



Kipps Konnection



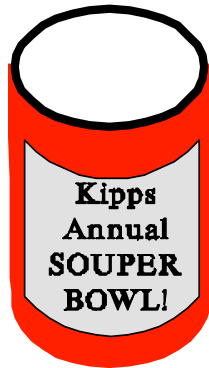
Ray E. VanDyke, Principal
Kipps Elementary School
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Michele Wolfert, PTA President
J Dobson, Editor
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SOUPER BOWL!

Kipps SCA will be starting the Souper Bowl Food Drive on Monday, Jan. 26 through Friday, February 6. Students are encouraged to bring in canned food items to help fill up the Food Pantry. We won the Souper Bowl banner last year and hope to keep it! KES and GLE sponsor this service project every year. We make a huge contribution to needy families in our area.



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Don't forget about our website –

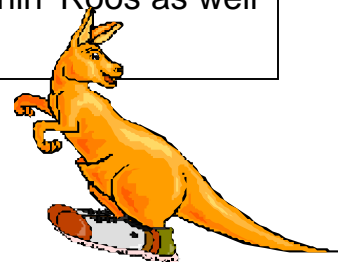
<http://www.kippspta.org>

Go there now to sign up for our E-News letter
or check out the latest calendar events.



Runnin Roos

We are planning to start our Runnin' Roos club back on Tuesday, February 17. There is a time change this semester. It will now be from 8:00-8:30. If the temperature is below freezing (32 degrees), we will have Runnin' Roos in the gym. Our first race this semester is the Blacksburg Classic, which is held on February 28. There is a one-mile run, 5K, and a 10-mile run. The course begins at Margaret Beeks Elementary School. We will also have our annual Pasta Party the night before the Blacksburg Classic. It will be on Friday, February 27 at 6:00 pm. Details will come at the first Runnin' Roos practice. We hope to see many of our old Runnin' Roos as well as some new Roos!



TEACHER'S NOTES



Kindergarten -

Please stop by the showcase in the lobby to see our Winter Wonderland. The kindergarten classes worked on some very special creations for the January display. During the month of January we have learned about various community careers. In the month of February we will be learning about our country.

First Grade -

First grade has many new students and we would like to welcome them to our school. We are so happy to have Isaac Gauldin, Danielle Keese, D.J. Scrafano, Heemin Cha, Evan Marshman and Mufitcan Atalay as the newest members to our Kipps' family.

Second Grade -

Super Second Graders!

That's what we are! We were not able to have our Merry Mocha to celebrate the rain forest because of all of the snowy weather, but we still were able to have fun playing games that we made for homework. We started units on fairy tales and Dr. Seuss and Amelia Bedelia! Our Ancient Cultures unit will start in January and continue through February! Next month we will share what we've learned about Ancient China.

Third Grade -

Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Hicks classes have been studying biographies of civil rights leaders. Their writing about Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Thurgood Marshall are in the hall.

Mrs. Lester and Mrs. Shull's classes have just finished units on Decimals and Juan Ponce de Leon. We have begun working on Geometry, Cursive writing and started to explore the African Empire of Mali.

Third Grade will be traveling to Lynchburg to see Magnificent Mali Feb 19th.

Fourth Grade -

Fourth grade has been busy learning about the weather. It has changed so much in the past month that we have gotten to observe first-hand most of the weather factors that we have studied. We have also continued to learn about the Algonquian Indians, Powhatan, Pocahontas, John Smith and Jamestown through our novel studies: The Double Life of Pocahontas and Pocahontas and the Strangers. Would you believe that John Smith was unpopular with both the Indians and the settlers even though he always tried to do the right thing? We are trying to do the right thing in the Kipps cafeteria, by eating and visiting quietly. We could learn a lot from the Indians.

Fifth grade rocks!

Fifth graders will be going to Lexington on Friday, February 20th. It is a culminating activity for our study of the Civil War and the period of Reconstruction. The students will tour VMI, the Jackson House, the Lee Chapel at Washington and Lee University and visit the Marshall Museum and the cemetery where Stonewall Jackson is buried.

