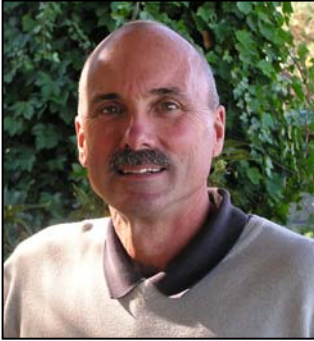


# Kennedy *Chronicle*

## **Dear Kennedy Students, Families and Community,**



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2007-2008 school year. As always, we will continue to create a safe, warm and stimulating environment for our students. I also want to welcome our new 6th grade parents and encourage all of you to get involved in your child's education by volunteering in our school.

The academic success of all students is our number one priority. Our partnership between home and school continues to be strong. Our academic program continues to show improvement and growth. We are fortunate to have wonderful students, great staff members and caring parents. This combination, coupled with hard work and continuous improvement, has made Kennedy Middle School one of the top middle schools in the state of Oregon.

More and more, Kennedy Middle School is relying on email to keep you informed about school events. If you have not yet signed up for our listserv, I urge you to subscribe. It's the best way to keep informed about school events and activities. Our newsletters are now going out both as a "hard copy" and via email. If you do not receive an email version of our newsletter, we likely do not have your current email address. If you would like to receive information via email, you may contact me at: [smith\\_ch@4j.lane.edu](mailto:smith_ch@4j.lane.edu).

We are so proud of our students and staff and we wish all of you a happy and healthy school year.

**Sincerely,**

**Mr. Smith, Principal  
November 2007**

## Band News!

Music is flying out of the band room at Kennedy. Our 77 beginning band students are playing four notes now! These new musicians are off to an excellent start and are a joy to work with.

Practice is an important part of the musical experience. Consistent home practice is the most important key to success. Parent-signed practice cards are due at the beginning of each week and make up 20 percent of the band grade. Private lessons are an excellent motivator for kids; if interested, please email Char at [decker@4j.lane.edu](mailto:decker@4j.lane.edu) for names of music teachers. Students are encouraged to practice after school any time.

### Upcoming Band Events:

**Dec. 4:** Our advanced band will be performing in Portland at the Zoo Lights event.

**Mid-December:** Look for our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders performing at Gateway Mall.

**Dec. 13:** All Bands Winter Concert, 7 p.m., main gym

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## Visitor Check-In

When entering the campus during office hours, you must stop first in the main office to check in with our school secretary, Karen Antonini. This rule is for the safety and well being of all students attending Kennedy Middle School.

## Kennedy Cultural Fair Update

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007. The Cultural Fair will be having its annual, one-day-only appearance. Connect with teachers and other families in a casual, fun environment. Entry is free and all are invited. Bring parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors. Along with free entertainment, there will be delicious international foods prepared and served by Mrs. Yess' catering classes available for purchase.

If you are the parent of a sixth grader, you should have received a letter, a timeline and a scoring guide to keep at home. Your student has a second copy of the timeline in the social studies section of his or her binder. We are checking things off on a regular basis. As much work as possible is done in their language arts class, but the project itself will be done at home with some degree of parental involvement. Check the timeline for slideshows and Q & A sessions being presented in your student's language arts class. If you know that you will not be able to assist your student, please let your student's teacher know.

The Cultural Fair is an exciting event that brings together the broader community to see our sixth-grader's beautiful displays of heritage and culture. It's a great opportunity for students and parent/guardians to learn about their own history, a historical event or to trace the

beginnings of a community business, and then share it with others.

Please – come join us!

*Ms. MacLean, Ms. Maloney, Mr. Persinger and Ms. White*

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## **Tobacco-free Zone**

According to the Oregon Tobacco Prevention and Education Program, 17 percent of our 11<sup>th</sup> grade students use tobacco. About 90 percent of all smokers begin by the age of 18. Every day in Oregon, 48 students smoke their first cigarette. After one year, 20 of these youth will still be smoking. Of those 20, one out of three will die prematurely of illnesses related to tobacco. Tobacco use negatively affects students' academic abilities as well as their physical and mental health. Supporting tobacco-free school policies are an important part of preventing tobacco use in our youth.

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## **Thanks For Making Explore Oregon A Resounding Success!**

497 students...  
34 Kennedy staff members...  
59 parent volunteers...  
11 destinations...  
All in ONE day...  
Too Cool!!!

This year's Explore Oregon is the results of countless hours put in by parent volunteer **Vicki Miller!** Together with ace Kennedy office manager Cecilia Sloan, the two managed to answer every question, track down countless details, manage stacks of ever-shifting paperwork and helped make this year's Explore Oregon run smoothly. Ours is the only program of its kind in the Eugene 4j school district – Kennedy students are so fortunate to have the opportunity to experience such a wide array of activities, meet new people and see different parts of our great state.

