

Kennedy News

Volume 4

April 2, 2009

Exciting News!

John F. Kennedy School has been Green School certified!

Thanks to the efforts of our Green Team, led by parent, Susan Christin and teacher, D'Anne McNeil, we've been certified as an official Michigan Green School! We will be honored at Oakland County's Michigan Green Schools Recognition Ceremony on April 20th. Many thanks to Mrs. Christin and Mrs. McNeil for helping the Kennedy School family become more environmentally conscious.

Night Activities

Our school is used for many, many night activities. Besides our school functions like concerts and PTA events, community organizations rent the gym, our Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops meet in the building, and our parent groups have meetings here. We provide babysitting services only during the MAP/PTA/PAC meeting night (usually held the first Tuesday of the month). At all other events, parents are expected to monitor their children's behavior. At a parent meeting earlier this week, students used the computer lab and, unfortunately, somehow disabled the lab and it is not yet fully functional.

We respectfully request that during night time events, you do not let your children:

- run in the hallways and/or stage
- play on the playground without supervision
- go into unattended classrooms
- go into the gym to play
- use the computers in classrooms and/or the media center.

- go into Mrs. DeLuca's desk and belongings
 - Play with the office and/or workroom equipment
- We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

End of the Day Transportation Changes

Each day the office receives between 20-30 phone calls from parents who want to change the end of the day pick up for their children. While this is understandable in some cases, the office cannot deliver personal messages to children except in cases of an emergency. The office contacts the classrooms the same way you do, through voice mail, and then reminds teachers to check voice mail at about 3PM. To get to your teacher's voice mailbox, dial 248-547-0880 and press option 1 to dial by name or extension. To avoid cases of miscommunication, please try to be clear with your children regarding their after school plans **before** they come to school in the morning. That would be a great help!

Classroom Placement Requests

With spring here and 3/4 of the school year done, our staff is beginning to plan for next year.

Here is the process we use: In late spring, each program team meets. Together we discuss each child and his/her unique learning styles and needs. We then take great care to create "learning communities" to assure that we have balanced classrooms in terms of learning style, gender, behaviors, etc. We will place each child into a learning community in which he/she will be most successful. Each grouping will then be placed with the new grade level teacher. Our staff works hard to create these optimal learning communities.

In past years, the office has taken many parent requests for the next school year placement. This year we will not be taking such requests. If you would like to have input into your child's placement, please contact your current teacher in writing to share your concerns about placement. The only exception to this new procedure is for current families with incoming kindergarten students. If you have strong feelings about teacher placement for kindergarten, please let me know via written communication (email or letter).

Hopefully everyone will recognize that this new system will benefit all of our students and teachers.

Euchre Night!

Do you enjoy playing cards and meeting new people? The last Friday of each month is JFK Euchre Night at the Elks' Club in Ferndale. The PTA is sponsoring it, and it's a fabulous, fun night of cards, food and friendship. The cost is \$10, and all proceeds from the night go to our school magnet programs. The Multi Age Program receives its portion for thematic celebration days and the Open Classroom funds go directly into the camp fund. Look for a note to come home prior to the event and send it back to school. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Call Barb Landry at 248-390-4457 or email at Barbara@homedocs.com.

Lost and Found

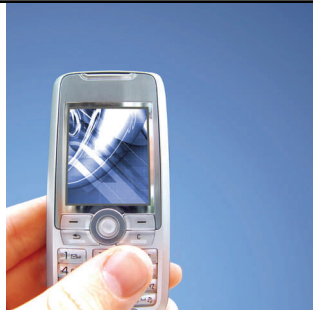
The lost and found has overtaken our school! We will be displaying the lost and found the week of April 14-17. Please find time to come in and claim what is yours. After the 17th, we'll be bagging it up and donating it to a worthy organization (e.g. Purple Heart and/or Salvation Army) The lost and found is currently located in two places, outside the cafeteria and the office. Please identify your child's clothing if possible. Also, to eliminate the confusion of so many "look-alike" lunch boxes/bags, please clearly identify your child's lunch by writing his/her full name and room number on the ***inside*** of it.

Talent Show Thank You!

A great big **THANK YOU** goes to our Talent Show organizational parents, Chelsea O'Brien, Debra Wilson, Lisa Canada and Dawn Keener. These ladies worked very, very hard to create a fabulous Talent Show event in which any student who wished to perform could display their talents for the school and parents. Many other parents helped and we thank you, too! Another big **YAHOO** goes to the Dad Band! They had so much fun creating a wonderful pre show for all of us to enjoy!

Attendance

Please report your child's absence at 248-547-0880 (press 2). Also, call that number if your child is going to be late and needs a hot lunch. Thank you for your cooperation!



Dates to Remember

- April 2:** Talent Show at 6:30PM
- April 3:** Half Day; teachers mark report cards in the PM
- April 6-13:** Spring Break
- April 14-30:** Iowa Testing
- April 14:** MAP/PTA/PAC meetings; 5:30/6:30/7:30
- April 17:** Multi Age thematic celebration day; 9AM
- April 22:** Administrative Assistant Day (AKA, Secretary's Day!)
- April 22:** Earth Day!
- April 23:** Take your son/daughter to work day
- April 24:** Sky Dome Assembly; 8:30AM
- April 24:** Market Day Pick up
- April 24:** Euchre Night PTA fund raiser
- April 28:** Half Day; in-service in PM
- April 30:** Fifth Grade Musical!
- May 4-8:** Spring Book Fair
- May 5:** Joint 5th/6th grade band/orchestra concert; FHS, 7PM
- May 7:** Spring Vocal Concert for 1st/2nd grade, Berkheimer and show choirs
- May 12:** MAP/PTA/PAC meetings; 5:30/6:30/7:30PM
- May 13:** JFK Jog a Thon!
- May 14:** Banking Day
- May 14:** All City Dance; 7PM FHS
- May 18:** Kindergarten Vocal Concert and Kindergarten orientation; 6:30PM
- May 19-21:** OC camp for 4th/5th grades
- May 22:** Half Day
- May 25:** No School, Memorial Day
- May 26-28:** OC 6th grade camp
- May 26-28:** OC camp for 2nd/3rd grades
- May 29:** Last Market Day pick up