



Participate and Win!

Believe Campaign Continues Through March 10

A free catered lunch or breakfast for staff is up for grabs. And so is a plasma TV and a \$1,000 reward. These are some of the prizes being offered by the KCK School Foundation for Excellence to staff who participate in the Believe Campaign.

The Foundation kicked off the fund raising campaign on Jan. 22. It will run through March 10.

The KCKPS school or building with the highest percentage of pledge cards returned by Friday, Feb. 1 will receive a catered lunch or breakfast for all staff. And the school or building whose staff raises the most money overall



After the Believe Campaign kickoff rally held last week at Wyandotte High School, Neil Smith, former Kansas City Chief and co-owner of the Kansas City Brigade arena football team, spoke with students who are currently enrolled in college level classes. Here, Smith shakes hands with senior Destiny Gosten.

throughout the campaign will receive their choice of a plasma TV or a \$1,000 Foundation reward.

But there are other incentives to participate as well. Staff who contribute are eligible to win one of the following items in a weekly raffle:

- Kansas City Brigade Tickets (2)

- NASCAR @ Kansas Speedway Tickets (2)
- Apple iPod
- Apple iPhone
- Dinner for two at the Cheesecake Factory

The Foundation's goal is to raise \$1 million by 2009. For more information about the Foundation and its programs, go to www.kcksffe.org.

Courageous Conversations

Achieving Equity in Schools

By Angela Brockman, Assistant Principal at Banneker Elementary

During the past several months, **Addye Hawkins**, director of equity to close the achievement gap, invited educators to take a journey with her by having Courageous Conversations.

Courageous Conversations offers a forum to help facilitate those hard conversations regarding issues such as race which can hinder or promote student achievement.

In the past, educators' conversations focused on environmental, economic, and cultural factors of why students of color aren't achieving at the same level as their White peers. Those conversations at times were helpful, but did not go deep enough to address the core of the problem.

Courageous Conversations allow those on the journey to rethink and reflect on personal values, beliefs, biases, and to help recreate schools where every child will learn.

Although we are at the beginning of our journey, my experience with Courageous Conversations has had a positive effect on how I look at students, build relationships with them and get to know our families and communities. Most of all, it has helped me to get rid of excuses for why children aren't learning, and I am doing everything that is possible to
(Continued on back)

Building Report Cards Online

2006-2007 Building Report Cards are now available for viewing on the district web site (at www.kckps.org/reportcards/).

The report card is a brief summary of how a school and students are performing and the impact of the school's improvement plan. Over time, the report card can be used by parents to monitor the progress of a school toward meeting established goals. However, the report card is not designed to be used to compare one school to another.

The Kansas State Board of Education has established the building report card as another tool for accountability in the school improvement process.

Wyandotte Has Highest Response Rate

Educators Encouraged to Complete KSDE Survey

There's still time to complete the Kansas Teaching, Learning & Leadership (KAN-TeLL) online survey. The Kansas State Department of Education is conducting the survey to privately and anonymously seek out details from teachers, principals and school-based licensed educators on issues that impact how students learn. It includes

**Deadline is
February 11**

questions on overall working conditions, time, decision-making, professional development, and facilities and resources.

Go to www.kantell.com to complete the survey between now and Feb. 11. Staff must

use a personal security code to access the survey; the security code is available from school principals or can be accessed by calling toll-free 1-866-575-8010 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; or e-mail kantellhelp@ksde.org.

Schools and districts with a 40 percent response rate will receive a report of their results. As of January 30,

KCKPS had recorded a 12.34 percent response rate for the district as a whole. The school with the highest building response rate so far is Wyandotte High School, at 39.53 percent. Staff can keep track of a school's response rate by going to www.kantell.com/response_rate/.



Remembering Dr. King...

Northwest Middle School students attended a Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration last week at Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Mo. They are shown here participating in a "mock protest."

KCK Students Receive Debate Honors

Several students from the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools received top 10 recognition at the City Championship Tournament for DEBATE Kansas City held January 11 and 12 on the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

In the Novice Top Ten Speakers division, Washington High School students took three spots: Olivia Moore, junior, placed first; Rashane Hamby, junior, placed sixth; and Talore Hood, junior, placed ninth.

In the Novice Team Debate division, Hood

and Hamby took first; and Moore teamed up with a student from University Academy High School to place third. Washington's Marissa Smith and Tysha Sykes, sophomores, placed 10th.

Another Washington student, Oscar Whitmore, junior, placed seventh in the Student Congress division.

Sarah Sanderson, 8th grader from Eisenhower Middle School, placed 12th in the Super Session for Middle Schools.

Retirement Reception



Staff are invited to attend a Retirement Reception honoring Marianna Willis from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10 at the Providence YMCA/Ball Family Center, 8601 Parallel Parkway.

Conversations

(Continued from front) make sure that they do learn.

My hope is that all of us will be a part of the journey that will keep us focused by using strategies to help guide conversations at the building level, so we can help close the achievement gap in our district.



STAFF NOTEBOOK

is a weekly publication for employees of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. Submissions are welcome and should be directed to:

Susan Enloe
Communications Office
625 Minnesota Ave
Kansas City, KS 66101
Fax (913) 279-2085
suenloe@kckps.org

