



Paola Middle School

NEWSLETTER

October 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Paola now has a radio station **FM89.7 KWJP** If you are not able to make a **PHS Panther game** you can tune in to the station.
- **2011-2012 Paola Middle School Yearbook sales ends October 28.** Be sure to contact the office if you would still like to order one.
- **PHS KAYS** will be holding a **Blood Drive on Oct. 12.** Be on the lookout for more information.

Panther PRIDE

Continuing this school year will be our teaching and reinforcement of our Positive Behavior Support System. P.R.I.D.E. encourages students to demonstrate positive behavior in all areas of the school. The ideals P.R.I.D.E.—Preparation, Relationships, Inspiration, Development of life-long learning and Expecting Excellence—are a part of everything we do at Paola Middle School.

We welcome parents to be a part of this pride by staying informed and involved. The number one way of communication with parents at the middle school is through *Infinite Campus*, our student management software. At this time all parents should have a log-in and password and be monitoring assignments, checking school notices and daily attendance. If you do not have your login, please contact the middle school.

Our goal at Paola Middle School is to work together and create a situation where students will learn and thrive into responsible young adults.



Panther SPIRIT



Paola Middle School

Mr. Mark Bloustine

Principal

Ms. Amy Hastert

V. Principal

Mr. David Cash

Counselor

(913)294-8030

www.usd368.org/pms

Panther Booster Club



SUPPORTING ATHLETICS, ARTS AND ACADEMICS

Here is your chance to get involved with Paola Middle School. The Panther Booster Club is a newly established organization with the purpose of supporting Paola -

grades 6-12 in

Athletics~Arts~Academics

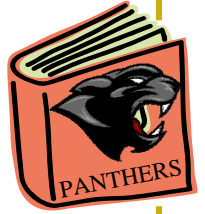
To find out more information about becoming a Booster Member log on to:

<http://pantherboosterclub.com/>

A quote from Elizabeth Hardwick, writer and literary critic, reminds us,

“The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind.”

Panther Book Club



**8th Grade Volleyball
Girls show their
Panther Pride!**

Panther Book Club will hold its first meeting **October 12** to discuss the book, Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick. It is the story about the unusual friendship of two very opposite people and how their differences actually bond them together. The meeting will be held in the library from 3:00 - 4:00PM. All 6, 7, and 8th graders are welcome to be a part of this group.

There are so many more exciting things happening in the library. Eighth Grade Pod

A students are working on their Revolutionary War research project. Using library books, encyclopedias and on-line resources, students will finalize their individual hands-on project.

Seventh Graders in Miss Burnett's class will be working with the library throughout the school year writing to Pen Pals from South Korea. The project will focus on researching other continents to learn about math.

Another exciting project for both 7th and 8th Graders is a collaborative project between Mrs. Hickey's Tech Lab and the Library. Students are learning about career opportunities that fit with the tech lab modules they are learning. These students will be working on producing brochures about these careers.

*Congratulations to
Mrs. Tara Ingle,
6th Grade Inter-
related teacher,
she represented
Paola School
District at the
Teacher of the
Year Banquet in
Topeka!*

Paola Middle School KAYS

The Panthers KAYS group has several activities planned for October:

Oct. 1—Middle School Kays will be helping out with the Elementary Carnival.

Oct. 3—KAYS will be selling **'PINK'** socks in honor of breast cancer awareness month. Proceeds will benefit the Miami County Cancer Foundation.

Oct. 11— **Pink Football Game**—Players will be wearing pink socks during the game and students are encouraged to wear theirs. Socks will also be sold at the game.

Oct. 24— KAYS members will be selling ghost tootsie pops at lunch to raise funds for the KAYS group.

Questions & Answers

What is Seminar for?

Each student at Paola Middle School is assigned a seminar teacher/class. This class provides an opportunity for students to complete daily assignments and to provide additional AR reading time.

What is Friday Night School?

Friday Night School meets on Fridays from 3:05 until 5:05PM. FNS is supervised by certified personnel and is an opportunity for students to complete missing assignments. Students receive letters on Wednesday indicating the need for attendance based on grades in core classes. It is the students responsibility to get letters to parents and to attend. Not attending will result in ISS on Monday morning. This is the only time this late work can be turned in for credit.

**Open Gym
during
lunch is the
BEST!**



What does Paola Middle School Collect?



Panther Football

Many people are asking what types of things the middle school collects from various products:

- Box Tops for Education
- Best Choice UPC Labels
- Campbell's Soup Labels
- Sign up for Paola Middle School with Target's Education Charge Program.

Cell Phones.....

Ever wonder what to do with your old cell phones? Do not throw them away—recycle your old, used and unwanted cell phones through Paola Middle School. PaceButler Corporation gathers them and they are used for 911 purposes in the US, deployed nationwide, and used in developing countries to improve the quality of life through better communication. **Cell phones can be brought to the office,** you do not need to bring chargers or accessories.

