

KP PTA Eaglenews



November 2011

Co-Presidents' Letter

By Debbie Attar and Michele Santy

Once again the school year is moving very quickly. We overheard a student the other day say, "Mom, why does Friday come so quickly?" We feel the same way! Dad's and Donuts was a huge success again, thanks to all those who joined us. Thanks again to the school for the excellent Curriculum 2.0 presentation and for hosting Literacy Night where we all learned how to help our kids get excited about reading. Hopefully we will see everyone at the Book Fair and Science Fair in November!

As an update on the budget...the PTA paid \$2790 for the drama artist in residence for the first grade this year. We also paid \$150 to increase the number of Accelerated Reader licenses. Once we purchase them KP owns them, but as the school population continues to grow we need more each year.

As we are all aware, KP's enrollment continues to grow each year. MCPS is conducting a feasibility study to determine the best way to accommodate this growth. We will try to keep you updated as this develops. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. In this newsletter, we have included useful information provided by Al Carr, KP Parent and a State Delegate. In addition, our cluster PTA's are focused on cluster wide capacity issues. This year we will have a Cluster News section of the newsletter where we will provide current updates. Although we are not having an official PTA meeting in November, Jennifer Lane will be presenting on gifted education at KP and MCPS. We look forward to seeing all of you at the PTA meeting on December 6th. If you have any suggestions for presentation topics please contact us.

→ NOVEMBER CALENDAR ←

1, Tue.	Picture Retake
2-8,	Candy Collection
7-11, Mon-Fri	Scholastic Book Fair
10/11,	Early Release, 1pm Dismissal Thurs/Fri Parent Conf.
16, Wed	GT Instruction Meeting, Media Center 7:30pm
17, Thurs	Science Fair, 7pm
23, Wed	Early Release, 1pm Dismissal
24/25,	No School, Thanksgiving Break HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

KP Feasibility Study

KPES currently has an enrollment of 683 students. The school's current capacity is 517 students not including the four relocatable classrooms. As many of you know, KP is in line for a feasibility study to determine if the school can be expanded to accommodate its larger student population. It is our understanding that they will consider classroom capacity as well as common area capacity, including the gym, APR, and media center.

Al Carr, who serves on the Maryland House of Delegates for District 18 and a KP parent, recently spoke with Bruce Crispell, Director of Long Range Planning for MCPS, regarding the feasibility study for capacity issues at KP for the current fiscal year. Al shared his notes with the school and the PTA Board to make sure we were all aware of the issues and process and offered to share them with the community. See below.

- The feasibility study will be staffed by MCPS Long Range Planning, MCPS Construction and an architect. The PTA will play a lead role in the process and there will be outreach to the KP parents as well as the neighborhood.
- The KP feasibility study should begin sometime after the new year. It will be completed by the end of the school year.
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- The feasibility study will look at how best to add capacity to the school. It is not a foregone conclusion that adding on is the only solution but

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 PresidentsqLetter, Calendar, Feasibility Study
- 2 Feasibility Study (cont.), Cluster News, GT Meeting, PTA Thanks and Additional Thanks
- 3 Science Fair, Eagle Fund, Candy Collection, Book Fair, On-Line Directory
- 4-5 KP School News

(Feasibility Study Cont. from Page 1)

Mr. Crispell was not aware of a recent MCPS feasibility study that did not result in an addition.

- School additions typically only add classroom space not common area space such as media center, gym, etc however there are exceptions such as Bradley Hills Elementary where the multi-purpose room will likely be enlarged.
- Additions are typically constructed while school is in operation. The feasibility study will look at the best way to phase construction but he would not expect that an addition project could be completed over a summer. Takoma Park Elementary required an unusually large addition (16 classrooms) that required the use of a holding school for one year.

In the unlikely event that an addition at KP is not feasible there are several long-term options at the cluster level that MCPS could consider to reclaim former elementary school sites including Kensington Elementary (now used as HOC offices), Alta Vista Elementary (currently leased to a private school), Ayr lawn Elementary (currently leased to the YMCA). KP is not the only elementary school in the WJ cluster with capacity issues. If MCPS were to reopen a former elementary school site, boundaries within the WJ cluster would need to be reviewed. A rebuilt Garrett Park elementary (also in WJ cluster) will open soon with a capacity of 740 students.

