



# COUGAR CLIPPINGS



Volume 20 Issue 3

Kingston Elementary School

November 5, 2009

## A Word from our Principal

Dear Parents,

As I write this month's letter, we are working hard to plan for our H1N1 school vaccination clinic which is scheduled for November 5, the publication date for this edition of the Clippings. It is my hope that by the time you read this, our hard work will have paid off with a successful day that resulted in a minimum of disruption for students and teachers. We worked hard to plan with the Health Department and with our grade level chairs.

While our absences are up over a year ago, Kingston is faring better than many other Virginia Beach schools. Our nurse, Mrs. Powell, met with students during the first week of school to emphasize proper hand washing. We have added sanitizer stations, and we are ensuring students wash their hands or use sanitizer before going to art or music where they are likely to share instruments or art tools. Our custodial staff has worked dilligently to keep classrooms disinfected and have paid particular attention to water fountains, desk tops, and door handles.

I want to thank you all for everything you have done to help us in fighting the flu this year. From encouraging hand washing and proper hygiene at home to keeping sick children out of school, your efforts are making a real difference. I am confident that, working together, we will be able to minimize the effects of the cold and flu season on our students and their education.

Sincerely,  
Greg Furlich

## Lynnhaven Middle School Parent Information Night

Lynnhaven Middle School will hold a Parent Information Night on Tuesday, December 8th at 6 P.M. in the cafetorium. Parents of rising 5th graders or anyone else interested should plan to attend.



## SCA Friday Spirit Days

Parents please make a note of the following Spirit Days, which occur each month until the end of the school year:

- November 24, 2009 - Pajama Day**
- December 18, 2009 - Hat Day**
- January 29, 2010 - College Day**
- February 15, 2010 - Red, White, and Blue Day**
- March 26, 2010 - Career Day**
- April 30, 2010 - Twin Day**
- June 11, 2010 - Tourist Day**

## Accelerated Reader Begins!

It's that time of year again when the Accelerated Reader program begins. Our theme for the 2009/ 2010 year is, "Read Like It's the Olympics," to help the students learn about the winter Olympics, which begin in February. Students in grades 2 through 5, the start date for taking tests is November 16, 2009. First graders will begin on January 4, 2010. The program will end for all students May 14, 2010. The information sheet regarding the program is attached to the **Cougar Clippings**. Copies are also available in the office. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Sorensen at 631-0934 or [pandls@cox.net](mailto:pandls@cox.net).



## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 27th Annual Beach Ford All American Run on October 10th! It was a huge success with a total of 544 runners! We want to thank all the volunteers who make this event possible. There are so many committed family, friends, students and neighbors who enjoy this yearly school and community event.

Visit the Tidewater Striders web link (<http://www.tidewaterstriders.com/results09/beachford5k09.txt>) to see the results of each of the races.

Once again, Beach Ford and the Barton Family were our generous sponsors of this event that raises money for our PTA! We were lucky to get the races in before the rain came and hope everyone had a great time. We'll see you again next year!

Thank you!

Betsy Kainer & Kara Minson, AAR Co-Chairs.

## Holiday Musical Presentations

Mark those December calendars now for Kingston's upcoming Holiday Musical Presentations, and enjoy our newly acquired spotlights in the cafetorium. These spotlights were generously purchased by our PTA!

- December 17, 2009 6:00-6:30 PM Kindergarten Holiday Concert featuring all of our Kindergarten children singing "O Come Little Children", "We All Celebrate", "Blitzen's Boogie", and "We Wish You a Swingin' Holiday." We'll also be playing instruments and waving ribbons as we share the great holiday classics "Russian Dance" (from the Nutcracker) and "Sleigh Ride." You won't want to miss this Swingin' Celebration!
- December 17, 2009 7:30-8:30 PM "IN THE SPIRIT" Holiday Concert featuring our Second Graders presenting Tales of Temples and Tombs (about Ancient Egypt) and the 5th Grade Chorus performing Holiday Music sure to inspire, amuse and entertain you as we all get "in the spirit" this Holiday Season!

## Variety Show

It's time to start thinking about this year's Variety Show! This year's show will be **Friday, February 19th, 2010** on the stage in the cafeteria.

