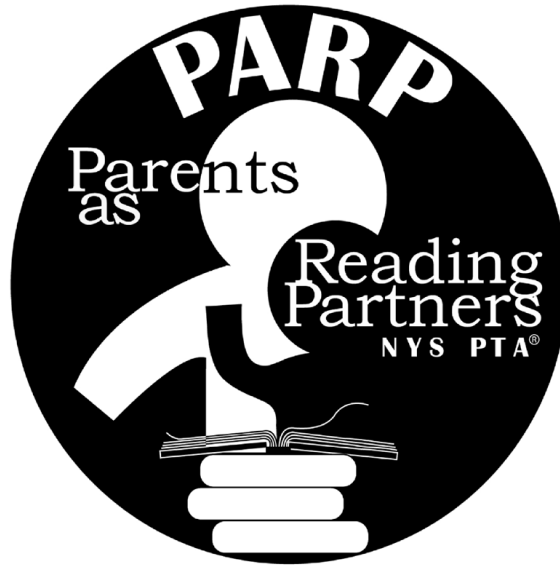


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**New York State**  
**PTA®**  
*everychild.one voice.®*

## **PARENTS AS READING PARTNERS**



### **2014 PARP TOOLKIT SUPPLEMENT**

New York State PTA PARP Award Winning Program from

**Harry E. Elden Elementary PTA**  
**Central Region**

*“Kindness Matters”*



Harry E. Elden Elementary's PTA  
Baldwinsville, New York  
2014 PARP Kindness Matters

Our Parents As Reading Partners Goals

- Encourage students and their families to spend 15 minutes or more daily in cooperative reading and literacy activities (discussing, researching, reading and writing).
- Improve participants well being by promoting reading, writing and telling stories incorporating character education traits using a "Kindness Matters" theme.
- Strengthen prosocial behavior among children at school through reading and writing at home, focusing on positive behavior traits and actions observed in both settings.
- Increase community awareness and involvement of our PARP program through collaborative communications and volunteerism with local members and organizations.
- Convey the message that we share stories from home and each one of us makes a difference. One act or word of kindness can create a ripple effect in our homes and community.

Implementation

Our PARP "Kindness Matters" Program was accomplished in collaboration with our school principal, PTA board, faculty, staff, community members, district personnel, school families a dentist, restaurant owner and local organizations. In preparation for PARP, announcements were sent via emails to families from the principal, during PTA meetings, and via the PTA newsletter. Email invitations and phone calls were made to community members to secure volunteers as guest readers. We started our four week PARP program with students from the principal's council reading a script/skit which demonstrated the benefits of prosocial behavior and how kindness makes a difference. The PARP chairperson presented the PARP theme – "Kindness Matters" and gave highlights. PARP packets containing a letter to parents, reader meters, a calendar of events and information were sent home.

Dove note pads and PARP packets were printed by our district's print department. The notepad was inspired by an online idea. The school's art teacher drew a dove and included the words "[I] caught doing something kind." We then had two students design collection boxes that were placed in various parts of the school. The dove notes were available for students and other school community members to jot down a kind note when they observed someone who shared kindness through a kind deed or word. The principal's council members collected the sheets daily, read them and met with the principal for discussion. Everyday during morning announcements, students read some of the dove notes. The sheets were then posted on the main hallway for everyone to read.

Various members of our school community were involved in the success of our PARP program through various tools. The teachers were instrumental in distributing, supporting and collecting information and meter readers from their students. To promote the theme of "Kindness Matters", we bought kindness coins and distributed them to each teacher and various staff members to share with students as they saw kindness occur. The students had the option to keep the coin that shared a kindness message or to pass it on to a classmate. We also had a "Kindness Matters" classroom display contest to encourage a visual and written expression of the meaning and various ways kindness is or can be shown.

The librarian and PARP chairperson worked together and welcomed various members of our community as guest readers. Parents, school district employees (bus drivers, business office & superintendent's office staff), the local public children's librarian, police officers, and an educator from a local farm read. Each classroom had at least one guest reader during their library time. The PARP chairperson coordinated the invitations and scheduling of volunteers. In addition, the literacy coordinator from a local TV station visited our school and brought along a storybook/TV character costume from one of the popular book/TV shows. Our custodian wore the costume to greet the kindergarten students. The literacy coordinator read a story that included the character, and had a discussion with the students related to "Kindness Matters". She gave each student a book to read at home with their families. The PTA thanked each guest reader with words of gratitude and a small token. After the guests read stories and discussed why "kindness matters", the students selected books to take home. The librarian had coded books and when a tagged book was checked out, those students were notified as weekly "Tag" winners. The librarian gave small incentives to those students.

