

KP PTA Eaglenews



Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2008

News and Muse from the Principal

By Barbara Liess

The days are just flying by as we have already reached the middle of the first quarter. There are a lot of new and exciting things happening already this year. We are very fortunate to have nine seniors from Walter Johnson High School working as interns to help integrate music into instruction. Local artist Maria Barbosa is also volunteering her time to work with classes to integrate visual arts. Chiara Montecelli is with us again as our Italian teacher. She is working closely with grade-level teams to integrate Italian with the social studies curriculum.

I want to thank all of you for helping to make our arrival and dismissal process safer. I am happy to see that parents are remaining in their vehicles when using the drop-off and pick-up lane. It does require patience to wait for the line to move, but the safety of our children is worth it. Thank you – again.

I am also excited to announce that we will be having a “dinner out” fundraiser at California Tortilla on Cordell Avenue in Bethesda on Tuesday, October 21st. Please look for flyers that will be coming home. We hope to have many families join us for dinner. Please use the password “Eagles” and 25 percent of the proceeds will go directly to K.P.

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President's Message

By Susan Anderson

I often wonder which month is busier, June or September. Right now, I vote for September! Hopefully things are settling into more a routine at your houses, also. I would be interested in any comments the community might have regarding the combined September PTA Meeting and the school's “Back to School Night”. It was the first time these two events have been held on just one evening. Please email me at Sdgrmt@verizon.net. During Back to School Night, many volunteer possibilities were offered. If you missed this and would like to know more, please contact your child's teacher or Kim Saphire [Kim F Saphire@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kim_F_Saphire@mcpsmd.org). There are many opportunities throughout the school.

The September meeting was quick but informative. If you were unable to attend the meeting, the minutes are posted on the PTA website, www.kppta.org, under the header, “Document Archive”. We will post them every month, hopefully within a week of the meeting (courtesy of Debbie Attar and Leora Greene). We are aiming to be green and will not print them with the newsletter. If you do need a hard copy, there will be a few copies available under the PTA Bulletin Board in the lobby, at the next PTA meeting, and if you'd like one sent home, please email and I'll send a copy home in your child's backpack.

The weather cooperated, and the Kensington 8K Race proceeded with conditions many runners find ideal. A friend of mine from DC ran the race to humor me. But when he finished, he stopped to tell me that it was a great race and he was impressed with how well organized the whole event was. (continued, page 3)

DADS & DONUTS AND OPEN HOUSE, Monday, October 13, 2008 - 8:15-11 a.m. (Don't miss it)

Visit your child's classroom, see learning happen before your very eyes, be inspired by a teacher, play a math game! Moms and other special people are also welcome!

OCTOBER

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 7, Tuesday | PTA Meeting |
| 8, Wednesday | Walk to School Day |
| 9, Thursday | No School, Yom Kippur |
| 13, Monday | *Dads and Donuts, 8:15am, All Purpose Room * Open House – All Grades |
| 17, Friday | No School, Statewide Teacher Conference |
| 31, Friday | Halloween Parties & Parade, 2pm |

PTA Meetings

PTA meetings take place in either the KP All-Purpose Room or the Media Center at 7:15pm. Childcare for children 3 and older is provided. Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, October 7
Wednesday, November 5
Tuesday, December 2
Tuesday, January 6
Tuesday, February 3
Tuesday, March 3
Wednesday, April 1
Tuesday, May 5

Special Event Dates

(anything tentative not shown)

October 13 Dads and Donuts
November 10 – 14 Scholastic Book Fair
December 6 Holiday Bazaar

Our Field is Almost Ready!

In late September, the contractors mowed our field for a second time, applied additional fertilizer, and touched up some bare/thin areas with additional seed and soil. With the rain and cooler temperatures, there should be significant growth and filling in over the next few weeks. The re-grading of the surface and improved soil on the field has allowed for improved drainage of water, as expected. This coupled with improved maintenance over the coming years should allow for a better stand of turf. Our goal is to have the field opened by the end of October.

-- KPPTA Facilities Committee

Thanks for Your Hospitality!

The PTA welcomed our teachers and staff "Back to School" by hosting a breakfast on Friday August 22. The event was a huge success, and the PTA Hospitality Committee would like to thank the following families for their generous contributions:
Dunigan, Griffin, Knapp, Krupinski, Lafferty, Markey, Mitchell, Monaco-Kushner, Orndorff, Park, Steel, Tinsley and Woo --THANK YOU again for your help!!!