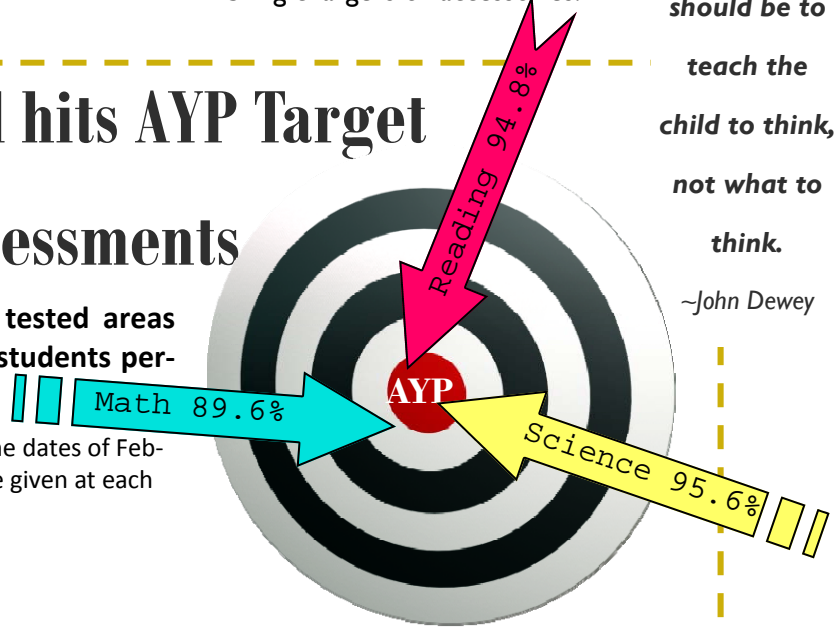
The aim of education should be to teach the child to think, not what to think.
 ~John Dewey

Paola Middle School hits AYP Target for Kansas State Assessments

Paola Middle School made AYP in all tested areas last Spring. We are very pleased with students performance.

2012 State Assessments will be given between the dates of February 15 and April 20. The following tests will be given at each grade:

- 6th Grade: Reading, Math, Social Studies
- 7th Grade: Reading, Math, Science
- 8th Grade: Reading, Math, Social Studies






Spirit Week ~ October 10-14

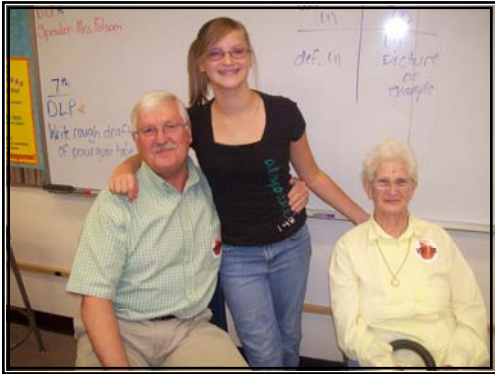
SPIRIT Week is planned by the cheerleaders to allow all students at Paola Middle School to show -off their school spirit. We hope everyone has fun planning what they will wear....



Middle School had fun collecting frogs. Great participation by everyone selling magazines.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
80's Day 	Class Color Day	RAINBOW DAY 	NERD DAY	Royalty Day 

Mrs. Armbruster's Class Welcomes a Special Guest



Madi Folsom's great-grandmother, Genevieve Folsom, shared her story of living in occupied France during World War II with Mrs. Armbruster's eighth grade classes. Her son, Bill, accompanied her and presented background information on the war. The classes are reading the play, *Diary of Anne Frank*, and the visit enhanced the students' understanding of the historical context of the play. We so appreciate having these guests at our school.

The 7th grade in Mrs. Armbruster's class have written Pourquoi tales, (otherwise known as an Origin Story, explaining an animal's adaptation). Students will be sharing these stories to students at Cottonwood during fourth and fifth hour on October 5 and 6.

**Parent – Teacher
Conferences**
are scheduled for
**Thursday, October
20.**

Staff will be available to
all parents from
4:00 until 8:00PM.

*We look forward to
seeing you here.*

6th Grade Archaeology

The sixth-grade students will be working on an integrated archaeological project throughout the year. The project will begin in October as math and science teachers facilitate students in forming plot grids using the metric system at our dig site. Social studies teachers will facilitate the excavation process starting soon (weather permitting).



**“Archaeology
is the Science
that proves
you can't
keep a good
man down”**

~Anonymous



Congratulations...

Students on the **Paola Middle School reading team placed 2nd in the Paola Free Library Summer Reading Program.** Paola Middle School has a trophy to display in the following students honor: Emily Benton, Tiffany Wolverton, Emma Ure, Christina Thompson, Rebecca Schertz, DJ Weaver, and Andrea Nagel.

To recognize this 2nd Place honor, students were able to choose two books and donate them to Paola Middle School.