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## **Turn Your Key: Be Idle Free!**

The Environmental Protection Agency has identified unnecessary vehicle idling as a contributor to air pollution and increased health. One problem is schools, as drivers wait to drop off and pick up students.

According to Airwatch Northwest, just one vehicle dropping off and picking up a child at one school puts, on average, about **three pounds** of pollution into the air each month. Multiple that by hundreds of vehicles per day and the risk increases for children to develop asthma and other respiratory diseases. In addition, idling more than 10 seconds consumes more fuel than turning the engine off, and then on again - which costs you more at the pump.

Idling vehicles emit more pollutants than running vehicles because of incomplete combustion, which produces larger quantities of greenhouse gases and other harmful pollutants. Excessive idling can also damage your vehicles cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust systems.

And while component wear caused by restarting an engine adds an estimated \$10 per year to the cost of driving, that money will be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling.

Eugene school district buses do not idle while waiting for students and the district has updated or modified most of its fleet in order to lower emissions and save fuel.

George Russell, 4J superintendent, is asking all drivers of school-age children to become an active participant in improving air quality and reducing health risk by minimizing idling when dropping off and picking up students from school. Idling your vehicle for no longer than 30 seconds is a simple but critical change that will drastically improve the air quality in neighborhoods and preserve cleaner air for all.

Thanks for helping our community breathe a little easier!

## **Lunch Bunch**

Kennedy is fortunate this year to have nine generous restaurants providing free lunches to a number of our middle school students during the 2007-08 school year.

The Lunch Bunch program works like this: Each restaurant commits to Lunch Bunch three times during the school year. Four students and one staff member attend. Students are selected after achieving a special goal, improving in a certain area or simply because they deserve recognition. Lunch Bunch occurs every week, which means that by year's end, about 130 students are able to participate in this special out-of-school activity.

This year's participating restaurants are Quizno's (4355 Commerce St.), Countryside Pizza (28459 Siesta Lane), Izzy's (950 Seneca) and six restaurants on W. 11<sup>th</sup>: Carl's Jr. (3663 W. 11th), McDonald's (3555 W. 11<sup>th</sup>), Hodge Podge (2190 W. 11<sup>th</sup>), Arby's (3865 W. 11<sup>th</sup>), Subway (2766 W. 11<sup>th</sup>) and Taco Bell (2890 W. 11<sup>th</sup>).

The Kennedy community is very appreciative of these generous local businesses for their participation in this terrific program. Please thank these restaurants for supporting Kennedy when you order!

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## **P.R.I.D.E.**

**(P**ositive, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity,  
**D**iscipline and **E**xcellence)

Kennedy Middle School has PRIDE! In fact, we've had PRIDE for nearly 10 years. Two staff members (Mr. Aufort and Mr. Bennett) were sent to find an incentive program that would increase attendance, reduce disruptive behavior and improve academic performance for students. The two teachers brought PRIDE back to Kennedy and it has evolved into a highly successful incentive for our student body.

The first nine-week period after PRIDE was introduced at Kennedy, 60 to 70 students met the requirements and were rewarded with a trip to a local movie theater. Through the years, students (and families) have caught on to the rigors and benefits of our PRIDE program, and we now see approximately 200 to 225 students who regularly meet our PRIDE requirements. These numbers excite us, as this equates to roughly 45 percent of our student body.

You might be asking, "So what does my child have to do to earn PRIDE?" In any nine-week grading period, a student is required to meet the following: (students have a new opportunity each nine-week period):

- All assignments are completed and turned in.
- No behavior referrals.

- No overdue library books on the day of our trip.
- No more than three tardies or absences.

With regard to absences, we understand that students share cold and flu 'bugs;' Kennedy has an appeal process in place for students who are absent for an extended period. A student may use an appeal ONE TIME during the school year.

Please understand that we have designed this program in part to improve overall student attendance and, therefore, academics. Kennedy is fortunate to have a number of students who excel academically. But what sets PRIDE apart is its ability to entice *all* students, including those who have been marginally successful, to excel in areas of behavior and academic concern.

This year we hope to expand our participation to well over 50 percent of our student body. With your encouragement and support we should reach our goal of having the Oregon middle school with the greatest PRIDE! This year students may go roller-skating, to the movies, snow skiing, ice-skating, bowling, or to the wave pool.

Thank you for supporting this worthwhile program!

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## Volunteer Corner

Thanks to everyone who helped out with the Halloween social! Here are a few upcoming volunteer opportunities:

**Nov. 20:** 6th grade health screening, 1:15-3:25

**Nov. 30:** Pride trip, early release day

**Dec. 6:** Cultural Fair!

If you can help out with these events, please let me know. Thanks so much for your help.