Another Great KP Presence in Kensington's Labor Day Parade

Thanks goes to Susan Williams for doing a fantastic job – year after year – organizing KP's participation in the parade. Thanks also to Bo Williams and Carleton Conant for driving the KP float and the vice principal's car respectively; and to James McDowell for unicycling for more than a mile on KP's behalf. Brian Williams and Steven Krupinski are to be thanked for carrying the KP banner; and kudos to all the cheering kids in the KP float who made the day such a success!

Easy No Work Fundraisers!

-- Don't Forget --

-- You Must Re-register Every Year! --

Here are two easy ways to raise funds for our school: Just register for either or both of these programs! We all have to buy groceries, and each shopping trip earns **CASH** for Kensington-Parkwood!

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks: Register on-line: Go to www.giantfood.com/aplus, go to the section labeled, 'If You Have a Giant Card' (Giant Bonus card). Click on 'Register Your Card', and follow the steps. Or go to kppta.org for other ways to enroll.

eScrip (a program Safeway participates in): Register on-line: Just go to eScrip.com, click on "Sign up", click on "Group ID", enter our group ID #: 6523486 and follow the steps to sign up your Safeway club card. **If you registered last year**, this year you may just click on Yes! Renew and you are set. In addition, you may also register credit and debit cards, as there are other merchants who participate in this program - just check the web site. And even more -- there is even an eScrip VISA available which gives a percentage of all your charges to KP. (You will even be assigned your own account and can see how much your shopping is contributing to our school).

See the forms at kppta.org for complete information on registration, or you may pick up additional forms outside the office and PTA meetings. Also, please encourage family and friends to register for the **programs**. If you need help registering, just send in completed forms with your child, or drop forms in the Grocery Receipts folder outside the office, or contact Leslie McDowell at 301-571-1765 or email, Leslie_McDowell@hotmail.com.

We welcome your contributions!

THE KENSINGTON 8K WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! HERE'S WHAT PARENTS WERE SAYING ON THE LISTSERV:

"A big thank you for making my day. I told (practically begged) my kids to skip the 8k and take on the 2-mile challenge instead. They had never run before, and I was sure they were setting themselves up for failure. Of course, being young and healthy, they finished with huge smiles and a wonderful sense of accomplishment. It wasn't just my children, the race was a spectacular success judging by everyone's smiles."

-- Jen Pingle

"As a parent, I greatly appreciate the visible show of support from the KP staff and teachers as they cheered on race participants. Thanks to the always amazing Jenny Smith and Mimi for their dedication and organization skills and to the many volunteers ... Finally, thank you to all of the local businesses that generously sponsored the race."

- Al Carr, Maryland State Delegate, Legislative District 18

"Thank you to all of you who helped make the race happen, either as runners or volunteers! The race obviously would not have been a success without you! Although the weather (especially the humidity) was yucky for running, we were so happy to see so many people out participating in the three races."

-- Jenny Smith and Mimi Youmans

Sign-Up for the Eaglenet Listserv!

You can get daily digests, or individual emails through Yahoo groups. Questions? contact Darin Bertram at bartram3515@verizon.net

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

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| Issue Date | Deadline |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Oct 31 | Oct 24 |
| Wed Nov 25 (Holiday week) | Nov 18 |
| Wed Dec 23 (holiday week) | Dec 16 |
| Jan 30 | Jan 23 |
| Feb 27 | Feb 20 |
| Mar 27 | Mar 20 |
| May 1 | Apr 24 |

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

It was a quick compliment, but to the point. I and the whole community give thanks to Jenny Smith, Mimi Youmans, your families and the many volunteers and sponsors who made this happen. Thousands of yummy muffins and Jay running two races!

Many people are curious about the field! We are currently still on target for the end of October. If all goes as hoped, we will be able to lead the Halloween Parade past our beautiful new **Butterfly Garden** and on to our established field! Let's keep our fingers crossed for the 31st!

Moving into October, there will be a Kindergarten Parent Coffee with Lo Dagerman on Tuesday the 7th. This will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Immediately after, we will hold our PTA meeting in the Cafe/APR beginning at 7:15. We will begin with a Parent Fair, to let you know more about the many community, student and education support activities the PTA sponsors, as well as our fundraising activities. Don't forget to bring your checkbooks for T-shirts, grocery cards and Starbucks cards. This will go until 8:00pm when Ms. Liess will give an explanation of last year's test scores and take your questions. PTA Business will include a quick presentation by our MCCPTA Delegates regarding how **local PTA's would prioritize upcoming MCPS budget cuts**. We strongly encourage parents/guardians to come fill out the survey and make their opinions known. As always, complimentary childcare will be provided beginning at 6:30 pm until the meeting's conclusion by 9:00pm.

