



DATES TO REMEMBER

November

- 20 Navigating CPS 101 with Abigayil Joseph
- 26 No School – Thanksgiving
- 27 No School – Thanksgiving
- 28 No School - Thanksgiving

December

- 3 Park West Book Fair
- 5 2AM Conferences in PM – am classes meet
- 5 Wine Donation due for Gala
- 9 2AM Conferences all day – no 2AM classes, all other classes meet
- 12 VFish Designs Shopping Event
- 22 Winter Break – no classes until Monday, January 5th

January

- 5 Classes resume following winter break
- 13 PW Board Meeting – 7pm
- 14 PW Book Club – 7pm at Park West
- 19 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- 21 Prospective Parent Open House 6:30pm
- 23 No school – staff in service day
- 28 3pm & JK Parents Day
- 29 3am & 4am Parents Day
- 30 2am Parents Day

Save the Date!

- Feb 4th No School – teacher in service
- Feb 7th "Passport to Paradise" Gala
- Feb 16-17th Mid-Winter break – no school
- Feb 20th Prospective Parent Open House 2:30pm at Park West

PWC IS ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER!

Hey Mom and Dad! Are you following us on Facebook? Help us keep you up to date on what's happening at Park West Co-op and spread the word about our great school by liking us on Facebook and following us at our Twitter handle @parkwestcoop

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I had such fun rocking out to Ralph Covert this past Saturday. Thank you to all of you who joined us. It seems we have quite a few young rockers at Park West. The children had such a good time. Check out the Park West Facebook page to see some of the photos. If you have some you'd like to share, please send them to Caroline Carey at carolinedgallagher@gmail.com and Caroline, our Facebook Czarina, will post them for you. Do check out and like the PW Facebook page.

This Thursday, Nov, 20th, Park West parent, Abigayil Joseph, will do a very special evening for Park West parents - Navigating CPS 101. As a leader in Chicago Public Schools, Abigayil has a wealth of knowledge about CPS, and she generously shares it with our Park West Community - a true privilege for our members.

I know I will see you at the Park West Bookfair and Pajama Party at Barnes and Noble on Dec. 3rd. It is a fun event for everyone. Our jk and 3 day afternoon students can come to school in their pajamas and the morning children can get into their pjs before coming to the bookfair. I'd suggest parents shop while their children are at school or maybe on-line. It can be tough to look through books during the pj party. This year we have included a list of toys that children and teachers like to use in the classroom. So be sure to check that out as well, great for that holiday gift list.

Best, Jane

COOP AT ITS FINEST!

A BIG thank you to our Special Events, Membership, Education, Social and Publicity Committees who each coordinated spectacular events / programs over the last few weeks. We have you and our fantastic parent body to thank for great turnout at the Wine Event, Ralph's World, Park West Elementary School Fair, first Prospective Parent Open House and Diaper Drive.

NEW FAMILY IN 3PM

Welcome the Wisel family to Park West. Son, Chase, is in the 3PM class. Since they are not in the directory, here is their contact information:

*Julie Lyon and Aaron Wisel, 773-681-0483 (home)
6015 N Mozart St. #104 Chicago IL 60622*

*Julie Lyon: julielyon11@yahoo.com, 312-434-1843
Aaron Wisel: 312-933-5322*

DIAPER DRIVE WRAPPING UP!

A friendly reminder that we are still taking diaper donations for Bundle of Joy through Friday, Nov 21. This organization helps low income families - food stamps do not cover diapers and so that can create a further hardship on families in need. If you have diapers you'd like to donate, please bring them this week. You don't need to donate full packages of diapers - as long as the diapers are unused, bundle of joy would love to have them!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS:

The education committee would like to thank all of the families who came out to the Grade School Fair. We had over 40 Chicago schools represented and many of our families took advantage of this great opportunity. We hope your school searches are off to a great start!

Coming up...

Navigating CPS 101- Nov 20th

Abigail and Cara are back this year to present their very informative and helpful seminar, "Navigating the CPS system 101". Throughout the talk parents will receive first-hand knowledge and the inside scoop on the CPS process. Please stay tuned for the exact date and time for this great event.

The Book Fair at Barnes and Noble (1441 W. Webster Ave) **Wednesday, December 3rd**

This is such a fun event that we look forward to each year. Shop throughout the day for books, toys, games, treats, and even Nooks; don't forget to mention Park West at checkout! Then, join us in the evening for pajama story time, where you can hear stories read by our own Park West teachers and staff. For extra fun you can even wear your jammies to school that day! If you can't make it to the fair, online shopping will be available all week. Stay tuned for more online shopping information. Don't forget to pick up your cheesecake(s) too. The more we spend the more Park West earns! Please feel free to invite your family and friends to come shop, have fun, and listen to stories. We hope to see you there!

SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Wine Donations

Thanks to all who attended the Wine Tasting Event....it was a fun night of mingling, great food, and wine tasting. More than \$450 was donated back to the school, and that's just a start! ***Just a reminder to have your wine donations in by Friday, December 5th***. Simply give Que Syrah a phone call at 773-871-8888, and you can purchase your donation thru them. Also, don't forget that Que Syrah will give us 15% back on all purchases, up thru the gala event. They have a wine club membership that includes two bottles every month. If you pay upfront for any number of months, Que Syrah will add that to our total sales. What a great way to score some monthly wines and support the school! Just tell the store you are a friend of Park West. Spread the word and happy shopping!

Auction Donations

The auction deadline was November 14th. For those who have already donated, a BIG thank you! If you haven't yet made your donation, we look forward to receiving it soon.

Partnership Update:

Thanks for joining us at Chipotle....the school made \$371.61 from the event! From our Oberweis partnership, the school made \$201.28!

VFish Designs SHOPPING EVENT

Come join us for a fun shopping night out at VFish Designs Thursday, December 11th. Pick up holiday and gala dresses, along with gifts for all the women on your list. You can even make your own customizable Park West t-shirt. Twenty percent of all sales go back to Park West.

NEW ARRIVALS

Please join us in welcoming Parker Robert Tague, new brother of Avery Tague in jk-2!

BOARD MEETING NOTES

The Board of Directors meeting was held on November 11th. Meeting Minutes will be available in the office once approved at the next meeting.

EMERGENCY TEXT ALERT SIGN-UP

REMINDER!!

There was a notice included in the folder given to each family at Fall General Meeting about receiving Emergency Text Alerts from Park West. If you haven't had a chance to sign up please do so ASAP as winter weather will soon be upon us. **Although you may have signed up to receive texts alerts last year you will need to sign up again.** We are looking for 100% participation as these text messages will be PWCNS's first line of communication regarding urgent matters such as snow/weather closings, sudden changes in school/classroom schedules, or any unforeseen urgent matters. Remember to sign up for **BOTH** school-wide and classroom alerts. Please follow the directions below...

SIGN-UP FOR SCHOOL-WIDE TEXT ALERTS:

- 1.) Text 773-663-4383. Enter "@pwcns" in message box and hit send.
- 2.) A text may be sent to you asking your name. Please provide.
- 3.) A text may be sent to you asking if you are a student. Please reply No.
- 4.) You should receive confirmation.

SIGN-UP FOR CLASSROOM/S TEXT ALERTS:

- 1.) Text 773-663-4383. Enter appropriate class handle (@pttot, @pw2am, @pw3am, @pw3pm, @pw4am2, @pw4am3, @pwjk2, @pwjk3) in message box and hit send.
- 2.) A text may be sent to you asking your name. Please provide.
- 3.) A text may be sent to you asking if you are a student. Please reply No.
- 4.) You should receive a confirmation.

Thank you for taking the time to do this!! We look forward to keeping you in the loop.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Applications are now online! Returning and new families can now apply for the 2015-2016 school year online at parkwestcoop.org. How easy is that?? Check an item off your to do list and complete your application for next year online. If you have any questions on the online application, please contact admissions@parkwestcoop.org

We had a successful first open house with 40 prospective families visiting us. Our new presentation was received well and as usual Jane rocked! Our next open house will be an evening visit - on Wednesday January 21st. Please help spread the word, in particular to working parents, who may have a less flexible schedule

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Park West Families,

When we started at Park West, my oldest was just 3 years old, and we had never heard of Ralph's World. My girls were game to go to the concert, not knowing they were about to hear their new favorite band. They were slow to warm up, but about 20 minutes in to the music, they were dancing and playing air guitar. This past weekend was our family's third Ralph's World concert. It was the best one yet. Our two girls danced and sang the words to every song, lost themselves in laughter and played with old and new Park West friends.

I recently came across an interesting article about friendship that made me think about Park West's annual Ralph's World concert. One of the main points of the article is that you need consistency for friendships to form. For kids, it's almost automatic with school, summer camps and playdates. Now for us adults, consistency like this is rare outside of work, but because you are a parent at Park West you have a unique opportunity. Volunteering in the classroom and on your committee, classroom potlucks, restaurant partnerships, the Wine Event, Ralph's World, the Book Fair, the Gala, Jane's Book Club, Spring Carnival and the all school picnic, this is the consistency that most adults don't get to be a part of when their little ones are so little.

Just as the time spent in the classroom with your children is invaluable, make time to join us outside of school. The friendships formed here at Park West are the kind that last a lifetime, for your children and you. The key: consistency.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Best,
Maggie