

Counselor's Connection

By: Laura Jones

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Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Oct. 15, 16 & 18, 2007. Please call the guidance office at (240) 236-3508, if you would like me to attend your child's conference. Or, if you wish to arrange a guidance conference time.

Contact Information

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Note: Please make sure you include the ".v." in between the laura jones in order to send messages to me.

Visit us at:
<http://schools.fcps.org/kes>

Helping Your Child Succeed... Tips From Educators

Once secret to a successful school year is to set good routines right from the beginning. Here are some tips from teachers and administrators...

*Take time to make time.

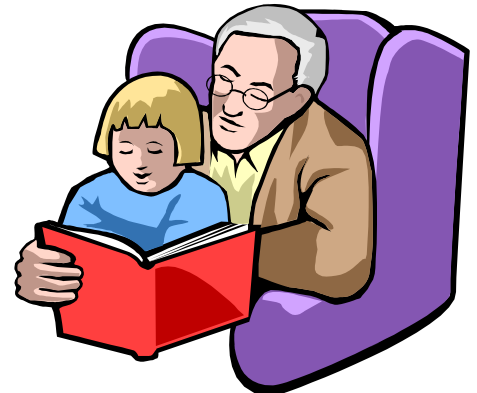
Children need a schedule they can depend on-one that includes definite times for homework, meals and sleep.

*Read, read , read.

Continue reading with your children, even after they can read by themselves. This allows them to enjoy stories that may be too difficult for them to read alone. For variety, try reading newspapers, magazines-even comic strips. You'll send the message that reading is important.

*Check into it!

Take a few minutes every day to look at what your child brings home from school. Talk about the school work together. This shows that you care about the things your child spends most of their day doing.



-Resources for Educators, Inc.

Welcome New Students

On September 26, 2007, we hosted a New Student Get Together where we invited all newly enrolled students in grades 1-5 to a social gathering featuring cookies, juice and "Get To Know You" activities, followed by a question and answer session with Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Poling.

In addition, all the new students were asked to appear on the morning announcements for all to see and recognize.

We would like to officially welcome all our new students and families and would encourage you to become active members of our KES community.

Getting Ready For Conferences

It's that time of year again. Parent-Teacher Conference Time!! Although reasons for conferences may vary, the primary goal is to exchange information. No one knows your child as well as you do. Your insights may prove to be invaluable. The following are some tips that may help you prepare for your child's conference.



Fall into conferences!!

-Look over recent assignments and test grades so you know how your child has been performing in class. Look through books and see what your child is learning.

-Ask you child questions, such as what is their favorite subject, what are they having a difficult time with, what subject do they find the easiest, and who are their friends at school.

-Write down questions you have for the teacher so you will remember what you wanted to ask.

-Be on time for the conference, most are tightly scheduled. Being even 5 minutes late will substantial cut down on the time you have with your child's teacher.

-Be open to suggestions for the teacher. Ask what you can do at home to help your child be more prepared for school.

-Offer suggestions and insights into your child. You know your child best and you many be able to offer information that will help the teacher to better help your child succeed.

-Ask about social interactions as well as academic. Children struggling with friendships can suffer form low self esteem which can cause additional problems in school.

-If you find your child is struggling in school, ask to reschedule the conference for another date. This way the teacher will be able to spend more than 15 minutes with you and your can both work together to develop a plan to help your child succeed.

No matter how many suggestions. Conferences can be a stressful time for both you and your child. Before attending the conference, be sure to let your child(ren) know how much you love them and that you will love them no matter what the teacher might say. Let them know that conferences are not for the teachers to "tattle" on children, but for parents and teachers to work together to best help them succeed.

"Caught Ya" Kick-Off

To kick-off our Fish program here at KES, all staff members were given "Caught Ya" certificates. If a staff members "catches" any student displaying the "Fish Philosophy" (Choose Your Attitude, Play, Be There, Make Their Day), they will be given a certificate. The right side of the certificate comes home so parents can praise them for "Being a Good Fish", and the other side is sent to the office to be placed in the "Caught Ya" boxes. I will randomly select several names for each box (K-2 and 3-5) on Fridays, so that those students can be recognized on morning announcements. I will keep all certificates so that they can be entered in the end of the year final drawing.



