

Kennard CJA

St. Louis Public Schools

8/30/2017

Dr. Wanda LeFlore, Principal

Principal's Monthly Message

Welcome! I hope you are having as much fun as I am this school year. Who begins the first week of school viewing a total solar eclipse? Since we were in the path of totality, it was a pleasure participating in this phenomenon with families and friends. We look forward to inviting you to more events that showcase how we meet the academic and affective needs of our unique student population. My monthly message is designed to inform you about school and district events. Several ways to stay connected...

- Communicate with your child's teacher via email or telephone.
- Keep up to date via newsletters.
- Participate in Kennard's PTO.
- Visit the websites at www.slps.org or www.kennardcja.com

Meet Our New Staff

- Jessica Greene – Speech Pathologist
- Benson LaGrand- Food Service
- Hannah Noack-Ruebling- 4 Grade
- Dianne Oates – 2 Grade
- Susan Yardley-Vagnino- 5 Grade

Coffee with the Principal is a great opportunity for any member of Kennard's Learning Community to share exciting news and ideas with the principal in a relaxed setting. Children are always welcome to attend. The 1st Semester Coffee with the Principal is **Wednesday, September 20** from 8:30am until 9:00am in the main hall. Hope you can join me!

Progress Reports: All students in grades K-5 will receive an Interim Progress Report for the 1st Quarter on **Friday, September 15**. Only students achieving less than 80% in any subject area (including related arts) will continue to receive an Interim Progress Report throughout the school year.

No School Days

Monday, Sept 4

Holiday-Labor Day

Friday, October 13

Professional Development

Friday, October 20

Parent Teacher

Conference Week

PTO Events

Wednesday, Aug 30

PTO Board Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 6

PTO General Meeting

Thursday, Sept 14

School Tour

Friday, Sept 15

Grandparents/Friends Day

District Assessments
2017 MAP GLA MAP test scores will be available in September.

The following assessments listed below are being administered this school year to measure student progress and drive instruction. Classroom teachers will let you know when your child is going to be tested so that you can support our efforts to minimize distractions and interruptions. If you have questions, feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher.

- *Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS) by WIDA Consortium* is an annual test of English language proficiency designed for English Language Learners (ELL) in grades K-12. Qualified students will test in January.
- *Acuity English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science* are comprehensive on-line assessments that support instructional improvement goals. Testing begins mid-September for students in grades K-8.
- *Interim Assessments:* are diagnostic benchmark assessments developed by the SLPS curriculum specialists that will be administered to students in grades 3-8.
- *Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Pre-K* is a developmentally appropriate formative assessment that provides valuable information about students' developmental progress. This assessment is used to inform instruction and program assessment.
- *Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) GLA* is a summative assessment that measures specific skills defined for each grade by the state of Missouri. Students in grades 3-8 will take the grade level assessments during the testing window of April 16 thru May 11.
- *Star Reading ELA and Early Literacy* by Renaissance Learning is a computerized reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology for students in grades K-8. This test is currently being administered.
- *Star Math* by Renaissance Learning is a computerized math assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology for students in grades K-8. This test is currently being administered.

Character Initiatives:

The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. Staff and students are encouraged to check the bench for anyone who wants to extend friendship. Our buddy bench is located on the small playground behind the play equipment. Help spread the message of inclusion and kindness at Kennard!

Core Values: Look for our values as we solicit your support to integrate them into our curriculum.

- **Honesty:** Truthfulness and sincerity; free from deception
- **Kindness:** Being gentle, willing to help, friendly, courteous, and considerate
- **Respect:** Showing regard for the worth of someone or something
- **Responsibility:** Taking care of one's self and others; to carry out a duty or task carefully and thoroughly

Tiger Families: The journey to creating leaders in our learning community will occur in the form of Kennard Tiger Families. Each student at Kennard will become a member of a Tiger Family and this will remain their family throughout their years at Kennard. Every teacher will lead the multi-age group through twice monthly family meetings throughout the school year. Home connection information will be sent after each meeting to reinforce the skills and vocabulary used. There will be a Tiger Family Rally and Parade, individual recognition throughout the school year, and a Tiger Family Open House. This will promote an overall community family bond that reaches from our youngest community members to our oldest; and extends from our family classrooms to our family homes. ***The 7 Habits of Happy Kids*** will serve as the framework to teach and develop leadership qualities. Visit the link below for more information:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFn2DjuCFHQ

Character in Action Conference: As a National School of Character Kennard is a host school for the **2017 Character in Action Conference** held September 27, 28, and 29 at the Holiday Inn SW-Route 66. Over 30 educators will tour the school, visit classrooms, and meet with teachers and students from 12:30 – 3:00 on Thursday, September 28. They will engage in some of the best practices of character education and during their school visit will see these principles in action. Visit the link for more information at <https://www.edplus.org/domain/212>

School-Based Enrichment Programs

Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (The Club) provides free chess lessons to all Kennard students in grades 1 thru 5 beginning **Thursday, September 7**.

Students will learn the fundamentals of chess that promote essential academic skills. The 50 minute classes on Thursdays will consist of both interactive lectures and practice play.

Drama is provided to students in grades Pre-K through 5. Students develop important life skills, enhance oral and communication skills, gain confidence, and have fun while learning.