Audition information will be coming home soon. Forms will need to be turned in the first week of December, and Audition dates will be in the beginning of January. So get your act together. Don't forget to shop the Halloween clearance racks for easy inexpensive costumes and accessories.

Please call Veronica Byng at 486-8228 with any questions.

## PTA Website

Hey parents, have you visited our new PTA website yet? It's a great way to stay in the loop. A new section will be added soon called Parent Resource. It's not just for Special Education or Gifted students; there is something for everyone. You will find educational links and various topics that other parents and teachers love to use. If you want to add one of your own tips email [VFB27@verizon.net](mailto:VFB27@verizon.net). Sharing information helps us all parent better.

**Go to [www.kingstonpta.org](http://www.kingstonpta.org)**

## Little Green Tidbits:



Cougars are learning to **REDUCE – REUSE — RECYCLE!**

Here's how you can help:

1. Send all old cell phones (working or not) to the Ms. Whitney in room 29. Money earned through the Cell Phone recycling program will help fund *Growing Green Team* Projects
2. Send all plastic grocery bags in to help Kingston win a contest and keep them out of landfills.
3. Join Ms. Whitney as a *Growing Green Team* sponsor!
4. The SPCA is asking the public to **"Don't Be a Turkey – Give Us Your Grease!"** At the holidays, many people enjoy frying turkey and we want you to help us by giving us the grease from your turkey fryer. Just bring your used frying oil such as vegetable, sunflower, peanut, canola and olive oil (no animal based oils) returned to the original container and place them in green collection bins located in the parking lot of the Virginia Beach SPCA. Your unwanted grease is used to fuel the Spay and Neuter bus! The Virginia Beach SPCA will be a collection site where the public *can always* bring their used vegetable-based oil, which can be dropped off even if the shelter is closed.



## Next Cougar Clippings

The next *Cougar Clippings* will be distributed on Thursday, January 14th. The deadline for articles to be submitted is Monday, January 11th, at 3:00 P.M.

Alternative formats of this publication, which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write Mr. Greg Furlich, Principal, 3532 Kings Grant Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, phone 648-2840, for further assistance.

## Gifted Program News

**When you get a chance, please stop by to say hello! Ms. Kaminski, our newest GRT, and I would love a chance to meet you and answer any questions you may have.** Please contact us for applications or with any questions you may have. More info is also available at [VBSchools.com](http://VBSchools.com).

Thank you,

Sandy Whitney, GRT [Sandra.Whitney@VBSchools.com](mailto:Sandra.Whitney@VBSchools.com)

Caitlin Kaminski, GRT [Caitlin.Kaminski@VBSchools.com](mailto:Caitlin.Kaminski@VBSchools.com)

### NEWS ALL PARENTS CAN USE:

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Screening:** All first graders will be screened on Feb. 2. Students scoring in the top 90% will receive referrals for further gifted testing.

**OLD DONATION CENTER for grades 2-5** All applying students will be tested by the gifted testing department to get current year's scores (even if already identified as gifted, unless already tested this year).

**Open House at ODC for current grades 2-4: Tues. Jan.19, 2010 at 6:30 pm at ODC**

**Open House at ODC for current grade 1: Tues. Feb. 16, 2010 at 6:30 pm at ODC**

**GRADES 2-5 ODC Art & Dance: Have an artist or dancer in your house?** ODC offers one day a week training by very talented professionals in art and dance.

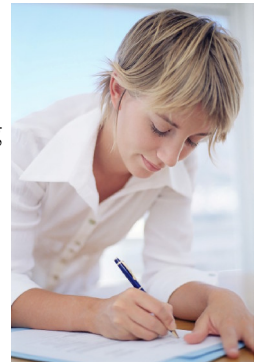
### **Have a high achieving 5<sup>th</sup> grader?**

**Deadline is Jan. 11** for applications for Kemps Landing Magnet School & the International Baccalaureate Middle Year Program.

**1. Kemps Landing Magnet School:** All applying students will be tested by the gifted testing department to get 5<sup>th</sup> grade scores (even if already identified as gifted, unless already tested this year).

