

KEESEVILLE

PRIDE



Principal's Message:

As the New Year approaches, typically this is the time of the year when everyone thinks about resolutions and reflects upon the previous year. As I reflect upon the previous year, I feel pride in the accomplishments of the students at KES and the work ethic of the KES staff. Together, everyone in the Keeseville school community has helped make this school great. I really believe that KES has become a model school that many other schools will try and already have been trying to emulate. Everyone should be proud of that trend.

Nonetheless, I still sit back and reflect upon all that we do and what we might want to consider doing differently in the future. In 2011, I know that I want to make sure we focus carefully on constantly engaging our students. As a school, we want to make assignments, classroom activities and school-wide activities even more meaningful to the students. Our students often are engaged because they want to make us (the KES staff and parents) happy. I want students to be engaged and to succeed because they see the benefits themselves of working hard, of thinking and of accomplishing their goals. This intrinsic motivation will bode well for students as they move into middle school and high school. To accomplish this goal, we all need to constantly “think outside the box,” take risks and try new things. As a principal, I plan on modeling this type of innovation that I will be expecting from everyone. I am confident that our school is great currently, but, my New Year's resolution is to collaborate with the

“school community” to help our students want to become “great” for themselves, not primarily because they want to make any of us happy. This resolution will only be accomplished through the collective effort of parents, teachers, support staff, community members and students. Great schools are great schools because they focus on the following question each year: “What can we do better tomorrow than we did today?”



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER:

- December 1st: Drama Club (Horton, Wickersham, Kangaroos, Cat in the Hat), 2:05 pm
- December 3rd: Drama Club (Who's, Bird Girls, Mermaid, Horton, JoJo)
- December 6th: Announcement of 2nd Principal's Challenge Project
- December 7th: FSA Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
- December 8th: 3rd-6th Chorus Dress Rehearsal at the MHS
- December 9th: Combined Elementary Concert, 6:30 pm, MHS Auditorium
- December 9th: Noon Early Release
- December 15th: BOE Mtg., AFES, 6:15 pm
- December 15th: K-2nd Holiday Program Dress Rehearsal, 8:30 am, 3rd-6th Holiday Dress Rehearsal, 9:30 am
- December 16th: Holiday Program for the Public, 9:00 am
- December 17th: Drama Club (Leads only)
- December 20th: Drama Club (Horton, JoJo, Mermaid, Gertrude, Kangaroos), 2:05 pm
- December 22nd: PBIS Raffle Announcement of Winners, & Holiday Sing-A-Long, 1:15 pm
- December 23rd-January 2nd: Vacation

Volume IV, Issue 2

December 1st, 2010

KES NEWSLETTER

Turn to back →



What's happening in the classrooms?

Well, the classrooms are bustling with action. Of course, over the last few weeks, Thanksgiving has been a hot topic in classes. Kindergarten classes had their Thanksgiving Feast, which everyone enjoyed.



In 2nd and 3rd grades, many students wrote paragraphs about what they are thankful for. In 5th grade, some students wrote papers comparing and contrasting Thanksgiving traditions today with Thanksgiving traditions of the past. Also, some 5th grade students wrote persuasive essays focusing on the tradition of eating turkey on Thanksgiving (Last Plea Essays). In 6th grade, many students wrote creative essays titled "Disguise a Turkey." All of those writing assignments focused on a variety of writing and thinking skills which we are emphasizing this year.



In music classes, of course, Mrs. Boulерice has been working with students to help them prepare for the holiday concerts coming up. As usual, our musical students will "wow" their parents in a couple of weeks.

I also witnessed many students working on some math skills. For example, students in 2nd grade have been working hard to understand and

apply the steps needed to successfully subtract three digit numbers and in 3rd grade many students have been learning about measuring using terms like pint, quart and gallon. Additionally, 6th grade students have been involved in many lessons related to fractions, decimals and percents.

Finally, I want to mention that 6th grade students have also been learning about the Neolithic Age. These students have learned a lot about an age when humans learned to farm and thus could settle in areas instead of roaming around the earth as nomads who could only hunt and gather. Obviously the impact of the invention of agriculture will be a topic sixth grade students will learn more and more about over the coming weeks.

