

PANTHER PRESS

Parchment School District Newsletter

parchmentschools.org May 2024



Solar Eclipse Page 9



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS! *Our mission is to ensure that all students are challenged to excel in their individual social and intellectual growth, while achieving those essential academic and interpersonal skills necessary to become a successful, contributing member of society.*

PLUS:
More News
Stories
Online



Superintendent's Letter

Dear Panther Family,

The month of May brings excitement to our school community, marking a time for both celebration and reflection. We honor the achievements and growth of our students and staff while looking back on the past school year to identify areas for continued improvement and focus in the future.

In line with our mission to Connect, Challenge, and Inspire Every Child to Reach Their Full Potential, we've expanded opportunities to nurture essential qualities outlined in our Portrait of a Graduate (cooperation, perseverance, empathy, problem-solving, self-awareness, confidence, and resilience). Collaborating with community partners, we've developed a comprehensive K-12 continuum of Career Awareness and Exploration, providing students with diverse experiences from field trips and work-based learning to career-focused courses. We have reaffirmed our commitment to early learning and intervention through the expansion of Pre-K programming, and will continue to do so. Our dedication to fine and performing arts programming has earned us recognition as an EFA "Focus District," distinguishing us as the sole district with a K-12 partnership with EFA in Kalamazoo County! More recently, the generous donation of a STEM Lab by our local Sunrise Kiwanis Club promises enhanced learning opportunities for students at all levels in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. There is much to celebrate!

May also prompts reflection, offering a chance to acknowledge successes and areas for growth as we prepare for the upcoming academic year. I would like to extend sincere gratitude to our board, administrative, and staff leadership teams for their commitment to this reflective process, as we continue to build bridges for our students and families. In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate alongside over 100 Panther Graduates, wishing them well as they embark on the next phase of their journey. It's a genuine celebration of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by these students, their families, and our remarkable staff. Congratulations, Class of 2024!

safe, warm and dry

As part of our Strategic Plan, the Board of Education has prioritized the development of a 3-5 year facilities improvement plan. This initiative has entailed a thorough assessment of our facilities needs and a concerted effort to enhance safety and security throughout our schools. Our endeavors have involved refining processes and procedures, upgrading staff training, and implementing advanced technology and security measures across all sites.

Currently, we are actively engaged in a series of comprehensive studies and assessments, including a Statewide Infrastructure Study, a Statewide Energy Efficiency Study, and an internal Facilities Energy Needs/Savings Audit. Additionally, we've collaborated with various state, regional, and local agencies to conduct safety risk assessments, facilities safety evaluations, facilities mapping assessments, and an exhaustive internal facility needs assessment- all while simultaneously securing grant funding to support this process.

Through these comprehensive approaches, we've identified pressing needs totaling over \$116 million—far surpassing our annual funding resources by more than 600%. We have prioritized these needs and have mobilized grant funding, sinking funds, and operational funds to address many of the necessary improvements. We will also rely on the support of our community to address some of these critical needs. Next year, we intend to present a bond proposal aimed at financing the most urgent improvements. Over the past year, we've actively sought extensive community input through surveys and committee meetings, and we're committed to continuing this inclusive approach. In the forthcoming months, we'll offer additional insights into these needs and extend invitations for you to actively engage in developing and prioritizing the scope of work. Thank you in advance for your participation! Your input is critical as we uphold our commitment to ensuring the safety, comfort, and well-being of our students—keeping them Safe, Warm, and Dry.



GO PANTHERS!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah".

contacts

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parchmentschools.org

Parchment Skate Club

You almost had to see it to believe it! This is the third year of the Parchment skate club. It is an elementary event offered in the winter for students ages 5 to 12.

