

August 17, 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! And a particularly special welcome to those of you who are first-time middle school parents — you have an exciting three years ahead! Middle school is a very special time, with tremendous growth for kids, socially, intellectually, and physically. This year I am including an excerpt from an article entitled "Meeting the Needs of the Adolescent Learner," It is an excellent description of middle school age students. "They strive for independence, yet they clamor to belong. They fight the connections they have with their parents, but they need to form alliances with peers and bond with understanding teachers. They are finding themselves and, in the process, will challenge authority, experiment with sarcasm, and try on many different personalities. They are adolescents. And, if recent brain studies are accurate, they can be as young as age 10 or as old as age 25 . . . Such scientific ambiguity suggests a certainty for teachers: those who work with adolescents must understand them, connect with them, and make learning relevant to their lives . . ."— ASCD Education Update, Vol. 46, (No. 5, August 2004)

Helping kids grow into healthy, whole, caring people who know how to use their minds well is surely the most important, rewarding work in the world. We, our entire staff, are delighted to be back to work in partnership with you again this year for the benefit of our kids.

We continue to receive daily calls from prospective parents. Our reputation is not only strong in our area but throughout the state of Oregon. Furthermore, many families relocating to Eugene from out of state often contact Kennedy Middle School when considering purchasing a home in this area. High quality schools are at the top of the list when a family considers purchasing a home....Kennedy Middle School is at the top!

We, our students, staff, parents and community members, partner together to provide a learning environment we can all be proud of. Here at Kennedy Middle School we believe all students need a strong foundation in basic academic skills. Curiosity, eagerness to learn, capability for self-direction, self-confidence to preserve and to create and make good decisions are equally essential to the learning process we value at Kennedy Middle School. We strive to provide an education, which carefully balances academic, social and physical growth. I know you will agree with me, Kennedy Middle School is a strong school, one that encourages and nurtures all students to "do their best". Thank you for choosing Kennedy Middle School. As always, if you have ideas, comments, questions, or thoughts you want to share, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time via phone (687-3241) or e-mail: (smith_ch@4j.lane.edu). And — dont forget to check out our web site: <http://schools.4j.lane.edu/kennedy/>.

Sincerely,

Charles Smith, "Mr. Smith", Principal

First Day Back to School!

Wednesday, September 5th

7th and 8th Grade Special Schedule

9:00 - 11:55 am -- buses morning and midday

6th Grade Special Schedule

Noon - 3:25 pm -- buses will take home only



A special back-to-school day has been scheduled for the first day of school. Buses will run in the morning to pick up 7th and 8th graders at the regular time with a special run to take them home at 11:55 am. *6th graders will need transportation to school at noon* but may ride the buses home at 3:25 pm. Also, please be sure that your 6th grader knows his bus number and route. If you have questions about the number and/or route, please contact 4J transportation at 687-3435. No lunches will be served.

Early Orientation for 6th Graders

Monday, August 27th is 6th Grade Orientation Camp. Students should plan to attend their scheduled session. A letter will be mailed to you telling you which session your student will be attending. Please call the office if you do not receive this letter. You will need to provide your own transportation.

Parents, this is a good time to pay your student's fees and beat the first day rush! This special day is a great opportunity for students to meet the Kennedy staff, learn about the 6th grade program, meet teachers, familiarize themselves with our building, have fun, play games and make new friends.

7th and 8th Grade New Student Orientation Pizza Lunch

A welcome pizza lunch will be held on Tuesday, September 4th, from 12:00 - 1:30 pm for new 7th and 8th graders. Students will hear about important school information, get to meet other new students, tour the school and have an opportunity to pay school fees.



Using the two-part fee form enclosed in this newsletter, you are encouraged to mail or deliver fees to Mrs. Sloan in the office before school starts or on the day of 6th Grade Orientation, Monday, August 29th. As usual, you may also pay fees on the first day of school, Wednesday, September 7th. If you have two children at Kennedy, you may include both of them on the same form. Checks should be made payable to Kennedy Middle School.

