



# COUGAR CLIPPINGS

Volume 22, Issue 9

KINGSTON ELEMENTARY

January, 15 2012

## A Message From Our Principal

Dear Parents,

Last week Kingston was proud to announce our Teacher of the Year selection, **Mrs. Michelle Durant** from our fourth grade team. Mrs. Durant received the honor in front of her family and peers. It occurred to me at the time that it is unlikely that most parents have any idea what goes into what is, in fact, a relatively detailed process.

Teacher of the Year selection begins in the fall when teacher and staff members are free to nominate any of their peers with at least five years of teaching experience. Nominated teachers are given the option to participate in the selection process which requires the completion of a lengthy application including several essays. In early January the five previous Teachers of the Year gather along with the guidance counselor and a PTA representative in a meeting facilitated by the principal to review the applications and make a selection. Several criteria including the ability to inspire a love of learning and the willingness to devote time and energy to innovative practices that result in improved instruction for children are used to guide the team's decision.

I am happy to add that I do not get a vote in the selection, and I say happy because the selection process is always absolutely arduous because our candidates are so strong. We make a point of honoring all candidates who are not selected as Teacher of the Year as Distinguished Educators. This year's honorees were Mr. Kern, computer resource specialist and Mrs. Huisenga, first grade teacher.

Mrs. Durant will move on to the citywide competition and will be honored in October at a banquet for all of the city's honorees. We are all terribly proud of Mrs. Durant. She is a symbol of the outstanding teaching that takes place at Kingston day in and day out by the most talented and dedicated faculty and staff I have ever had the good fortune to work for.

Sincerely,

Greg Furlich

**Get ready for  
Kingston PTA**

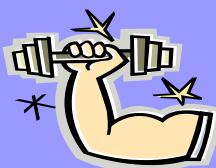
**Fitness Night!**

Friday Jan. 20th with Jim White.

Over 13 fitness work out stations and plenty more!

More information please

contact **Nancy Stephenson 498-1838**



**Tonight . . . Tonight . . .**

**Let's All Dance & Sing on the Hollywood  
Sign**

**For the Kingston Elementary School**

***Talent Show***

**When : February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**



The Kingston PTA proudly partners  
with



to bring the

## Children's Thrift Shop

Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Kingston Elementary School

Saturday, March 3rd

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

We are going "computerized".

Are your closets overflowing? Need to get rid of all the old "stuff" to make room for all the new "stuff"? Then consider consigning your gently used children's furniture, clothes, toys, books, games, electronics, bikes, and sporting goods at the annual **Kingston Thrift Shop**. In addition, please consider volunteering as we need many, many volunteers to make this a successful event! For Information, visit [www.kingstonthriftshop.com](http://www.kingstonthriftshop.com).

### Next Cougar Clippings Issue

*Cougar Clippings* is published in electronic format twice per month and posted on the Kingston PTA website, [www.kingstonpta.org](http://www.kingstonpta.org). The next issue will be posted Wednesday, February 1. Please e-mail any submissions by Monday, January 30 to [modarling1@hotmail.com](mailto:modarling1@hotmail.com). You can reach Cougar Clippings Chair Kitrian Meagher at [kitriandy@msn.com](mailto:kitriandy@msn.com)

### Upcoming Events

- Jan 16 - MLK Day - No school
- Jan 19 - Fire Safety Assembly
- Jan 17 - PTA Board Meeting
- Jan 20 - Kingston PTA Fitness Night
- Jan 20 - Spirit Day: Favorite Book Character
- Jan 27 - Staff Day-no school for students

Visit and bookmark

[www.kingstonpta.org](http://www.kingstonpta.org)

To keep up with the  
latest and greatest at

KES!

### New Year's Resolution!

Sign up for the Operation Smile Final Mile.

<http://www.shamrockmarathon.com/registration.htm>

Let's make it the best attended year ever!

Kingston Cougars ROCK!!!

Any questions please contact Mr. Clements at [Thomas.Clements@VBSchools.com](mailto:Thomas.Clements@VBSchools.com) or Kim Moss at [Kimberlymoss@aol.com](mailto:Kimberlymoss@aol.com)

## *The Kingston PTA's Annual Book Swap*

**Wow !!** Books, books and more books – over 2,400 books !

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's book swap. Thanks to our fabulous volunteers and generous book donators, 215 Kingston students swapped over 2400 books.

