

# Parkside

MAY  
2011  
NEWSLETTER

Community School

[www.ParksideCommunitySchool.org](http://www.ParksideCommunitySchool.org)



## Joe's Thoughts

As we come to the close of our school year it is a time for deep reflection on all that has happened. Parkside has had one of the best years ever! We are very grateful to all the parents for believing in us, to the staff for their absolute dedication to our cause, and of course for the beautiful children who enrich our lives in so many ways. Parkside has become a very special place that seems to have a life of its own because of our commitment to working as a team dedicated to making it the best school we possibly can.

Culture is a unique human creation that evolves out of our experiences, that influences our imagination and creativity and brings us together in ways that unify our social structure, enrich our memories and create milestones for us to look forward to throughout the year. Our Simple Gifts, Ghosts of the Past, Campouts, Holiday Sing-A-Longs, Science Fair and Cultural Challenges are all important events which give Parkside a rich heritage. We are devoted to creating a culture centered around hard work, accomplishment, compassion, creativity, physical exercise, healthy eating habits, environmental consciousness and well balanced emotions.

We are so fortunate that the genius of Dr. Maria Montessori and the techniques she developed are so clear and truthful. I often say, there are few philosophies that you can really believe in, but after 36 years and seeing the positive results over and over again, I'm more convinced than ever of the correctness of her vision.

I hope everybody has a safe and wonderful summer and once again I want to thank you all for pitching in to make Parkside the wonderful community it is. I'll leave you with a quote that is very important to me. "Humility, perseverance and adaptability evoke a response from the universe and fill one with divine light."  
-Lao Tzu.

## 2010/2011 Fundraising Re-cap

Going into this 20<sup>th</sup> year of Parkside Community School, we had high needs and expectations with regard to fundraising. Unfortunately, our 20-year anniversary comes at a time when the overall economy is not in the best place for many families within our immediate community and certainly beyond as well. Despite this fact, we have had an absolutely amazing year with regard to our fundraising efforts! The total amount of money earned for the school this year was **\$72,042**. This is far more than we have ever made in a single school year! Here is the break-down of the year's events...

Fall Festival: \$4,941

Holiday Bazaar: \$541

Music Matters: \$62, 929

Barefoot Books Book Fair:

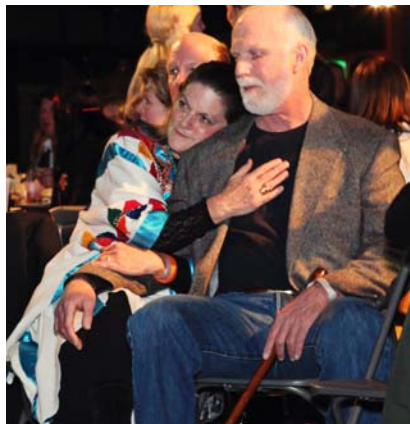
Our total book sales were \$2,046.91. This translated into \$511.73 worth of free books for the direct benefit of our children in the classrooms.

Spring Garage Sale: \$1,217

Yearbook: \$1,030

Rise-N-Shine: \$873

These fundraising efforts go to support and facilitate (1) the scholarships for families who would not otherwise be able to afford Parkside and thus supports the welcome diversity within our community, (2) the \$30,000 annual guitar program for all 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> graders, (3) purchase of costly and quality Montessori materials for the classrooms (they last about 10 years but eventually need to be replaced), (4) workshops and Montessori training for our staff and (5) our growing and expanding art program.



In addition to fundraising for the Parkside Community, we have also met the challenge of supporting other non-profits as well. These numbers show the extreme generosity of our children and families...

Capital Area Food Bank: 845 meals

Pennies for Patients: over \$4,100 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

CureSearch: \$2,500 (and counting)



I wish to take this opportunity (on behalf of Parkside) to personally thank each and every one of you for your time, your monetary contributions, your energy, your input, your connections, your participation and your overall support. Every little bit helps and certainly counts. It all adds up to allow Parkside to continue to be the remarkable community Montessori school that it has been for the past 20 years! **THANK YOU!!**

If any of you would like to become involved with Parkside's fundraising efforts, please contact me, Elizabeth Kalbacher at [Elizabeth@ParkCS.com](mailto:Elizabeth@ParkCS.com), 512-899-400 or 512-589-1592.



Here at Parkside Community School, community is a part of our name; it's what we stand for, what we believe in and what we do. We are a community amongst ourselves but we are a part of the larger Austin community. As such, one of the ways that we give back to that community is through our weekly donations of non-perishable foods to the Capital Area Food Bank. We tie it in to our weekly Simple Gifts gathering because this too is a simple gift that we can give to those people in the Austin community who are less fortunate than us.

