

KES NEWS

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From the Desk of Mrs. Paula Bartosiak, Principal

The 2009 – 2010 school year has had a terrific start. It was a smooth opening for everyone. The children came into school knowing where to go and in most cases have transitioned nicely from home to school. The teachers have worked hard at creating very inviting classroom environments. Teachers have been gathering information on their students and are using the data to continually design and implement lessons that will help your child learn in a way that is best for him/her. You will be receiving the DIBELS test results sometime soon. This test helps our staff determine which students may need supports in the Reading and Phonic areas. These supports are provided through RTI (Response to Intervention). We have Reading Specialists and Title One Tutors who work with the classroom teachers to give the type of intervention, which is additional instruction based on the deficient skill(s), the children need to become successful learners. RTI has been a very successful intervention model and we are very fortunate to be able to provide it again this year.

We would like to remind our parents and guardians that the **Kingston Elementary School is a No Idle Zone**. Even when it gets a bit chilly out there, you are not to keep your car motors running in the front of the building. We also want to remind parents that busses begin to pull into the front of the building around 8:10 a.m. Therefore we cannot have parents or guardians dropping off students in front of the school from 8:10 a.m. and on. It is for the safety of our students, your children, that we ask your cooperation in this matter. **No Exceptions please!**

School Attendance

By now, you have read the Parent-Student Handbook. Within that handbook is the new Attendance Policy. Please review it. It is a policy the school will be following.

It is important to note that school attendance is very important for your child's success in school.

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Students need to be in school every day to stay on track. Teachers' lesson plans are carefully constructed to introduce new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, and then move on to new skills and ideas. When children aren't in school, they fall behind. The more days they miss, the harder it is for them to catch on or catch up. That's where you as the parent/guardian come in.

Schools are required to track attendance of every child in every classroom every day. It is essential that you always contact the school if your child is going to be late for school (parents must come into the office and sign their child in), will need an early dismissal or will be absent. A note is required to be written by you and sent into school if any of those these situations above occur.

When you know ahead of time your child will be missing school (illness or family emergency), give the teachers plenty of notice so they can provide your child with some make-up work to do. Be sure your child follows through. Please note that this is in no way making up what the child missed in school. What the teacher taught and the discussions held in class cannot be duplicated.

Faking It? If your child is complaining of a fever, stomach ache, or just doesn't feel well but they don't know why, it is time to do a little investigating. Talk with your child to find out why they don't want to go to school. Then contact your child's teacher to see if there is anything going on at school that could warrant faking it. Be cautious of a sick child on the weekdays who rebounds on the weekends. Something is not right and needs parental intervention. Keeping open communication with your child's teacher will benefit your child.

Vacation Plans? I know it is so tempting to pull your children from school for a family trip but it is not always the best idea. Thinking of how you are missing the crowds by taking a trip during the school year could be costing your child in the long run. First, an impression could develop that school is not important or on your top priority list. Secondly, when they miss class work, even if you ask for make-up work, they are missing many hours of instructional time each day that they won't get back.

Doctor Appointments? Try to schedule your child's doctor and dental appointments for afterschool or on weekends. It will cut down on the interruption in your child's school day.

Finally, remember to show and tell your child that attendance is important. You'll be helping them succeed, both in school and in life.

Wearing Warmer Clothing to School

We have had some spectacular weather so far. However, fall is officially here and the temperatures are beginning to dip each night. We just can't escape the fact that the cold weather is not too far behind. When the children get up in the morning, eat their breakfast, wash up, brush their teeth, and get dressed for school, there may be one more addition to that routine and that may be to put on a sweatshirt or jacket. When the children are standing waiting for the bus, it is a good idea to have a sweater or something warm for them to wear. We also try to get the children out to recess each day so again, having a warm piece of clothing to put on helps them enjoy the time outside.

KES Website

Did you know the KES has a website? Yes, we do! It gets updated, periodically, by a parent volunteer. Her name is Maria Arrowsmith. She is donating her time to help us keep up our website. A big THANK YOU goes out to Maria for all the time and effort she is giving to help out KES and KIS. However, Maria does have a full time job. So, we are looking for someone who would like to help out as well. Maybe we could work out something so that Maria can get a break now and then. If you have some talent in working on a website and are interested in volunteering to help us out on the website, please contact Mrs. Bartosiak. Thank you.