Kingston teachers were able to refresh their classroom libraries and all students had the opportunity to shop on Friday. The proceeds of the sale went to the Kingston PTA. The remaining books were donated to the preschool housed at Kingston, local church preschools and a local elementary school selected by Mr. Furlich and Mrs. Breaux that is in need of some extra good books.

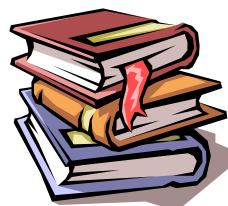
**Veronica Byng and Wendy Briggs,**  
Book Swap Chairs

## *Parent Workshops: Open to ALL parents*

**Communication and Collaboration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: March 19, 2012, 4:30 – 5:30**

MPR Kingston Elementary – if possible, please RSVP, but feel free to attend even if you haven't

*Learn more about what we are doing to best prepare our students' 21<sup>st</sup> Century communication and collaboration skills.*



## *Upcoming Parent Connection*

### *Events*

**Parent Connection Technology Academy Sessions**

**Advanced Technology Center, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

PowerPoint—Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Social Networking—Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Spreadsheets—Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Internet Security—Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Freeware & Tips and Tricks—Wednesday, May 16, 2012

**Parent Connection Conference, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Saturday, January 28, 2012, Landstown High School

Featuring Keynote Speaker *Dr. Katharine Kersey*

**VA Star Computer Program, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Wednesday, February 8, 2012, Advanced Technology Center

**Helping Children Cope with Anxiety, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Thursday, February 16, 2012, Larkspur Middle School

**Gifted Child Workshop, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, March 7, 2012, Landstown High School

**Putting Autism in Perspective, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, Princess Anne High School

**Additional classes will be listed on**

[www.vbschools.com/ParentConnection](http://www.vbschools.com/ParentConnection).

**Call 263-1936 to register.**

## ***Attention 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents***

Middle Year Baccalaureate Program, 5<sup>th</sup> grade testing, and KLMS applications available now.

The Gifted Program's testing procedures for identification and testing of 5<sup>th</sup> graders and applying for KLMS use the same form.

**My child is already identified as eligible for gifted services:** Please request a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Referral Form. If you are also interested in Kemps Landing, there is a box to check on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade referral form to indicate that you would like your child considered for KLMS

**My child is not identified as gifted and scored in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile:** Please request a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Referral Form. If you are also interested in Kemps Landing, there is a box to check on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade referral form to indicate that you would like your child considered for KLMS

**My child did not score in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, but we strongly feel he/she may be gifted:** Scoring lower than 90% on the screening indicates that testing is not necessarily recommended at this time, however, if you feel that your child demonstrates many of the characteristics of giftedness and scores highly on standardized tests, classwork, and will receive a strong teacher referral, please request a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Referral Form. If you are also interested in Kemps Landing, there is a box to check on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade referral form to indicate that you would like your child considered for KLMS.

***THE MIDDLE YEAR INTERNATIONAL BACCALUAREATE PROGRAM (MYP) IS A WONDERFUL, REWARDING, CHALLENGING OPTION OPEN TO ALL 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS. STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE TO BE IDENTIFIED AS GIFTED TO ATTEND.*** This program provides academic challenge while also encouraging students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world and become critical and reflective thinkers. The MYP learning profile is students who are knowledgeable, risk takers, principled, balanced, communicators, inquirers, open-minded, caring reflective thinkers. It is designed to help students find a sense of belonging in this changing and inter-related world while focusing on 3 basic concepts: Intercultural awareness, holistic learning (developing students into the very best or finest they can be). If this describes your child, please request an MYP application.

**Kingston's GRTs have copies of all applications mentioned above.**



***FEBRUARY 1, 2012: DEADLINE FOR KLMS, MYP, ODC ART & ODC DANCE, ODC grades 2-4***

**ALL APPLICATION ARE AVAILABLE FROM MS. WHITNEY & MS. SCHAFER**

Please return teacher forms by Jan. 17, if possible, so that your child's teachers have ample time to complete the many forms they will receive

You can request applications by e-mail, phone, or note

[Sandra.whitney@vbschools.com](mailto:Sandra.whitney@vbschools.com) or [Courtney.schafer@vbschools.com](mailto:Courtney.schafer@vbschools.com)