

Kingston Elementary School October 2017 Newsletter



From the Principal-

Kingston Elementary School's theme is "TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More!" The hallways and classrooms are full of sport themed decorations. I want to thank all of you that came to our open house. We had a wonderful turnout. It is always great to see the families of our students.

Much of KES is new this year with the addition of Early Childhood, Kindergarten and First grade. We do have one new staff member, Mrs. Jackie Marks, a Second grade teacher. This is her first year teaching, however, she has been a substitute teacher and also taught summer school. She lives in Genoa with her husband and son. We are so happy to have her as part of our staff. We also have several new Education Support Personal (ESPs).

During the month of September, our students were assessed in the areas of Math and Reading on the computerized MAP tests. They were also individually assessed using AimsWeb for reading fluency, as well as, math through the MCOMP for first and second grade. The teachers then benchmarked the students using the Next Step in Guided Reading Assessment kit for determining reading accuracy and comprehension for independent and guided reading levels. All of these tests give us start of the year academic information so that we can measure growth throughout the school year. These evaluations, along with teacher input, also help in determining students who would benefit from additional support or enrichment.

On another note, please make sure your child is dressed for this northern Illinois weather. Students must have a jacket/sweatshirt if the temperature is below 65 degrees. Along with this please make sure your child has gym shoes for gym days. I would suggest keeping a jacket and gym shoes in your child's locker or cubby just in case.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me anytime at 815-784-5246 or by email at shill@gkschools.org

Thank you so much for your support!
Stefanie Hill, Principal

Please like us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/KingstonElementarySchool
and follow us on Twitter: @kescogs





Early Childhood Newsletter - October
Teacher: Ms. Maddi

HAPPY FALL!

It is hard to believe that 1st quarter is almost done! Time flies when you are having fun, and we have lots of fun in EC! We have been very busy learning the classroom routines and expectations, as well as learning how to play with our friends.

AM CLASS

The AM class loves going to the playground and our daily music & movement sessions! We also love Play-Doh, Mr. Potato Head, and puzzles.



PM CLASS

The PM class loves gym class and centers! The students have done a great job using their listening ears during our practice tornado, fire, and lock down drills!





Kindergarten News



Welcome to Kindergarten

Thank you for attending Kindergarten orientation. Your attendance has facilitated your child's adjustments to the routines of kindergarten. We enjoyed meeting the children and their families. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.



The kindergarteners have worked hard learning Kingston's rules; **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe**. Ms. Hale helped us learn how to be respectful, responsible, and how to be safe while using the new awesome playground equipment during recess. In addition, we learned that each and every one of us has a "Turbo Button" that we can "hit" when things get tough. We learned to replace the words "I can't" with "I can't now, but will try my best". We also learned the Kingston School Promise and recite it each morning along with the Pledge of Allegiance;

Today I will make good choices.

I will be, respectful, responsible and safe.

I will do nothing but my best.

I will use my turbo button..

Many of us read, The Kissing Hand, by Audrey Penn. Chester the raccoon was a bit nervous and scared as he started school. Chester's mother had a special way of helping Chester feel more comfortable going to school. Be sure to ask your child what Chester's mom did.

Reminders

- Discuss your child's lunch choice so they can **independently** do lunch count each day. They need to know if they are a "Lunch from home (*cold lunch*)" or if they are having A, B, C or D "School Lunch".
- Pack **TWO** healthy snacks, **separately** from your child's lunch.
- The first bell rings at 7:45. Children are not allowed access to the building until the bell rings. Please plan your drop off time accordingly. *Reminder; School Street is Northbound only, during school hours.*
- Homework should be completed and returned by Friday or the last day in the school week. Be sure to attach any completed work with the homework sheet. Don't forget student's name on all work turned in.
- Rest towels are sent back to school on Mondays and are sent home to be washed on Fridays.
- **PARENT VOLUNTEERS** (*from Kingston Handbook*)
Parents are appreciated and highly encouraged to volunteer for activities at Kingston, either in their child's classroom or the building in general. Often there may be tasks that can be completed at home to assist teachers. All volunteers must present a valid driver's license or state ID to have them reviewed via the RAPTOR

system. No admittance will be granted unless a review takes place. VISITORS PLEASE BE AWARE THAT TAKING PHOTOS AT SCHOOL AND SHARING THEM VIA SOCIAL MEDIA SITES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. All visitors will be requested to wear a visitor's sticker while in the building. We greatly appreciate your involvement at Kingston Elementary School.

Music

We are off to a rockin' rhythm start this year in Music!

Second grade is taking off with concert music! We are practicing our instruments, writing music and getting ready for our concert, December 14th, 2017.

First grade is reviewing and learning rhythms all the way to sixteenth notes! We are using our new found talents on boom whackers and drums. We are also enjoying making new rhythms with manipulatives and maybe even with ipads soon.

