!

Thank you for attending the PTO meeting on Tuesday. We got a lot accomplished and had great positive energy. I can already see how much we're going to accomplish this year. Encourage your friends to come to the next PTO meeting on September 10. Remember the Family Directory and Car Pool lists are updated weekly. Add your information if you haven't yet by going to the PTO website: www.paideiaacademypto.org.

Enjoy your weekend!
Ginie Klopp
PTO President

**Your Fundraising dollars
have been put to good use!**
Check out the new blinds in
room 110 and the Music
Room!



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From the Classrooms

Kindergarten

- **Math:** Beginning of the year assessments; number sense
- **Language Arts:** Beginning of the year assessments; Color Blue; Sight Word Reader: "I Can Move"
- **Science:** Five Senses
- **Social Studies:** The Pledge of Allegiance
- **Advisory:** Classroom routines, making friends; Olweus Bullying Prevention Program – Introduction to Class Meetings
- **Announcements:** Several students still need arts shirts at school. Please send them in.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** We are currently working on building our classroom community and will be asking for parent volunteers in September. Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

First Grade

- **Math:** We will begin working through Chapter 2. Chapter 2's main focus is number bonds. We will be practicing addition facts up to 10.
- **Language Arts:** We will begin Words Their Way. Each child will be given a unique set of words based on their current spelling level.
- **Science:** We will begin talking about Animal Habitats.
- **Social Studies:** We will begin our geography unit. We will start with identifying our city, state and country.
- **Advisory:** Shriners Hospital and Macey's mom will be visiting on Wednesday to talk with the class.
- **Announcements:** Homework starts this week! Watch for the red Homework Folder on Thursday.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Check your email for updates. Contact Stacey Thorpe with any questions.
- **Inspirations:** Adelyn, Avery, Lydia and Emmie were the first students to get 5 stickers on the Clip Chart and retire their clips to the Hall of Fame. Way to go!

Second Grade

- **Math:** finishing our first unit on place value and representing numbers to 1,000
- **Language Arts:** poem of the week; building stamina for Read to Self, Work on Writing, and Read to Someone and introducing Word Work
- **Science:** continuing our unit on plants
- **Social Studies:** finishing our unit on world geography
- **Advisory:** making new friends and introducing Olweus curriculum
- **Announcements:** Our first homework packet is going home today (8/16) and will be due on Thursday.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** We will be contacting parents with more specific times next week.
- **Inspirations:** Thank you so much to parents who have donated items from our wish lists and/or who have already come in to volunteer! We appreciate you!

Third Grade

- **Jensen Math:** Subtraction with regrouping in all place values, addition and subtraction bar models, cumulative review (3rd grade group), Common factors, prime numbers and multiples (4th grade group)
- **Schnase/Kegel Math:** Rounding to Add and Subtract Mentally
- **Language Arts:** Lowercase Cursive Letters d, e, f
- **Science:** Review day on animal classification, Test on animal classification, Students create their own Mr. Fab
- **Social Studies:** Goods & Services, Consumers & Producers, Market Day
- **Advisory:** Social Skills, Asking for Help, Olweus
- **Announcements:** Our first Library Field Trip is THIS Thursday at 10:15. Please send your child's library card to school so that he/she can check out books. Weekly homework is due this Friday. Please help your child get this work completed and turned in on time to earn the next piece of his/her ice cream sundae.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Both classrooms have many office work activities that we would love some help with. We are also looking for parent volunteers for our Thursday Library field trip. We will be leaving Paideia around 10:15am. Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you are able to help.
- **Inspirations:** We have had a fun time incorporating technology into our classrooms with iPads in math class and Spelling City, IXL, and Lexia at home. Thank you to everyone who came to Curriculum Night to learn more about 3rd grade!!

Fourth Grade

- **Math:** Comparing numbers, estimating, and rounding.
- **Language Arts:** Students will start Daily 5 rotations and reading groups.
- **Science:** Students will study microorganisms and viruses.
- **Social Studies:** Students will learn how decisions are made at the local, state, and national level.
- **Advisory:** Students will continue the Olweus curriculum by talking about anti-bullying rules.
- **Announcements:** We will be going to the library next Friday! Please send you child's library card if you haven't already.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** We always have photocopying to do! Please contact us.
- **Inspirations:** The kids are really getting to know the routine and becoming productive fourth graders!

