



Champion Connection



September/October

Fall 2009

Olympic Spirit Award Winners:

Kevin B.	Meredith C.
Kira C.	Chrissi D.
Jack D.	Sarah G.
Brendan M.	Drew Q.
Samantha W.	Jason W.

Happenings at KJHS:

Oct 2: Mid-Term day

Oct 6: Student Council meeting

Oct 8-9: No School P/T conferences

Oct 12: No School

Oct 26-30: School Musical

Counselor's Corner:

Dear Parents: Wow...what a start! This has been "the" smoothest school start I can remember! I know it seems I say that every year...but, it's true about your kids. I am absolutely falling in love with your sixth graders. They are smiling, energetic and extremely polite. By 8:05 a.m. on the first day of school, every student was somewhere. I found no one in a "heap" in the hallway. My "thanks" to all of you parents who found the time to arrange for your student to come and get acclimated with their lockers and classrooms prior to the start of school. It decreases their anxiety level tremendously and they feel so much more confident.

Every once in awhile I find a "priceless" gem and want to share it with you. So, here is a little story which is analogous to my professional and personal belief about raising children: (see p.3)

Reflections:

Blackboard/I-Parent: Please continue to check Blackboard regularly to keep up-to-date with your child's HW assignments. Keep in mind, the main purpose for this site is for HW information; grades are not posted here. To check your child's grades, you need to use the I-Parent website. A username and password were assigned to each family and handed out at Parent Orientation. If you are having difficulty accessing this site, email iparent@naperville203.org. You should be able to get the help you need here. If you need to get your access information contact the front office. Also, the grades on I-Parent are not updated daily. At best, you could expect updates once per week. If a student is missing HW and turns it in late, please keep in mind that the update is NOT made the day they turn in the late work. Allow a week for the update to take place. Thank you for your patience as we have 120 students to keep posted grade for.

Rolling into new friendships: The CHAMPS had an awesome time getting to know each other as they rolled into new friendships and fell back on old ones at the CHAMP Connection roller skating party. Team Spirit and pride was also promoted through small group discussions as the CHAMPS discussed the ups and downs of school so far.

Current Happenings:

Academic Update::

Math: The regular math classes are just finishing up the first unit on Number Sense. Our next unit will focus on decimals and all of the operations to go along with that. The honors math class finished their geometry review and have started working with block structures in two and three dimensions.

Science: We are currently working our way through "Matter". Chapter 1 is being used, as a reference, to help us investigate how Matter can be measured (focusing on both volume & mass). This will lead us to the concept of physical and chemical properties and then onto Chapter 2: States of Matter.

Language Arts: We'll begin the novel Under the Mummy's Spell by Kate McMullen on the week of October 12th. This novel coincides with our Social Science Egyptian Unit.. Word Masters lists will be coming out in early October. Your student will begin working on analogies to practice for this critical thinking national challenge.

Social Science: After wrapping up our first chapter on the earliest known civilizations, we have begun our study of Egypt. This is one of the most popular units we teach—look for a lot of fun activities!



Current Happenings (con't):

HW Awards: Each month the CHAMPS teachers will honor all students who complete all of their HW and get it in on time. The importance of getting HW done is being reinforced by rewarding those who achieve this goal. Each student who achieves this goal will be rewarded with a HW pass which will allow them to be late on a HW assignment of their choice. If the pass is not used, then it will be turned in for a gold card. We want the students to know how important doing their HW is and that we recognize this accomplishment!!

Opportunities for CHAMP involvement:

There are many opportunities for Kennedy students to get involved in activities outside of class. Please encourage students to take advantage of some of these activities:

Jr. Reach	Eagle Talons (Literary Magazine)	Computer Club
Science Olympiad	Intramurals	Kennedy Eagle Newspaper
Newcomers Club	LRC Assistants	Yearbook
Guitar Club	Arts & Crafts Club	Chess Club

Conferences: The fall conferences for junior high are October 8th and 9th. The information went home via email about how to sign up for a conference if you feel you need one. Confirmations for those requests have also gone home. If you haven't received it – check with your child.

Things to look forward to:

CHAMPS trimester raffle: End of first trimester—Raffle tickets (Gold cards) will be drawn for prizes—Items donated by CHAMP parents are greatly appreciated (books, posters, entertainment/food coupons, etc.) by **Friday, November 13th**. The raffle will be held the week of Thanksgiving Break.

Egyptian Day: October 30th — Come dressed like an Egyptian. CHAMPS will spend the morning experiencing different Egyptian activities in their classes. Information about costumes will be coming home soon.

“I can live for two months on one good compliment”

-Mark Twain



(Author unknown)

LET THE BUTTERFLY STRUGGLE

There's a parable about a new mother who discovered a butterfly struggling mightily to escape its cocoon through a tiny opening at the top. She became concerned when the creature seemed to give up after making no progress. Certain that the butterfly just wouldn't make it out without help; she enlarged the hole slightly.

On its next try, the butterfly wriggled out easily. But the young woman's joy turned to horror as she saw its wings were shriveled and useless. Her well-intentioned intervention turned out badly because it interrupted a natural process. You see, forcing the butterfly to squeeze through a small opening is nature's way of assuring that blood from the creature's body is pushed into the wings. By making it easier, she deprived the butterfly of strong wings.

Childhood, too, is a sort of cocoon. If a healthy adult is to emerge, parents must allow, even encourage, their children to struggle, to make mistakes and learn from them, and to pay a price for their own bad judgments and conduct.

Of course, good parents should be ready to protect their children from serious harm. But being overprotective can itself cause serious harm. Adversity is not always an enemy. It's often a teacher that helps young people develop wings strengthened by self-confidence and self-reliance.