Cluster News

Jennifer Cope, one of our Walter Johnson Cluster coordinators and KP parent, testified on October 11, before the County Council members on behalf of the Walter Johnson PTA's as they reviewed the Kensington Sector Plan. She urged the council to look at the "cumulative impact" of the various building development plans on the whole cluster, rather than by development. (See Feasibility Study above).

Gifted Education at KPES and MCPS

Jennifer Lane, Assistant Principal and KPES GT Liaison, will be sharing information about accelerated and enriched instruction at KPES and throughout MCPS at a November 1st meeting hosted by the PTA. The meeting will take place at 7:30pm in the media center. In addition to information about gifted and talented screening and testing, Ms. Lane will provide information about the Highly Gifted Centers and Magnet programs available to MCPS students. Please join us to learn more about GT instruction.

Special Thanks from the PTA Goes To...

- **Jill Hicks** for working with ICB to rent space for every PTA activity.
- **Melissa Best, Jennifer Reed and Liz Forgione** for all their hard work developing the directory.
- **Jennifer Daymude** for hosting Dad's and Donuts with over 1200 donuts!
- **Staff from Bar-T** for providing babysitting at our meetings.
- **Jackie Linde** for donating colored paper to the PTA.
- **Jen Cope** for helping to promote Walk to School Day and always being vigilant about keeping our kids safe.
- **Jen Cope** for testifying at the County Council Meeting on behalf of the WJ Cluster regarding school capacity.
- **Leora Green, Greg Daymude and Jim Myers** for their coordinated efforts to get Pay Pal up and running.
- **Cyndi Griffin** for coordinating the After School Clubs.
- **Liz Bakakis, Barbara Liess, Susan Mackey, Maria Augustini, Kim Sapphire, Leslie Lewis, Anna Monahan, Cassie Sears, Andrew Cuming, Alayna Lynam, Elizabeth Ready and Christopher DeBoda** for their thoughtful presentation at Literacy Night.
- **All our Rooms Parents** for organizing such fantastic Halloween parties for our kids.

Additional Thanks

Have you noticed how beautiful the KPES environment has become? Many thanks to the Town of Kensington and Dunigan Landscaping for the beautiful landscaping they have provided on the hill near the school entrance and in the back of the school near our new playground equipment.

www.kppta.org

SCIENCE FAIR

Just a reminder the KP PTA sponsored Science Fair is Thursday, November 17th from 7 - 8:30 pm. The Science Fair is open to all students in grades K-4 and required for 5th graders. The application packet is due by Friday, November 4th. Also, limited quantities of science fair boards are available for purchase through the PTA for \$3. The poster board order form and the Science Fair application can be found on the PTA website for downloading or at the KP front desk. All science fair participants should bring their completed science fair poster boards to school on the morning of November 17th. Parent volunteers will be available to collect the boards as students arrive at school. If you have any questions regarding the science fair or you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Caroline King at cacking@comcast.net or (301) 897-9658.



Eagle Fund ... Together We Can Soar

Our direct-donation fundraiser is coming to a close!

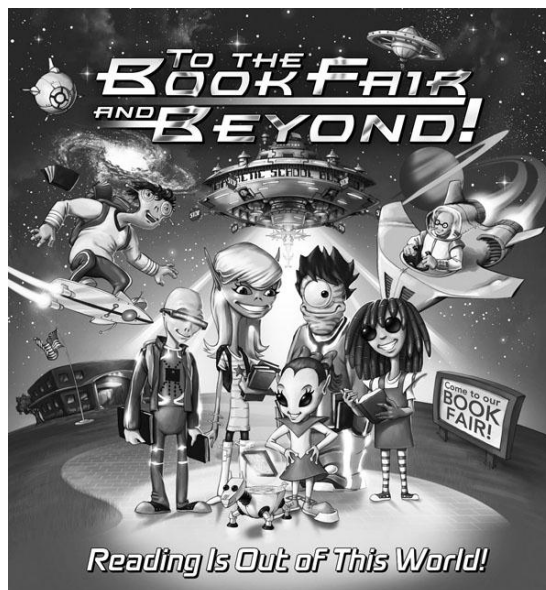
Please support the KP PTA by contributing to the Eagle Fund.