Fifth Grade

- **Math:** Review, Quiz Tuesday, Pretest, Using a Calculator, Multiplying by 10's, 100's, 1,000's.
- **Language Arts:** Students will be presenting a multi-media project to the class. Students are allowed (with parent permission) to bring digital photos from home to add to their presentation. Students will be reading a passage from "The Young Man and the Sea" to work on their reading comprehension skills. Reading calendars are due Sept. 5.
- **Science:** Students will continue to learn about the scientific method. Students will also begin their unit on simple machines.
- **Social Studies:** Next week students will present their Lakes of the World posters. We will complete geography work, review and have a geography and lakes post test. Current events presentations will be Friday for students were assigned that date.
- **Advisory:** Character trait- Love of Learning, study skills, organization, first Olweus class meeting
- **Announcements:** At Curriculum Night, information was available about an online Learning Management System called Schoology. 5th and 6th Graders will use this tool this year. If families need information about parent/guardian login for Schoology, please contact Ms. Sailors (ssailors@paideiaacademy.org).
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Putting up bulletin boards.
- **Inspirations:** It was inspiring to see students working diligently in class, staying on task, and completing their work in the time allotted.

Sixth Grade

- **Math:** Quiz on Monday, Prime Factorization, Greatest Common Factor, Least Common Multiple, Review, Quiz Friday.
- **Language Arts:** Students will be presenting a multi-media project to the class. Students are allowed (with parent permission) to bring digital photos from home to add to their presentation. Students are also working on making text connections with the nonfiction text, "Before We Were Free." Students' reading calendars are due Sept. 4 (6B) or Sept. 5 (6A).
- **Science:** Students will continue learning about the scientific method. Students will also begin learning about how engineering design is the process of designing products and processes that solve a specific problem.
- **Social Studies:** Next week students will begin learning about the Deserts of the World. They will research deserts and work on a poster project. Current events presentations will be Friday for students were assigned that date.
Advisory: Character trait- Love of Learning, study skills, organization, first Olweus class meeting.
- **Announcements:** At Curriculum Night, information was available about an online Learning Management System called Schoology. 5th and 6th Graders will use this tool this year. If families need information about parent/guardian login for Schoology, please contact Ms. Sailors (ssailors@paideiaacademy.org).
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Putting up bulletin boards.
- **Inspirations:** It was inspiring to see students working diligently in class, staying on task, and completing their work in the time allotted to them. Students then created a small poster based on their research, which we hung up in a timeline around the classroom.

Seventh Grade

- **Math:** Working with integers (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing), solving equations and inequalities with integers.
- **Language Arts:** Writing a descriptive paragraph using the writing process, focusing on the “Ideas” trait in writing with a paired convention skill, continue with critical strategies for reading and writing in the Daybook, collaborating in partner and small group activities by following group roles.
- **Science** next week, 7th and 8th graders will be learning about the metric system. They will practice using metric units and conversions and will put their knowledge to the test during the metric Olympics! Students will use recorded data to create graphs for each metric Olympics event per grade.
- **Social Studies:** This week in 7th grade Social Studies we began our study of People in U.S. History, which will be our focus during Q1. Students put their textbook skills to work by skimming and scanning a text of their choosing and using the Table of Contents and Index to locate information on a historical figure of interest. We used Venn Diagrams to compare and contrast the experiences and characteristics of people in U.S. History. We ended the week by examining a video of “Adventurers” in U.S. History, focusing on which character traits helped make these people “successful”. Next week we will continue to study various groups of people throughout U.S. History.
- **Advisory:** Character trait- Love of Learning, study skills, organization, first Olweus class meeting.
- **Announcements:** Reminder to practice IXL (every student was given a username and password).
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Putting up bulletin boards.

Eighth Grade

- **Math:** Solving one-step equations by adding/subtracting/multiplying/dividing, solving 2-step and multi-step equations, solving equations with variables on both sides (8B has their chapter 1 test on Monday).
- **Language Arts:** Reading Heart of a Chief or Touching Spirit Bear, focusing on the “Ideas” trait in writing with a paired convention skill, continuing with critical strategies for reading and writing in the Daybook, collaborating in partner and small group activities by following group roles.
- **Social Studies:** This week in 8th grade Social Studies we completed an iPad activity that introduced us to the capabilities of Google Earth, which we will use throughout the year for various learning purposes. We also worked in Ch. 1 of our National Geographic textbooks, which introduced us to vocabulary and concepts such as “Absolute Location” and “Relative Location”; students created maps that included Map/Globe Elements, such as Title, Legend/Key, Scale, and Compass Rose. We completed some Freeze Frame and Listen-and-Draw activities to reinforce our learning of geography vocabulary. Next week we will begin our study of the regional and cultural geography of North America.
- **Science** next week, 7th and 8th graders will be learning about the metric system. They will practice using metric units and conversions and will put their knowledge to the test during the metric Olympics! Students will use recorded data to create graphs for each metric Olympics event per grade.
- **Advisory:** Character trait- Love of Learning, study skills, organization, first Olweus class meeting.
- **Announcements:** Reminder to practice IXL (every student was given a username and password).
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Putting up bulletin boards.