Required Fees

1. P.E. Lock
- Applicable if you are a new student or have lost your lock. This lock may be used all three years. \$ 5.00
2. Computer Consumables \$12.00
3. Supply Fee \$ 5.00

Activity Fees

1. Student Body Card \$ 5.00
2. Activities Fee \$12.00
3. Language Arts Handbook Replacement Fee
- This handbook is free to all students. \$5.00

Optional Fees

1. Yearbook \$23.00
- \$28.00 after January 15, 2008

Kennedy All School Picnic



Thursday, September 13th
5:30-7:00 pm

Kennedy families are invited to attend an all school picnic on Tuesday, September 13th. You are welcome to bring your own dinner or you may purchase a dinner at school. Our Kennedy Catering Class will be selling dinners as a Star Quest fundraiser. The menu and prices are included on an order form enclosed with this newsletter. If you wish to participate, just fill out the order form and return it to the office. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Welcome Back Activity Night

Friday, September 21st
6:30 - 8:30 pm

On Friday night, September 21st, we will enjoy our first all school Activity Night with basketball, ping pong, school store and dance. Festivities begin at 6:30 pm and end promptly at 8:30 pm. Admission is \$5.00 and Student Body Cards are not required for this first event. Please make transportation arrangements before the event.

Each term, a fun all-school activity is planned for our students. These activities are planned with the entire student body in mind. Daytime "socials" include games and contests in the cafeteria, as well as a dance in the large gym and athletic events in the small gym. Activities begin at 1:45 pm and end at 3:25 pm. These activities are considered part of the regular school day. Students are expected to participate unless arrangements have been made at least one day in advance.

Parent chaperones are always needed and appreciated. Please mark this choice on your volunteer form if you are interested in helping.

Non-Custodial Parents School Information

We are able to provide all co-custodial and non-custodial parents with a duplicate copy of all district labeled mailings. Please contact our registrar's office, if you would like the name of a co-custodial or non-custodial parent added to your student's enrollment information.

Curriculum Night

Tuesday, September 18th
6:30 pm

You are invited to come to our Curriculum Night from 7:00-8:00 pm to visit your student's classroom and meet his/her teachers. A schedule will be coming home with students. Extra parent copies will be available that night in the cafeteria.

Parents will visit each class where teachers will have handouts explaining classroom procedures and expectations. Samples of textbooks will be available.

This is a special time for your child to lead you through a "day at Kennedy" in a quick 60 minute tour.

Student Pick-up and the Bus Zones

We would like to take this opportunity to remind those of you who drop off and/or pick up your students to please use the west parking lot (the lot directly below the entrance to Kennedy). By picking up your student in the west parking lot, it will make for a more timely exodus and, most importantly, reduce the danger to students trying to cross the driveway between busses. *Please do not use the east parking lot next to Pathfinder School.*





Lunch

Hot lunches are available in the school cafeteria for \$2.30 per day or \$46.00 for a 20-lunch voucher. Checks for meals should be made out to 4J Nutrition Services and can be purchased from Mrs. Morris in the cafeteria. Students may also bring cash to purchase lunch from our a-la-carte menu. Milk is \$0.50. The Food Services staff sells lunch vouchers every morning until 9:00 am in the cafeteria.

A nutritious breakfast is served every morning before school beginning at 8:30 am. All students are invited to have breakfast at school. The cost is \$1.10 or \$0.30 for those who qualify under the Free and Reduced Lunch Program.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch Forms are available from Mrs. Sloan in the office and Mrs. Morris in the cafeteria. Forms should be returned to Mrs. Morris in the cafeteria. Forms need to be resubmitted each year for students to qualify for the program. The Reduced lunch cost is \$0.40.

Please take some time to fill out and return the Parent Permission to Disclose Free/Reduced Meal Qualification form enclosed with this newsletter to the school office or to the District office, 200 N. Monroe Street.

By signing this consent form, you are giving permission for access to your student's status as qualifying for free or reduced meals. This means your student will be able to receive services such as scholarships or field trips, special events and track fees.



School Pictures Friday, September 7th

School pictures will be taken on Friday, September 7th. We encourage all students to have their pictures taken, even if they choose not to purchase a picture packet. This photo is used for student records, student body cards and for the yearbook. A flyer is enclosed with this newsletter.

