



KANELAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #302

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Key Communicators Network (KCN) – September 17, 2008 “Wednesday’s Words”

Welcome to our new subscribers to the Kaneland KCN. As a member of the KCN, you will receive a weekly newsletter via e-mail. This newsletter will contain information regarding the Kaneland School District. We welcome any feedback that you may have regarding the KCN.

We apologize for the multiple e-mail messages that went out on Sunday.

Board of Education / District News

Public Hearings to Discuss Boundary Changes - Kaneland CUSD #302 will be conducting public hearings to provide information and to seek input from parents and community members regarding possible boundary changes effective for the 2009-2010 school year. Both middle school and elementary school boundaries will be topics of discussion. The hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the schools indicated below:



McDole Elementary School, Montgomery – September 23, 2008
John Shields Elementary School, Sugar Grove – September 24, 2008
John Stewart Elementary School, Elburn – September 30, 2008
Blackberry Creek Elementary School, Elburn – October 7, 2008



Mysteries of the School Calendar - Each year the District receives questions about how the annual school calendar is determined and what district employees are doing on those days when they come to work but students do not attend school. The calendar is developed by the administration and a staff committee. Ultimately though, it is approved by the Board of Education. It reflects several factors including:

1. An effort by area school districts that share programs through the Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative and the Fox Valley Career Center to coordinate their calendars. The following guidelines are used for calendar development:
 - The first day of school will be the second Wednesday prior to Labor Day.
 - Some Mid-Valley districts will conduct pilots during 07-08 and 08-09 school years to collect data on various options for non-student attendance during the week of Thanksgiving. Data will be shared on an ongoing basis.

- Winter Break should commence on a Monday and run for 2 weeks. Whenever New Year's Day falls on Sunday, the next day is observed as the federal holiday and should be a non-attendance day.
 - The spring county-wide institute day will be scheduled on the Friday preceding Casimir Pulaski's Birthday.
 - A five-day Spring Break shall be held according to week 39 of the IHSA calendar. However, if week 39 of the IHSA calendar coincides with the spring Consolidated Election, Spring Break will be delayed one week.
2. A contractual requirement to start the school year with two institute days
 3. An effort to have acceptable first and last days of school---not too early and not too late
 4. A recognition that the scheduling of some non-attendance days help families take extended weekends

Within Kaneland's annual school calendar, there are four institute days and five school improvement days. Students do not attend school on these days. Institute days are for teacher training and staff development activities. School improvement days provide time for staff to analyze test scores, review curriculum, etc. to determine what can be done to improve teaching and learning. These days are scheduled within the school year rather than at the beginning or end of the year, as it is best to do training and school improvement while staff members are involved in their work during the school year and can immediately apply what they have learned. Should you have any questions about or suggestions for the school calendar, please submit them to the superintendent's office or your building principal.

Parent University - Kaneland will be hosting Parent University on Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Parent University is one day of workshops designed to provide parents with information, tips, and resources regarding parenting topics. There will also be a resource fair for parents to learn about businesses and services in the Kaneland community.



This year's keynote speaker is Brent Hatch, author of "Raising a G-Rated Family in an X-Rated World." *New this year:* Daycare is available!

Registration is now open! The cost for Parent University is \$20 per person, or \$30 per couple, if registration is sent in by September 19, 2008. After September 19, the cost is \$25 per person. A complete list of sessions is available in the registration booklet found on the Kaneland web site at www.kaneland.org.

School News



KST Fourth Graders Take Off - It's official!! Ms. Girsch's class is Up, Up, and Away Into Fourth Grade! Ms. Girsch has her students work cooperatively in groups constructing tissue paper hot air balloons at the beginning of the school year. She also uses this activity as an introductory project to the Foss Science unit on Ideas and Inventions.

On lift off day, parents and grandparents are invited to come see how well the balloons fly when the air inside is heated with a heat gun. Her twenty-four students are now ready to sail through fourth grade. Have a great school year everyone!

KME First Graders Celebrate - First grade had a blast celebrating author/illustrator Tomie DePaola's birthday! We've been reading several of his stories as we discuss schema and making connections. To celebrate, we wrote and illustrated birthday cards while eating a snack together. We will mail these to Tomie!