Parents can get their kids on roller-skates without the entry fees, while staying local with events being at both Central Elementary and the Middle School. Through a partnership with the Shalom Connection Depot Thrift Store, many skates and helmets have been donated so that kids can



try before their parents buy. Parent permission slips proved that over 100 students participated this year in one or more of our 7 skate events, with an average attendance of about fifty skaters. For 2025 we are looking to add a slogan to the Skate Club stickers. Email rbagley@parchmentschools.org with your suggestions and win a prize if yours is used in next year's design!



NORTHWOOD

Northwood Reading Month

During March Northwood participated in a month-long reading adventure as a whole school community! Our Northwood family showed enthusiasm and support all month long. This made our journey through 'A Boy Called Bat' truly memorable. Throughout the month we had mystery readers, special skunk activities



Even though reading month is over, let's not forget the importance of maintaining a regular reading routine at home. By setting aside time each day for reading, we can continue to cultivate a love for books and strengthen our children's literacy skills. Please prioritize this valuable time for bonding, imagination, and growth. Here's to many more literary adventures ahead, both within the pages of books and beyond!



Vet Buckley and Lucy came to visit too!



Mrs. Mion & Mrs. Guzior on Bingo Night!



Ms. Manley was our mystery reader!



Friendship bracelets and our baby skunk, Herbert visiting classrooms.



Northwood Students Support Local Animals!

Northwood's Student Council spent the month of February collecting donations for the Kalamazoo Animal Rescue. Dog and cat food, toys, bedding, and treats were among the supplies donated, and we were so excited to deliver two car loads full of items to the animals in our area who need it most!



CENTRAL

March is Reading Month

Central Elementary had a lot of guest readers for March is Reading Month! Parents, grandparents, administrators, and Kalamazoo Sunrise Kiwanis all came and read to the students.



NORTH

Battle of the Books

February, 2024, was the 4th Annual Parchment School District Battle of the Books (BOB) competition.

Dedicated readers exhibited outstanding effort, sportsmanship, and teamwork under pressure on. The teams were made up of fourth and fifth grade students. They were assigned to read nine intriguing titles between November and February. On competition day, the students answered detailed questions with their team.

This program could not have run without everyone's help! Thank you to our BOB parents and North's PTO for continuing to fund the program, the teachers, district librarian, and Mrs. Patterson for their tremendous support!



The Reading Riptides



The Book Brains



The Amazing Volunteers:

Amy Sue Manley, Sandy Spitsbergen, TiShante McGuffey, Cathy Stone, Marcy Patterson, AJ Weinberg and Megan Stensland



The Book Worms



The Smarties

Student Council Regionals

The Parchment HS Student Council attended the MASC Regional Conference hosted at Craig's Cruisers in Grand Rapids. Our students presented at the conference and were invited to present at the state conference.



Parchment Athletic Senior Spotlight

KAYLEE MCKINNEY is the May Parchment Athletics Spotlight Senior of the Month.

Kaylee is a three-sport senior athlete and excels in all of her activities while maintaining high academics. Kaylee was an integral part of our regional and district winning softball team in 2022. Kaylee has also been instrumental in the improvements made over the last three years in our girls

basketball program.

Accolades earned by Kaylee over the last four years include multiple selections as all-conference honorable mention, all-conference 1st-team, all-district, all-region, and all-state.

Following graduation, Kaylee will attend Webber International University where she earned a scholarship to continue her academic and softball career.



Student Council State Conference

The Parchment HS Student Council attended the MASC State Conference at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids in February. There were over 2000 students in attendance from across the state. Chloe Bautista, Caleigh Shurter and Ellie Hanna presentation included: Holiday Dinners, Veteran Dinner and Trunk or Treat.



High School English



Ms. Looper's English I students "Walked in each other's shoes" while reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The students wrote what they wanted their teachers and classmates to know if they walked in their shoes.



Thank you to Taylor Litchfield, from Advia Credit Union, for talking to the College Success students about financial literacy: loans, credit scores, identity theft, interest rates, etc. She gave the students a wealth of knowledge before they head off to College next year.

