

Kennedy Middle School Newsletter

March 19th, 2007

Upcoming Events

3/19 - 3/22	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice (moved from April 3 rd)
3/26 - 3/30	Spring Vacation
4/2	Staff Development Day / No School for Students
4/2 - 4/4	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
4/3	Classes Resume for Students and Staff
4/5	4:30 pm -> Track Meet - Kennedy vs. Monroe @ SHS
4/6	Deadline for Parents to Choose / Notify Schools
4/9 - 4/11	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
4/10	Churchill Scheduling Team to Kennedy
4/11	Churchill Transition Kennedy Registration Make Up Day
4/12	4:30 pm -> Track Meet - Kennedy vs. Kelly @ CHS
4/13	No School for Students / Mid-Semester Progress Reports
4/16 - 4/18	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
4/19	4:30 pm -> Track Meet - Kennedy vs. Spencer Butte @ CHS
4/23 - 4/25	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
4/24	7:00 pm -> Welcome to Kennedy Night / Incoming 6 th Graders
4/25	12:00 pm -> Early Release - Staff Development
4/26	11:00 am -> Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
4/26	4:30 pm -> Track Meet - Kennedy vs. Jefferson @ CHS
4/27	6:30 - 8:30 pm -> Activity Night
4/28	Boosters Annual Kennedy Garage Sale (Time TBA)
4/30	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
5/1	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
5/2	12:00 pm -> Early Release
5/3	4:30 pm -> Sub Districts Track Meet @ CHS / Kennedy to Host (1:00 pm Field Events, 3:30 pm Running Events)
5/4	Pride Trip #4
5/7	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
5/8	7th and 8th Grade Multicultural Awards
5/8	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
5/9	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
5/10	3:40 - 5:00 pm -> Track Practice
5/11	12:00 pm -> Early Release / Progress Reports
5/11	District Track Meet @ Hayward Field (1:00 pm Field Events / 3:30 pm Running Events)

Welcome to Kennedy Night

On April 24th, incoming 6th grade parents are invited to attend an open house from 7:00 to 8:15 pm in the Kennedy Library. The program will include a performance by the Kennedy beginning (current 6th grade) band, followed by a chance to meet our administrators and 6th grade teaching team. A chance to hear from our 6th grade student panel of experts will be followed by presentations from our Kennedy Boosters, parent volunteers and our Next Level after school program. The last portion of the program will include questions for our students and staff.

Kennedy School Tour for 5th Grade (Incoming 6th Grade) Students

On June 1st, from 9:15 to 10:30 am, McCornack 5th graders will be lead on a tour of our school by our 6th grade leadership students. Also, on June 12th, from 9:00 to 10:00 am, incoming Twin Oaks students will be lead on a tour of our middle school. Families who will be attending Kennedy and live outside our attendance area are welcome to join in on either tour date.

Spanish 2 Trip to Woodburn

This year, Spanish 2 students had the opportunity to go on a field trip to Woodburn, Oregon. Why Woodburn? Because Woodburn has a large Latino population with a long history in this area. Latino families began moving to Woodburn many years ago to work in agriculture, and many families have now been there for generations.

This was an amazing cultural and language immersion experience for our Spanish 2 students. Once we were in downtown Woodburn, the students realized that they needed to speak Spanish everywhere! We went on a scavenger hunt, and shopped in all sorts of stores; a meat market, a bakery, a tortilla factory, a grocery store, a wedding dress store, and more. We also ate in a popular restaurant where we received a guitar serenade. Everyone greeted us with great kindness, and helped us work on our Spanish skills and learn new words.

Band News

The Intermediate and Advanced Bands performed at four elementary schools in March. Hopefully we inspired many future musicians to participate in our program.

Many students lose interest in playing their instruments after the initial excitement wears off. I urge you to have them stick with it. More and more, our culture is fast and electronic. This makes experiences like playing an instrument even more important (and challenging to stay the course). The benefits of continuing to play are many; it develops discipline, builds confidence and self esteem and is an excellent form of self expression. I believe playing an instrument is much like skiing; the better you play, the more fun you can have.