Magazine Sale Starts

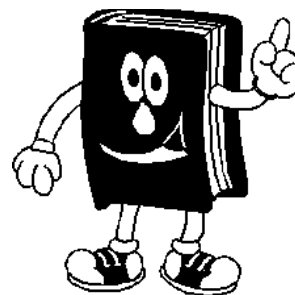


On October 2nd, we will kick off our magazine subscription drive to raise money for programs and activities that benefit our students.

If you have subscriptions that need to be renewed or would like to order a subscription to a new magazine, please save your orders for our fundraiser. Another way to help would be to give magazine subscriptions as gifts this year. Please let your friends and relatives know about our fundraiser and ask them to save their subscriptions for our program as well. Renewal orders will extend current subscriptions.

Magazines purchased through Kennedy will not cost your one cent more. You may use any special discount offers you have received in the mail. Just order the magazine from one of our students between October 2nd and October 16, and Kennedy will earn 40 percent of the cost of the subscription.

Profits from the sale may be used for activities such as the 6th Grade Cultural Fair, the 8th Grade Celebration, dance and trip, PRIDE, multicultural awards, incentives, leadership, athletics, assemblies, field trips, volunteer recognition, technology, music and additional track coaching support.



Kennedy Book Fair!

Book lovers of all ages... our annual Kennedy Book Fair will run from September 13th through September 19th. As in prior years, the Book Fair will be open during regular school hours.

Volunteer Corner

Contact Patty Allen

Welcome back everyone! I hope everyone had a great summer break. With the school year starting, there are lots of opportunities for volunteering. We need volunteers for:

August 27: 6th grade camp (morning and afternoon shifts)

Sept. 5: 1st day of school (morning and afternoon shifts)

Sept. 7: Picture day

Sept. 28: Explore Oregon

Oct. 2-16: Magazine Sale

We also need a person to take charge of our Magazine Sale. Jerri Jones has moved on to Churchill but has graciously said she would help this year's person learn

the ropes. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and does so many things to benefit Kennedy, so please jump on board.

We are also looking for a 6th and 7th grade parent to work with Vicki Miller this year as she continues to manage our annual Explore Oregon event. Vicki Miller is needing another parent to work with her as co-chairperson of this event. Also, we would like at least two parents trained to be ready to manage and train another two parents for future years.

Please fill out the volunteer information packets and return them with your child the first day of school.

Part of what makes Kennedy so special, is you, the great parent volunteers.

Patty Allen

Medication at School

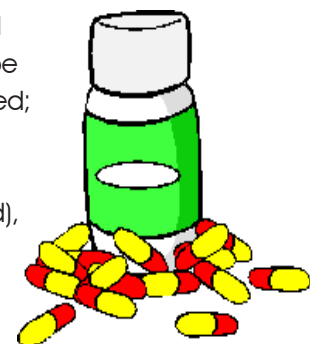
There are times when it is advisable for your middle school student to carry his/her own medication and 4J policy allows for this. There are important facts for both the parent and student to understand. The student needs written permission from parent and administration to self-administer medication. Students should never share their medication and should only carry a one day supply. Here are the rules:

Students in grades K-8 may carry inhalers or any other emergency prescription medication with the written consent of parent and principal.

Students in grades K-8 may carry and self-administer one day's dose of non-prescription medication with the written consent of the parent. An example might be medication, including Tylenol, cough drops, etc. We can only dispense medication from home after the proper procedure has been followed. Under no circumstances may students share medications.

Students in grades 6-8 may carry and self-administer one day's dose of non-controlled prescription medication with the written consent of parent and principal. An example might be an antibiotic taken with lunch. Controlled prescription medication may not be self-administered; Example: medication for ADHD such as Ritalin.

If you know that your student occasionally gets headaches, dental pain (braces adjusted), cramps or cold symptoms and they are responsible enough to self-administer medication, just fill out a medication form and turn it into the office. *Please call the Churchill Clinic at 687-3233 with any questions.*



Leadership Opportunities

At Kennedy Middle School, we feel leadership is the process of empowering people to do the worthwhile things they want to do. We believe leadership activities should have broad-based participation, make school more fun, have activities that are relevant to the student, the school and the community, foster school improvement and consist of student-generated responses to real-life concerns.

