

KP PTA Eaglenews



Volume 1, Issue 1

See President's Column on Page 4!

August/Sept 2008

Welcome New Families!

Check out the KP PTA website:
www.kppta.org It will be undergoing a redesign so be sure to check back later, too!

Here is a detailed September calendar, followed by an overview of the year's meetings and events.

SEPTEMBER

1, Monday	No School, Labor Day; Kensington Labor Day Parade
2, Tuesday	Back to School Night, Grades 1 – 5, 7:00 – 9:00pm PTA Meeting
4, Thursday	Volunteer Orientation 9:15AM Media Center
9, Tuesday	School Improvement Plan Meeting, 6:30pm
25, Thursday	Individual Pictures
27, Saturday	*Kensington 8K/2M/1K
29, Monday	Early Release, 12:55pm Dismissal, Grading/Planning
30, Tuesday	No School, Rosh Hashanah

PTA Meetings

(PTA meetings take place in either the KP All-Purpose

continued on page 2

Message from Delegates

By Seabreeze and Santy
MCCPTA Delegates

Welcome Back! We, Beth Seabreeze and Michele Santy, are your new Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Association (MCCPTA) Delegates for 08-09 school year. As Delegates it is our job to serve as the link between the PTA Council and our local KP PTA. We will share information about what is happening across the school system with you and will bring your perspective to the discussions at the county level. We share our updates at the monthly KP PTA meetings and in this newsletter.

Upcoming MCPS Community Forums: Parents, staff, students and community members are encouraged to testify at two community forums sponsored by the Board of Education. Thursday, September 18, from 7-9:30 pm at Watkins Mill High School; Thursday, October, 16, from 7-9:30 pm at Albert Einstein High School. Each person will have 3 minutes to speak on the following question: "During difficult economic times, what priorities in the Montgomery County Public Schools strategic plan, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/about/strategicplan/> should we focus on for the 2009-2010 school year to improve achievement for all students?"

To sign up to testify, please call the Board of Education office at 301-279-3617 or 1-800-735-2258.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1-2** PTA meetings and events: save the dates
- 1** Message from Delegates
- 2** Cultural Programs
- 2** FLES Information
- 2** Arts integration
- 3** Sally Foster Time
- 3** Kensington 8K Goes Green
- 4** President's Column

KENSINGTON LABOR DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 (DON'T MISS IT)

Parade Route follows Connecticut Ave and ends at Kensington Town Hall. For more information, visit: http://www.tok.org/arts/labor_day_parade

Room or the Media Center at 7:15pm. Childcare for children 3 and older is provided.)

Tuesday, September 2 **meets at 7:00PM**

Tuesday, October 7

Wednesday, November 5

Tuesday, December 2

Tuesday, January 6

Tuesday, February 3

Tuesday, March 3

Wednesday, April 1

Tuesday, May 5

PTA Special Event Dates

September 4 Volunteer orientation

September 27 8K Race

October 13 Dads and Donuts

October 30 Science Fair (tentative)

November 10 – 14 Scholastic Book Fair

December 6 Holiday Bazaar

Cultural “Artz” at KP

By Jennifer Cope

The KP PTA sets aside funds for various assemblies throughout the school year providing students with experiences some may not otherwise have 'access' to. Performers that have come to KP in the past are: Nada Brahma, MD Science Center, Dixie Power Trio, Goombay -the list goes on.....

The Curriculum Enrichment program at KP brings a broad range of cultural traditions and artistic disciplines into the school to strengthen education, stimulate creative self-expression, and inspire! Most programs are 45 minutes long and are scheduled 'back to back' to include all grades. The curriculum connections include foreign language, music, science/math, theater to name a few.....

Showcases, run at the beginning of the school year, highlight artists performing their school show and is a great way to see many artists and different art forms in a short amount of time. These PTA funded assemblies travel to our school and perform for our audience, have strong educational value and exceptional entertainment and are priced with our budget in mind! Call Jennifer Cope at 301)530-0884 or e-mail: jencope@hotmail.com for further information regarding the Curriculum Enrichment Committee at KP - We're looking forward to bringing great stuff to KP, join us!