The PARP calendar featured the option for families to share kindness and literacy activities at home, school, and in our extended community by helping other organizations. We held a book drive to support a local county nature center's used book sale and held a food collection for a food pantry. Other calendar highlights included, reading with a classmate, wear a t-shirt to read at school, write a kind note and leave it for someone to read, write a note to invite your parent(s) to the PTA meeting, ask family members to read with you and DEAR days - Drop Everything And Read at a special time during the day.

The culminating event occurred during a school wide morning meeting. The agenda included the third grade singing a song which included character building traits. The PARP chairperson thanked everyone for their outstanding performance on reaching their personal best, and exceeding the overall school goal. Two top classrooms were awarded for most minutes read overall and most reader meters submitted. She then welcomed a children's storyteller/author to the stage who performed a one man storytelling production from one of his books and played his Native American flute. Later, the principal announced the names of students who read the most minutes per classroom and the most improved classroom readers chosen by their teachers. They received awards and a small gift thanks to the PTA a local dentist (toothbrushes) and a free meal from a nearby restaurant. All students received a book as a gift.

### Results and Evaluation

Our goals were accomplished using the tools we incorporated into our planning and implementation. Most reader meters (83%) were returned to school completed and signed. The minutes were tallied for each individual student, classroom and for an overall school total acknowledging them for their participation. After returning reader meters, the PTA gave the students an incentive: rings with smile faces on them and a "my character matters" bookmark listing traits relating to trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, respect, fairness and citizenship. The overall minutes were posted on the PARP bulletin board. Awards were given to the classrooms with most overall minutes read in a classroom and for most reader meters submitted. Overall, we exceeded our school goal of 100,000 minutes; we read 196,954 minutes! We collected 290 dove sheets. Kindness coins were all distributed and students shared stories of how they received their own coin. Prosocial behaviors were observed and discussed by students and staff in the school even weeks following PARP. We shared a brief outline of our program with other elementary school PARP chairpersons.

Each week the school librarian named "Tag" winners. Photographs were posted in the library hallway. We had 19 guest readers. Photographs were taken and posted in a hallway display. Volunteer readers included the school custodian, principal, social worker, psychologist, bus drivers, business office personnel, secretary from the superintendent's office, parents, local police officers, the children's librarian from the local library, an educator from a local agritourism farm and a literacy coordinator from a television station. The literacy coordinator returned to our school a few months later as a co-presenter with our reading specialist during a literacy workshop we hosted for next year's incoming kindergarten families.

The PTA thanked the school staff and families for their participation for making reading a priority at home, at school, for turning in reader meters and for donations to the community food and book drives. Announcements and thank you's to parents/families for their participation were conveyed via email, PTA newsletter and at the monthly PTA meeting from the P ARP chairperson, PTA president and the principal. Over 100 used books were donated to the local county nature center and food was delivered to the local food pantry. The organizations sent us thank you notes for sharing kindness in the community. Award recipients were acknowledged and pizza parties were given to two classrooms. (One classroom with most minutes read and the other classroom for most reader meters submitted.)

The PTA P ARP chairperson sent an email survey link to families and staff for feedback/planning/evaluation purposes. In response to the question of what did your family like most about P ARP, some responses included, "We love to read!" "Our children loved giving out and receiving the kindness coins." "The fact that it was focused on kindness -a positive vs. not bullying -a more negative theme." "The longer reading times at night, and the excitement that my first grader had each night as we sat down to do our reading. Also, the daily kindness tips were fun to share with the kids."

To improve upon our program, we plan to recruit volunteers to serve in various capacities on the committee. We will continue to use the online survey link for parent feedback for planning and evaluation purposes. We plan to share more ideas with our local PTA chairpersons in our district especially pertaining to guest performers. We will continue to work collaboratively as a team. In closing, this year's "Kindness Matters" displays were inspiring. The judges had mixed feelings on selecting one classroom from each grade as a winner, as we believe they were all winners for promoting kindness and literacy in their own unique ways.