More information about Kennedy's 6th, 7th and 8th grade Leadership Club is coming to students.

Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort

Our Kennedy PRIDE Program recognizes those students who are active contributors to the school community by exemplifying personal responsibility in their daily efforts at school. Students will learn more about this program and how they can participate. Contact the office for further information concerning leadership and PRIDE.

Student Conveners

Each classroom selects student representatives to act as Student Conveners. They meet together to discuss school-wide issues and allocate magazine sales profits. Our Assistant Principal, Mr. Bennett, is the facilitator for the Student Conveners and can answer any questions you might have about this leadership opportunity.



Yearbook

Memories are priceless and what better way to look back on your school year than to purchase the annual Kennedy Yearbook for only \$23.00. After January 15th, the price goes up to \$28.00 so hurry and get your order in! See fee form insert for further details.

Athletic Participation

Kidsports – Call 683-2373 for Soccer, Football, Basketball, Baseball, Softball and Volleyball. Kidsports is a private program with their own fee schedule. You may contact them directly for scholarship assistance, if needed.

District-sponsored spring track will be offered for all grades at Kennedy and fees will be collected in the spring. No student will be denied access to this program for financial reasons. Please contact Mrs. Sloan in the office if you need assistance with fees.



Attention Athletes: Physicals Required Every 2 Years
State law now requires student athletes to receive a physical exam every two years. If you do not have insurance or cannot afford your co-pay or deductible, please call the Churchill Health Clinic at 687-3421 and schedule an appointment.

Strings Program

Kennedy's Orchestra class is held before school, from 8:00-8:45 am in Room D-1.

Please call our Orchestra teacher, Peggy Rubinstein, at the office (687-3241) for the daily schedule and further information.



Student Body Cards

Income from sales of Kennedy Student Body Cards support school-based activities such as the athletics and the 8th Grade Celebration, dance and trip. This \$5.00 card allows students to attend Kennedy Activity Nights at a reduced price, with the exception of the September 21st Activity Night which occurs before cards are processed/distributed.

Student Body Cards are required for identification at Westmoreland dances and occasionally businesses offer discounts to students with a valid card.

If the laminated card is lost, there is a replacement charge of \$2.00.



Kennedy Middle School

*Making a difference
for all children.*

Kennedy Instructional Program

Sixth Grade

* Language Arts/Social Studies Block: 110 minutes block of time with one teacher

Math/Science Block: 110 minutes block of time

PE/Explore: two 55-minute elective classes with a rotation through six-week classes

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Language Arts/Social Studies Block: 110 minutes of block time with one teacher

Math: placement by achievement level; 55 minute period with math teacher

Science: 55 minute period with science teacher

Elective: two 55 minute periods in course of choice; may be full year or term classes

Daily Class Schedule Sixth Grade

Block I	9:00 am - 10:55 am
Lunch	10:55 am - 11:25 am
Block II	11:30 am - 1:25 pm
5 th Period	1:30 pm - 2:25 pm
6 th Period	2:30 pm - 3:25 pm

Daily Class Schedule Seventh and Eighth Grade

1 st Period	9:00 am - 9:55 am
2 nd Period	10:00 am - 10:55 am
3 rd Period	11:00 am - 11:55 am
Lunch	11:55 am - 12:25 pm
4 th Period	12:30 pm - 1:25 pm
5 th Period	1:30 pm - 2:25 pm
6 th Period	2:30 pm - 3:25 pm

Supervision hours between 8:30am and 3:45pm



JFK Language Arts Handbook

Last year, all Kennedy Middle School students were given a red, white and blue colored Language Arts Handbook. Students were told to keep the handbook in their notebooks as they would be using it during their three years at Kennedy. Students, be sure to bring your JFK handbook with you when you return to school.

Each handbook has a section on everything a student needs to know to be successful in Writing, Reading and Language Arts. The information presented carries over into all other classes as well. Parents, this document is an awesome parent reference containing important information such as: what is formal response, how do I write an introduction to any research paper, how do I cite resources, and what is plagiarism?

All new students will receive a free copy of the JFK Language Arts Handbook. If your returning student has misplaced this valuable resource, another can be purchased for \$5.00 from Mrs. Sloan in the front office.