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Reminders for Physical Education

As you know already, Mrs. Magliano our Physical Education teacher likes the children to wear sneakers on the day that they have physical education. Usually, our students often wear a shoe of choice. I would like to encourage the idea of **not** having the children wear flip-flops to school. I know they are very stylish, very cute and very comfortable footwear but they are dangerous as well. Children can stub their toes going up or down stairs. The flip-flops sometimes come off their feet when they are walking. It is getting cold out there and these are not warm shoes on their feet. At recess time, it limits their physical activity and this is important to maintaining good health and as well as safety for our students. Think about it and see if you and your child can come up with an alternate footwear plan. Thank you.

Review School Rules Frequently

We have issued all of our students a handbook that outlines the school policies, procedures, and rules. Each child should have gone through the reading of the rules with a parent or guardian. It is important for parents to stress to their child the importance of these rules. It is for the safety of all children here in school and on the bus. Taking the time to periodically review them is helpful. We all need little reminders that help us to make good decisions and choices. That is what we want all of our KES students to do. Make better choices, decisions, and become a problem solver for this is the way to go. Thank you.

Here are a couple of rules that could be a conversation starter for the family when going over or reviewing the rules of our school:

- Bathroom use. (No fooling around, no throwing paper towels on the floor, no pumping soap dispenser so that the soap goes onto the floor purposely, no clogging up toilets or urinals, no locking doors of the stalls so kids have to climb under to get in, etc.)
- Hallway/Bus Lines. When traveling through a hallway or standing in a bus line there should be no touching of any other student or paper hanging on the wall. There should be no running at all and no talking in bus line, if asked by a teacher or recess aide not to talk. Generally at all times during the day, there should be appropriate behavior from the students.

The teachers, support staff and the administration of our school all want the best for each of our students.

Constitution Day Assembly

On October 1st, all students at KES participated in a Constitution Day Assembly. This is a yearly event in which we highlight some history of our country in a way that our students can understand. Second grade representatives got the honor of starting the assembly by parading in holding many American Flags. They continued on stating facts about our flag. First grade representatives spoke to the five freedoms we have as a result of the Constitution. Our kindergarten representatives held up historic pictures as someone spoke to the significance of them. The entire school together recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sung two patriotic songs. It certainly was a memorable event for all. Ask your child about it and see what they remember or thought about this assembly.

The staff at KES looks forward to working with our Kingston parents and students this year in all capacities. Thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

From the Desk of Mr. Reynolds, Assistant Principal



It is so wonderful to welcome you all back to KES! It is truly a joy each morning to greet the students as they arrive at school. For some of you riding the bus is a new adventure, while others have a couple years of experience.

Our bus drivers do a great job bringing the students to and from school. Each student has his or her own job on the bus as well, that job is to behave properly. Students should act the same way that they do in school. Remember that the bus driver has rules to keep everyone safe; always obey the driver, remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and use a quiet voice. Do not eat on the bus, not only is eating on the bus a choking hazard, but someone else on the bus may be allergic to the food you are eating.

The bus should be a relaxing time for the students to talk with their friends. Remind your child to always behave on the bus and be sure to thank your driver.

News From The Nurse

Mrs. Jody Lunn

*News from the Nurse*

Welcome Back! It seems like only yesterday we were saying goodbye for summer vacation. I hope everyone had a Healthy and fun-filled break. Just a few reminders as we begin the 2009-2010 school year:

- If you have not already returned the blue Annual Student Health Update, and/or the green Potassium Iodide Consent Form, please do so as soon as possible.
- ALL medication is to be hand delivered to the nurse by an adult. NO medication is to be sent in with a student. Please refer to the Kingston Elementary School website for any forms needed for medication to be given at school. Just click on News From The Nurse and the necessary forms are available.
- The parents in the Allergy Sensitive Classrooms have been doing a great job of sending in appropriate snacks. Just a reminder to attach an ingredient list for any snacks not in the original labeled container (just the first time the snack is sent in so it can be kept as a reference), and avoid home-made items. Thank you.
- When it comes to Birthday Celebrations, please follow the recommendations of our Wellness Policy. Fresh fruits and vegetables are best!
- HANDWASHING, HANDWASHING, HANDWASHING!!! This is the best way to prevent germs from being spread.
- Any parents seeking information about the H1N1 flu and how to keep your children healthy, should refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents/>).
- Vision and Hearing screening will begin in September for the Kindergarten Grade. First Grade will begin in October, and Second Grade in November. Watch for results to come home in your child's backpack.
- Please be sure to call me with any new information regarding your child during the school year. Nurse's Office # 781-585-5290