Music 4

- **Standards/unit:** Artistic Foundations; Understanding Compound vs. Simple Meter
- **Activities:** Moving to compound meter, reading compound meter, hearing 3/4 vs. 9/8, hearing 2/4 vs. 6/8
- **Inspirations:** Every fourth grade student knows proper marching posture and marking time in place!

Music 5

- **Standards/unit:** Artistic Foundations; Music Theory Foundations
- **Activities:** Building the keyboard, living piano, recognizing keyboard notes, reading notes on Orff Instruments
- **Inspirations:** Band and Orchestra clubs have begun after school. We will be playing our instruments next week for the first time!

Music 6

- **Standards/unit:** Artistic Process: Perform or Present; African Drumming Techniques
- **Activities:** Exploring cultures of Africa, learning traditional instrument names, continuing ensemble work

Music 7/8

- **Standards/unit:** Artistic Process: Create or Make; Scoring & Orchestration
- **Activities:** Exploring the techniques, ranges, and idiosyncrasies of the woodwind family (piccolo, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, oboe, bassoon, contrabassoon)

Physical Education and Health K-8

- **Physical Education:**
Lower Academy: Fitness Testing
Upper Academy: Fitness Testing
- **Health:**
Personal Health and Consumer Health
- **Announcements:**
Upper Academy: Until Physical Education uniforms arrive please remind your student to pack gym clothes that follow the school policy.
- **Inspirations:** It is inspiring to see the students excited to learn about health!

Spanish:

An exciting outcome of our new programming model is that we are now able to create leveled Spanish classes for our 5th-8th graders! Over the past two weeks, we have been assessing students to determine their Spanish proficiency, and we will use these data to determine class placement. In order to ensure accurate attendance and to provide time for communication with students and teachers, students will begin their new Spanish classes on Monday, August 26th. Thank you for your patience as we implement this change that has been requested for a number of years by Paideia families.

Counselor's Corner

- **A Message from your Counselors:** We have really enjoyed getting into each and every classroom and meeting many of the students! We have been able to participate in advisory meetings and teambuilding activities. Mr. Roll has met with several of the students individually, and has enjoyed hearing about all the fun things that kids did over the summer, as well as many great ideas about lessons Upper Academy students would like to see delivered.
- **Counseling Highlights: What does a School Counselor do?**
School Counselors work with teachers, students, administrators and parents to help make school a successful experience for all children. School Counselors help students develop academically, personally, and socially. We do this by offering many different services to fit the needs of the students. Some of these services include:
Classroom Advisory Support: Counselors work with classroom teachers to support student's social skill and character development.
Individual Counseling: Students have the opportunity to work one-on-one with counselors on specific issues or concerns.
Crisis Intervention: Counselors work with students and families to help them deal with stressful events that may occur such as family problems, loss of a loved one, or conflicts with friends.
Group Counseling: Groups consist of 4-8 students and a counselor. The main purpose for groups is to let students know that they are not alone with their thoughts and feelings.
Parent Education: Parent involvement in school activities helps to make students more successful. School Counselors can provide you with information regarding family relationships and ways to help your child.
- **Helpful Hints: Top 10 Homework Tips! (Part 1)**
Know the teachers – and what they are looking for! Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework policies and how you should be involved.
Set up a homework-friendly area. Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies – paper, pencils, glue and scissors within reach!

Cont.

Counselor's Corner continued.

- **Schedule a regular study time.** Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; other may prefer to wait until after dinner.
Help them make a plan. On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary – and take time for a 15 minute break every hour, if possible.
Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful!)
- **New and Noteworthy:**
Mrs. Largent and Mr. Roll are a part of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Committee. We look forward to assisting in the planning and implementation of year two of the program.
Mrs. Largent is looking for volunteers to hang up student work next week!

We are a HEALTHY SNACK / LUNCH SCHOOL!



**We ask that no pop, junk food or fast food be brought into the school.
(This includes birthday treats, cakes & cupcakes)**