



Kipps Konnection



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Kipps Elementary School
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Don't forget to check out our website – <http://www.kippspta.org> Go there now to sign up for our E-News letter or check out the latest calendar events.

If you have any questions you can also get emails for board members. Also look for new site updates over the summer.

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TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCH

The Kipps PTA hold an annual Teacher Appreciation luncheon during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-8. We will have a teacher luncheon so please look for a flyer because we will need lots of volunteers to make this happen. If you would be interested in contributing food, setting up, serving and/or cleaning up please contact Zenah Orndorff at 951-8403 or email: hospitality@kippspta.org.

The Kipps PTA would like to thank everyone who volunteered his or her time and talents to help us make the 2003-2004 school year a GREAT success! We hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer and look forward to seeing everyone this fall! We wish our Fifth Graders great success at Blacksburg Middle School next year!

TEACHER'S NOTES



Kindergarten -

Kindergarten: Our manners celebration was a huge success! Faculty and staff guests enjoyed eating cookies, pretzels and mints and sipping punch with our dressed-up kindergartners. Some were even spotted dancing to Henry Mancini and doing the twist and chicken dance! Though we didn't leave our good manners behind, we are learning about the 3 R's of taking care of our wonderful earth: reducing waste, re-using, and recycling. Dash McTrash, Tidy Turtle and Duster, characters from a filmstrip set about ecology, are helping us learn about what WE can do to help the earth. May will bring experiments and projects with WATER, one of our natural resources. We will end the year with our traditional BEACH DAY.



First Grade -

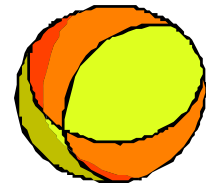
The first grade has been learning about all parts of the world. We have compared and contrasted their life styles, customs, clothing, languages, money, etc. We would like to thank all of the wonderful presenters from the Kipps family. Mr. and Mrs. Atalay (Turkey), Mr. Chung (South Korea), Mrs. Clevenger (Alaska), Ms. Grouthsen (Chile), Dr. Olsen (France), Mr. VanDyke (Japan), Mr. Fitch (China), Mrs. Wheeler (Ireland), and Mr. and Mrs. Edirimuni (Sri Lanka).

Second Grade - Welcome Spring!

Second Grade is finishing up our Ancient Egypt unit at the end of April. We hope to see lots of our 2nd grade parents and children as well as parents and students of other grades for our annual "Night on the Nile", which will take place on May 4th. This is the same night as Kipps Elementary Curriculum Night! We can't wait to show off all of our hard work which includes projects that are inspired by our Social Studies, Science, Math and Language Arts Standards of Learning! For the last month of the year we will move on to another culture: Native Americans of North America!

Third Grade -

Third Grade Teachers would like to thank VT Classics Professors Terry Papillon, Trudy Harrington-Becker, and Andy Becker for helping out once again on the Ancient Greece & Rome unit and arranging another fabulous Kipps Classics Day! The children enjoyed studying Greek and Roman artifacts, making up myths, learning Greek and Latin, and going on an architectural scavenger hunt around campus. Everyone had a great time on our first adventure to Monticello.



Fourth Grade -

Fourth grade is very busy right now. We are preparing to go on our big spring field trip. We will be touring Jamestown, Williamsburg and parts of Richmond. At the end of May we will be visiting Monticello. In social studies, we will begin the Revolutionary War and our study of the contributions of famous Virginians. In Science, we will begin studying Earth, Sun and Moon.

Fifth Grade Finale

As we move into the last six-week period, fifth graders will be studying about Living Systems and The Civil Rights Movement. They will also be taking SOL assessments and celebrating their graduation from the D.A.R.E. program.

Toward the end of the year, fifth graders will take part in several transition activities to help familiarize them with Blacksburg Middle School. They will also celebrate their accomplishments with a private pool party held in their honor!

Over the past twelve weeks fifth grade has enjoyed to company of two very special student teachers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work and we wish them great success in the future.

MAY & JUNE EVENTS

FIFTH GRADE RECITAL held just prior to their end-of-the-year celebration. This is a time when talented fifth graders perform for the parents and other family members gathered to honor their Kipps school career, usually held on the evening before the last day of school. Ms. Katz will be soliciting performances from the fifth graders (instrumental or vocal) in the weeks ahead, and is looking forward to hearing all the different presentations that they will undoubtedly bring. (No skits, or lip-synch routines -- this is NOT a "talent show" but rather more like a mini-concert) More information on the evening's festivities will be forthcoming as the date draws nearer.

BIKE RODEO & ICE CREAM SOCIAL – May 20th – 5:30pm - 6:30pm

The event will be a Bike Rodeo co-sponsored by PTA and the Blacksburg Police Department. Families are encouraged to bring their bikes and participate in the rodeo. There will also be information about bike safety and helmets provided by the Blacksburg Police Department and Carilion. Additional local businesses will provide Bike-related items for prizes.