Your child can learn French or Spanish at Kensington Parkwood

By: Julie Meyers

Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) is a unique and exciting language and culture program sponsored by the PTA. Students in grades K-5 can experience the adventure of learning another language at an early age. Native speakers teach fun, lively classes during which children talk, play-act, imitate, and sing - completely immersing themselves in the foreign language.

FLES schedule information and registration forms will be sent home the first week of school – the deadline to sign up is September 12th. Please contact FLES coordinator Julie Meyers at 301-942-4969, or juliedazzles@yahoo.com with any questions

Sign-Up for the Eaglenet listserve!

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

KP Is Arts Integration

By Ellie Griffin

We are very fortunate at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School to be an arts integration school, one of the 3 first model elementary schools in Montgomery County. Our teachers have participated in various training experiences including CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts) through the Kennedy Center. They also participate in MATI, a week-long workshop held every summer at the University of Maryland, focusing on various art forms and integrating them into the classroom. In addition to classroom teachers, our arts specialists, Art teacher Mr. Riley, Physical Education teacher Mr. Komlos and Music teacher Ms. Beatty, integrate other curricular areas into their classes. Mary Whalen [Mary F Whalen@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Mary_F_Whalen@mcpsmd.org) is our arts integration specialist who helps coordinate arts integration at KP as well as works with the arts team and the classroom teachers. We are very fortunate to have visiting artists each year who come in to work with different classes and grades. Some of these experiences have included storytelling and writing of their own stories, Native American music and dance with artist Imani Gonzalez

Continued page 3

SALLY FOSTER SALE BEGINS AUGUST 26TH!

By Ranelle Bruch

The Sally Foster giftwrap and gift sales begins on the first day of school. Packets will come home with your children on August 26th. Our proceeds from last year's sale were \$12,500, and with our increased enrollment we hope for even higher proceeds this year. The catalog is great, with new paper and bags, along with many nice gift ideas. So remember the gifts for birthdays and holidays when shopping for your giftwrap and ribbons and don't forget the chocolate! Our sale will run through September 24th, and prizes will be given to individuals and classes who raise the most money for our school, along with the Sally Foster sponsored incentives.

Look for our table at the open house August 25th. I look forward to seeing you there!

THE 15TH ANNUAL KENSINGTON 8K RACE, 2-MILE CHALLENGE AND 1K FUN RUN

By Mimi Youmans

Small footprint, BIG FUN

It is with great pride we announce the 15th running of our beloved race. This year's event promises to be the best yet, with lots of new and exciting sponsors, entertainment and learning opportunities for one and all. This year's race will be an environmentally friendly event! We are focusing our best efforts on ensuring that the race is truly "green," including the elimination of plastic water bottles, a hybrid car as the 8K Race pace car, the use of only biodegradable cups at water stops and a shoe drop for recycling athletic shoes. In addition, Pepco will participate in the post race festival by hosting a booth and providing information on their green energy program. Please feel free to contact Mimi Youmans if you have any other "green" ideas!

For more information and to register for the race, go to www.kensington8K.org. Discount for early registration! For answers to questions and info about volunteer opportunities, contact Mimi Youmans at mbyoumans@aol.com or Jenny Smith at jenny.kensington@verizon.net

Green Idea: Turn off your engine while waiting for your child at KP and save 440lbs of CO2 annually!

Where has the EAGLE gone!?

By Jennifer Cope

KP alum, parent, and local Naturalist, Diane Ford had crafted a life-size Eagle for the Kensington Labor Day Parade four years ago.....Mr. Eagle rode in the '04 and '05 Parades and was held at Grosvenor 'til the 'new' KP building was finished. Thanks to Pieter Boogaerts, KP parent and local artisan, the KP Eagle now has a permanent home enclosed in a fine cabinet in the Overlook Room.

We truly appreciate and encourage all contributions from KP Parents and the use of their talents!!

Working together to keep kids safe at KP

By Barbara Liess, Principal

1) MCPS no longer allows any homemade food to be served at school. If you choose to celebrate your child's birthday with treats (store-bought), bring them to the lunchroom to be served during lunch period.