News From Kindergarten

Mrs. St. George



This is a busy time in the kindergarten for everyone. The children are learning many new skills. They are also learning how to understand and manage their feelings. They are learning how to make a friend and be a friend. They are also learning how to solve problems with other children. They are learning these things throughout the day in the classroom and on the playground. Just like reading and math, these areas of learning also have specific skills that need to be taught. The school psychologist visited our classrooms to kick off *Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum* that will help the children learn these social-emotional skills. Learning these skills will help the children get along with their peers and help to make the kindergarten year a more positive experience for them.

News From Grade One

Mrs. McCaffrey



The first graders in Mrs. McCaffrey's class have had a great start to the new school year. We have started right in meeting Mr. Lion again, their friend from Kindergarten and he can't believe how much they already know! Letter, sounds, and words no problem! And such good readers in our room! Of course we have met our old pal Clifford and some children have taken him home to read his book and write in the journal. Everyone will get a chance to take Clifford home. Mrs. McCaffrey was Star of the Week this past week. The children learned about her family and she brought in her favorite books and stuffed animals. We saw her class pictures from Kindergarten and First Grade! We will choose a new Star of the Week each week.. Everyone will have a turn at Star of the Week this year. Our class celebrated the beginning of Fall on Wednesday, September 23rd, with Apple Day. The children did activities all related to Fall, Johnny Appleseed, and apples!

News From Grade One

Miss Morganella



Welcome back to school and to another year of learning in first grade. The month of September has been a busy time for everyone. Miss Morganella's class has been full of excitement, adjusting to new routines and making new friends. During the first weeks of school, we have been reading and sharing many books with each other. We have read many of Kevin Henkes' wonderful books; *Chrysanthemum*, *Wimberley Worried*, *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse*. The children LOVE these books and the personal connections they can make to the characters. On September 23rd, our class had Apple Day. We explored different color apples by tasting, weighing, coloring and graphing. What a wonderful start to the school year!

Notes From The Music Room
Mrs. Mathewson



Getting To Know You....

I am teaching music at all levels from K-6 this school year. I will be seeing the Kindergarten 2X weekly and grades 1 and 2 for half the year. I'm only just beginning to get to know the 450 students I see each week at KES.

We are doing a lot of listening, laughing and learning while we're together in the music classroom. Lots of movement is added with the chants and songs as the children focus on keeping the beat to the music.

I certainly am enjoying the enthusiasm shown by so many students!

News From Grade Two
Mrs. Whittemore



In Mrs. Whittemore's class, we're off to a good start. We are meeting many new friends and have been reacquainted with old ones. We have shared our many and varied summer adventures, both verbally and in writing. In math, we are reviewing facts and working on strengthening our vocabulary. We are focusing on clue words to identify what operations we should choose and practicing different strategies to solve problems. In Language Arts, we are reviewing short and long vowel sounds, are continuing with the growth and reinforcement of comprehension skills, working on fluency skills, as well as, learning what makes up a sentence and identifying the different types of sentences. In social studies, we have begun studying map skills and landforms. Finally, in science, we will begin to explore a fun science kit that uses Legos to introduce simple machines.



Calendar of Events

October



- 1 Constitution Day Assembly for Teachers and Students
- 6 PTO Meeting, KIS, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 PTO Fall Fundraiser Ends
- 12 **Columbus Day, No School for Staff and Students**
- 13 **Professional Development Day for Teachers, No School for Students**
- 16 Fall Gala sponsored by the Kingston Educational Fund
- 19 **Term One Midterm Progress Reports go home**
School Committee Meeting, KIS, 7 p.m.
- 30 **Halloween Parade, KES, 1:30 p.m.**



November

- 3 PTO Meeting, KES, 9:30 a.m.
- 9 School Council Meeting, KES Library, 3 p.m.
School Committee Meeting, KIS, 7 p.m.
- 11 **Veteran's Day – No School for Staff and Students**
- 16-20 American Education Week
- 19 KES Thanksgiving Feast for Teachers and Students
- 25 ***Early Release Day, 12 noon dismissal for all Students***
- 26-27 **Thanksgiving Break – No School**
- 30 **Term One Ends**