*Patty Allen, volunteer coordinator  
521-7992; 345-1423*

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## A Big Welcome To Our Awesome New Teachers!

### Annalisa Morton



(Spanish and band) is a Montana native who has lived in Eugene since the age of 12. She plays oboe and English horn and became a member of the Eugene Symphony in 1991, where she met her husband, Mike. Mike plays bassoon in the orchestra. Annalisa has a son, Ian, 6, and a step-son, Morgan, 22, who is

studying botany at Oregon State University.

Annalisa loves to travel and traveled this past summer to the Seitama prefecture of Japan. Her favorite place is Mexico, but she also enjoys traveling in Spain, China, and Germany. Her love of languages has inspired her to explore and study languages as much as possible.

Music and language are two lifelong, and surprisingly compatible, interests of Annalisa's. Each is a form of expression and both are social activities. While traveling in China, being able to "speak the language" of music enabled her to make new friends easily.

"Music allows you to express what's inside of you..." says Annalisa, "without actually having to say a word."

### Nolan Heinz



(Language arts and social studies) was born in Eugene and raised in Salem, where he graduated from Sprague High School. He wanted to be a teacher early on and wasted no time reaching that goal while attending the University of Oregon.

Nolan earned his B.A. in English in less than three years, while simultaneously tutoring Korean and Japanese exchange students in English, reading and writing. After graduation, Nolan immediately went on to enroll in the University of Oregon College of Education, where he completed his Master's in Education in 2007. Nolan did his student teaching at Oaklea Middle School in Junction City, and also at Junction City High School.

This term, Nolan is focusing on creative writing and publication electives, and will be teaching an elective over the coming weeks called "Movies: Page to Screen." He is enjoying every minute of his experience at Kennedy so far, and looks forward to a fabulous year with his students.

## Elizabeth Hendrickson



(Language arts & social studies) grew up in the tiny town of Welches, Oregon. Welches is a small town located on Mt. Hood, about 45 minutes east of Portland. After attending the University of Oregon, where she double majored in Comparative Literature and Romance Languages (French and

Spanish), Liz stayed on to earn her Master's degree.

Liz played water polo during her high school years at Sandy High School, and continued playing for the UO Waterpolo Club as an undergraduate.

"Water is such a huge part of my life," says Liz. "In addition to being on both the swim and water polo teams in high school, I also gave swim lessons for five years. I loved sharing my passion for swimming with all those children."

Her love of teaching swimming eventually helped Liz discover her passion for teaching.

"I am honored and excited to be a part of the Kennedy family as I begin my teaching career," says Liz.

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## **No School Days & Early Release Days: November-January**

**11/9:** 4J - No school/mid-semester progress reports

**11/12:** 4J - No school/Veteran's Day

**11/16:** Kennedy: 12:00 p.m. release

**11/22-23:** 4J - No school/Thanksgiving Day holiday

**11/30:** Kennedy - 12:00 release

**12/7:** Kennedy - No school/conference compensation

**12/14:** 4J - No school/progress reports

**12/24-1/4:** 4J - No school/winter vacation

**1/7:** 4J - No school/staff development day

**1/18:** Kennedy - 12:00 p.m. release

**1/21:** 4J - No school/Martin Luther King Birthday holiday

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## **‘Shaping 4J’ Survey**

You may have heard about the Shaping 4J's Future process with the Eugene School District over the last nine months or so. This process focuses on several unanswered questions about how and where the district will provide instructional programs to best serve all students, in light of declining enrollment and changing student demographics.

From Oct. 17 through Nov. 9, the district is sending a survey newsletter out to parents and the community, asking for their opinions. The survey newsletters were sent home with elementary school students and mailed home to middle school and high school families. Extra copies are available at schools. The survey itself is also on-line at [www.4j.lane.edu](http://www.4j.lane.edu).

The surveys should be sent back by Nov. 9. The Eugene School Board will review the results this winter, and in spring, the superintendent will propose, and the school board will consider, an action plan and timeline. Any decisions about consolidation, closure or expansion will be made carefully and with public input. To read more about the Shaping 4J's Future process, go to [www.4j.lane.edu/shaping4j](http://www.4j.lane.edu/shaping4j).

We look forward to hearing from you!

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## **Homework Tips**

School is back in session and a vital part of any parents' job is helping with homework. It's equally important to help your student develop discipline, independence and a solid work ethic. Here are some tips:

- Give your child a deadline: set a deadline each evening for the homework to be completed. Deadlines focus students and teach time management skills.
  - Know how much to help: depending on the age and skills of the student, offer only as much help as is appropriate for your child's age.
  - Marshal your resources: if your child is struggling with a subject, consider getting extra help.
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## **Lancer Association News For Kennedy**

We would like to invite all parents of middle schoolers to attend the presentation on teen depression and suicide prevention set for Monday,

Nov. 5, 2007, at 7 p.m. in the Churchill High School library.