2) Parents are required to remain in their vehicles while dropping off or picking up children in the lower parking lot driveway. Patrols will help youngsters and backpacks in and out of cars. If parents choose to walk children to or from the door, they must find a parking spot in the lots or on the street.

Arts Integration

(from page 2)

and a glass mosaic with Italian artist, Santo Pizzol which hangs in the entry way of the school. Also, be sure to take a look at the beautiful mosaic mural made by this past year's fifth graders along with teaching artist Carien Quiroga, presented as a gift to the school. As I'm sure most of you are aware, each year the third graders write, produce and perform their own original opera with the culminating production near the end of the school year. You can visit the KP website to read more about arts integration. The arts integration parent group began when arts integration came to KP over 6 years ago. Our role is to support the teachers and visiting artists when they come to KP to work with the children. Please contact Ellie Griffin - spgegg@verizon.net if you would like to join the arts integration parent group. ❖

PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Anderson

Welcome and Welcome Back! I am happy to say that we are starting the school year with the last of the school's major capital improvements from the modernization underway. Many of you may have noticed the work being done on the school field, but ground is also being turned outside the second grade classrooms (field side) for the Butterfly Garden. The PTA would like to thank the Dunigan Family and Dunigan Landscaping for their efforts here. Currently we anticipate the field being ready for the school to use in early November and will keep the community posted.

Inside the school there are also some changes. We would like to join the staff in welcoming Ms. Shannon Warco to Kindergarten, Ms. Ashley Mellott to 1st grade and from our own Reading Dept Ms. Alyson Howell to 3rd grade. To replace Ms. Howell in Reading we welcome Ms. Lisa Hughes. Though there is no quiz, we encourage you all to stop by the school's bulletin board in the front entrance display case where there is a photo display showing all of KP's staff.

I hope many of you will be able to attend the annual **Kensington Labor Day Parade September 1**, where Kensington Parkwood Elementary is always represented through the efforts of Susan Williams and the Conant Family. This leads us right into our September activities and programs. First and foremost I encourage you all to **join the PTA**. This allows members to vote at meetings for issues such as the PTA budget and its officers and helps cover the PTA's costs including the ever helpful Family Directory. During the month of September, **Sally Foster will be on sale**. See the article by Ranelle

Bruch (pg 2). On Saturday **September 27th** we have the fun, green and healthful **Kensington PTA 8K Race** with a 2 mile option and a 1K Fun Run. See the article by Mimi Youmans (pg 3).

How to BE and STAY informed about KP?

There are 6 major sources of information.

1. The PTA website at www.kppta.org maintained by Leora Greene
2. The school website at www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/parkwoodes (why I love bookmarks) maintained by Susan Mackey
3. The PTA monthly newsletter (yellow in color) which comes home at the turn of the month

a combined PTA/school calendar is maintained in these to help busy families stay organized
4. The school's monthly Blue Bulletin which comes at midmonth
5. KP Eaglenet – our school listserv maintained by Darin Bartram

Drum Roll please.....

6. Monthly PTA Meetings! Our meetings are usually scheduled on the first Tuesday of the month, but due to Holidays and Elections we occasionally need to pick an alternate date. Please reference the calendar. Our meetings start at 7:15pm and end by 9:00pm. Complimentary Childcare is always offered, we do ask that the child is toilet trained. Besides monthly business there is usually a presentation. Topics are chosen based on community interests and needs.

The September meeting will be held on **Tuesday the 2nd** in the Cafeteria/All Purpose Room (APR). In past years the school has held a separate "Back to School Night" for 1st -5th grade parents/guardians. This year we are experimenting with **combining the PTA meeting with Back to School Night**. Because of this we will start the Meeting/Back to School Night at **7:00pm**. For Kindergarten Parents, the PTA business portion will be from 7:00-7:30. The PTA budget for the 2008-2009 school year will be presented and voted upon (remember to join) at that time.

I look forward to another wonderful year at KP! The place to be!

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

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Issue Date	Deadline
Oct 3	Sep 26
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