Here are some music education statistics:

- Students who were exposed to music-based lessons scored a full 100% higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner. (Neurological Research)
- A study of 7,500 university students revealed that music majors scored the highest reading scores among all majors including English, Biology, Chemistry and Math. (Phi Delta Kappa)
- Music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school. (Lewis Thomas)
- Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs among any group in our society. (United States Senate)

Thank you so much to all the families and friends who either donated or supported the fundraiser... it was quite successful!

Musically Yours,

Charlene Decker

What is Crusader Ultimate?

It's the name of our Ultimate Frisbee team. Ultimate Frisbee - Ultimate for short -- is a fast paced sport that takes not only athleticism, but intelligence and strategy, thereby allowing a place on the field for players with all kinds of skills and talents. Ultimate allows for fun and competitive sport that greatly encourages team work and a high level of fair play also known as Spirit of the Game. Unlike every other sport that relies on the officiating of a referee, Ultimate places the responsibility of fair play on the players themselves which in turn gives great opportunity to develop positive character.

This spring, we plan to field a team again from many who came out this fall. We are in a rebuilding year after graduating half our team last spring. Last fall our team had fun participating in Cold Fusion with both HS teams and a MS team from Alameda, CA. A few of our players also had the opportunity to play on the Eugene All Star Team at Turkeybowl in late November. This spring we will have two tournaments for all players and another All Star option in late May.

General Information:

- * Ultimate will practice two days a week (Tuesdays & Thursdays) from 3:45 - 5:00pm.
- * All students are welcome to participate and all students will get the opportunity to play in competitions (games & tournaments).
- * There is a \$35 fee for all players. Scholarships are available. For players who did not play this last fall, there is an additional cost of \$30 for a light and dark jersey. All fees can be written out to: Kennedy Middle School and turned into the front office.

Dates to Know:

- * Tuesday, March 13th - Practices Begin (every Tuesday / Thursday)
- * April 20th – 22nd - Spring Reign Tournament in Burlington, WA
- * April 28th - OMSUC State Championship in Eugene, OR
- * May 19th & 20th - OHSUC HS State Championship in Corvallis, OR (All Star Team Only)

Calendar of Events (including regular season match-ups with RMS) will be available on the KMS Ultimate website: www.chsultimate.com/kms.html

Parents:

Crusader Ultimate is looking for parents who would like to help with organization this year. We need to create a new core group of parents who are interested in helping plan transportation, fund raising, trips, and many other aspects of the team. Without our parent core group we would not have been able to do all we did last year. Nearly all the parents from last year have graduated on with their kids and we need your help. If you are interested in helping please contact Luke Johnson.

Contact Information:

* Luke Johnson, Oregon Youth Ultimate Coordinator

Phone: (541) 221-3023 • Email: luke@chsultimate.com

News from Ms. Burrow's Classroom

Ms. Burrow's students had a friendly bowling tournament with kids from Cal Young and Madison Middle Schools at Strike City on March 1st. The students represented Kennedy well, all wearing PRIDE t-shirts. They were mighty bowlers, but Madison's players knocked down the highest average number of pins, so the Kennedy team took home the trophy for School Spirit. Cal Young's team exhibited the best display of Sportsmanship in this annual tournament. We will try to go for the "gold" again next year!

On March 7th, the class hosted an open house to showcase their knowledge in science and technology. Each student created a Key Note slide presentation about a scientist, inventor or invention of personal interest and shared their research with family and friends who attended the event. They received high praise for their ability to produce such professional-looking slide shows, complete with graphics and sound effects, and for their confidence and composure during the oral presentations. There were also demonstrations of marble tracks and catapults that students built.

Wanted

Small hand held games, decks of cards, or other individual player games. Perhaps your student has upgraded, or no longer uses any of the items listed above. Or...maybe you just want them out of the house. If so, Ms. Michelle, our Behavior Support Specialist, can put them to good use. Please consider donating them.