Equations lessons are taught weekly to students in grades 3 thru 5. Solving equations is the introduction to algebra. This year second graders are learning some of the same skills using the board game Equate.

Springboard to Learning provides arts and cultural integration and enrichment programs to students in grades Pre-K through 5 through teaching partner/artists that are professional musicians, dancers, artists, writers and storytellers, as well as experts in science, literature, and history and culture of foreign lands.

Science Enrichment provides weekly lessons and interactive learning for students in grades K- 5 through participation in hands-on scientific activities and inquiry-based avenues of exploration. These activities are developed to increase students' understanding and appreciation of the scientific process. Fourth and fifth grade students participate in the science fair.

KENNARDWEAR UPDATE

Remember to send in your order for Kennard wear by **Friday, September 1**. **Correction: the Tote Bag is \$8.00, not \$18.00.** Updated order forms are located at www.kennardcja.com. Email kennardwear@yahoo.com if you have additional questions.

Kennard Student Drop off and Pick up Reminders

- **Pre-K Morning Drop off Procedures:** As part of our effort to keep our Pre-K students safely supervised in a developmentally appropriate play area, early morning drop off is **unavailable** for Pre-K students. Parents are responsible for taking their child to the Pre-K classroom and signing the child in with the teacher beginning at 9:05am. Parents are free to enter the main front door or use door # 5 to go to the Pre-K classroom. If the child is eating breakfast, parents may sit with them during breakfast and then escort them to class. Morning supervision is available for Pre-K students that ride the bus or van in the cafeteria.
- **Kindergarten thru Grade 5 Morning Drop off Procedures:** Students in grades K-5 are dropped off on side streets (Potomac Street and Hereford Street) so that they can enter Door #9 (East playground). If you are going to be walking your child into the building, you must park on a side street. The back parking lot (Door #5) is only used by buses in the mornings to drop off students who will be walking alone into the building. Please do not park, drive, or walk through the staff parking lot (East lot).
- **Kindergarten thru Grade 5 Morning Drop off Procedures (Inclement Weather):** The back parking lot (Door #5) is used by buses and other motor vehicles during inclement weather when children are gathered in the gym. If you are going to be walking your child into the building, you must park on a side street.
- **Pre-K and Kindergarten students are dismissed from their classrooms** and must be signed out by an adult, unless they ride the bus.
- Students being picked up in grades Pre-K and Kindergarten exit **Door #2** on Potomac.
- Students being picked up in grades 1 through 5 exit **Door #9**, by the East playground.
- All bus riders exit **Door #5** after they are escorted to the gym and dismissed to their buses.
- If you are picking up your child at the end of the day from his/her bus line, you must sign him/her out in the gym.
- If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, he/she must be picked up by 4:07 pm, as we cannot guarantee supervision after this time. The YMCA "Y Club" Program currently offers a before and after school day care program for students age 5 and older. Please call 314-644-3100 for more information. If you are picking up your child before the end of the school day, you must report to the office and wait for your child to arrive in the office area.
- Please use door #5 (bus lot) to pick-up and drop off your child for all before/after school activities when the office is closed. A bell is available to alert a custodian.

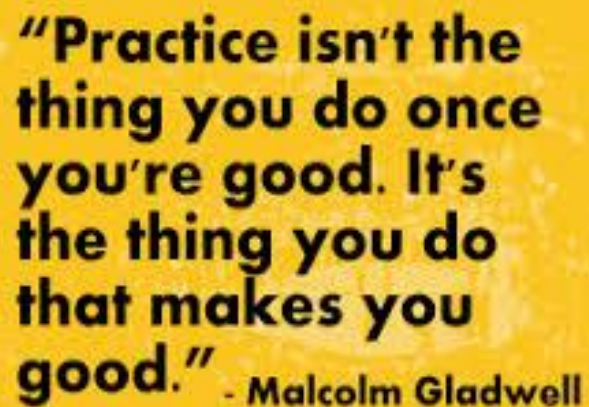
Student Support Groups

Settling-In: This group is for any and all new students! Students meet with other new students going through a similar process adjusting to a new environment. This group is especially beneficial for new students that are having a harder time finding a 'place' for themselves. The group will meet with the counselor approximately 30 minutes weekly. Notification will be sent home to inform you of the exact date/time of the sessions when groups are launched. For more details, contact Whitney Mitchell, school counselor.

Kids in the Middle: This school outreach counseling program is designed to provide individual or group counseling to students at their school during the school day. This program helps children who have experienced a life or family trauma to develop healthy coping skills. Weekly sessions are free of charge and require a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian for participation. For more details, contact Whitney Mitchell, school counselor.

Welcome Back Kennard's 2017.2018 Support Staff

- Delphia Brown – Social Worker
- Jane Humphreys- Nurse
- Pinkie Lawshee- Cross/Cat Teacher
- Whitney Mitchell- Counselor
- Jessica Green –Speech Language Pathologist (new)
- Jeanine Horgan- Physical Therapist
- Raymond Poon- Psychological Examiner
- Caitlin McMullen- Occupational Therapist
- Linda Issac- Special Education Process Coordinator (new)



“Practice isn’t the thing you do once you’re good. It’s the thing you do that makes you good.” - Malcolm Gladwell