



Garfield Primary School

A Peaceful Kingdom

1507 South Lydia Street

Peoria, Illinois 61605

309/672-6515 ~ FAX 309/672-9794

Kevin Michael Curtin, Principal

“It Takes A Village” – The Peoria Community at work in the Peaceful Kingdom

Here in the “Peaceful Kingdom” we have long recognized the importance of engaging the community in the important work we do. That work I speak of has grown increasingly more difficult over the years as new responsibilities have been added to the traditional 3 R’s. We have long recognized that these children are our future leaders. The better we are able to mobilize our community, the better able we will be at growing these children into strong productive members of our community. And that is our mission

Community Programs/Partners

Peoria Park District

Located immediately adjacent to our school, the Logan Recreation Center is a long time partner. Since their available space limits their ability to offer a wide range of programs, we permit them to make use of our facility in an effort to expand their programming to better serve the community in general . . . not just our student body. Some examples of the Park District programs offered here at Garfield are:

1. **Logan after school program activity time:** During the winter months, the after school program uses our gym to offer supervised recreation for the students in their after school program.
2. **Youth Dances** – offered three times during the year, these dances are offered to middle school youth as a fun, structured and supervised social opportunity.
3. **Roller Skating Lessons** – these are offered to students two days a week in the afternoon and one evening per week for any interested adult community members.
4. **Spring Style Show** – offered for children/youth in the community in the spring as a fun activity to highlight their favorite fashions.
5. **Halloween Spook House** – this has become an annual event that attracts members from this as well as surrounding communities.
6. **Summer Library** – children enrolled in the Logan summer camp are able to make use of our library once a week.
7. **Theater Education for Children (TEC)** – our Drama Club is one of our most popular programs with an enrollment of close to 40. Offered through the Park District, this program teaches children the art of drama. The two semester course culminates in the presentation of a play in the spring.
8. **Indoor Soccer**—Children are taught basic soccer skills in an indoor setting. Program includes a mid-week practice followed by games played on Saturday.

Alignment with Curriculum & School Goals : Each of the programs offered through this partnership are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards that have been established for all school children in Illinois.

Outcomes of Program: Our goal of having our school be a true community center is more than met through the wide variety of programs offered by this partnership.

Total Cost: There is NO COST to our school for this partnership. We provide the space and the Park District provides the programming.



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Community Programs/University Based Partners

1. **The University of Illinois Extension** hosts a 4H group in our building on a weekly basis. They are longtime partners.
2. **Bradley University ROTORACT** – the university level arm of Rotary International provides volunteers on a weekly basis who serve as aides and mentors in our many after school programs.
3. **Illinois State University UNITE** – this group of education majors whose interest is in working in inner-city schools provides volunteers on an as needed basis to perform tasks that we identify together. Most recently, they sent volunteers to landscape the front of our building resulting in a much greater “curb appeal” for our school.
4. **Illinois Central College (ICC) – the honor society, Phi Lambda Theta**, from our local junior college provides tutoring.

Alignment with Curriculum & School Goals: Each of these partners works closely with staff in designed and specific areas directly connected with our goals, both curricular and school.

Outcomes of Program: Our goal of providing deep and enduring relationships for our children is being more than met through these partnerships.

Total Cost of Program: There is **NO COST** to us for these programs. Each partner serves in a volunteer capacity.

Community/Family Programs – Service Based Organizations

1. **Junior League of Peoria** – these volunteers work with our kindergarten classes as they implement the “I Like Me” program which provides a personalized book for each student here at Garfield.
2. **Humane Society** – provides information and assistance to low-income pet owners.
3. **Prairie State Legal Services** - provides or coordinates the delivery of high quality legal services to low-income individuals, families and groups.
4. **Cub/Girl Scouts** – Both organizations have a longstanding relationship with our school and host weekly meetings in our facility.

Alignment with Curriculum and School Goals: The work done through the Junior League is aligned with the Illinois Learning Standard associated with Character Education. The Humane Society and Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) partnerships are directly aligned with our school goal of being a community center providing a wide range of services that meet the needs of the children as well as the greater community.

Outcomes of the Program: Participation in the Humane Society and PSLS activities has been significant and interest is growing.

Total Cost of Program: There is **NO COST** to us. All services provided are done on a pro bono/volunteer basis.



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A Full Service Community School

Health Programs/Partners

Methodist Medical Center (MMC)

In-School Health Center – MMC has had a health center located within our school for approximately ten years. The function of the center is to attend to the many health related issues that arise on a daily basis that may impact a child's ability to be in attendance. Services are offered to students as well as their family members. Depending on individual circumstances, some fees are applicable on a sliding scale. The center has had a very powerful impact on our ability to keep children healthy and in school.

Alignment with Curriculum and School Goals: The Health Center is a truly foundational partnership in our Full Service Community School effort and is aligned with and meets ALL of our criteria for addressing the needs of our students and families.

Outcomes of the Program: Statistics are available through MMC with regard to the level of service provided. Our mobility is down, and Achievement and Attendance are up. All a direct result of the presence of the Center.

Total Cost of Program: \$15000.00. This is a fee paid to MMC from Title I funds . This amount does not fully cover all costs of the program. Remaining costs are absorbed by MMC as a part of our partnership.

Family/Health Programs – PACES

1. ***Counseling and Family Service (CFS)*** – a staff member from CFS serves our school as a Family-School Liaison. Their function is to better assist our families in getting connected to various services throughout our community in an effort to strengthen their ability to function as a family unit. And, as we all know, a strong family is directly related to success at school.
2. ***Children's Home*** – two days a week we have the services of a counselor from the Children's Home whose main responsibility is to work with children and families that are having issues that may be related to mental health. Again, the stronger and healthier the child and family, the better are the chances for success at school.

