

Counselor's Connection

By: Laura Jones

Volume I, Issue I

Sept./Oct. 2008

Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Oct. 14-16, 2008. Please call the counseling office at (240) 236-3508, if you would like me to attend your child's conference, or, if you wish to arrange a conference with the school counselor during this 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>

Taking the Hassles Out of Homework

Homework! Every child has it, so there's no getting around it!

Teachers assign homework because it can help students to review and practice what they've covered in class. It can help prepare them for the next day and offer opportunities to extend learning by applying the skills learned in a new situation. Homework is a valuable tool used to help children to learn and for families to be involved in their children's education. However, helping children with homework isn't always easy.

Here are some helpful hints to take the *Hassles Out of Homework*:

-Set a regular time and space for homework. Having a regular scheduled time for homework helps students to establish good after school habits that makes homework automatic. Pick a place that is free from distractions where your child can work comfortably and quietly. Make sure your child has all the proper supplies & resources needed to efficiently complete his/her homework (i.e. pencils, scissors, glue, calculator, dictionary, etc.)

-Be available. Some children like to have someone nearby to answer any questions they may have and respond well to adult encouragement to complete their assignments. It's a good idea to check to see that your child finished his/her assignments and check to make sure it is done correctly. Recognize that your role in homework is as a helper, not a doer.

-Help your child get organized. Practice checking to make sure he/she has everything needed to complete their homework (i.e. assignment book, take home folder, word study notebook, etc.). Make a homework schedule which divides homework time equally among assignments and includes independent reading.

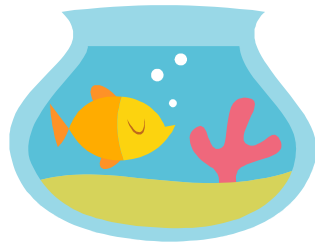
-Talk the teacher about your concerns. Your child's teacher cares about him/her and wants him/her to succeed. If your child doesn't understand his/her homework, the teacher needs to assess if he/she needs to re-teach the lesson or if the child needs more practice with that particular skill. Parent-Teacher conferences are a great time to share some of your child's strengths and struggles, and any major changes in your child's life (i.e. health problems, separation/divorce, loss, etc.) that might explain any changes in your child's academic progress or behaviors.

By encouraging our children to take responsibility for their homework, we are helping them to become strong, independent, and confident young people.



“Caught Ya” Kick-Off

To kick-off our Fish program here at KES, all staff members were given “Caught Ya” certificates. If a staff member “catches” any student displaying the “Fish Philosophy” (Choose Your Attitude, Be There, Make Their Day and Play), they will be given a certificate. The right side of the certificate will be given to the students to take home so parents



You Made My Day!!

can praise their child for “Being a Good Fish”. The other side of the certificate is sent to the office to be placed in the “Caught Ya” boxes. I will randomly select several names from each box (K-2 and 3-5) on

Fridays, and those student’s names will be read by our Electric Eels (KES’ student Fish Committee members) on the morning announcements. Students

will receive a small prize that day, and will be entered into the end of the year final drawing for a \$15. Target gift certificate. One student will be randomly selected per grade the last week of school.

If you would like more information on the “Fish Philosophy”, or ideas on how you can model “Good Fish” behavior at home, please contact Laura Jones at (240) 236-3508.

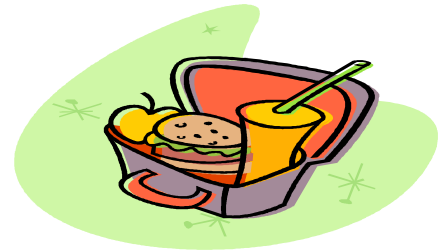
Learning Lunches

Learning Lunches have begun! What is a Learning Lunch? A Learning Lunch is an opportunity for fifth graders to eat 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 a variety of careers out there in our world.

On October 3, we heard from

Andy Nichols who is the founder and director of Team Link, Inc. and Team Link Mountain Sports Center. He is a master educator of outdoor living skills and provided a fun and interactive session.

I would love to host at least one Learning Lunch a month!! So, if you are interested or know of someone



who has an interesting career, talent, or hobby and would be willing to share it with our students at Kemptown, please contact the counseling office at (240) 236-3508.

Welcome New Students

On September 26, 2008, 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. Houston.

In addition, all the new stu-

dents were asked to appear on the morning announcements for all to see and recognize.

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

Please help us Welcome...

Nelvin & Litzy Arevalo, Anna Arnold, Daniel Bowers, Logan Boz-moff, Sam Davis, Isabella & John Eskay, Caitlyn Evans, Hunter Hardisty, Kira Hattenburg, Keren Herrera-Vargas, JJ Mannix, Joey & Emily Masson, Margaree & Serena Menegaz, Connor Metz, Aaron Nerschook, Taylor Nicholson, and Brenna Owens.

