

Kennard CJA

St. Louis Public Schools

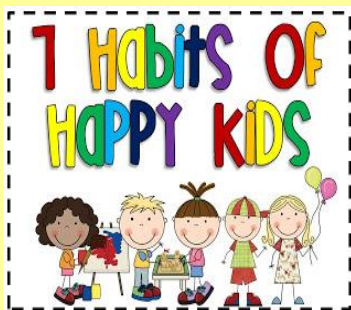
9/22/2016

Dr. Wanda LeFlore, Principal

Principal's Monthly Message

Character Day September 22, 2016

The third annual Character Day is today, Thursday, September 22, 2016. Students and educators from around the world will spread character development into their lesson plans, after-school programs, and special events as they screen films on the science of character development from different perspectives. On this special day students have an opportunity to focus on who they are, who they want to be in the world, and how to develop character strengths. How are you celebrating Character Day?



Tiger Families Open House

Please join our families in action on Monday, October 17, from 2:45pm until 3:30pm. Kennard's character education journey to develop leaders in our learning community occurs in the form of Kennard Tiger Families. Each student enrolled at Kennard is a member of a Tiger Family and staff members are assigned to lead the multi-age group through family meetings. *The 7 Habits of Happy Kids* by Sean Covey serves as the framework for Tiger Family lessons and home connection activities. Please remember to sign-in before you visit your child's Tiger Family room. Hope you can join us during **Tiger Family Open House!**



Lenore Upwood, a 2nd grader in Ms. Ventimiglia's class, will perform in Variety Children's Theatre production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* at the Touhill Performing Arts Center October 21 – 23. Visit www.varietystl.org for more information.

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, October 14
Professional Development Day
No School
- Friday, October 14
PTO Fall Festival
- Friday, October 21
Parent Teacher Conference Day
No School
- Friday, October 28
Coffee w/Principal

Birthday Treats: Although we understand the importance of birthdays, effective immediately we highly encourage non-edible birthday treats at school. Due to the increased number of students with potentially life-threatening dietary restrictions and other concerns, it is necessary to review and make revisions to past practices of celebrating birthdays at Kennard. Also, due to the amount of classroom time invested in birthday treat delivery, we feel this policy will best meet the needs of our students overall. Below are several options to honor the special day:

- A favorite book donated to the classroom with your child's name inside.
- A favorite book donated to our school library with your child's name inside.
- Pencils, stickers, or other non-edible tokens that can be easily distributed in class with minimum loss of instruction time.

Breakfast Book Club - Feeding Bodies and Minds: Every school wants to foster a love of reading in its students, but how can one more reading activity fit into an already packed educational day? Some schools are catching kids in the morning, before classes begin. These "breakfast book clubs" encourage students to love reading and share their thoughts about what they have read with their peers, whether they are seniors, senior citizens, or kindergartners.

The *Kennard CJA Elementary School Breakfast Book Club* will involve 4th and 5th grade students. There will be a sign up sheet available for at least 5 students from each classroom. Each grade level will have a maximum of 15 students participating once a week. 4th grade students will meet Tuesday mornings and 5th grade students will meet Thursday mornings for a semester. At the beginning of a new semester there will be a sign-up for new students interested in the book club.

Mrs. Kukay will escort the students from the cafeteria at 8:45am and release the students to their class at the start of school. *The Kennard CJA Elementary School Breakfast Book Club begins Thursday, October 6, 2016.* Students will be recommended by their classroom teacher and will be expected to follow the library/book club expectations:

- Be respectful of others and their ideas.
- Be responsible for the books and materials in the library.
- Be your best!
- Have fun!

The Buddy Bench: Kennard's 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!

Counselor Support Group “Settling-In”: This group is for any and all new students! Students meet with other new students and can get to know some new people going through a similar process adjusting to a new environment. The group will meet with the counselor approximately 30 minutes weekly. A letter or other 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.