Alignment with Curriculum and School Goals: Both of these programs address Character Education and Health standards established in the Illinois Learning Standards. Both programs are meeting our school goal of providing on-site social and emotional health services that were previous unavailable or unaffordable to our community.

Outcomes of Program: Statistics are available through PACES. The participation and success rate have been significant. Many children and family are receiving services on a regular basis through this partnership.

Total Cost of Program: These partnerships come courtesy of funding through our local Heart of Illinois United Way. There is NO DIRECT COST to our school for these services.

Academic Programs/After School Tutoring

1. Sylvan Learning Center
2. Prime Time Computers
3. A+ Tutoring Services
4. Homework Mastery

Each of these is an extended day program offered to ALL students. Instruction is provided for one hour each day following the end of the regular school day. Snacks are provided as is transportation home for anyone who needs it

Alignment with Curriculum and School Goals: Each program is designed as an intervention for our students who need additional instruction in the areas of Reading and Math. Activities are directly aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards and also address our school's goal of maximizing the time available for instruction in these core curricular areas.

Outcomes of Program: Overall school achievement is on the rise. This is due to the presence of "interventions" such as these that are designed to meet the academic needs of the children we serve.

Total Cost of Program: Programs are paid for through Title I Supplemental Educational Service.

Community Programs/Faith Based

1. **Good News Club/Bethany Baptist Church** – this club came to us through Community Builders and Child Evangelism Fellowship. It meets once a week and involves approximately 35 children and 20 adult volunteers.
2. **"Peace Pals"/St. Jude Catholic Church** – the "Pals" are partnered with 2-3 students and they meet with them once per week to work on reading related skills such as fluency and decoding. Currently, there are 35 "Pals." Every student in grades 1 & 2 has a "Pal."
3. **General Support – Northminster Presbyterian, Mt. Zion Baptist and Church of the Brethren:** these churches partner with us on an as needed basis providing support in a number of different ways which include purchasing needed school supplies and providing volunteers for big events such as our upcoming Soul Food Night.

Alignment/Outcomes/Cost: All partnerships are designed to meet our school's particular and specific needs. Participation in all programs is high and growing. Each partner serves pro bono with NO COST to us.

The Community School concept is alive and thriving here in the Peaceful Kingdom. Current data would indicate a decrease in student mobility and an increase in student achievement as measured on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). We received the Academic Improvement Award from the Illinois State Board of Education due to the improvement shown in our 2007 ISAT scores. Efforts to expand the influence of our "village" will continue in earnest as we are seeing the benefits on a daily basis.

Garfield Primary School – A "Peaceful Kingdom" in which ALL who enter feel safe and supported and are given the freedom and encouragement to be all that they can be.

New in 2009-2010

- ◆ ***Downtown Rotary ~ "Rotary Readers"*** - Teams from this organization have been formed to provide reading assistance and mentoring to the students in one of our 2nd grade classrooms. This program had it's start at Tyng Primary School and was moved here following the closure of that school.

Alignment with Curriculum and School goals: This program is designed as an intervention for these students in the area of reading. All of the "Big Five" areas of reading will be covered and enriched.

Outcomes of the Program: Students receiving this intervention are expected to have their reading skills/level increase as a result of their involvement.

- ◆ ***"Gifts in the Moment"*** - This organization is partnering with us in an effort to further develop in our students a healthy lifestyle. Their "No Child Left Outside" program will include the construction of a "Schoolyard Habitat" that will be a partnership between our school, our neighbors at Logan park as well as our surrounding community.

Alignment with Curriculum and School Goals : Activities and lesson plans will be developed using the Illinois Learning Standards in a number of curricular areas. These plans will utilize this outdoor habitat and will serve as an active participation tool for our instructors.

Outcomes of the Program: Students will be affected in a number of ways all of which will contribute to their overall physical, social and emotional health.

- ◆ ***Quality Quest for Health—*** This is a non-profit organization that is seeking to improve to overall health of our entire community. In partnership with them, in concert with a Six Sigma Black Belt, we will develop a program that will benefit our children as well as their families

Alignment with Curriculum and School Goals: All activities will incorporate the Illinois Learning Standards in the area of Physical Fitness.

Outcomes of the program: Body-Mass Indexes serves as the baseline. Expected outcomes will are a reduction in the number of our students who are over weight and/or obese.

Proposed for 2010-2011

- ◆ ***Peoria City/County Health Department—***Plans are in the works to make Garfield a satellite site of the Health Department. All/many of the services currently offered at the Sheridan Road office will be made available at Garfield.

New in 2010-2011

- ◆ **Peoria Park District's Jr. ELITE program** ~ Mr. Carl Cannon has chosen Garfield as his choice to pilot his EL:ITE program in the primary school. ELITE is a program designed to instill values and skills in our children that will ensure their future success. The program is already well established in the District's high schools. The Jr. ELITE program is targeted at those at risk children in the hopes that we can capture them and get them on an upward track.
- ◆ **Christian Center Basketball** ~ Beginning in November, volunteers from The Christian Center will be offering a six week basketball clinic to 3rd & 4th grade boys and girls. The clinic will focus on basic basketball skills and will include some scrimmages. Another session will be offered beginning in January 2011.
- ◆ **HY-Vee—Bradley Dietician students—Gifts in the Moment “Vegetable Soup”** ~ In concert with Hy-Vee's registered dietician and a cohort of Bradley Dietician students, we will begin offering a series of presentations which will serve as a springboard for our Outdoor Habitat's vegetable garden. Each grade level will have their own section in which they will grow a specific vegetable. Once harvested, the vegetables will be used to make a real batch of vegetable soup as a way of highlighting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.