

# KENNEDY COMMUNICATOR

November 21, 2011

## Attendance

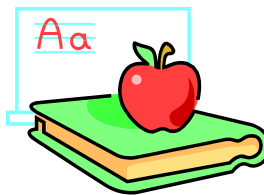
**Please report your child's  
absence at  
248-547-0880 (press 2).  
Also, call that  
number if your child is  
going to be late and needs  
a hot lunch.  
Thank you for your  
cooperation!**

Every time I walk into a fifth or sixth grade classroom during a math lesson and watch what the students are doing, I am astonished. I keep going back to my own school years. I remember doing some of the same fraction, decimal and geometry work in middle school, not elementary school. It is a clear example of how public schools have raised standards. The best part about it is that students are learning those tough strategies, even if it is at an earlier age. So, higher standards really are creating higher achievement. It's an exciting time in our world and a complicated time as well. The world is changing and our students have to be ready for global competition as they get out into the work force.

In addition, when I walk away from those times in the classroom, I also walk away thinking, "How will parents be able to support their children at home with this math?" We realize how different it is from the days you and I were in school. And it's not only math. It's reading and writing too. There has been so much research between the time I was in elementary school to now about how children learn and what is the most effective way to teach them. Because of that, teachers are learning too. They are learning new ways to teach and doing that in your child's room and also new ways of looking at student data to individualize as much as possible.

So, while you and your family prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, staff will be spending their Wednesday working with each other on data analysis and teaching strategies. However, you don't have to be an instructional expert to support your child's learning. Reading together, using on-line resources for math and talking about current events are all things you can do to reinforce or add to their learning each day. Let us know, too, when you need help to learn the best ways to support your own child. Together, we can help your child reach the high academic standards of the new millennium.

Sincerely,



Pauline K. Nagle, Principal

## LOST AND FOUND

The JFK Lost and Found is spilling over with hats, coats, sweat-shirts, shoes, etc. If your child is missing an item, please stop by the school to see if it may be here. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity at the end of the day on Friday, December 16 (last day before winter break).

### Upcoming Dates:

**November 23:** No School  
Teachers professional development in the a.m.

**November 24-25:** No School,  
Thanksgiving Recess

**November 28:** Classes resume

**December 6:**  
PTA Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
PAC Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
MAP Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**December 7:** Building Tour 9 a.m.

**December 8:** JFK Holiday Shop  
Coolidge/JFK 5th/6th Band/orchestra concert @  
FHS— 6:30 p.m.

**December 9:** Market Day pickup 3-4:30 p.m.

**December 19, 2011—Monday, January 2, 2012:**  
No School—Winter Break.

**January 3, 2012:** Classes resume  
PTA Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
PAC Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
MAP Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**January 4:** Building Tour 9 a.m.

**January 16:** No School—MLK birthday

**January 18:** Building Tour 9 a.m.  
Mobile Dentist

**January 20:** No School

**January 25:** Elementary Skate Party—  
Grades K-6 Troy Skate World 6:15-8:15 p.m.

**January 27:** Market Day pickup 3-4:30 p.m.

**January 28:** All-City Extravaganza—FHS 12-4 p.m.  
Choir 1 p.m.; Band 4 p.m.; Orchestra 7 p.m.



## John F. Kennedy Green School Recycling

<u>WHAT WE RECYCLE</u>	<u>WHERE IT'S COLLECTED</u>	<u>WHERE IT ENDS UP</u>	<u>FUNDRAISER?</u>
Paper	classrooms and hallway bins	curbside, then to SOCRRA	no
Cans	hallway bins	curbside, then to SOCRRA	no
Bottles	hallway bins	curbside, then to SOCRRA	no
Plastic bags	bin in Recycling Zone*	taken to SOCRRA by parent volunteer	no
Batteries	bin in Recycling Zone*	curbside in bag, then to SOCRRA	no
Cell phones	bin in Recycling Zone*	Ecophone	yes
Toner cartridges	bin in Recycling Zone*	Planet Green **	yes
Shoes	bins during Earth Month	Nike drop-off center for shredding into playground filler	no
CD's/DVD's	bins during Earth Month	for sale during Earth Month then recycled	no
Clothing	Lost and Found bin	uncollected items are donated several times throughout the school year	no
Capri Sun Pouches	bin in lunchroom	Terracycle	yes
Water bottle and other plastic caps	bin in office	taken to SOCRRA by parent volunteer	no
Frito Lay bags **	bin in lunchroom	Terracycle	yes

\* The Recycling Zone is near the ramp by the media center, at the front of the school  
 \*\* New for 2011 - More information will be sent home at a later date

***Thank you for all your help!***

### ***Ferndale Schools Stand Up to Bullying***

The entire JFK staff supported "Stand Up to Bullying" day by wearing pink t-shirts. Several students (and family members) ordered and wore the shirts as well. The rationale behind the pink shirts is this: A student (not from JFK) was bullied for wearing a pink shirt and two boys (bystanders) spoke up and supported the student who was being bullied.

In the classrooms, all students were provided with a cut-out of a paper heart. They were instructed to crumple it up, stomp on it and really mess it up, but not tear it. Then they were asked to unfold the paper, smooth it out and look at how scarred and dirty it was. The students are told to tell the heart they're sorry or that they were just kidding. Now, even though they said they were sorry and tried to fix the paper, it was pointed out that all the scars were left behind and that those scars will never go away no matter how hard they tried to fix it. That is what happens when a child bullies another child; they may say they're sorry, but the scars are there forever.

Staff members and students were provided with individual pledge sheets in the form of a paper shoe that were signed and posted on our main bulletin board and as footprints around the building, pledging:

***"Today I have an obligation. No longer will I be silent if you need help.***

***Silence is participation. I refuse to participate in the problem.***

***We are all different, but we all deserve respect. If you need help, come to me.***

***If I think you need help, I'm getting involved.***

***I got your back!"***

