



KING'S GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THE LION'S PRIDE PARENT NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Sheila Wynn, Principal

Mr. Stephen Marvaso, Asst. Principal

VOLUME 4

October-November, 2009

ISSUE 1

From the Desk of the Principal

We are off to a great start! Mr. Marvaso and I would like to thank everyone for your participation in our Open House Meet & Greet. Building positive relationships with our school community is paramount to student success. During the summer, Mr. Marvaso and I attended an administrative conference where several key strategies for building a successful community were addressed. We are certain that this experience will assist us in working with our external community, as well as better preparing our students for a brave new world. Our goal is to create opportunities for parents, community, and business leaders to be actively engaged partners in supporting student achievement and outcomes for student success. We look forward to a super year and the opportunity to work with 21st century families!

H1N1 Flu Guidelines in Schools

In the U.S. H1N1 flu cases have continued through the summer months and will persist into this coming school year. There are no confirmed cases at KGES so far. The expected number or severity of H1N1 flu cases this school year is uncertain. However, important steps can be taken to decrease the spread of the virus. An H1N1 flu vaccine may be available by mid-October.

Flu symptoms include: fever, cough, sore throat, headache, chills, fatigue, and body aches.

Protect well family members from the flu by doing the following:
a) Sneeze and cough into a tissue or sleeve (if tissue not available), b) Practice good hand washing, and c) Clean frequent hand contact areas with cleaning solutions that are usually used in these areas.

Your child should not return to school until they no longer have signs of illness and are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicine). A fever is a temperature equal or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

When your child returns to school, they should first report to the clinic for an evaluation by the school nurse to ensure that they have recovered from their illness. If your child still has signs & symptoms of flu-like illness you will be contacted to pick them up from school. Important flu information and updates can be found on the www.vbschools.com website.

SCHOOL NET

King's Grant will go live for parents with the launching of the SchoolNet Parent Portal on October 26, 2009. The long range goal of the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Division is the successful preparation and graduation of every student. The near term goal is that by 2015, **ninety-five** percent or more of the divisions students will graduate, having mastered the skills that they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers, and citizens.

Until the October 26 rollout date, the most comprehensive source of information for parents is the [SchoolNet Parent Portal Registration & Help](#) page. This provides an overview of what parents will have access to and how to register. Please be reminded you will not be able to register for access to the School Net Parent Portal until October 26.

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE


- Homework requests for absent students must be called in no later than 12:00 pm.
- Any changes in transportation must be submitted in writing, by fax 757-431-4092, or email to elizabeth.apel@vbschools.com, or brought in by the student.
- Please always be prepared to show ID when picking up a student.

GREEN NEWS

Going Green!

Parents, we know it's fall, but King's Grant Elementary is going green all year long! We're stepping up our efforts to be greener than before! Mrs. Gradwell and Ms. Reimond are heading up a Green Team that will meet 4 times a year. The objective for the Green Team is to educate everyone in the school about the 4 R's – Respect, Recycle, Reuse and Reduce!

Please remember that we have a place for you to recycle your ink jet cartridges and cell phones. Thanks for your support, and Go Green!

DATE	START TIME	END TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
October 1	7:15 AM	8:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
October 3			Sukkot (RH)	
October 4			Fire Prevention & Natl Metric Awareness Week	
October 5	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	PTA Board Meeting	LMC
October 6	3:10 PM	4:00 PM	Drama Club Mtg	
	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Newspaper Club	Cafe
October 7	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	PTA VIE Orientation	Cafe
October 8	7:15 AM	8:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
	3:10 PM	4:00 PM	PRIDE Club Mtg.	Rm 304
October 12			Progress Report Issued Qtr 1 0910	
			Columbus Day	
			Natl Sch Lunch Wk	
	9:40 AM	2:00 PM	Fire Safety Assembly (Gr 4) 9:40-10:40 & 1:00-2:00	
	10:50 AM	12:40 PM	PTA Harvest Festival Ticket Sales	Cafe Foyer
October 13	9:40 AM	2:55 PM	Fire Safety Assembly (Gr 4) 9:40-10:40 & 1:55-2:55	
	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Book Bunch	LMC
October 14	12:20 PM	01:30 PM	Gals R Us Mtg	Rm 110
October 15	7:15 AM	8:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
October 16	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	PTA Harvest Festival	
October 17			Red Ribbon Week	
October 18			America's Safe Sch Week	
October 19			Natl Sch Bus Safety Week	
	9:40 AM	2:00PM	Fire Safety Assembly (Gr 4) 9:40-10:40 & 1:00-2:00	
October 20	9:40 AM	2:55 PM	Fire Safety Assembly (Gr 4) 9:40-10:40 & 1:55-2:55	
	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Royal Readers	LMC
	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Newspaper Club	Rm 514
October 21			Picture Day 	
	7:45 AM	8:10 AM	Citizen Of the Month Breakfast	Cafe
	3:10 PM	4:00 PM	GIRLS Club Mtg.	Rm 304
	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Parent Technology Night	Cafe/LMC
October 22	7:15 AM	8:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
October 28	8:45 AM	2:45 PM	Gift of the Nile visits Gr 2	Clssrms
	5:30 PM	8:00 PM	Skating Party (All you can eat Pizza)	Haygood Skating Center
October 29	7:15 AM	8:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Gift of the Nile visits Gr 2	Clssrms
	9:15 AM	1:30 PM	FT Brookdale Farms (Gr 1)	
October 30	9:15 AM	12:30 PM	FT to Hunt Club Farm (Gr K AM & PM)	