Social Skills

As always, Kennedy is committed to creating a healthy and safe climate for all. To that end we will continue to teach social skills to our students. Social skills are taught on an informal basis in every classroom, every day. As in prior years, a formal curriculum will be taught throughout the school year.

Guidance - Sixth Grade

All 6th grade students at Kennedy will be assigned a teacher to provide the following services: individual support and encouragement, answer questions and disseminate information, provide help in scheduling, assist in tracking academic progress and serve as a liaison between the home and school.

Lunch Bunch



We look forward to another year of Lunch Bunch, an opportunity for our students who are nominated by their teachers and other school staff to be treated to lunch with Mr. Smith, Mr. Bennett, or Ms. Fischer, our counselor.

In the past, the following local businesses have generously donated their services to our Lunch Bunch program: Arby's, Burger King, Carl's Jr., Quizno's, Izzy's, McDonald's, Hodge Podge, Subway, Skippers and Taco Time. We appreciate the willingness of these local businesses who donate their services to our students.

Kennedy Website

The Kennedy website is a good source for general information, current events, newsletters, calendars, and much more. We are currently in the process of expanding our site's content and changing the visual style, so we encourage you to check back regularly.

Please visit us at:

<http://schools.4j.lane.edu/kennedy/>

Welcome from Kennedy's Counselor Ms. Meredith Fischer

Welcome back to school! My name is Meredith Fischer, and I am the school counselor at Kennedy Middle School. This is the start of my third year at KMS and I am looking forward to the 2007/2008 school year. Some of you are returning to Kennedy and I am excited to hear about your summer adventures. For others, you are new to Kennedy coming from elementary school, or are transferring from a different region of the city, state, or country. Regardless of your history with Kennedy, my goal as counselor is to help students feel supported and successful. I have an open door policy for students/families and provide support services in many areas.

Transitioning back to school after an extended break can be a bumpy road for some students. Common themes you may be hearing from your student is: 1) "I'll get lost," 2) "I won't remember what class is next," 3) "The other students will be mean to me," 4) "I won't know the rules." As scary as each of these scenarios may be, it is important to know that many students have experienced these issues and our school is prepared to support and provide answers for any concerns. I encourage parents/guardians/ and families to support your child through this transition and stay involved in your child's education. I also recommend participating in Kennedy school events and volunteering options. Finally, by reading the Kennedy newsletter, you will stay current on important information the school has to offer, including report card dates, calendar updates, state testing information, band concert dates, school related activities and much more.

My role at Kennedy is to provide academic, personal, and social support for all students and families. I provide individual counseling, small group counseling, academic advising, family support, resource information and referrals.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 687-3241. If I am not available for your student, they may sign up for appointments in the front office. I will call them to my office if it is an appropriate time and at the teacher's discretion.

I look forward to the new school year and the chance to meet each and every one of you in person!

Meredith Fischer, Counselor

Kennedy Middle School's
Extended Classroom Program
Friday, September 28, 2007



Explore Oregon is an annual event at Kennedy, offering a unique opportunity for students to experience exciting adventures here in Eugene as well as around the state of Oregon. We've got 13 different trips to choose from this year. Each trip has at least one Kennedy staff member chaperoning the trip, as well as accompanying parent volunteers who work hard to insure that your child has the best experience possible.

Enclosed in this newsletter is your child's Explore Oregon registration materials. Please have your child read over the trip choices, make a trip selection and then turn the form in with their school registration forms as soon as possible. The Explore Oregon Committee is getting a head start this year on organizing trips, chaperones, etc., so the sooner we have your forms in the better.

Parents, you're invited too. All 13 of our adventures need parent chaperones to assist Kennedy staff members and students on these trips. Please fill out the chaperone portion of the Explore Oregon registration form and we will give you a call. You must have a background check form on file in order to be a chaperone. If you are one of the drivers, you must also have an insurance form on file with us. Please note: if the trip you are chaperoning is traveling by bus, you will be required to ride both there and back on the bus as Kennedy staff members need your help in transit as well.

Questions, please feel free to call Vicki Miller at 686-4975.