Donkey Basketball

Parchment HS Student Council hosted a Donkey Basketball fundraiser for the Junior/Senior Prom. It was held on April 3rd in the high school gymnasium. There were four teams consisting of the Kalamazoo Township Fire Department, K-12 Staff, Administration and local residents. Each team rode the donkeys with hopes of making a basket. It was a huge success. Elementary students got to enjoy donkey rides during intermission.



High School Spanish

Mrs. Mack shared that Woolly week was tons of fun in la clase de Español! Students listened to story-based songs and did a wide range of activities in Spanish. We then worked to solve a digital scavenger hunt to unlock the newest video! The winning class got Jarritos floats. Students wrapped up the unit by choosing from an array of themed activities to celebrate the strange and genius fun that is Secor Wooly.



Parchment High School SNOWCOMING 2024

February 2, 2024

King and Queen

KAYLEE MCKINNEY is the daughter of Tracy and Stacey Martin. Kaylee has one sibling: Taylor. Kaylee participates in Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Girls Basketball, and Varsity Softball. After graduation, Kaylee plans to continue her athletic career playing softball at Webber International University.

AYDIN JOHNSON is the son of Kendra O’Dell. Aydin has 1 sibling; Elijah. Aydin is a member of the Varsity football and basketball teams. After graduation, Aydin plans to attend Wayne State University to further his athletic career playing football and major in sports management.



Parchment HS Junior/Senior Prom 2024

The 2024 Parchment HS Prom was held at The Fountains Banquet Hall and this year’s theme was ‘Fire and Ice’. Over 180 students attended the prom and enjoyed a S’mores Bar and Sundae Bar.



2024 Foundation Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the class of 2024 recipients of the Parchment Schools Foundation Scholarships. We are proud to award the Academic Scholarship to **Addilyn Followell**, and the Careers Scholarship to **Brady Newington**.



ADDIE will be attending Hope College this fall, majoring in Business/Marketing. Addie has maintained a 3.9 grade point average while taking Honors and AP level courses along with dual-enrolling in 11th and 12th grade at KVCC. Addie is a student leader in our building, as well as a student athlete, and we know she will have a very bright future.



BRADY will be attending KVCC this fall in their Fire Science program, with the goal of becoming a full time firefighter. Brady has already gotten started on his college career as a dual-enrolled student at KVCC for the past two years. Congratulations Brady and thank you for your future service as a firefighter!

Solar Eclipse

Each elementary school hosted a special solar eclipse viewing event at the end of the day on April 8th. This unique astronomical event was a great learning opportunity for our students! Throughout the week our students and teachers explored why solar eclipses happen and the science behind this awe-inspiring natural phenomenon. It's truly amazing to see their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about the universe!



North's 2nd Annual Amazing Shake

Over 50 students in grades 4th through 6th competed at our 2nd Amazing Shake; a competition-based opportunity for our students to learn and apply real-world skills. This event is based on the Ron Clark Academy Amazing Shake. Students were required to think quickly on their feet at thirteen different stations. Students showcased strong communication skills, problem-solving, confidence, humor and manners. Thank you to our community members, families, staff, and local businesses, Advia Credit Union, Fawley Doors, and Pfizer, for coming together and volunteering their time and resources. Your collective dedication and generosity are truly inspiring and have made a significant impact on our students' experience.



Michigan Regional Amazing Shake!

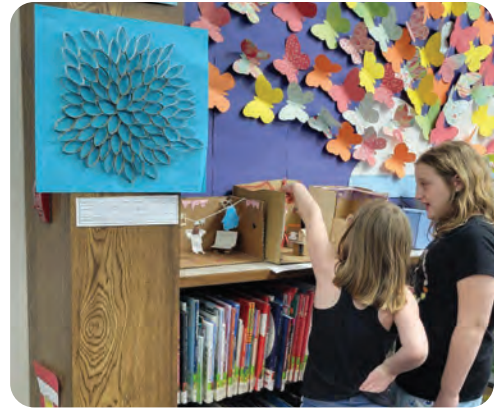
On March 8th, Adebola, Jailee, Kayonna, and Noah, took part in the Michigan Regional Amazing Shake competition at Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac, MI. Competing against peers from across the state, these bright students demonstrated their prowess in a variety of professional and life skills.

