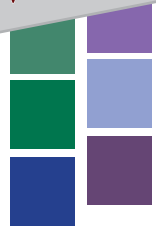


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District's Annual Summer Reading Achievers Program Kicks Off May 1



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STAFF NOTEBOOK

News for Employees of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools



The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) kicks off its annual Summer Reading Achievers Program on Thursday, May 1. The program promotes reading to enhance academic achievement and to prevent fall off of reading skills during summer vacation.

Students who participate and log their reading during the summer will qualify for a number of prizes including certificates of achievement, books, string bags, special t-shirts and even lunch with the superintendent.

"I don't know who enjoys these lunches more, the students or me," said **Dr. Jill Shackelford**, superintendent of schools. "It's so inspiring to meet with students who enjoy reading as much as I do!"

Reading Logs Are Available Online
at www.kckps.org/reading/

Prizes will be awarded according to reading accomplishments. Students who accomplish the highest level of "achievement" will qualify for drawings for prizes including movie tickets and a limo ride to dinner and a movie with the superintendent.

Students may log their reading on their own paper, on district reading logs or online at www.kckps.org/reading/.

Fliers which outline achievement levels and prizes will be posted on the district website and will be available from school librarians.

Another incentive for participation in the program is that books read for the school district program can also double as books read for the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library's (KCKPL) Summer Reading Club. KCKPL will host several summer reading events. Information about these programs can be found on their website, www.kckpl.lib.ks.us/.

Studies show that most summer readers increase their reading levels, and therefore, their overall school performance. Students' continued reading throughout the year is imperative to reaching the district's 2010 goals.

Reasons to Believe Gala



There's still time to purchase tickets for the 2008 *Reasons to Believe* Gala. The event is set for Friday, May 9 at the Rendon Convention Center. The social hour and silent auction will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 6:30 p.m. The deadline for reservations is Thursday, May 1.

Tickets are \$55 for individuals, \$100 per couple and \$500 for a table of 10. Call **Keith Jones**, (913) 279-2091 for more information.

Elementary Music Festival

The annual KCKPS Elementary Music Festival will be Monday and Tuesday, May 5 and 6 at the Kansas City Kansas Community College Fieldhouse. Identical programs will be performed each night, with half of the elementary schools on Monday, and the other half on Tuesday.



Nearly 600 string musicians, 400 singers, the All-City Honor Orchestra, All-City Children's Chorus, and the KCK Harp Ensemble will showcase their talents for parents, teachers, principals, and friends. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are fifty cents and may be purchased at any elementary school office.

Important Note to All Staff Dismissal Time Changed on Last Day of School

The last day of school for KCKPS students and staff is Wednesday, May 21. The day is a half-day for students and a half-day records prep for staff. Students will be dismissed four hours early to allow staff a complete half-day of records prep time. Breakfast will be served for students, but lunch will not.

The exact dismissal time for schools will be as follows:

- High Schools: 10:20 a.m. dismissal
- Sumner Academy: 11:05 dismissal
- Middle Schools: 10:55 a.m. dismissal
- Fairfax and FLC: 10:55 a.m. dismissal
- 8:30 Elementary Schools: 11:30 p.m. dismissal
- 9:00 Elementary Schools: Noon dismissal

Principals should notify parents via the Phone Master system to confirm the change in the regular schedule.

News from the Board of Education

At its meeting on Tuesday, April 29, the Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education:

- Recognized April students of the month: Dulce Mayorga-Mejia from Lowell Early Childhood Center; Michael Zamora from New Stanley Elementary School; Manuala Arambula from Central Middle School; and Joshua Newbill from Wyandotte High School.
- Heard a report on proposed policy changes regarding eligibility for interscholastic competition at the middle and high school levels. The Board requested a committee, comprised of

students, administrators, athletic directors and Board members, form to make recommendations to update the policy. The Board asked the committee to continue working on the policy changes and to return with another report at a future meeting.

- Heard a report on the electronic databases available for use by patrons and students of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. A library card provides access to these databases that include biography resources, national and international newspapers,

encyclopedias, world news digests and much more.

- Approved the use of the district's high schools and Argentine Middle School for 2008 Summer Sports Camps.
- Approved a non-binding letter of intent with LADCO Development entering the district into a planning and facility discussion for a specific facility to replace the Education Center Preschool. The proposed site would be on the southeast corner of 55th and State Avenue.



Year-End Concert Set at Washington

The Washington High School Mixed Chorus and Chamber Singers will present their final concert of the year at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 8 in the school auditorium.

Awards will be presented at the concert and a reception will follow.

The choirs are directed by **Laurie Powell** and accompanied by **Terry Foster**.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Reservations Due for Retirement Banquet

The district's annual Retirement Banquet is set for 6 p.m. Friday, May 16 at the Reardon Convention Center. The banquet is a time set aside to recognize staff who are retiring from the district this year, and to thank them for their years of service.

All retirees are invited and may bring a guest. Additional

guests may attend for \$22. Reservations are due by Friday, May 9 and may be e-mailed to **Gerri Skaggs**, geskagg@kckps.org.

Reservations must include the name of the person attending and a daytime phone number. For more information call (913) 279-2242.

Retirement Celebrations

- Noble Prentis Elementary School will honor **Sharon Barnett** with a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 1 in the school gym.
- Retirees **Marsha Cowan**, **Nancy Norris** and **Patsy Jones** will be recognized at a retirement reception set for 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, May 1 in the Eisenhower Middle School library.
- Arrowhead Middle School will be honoring Cafeteria Manager **Alberta (Bert) Zink** at a retirement reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, May 9.



Thank You School Nurses

Wednesday, May 7 has been designated as National School Nurse Day by the National Association of School Nurses. It is a time to acknowledge school nurses for their role in enhancing the educational process for students by helping them to meet their healthcare needs. School nurses conduct health screenings, and health education and prevention programs. Thanks to our dedicated school nurses!

Jumping Rope for Heart Health

Heart healthy 2nd through 5th grade students at Frank Rushton Elementary School raised a total of \$1,000 during their annual American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart program. PE Teacher **Ted Rusovick** has been overseeing the program at the school for 16 years.

National Teacher Day is May 6

May 6 is National Teacher Day, a time to honor local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to the lives of our students and our community. The theme for this year's celebration is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools."



STAFF NOTEBOOK

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

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