We also got to hear a new Tomie DePaola story and each first grade teacher read to a class other than their own. The entire first grade sang "Happy Birthday" to this very popular author. We even had special guests Mrs. Eggleston, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Benham, Mrs. Tockstein, and Miss Looney join us! We look forward to future author studies each month in first grade.

Educational Lingo

So often, educators are caught using acronyms that have little to no meaning to the non-educator. Therefore, this section of the newsletter will be used to define and describe educational acronyms.

ADA (average daily attendance): The total number of days of student attendance divided by the total number of days in the regular school year. ADA is not the same as enrollment, or register, which is the number of students enrolled in each school and district. (This number is determined by counting students on a given day, usually in the fall.) ADA tends to be lower than enrollment due to such factors as students moving, dropping out, or staying home because of illness. Based on counts taken on predetermined dates during the school year, average daily attendance is a factor used by state and federal departments of education to determine how much money schools receive.

Did You Know???

In the language of science, an **equinox** is either of two points on the celestial sphere where the ecliptic and the celestial equator intersect. For the rest of us, it's one of two times a year when the Sun crosses the equator and the day and night are of approximately equal length.

At the autumnal equinox (Sept 22, 2008; 11:44:18 A.M. EDT), the Sun appears to cross the celestial equator, from north to south; this marks the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.

For more information on the equinox, other interesting facts, educational games and quizzes check out www.factmonster.com with your student during their nightly homework sessions.

Upcoming Events

| Date | Time | Place | Event |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9/17/2008 | Afternoon | KSS - Loredo Taft | 5 th Grade Returns |
| 9/16/2008 | 7:00 p.m. | KMS - Choir Room | Music Boosters Meeting |
| 9/17/2008 | 7:00 p.m. | Milnamow Adm Ctr | FPC Meeting |
| 9/17/2008 | 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. | KMS - Cafeteria | Market Day and Manna Pick-Up |
| 9/17/2008 | 7:00 p.m. | KME – MPR | PTO Meeting |
| 9/18/2008 | 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. | KMS – Room 54 | Environmental Club Meeting |
| 9/18/2008 | All Day | KBK | Picture Day |
| 9/18/2008 | 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. | McDonald's - Elburn | KBK – McCare Night |
| 9/18/2008 | 7:00 p.m. | KMS - Teacher's Room | PTO Meeting |
| 9/19/2008 | Afternoon | KSS | Progress reports sent home |
| 9/19/2008 | Afternoon | KST | Progress reports sent home |
| 9/19/2008 | All Day | KBK - Office | Manna Order Pickup |
| 9/22/2008 | 7:00 p.m. | Milnamow Adm Ctr | Board of Education Meeting |
| 9/19/2008 | 3:30 p.m. | KBK – Room 132 | Brownie Troop 554 Meeting |
| 9/22/2008- 9/24/2008 | All Day/All Night | KST - Loredo Taft | 5 th Gr. Outdoor Education |
| 9/23/2008 | 3:30 p.m. | KBK – Art Room | Young Rembrandts |
| 9/23/2008 | 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. | KBK – MPR | Market Day Pickup |
| 9/24/2008 | 7:00 p.m. | KSS – MPR | Public Hearing - Boundaries |
| 9/25/2008 | 7:00 p.m. | Milnamow Adm Ctr | CAC Meeting |

School Abbreviations

KHS – Kaneland High School
 KMS – Kaneland Middle School
 KBK – Kaneland Blackberry Creek Elementary School
 KME – Kaneland McDole Elementary School
 KSS – Kaneland John Shields Elementary School
 KST – Kaneland John Stewart Elementary School
 FVCC – Fox Valley Career Center

And in Closing...

“There is a harmony in autumn, and a lustre in its sky, which through the summer is not heard or seen, as if it could not be, as if it had not been!” - Percy Shelley (1792 - 1822)

Note: If you would like your name to be removed from this e-mail list, please reply to this message and type REMOVE in the subject line.

Note: Archived copies of the weekly KCN newsletter can be viewed on-line at:
<http://www.kaneland.org/shared/kcn/archives.php>.

VISION

Building Foundations
 Pursuing Excellence
 Learning for a Lifetime
Kaneland

MISSION

The mission of Kaneland Community Unit School District #302 is to guide and challenge all students to acquire the knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to contribute to and successfully participate in a diverse, democratic society. Our mission will be accomplished through a continued partnership of students, district personnel, parents and other community members.