Library News –

Beginning in January, kindergarten students started checking out non-fiction (true) books for the first time. They are very excited about these books.

Our first grade classes are learning how library books are arranged on the shelf. Once they understand this principle, they will begin to learn how to use the on-line catalog to help them find their books.

Second and third grades will begin learning more about the different reference books that are available for them to use.

Fourth and fifth grade students will be learning more about our on-line reference sources.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Second Grade Music Program – Monday February 23rd, 7:00 pm

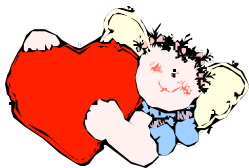
Pack your suitcases! The Second Grade is planning a trip around the world -- 4 continents in one fun-filled evening of entertainment. February 23rd will be a night to remember as our Second graders share songs and stories and dances to highlight the cultures of the Native Americans, the Rain Forest, China, and Egypt. Don't forget to bring your cameras to the Kipps Cafeteria at 7:00 that night -- these are some vacation shots you won't want to miss!

PTA Planning Session February 5th, 7:00 – The meeting will be held in the cafeteria. Every parent is encouraged to attend!

MARCH PREVIEWS

- PTA Planning Session March 4th, 7:00 – All PTA members are encouraged to attend.
- “Wind in the Willows” – March 23rd

The Barter Theater who brought us the wonderful production of Snow White last year is returning with a brand new production of “The Wind in the Willows.” We are looking into having an evening show that parents would be able to attend – watch for future flyers and newsletter for up to date information.



MISCELLANEOUS

SCA to Begin New Shoe Tying Program by Clayton and Katherine

Have you ever tripped over your shoelace? That’s what happens when you don’t know how to tie your shoes. At some point in everybody’s life he or she struggles with tying his or her shoes.

Never fear SCA is here to tie your shoes. As part of a new program, SCA will begin sending members to the bus room to help struggling kids tie their shoes in the mornings. So if you need help, look for an SCA member.

SPRING SOL’S

The window for the Spring SOL’s for 3rd & 5th Grades has been set. The 5th grade writing SOL window is March 8th –10th. The 3rd & 5th Grade SOL window for Montgomery County is May 17th through the 28th. We will send the Kipps testing schedule home with your third or fifth grader closer to the time of testing. Please try to not schedule any vacations, doctors or dentist appointments during these days.

FUNDRAISER

The PTA Board voted at the January meeting to contract a new fall fundraising company, Great American Opportunities. Comments and concerns from several parents prompted the Board to explore new fundraising companies. Some advantages offered by the new company include better packaging of the individual items, sturdy boxes for transporting the orders home, and advanced notice of the order delivery date. The Board opted to use only the company's main gift item brochure that includes wrapping paper, unique gift items, Ghirardelli chocolates, fall flower bulbs, candles, and gourmet food items. With this variety to choose from in the main brochure, we did not think we needed additional sales inserts like we had in the past. We will still retain our current fundraising company, QSP/Reader's Digest, to conduct a spring magazine subscription drive that will include hundreds of magazines to choose from.

\$ YOUR PTA DOLLARS! \$

In the fall and the spring, the PTA sponsors an after-school program open to all students called Parents as Educational Partners – P.E.P. for short. P.E.P. started two years ago under a 1-year Boyer Grant as part of the Basic School curriculum. Last year the PTA took over the program and made it a volunteer program that brings in parents and community members to serve as educators. The program was successful way beyond our expectations, and the demand for space keeps increasing each session.