These students exemplified the essence of what it means to be well-rounded individuals, blending humor, personality, and impeccable manners seamlessly. Their dedication to improving these important life skills not only helped them succeed in the Amazing Shake but also prepared them for success in the future.



PSD Art Show

Each spring, the Parchment Community Library hosts our PSD art show for one month where students young 5s through 12th grade, as well as several PSD staff members, submit artwork. With a wide range of drawings, paintings, sculptures, and even a stop-motion animation, the library was fully decked out this year. Turnout for the opening reception on April 10th was excellent and the support for arts in our district and community was felt by all our art teachers. We'd like to thank library director, Teresa Stannard, and her staff for their support, as well as students and staff who helped to mat and hang the show.



Parchment Innovation Center

FIREMAN

Holland City and Kalamazoo Township fireman Jeremy Bular, spoke to students about the exciting opportunities available in the fire service. Mr. Bular brought along his gear and allowed students to try it on. One brave student, who was first in line, has already set her sights on a career as a firefighter after graduation and is eager to pursue further education and experience. Mr. Bular's presentation was an inspiring reminder that the fire service is not only a noble profession but also an exciting one.

JOB SHADOWING

The Parchment Innovation Center has partnered with local businesses to provide students with a unique opportunity to experience their dream jobs through job shadows. Recently, students had the chance to job shadow at Gashing Manufacturing and Lounsbury Excavating. At Gashing Manufacturing, a student learned about CNC machine work. While at Lounsbury Excavating, another student was able to explore the world of excavating including office positions and maintenance. Both students were able to gain invaluable experience and left feeling excited and inspired. We are incredibly grateful to our community partners for their contributions to this year's program.



Parchment School District Receives Generous STEM Donation

Parchment School District received a generous donation of STEM materials from a local donor. The donation, received by Dr. Richard Hathaway and The Sunrise Kiwanis Club, included an abundance of equipment that represents a variety of STEM modalities. Included were robotics kits, wind tunnels, wind turbine kits, scales, microscopes, electronic kits of all types, 3D printers, computers, sound kits and much more. The district will use the equipment in classrooms, clubs, and other student experiences. Many thanks to Dr. Hathaway and Sunrise Kiwanis for making this phenomenal gift to the district, one that will peak the interest in science, engineering, technology and math among students across many age groups for years to come!



PEA Teacher of the Year 2024



JEN BARKER has been named by her peers as the Parchment Education Association Teacher of the Year for 2024. Jen began teaching in Parchment in 2000 as a middle school Science teacher. Over the years, she taught 6th grade Science and ELA before moving down to 4th grade in 2013. Jen consistently goes above and beyond for her students, and she is loved and respected by the Parchment staff and students! She is a leader among her peers and has been an instrumental part of Parchment Education Association for over a decade! Jen was recognized at the April 22, 2024 School Board meeting held at Parchment High School. Congratulations, Mrs. Barker!

COMING SOON

1-2 year old childcare

Lead Teacher:
Ms. Aracely

"I have been working in childcare settings since 2021-- I've been at PELC for a little over a year. I am grateful and excited to have the opportunity to be the teacher in the Explorers room. Currently, I am a student at Western Michigan University, where I am working towards a degree in Elementary Education. I can't wait to be able to connect and engage with your kiddos!"