**Open House at KLMS: Thurs, Jan.12, 2010 at 6:30 pm at KLMS**

**2. IB Middle Year Program Academy at Plaza Middle: ANY high achieving student, **gifted or not**, may apply for the International Baccalaureate Middle Year Program Academy. This is a wonderful opportunity for highly motivated, high achieving students wanting a very well rounded, internationally recognized program of study. Students will receive the IB MYP Certificate upon completion and are well prepared for the IB Program at Princess Anne HS or other high school. Students begin earning high school credits in middle school in this program.**



### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

*Please RSVP so sufficient materials are available*

#### **Gifted Referral Identification Process**

Nov. 9, 2009 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Room 13, Science Lab

This workshop will focus on the Gifted Program and the Process of Identification

#### **Worthy Horizons: Planning for Gifted Learner Growth**




Dec. 2, 2009 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Room 13, Science Lab



# NOVEMBER 2009



NOVEMBER 9	NOVEMBER 10	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 12	NOVEMBER 13
<p><b>ODC DAY</b></p>	<p>3-5 PTA Especially For You in Art Room</p>	<p><b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b> <b>VETERANS DAY</b></p> 	<p><b>PICTURE MAKE-UP DAY</b></p>	<p>8:40-9:25 Strings in MPR</p> <p>1-2 4th GR Debo/Durant in MPR</p> <p>3-4 Girl Scouts in MPR</p>
NOVEMBER 16	NOVEMBER 17	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 19	NOVEMBER 20
<p><b>ODC DAY</b></p> <p>9:10-11:20 3rd GR FT Calz Pizza Gore</p> <p>3-4 Girl Scouts Troop 740 in Teacher's Lounge</p>	<p>9:10-11:20 3rd GR FT Calz Pizza Kelley</p> <p>3-5 PTA Especially For You in Art Room</p> <p>6-9 KGLRA in Café</p> <p>6:45-9 Middle Plantation in MPR</p>	<p>GRT 2nd Quarter Test Ref. Forms Due</p>  <p>8:15 MINI-BANK</p> <p>8:40-9:25 Chorus in Café</p> <p>8:40-9:25 Strings in MPR</p> <p>9:10-11:20 3rd GR FT Calz Pizza Orrison</p> <p>3-4:30 Boy's Chorus on Stage in Café</p> <p>6-7 PTA Committee Mtg in MPR</p> <p>6-9 KGLRA Mtg in Café</p> <p>7-8 PTA Board Mtg in MPR</p>	<p>8:30-300 2nd GR China Presentation in MPR</p> <p>9:10-11:20 3rd GR FT Calz Pizza Mirra</p> <p>3:15 PAC Mtg in MPR</p> <p>6:30 Word Study Parents Info Night in the MPR</p> <p>6:30-8:30 Cub Scout Mtg Troop 481 in Café</p>	<p>8:40-9:25 Strings in MPR</p> <p>1-2 Debo/Huisenga in MPR</p>
NOVEMBER 23	NOVEMBER 24	NOVEMBER 25	NOVEMBER 26	NOVEMBER 27
<p><b>REPORT CARDS GO HOME</b></p> <p><b>ODC DAY</b></p> <p>3:00-4:30 Chorus on Stage in Café</p> <p>3-4:15 GS Troop 740 in Teacher's Lounge</p>	<p>11-12 Tegtmeier in MPR</p> <p>12:30-1:30 Debo/Durant in MPR</p> <p>3-5 PTA Especially For You in Art Room</p>	<p><b>ADJUSTED DISMISSAL</b></p> <p><b>SCA PAJAMA DAY</b></p>   <p>8:15 MINI-BANK</p> <p>8:40-9:25 Chorus in Café</p> <p>8:40-9:25 Strings in MPR</p> <p>12:45 Staff Pix in Gym</p> <p>3-4:30 Boy's Chorus on Stage in Café</p>	<p><b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b></p> 	<p><b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b></p> 

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**ACCELERATED READER INFORMATION SHEET**

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The Accelerated Reader Program is about to begin. Accelerated Reader (AR) is a wonderful, computerized reading program currently in its 12th year at Kingston. Grades 1 through 5 use the program, which was purchased by Kingston's PTA. The purpose of the AR program is to encourage independent reading, while improving comprehension through short computerized multiple-choice tests. Teachers have graciously supported this program by allowing the children to take tests during class time as their teaching schedules permit. There are over 2000 book tests available at Kingston. The following highlights the AR program.

