



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

November 7, 2011
Volume 6, Issue 3

Calendar

November

7 Mon 3:30 pm

- School Site Council meeting, office conference room

9 Wed 7:00-8:30 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library.

10 Thursday

- School-wide tree planting with Tree Davis.

11 Friday

- Veteran's Day —
NO SCHOOL.

14-18 Mon-Fri

- Conference week and book fair; early dismissal grades 1-6, 1:30 pm.

14 Mon 6:00-8:00 pm

- Family night for Scholastic Book Fair, in the library.

18 Friday

- Picture retake day.

19 Saturday

- KPTO craft fair.

21-25 Mon-Fri

- Thanksgiving break —
NO SCHOOL.

28 Nov-2 Dec Mon-Fri

- 6th Grade Walker Creek Outdoor Education Camp.

Next Korematsu Kids:
December 5

Parent Teacher Conferences November 14-18

During conference week, students in grades 1-6 will be dismissed at 1:30 pm to provide time for teachers to meet with parents or guardians. (Kindergarten schedule will not change). This is a time to focus on your child's academic progress. In the twenty minutes you will have with the teacher, consider the following to make the time more valuable for both you and your child.

- Talk to your child about the conference and decide whether there are questions or concerns to discuss.
- Prepare by writing down questions you would like to ask your child's teacher.
- Determine whether your child is working up to his/her potential. Ask how you can assist your child at home.
- Ask which instructional techniques have been most effective with your child.
- Determine how your child interacts with other students and whether he/she is following behavioral expectations. If your child is having problems, ask how you can work together with the school staff to turn negative behavior into positive behavior.
- Ask about areas of the curriculum that you wish to know more about.
- Express concerns in a positive way.

After the Conference:

- Share information with your child. Point out strengths and give encouragement in specific areas.
- Develop a plan immediately if follow-up action is necessary. Make sure your child understands that you and the teacher are working together.
- Stay in touch with the teacher. Follow-up to determine what progress is being made.

Your attendance is important to ensure a strong, positive program for your child. Please keep your conference time so that teachers have an opportunity to meet with each child's parents or guardian. Thank you for your commitment to your child and his/her educational program.

Donations Sought for Conference Week Teacher Luncheon

Parent-teacher conference week is November 14-18, and it's KPTO's custom to provide busy teachers and staff with lunch each day of that week. We are seeking food and drink donations. If you can donate or help, please e-mail hospitality@korematsupto.org. Thank you from the KPTO hospitality team: Brianne Agatep, Camille Melendres and Melinda Swift.

Counselor Explains Kelso's Choices

Korematsu counselor Susie Carrell is using the Kelso's Choices conflict management curriculum in grades K-3 and 4-6. The premise of Kelso's Choices is that every child is capable of becoming a peacemaker. Designed around Kelso the Frog, an appealing hand puppet, the program offers nine options students can choose from to resolve conflicts.

Practicing Kelso's Choices helps students develop confidence in their ability to solve problems peacefully and promotes a safer, more positive school environment. Teachers can spend more time teaching and less time mediating. By reinforcing lessons from Kelso's Choices at home, families can help improve the school learning environment while also building your child's conflict resolution skills.

Grades K-3: Kelso's Choices

Students learn to differentiate between a small problem and a big problem (scary or dangerous), and that big problems should always be reported to an adult. Lessons are taught using stories, puppets, role playing, journaling and various other experiential activities. Each student received a Kelso journal to share with their families. Kelso will return to the classroom after winter break and again in the spring to continue to reinforce the use of Kelso's choices as well as to teach other friendship skills.

Grades 4-6: K.C.'s Wheel

Students in grades 4-6 are taught K.C.'s Wheel, which is an adaptation of Kelso's Choice Wheel taught in grades K-3. K.C.'s Wheel visually presents eight different strategies, or choices to peacefully resolve small conflicts among themselves. If students can't resolve the problem after trying two of K.C.'s Choices, they are taught to seek help from an adult. Students also learn how to differentiate between a minor problem (annoying or frustrating) and a serious problem (threatening, frightening or illegal), and that serious problems should always be reported to an adult.

During the first four week session with the counselor, students learn to use both verbal and nonverbal strategies for dealing with conflict. In addition, students are asked to self-reflect with respect to how they handle conflict (passive-turtle, aggressive-shark, or assertive-owl) and whether they have been successful using these strategies. Students also learn how to stay in control by not "taking the hook" as well as how to see things from others' perspectives.

GATE Testing for Grades 3, 4, 6

Testing to determine GATE eligibility will be offered at the District office, 526 B Street for: 3rd graders (if absent during universal testing, new to the district, or who live in the school district but do not attend public schools) January 11, 2:00 pm. 4th and 6th graders: Nov. 16, Dec. 7, 14, or Jan. 18, 2:00 pm. If a student is already qualified for GATE they do not need to requalify. To register, contact Cindy Hoffart, GATE Secretary, at choffart@djuds.net or phone 530-757-5300 x 146.

Climate Update

As we continue work on equity and social justice we have several thoughts about inclusion and exclusion when considering the children's book "One" by Kathryn Otoshi. The author illustrates the importance of taking a stand when things get out of hand and making your voice count.

The story uses colors depicting a problem between blue and red. Red likes to pick on blue. At the end of the story the number one takes a stand and shows all the colors how to stand up and count – even Red, the hot head. Interestingly, Red, which could be perceived as the 'alleged' bully also needs to reconcile with the group and be included back into the family. When responding to bullying or alleged bullying our first reaction is to exclude the bully and vindicate the victim. We even go as far as dehumanizing the alleged bully and seek restitution for the victim.

No one would argue that we want safe schools. But we need to be careful at what expense. All of our students count and all of them make choices everyday – good, bad, and developmental. How we respond and correct them is even more important. In a socially just school, even the alleged bully must feel included.

Free or Reduced Lunch Available

This is a reminder that state law entitles all students to a 'nutritionally adequate free or reduced price meal during each school day' for those who qualify with federal 'meal program income eligibility standards'. For more information, please contact the school office.