

Thursday Packet

Principal's Message

January 24, 2008

Last week I attended the Dads' Club, ELAC (English Learner Advisory Council), School Site Council, and PTA meetings. At each meeting I gave an update on what is happening around the school and district, and answered questions from interested parents. Since only a handful of parents attend most of these meetings, I thought I'd share with you some of what we discussed:

After School Program

Our after school Math Club is set to begin around the end of January. Students (grades 3-6) are being chosen based upon last year's STAR test results and the recommendation of their current teacher. Letters will be sent home to parents within the next week.

School Mascot and Colors

We are now officially the Kensington Cougars and our colors are blue and yellow. Order forms for spirit wear and canvas totes will be sent home in a few weeks.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration continues through the month of January. If you know people in your neighborhood with kindergarten-age children, be sure they know they need to register at the school office before the end of January.

Neighborhood Portable

The third Neighborhood School portable is almost ready to be occupied. The district seems to have fixed the fire alarm problems that were an almost daily issue before the winter break.

Lunch and Yard Volunteers (Still) Needed

A great deal of time was spent at the PTA meeting discussing the continuing need for volunteers during lunch and on the yard. In addition we discussed our desire to get parents or community members to offer lunchtime activities for our students.

District Budget Conditions

Many of us have heard Dr. Harter, Superintendent of Schools, discuss the significance of declining enrollment in terms of loss of funding; in addition, we face the loss of the parcel tax money which is due to expire in spring of 2009. Add to that the Governor's bleak budget projections and the skyrocketing cost of health benefits, and we are looking at the possibility of massive cuts. More information will be publicized soon as to plans that are underway to mobilize our community to deal with these budget concerns.

Traffic Update

The police are issuing tickets for violating the recently posted turn restrictions on the streets leading to the front of the school.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- January 26 - 6th grade dance - Youth Hut
- February 5 - Election Day
- February 12 - Dads' Club Meeting 7:00
KEF Meeting 8:00
- February 13 - ELAC Meeting 5:30
SSC Meeting 6:30
- February 18-22 Winter Recess - No School

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