Thanks to all of you for all of your food contributions during the 2010/2011 school year. Parkside Community School has donated a total of 1,099 pounds of food. This translates to 845 meals. This simple gift of food can do so much. Emily Babb, the Donor Services Manager told me that, "Your donations help Capital Area Food Bank provide meals to more than 300,000 hungry Central Texans each year."

#### Capital Area Food Bank Facts:

- ➔41% of our clients are children
- ➔almost half of our clients have at least one working adult at home
- ➔82% of our clients are NOT homeless
- ➔more than 1/3 of our older-adult clients go extended periods without food
- ➔95% of our Partner Agency food pantries say they could no longer serve their clients if the Food Bank shut down tomorrow
- ➔almost half of the families we serve have to choose between buying food and paying utilities
- ➔1 in 5 families we serve experienced the physical pain of hunger

## Parkside Marathon Kids 2011

At the conclusion of another successful year for the Parkside Marathon Kids, over 50 children had completed 26.2 miles in 1/2 mile increments. Even on the coldest mornings of what was a very cold winter, lots of children turned out wrapped up in hats and scarves to head onto the trail and keep up with their mileage goals. Congratulations are in order to all who took part, and thanks to all the parents for helping their children get to school earlier than usual twice a week. Marathon Kids, a homegrown Austin program, compliments so well Parkside's ethos of morning exercise leading to better learning during the school day and we hope that all who took part will see the value of daily exercise and make it a part of their lives for years to come.



## Parkside Tours the Capitol

Wednesday, May 11, the Elementary classrooms went to visit our State Capitol. We rented a couple of buses and each classroom had their own private tour. We learned a great deal about Texas history and the six flags over Texas!

The Capitol building itself is breathtaking; the design in the tile floors is exquisite, the rotunda, almost as large and just as beautiful as our nation's capitol, the statues and paintings representing our history, every single detail down to the hinges on the doors was impressive.

Our children received lovely accolades; their behavior was respectful, their questions insightful. Joe and I were very proud of our elementary students.

We're grateful to Pat Doggett, Joshua's Daddy, for arranging our wonderful field trip to the Texas Capitol!



## Robot Revolution

No, it's not the title of a new terminator movie. It does have drama, plenty of action, small teams working on impossible schedules, nerds, strong female lead characters, crashing robots, and hundreds of extras! Well not exactly hundreds... How about 26 upper elementary students at Parkside.

This year Parkside's Robotics program experienced an evolution. The Robotics course was redesigned using a modular team-based approach. The class divided up into six self-managed teams creating their own names including "Bad to the Chip," "Dying Pandas of the Tiger Art Masters," "Happy Hamsters," "Walle Warriors," "Apollo 13," and "Smarticle Particles." Course topics included introduction to computers, the scientific method, and a selection of robotics building projects. The robotics program uses the Lego's Mindstorm platform which is widely used in academic institutions. And many thanks go out to the community for their generous furniture and computer donations which now provide a dedicated work area and computer exclusively for the Robotics program. The end of the year was culminated with a fierce tug-of-war competition. All six teams designed and programmed their own robots to compete in the year-end Robotics Smack-Down. Shown above is a picture taken at the Robotics finals.

## Spring Campout



## Parkside Rewards Program



**Office  
DEPOT**



Every year, Parkside receives donations through a shopping rewards program. If you shop at any of the stores below, you could be sending Parkside a percentage of what you spend. Simply go to the store's online sign-up page (listed) to get started, or you can stop by the customer service desk in the store.

Target RedCard - enroll in their "Take Charge of Education" program at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) ID# is 110553

Office Depot - sign up for their "Back to School" programs at [www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com) ID# is 2006118273

Randalls - To enroll in their "Remarkable" Club Card (in-store savings card, not a credit card), just go to the Customer Service Desk and ask that your savings go to Parkside - #396. This is such an easy way to contribute. Every time you shop, a little bit goes to Parkside, it all adds up and helps our very own families.  
[www.randalls.com](http://www.randalls.com) ID# is 396

## Last Week of School

Monday - Memorial Day!

Tuesday - Upper El. goes to Schlitterbahn

Wednesday - Primary Gates of Life (Graduation)

Arrive at 1:15, ceremony starts at 1:30 in your respective classrooms

Thursday - open

Friday - All school graduation - 11:00 AM in auditorium

Regular school day - some families leave after graduation

No After School this last day of school!

## Summer Camp at Parkside

There are still a few spots left in the summer camp for session III (July 17- 28). This is sure to be a great time for your kiddos. We have fun art projects, movement and yoga, recycle/re-use songs, projects and water play every Friday. Sign up in the front office or email me at [hhmontessori@yahoo.com](mailto:hhmontessori@yahoo.com).

We look forward to super summer!

Warmly — Talitha