Message from the teacher:

IN OUR EXPLORERS ROOM:

- Childcare is available M-F, 6am-6pm
Cost: \$260/week -or- \$55/day
- Utilize *Creative Curriculum* to ensure we are reaching the whole child, including social-emotional skills, cognitive skills, language, & physical development

ENROLL TODAY

269-488-1360
rponitz@parchmentschools.org

600 Edison St.
Kalamazoo MI 49004
(East side of Northwood Elementary)



Parchment Early Learning Center

AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE



Summer Program June 10 - August 16

Closed July 1-5 and August 19-23

Our program is open from 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM Monday-Friday

Explorers	1 yr - 2 ½ yrs	\$260/week	\$55/day
Early Learners	2 ½ yrs - 3 yrs	\$235/week	\$50/day
Discovery Kids	3 yrs - 4 yrs	\$225/week	\$50/day
Preschool	4 yrs - 5 yrs	\$220/week	\$50/day
School Age	Finishing Kindergarten - 5th grade *\$30 activity fee to cover trips and events	\$210/week	\$45/day

EXPLORERS, EARLY LEARNERS AND DISCOVERY KIDS

- Prepare for academic success with early math and literacy activities
- Enjoy fun and engaging summer themes
- Develop fine and gross motor skills through plenty of outdoor activities
- Practice positive social interactions

SCHOOL AGE

- Attend amazing field trips: Kalamazoo Growler's baseball game, Air Zoo, and Binder Park Zoo
- Spend time outside with lots of friends and sunshine
- Cure the boredom with themed games and activities

And so much more!

FOOD

Families provide breakfast and lunch

June 10 - June 14 AND Aug 12-16

Breakfast and lunch provided June 17 - August 9

Families provide an afternoon snack every day

Contact our office for registration information:

269-488-1360

rponitz@parchmentschools.org

600 Edison St, Kalamazoo

49004



Preschool Round Up May 29, 5:00-6:00 PM

GSRP Preschool Enrollment IS OPEN NOW for the 2024-2025 School Year!

We are pleased to offer a high quality preschool program to meet the needs of your child and your family. This program will run in unison with the school calendar (late August through early June) with the option of tuition-based wrap around care.

We are proud to offer the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)! This class is designed for children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2024. GSRP is a state funded program which allows us to offer this preschool experience to many of our families for free or reduced tuition! **If your child will be four by September 1, 2024 your child may be eligible!**

Step 1: You must fill out ALL of the forms in the enrollment packet in order for your child's application to be processed any further. All of the information we need is required by either the state of Michigan licensing or the grant application. You may call us to request a packet sent to you or stop by our office and pick one up.

Step 2: If your child is accepted into our GSRP program, we will contact you and give you a Welcome Packet. This will include our Program Handbook, a school year calendar, and information on the curriculum we use here at the Parchment Early Learning Center. Then we will contact you to set up an initial home visit. These typically take place in mid-August.

In the meantime, if you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to contact us! Thank you for considering enrollment in our fabulous preschool program! We look forward to working with you and your child!



Contact our office for enrollment information:
rponitz@parchmentschools.org

Parchment Early Learning Center
600 Edison St
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
269-488-1360



**Parchment School District
Art Show**

**Last Chance Viewing,
May 6-9**

The concluding week of the student artwork display on the main floor of the library.

**Butterflies @ The Library
Beginning May 10**

Painted Lady Butterfly larvae will be at the library beginning May 10. Come in and observe our newest display of growing caterpillars!

**Silent Book Club –
Evening Session**

Monday, May 20, 5:15 pm

Bring your own book and read in companionable silence at the library! Optional social time begins at 5:15. Silent reading time is 5:30-6:15, followed by optional book discussion time 6:15-6:30. This book club is designed for adults and teens but is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

**Closed for Memorial Day
Weekend**

**Saturday, May 25 –
Monday, May 27**

**Summer Reading –
Adventure Begins
at Your Library**

**Saturday, June 1 –
Saturday, August 10**

Register for Summer Reading beginning on Saturday, June 1 and win prizes! Preschool through Adult. Kickoff event on June 1, 9:00 am, will be a hot air balloon display in Kindleberger Park at the far east end of the lower park (weather permitting).