Kindergarten is learning how Music works and how to properly use our classroom instruments. We are having a blast learning about rhythms as well!



First Grade October Newsletter

We have been very busy doing reading, phonics, and math. Guided reading groups have started. Children apply their phonics skills to their writing through the Jolly Phonics program. We have been working on addition and subtraction in math.

We will be working on reading comprehension strategies. Specific comprehension strategies will be taught through the use of read-aloud books. A great way to help your child with this is to ask him or her questions about what they have read.

Snack time is very important. Please continue to pack one HEALTHY snack for your child each day. A snack can be fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, cheese, nuts, popcorn, or crackers.

Please continue to have your child read at least 15 minutes five times a week. Thank you for all your support.

It was great to meet all of you at Open House. Thank you for your cooperation with our many requests. We look forward to working with you to make this a very successful year for your child.



SECOND GRADE NEWSLETTER



Many 2nd graders struggle with math facts. It is important for you and your child to make or purchase addition/subtraction fact cards. Practice should be done at home to help your child memorize these facts. Continue to expect math homework almost daily. Please go over your child's homework and help with difficult concepts. Remember your online resources: www.pearsonrealize.com and www.xtramath.org.

Have you visited these websites or apps at home for extra practice?

- # <http://www.factmonster.com/>
- # <http://www.aplusmath.com/>
- # <http://www.aaamath.com/>
- # <http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>



- # Teach Me 2nd Grade
- # Math Blaster HyperBlast 2
- # Math vs Zombies
- # Motion Math: Hungry Fish

Please check your child's binder daily. Remember to look at the agenda book and folder. Some of the pages can be cleared out and left at home. You will find homework, graded papers, spelling lists, and notes from the office or your child's teacher in this folder. **Please initial or sign the agenda and homework so we know that you have checked it.**



A healthy snack is recommended. Thank you for sending snacks such as:



- Fresh fruit
- Crackers
- Granola bars
- Raisins



- Raw veggies
- Cheese
- Popcorn
- Pretzels

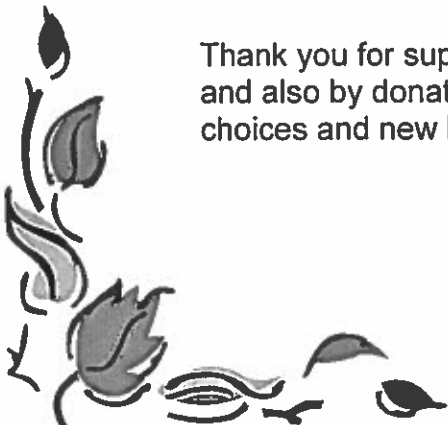


Remember fruit rollups, Pop Tarts, gummy fruits, chips, cookies, or sugary cereals are not considered healthy snacks. Please do **not** send snacks that require a spoon.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Open House! We enjoyed meeting and visiting with you. We also look forward to meeting with you during November Conferences. If you did not set up a conference time yet, please contact your child's teacher or the office so you can schedule one.



Thank you for supporting the PTO Book Fair by purchasing books for your child and also by donating books to our classrooms! Students love to have a variety of choices and new books are always a big hit.





Building Readers

Mrs. Whittenhall, Reading Specialist

October 2017

pwhitten@gkschools.org 815-784-5246, ext. 8110
Title I funding is supplied by the US Department of Education

Reading Connections

More Than Sound-it-Out!

Learning to read can be a tricky business. So many words do not follow the rules and sounding words out letter by letter can be long and difficult. Instead, help your child with these guidelines:

Get Your Mouth Ready: Make the beginning sound of the word, This might be a single letter sound or a blend (sp, cr, gl) or a diagraph (th, sh, ch).

Look for Clues: Use the picture to get ideas for what words might be in the text. Sometimes we call this a picture walk.

Check for Chunks: Look for the commonly used chunks that we see in many words (an, up, et, ick, ame, oat). These patterns help us read and recognize words quickly.

Does it Make Sense?: Whatever we read should make sense and sound like a real word (unless it's a Dr. Seuss book!). Reread it if it doesn't make sense.

Fun with Words

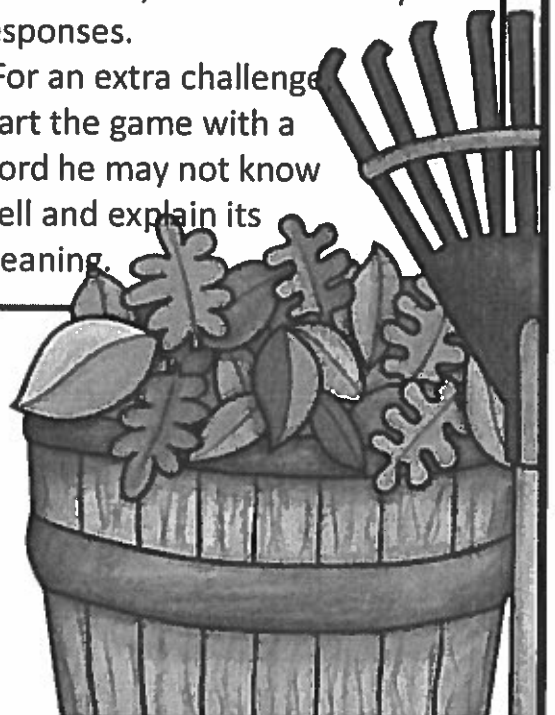
Boost your child's vocabulary with a word association game. You say a word and he replies with the first word that pops into his head. If you say "cold," he might say "hot", "winter" or "ice". Encourage him to come up with words quickly without too much thinking. Next, use his answer, and see how quickly he can come up with another. See how long you can keep the chain going.

