



COUGAR CLIPPINGS



Volume 20 Issue 4

Kingston Elementary School

December 10, 2009

A Note from our Principal

Dear Parents,

As many are you are aware, the school system last year adopted a new strategic plan entitled Compass to 2015. I will admit that, while I have been aware of school system goals and objectives in the past, I have often been so focused on the school I am working in and day to day problems that I have not always given the strategic plan the thought I should have. Compass to 2015 has had a different effect on me, perhaps because of the public nature in which the plan was conceived. With this plan the power and importance of strategic planning have truly made sense to me. If you have not reviewed the plan, I urge you to visit VBSchools.com and do so.

At the school level we are doing a number of things to try and make Compass to 2015 a reality for our students. At the beginning of the year, the faculty met and reviewed all of the data we could get our hands on, both qualitative and quantitative. As a staff we then selected a strategic objective from the plan that we felt best fit what we needed to work on (All teachers will engage every student in meaningful, authentic and rigorous work through the use of innovative instructional practices and supportive technologies that will motivate students to be self-directed and inquisitive learners. Next we developed a school plan designed to move us along the continuum and teachers selected individual goals that also aligned.

As parents, you can help us by making sure you respond to the school climate survey you may receive this spring. We will be using that as one of our measures of success. I find it exciting that VBCPS is recognizing that SOL scores are not the be all and end all for what we are trying to do as educators and that we need to do more to prepare are children to be successful in the 21st century.

I'd like to conclude this month's note by wishing everyone the best in the holiday season. Family time can be rare in a world that has become pretty high paced. Here's to enjoying a break from the daily grind and sharing some quality time with our loved ones. If you are traveling to visit family and friends, please be careful and safe in your journey. I look forward to the New Year and continued success for all of our students at Kingston.

Sincerely,
Greg Furlich



Kingston Children's Thrift Shop

Are your closets overflowing? Need to get rid of all the old "stuff" to make room for all the new "stuff" you will get for the Holidays? Then consider consigning your gently used children's furniture, clothes, toys, books, games, electronics, bikes, and sporting goods at the annual **Kingston Children's Thrift Shop Saturday, March 6, 2010**. Also please consider volunteering for this very important event. We need the help of many, many volunteers to make this a successful event!

To VOLUNTEER, contact Marti Fall, 4falls@cox.net / 486-6910

For TAGS, contact Beth Royle, bethroyle@aol.com / 961-8007

For General Information, contact Toni Goad, tonigoad@cox.net / 486-1891 or

Kim Urch, urches@yahoo.com / 631-4777

CONGRATULATIONS KINGSTON COUGARS!

We did it! Your hard work paid off and Kingston won 3rd prize in the Harris Teeter Plastic Bag recycling contest. We will receive a prize of \$250 which will go to our Earth Day Celebration this year. When Harris Teeter calculated our total we collected 313 thirty gallon bags. This was a few more than our original calculations. Thanks goodness! First and Second place winners both collected 315 bags and were J Thurgood Marshall Elementary School and Ridgeview Middle School, both in Gaithersburg MD. The Fourth and Fifth place schools were Glenwood Elementary with 304 bags and Red Mill Elem with 298 bags. As you can see, it was a close contest and your efforts really paid off. All of the bags that were collected will be sent to the Trex Corp in Winchester, VA and will be recycled into building materials. I know that we can all agree that this is a much better end than a land fill. Thank you to all who helped by bringing in your bags, it was truly a fantastic effort on our part. Lauris Geheren



Operation Smile Final Mile

The Operation Smile Final Mile program is designed to encourage elementary students to begin leading a healthier, more active lifestyle. The students will run 26.2 miles, the equivalent of a marathon, with the final mile being run at the Virginia Beach boardwalk on March 20th, 2010. Last year we had 157 Kingston Cougars participating. This year it is our goal to have 175 students take part in the run. You can register online for the Operation Smile Final Mile by logging onto www.shamrockmarathon.com. You can also fill out a registration form and return it to school. The entry fee for each student is \$20.00 if registered by December 31st. From January 1st through March 19th, the price increases to \$25.00. Please join us in this worthwhile event. The energy and excitement on *race day* is an amazing feeling not only for the students participating, but for the parents and spectators as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Tommy Clements, P. E. Director