**Storytimes in the Park
Wednesdays, June 5 –
July 31, 10:30-11:15 am**

Designed for preschoolers, but all are welcome.

**Big Furry Friends
Read with Kids
Wednesdays June 5 –
July 31, 11:30-12:30 pm**

The Big Furry Friends Organization is sending their beloved dogs and their handlers for kids to read and enjoy visiting with in the children's room of the library. No registration is required.

**Hot Air Affair
Thursday, June 6, 6:30 pm**

Discover the science and fun of the sport of ballooning! Tom Brown of Gentle Journey Balloons and Ron Centers, Michigan Balloon Corporation Pilot Emeritus, will share behind-the-scenes stories of how ballooning works. This program is designed for adults and teens, but families with interested younger children are also welcome.

**Silent Book Club – Evening
Session**

Monday, June 24, 5:15 pm

Bring your own book and read in companionable silence at the library! Optional social time begins at 5:15. Silent reading time is 5:30-6:15, followed by optional book discussion time 6:15-6:30. This book club is designed for adults and teens but is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

**Silent Book Club –
Afternoon Session
Wednesday, June 26,
1:15 pm**

Bring your own book and read

in companionable silence at the library! Optional social time begins at 1:15. Silent reading time is 1:30-2:15, followed by optional book discussion time 2:15-2:30. This book club is designed for adults and teens but is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

**Closed on
Independence Day
Thursday, July 4**

**Friends of the Library
Book Sale**

**Saturday, July 13,
9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Find bargains at the Friends of the Library book sale, held in the lower level of the library during the Kindleberger Festival.

**Silent Book Club –
Evening Session**

Monday, July 22, 5:15 pm

Bring your own book and read in companionable silence at the library! Optional social time begins at 5:15. Silent reading time is 5:30-6:15, followed by optional book discussion time 6:15-6:30. This book club is designed for adults and teens but is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

**Silent Book Club –
Afternoon Session
Wednesday, July 24,
1:15 pm**

Bring your own book and read in companionable silence at the library! Optional social time begins at 1:15. Silent reading time is 1:30-2:15, followed by optional book discussion time 2:15-2:30. This book club is designed for adults and teens but is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

**Peace Corps Adventures
Monday, July 29, 6:30 pm**

Find out what it's like to serve with the Peace Corps! Returned Peace Corps volunteers will share stories. Information on how to volunteer will be provided. This program is designed for adults and teens, but families with interested younger children are also welcome.

**Lafayette's Revolutionary
Adventures: Lunch & Learn
Monday, August 5,
12:00-1:00pm**

Bring your own brown bag lunch, view the Lafayette Traveling Exhibit, and learn about the Marquis de Lafayette and his role in the American Revolution with Richard Stroup from the American Friends of Lafayette. This program is designed for adults and teens, but families with interested younger children are also welcome.

**Lafayette's Revolutionary
Adventures: Open House
Monday, August 5,
4:30-6:30 pm**

Stop by the library to view the Lafayette Traveling Exhibit and find out about the Marquis de Lafayette and his role in the American Revolution. Refreshments will be served. All ages are welcome.

Scavenger Hunt

Ages 3+. A new scavenger hunt every month!

kidsCREATE (ages 4-10)

A visit to the library should always include a craft. Stop by the children's area to see what the latest crafts are for you to enjoy.

Library Corner



New in the Libraries!

Thanks to some Esser funding, I have been able to order many new nonfiction books for the school libraries to update the collections. The updates have been needed for a long time. A variety of books have been ordered to cover gaps in the collections and update older information. The students have been checking out and enjoying the new books. In addition, all of the libraries have starter collections of large print titles. The large print collections have also been extremely popular with the students. Studies show that large print titles for students are less intimidating to read. I do hope to grow those collections in the future.