Families are also encourage to bring picnic dinners, blankets, chairs, etc. PTA will provide ice cream and other toppings to enjoy. A great evening to prepare for summer break!



Annual Chess Tournament between elementary schools will be held May 20th and we have about 25 of the players likely going over to Margaret Beeks to participate.

Field Day is Friday May 28. I will be sending letters home asking for volunteers in early May. –
Thanks, Casey Jones

PTA Planning Session May 6th, 7:00 – All PTA members are encouraged to attend.

Curriculum Night – Tuesday May 4th, 7:00 – 8:00pm

Kindergarten Orientation – Thursday May 20th, 7:00pm.

Families of students in the Kipps Reading Programs for Students in Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades (If you child sees a reading teacher, this announcements is for you!)

You are cordially invited to attend our 2nd annual End of the Year Celebration of Reading. This program will highlight all the children who have been working so hard this year to improve their reading. Thursday, May 13th from 7:00-8:30pm in the Kipps Cafeteria. We hope everyone is able to attend.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Wright, Karen Ragsdale, Myra Lux and Janet Fabrycky

Don't forget to come out and support our Roo's in the annual American Cancer Society's Relay for Life walk on Friday, May 14th. The children's lap will begin at 8:00pm with luminaries lit at **TIME**



MISCELLANEOUS



Below is an updated schedule for the Spring P.E.P. classes in May:

Monday - Exploring Nature - No classes in May; French with Flare - Final class on May 3;

Tuesday - Cool Chemistry - No classes in May; Cooking for Fun - No classes in May;

Wednesday - Gardening Club - Final class on May 5;

Thursday - Cool Chemistry - No classes in May; Scrapbooking - No class on May 6; Final class on May 13; Native American Crafts - No class on May 6; Final class on May 13.

We hope all P.E.P. participants enjoyed the Spring classes.

K-5 Elementary Reading Textbook Adoption

Montgomery County Public Schools is in the process of adopting textbooks to support the elementary reading program. There has been a community meeting in each attendance strand for parents and the public to review the reading textbooks that are available for adoption. The meeting dates were posted in the local newspapers. Montgomery County is looking at four different companies. For the past month teachers in our county have been reviewing these materials. If you have any questions about any of the reading materials up for adoption, you can contact one of the Kipps representatives that are on the adoption committee; Julie Stanley and Karen Gray.

FUNDRAISING

Incentives: WOW! Our Kipps Team really responded to our March 31 Boxtops deadline. We will receive \$1075 this year from Boxtops, and about \$50 from Tyson A+. This has been our best year yet! Mrs. Burchett's class was the March Popcorn Party winner. Way to go, everyone! Keep clipping those Boxtops, and save the whole red label from A+. These will go toward our October check in the fall. Thanks, Hope Ingram



THANK YOU

We would like to extend a big "Thank You!" to everyone who supported the music program at Kipps this year. The kindergarteners, second graders, and fourth graders all presented evening shows to wonderful applause from parents and other members of the Kipps community, and there were several parents who came to attend their children's music classes during the year. Thanks, too, to Bobby Parker for volunteering his time to come talk to several classes about his love of performing folk music -- the students really enjoyed it!

Year In Review

Kipps Elementary PTA

2003-04

The following is an overview of what the Kipps PTA accomplished this year. Thank you to all who helped made this possible.

- Newsletter – Provided monthly updates of school events for parents, students, teachers and staff.
- Website/Enews – Electronically sent information monthly to all parents, students, teachers and staff.
- Funded 9 printers for class rooms
- Coordinated Science Night
- Coordinated the Sock Hop
- Sponsored the LEGO League
- Funded D.A.R.E. t-shirts for 5th Grade
- Sponsored Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, and 4th Grade Music Programs
- Provided Hospitality for Teacher Appreciation Week, Back to School Week, and the three Music Programs
- Provided child care for Parent Orientation Night
- Funded Barter Theater presentation of, *The Wind and the Willows*
- Coordinated Fall and Spring Semester P.E.P. classes
- Hosted/Sponsored Reflections event
- Coordinated Sunshine Program to recognize Kipps staff for Holidays, births, deaths, and illnesses.
- Coordinated Kipps t-shirts
- Sponsored 5 Scholarships for the 4th Grade Field Trip to Williamsburg
- Sponsored Field Day
- Sponsored Safety Patrol
- Sponsored Friendly Helpers
- Helped teachers defer some of their classroom expenses (Building Blocks)
- Coordinated Fall Carnival
- Provided a representative to all Montgomery Country School Board Meetings
- Funded some medical supplies for School Nurse
- Coordinated Bike Rodeo/Bike Safety event
- Provided Publicity for school events to parents and newspaper
- Fundraisers included: Boxtops for Education, A+ labels, Carnival, Wrapping Paper/Magazine, etc. sales