Kennedy Site Council

Site Council is an open forum meeting. Whenever possible, Kennedy implements a shared governance model. We depend on input from all of our stakeholders – parents, students, staff and administration – to make our best decisions.

Everyone is welcome to attend although only stakeholder representatives may participate in the actual decision making, but your voice is important to us. Site Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-5:00 pm. Our first Site Council meeting this year will be on Wednesday, September 19th, in the Kennedy library.

The position for 6th Grade Parent Representative is vacant. You may call the school office at 687-3241 for an application form or for more information.

2007-2008 Early Release and No School Days *

*4J Indicates that these dates are set by 4J and are on the 4J School Calendar sent home to parents by the District.

*Kennedy indicates that these are dates specific to Kennedy staff development and are not included on the 4J calendar sent home to parents from the District.

9/14	Kennedy - 12:00 release	2/1	4J - No School/Semester Grading Day
9/21	Kennedy - 12:00 release	2/4	4J - No School/Planning Day
10/5	4J - No School/Progress Reports	2/15	Kennedy - 12:00 release
10/12	4J - No School/State Inservice	2/18	4J - No School/Presidents Day Holiday
10/19	Kennedy - 12:00 release	2/29	Kennedy - 12:00 release
11/9	4J - No School/Mid Semester Progress Reports	3/7	4J - No School/Progress Reports
11/12	4J - No School/Veterans Day Holiday	3/14	Kennedy - No School/Staff Development Day
11/16	Kennedy - 12:00 Release	3/21	Kennedy - 12:00 release
11/22-23	4J - No School/Thanksgiving Day Holiday	3/24-28	4J - No School/Spring Vacation
11/30	Kennedy - 12:00 release	3/31	4J - No School/Staff Development Day
12/7	Kennedy - No School/Conference Compensation	4/11	4J - No School/Mid Semester Progress Reports
12/14	4J - No School/Progress Reports	4/18	Kennedy - 12:00 release
12/24-1/4	4J - No School/Winter Vacation	5/9	4J - No School/Progress Reports
1/7	4J - No School/Staff Development Day	5/26	4J - No School/Memorial Day Holiday
1/18	Kennedy - 12:00 release	5/30	Kennedy - 12:00 release
1/21	4J - No School/Martin Luther King Birthday Holiday	6/18	4J - 12:00 release/Last Day for Students

Please Note: Our Kennedy calendar is subject to change.

Kennedy Middle School Supply List

6th Grade Supplies

1 binder: 3" ring
 2 pens: blue or black ballpoint
 2 pens: red ballpoint
 Paper reinforcers
 3-hole pencil pouch: cloth recommended
 Ruler: to be kept at home
 Tab dividers: at least 5
 Scientific calculator
 Facial tissues: 1 large box
 Recommended: Student Dictionary to be kept at home



6 #2 pencils
 Pink eraser
 Colored pencils: 8 pack or larger
 Crayola markers (medium tip)
 2 spiral notebooks
 Ruled notebook paper
 1 textbook cover: cloth preferred
 Protractor: to be kept at home
 Compass: to be kept at home

7th Grade Supplies

1 binder: 2" minimum
 3-hole pencil pouch
 1 protractor: 6" transparent
 2 spiral notebooks (2 sectioned, 3/4 - 1" thick)
 Ruled notebook paper
 2 pens: black or blue



10 #2 pencils
 Colored pencils: 8 pack or larger
 1 ruler: 6" transparent; metric & standard
 Calculator: Texas Instruments Scientific solar powered preferred
 Tab dividers
 Tissues: 1 large box

8th Grade Supplies

1 binder: 2" minimum
 Colored pencils: 8 pack or larger
 1 protractor: 6" transparent
 Pens: 2 fine tipped colored ballpoints for correcting
 Calculator: preferred Texas Instruments Scientific- solar
 10 #2 pencils
 Tissues: 1 large box

3-hole pencil pouch
 Pens: black or blue
 1 ruler: 6" transparent
 2 spiral notebooks (1 sectioned, 3/4 - 1" thick)
 Ruled notebook paper
 Tab dividers



P.E. Supply List

Gym Shorts
 T-shirt (full length)
 Sweatshirt (optional)
 Tennis Shoes
 Sweat Socks