Dear Elden Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to Elden Elementary's PTA Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) Program! This year's theme is "**Kindness Matters**". At morning meeting today, we presented the theme and encouraged the children to read with you at home while also demonstrating various acts of kindness. We defined kindness as caring for others. We have ideas and information in this packet for your review. We defined a random act of kindness as a way to do something kind to a friend or stranger for no reason at all.

#### Program Highlights

During the month of PARP from January 7-February 7, 2014, besides encouraging reading with a partner, we will be participating in the following activities.

- Guest readers from the community are invited to join the students during their library time to read stories.
- The "Tag" game will be available in the library. (Ask your child for details)
- We will have various dove notepad stations around school where children can write down random acts of kindness they have observed in others at Elden, and then they will be posted in the hallways to read.
- There are family suggestions on the enclosed PARP calendar to help support your students in their efforts. Please consider taking some time together to enjoy relaxing and reading together after a busy holiday season.
- Classrooms will participate in a Kindness Matters Door Decorating Contest

#### Optional Homework

One of the weekends, we invite you to share a conversation with your child of why you think kindness matters. Then, perhaps later your child could write down or draw a picture of a time when they experienced an act of kindness &/or of a way they would like to see an act of kindness in our world. The students are welcome to return their drawings to school along with their reader meters. Please have your child's name & classroom on the backside of their work so we can return them when PARP is finished.

We recommend posting the PARP calendar in a place visible for all members of your family to read. It contains special dates such as wear your pajamas to school day (always a favorite), when to turn in reader meters, etc.

Please encourage your children to read with you and to complete & turn in their reader meters each week as their classmates might be counting on them for "overall minutes accumulated" for their classroom. There is more information specifically relating to PARP on the next page. Lastly, we invite you to continue sharing kindness at home.

**Ready, set, read & be sure to log the minutes it takes you to read this packet together!**

"Good words bring good feelings to the heart. Speak with kindness, always." - Rod Williams



# Elden Elementary's PTA **PARP 2014** Program presents

## **KINDNESS MATTERS**

**"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop**

**What is PARP?** PARP stands for Parents As Reading Partners. PARP is a statewide PTA program designed to encourage the love of reading in children by asking parents to set aside 15 minutes each day to read with their children. Spending just 15 minutes a day reading with your child helps build vocabulary, improve comprehension and allows your child to expand his/her imagination. **Who can be a reading partner?** 'Parents' is interpreted broadly to include any adult who plays an important role in your child's life; these adults may include grandparents, guardians and caregivers.

### **How does a student participate in PARP?**

Have your child engage in a reading activity for at least 15 minutes each day. You may read to your child, your child may read to you or you may read silently together. After reading together, your child's independent reading counts for minutes read as well. The choice of reading materials can vary from books to anything with printed words, such as magazines, e-readers and newspapers, etc.

- Reader Meter sheets are included in this packet to record the number of minutes spent reading each day. There is one Reader Meter for each week of the PARP program and completed Reader Meters should be returned to your child's teacher every Wednesday morning during the PARP program. If your child is absent, please return them upon returning to school.
- Review the PARP calendar in this packet for information on the special reading & kindness activities taking place during PARP. There are some ideas for family members as well, to support the kindness matters literacy theme.
- Enjoy one another & the time spent reading together.

### **Are there prizes for participation?**

Yes! Two students from each classroom:

- One student who logs the most Reader Meter minutes during PARP 2014 will receive an award and a prize.
- One student (selected by the teacher) who has shown the most improvement in reading since the start of the school year will receive an award and a prize.
- In addition, this year we are having a classroom Kindness Matters door decorating contest.

The award recipients from each class will be announced, with prizes to be given at the PARP closing program at the morning meeting on Friday, February 7, 2014. In the past, we've also given awards to classrooms with the most minutes read, all reader meters completed and returned. What might we do this year? Read plenty, share kindness & stay tuned to find out the results at the closing meeting. We have enclosed a Kindness Matters newsletter and checklist for you to read with this packet for more Kindness Matters information.

Remember, each student's minutes will count towards the overall school goal of reading 100,000 minutes. So watch the "Kindness Matters" themed bulletin board area outside the APR to see the doves soar. The more Reader Meter minutes are tabulated, the higher the doves will fly...stay tuned to see what happens at the PARP Wrap-up!