We are also excited to recognize the Top Readers overall during the summer were: 1st Place-Tanner Hudgeons, 2nd Place-Lydia Hadle, 3rd Place-Christina Thompson and Rebecca Hadle.

For the safety of our students, we are including information from the MiCo Cycling club for both students and parents on the next two pages. We appreciate your reviewing this information and sharing it with your child.



making our STREETS safer

What is MiCo Velo? Well, we're a new cycling club here in Miami County. We encourage anything cycling, and want to make our community safer for bikers and pedestrians.

Spring is here and with the warmer weather will come a flood of kids and adults walking and biking in our community. This year's school budget cuts have meant more kids walking and biking to school, so be alert and **Share the Road**.

RULES FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

Bicycles are the most vulnerable of all vehicles on the road, and extra safety precautions should always be taken when riding. Driving on roads requires care and courtesy whether you are driving a car or a bicycle. As road users, **bicyclists must be predictable and highly visible**; often drivers of vehicles have a difficult time seeing bicyclists in traffic. **Walkers should always use sidewalks and crosswalks when possible.** The following are some tips to help bicyclists and pedestrians Share the Road with vehicles.

Always, always wear a helmet when biking!

Especially children, and make sure it fits. It is one of the best things you can do to protect yourself on a bicycle.

Inspect bikes for safety.

Check brakes for responsiveness in case you have to stop quickly in an emergency. Keep tires properly inflated and monitor the tread. Parents, always check your kids' bikes as well.

Obey all traffic laws.

Ride with traffic, obey stop signs, traffic lights and other traffic controls. Bicyclists do best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles. Walkers should always use sidewalks and crosswalks when available, and walk towards traffic when not.

Riding a bike on the sidewalk is not suggested.

Riding your bike on a sidewalk makes you less visible to motorists, however, many kids will when going to and from school. If riding on sidewalk or walking be very cautious when crossing driveways, parking lot entrances and exits, and when crossing roads. Use the pedestrian crosswalk buttons if available. Watch for vehicles making turns when crossing a street.

Be aware of surrounding traffic.

Especially when riding in traffic with large trucks and buses that make wide right turns. Don't sneak in between vehicles, and never assume that drivers see bicyclists or hand signals. Be very aware of cross traffic when approaching an intersection.

Ride with traffic.

Ride on the right side, with the flow of traffic. Riding against traffic may cause you to miss traffic control devices, such as traffic signs and stop lights. Be especially careful when riding near or around trucks.

Be visible and predictable.

Wear bright colors, ride straight, signal before changing directions, and plan ahead to avoid obstacles.





making our streets safer

Did You Know?

- In one generation, the number of kids biking and walking to school has dropped from 71% to 18%?
- 20-25% of morning rush hour traffic can be parents driving kids to school? This number is probably much higher in a community like ours.

Kids walking and riding to school benefits the health of our children, it also cuts down on traffic around our schools making it safer to walk or ride.

RULES FOR MOTORISTS

Motorists must respect the rights of other road users including bicyclists and pedestrians. Do your part by being a safe and courteous driver.

Driving on roads requires care whether you are driving a car or a bicycle. Cyclists should be moving with you and walkers should be coming towards you, however, be on the lookout for those that are traveling on the wrong side or the wrong way.

Motorists need to be extremely observant when entering/exiting intersections, parking lots, crosswalks or anywhere else that a sidewalk crosses traffic.

Cyclists should ride on the road, but at times of high traffic, many ride on our sidewalks. Walkers should always use sidewalks when available. Although sidewalks seem a safer option for bikes, this will often make it harder for motorists to see the bikes, especially when crossing busy intersections.

First and foremost, slow down and put down your phone!

That text or email can wait until you've stopped the car or reached your destination.

Allow three feet of passing space between the right side of your vehicle and a bicyclist, just as you would with a slow-moving vehicle. Maintain this distance even if there are designated bike lanes. This is now a law in the state of Kansas!

Do not pass bicyclists if you will be making a right turn immediately afterward.

Always assume bicyclists are traveling through the intersection.

Before opening your car door, look for bicyclists who may be approaching.

Do NOT pass bicyclists or walkers if oncoming traffic is near. Wait as you would with any slow moving vehicle.

Reduce your speed when passing bicyclists and pedestrians, especially if the roadway is narrow.

Don't blast your horn when approaching bicyclists. You could startle them and cause an accident.

Give bicyclists and walkers adequate space to maneuver.

Recognize situations and obstacles which may be hazardous to cyclists, such as potholes, debris, and drain grates. Kids on bikes are often unpredictable, so expect them to be.

Be wary of cyclists and walkers on sidewalks.

When entering or exiting a parking lot, or a street that has a crosswalk, be aware of kids running across. Also, when backing out of driveway and onto street, make sure no cyclists or walkers are coming and sidewalks are clear.

QUESTIONS? VISIT US AT MICOVELO.COM