This fall we offered classes in cooking, amateur radio, crafts, science, nature, and scrapbooking. We provided instruction to about 120 students and had wait lists for several classes. We will be offering more classes in the spring so we need lots of parent volunteers to teach or assist in a class. Volunteer request sheets will go home soon, so watch your child's backpack for your chance to be part of a program that creates fun, educational experiences like these:

Exploring Nature – Matt Humphries, the Outdoor Supervisor for the Price House Nature Center, taught this class assisted by Tracy Schroeder, a Kipps parent. Matt brought in exotic animals like snakes to pet and discuss and a mock "cave" to explore. They studied the wildlife in the Kipps courtyard and discussed the different ways the animals in the pond were preparing to hibernate for the winter. The class concluded with a field trip to the Price House Nature Center where they saw more exotic animals like a gecko and a bearded dragon, along with many creatures native to our area.

Cooking – Sharon Dunn taught this class assisted by Ellen Cianelli. Both are Kipps parents. The girls and boys made a variety of fun, edible creations including sand art brownies, edible face paint, human puppy chow, homemade corn chips, pumpkin fries, pumpkin muffins, toasted pumpkin seeds, edible Thanksgiving turkeys, peanut butter balls, toasty apple pies, and no-bake cookies.

Amateur Radio – Twelve students completed this class taught by Rich Beamish, a Blacksburg Middle School 6th grade Science teacher and founder of the BMS Amateur Radio Club. Every student made at least one audio contact with another "ham" radio enthusiast and each earned a First Contact Award from the American Radio Relay League. Some of the more interesting contacts included Christmas Island, the Disney Radio Club, and locations in Australia.

Crafts – Laura Berry taught this fall class, assisted by Elena DiVentra and Marlene Grothusen – all Kipps moms. Some of their 'crafty' creations included pine cone bird feeders, Halloween pillows, Halloween luminaries, golden pine cone door ornaments, painted ceramic flower pots, and decorative Christmas snack jars.

Science Club – Three Kipps parents – Karen Brewer, Ken Meissner and Mark Froggatt – taught this exciting and sometimes electrifying class! Their projects included making your own gooey slime to making a battery that would light a small LED. The subjects covered came primarily from the fields of chemistry, optics, and electronics. The Department of Chemistry at Virginia Tech provided most of the supplies for this class.

Scrapbooking – Joyce Hendricks, a Kipps parent and employee, taught this class assisted by Brenda Hillyard and Linda Grissom, who are both Kipps moms. The students learned the basics of scrapbook design including what materials to use, where to find materials, choosing a theme, how to layout pages in an aesthetically pleasing design, making borders and frames for photographs, recording facts and feelings to accent the pictures, using cutting instruments safely, and protecting the finished pages. Some of the class' scrapbook themes included dance, karate, Mothers' Day, family, best friends, extracurricular activities, and vacations.

All this for less than \$5.00 per student!!!

Summer Opportunities for Gifted Students

Counselors and gifted coordinators are beginning to receive information for summer programs around the state. These programs are generally residential and require that the student pay tuition. Please watch for this information in the school newsletter during the next several months. Presently we know about the following sites:

University of Virginia Summer Enrichment Program 2004
for Gifted Adolescents Rising into Grades 5-8 or 9-11

Session 1 June 27 -July 8, 2004
Session 2 July 11- July 22, 2004
Session 3 July 25 - August 5, 2004

Cost: 2 week session \$910. Which includes tuition, room, board, materials, recreation, and accident insurance. Some financial aid is available through UVA for a limited number of students.

Deadline for application is February 14, 2004

For more information:

Phone: (804) 924-3182

Fax: (804) 924-0747

E-Mail: CURRY-SEP@VIRGINIA.EDU

Website: <http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/enrich>

Ferrum College Summer Enrichment Camp 2004 for academically motivated students currently in grades 5, 6, or 7

Select From Two One-Week Sessions
June 19-25 or June 27-July 3

Cost: \$495. Includes room, board, materials, projects, camp t-shirt and tickets to theater performance.

Enrichment classes tentatively scheduled: chess, clay animation, creative writing, disease detectives, drawing, crime scene investigators, effective speaking, photography, Russian, Spanish, summer theater, web page design.

For More information contact Chip Phillips, director of summer programs at Ferrum College by phone at (540) 365-2121

e-mail: cphillips@ferrum.edu

Website: www.ferrum.edu/fcsec