For more details, visit

www.kppta.org.

Halloween Candy Collection

Once again, we will be collecting any "extra" Halloween candy Nov. 2 thru Nov. 8. It will be donated to a local area shelter and the Fisher House which provides free or low cost lodging to veterans and military families receiving treatment at military medical centers. There will be bins set up at the upper and lower entrances. Contact Beth Krupinski at bkrupinski@comcast.net if you have any questions.



GET READY TO SHOP! SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR takes over the MEDIA CENTER
NOVEMBER 7 - 11, 2011
Hours - Mon to Fri 8:50AM - 4:30PM
(Wed, Thur 'til 6:00PM !)

Email Susan Priester at sbppp98@aol.com

to volunteer. We have MANY hours to fill and need MANY hands, so please help if you can.

On-Line Directory Information

The PTA is now proud to offer our families access to the student directory online! For this year only, the directory will be free of charge as this is our "beta" year to test out the new application. To access the directory, you can use the following link on your smartphone or computer's web browser: www.schooldirectoryupdate.com. You will need the same user name and password that you used to validate your family's student directory content. If you have forgotten your username/password, or need any assistance, please email kpdirectory@gmail.com. For more information, please visit the KP PTA website.

Also, your family should have already received their print copy of the Student Directory. If you would like to purchase additional copies for \$5, please put cash or a check payable to KP PTA in an envelope labeled "KP PTA Directory" and send to school with your student.



KP SCHOOL NEWS

Earn \$\$\$ for KP

Register your Supermarket Cards

We need you to register your Safeway and Giant cards so we can earn money for KP! Its easy and only takes a few minutes to register the cards, then every time you go to the grocery store KP earns money.

Please know you need to register your cards every year.

Please take a few minutes to register your grocery store cards:

SAFEWAY CARD

<http://www.escrip.com/>

Kensington Parkwood ID-6523486

GIANT A+ Bonus Buck Program

http://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/index

Kensington Parkwood ID-00834

Thank you for your support!

Clip Box Tops and Earn KP Cash



Earn cash for the KP PTA every time you shop for groceries. Clip Box Tops from hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10¢ for the KP PTA - and that adds up fast! Go online and visit: www.boxtops4education.com for valuable coupons!

Another way to earn cash for the PTA is by shopping online. Remember, you can help our school when you shop at these and other retailers: Target, Barnes & Noble, Nordstrom, and Lands End. Visit their website at www.boxtops4education.com. Choose the KP PTA as your designated school.

Box Tops containers are available in your child's classroom and in the front office.

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A Kennedy Center Network School— Changing Education Through the Arts

Thanks to the generous support of the PTA we are able to continue to participate in the Kennedy Center Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program. The PTA generously funds our membership in the CETA program which allows us to participate in a wealth of top level professional development opportunities. This year KPES will host the CETA class Visual Arts and Writing, taught by teaching artist Melanie Layne. Our teachers are in the process of signing up for this class, and others hosted by other CETA schools. Teachers are also enrolling in arts coaching and demonstration teaching so that they can enhance their skills at using arts integration to teach your children. We are also very excited to have two arts residencies planned for this year. Our kindergarten classes will be

working with teaching artist, Karen Bernstein, integrating dance into their curriculum. The dance residency is funded jointly by a Maryland State Arts Council grant and the PTA. Thanks to the PTA, our first grade classes will be working with teaching artist Lenore Blank Kelner, and learning new drama strategies to incorporate into their learning. These are two of the teaching artists that our Maryland Artist Teacher Institute (MATI) team worked with this summer. The MATI team of Ms. Kuchenrither, Ms. Lane, Ms. Mellott and Ms. Sears spent a week this summer with teaching artists and arts integration teachers from all over Maryland. We are fortunate to have these two teaching artists working with our students and staff this year in order to enrich student learning at KPES.

Going Green

We are striving to be “GREEN”, so this year most of our updates and school news items will be provided through our school website. Although you may occasionally receive a notice or letter in your child’s backpack, most of our information will be posted electronically and can be accessed on our school website. We will be updating information throughout the school year, so check your child’s grade level page, as well as general areas of interest

Newsletter Production

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Submissions for Eaglenews are due by the 15th of the month for consideration to be published in the following month’s newsletter.