Custodial Worker Day: Did you know that educational institutions rely heavily on custodial workers? Custodial Worker Day an annual celebration that is held on Sunday, October 2 that pays tribute to men and women who work tirelessly to clean and maintain buildings. Take a minute to thank our custodians for keeping our building clean in our learning community. Kennard’s permanent custodians for the 2016.2017 school year are JoAnn Baker (morning) and Daniel Lang (evening).

Earthquake Drill: Kennard, along with millions of people worldwide, will participate in *2016 Great Central U.S. Shakeout* that is scheduled for 10:20am Thursday, October 20, 2016. This means that wherever you are at that moment—at home, at work, at school, anywhere—you should [Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#) as if there were a major earthquake occurring at that very moment, and stay in this position for at least 60 seconds.

Gifted Program Meeting: Last school year it was recommended that a committee/council be created to support gifted education in SLPS. Dave Hardy, Deputy Superintendent Academics, called a meeting August 26 to identify members for SLPS Gifted Committee. School principals were asked to seek a staff member and a parent to serve on the committee. Dave Lloyd, PTO District Affairs Officer and Laurie Batres, Gifted Specialist, have agreed to represent Kennard. A planning meeting will be held Monday, September 26 from 5:00-6:00pm at 801 N 11th St in the Colgate room.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

It was a huge success with over 350 grandparents and special friends in attendance on Friday, September 16. Special thanks to Kim Whitrap and the dedicated parent volunteers that demonstrated the true meaning of teamwork!

Sumdog St. Louis City Math Contest Winner: Tad Droste’s 4th Grade Class is Sumdog’s St. Louis City Math Contest Winner! Sumdog is a computer-adaptive education math and reading program aligned to key state standards that is designed to engage students into learning and practicing skills in math and reading. The Sumdog App, which offers free programs, is available to all 3rd and 4th grade students with iPads. The program is open to schools throughout the city. 88 students answered 7827 questions correctly. Tad

Droste and his students won a free year's subscription to Sumdog. Below are results of the contest:

The overall winners are the classes which scored highest throughout the contest.

The top three classes are:

Position	Class	School	Score
1st	Droste's 4th grade	Kennard CJA	208
2nd	2C	Gateway Science Academy	119
3rd	1C	Gateway Science Academy	56

The top students are the ones which answered the most questions correctly throughout the contest. The top three students are:

Position	Class	School	Score
1st	LEAH S	Kennard CJA	916
2nd	KENNEDY W	Kennard CJA	512
3rd	Hayden M	Gateway Science Academy	324

Progress Reports: All students in grades K-5 received an Interim Progress Report for the 1st Quarter this week. 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.

Report Cards: All students will receive a Report Card during Parent Teacher Conferences. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings this school year to accommodate busy schedules. Classroom teachers will provide you with available meeting times and dates.

- ✓ Wednesday, October 19 conferences are held from 4:30pm until 7:45pm.
- ✓ Thursday, October 20 conferences are held from 4:30pm until 7:45pm.
- ✓ No school for students or staff on Friday, October 21.

School Pictures – Lifetouch: Students will be photographed at Kennard on **Monday, October 10, 2016**. They will be photographing students for portrait packages & school records. This will be your special opportunity to purchase school pictures! Students are exempt from wearing uniforms on Picture Day. Order forms must be turned in to the photographer on picture day or parents may order online. More details coming soon!

School Tours: Kennard offers guided school tours on Thursdays from September through April, beginning at 10:00am. Tours are led by Kennard parents knowledgeable about the school curriculum and activities. Visitors have the opportunity to see our facilities, observe classrooms in action, ask questions, and experience our school community firsthand. Please allow at least 60 minutes for the tour. Reservations are requested, but not required if you attend on one of the following dates. Go to www.KennardTours@gmail.com to sign up. Listed are tour dates:

- Thursday 9/29
- Thursday 10/27
- Thursday 11/17
- Thursday 12/15
- Thursday 1/26
- Thursday 2/23
- Thursday 3/16
- Thursday 4/13

Springboard Enrichment: These are free programs provided by SLPS that enhance our curriculum. These academic resources develop children's critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills through the arts, sciences and humanities. Students in grades pre-k and kindergarten will participate in the following Springboard program this fall taught by Sarah Anne Patz: *Languages of Creative Movement*. Feel free to contact your child's teacher for additional information.