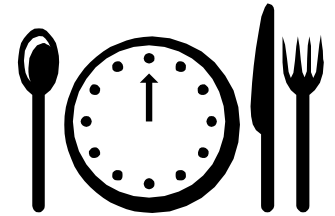
You Made My Day!!

We encourage you to continue modeling the "Fish Philosophy" at home, too.

Learning Lunches

Learning Lunches are an opportunity for students in fifth grade to each lunch together and learn about the career, talent, or hobby of a special guest speaker. This educational opportunity is available to fifth graders who want to learn more about the variety of careers out there in our world.

In October, Beth Sanford will talk to our fifth graders about what it is like to be a Captain for all Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) in her division for Montgomery County Fire Department.



Learning Lunches are FUN!!

In November, Barry Robinson, a police officer who specializes in accident reconstruction will share some of his interesting experiences and stories with our students. He has a terrific power point presentation that will help students understand his job better.

If you have interesting occupation or hobby that you would like to share with our school, please contact the Guidance Office at (240) 236-3508.

Classroom Guidance

During the first several weeks in September, Counselor Introduction lessons were completed in all Kindergarten and First Grade classes. Introductions were made. The role of the school counselor was explained and how I can better provide support for your child(ren).

I visited each Fifth Grade classes regarding our Peer Mentor Program. The expectations and duties of our Peer Mentors were explained during the initial classroom lesson. All students were given a Peer Mentor application and those interested in becoming Peer Mentors will complete the application and turn it in to Mrs. Jones no later than Oct. 1, 2007. Interviews will begin that week. The selection process will be based on student interest and interview, teacher recommendation, and parental consent. There are only 10 positions available for Peer Mentors.

In October, Fourth Graders will have the opportunity to view the film, "Lots of Kids Like Us." This is part of the Here's Looking At You 2000 drug and alcohol curriculum for Frederick County Public Schools.

Classroom guidance lessons will be provided to Third grade students on Equity. My goal is for students to recognize and appreciate the differences in each other and to value their own self-worth. Student will get a chance to share their unique qualities while celebrating different cultural heritages.

During National *Character Counts !* Week, Oct. 22-26, 2007, I will be conducting many activities that focuses on the six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

Counselors Care

Red Ribbon Week:
October 29-November 2, 2007

National Red Ribbon Week is a drug awareness week where it is our commitment to educate our students regarding the hazards of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The following is a list of activities, which KES will be participating during this week:

Monday, Oct. 29: "Red Ribbons on Classroom Doors"-Teachers will be given a red ribbon to place on their classroom doors. This serves as a visual reminder of our pledge to be drug free.

Tuesday, Oct. 30: Students will receive a peppermint candy for their "Commitment" to leading a drug free life.

Thursday, November 1: "Drug Free Pledge Stickers" will be handed out to each student.

Friday, November 2: "Wear Red Day." Students and staff are encouraged to wear red.

Thank you for your support of Red Ribbon Week

Urbana Feeder Pattern Workshop

On October 29, 2007 at 6:45 pm at Kemptown Elementary, we will be hosting a parent workshop entitled, Anxiety in the Classroom: Looking into the Overlooked.

Dr. Martin will address common signs and symptoms of anxiety in youth and understand cognitive-behavioral treatments and medications. Information about research and current research studies at NIMH for children and adolescents with anxiety will be shared. Strategies on what school staff and parents can do to help a child who is struggling with anxiety will be discussed.

RSVPs are preferred. Please contact Laura Jones at (240) 236-3508 to RSVP or if you have any questions about the workshop.

Remembering Dominick

As many of you know by now, one of our students, Dominick Gonzales, was killed in an ATV accident this past summer. Dominick just completed the 3rd grade here at Kemptown. He was a member of our school chorus and received an award from his teacher, Miss Tasch, as the Most Inquisitive Student. Dominick was a member of LUYAA and played football for four years, basketball for two years, and baseball and soccer for one year each. Dominick was very personable and made friends with everyone he met, both young and old. We certainly miss him!

On Monday, October 22, 2007, at 1:30 pm., we will be hosting a Remembrance Celebration for Dominick. We will be planting a tree (donated by the Gallagher Family), and sharing memories about Dominick. If you would like to attend, please join us out front our school building for the ceremony. Since this is a time of remembrance, we ask that you not bring any small children to the ceremony.

If you have any questions or would like information about how to talk with your child(ren) about their loss, please feel free to call me at (240) 236-3508.