DATE	START TIME	END TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
November 1			Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back)	
November 2	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	PTA Board Meeting	LMC
November 3			Staff Day No School for Students	
November 4	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Newspaper Club	Rm 514
November 5	7:15 AM	8:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
	3:10 PM	4:00 PM	KIDS Club Mtg.	Rm 304
November 10	3:10 PM	4:00 PM	Drama Club Mtg	Cafe
	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Book Bunch	LMC
November 11			Hol Veteran's Day 0910 Schools Closed	
November 12	7:15 AM	8:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
	3:10 PM	4:00 PM	PRIDE Club Mtg.	Rm 304
November 13			Quarter 1 Ends (47 days)	
November 15			American Education Week	
November 16			Quarter 2 Begins	
			Geography Awareness Week	
	3:00	4:15	Tutoring (2 nd Grade)	
November 17	3:00	4:15	Tutoring (2 nd Grade)	
	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Royal Readers	LMC
November 18			REC Educational Support Professionals Recognition Day (TA, Cafe, Bus Drvrs, Sch Plant, Supply Svcs)	
	8:45 AM	9:30 AM	Chorus (Gr 4)	Rm 509
	9:35 AM	10:15 AM	Art Club	Rm 508
	9:35 AM	10:20 AM	Chorus (Gr 5)	Rm 509
	12:20 PM	1:30 PM	Gals R Us Mtg	Rm 110
	3:10 PM	4:00 PM	GIRLS Club Mtg.	Rm 304
	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Newspaper Club	Rm 514
November 19	7:15 AM	8:05 AM	Jump Rope Club	Gym
			Natl Parental Involvement Day	
	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	SPC Mtg	LMC
November 22			Natl Family Week	
November 23			Report Card Issued Qtr 1 0910	
	3:00	4:15	Tutoring (2 nd Grade)	
November 24	3:00	4:15	Tutoring (2 nd Grade)	
November 25			Adjusted Dismissal Day KAM 8:30-10:30 KPM 10:30-12:30 1 st -5 th 8:30-12:30	
	7:45 AM	8:10 AM	COM Breakfast	Cafe
	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Lion Bowl (Gr 5)	Field
November 26			Holiday Thanksgiving Day 0910	
November 27			Holiday Day After Thanksgiving Day 0910	
November 30	3:00	4:15	Tutoring (2nd Grade)	

The Parent Support and Information Center is a part of the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Office of Programs for Exceptional Children. The purpose of the center is to provide parents of students with disabilities information and training. Parents are encouraged to become full participants with educators in the processes that enable students with disabilities to acquire knowledge and skills necessary to meet the challenges of the future. The Parent Support and Information Center offers a lending library, a newsletter, a variety of workshops, phone/walk-in consultations, and other services to parents and educators.

PARENT SUPPORT & INFORMATION CENTER GOALS

- ◆ To facilitate effective communication between parents and school personnel for the benefit of students with disabilities.
- ◆ To clarify the role of parents, as well as educators related to special education services.
- ◆ To serve as a resource for disability related referrals.
- ◆ To provide services that will strengthen the bond between home, school, and the community.
- ◆ To help foster a rapport between the families of students with disabilities and their schools.