Counseling Lessons

During the first several weeks in September, Counselor Introduction lessons were completed in all Kindergarten and First Grade classes. The role of school counselor was explained to the students by creating a “magic rainbow”. Each color represents a way that I provide support for your child, the school and the community. (i.e. When you are feeling “blue” or sad, you can talk to the school counselor.)

I visited each Fifth Grade class regarding our Peer Mentor Program. The expectations and duties of our Peer Mentors were explained during the initial classroom lesson. Students viewed two different Peer Mentor applications (Sam Sloppy’s and Carla Careful’s) and were asked, “Who would you hire, and Why?” All students were given a Peer Mentor application and those students interested in becoming a Peer Mentor completed, turned in their application and were interviewed.

Also in September, I visited each class during one of their scheduled media times to complete the first set of “Fish Lessons.” Students identified “Be There” vs. “Not So Be There” behaviors, discussed ways to continue to “Be There” for others, shared how it feels when someone is “Being There” for them and completed projects that emphasized “Be There” behaviors.

In October, I will visit each Kindergarten class to conduct an “Adjustment to School” lesson. In this lesson, a silly clown visits the classroom and is very disruptive, until the teacher sprays the clown with the “NO CLOWNING AROUND” spray. Classroom and school rules will be discussed, and the many ways that students can use their hands for helping (not hurting). A class “Helping Hands” booklet will be made and shared with parents.

Are you ready for some football? Our 4th graders will be!! I will be working with the 4th graders on Study Skills. In these lessons, I will be focusing on 3 “Team Strategies.” The strategies are: LOG (Listening, Organizing, and Goal Setting) that will help them to become more successful in school. The students will learn the “strategies”, participate in “Time-Outs” and “Practice Runs”, where I will highlight the main points and run the new “plays.” Finally, students are encouraged to “score a touchdown” by making a commitment to reaching a long-term 4th grade goal.

“We don’t see things as they are, we see them as we are.”

-Anais Nin

Meet Our Mentors

We are pleased to announce the following students as our 2008-2009 Peer Mentors: Edward Abel, Maddie Abel, Logan Abernathy, Anna Arnold, Brady Collins, McKenna Connelly, Kimmy Cummings, Alexis Daza, Tyler Groveston, Kara Keiper, Nathan Kline, Justin Knotts, Mary Lopez, Christine McKee, Hannah Mills, Laura Mundy, Taylor Morgan, Kaeleigh Nicholson, Gabriella Punturiero, Taylor Robertshaw, Alison Root, Julia Smolen, Alexis Tchou, and Jacqueline Whitworth.

The Peer Mentor Program enlists 5th grade students to assist in a variety of service learning projects throughout the school year.

KEMPTOWN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Red Ribbon Week: October 27-31, 2008

NOVEMBER 21, 2008 10 AM
DECEMBER 19, 2008 10 AM
JANUARY 9, 2009 10 AM
JANUARY 23, 2009 10 AM
FEBRUARY 6, 2009 10 AM
FEBRUARY 27, 2009 10 AM
MARCH 6, 2009 10 AM
MARCH 26, 2009 10 AM
APRIL 3, 2009 10 AM
APRIL 17, 2009 10 AM
MAY 8, 2009 10 AM
MAY 22, 2009 10 AM

PLEASE HAVE FAMILIES
CALL LAURA JONES AT (240)
236-3508 TO MAKE A
RESERVATION FOR A TOUR
ON ONE OF THE DATES
LISTED ABOVE.

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

Monday, October 27- "*Red Ribbon 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, October 28- "*Drug Free Pledge Stickers*" will be handed out to each student.

Wednesday, October 29- "*Wear Red Day*." Students and staff are encouraged to wear red.

National Character Counts Week:
October 20-24, 2008

This year we will be recognizing National Character Counts Week by "collecting random acts of kindness." Students are encouraged to bring in items to be included in care packages sent to our troops that are currently deployed.

In order to complete these "Care Kits", we are asking that each grade level bring in specific items. Please consider sending in the following items:

Kindergarten: *Communication/Stationary Items* (paper, pencils, pens, envelopes, stamps, International phone cards).

First Grade: *Snacks/Candy* (candy, gum, beef jerky, cookies, crackers, gummy bears, trail mix, powdered Gatorade mix). NO CHOCOLATE, please. It melts.

Second Grade: *Toiletry Items* (toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorants, shampoo, soap, q-tips, etc.)

Third Grade: *Sanitary/Personal Hygiene Needs* (wet wipes, Clorox wipes, lip balm, sunscreen, bug spray, hand lotion, hand sanitizer, etc.)

Fourth Grade: *Breakfast Items* (mini boxes of cereal, breakfast bars, pop tarts, granola bars)

Fifth Grade: *Games/Entertainment* (playing cards, paperback books, magazines, word search/Sudoku books, Nerf style balls, etc.)