**Thank you for participating in the Elden PTA 2014 PARP program.**

**With your help, your child can go places with reading!**

# KINDNESS MATTERS

## Elden Elementary's PTA PARP 2014 Theme

"Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind." - Eric Hoffer



Week 1 - January 7 – January 13, 2014

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### Reader Meter Sheet

Write the total number of minutes you read or someone reads to you for each day - a minimum of 15 minutes. Your goal is to read at least 5 out of 7 days.

1/7/14	1/8/14	1/9/14	1/10/14	1/11/14	1/12/14	1/13/14

I would like my reading partner(s) to be \_\_\_\_\_

My reading goal for this week is to read \_\_\_\_\_ minutes per day.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Minutes Read: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Reading Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

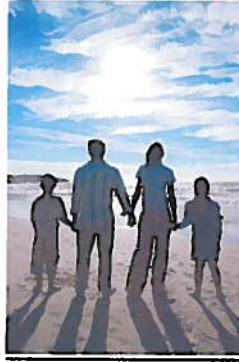
**Please complete and give to your teacher on Wednesday, January 15, 2014.**



# KINDNESS MATTERS

## Elden Elementary's PTA PARP 2014 Theme

"No act of kindness is too small. The gift of kindness may start as a small ripple that over time can turn into a tidal wave affecting the lives of many." -Kevin Heath



Week 2: January 14 – January 20, 2014

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### Reader Meter Sheet

Write the total number of minutes you read or someone reads to you for each day - a minimum of 15 minutes.  
Your goal is to read at least 5 out of 7 days.

1/14/14	1/15/14	1/16/14	1/17/14	1/18/14	1/19/14	1/20/14

I would like my reading partner(s) to be \_\_\_\_\_

My reading goal for this week is to read \_\_\_\_\_ minutes per day.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Minutes Read: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Reading Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and give to your teacher on Wednesday, January 22, 2014.**

# KINDNESS MATTERS

## Elden Elementary's PTA PARP 2014 Theme

"How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment. We can start now, start slowly, changing the world. How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make a contribution toward introducing justice straightaway. And you can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness!" - Anne Frank



Week 3 - January 21 – January 27, 2014

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### Reader Meter Sheet

Write the total number of minutes you read or someone reads to you for each day - a minimum of 15 minutes. Your goal is to read at least 5 out of 7 days.

1/21/14	1/22/14	1/23/14	1/24/14	1/25/14	1/26/14	1/27/14

I would like my reading partner(s) to be \_\_\_\_\_

My reading goal for this week is to read \_\_\_\_\_ minutes per day.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Minutes Read: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Reading Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRATULATIONS ON DOING YOUR PERSONAL BEST!

**Please complete and give to your teacher on Wednesday, January 29, 2014.**

# JANUARY & FEBRUARY P A R P

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Kindness</b>	<b>Matters</b>	January 7 Morning Meeting <b>PARP Kickoff</b> Be a role model & set a good example.	January 8 Leave a kind note for a friend or family member.	January 9 Bring a stuffed animal from home to read with you at school today. Express gratitude to the adults you see today.	January 10 <b>LUNCH &amp; a Movie!</b> Hold a door open for someone today.	January 11. Ask a family member to discuss why kindness matters with you.
January 12 <b>PARP WEEK #1</b> Draw a picture &/or write a story of an act of kindness you have experienced or would like to see in the world	January 13 <b>Write &amp; read a note to</b> invite your parent(s) to the Elden PTA Mtg. tomorrow at 7pm in the APR. Childcare is provided! <b>Make a new friend</b>	January 14 <b>Reminder:</b> Let's work to have the largest parents group in attendance @the PTA meeting tonight 7pm <b>Speak Kindly</b>	January 15 Thanks for <b>Returning Week 1 Reader Meter</b> <b>Take care of yourself eat, rest &amp; exercise daily</b>	January 16 <b>DEAR Day</b> Have your book ready so you can <b>Drop Everything And Read</b> at a special time during the day. <b>Smile at someone</b>	January 17 <b>LUNCH &amp; a Movie!</b> Sit with someone different at lunch & thank the lunch staff today.	January 18 Ask a family member to read with you.
January 19 <b>PARP WEEK #2</b> Share with someone what you are thankful for or write a gratitude list for yourself	January 20 <b>No School</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Research & read about <b>MLK</b> <b>Believe in yourself- You make a difference</b>	January 21 Donate a food item for the local food pantry. <b>WEAR A SHIRT TO READ</b> Screen free day challenge, play a board game instead	January 22 Thanks for <b>Returning Week 2 Reader Meter</b> <b>Give someone a compliment today</b>	January 23 Make someone laugh... be prepared to share a joke or riddle today. <b>Encourage one another</b>	January 24 <b>LUNCH &amp; a Movie!</b> <b>Help keep your school clean &amp; thank Mr. Hunter &amp; his crew</b>	January 25 Read a recipe and help prepare a meal today with some family members
January 26 <b>PARP WEEK #3</b> Express yourself- sing a song, create a sculpture, write a poem.....	January 27 <b>Read/Study with a classmate</b> <b>Be Positive</b>	January 28 <b>WEAR YOUR PJ'S TO SCHOOL!</b> (School appropriate & no slippers please)	January 29 Thanks for <b>Returning Week 3 Reader Meter</b> <b>Congratulations on doing your personal best!</b>	January 30 Bring a used book to school to donate for the local Nature Center's used book sale.	January 31 <b>LUNCH &amp; a Movie!</b> <b>Last call...please turn in your reader meters!</b>	February 1 Visit your local library <b>Volunteer to shovel snow for someone</b>
February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6 <b>Thank you for sharing kindness!</b>	February 7 Morning Meeting <b>PARP Closing/Awards</b> Read your report card	