In an effort to address recent events impacting Churchill area families, we have invited Dr. Jon Garlinghouse to address parents and students about teen prevention and suicide.

His specialty is teen suicide prevention and depression. Dr. Garlinghouse has worked as a counselor with teenagers and suicide survivors for many years in Eugene.

This lecture is the first in a series of educational presentations sponsored by the Lancer Parent Association. We are hoping to forge a strong relationship with middle school parents so that the move to high school can be seamless and the parent-student connection stays strong.

We encourage middle school parents to sign up for our e-newsletter to learn more about what is in their student's future. Information can be found at the Churchill web site or by directing people to this link:  
<http://npogroups.org/lists/info/chslpaenews>.

Please contact us for more details: Maureen Cole 686-8021(h), 682-8321(w); Gail Brehm-Geiger, 341-1413 (h), 465-6331(w).  
Additional upcoming events include:

- **Dec. 3:** Dennis Biggerstaff and Amy Adams-Shauer discuss education options available at CHS including CAM, IB, IB diploma, college

credit through College Now, AP classes and AP testing which may include college credit, and other options including LCC.

- **Jan. 14:** A discussion on teen alcohol and drug use.

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## Counselor's Corner

Fall 2007 is moving quickly and I have enjoyed meeting many new students and families. I have also had the opportunity to catch up with returning students/families and value the time we have shared.

As the holiday season approaches, we often turn to family for support and friendship. I would like to share some quotes from a deck of cards called "Words to Love By," created by a local Eugene parenting organization called Birth to Three. One of my favorites is: "I notice and show appreciation for my child's positive efforts" from 'Teaching and Positive Discipline.'

My door is always open for questions or concerns. Please contact me any time [fischer\\_m@4j.lane.edu](mailto:fischer_m@4j.lane.edu) or 687-3241.

Take Care,

*Meredith Fischer, School Counselor*

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## **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Thanks to all of the parents who signed up for conferences on Nov. 13 and Nov. 15. All sessions will be held in the cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you!

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## **Mensaje del Director en Espanol**

*(The principal's message translated into Spanish)*

Queridos Estudiantes de Kennedy, Familias, y Comunidad,

Es con gran placer que le doy la bienvenida al año escolar 2007-2008. Como siempre, continuaremos creando un ambiente seguro, cómodo y que estimula para nuestros estudiantes. También deseo dar la bienvenida a los padres de los estudiantes del 6to nivel. Quiero sugerir que Uds. pensar en dar su tiempo voluntariamente en nuestra escuela. Es una buena oportunidad de ser involucrado en la educación de su niño.

El éxito académico de todos los estudiantes es nuestra prioridad más importante. Nuestra sociedad entre el hogar y la escuela continúa siendo fuerte. Nuestro programa académico continúa mejorando y creciendo. Somos afortunados tener estudiantes maravillosos, maestros excelentes, y padres que los cuidan. Esta combinación conjunto con el

trabajo duro ha hecho Kennedy una de las escuelas medias superiores en el estado de Oregon.

Más y más, Kennedy está confiando en el correo electrónico para mantenerle informado sobre acontecimientos de la escuela. Si usted todavía no ha firmado para nuestro listserv, le impulso suscribir. Es la mejor manera estar informada sobre acontecimientos y actividades de la escuela. Nuestros boletines de noticias ahora están saliendo ambos como "copia dura" y vía el correo electrónico. Si usted no recibe una versión del email de nuestro boletín de noticias, no tenemos probablemente su dirección de correo-electrónico actual. Si usted quisiera recibir la información vía el email, usted puede escribirme así: smith\_ch@4j.lane.edu

Somos así muy orgullosos de nuestros estudiantes y personal y nosotros deséele un año escolar feliz y sano.

Sinceramente,

Sr. Smith, Director  
Noviembre de 2007

# November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> Spirit Week	<b>2</b> Spirit Week	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Mid Semester Progress Reports/No School	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Veterans Day Holiday/No School	<b>13</b> Parent Conferences 4:00-8:00 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Parent Conferences 4:00-8:00 pm	<b>16</b> Kennedy Early Release	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Site Council 4-5:00 pm	<b>22</b> Thanksgiving Day 	<b>23</b> Holiday/No School	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Pride #1 Kennedy Early Release	<b>2007</b>

# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Orchestra Concert - Cafeteria	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Cultural Fair	<b>7</b> Kennedy Conference Compensation/ No School Full Day	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> All Bands Concert	<b>14</b> No School/Progress Reports	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Robotics Club Corvallis	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Site Council 4-5:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Winter Vacation No School	<b>25</b> Winter Vacation No School	<b>26</b> Winter Vacation No School	<b>27</b> Winter Vacation No School	<b>28</b> Winter Vacation No School	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					<b>2007</b>