



KP/KG NEWS

Kings Park and Kings Glen Elementary Schools

February 2009

A Love of Learning

Life is good for only two things, discovering mathematics and teaching mathematics."

-- Simeon Poisson



February is a month filled with so many things to love! There's Valentine's Day and mathematics...yes, *math!* Mathematics can be an exciting and fascinating subject. One of the best things you can do to help your child learn to love and understand the ways of mathematics is to let them play with it. Children will learn without realizing they're learning. Try using math toys and math games that are designed to instill a sense of number, counting, geometry, shape, and symmetry. Strategy games are fun math learning tools. Children often like books that have picture puzzles or their favorite cartoon characters in them. Books by Greg Tang, such as Math Fables, are excellent for reinforcing math strategies.

You can also help your child by giving them good, strong attitudes about math. Have fun by creating stories that involve practical math problems your child can solve. For example, count the number of red lights you stop at on a trip to the store. Use a familiar story like the three bears to play with math. You might say: Once upon a time there were three bears, ages 4, 40 and 42. Are these ages in even or odd numbers? For older children, you can involve them in home improvement projects. For example, how much money will we need to build our new deck if wood is \$1.49 per board and we need 220 boards?

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Provide a positive learning environment for your child. Most children start disliking math because their homework is too difficult. If your child is stuck at any point, help them. Let the teacher know where your child is facing difficulties. Finally, make sure to practice math facts, such as addition, subtraction, and multiplication on a regular basis. A set of easy to make flashcards can help your child learn their facts automatically.

We are fortunate that nationally renowned math expert, Tom Schersten, will work with parents and students at our February PTA meeting. Mr. Schersten will help us discover the mysteries of math and what a BLAST it can be! Please join us on February 10th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the KP cafeteria.

From the principals
Sarah Skerker
Sam Elson

The PTA Connection

Mark Crabill, PTA President (president@kpkgpta.org) www.kpkgpta.org

Your PTA dollars hard at work:

- KP Field trips
- KG Field trips
- KG Assembly
- KP Technology

FCPS 2010 Budget Concerns

To learn the latest about the FCPS FY2010 budget go to www.fcps.edu/news/fy2010.htm.

REACH is a great success again this year!

We have exceeded our budget projections of \$21,000 and are still collecting donations. A big thank you again to you to your families and friends for showing our children how much we value reading!

Bingo/Silent Auction Friday, February 27

Volunteers and donations still needed!

We will be holding our annual Silent Auction and Bingo on Friday, February 27 from 6:00 - 8:30 at KG. Help make our auction the best ever by volunteering or donating items or services. For questions or to volunteer, please contact Stephanie Turner at jasonsmom1st@yahoo.com.

Staff Volleyball

On May 1, the KP / KG Staffs will have a friendly competition Volleyball Game at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

PTA Meetings

Join us for interesting and important topics at our meetings the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are in the library at KP or KG. The topic of the January meeting was a great presentation on Internet and computer safety presented by KP and KG Technology Specialists Michelle Crabill and Eric Hardman. Check www.kpkgpta.org for information from the meeting.

- **February 10** – Topic: Hands-on and Problem Solving Approaches to Teaching K - 6 Math , Speaker: **Tom Schersten**
- **March 10** – Topic: TBA, Board Nominations
- **April 14** – Topic: TBA, Board Candidates Announced
- **May 12** – Topic: TBA, Board Elections

Great Schools have Great PTAs!

It's never too late to **join the PTA**. All members get membership in the local, state and national PTAs, a discount card for local merchants and a student directory. Membership forms are available online at: www.kpkgpta.org/docs/KPKG%20PTA%20Membership%20Form.pdf

PTA Leadership Opportunities for 2009-2010

We are looking for volunteers to fill PTA Board and Committee/Event Chair positions for next year. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Mark Crabill at mark@mcrabill.com or 703-503-3643.

For more information on the programs, events and KPKG PTA please visit www.kpkgpta.org.

Need to Know

School Board News

As you may be aware, the School Board school start and dismissal times at its w No decision has been made on changing decision, the School Board will explore members feel about such a change. scheduled the last week in February to invit share their thoughts. We invite families and that will be posted on our web site the first w

Application Process for Element

Fairfax County Public Schools offers elem Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and the Arts and Sciences. To be eligible to a grade level in language arts and math and d school behavior. Parents must complete th return the form to the Office of Preschool - Services at the Lacey Center. Applications **March 2, 2009** and sent to the Office of Eler Services.

Applications and complete details for th www.fcps.edu/DIS/OEIAS/magnet.htm, w www.fcps.edu/BaileysES. Applications Kings Park and Kings Glen offices.

Hunters Woods Elementary School for information night on February 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts a night on February 5 at 7:00 p.m.; snow da

Cafeteria Awards

Our Cafeterias Win the Bronze



We are delighted to a received Bronze certific of Agriculture's (USDA The USDA believes tha ship role in helping st choices and help decre schools to achieve s

HealthierUS School Challenge to encourage go further and recognize those schools Congratulations to our awesome cafeteria M Spriggs and Ashley Tenkerian! We're so p **outstanding Cafeteria staffs.**

Coming up

discussed the possibility of changing work session on Monday, January 15. the bell schedule. Before making a how parents, staff, and community Six community dialogues are being e families and community members to d our community to complete a survey week of February.

Elementary Magnet Schools

Elementary magnet school programs at Sciences and Hunters Woods ES for apply a student must be on or above demonstrate positive interpersonal and the appropriate school application and 6 Instruction and Library Information must be **postmarked no later than** elementary Instruction and Administrative

The lottery process are available at www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES and forms will also be available at both

the Arts and Sciences will hold an ; snow date, February 10.

and Sciences will hold an information te, February 12.

announce both school cafeterias have ation by the United States Department) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). t school should take an active leader- udents learn to make healthy eating ase childhood obesity. To encourage uch results, it has established the e schools to that do so. anagers, Lia proud of our



Dining and Dancing Through SOLs at KP

Third graders and their families will learn how to succeed on the SOLs with fun filled events beginning with an optional pizza dinner in the cafeteria, followed by SOL information in the classrooms, and culminating with dancing and singing in the gym. Mr. Blanco-Losada, Mrs. Cookson, and Mr. Tiso's classes will attend on **Tuesday, February 17**. Ms. Iovino, Ms. Moore, and Ms. O'Neal's classes will attend on **Wednesday, February 18**. Look for full details in the Take Home Folders.

Hoops For Heart at KG

On Friday, February 13, KG students will collect donations for the American Heart Association and participate in Hoops for Heart with basketball related activities during the day in their PE classes. This promotes the value of exercise and its relationship to maintaining a fit and healthy heart. Details will be sent home in the Take Home Folders.

Alliance Grant Awarded to Kings Park

Thanks to the generosity of Kings Park Exxon, located at the corner of Rolling and Braddock Roads, KP has been awarded a \$500 Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance grant. The money will be used to help fund math education. The Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide an opportunity for retailers like Kings Park Exxon to invest in the future of their community through educational grants to area schools. Thank you Kings Park Exxon!

GT Referrals

Parents/guardians of students not in the second grade screening pool may initiate the GT center screening process by completing and submitting a Gifted and Talented GT Center Referral form to the local school principal no later than February 6, 2009. **No late referrals will be accepted**. Second graders **not** in the pool and **all** third through seventh graders are screened only by referral. Forms are available at www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/connections.html or in the Parent Information Packet available at the local schools.

Recent Events

KP Inaugural Ball

Four kindergarten classes celebrated the inauguration of Barack Obama with their own Inaugural Ball.



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