Student Health Services @ Kennard

- **Affinia Healthcare** School Based Medical team will sponsor a dental clinic for Kennard students in grades Pre-K- 5. These services will be provided at the

school and are voluntary. If you would like for your child to participate, please obtain consent forms from Nurse Humphreys. Screening dates are set after consent forms are returned to the nurse.

Update: Affinia needs at least 20 “signed” consent forms to conduct a clinic at Kennard and the nurse has only received 12. Please return forms ASAP if you would like for your child to be screened.

- **The Vision 4 Life Clinic** sponsored by Crown Vision will conduct vision screenings at Kennard on Friday, October 28 for all Kennard students in grades K- 5 and a consent form is not needed for the screening. The screenings will begin at 9:20am. However, if you do not wish for your child to be screened, you may send a written notice requesting that the school will not allow the child to participate in the screening.
- On Monday, November 7 an eye doctor from **The Vision 4 Life Clinic** sponsored by Crown Vision will examine students that fail the vision screening. Family consent forms are needed before an additional screening is provided. Glasses will be provided for students that are prescribed glasses in the clinic.



Food allergies are an increasingly common problem: 1 in 13 children in the United States is allergic to some kind of food, most commonly peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, sesame, milk, eggs, soy, fish, or shellfish, and that number is on the rise. Our learning community reflects this nationwide trend. The number of food allergies in our student population has increased in recent years, and we currently have dozens of students with food allergies.

Nuts—whether peanuts or tree nuts—are among the most common food allergens. More than 15% of school-aged children with food allergies have had a reaction at school. Reactions to nuts are particularly worrisome for two reasons: (a) they tend to be severe or even life-threatening; and (b) they can be triggered by only a trace amount of the allergen. Therefore, many schools—including Kennard—take special precautions to protect nut-allergic students from exposure.

Precautions:

1. The list below includes foods that families may voluntarily refrain from sending to school:
 - Peanuts
 - Walnuts
 - Cashews
 - Macadamia Nuts
 - Hazelnuts
 - Almonds
 - Pine nuts
 - Pistachios
 - Other “tree nuts.”
2. Nut-Free Table in the Cafeteria
 - a. A table in the cafeteria will be labeled “Nut-Free”
 - b. The table is available for any child with a food allergy to sit at, but will not be limited only to students with allergies. Students with lunches that contain nuts will not be permitted at the “Nut-Free” Table
 - c. Students bringing lunches that contain nuts will be asked to wash their hands upon leaving the cafeteria
3. No Sharing/Trading
 - a. Kennard will continue to enforce the District’s “No Sharing/No Trading” policy in the cafeteria
4. Awareness- There are also some very simple things that families can do to help protect our students with food allergies.
 - a. Talk to your children about food allergies, stressing the need to protect their friends who have such allergies by:
 - i. Not sharing food
 - ii. Keeping the foods that their classmates are allergic to away from them
 - iii. Washing their hands after meals, especially if they have eaten something a classmate is allergic to.
 - b. Ensure that your children have washed any nut products off of their hands and/or faces before coming to school in the morning.
 - c. Avoid sending any nuts or nut products for consumption by your child’s classmates—for example, for distribution to classmates at classroom parties.

This is also an important time to talk to your kids about bullying or teasing. Threatening another student with foods they are allergic to and harassing or bullying a student about their allergies falls under the Bullying and Harassment policies of the St. Louis Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep all of our students healthy at school. For more information about food allergies, including sources for the above statistics and resources for educating kids, see www.foodallergy.org.

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” – Dr. Seuss