Parent Support & Information Center
Office of Programs for Exceptional Children
1413 Laskin Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Hours of Operation
Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 am-5:00 pm Fri. 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

Dr. Brenda Reid, Coordinator
Phone: 757-263-2066
Fax: 757-263-2067
Email: bdreid@vbschools.com

For your convenience, please call the Parent Support and Information Center before visiting, occasionally the office is closed for training and workshops.



Parent Connection, in partnership with CHKD, invites you to attend this free bullying workshop. Jodee Blanco, New York Times Bestselling Author, will be at the CHKD Brickhouse Auditorium on October 15 from 7-8:30 p.m.. Ms. Blanco will describe the warning signs that a child may be a bully or a victim, how to intervene successfully, how to deal with the parents of the bullies and/or victim, how to work with the school, and how to find and work with a qualified therapist. Space is limited, so please register by calling 668-7500 or 1-800-395-2453. You can also register online at www.chkd.org/classes.

Many thanks to our partners at CHKD and the Kohl's Foundation for making this opportunity possible!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Kindergarten has been busy, busy, busy! Our weeks are packed full of visits to the library, music class, computer lab, and 2 days a week we have a blast in the gym. We have been visited by Mrs. McClendon, our Guidance Counselor, and Mrs. Williams, our Speech Pathologist, *all* while introducing/reviewing all the letters of the alphabet, numbers, shapes, and colors!!! Kindergarten is also planning a field trip to Hunt Club Farm for the end of October. Look for more information to come in a few weeks. Students have been selected for the full day kindergarten program. Extended Day Kindergarten began Monday, September 28th. We've already had some little ones home sick with colds and tummy aches. Please show your child how to cough or sneeze into their arm, encourage your child to wash their hands often, and refrain from sending a sick child to school. Students need to get plenty of sleep and physical activity, drink water, and eat good food to help them stay healthy in the winter and all year!



Second graders love school and we are excited to be back! In Social Studies we are studying some famous Americans that helped make our country great. Later on we will be learning about the pyramids in ancient Egypt, the builders that made the Great Wall of China, and the lives of the early American Indians! In Science, we are learning about matter and “boy does it matter”. Did you know we are all scientists? We also have lots of other fun units planned in Science this year. In Math, we develop a strong foundation with lots of review at the beginning of the year. Automaticity develops as we practice adding, subtracting, counting money, telling time, and learning to count on and back from nearly any number. Teachers are busy listening to students read to learn their reading levels and to help them on their journey to become life long readers. Just thinking about reading makes us all want to curl up with a good book. Not only do second graders love to read we also like to be writers. The cherry on top of the ice cream for second graders is that we also begin cursive writing at mid-year. Parents, we love your support! Enjoy the year with us!



First grade has really taken off this year! Our children are busy reading and writing in class each day as they learn The Daily Five. The teachers are busy teaching the students strategies they can use while they are reading and writing such as Back Up and Reread and Tune Into Interesting Words. In math, the students are learning about numbers that come before and after a given number and many exciting calendar activities that they will incorporate each day during the school year. Ask your child or scientist what they have observed in science! They are working with worms and different mixtures as they learn to think and act like scientists in first grade. Our first graders have been very busy learning to work and play together as a community. We look forward to more discoveries next month!



The Third Grade students came back from summer vacation and started the school year running. In Language Arts, the students are learning to share with each other their thoughts and opinions about what they are reading. They are responding to their reading by answering open ended questions. We are also working on developing our writing communities in the classroom. Students are encouraged to jot down any ideas they might want to write about. Parents can help them with suggestions they can add to their writing ideas list. Once they've written a number of pieces in their writing journals, they will be choosing a piece for editing and publishing. Who knows, a fun weekend outing might turn into a published story! The students have taken another step into the age of technology by taking their first citywide online test. This time it was a reading test, but all citywide testing will be done online in the months to come. The AR program is up and running and children are encouraged to test their recall of the AR stories they read. Please remind your third grader to read nightly—and get those reading logs signed. In Math, they have refreshed their memories about numbers, skip counting, money, and graphing. As a scientist, they have used the senses to determine which of five clear liquids was water. Putting on their cartographer hats, the students are learning about maps, the seven continents, and the five oceans (yes, there are five instead of four oceans) on this planet. We are looking ahead to studying all about simple machines, economics, and adding/subtracting big numbers. In reading, we will be enjoying different genres of books. Third grade will be an interesting and challenging year with many new experiences ahead.