End of the Year and the Library

We will start collecting all library books for grades K-11 starting the week of May 20th in the hopes of getting books returned before June 6th. Please help your student(s) find their missing book(s) before summer break. Seniors - all library materials are due before your exams on May 15th. Parents/Guardians - if you have any questions regarding library notices you receive, please contact Ms Manley at amanley@parchmentschools.org. Thank you for your help!

March is Reading Month at the Middle School

The Middle School participated in a One School One Book program by reading *Slacker* by Gordon Korman. There were contests and book giveaways throughout the month. The MS also partnered with The Growlers for reading prizes, and 273 students won prizes. Thank you, Growlers, for supporting reading!

Library Trivia at the High School

A huge thank you to our friends at Parchment Biggby for once again supplying free beverage cards to the High School Library for trivia prizes throughout the year!



BoxTops for Education

Please consider downloading the free BoxTops App to scan your grocery receipts to support the Middle School library. If you are able to help, please use referral code: N3IE6NOV. If you use the code, you can earn bonus points when scanning your first receipt. Receive your receipts digitally? No problem! You can also email in your receipts. Thank you!



Yes, We Take Book Donations

Do you have extra kids' books laying around? Are they taking up too much space? I am happy to take them off your hands for our PSD Little Free Libraries and the Community Book Baskets. Just drop the books off at any of the buildings with "Ms Manley" written on the box and I will distribute them. Thank you for considering!

Keep Reading This Summer!

Check out your local libraries for their Summer Reading programs and activities. I will keep the district Little Free Libraries and the Community Book Baskets stocked with books this summer as well. If you notice that a Little Free Library is damaged, please email Ms Manley at amanley@parchmentschools.org right away. Thank you!



All Elementary Dance: Under the Sea

Vibrant outfits and imaginative props brought the underwater world to life during our all elementary dance on March 16th. Our students and families explored the beats of the sea with enthusiasm while jellyfish and other fish danced above their heads. Laughter filled the air as families posed with sea creature props ranging from oversized seashells to glittering mermaid tails. These helped to create cherished snapshots of their underwater adventure.





Parchment School District
520 North Orient Street
Parchment, MI 49004

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit No. 696

****ECRWSS****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Alumni Update by Dave Person

Matt (Peterson) Ricke, class of '99



In the 25 years since he graduated from Parchment High School, Matt (Peterson) Ricke has devoted himself to improving the lives of others, a reflection of the positive reinforcement he received from teachers and staff during his time in the Parchment schools.

"There were so many folks ... who were such a great support," he says.

Ricke, 42, is a university ombuds at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, where he helps university employees resolve issues they are confronting in the workplace.

It enables him, he says, to use "all of the skills I've learned over the course of my career to help employees in need and help resolve organizational conflicts."

As an ombuds, a position he has held since April of last year, he works in conflict resolution coaching and education, and mediation. He also leads workshops on resolving conflicts.

"My passions are helping people identify and solve complex organizational and interpersonal problems and promoting equity and inclusion across the university," he says on his LinkedIn professional networking site.

The rewards of his job, Ricke says, are "the ability to see folks who really are struggling with difficulties in their workplace, (help them to) make meaningful change (and) to be more healthy and whole, and hopefully be able to work through difficult situations.

Ricke, who has a Ph.D. in higher education and student affairs leadership from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, previously worked for five years in the Office of Institutional Equity at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, serving as Title IX coordinator and equity officer, before returning to Colorado last year.

"Colorado is a beautiful place to live and we really wanted to get

Read the full story at parchmentschools.org.

Parent Guide to:
HOME TECH USE

Chromebook Settings-Tech Radar
Tech Radar Article on Chromebook Controls
<https://bit.ly/pguidetech>

Google Guide
Support for parents regarding chromebooks.
<https://bit.ly/googpar>

Common Sense Media
Here's everything you need to know about the wide array of parental control solutions, from OS settings to monitoring apps to network hardware.
<https://bit.ly/ccparentgu>

Chromebook Parental Controls
Guide to Chromebook Controls
<https://bit.ly/protectdev>