As you can tell, a lot of interesting and beneficial lessons have been permeating out of the classrooms at KES. Stay tuned, much more will be filtered into the minds of our young people as the year progresses.

KES STUDENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Student Council has decided to hold a coin drive from May 23rd to June 10th. All money will be going to the New England Aquarium because they really need our help to help water animals. Thank you for helping us raise money for the New England Aquarium. More information will be sent home in early May.

*-Announcement written by
Kennedy Barber & Danielle Dubay,
Student Council Reps.*

This announcement has been written to tell everyone about our future Spirit Days.

- "Crazy Hair Day" - January 19th
- "Mismatch Day" - February 16th, donate 25 cents or more to help buy recess equipment"
- "Cartoon Day" - March 25th
- "Pajama Day" - April 15th, (no slippers allowed)
- "Career Day" - May 27th

*-Announcement written by
Avery Tromblee, Student Council Rep.*

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KES Students Attend the CFES National Convention

Taylor Mattila and Logan Bordeau represented KES very well as our CFES representatives at the CFES National Convention (held in Burlington, Vermont). Both students had an opportunity to listen to the keynote speaker, Erin Gruwell (*the teacher who started the "Freedom Writer's Foundation" with her struggling students from Long Beach California*). Both students also had an opportunity to participate in a workshop related to workplace etiquette. Taylor and Logan were the only elementary students at this conference and yet they were not intimidated nor were they overwhelmed as they represented KES.



Angel Acosta from CFES Talks to the 5th and 6th Grade Students about COLLEGE!!

KES was lucky enough to have Angel Acosta (former CFES student from New York City and current CFES Employee) talk to all of our 5th and 6th grade students about choosing a college, getting into college, succeeding in college.



Volume IV, Issue 2
December 1st, 2010
KES NEWSLETTER

PBIS- "SANTA'S WORKSHOP" RAFFLE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Alexia Whitford and Paige Doner...they were the winners of the "Big PBIS Raffle."

THE "IMPROVED" KES PARENT RESOURCE CENTER (PRC) IS READY FOR BUSINESS!!

Feel free to look at the resources while waiting to pick up your child or check them out for longer periods of time. Here are the titles of some of the wonderful resources in the center:

[Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet](#)
[Conversations On The Go, Clever Questions to Keep Teens and Grown-ups Talking](#)
[Sometimes I Drive My Mom Crazy But I Know She's Crazy About Me](#)

FSA MESSAGE

We are looking for individuals, moms, dads, grandparents, etc. - to join the FSA.

The FSA (Family School Association) is an organization that brings together our school and families to come up with exciting events, entertainers, dances, and much more!!!

We get together the 1st Tuesday of every month and share ideas.

Last month, the FSA donated nonperishable food items to the food shelf in Keeseville (items collected during the Halloween Dance). A big thank you goes out to all families who donated items for this food drive!!



Turn to back →

KEESEVILLE PRIDE



P.B.I.S. Update:

Our next "Big Raffle" focuses on movie night with the family. One winner will receive **five Regal Cinema movie tickets** while another winner will receive a **DVD of "Toy Story"** along with a variety of snacks.



Congratulations to the "Golden Spatula" (Most Polite to the Kitchen Staff)

Winners so Far this Year:

- ❖ Ms. Sypek's 5th Grade Class
- ❖ Mrs. Finnegan's 3rd Grade Class
- ❖ Mrs. Cayea's 1st Grade Class
- ❖ Ms. Bianchi's 4th Grade Class
- ❖ Mrs. Brault's 6th Grade Class



Congratulations to the "Golden Dustpan" (Cleanest Classroom)

Winners So Far This Year:

- ❖ Mrs. Finnegan's 3rd Grade Class
- ❖ Mrs. Dashnaw's 2nd Grade Class
- ❖ Ms. Sypek's 5th Grade Class
- ❖ Mrs. Ruede's 4th Grade Class
- ❖ Mrs. Brault's 6th Grade Class



Firemen Presentations:

"They are in the business of saving lives!! We thank them!!"



STUDENTS IN 5th GRADE ART CLASS SHOW OFF THEIR PROJECTS