Afterwards, discuss both of your responses.

*For an extra challenge start the game with a word he may not know well and explain its meaning.

Picking a Book

Most children's picture books are above your child's reading level, but can make great read-alouds. Finding a series of books your child is interested in will help them read more books in the series. *Elephant and Piggie* books are perfect for first grade, *Fly Guy* and the *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* series are great for



Important Dates

October 4th ~ 1:45 Release

October 6th ~ Teacher Institute Day (no student attendance)

October 9th ~ No School- Columbus Day

October 11th ~ 1:45 Release

October 13th ~ PTO Fun Fair (GKMS)

October 18th ~ 1:45 Release

October 19th ~ Report Cards Go Home (1st and 2nd Grades)

October 24th ~ Picture Re-takes

October 25th ~ 1:45 Release

October 27th ~ 1:45 Halloween Parade

October 27th ~ 1:45-2:45 Halloween Parties



Lunch Times

Kinder 11:30-12:15

1st 10:50-11:35

2nd 12:10-12:55



Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather!



Please send your child with a snack!



Please Save:

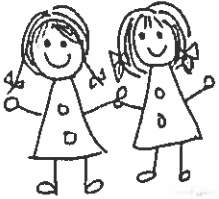
- *Aluminum can tabs*
- *Box Tops*

IF YOU ARE CALLING TO CHANGE HOW YOUR CHILD IS GOING HOME PLEASE CALL BY 2:15. THIS ENSURES THEY GET THE MESSAGE.

THE PBIS POST

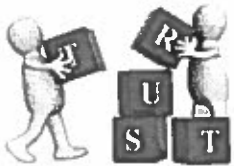


Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe



August & September

Each month our school will focus on a different character trait. Friendship was our theme for the first two months of school. Ask your child to describe what a true friend is to them. Let them know that a friend should listen to them, be honest with them, and be there for them in good times and bad. Explain how true friends should help each other make good choices. Teach them how being kind can help others who may be facing something difficult in their lives to feel cared for and understood. The child who looks out for others makes for a positive, strong and respectful leader.



October

During the month of October, KES will focus on being trustworthy. This is an important character trait for students to exhibit. Having the courage to do the right thing and being reliable are important parts of trustworthiness. Students are asked to do their very best to keep promises and be someone who can be counted upon to do what it is right. A trustworthy person would never purposely hurt someone with unkind words or actions. Ask your child if he/she can be counted upon, give them opportunities to show that they can be trusted, and reward them when they are honest, reliable, showing integrity, and being loyal.



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THE PBIS POST

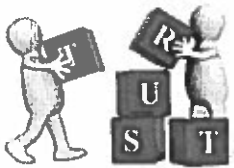


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THE PBIS POST



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Congratulations to our KES students who exhibited the FRIENDSHIP trait in August and September! These students were honored on our bulletin board outside the office in the main hall. Every month two students from each class will be honored on our character counts bulletin board. Encourage your child to keep up the hard word!

FRIENDSHIP TRAIT WINNERS

E.C.

Carson F.

Kindergarten

Michelle H.

Nash B.

Adyson L.

Anthony B.

Isabella J.

Nathan R.

Claire P.

Asher G.

1st Grade

Alex T.

Gage C.

Emma K.

Grayson A-M.

Grace H.

Truman B.

Mia P.

Braylon H.

Brooke A.

Chace F.

2nd Grade

Angelina L.

Gavin K.

Trinity B.

Matthew N.

Elizabeth B.

Brandon P.

Mayra M.

Nathan H.



CALLING ALL CREATIVE MINDS!

* The PBIS committee is looking for volunteers who are willing to donate their time, talent or resources this year to help us with all-school boosters. We want to make these rewards fun and engaging for students. One idea as an example, "explorer day" where students can rotate or pick activities that they are interested in such as sports clinics, finger-knitting, braiding, etc. In the past, we have done Wii dance parties, all-school movies, outside activities, traveling planetarium, etc. Got an idea? We would love to hear it! Email either kcampbel@gkschools.org, shale@gkschools.org, cpacheco@gkschools.org, or kbrauer@gkschools.org.