Looking into October, on the 13th, Dads and Donuts will be followed by the School Open House. It can be very insightful to see the teachers in action **and** to see your children mixing with their fellow students. Moms and Dads are all invited. On the 31st, the kids will enjoy a classroom party, and the school-wide parade is a humorous and exciting event for all to come enjoy.

Something to think about ... at the **Wednesday** November 5th PTA meeting, we will have Bruce Crispell, an MCPS demographer, as our guest speaker. We realize this topic is much on the mind of the community and are trying to bring you the information. He would appreciate our questions in advance, as much as possible. Email Heather Tinsley (5tinsleys@comcast.net) with questions by October 22nd. She will compile and forward them to Mr. Crispell, insuring he will have the needed details ready. MCPS is just finishing its most current demographic predictions on November 1st, so the information will be "hot off the press".

Thanks to All KP Parents Signed Up as Block Parents!

Teach your children to look for the block parent signs. If they need help or want to know a safe place to go, tell them to look for the signs. Here's a list of families on area streets that have signed on to help.

Ambler: Steele, Seabreeze
Amherst: Canavan
Ashwood: Rees
Brookfield: Mallin
Calvert: Nellis
Clearbrook: Clark
Colchester: Quinn, Williams
Colfax: Orndorff
Crestwood: Radack, Borden, Wolfson, Serafini
Delmont: Flumbaum
Detrick: Flyger
Dresden: Dunigan, Heim, Chase
Edgefield: Devadas, Tamaro, Rauscher, Lafferty, Klein, Youth, Whittier
Franklin: Pingle
Everett: Lewis, Burklow
Glenridge: D. Mitchell, Santy
Matthews: Griffin, Priester
Oldfield: Kramer, Chiara
Parkwood Drive: Heaton, House, Mickel, Cope, Anderson
Parkwood Terrace: Taylor
Puller: Schwartz, Williams, Baumel
Roxbury: Neve
Saul: Zwack, Zwick, DiLima
St. Paul: Stearns, Davidson, Smith
Thornwood – Selwood, Puente
Wake: Schleifer
Warner: Hoon, Comstock, Tuncer
Washington: Lewton, Carr, Stablow, Bruch
Westbrook: Del Grosso, Ryan
Wheatley: Meyer
Wildwood: Kestel, Park
Woodfield: Finkelstein, Harris, Kosogof, Mendelson, Attar, Bobrow

Anyone still interested in becoming a block parent, please call: Jennifer Cope (301) 530-0884, or email jencope@hotmail.com for a FREE sign plus delivery.... Thank you and BE SAFE!

Wednesday, October 8th is International Walk to School Day!

Why Should Kids Walk (Or Bike) To School?

- 1) To enhance kids health: Increased physical activity can combat a host of health problems facing kids today.
- 2) To improve air quality and the environment: Replacing car trips to school with walking or bicycling can help reduce air pollution.
- 3) To promote community spirit and fun: Get out and enjoy meeting friends and get to know the people in your neighborhood.

For more information, visit walktoschool.org or saferoutesinfo.org.

Mark Your Calendar, Learn about ADHD

Kirk Martin of Celebrate Calm will be speaking on October 30th at the Leland Center in Chevy Chase. His target audience is parents who want to learn more about coping with ADHD. More details will be forthcoming.

Buy Grocery Certificates from the KP PTA!

Once again, the PTA is selling grocery certificates in the following denominations from your favorite stores:

- Giant - \$25/\$100
- Safeway –\$25/\$100
- Shoppers Food Warehouse - \$25/\$100
- Snider's - \$10/\$20
- Starbucks - \$10/\$25
- Staples - \$10/\$25

These certificates cost you no additional money, and they earn the school 4-5% for each dollar you spend!

Why should you buy grocery certificates?

- It is a spectacular, no-cost way to donate money to your children's school.
- It is an excellent means of self-budgeting.

You can request grocery certificates using one of the methods below:

- By visiting us online at kppta.org, or
- By contacting Michelle Tamaro at 301-571-8148 or at mntamaro@msn.com.

Extra Kensington 8K T-Shirts are on sale for \$6. Sizes are YM, S, M, L and XL. Contact Jenny Smith jenny.kensington@verizon.net.