What's going on in fourth grade?

Fourth grade students have been adjusting well to the busy, new school year!

What's cool to see? The 4th graders are modeling acts of kindness in the classroom and in the hallways-what great role models they are for the younger students!

Geometry anyone? As it turns out, 4th grade has started off the year with lines, line segments, rays, quadrangles, parallelograms...well, you get our "point"! Here is what a few of our 4th graders said about geometry:

- "Geometry is good for jobs like engineers and architects."
- "I like geometry because it is fun to learn how to use a compass."
- "Geometry builds skills for problem-solving!"

Read a good book lately? In order to enjoy a good book, you should review the story elements: setting, characters, plot, and the conclusion to name a few. Do you know how many types of sentences there are? (That was an interrogative.) There are three other kinds. They are exclamatory, declarative, and imperative. Ask your child to give you an example of each! We have been doing a lot of writing as well. Writing about our summer has been fun!

In Science we have been studying the sun, earth, and moon. Did you know that the moon rotates just like the Earth? That's a pretty interesting fact that many people do not realize! You learn something new every day!

For Social Studies we have been looking at the four strands of social studies and the five themes of geography. These 4th grade concepts will help us develop a good foundation for this year as we study the United States regions and Virginia geography.

Looking ahead:

In the near future, we are moving on to organizing data and algebra in math. We will be continuing to develop ways to enhance our reading experience by visualizing information from the text. Summarizing will be another skill that we will be zoning in on. We will be focusing on weather in science and Virginia geography in social studies. It's a perfect time to be able to explore outside as autumn brings beautiful changes in our area of Virginia!

Fifth grade students have started the year off strong in all subjects and activities. In science students are investigating cells and learning about the scientific method. Virginia Studies has picked up where students left off last year in fourth grade studying the regions of Virginia and other geographical features.

To kick-off writing, all fifth graders participated in a writing prompt last week, which proved to be a huge success. In math students are working on arrays, factors, divisibility rules, square roots and square numbers. Many fifth graders are participating in our school news cast program, LBS, as safety patrol officers, and as members of strings (orchestra). Chorus, Art Club, Newspaper Club, Green Team and many more school clubs will begin in October. It is a delight to teach your children. Thanks for your support!

If you are interested in having your child tested for the Gifted Program send in a written request to your child's teacher to obtain an application. Completed applications need to be returned to your child's teacher no later than November 20, 2009. Your child will be tested at King's Grant Elementary on December 4, 2009.

Music Notes-

In music class this year, students will continue to learn new skills and concepts that will form the foundation for a lifetime of musical enjoyment. Students in grades 1-5 receive music instruction once a week for 40 minutes. Kindergarten students have music for 30 minutes once a week. The Virginia Beach Music Curriculum Guide is followed as well as state and national standards of learning. A new Orff -Schulwerk music resource called GAMEPLAN, written by Jeff Kriske and Randy DeLelles, is being implemented citywide for grades 1-5 this year. It is a wonderful resource that I have been using for many years here at King's Grant. Using this Orff -Schulwerk approach to learning, your child will be singing, playing classroom instruments, listening to music, composing, analyzing, improvising, moving and reading music.



I look forward to making music together with your Lion during the 09-10 school year. Here is my contact information if you should ever need to reach me.

School phone number- 648-2800 ext. 52863

Jennifer.thornton@vbschools.com



The King's Grant library is a hustling place! Students come to the library each week (sometimes each day!) to check out all kinds of exciting literature! No matter what interest the student has, we can always find a book that is a perfect fit. Many of our books also have AR (Accelerated Reader) tests that go with the book so the children can read a book and then take a quiz on that book, to try and earn points. At different point levels, they can receive tags to wear on their Friday spirit chains, an extra book check out, or the ultimate prize- an invite to the school carnival in May! Students in grades K and 1 come to the library each week for lessons and grades 2-5 come at least once a month for many different lessons. The library lessons also support the classroom instruction and are an "extension" to what the students are already learning. There are numerous programs and book clubs that run out of the library. It is a great place to work and a great place to be- it is the heart of the school!

Art Room News



In the art room this month we are working on our 1st project which is the Original Works fundraiser. We are creating a nature-themed work of art that I will be sending home the week of October 12th. With the artwork there will be a brochure, order form and price sheet telling you about how you are able to purchase merchandise with your child's art work printed on it.