- Students are tested and given an individual reading level. These levels do not correspond to grade level. Students are encouraged to read books in their assigned reading level range for AR credit.
- The AR **start date** for **Grades 2 through 5** is **November 16, 2009**. The **End Date** is **May 14, 2010**.
- Students in **Grade 1** will be given their reading level later in the year. The **Grade 1 start date** for AR is **January 4, 2010** and the **End Date** is **May 14, 2010**.
- Reading ranges can be increased/decreased during the year with teacher approval.
- AR points are not cumulative from one school year to the next year.
- Only students will be allowed to check out AR books from the Kingston Library.

Since all books may not be age appropriate for all students, please establish a parental approval process with your child when selecting AR books. This is especially important for students that read above their grade level or if you have specific concerns about the content of books.

**THE AR PROCESS**

Step 1: The student independently reads a designated AR book.

- AR books in the Kingston library are designated AR on their book spines with the reading level and the maximum point detailed. They are also color coded to each reading level. There is also a list of books in the AR program in the school library, the Virginia Beach Central Library and on Kingston's web site. Parents may check out the list from the school library on a 24-hour loan.

Step 2: When the book is finished, the student takes a short multiple choice computer based comprehension test on the book. This is done during school hours as class time permits. Each teacher generally establishes a system within their classroom that allows the children to take tests at a designated time.

Step 3: Immediately following completion of the test, the computer grades the test and assigns points in the student's cumulative school year total depending upon the number of questions answered correctly. The student has to pass the test in order to earn points. This generally correlates to 6 out of 10 questions on a 10-question test or 3 questions on a 5 question test. (This sometimes differs slightly on the higher level books)

- The computer program only allows a student to take a test **ONCE** on any book read, so they may not retake a test under any circumstance.
- The AR Program has numerous tests for each book to prevent cheating.
- Once a student has completed a test, the actual test is not stored, only the score. Therefore, it is impossible to review a student's test to determine specific errors.

**AR THEME and POINT MILESTONES**

The AR theme for the school year 2009/2010 is READ LIKE IT'S THE OLYMPICS

There are **seven levels of achievement**. The point chart below details the points required for each grade level. The children earn rewards for the various levels. For **level 1**, each child gets a **button**. For the **next 4 levels**, your child will earn a **sticker** that is placed on their button. For **the 5<sup>th</sup> level**, your child also earns a **FREE BOOK** of their choice on their reading level (with the assistance of the librarians). For the **6<sup>th</sup> level**, the student earns a **ribbon** to tape onto their button and they get to attend a **PIZZA PARTY** hosted by Mr. Furlich held during lunch time in the cafetorium. These are held on an ongoing basis through the end of the AR program. For **the 7<sup>th</sup> level**, the student earns a **special ribbon** to add to their button and can elect to attend a **special outing** with Mr. Furlich held at the end of the school year.

**Note:** As children achieve **Level 2**, they will be invited to enjoy an **ice cream sundae** during lunch. Again, there will be no in-class ice cream parties this year. This is to alleviate any in-class pressure for those students who do not wish to participate.

There is a display in the hallway leading to the gym that has the levels and a name badge (with picture) for each child showing where they are on their reading achievement. The children LOVE to look for their names on the display. Check it out next time you are in the school. It also gives information about the winter Olympics, if you are interested.

GRADE	1	2	3	4	5
Level 1 (Button)	2 points	3 points	5 points	7 points	10 points
Level 2 (Sticker)	6 points	7 points	10 points	15 points	20 points
Level 3 (Sticker)	10 points	12 points	15 points	25 points	30 points
Level 4 (Sticker)	14 points	18 points	25 points	35 points	40 points
Level 5 (Sticker & Book)	20 points	24 points	35 points	50 points	55 points
Level 6 (Ribbon and Pizza Party)	25 points	30 points	50 points	65 points	75 points
Level 7 (Ribbon & outing)	50 points	60 points	100 points	130 points	150 points

Questions regarding AR should be directed to your child's teacher or Lindsay Sorensen, PTA AR

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