# Kindness Matters - PARP 2013-2014

## Hello & Happy New Year!

We are jump starting this year celebrating Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) with the theme of Kindness Matters. By now, you should have received information from Mr. C. regarding the program timeline. This envelope is to hold the meter readers & assignments from each week that the students return to you. Then, please return this envelope to Mrs. Anselman on the dates listed below. After minutes are tallied, I will return the empty envelopes back to you via your mailbox. If you have any questions, please call me at \_\_\_\_\_ or email me at \_\_\_\_\_ or stop me in the building when you see me.

## Some Important Dates for You:

- January 7 - PARP Kickoff Packets go home - Let the reading minutes begin!  
Kindness coins given to teachers and staff for student distribution\*
- January 8 - Leave a kind note - have students write a kind message on a book mark to deliver to someone
- January 13 - Invitation home to parents re: Elden PTA Mtg. Tues. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, Internet Safety Topic
- January 15 - Collect & Return Reader Meter 1 (Late Reader Meters are always welcomed)
- January 16 - Give out smiley rings – Share a smile
- January 21- Collect donations for food pantry; drop boxes located in APR
- January 22 - Collect & Return Reader Meter 2 (Late Reader Meters are always welcomed)
- January 29 - Collect & Return Reader Meter 3 (Late Reader Meters are always welcomed)
- January 30 - Collect book(s) for local Nature Center Used Book Sale; drop boxes located in APR
- February 7 - PARP Closing Reading Recognition Awards Program with an author/storyteller  
PTA delivery of a book and bookmark for every student in every classroom

\*There are **Kindness Counts coins** in your packet to give to students to recognize them for random acts of kindness you observe during the program.

## *Let the Kindness Continue.....*

Thank you for your help with this program!  
Kindness Matters,  
Maria Jackson, Elden PTA PARP Chairperson

“How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment. We can start now, start slowly, changing the world. How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make a contribution toward introducing justice straightaway. And you can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness!” – Anne Frank



*I caught  
doing something kind!*

*Student*

*Grade*



# Visual Highlights of PARP 2014 Kindness Matters





The Elden Elementary PTA  
& Tony Cardamone, Principal  
are proud to present

with this certificate of accomplishment  
for reading        minutes  
                         during the

**2014 Kindness Matters  
Parents As Reading Partners Program**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

& thank you  
for your participation in  
this year's PARP program

**and remember,  
Kindness Matters**

## 2014 PARP Kindness Matters Expenses

<b>Total</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Online Store	\$185.99	smiling rings, kindness coins, bookmarks
Closing Performer	varies	
Classroom Most Minutes Read	\$65.00	pizza party & water
Kindness Door Contest	\$41.94	erasers @ \$6.99/bag
Classroom Most Meter Readers Submitted	\$65.00	pizza party & water
Manilla envelopes	\$4.47	21 = 1 per teacher to collect reader meters
Gifts for top Readers	\$160.90	
Guest reader thank you	\$11.42	chocolates
Print dept	\$18.04	
Supplies	\$202.44	w=158.03 & t=44.41
██████ Books	\$0.00	458 books from book sale fundraiser credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$755.20</b>	