Chesapeake Bay Initiative Update

Several spots are still open in the 5th Grade Spring Knee Deep Club. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the Bay, visit the Virginia Beach Stranding Center, and go on a Whale Watching Boat trip. The program starts at the end of February with the Whale trip and then goes weekly starting the end of March and into April. The cost of the club is \$20, but that does not include the boat trip. For more information or to sign up, please contact Nancy Hansson at the following: mauilars@verizon.net.



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Kingston Spirit Wear

Thanks to everyone who placed their order for Kingston Spirit Wear. Orders should be in before the winter break and delivered to your child's class. I will have a few extra short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts and pullover sweatshirts in youth sizes. If you are interested, email Nancy Duncan at nduncan@cox.net. Cougar Magnet paws (\$4), Croc pins (\$2.50), hair pieces (\$2.50) and Cinch sacs (\$4) can be purchased at the School Store every Wednesday during lunch.



Have a high achieving 5th grader?

Applications for Kemps Landing Magnet School and the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program at Plaza Middle School are due in **no later than February 1st**. Please try to turn applications in on **January 11th** to allow plenty of time for a careful review of each.

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

Open House at KLMS: Thursday, January 12, 2010 at 6:30 pm at KLMS

2. **IB Middle Years 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.

On a related note, there will be an open house at Old Donation Center (ODC) for parents of students in grades 2-4 on **January 19th**. Parents of students currently in 1st grade and thinking of attending ODC can go to an open house on **February 16th**. Contact the Gifted Resource Teachers at Kingston for more information.

SCA Spirit Day



Parents please remind your Kingston students that **Hat Day** is this month. On Friday, **December 18th**, wear the craziest hat in your closet. Let everyone see your Kingston school spirit!



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.

Reflections

Thanks to all of the Kingston Cougars who submitted entries into this year's Reflection Program. We were overwhelmed with all of the talented students at Kingston. This year we had twice the number of entries over last year. This year, instead of having one big assembly, we announced winners each day of the week by category. Awards will be handed out at an upcoming PTA program (date yet to be decided). Please know that each and every entry is a winner, and all entries will receive a certificate. Below are our 2008 Kingston winners:

Nancy Duncan

Reflections Chairperson

Intermediate Winners (grade 3-5)	Primary Winners (Grade K-2)
Music	
Third place : Guy Liskey Second place: Madison Matthews First place: Trey Rodman	
Dance	1st place: Phoebe Knox
Literature	
Honorable Mention: Jenna Heenan 3 rd : Layney Duncan 2 nd : Drew Shaeffer 1 st : Willson Tuck	Third: Sarah Lisner Second: Gracie Duncan First: Lauren Foley
Photography	
Honorable Mention: Emily Brugh, Zack Sinacori, Dylan Blake, Catherine Latchford, Katie Kemp, Leah Sinacori 3 rd : Jenna Heenan 2 nd : Janet Hoffman 1 st : Steven Perry	Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Merna 3 rd : Sophia Mirovski 2 nd : Oliva Webb 1 st : Natalie Boeglin
Visual Arts	
Honorable Mention: Andrew Boeglin, Gabi Mik- los, Anthony Mauck, Audney Kluis 3 rd place: Mackenna Caren 2 nd place: Meredith Garrison 1 st place: Joseph Geheren	Honorable Mention: Andrew Good, Richard Wynne, Emma Wosje, Caroline Gilman 3 rd place: Ellen Stephenson 2 nd Place: Emily Royle 1 st place: Brandon Good
Film Production	
1 st : Caleb Knox	

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