



# Kipps Konnection



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Kipps Elementary School  
November 2004



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## HAPPY FALL!

News from the Consulting Teacher for the Gifted

October has been a busy month. All classroom teachers, kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, have completed the Kingore Observation Inventory. This is used to meet the county and state requirement of screening all students for gifted identification. From these observations teachers will make recommendations for identification referrals for the 2004-05 school year. Teachers are not the only means for nominations. You as a parent may nominate your child by contacting the consulting teacher for the gifted at your child's school. This is a very involved process including many components that include: teacher observation, parent and teacher checklists, portfolio items from school and home, student interview, and standardized testing. To review the identification process for MCPS you may go to [www.mcspgifted.info](http://www.mcspgifted.info) and click on the referral process link. In order to complete the process during the current school year, referrals need to be received by February 1.

Helping gifted students find challenging but appropriate reading material is often troublesome for parents. The Hoagies web site has a wide collection of recommended reading lists at [www.hoagiesgifted.org/reading\\_lists.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/reading_lists.htm). You may also check out this site for additional parent resources at [www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org).

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## INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Teacher's Notes	Page 2
Miscellaneous	Page 3
Volunteer Opportunities	Page 3
November Events	Page 4
December Preview	Page 4
Calendar	Insert
Membership Flyer	Insert

**Make sure you check out our website:  
<http://www.kippspta.org>  
for regular updates, PTA and school events  
and to email a PTA Board Members!!**

Q&A: (from Home & School connection, 11/02)

Q: How should I reward my son for a good report card? I've thought about raising his allowance if he makes A's and B's.

A: It's tempting to use money or other material rewards to motivate kids to get good grades. However, tying your son's report card to his allowance may put extra pressure on him. It might also tell him that grades are more important than learning. If your child does well on his report card, consider a simple celebration (make a favorite dinner or go out for ice cream). If he doesn't do as well as you had hoped, contact his teacher. She may suggest ways to help such as extra tutoring or working on study habits. There are other parent resources to be checked out available in the Guidance Conference room.

Marcia Obenshain – Guidance Counsler

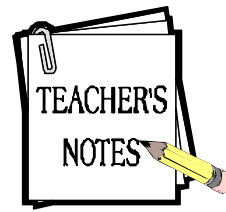
**Kindergarten**-The Kipps Kindergarten Crew is getting ready for its first field trip of the year. We are heading out to Wheatland Retirement Center at the end of October to share songs, stories, and artwork with the residents. Mrs. Lux has been teaching us songs about letters of the alphabet and we have been learning "songs of the season" also. We can't wait to share our talents with our community! We have also been busy "walking, walking, through the leaves" of our Kipps nature trail and using our five senses to explore the wonders of fall.

### **First Grade –**

This year, first grade is using the R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) program with some of their students. R.E.A.D. was started three years ago by Intermountain Therapy Animals (ITA) at the suggestion of a board member. Some first grade students will spend about 10 minutes every Friday afternoon reading to one of three trained canines, on a blanket in the library. Many children are more willing to read to dogs than their classmates, in part because kids who stumble over new words know their furry friends won't notice. As a result, children's reading skills improve and their self-esteem grows. We are all very excited about this adventure and will share more information as the year progresses. A great web site to visit and learn more about the R.E.A.D. program is: [www.therapyanimals.org/read/view\\_article.php?articleID=86](http://www.therapyanimals.org/read/view_article.php?articleID=86)

### **Second Grade Superstars! –**

We have just finished up on our life cycle studies of plants, frogs, grasshoppers, butterflies, seasons as well as humans! We have our own timelines hanging up in the 2nd grade hallway; check us out! These timelines have brought us to some timelines of some other Americans that have made contributions to our country! We have started our study of the lives of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson and Martin Luther King, Jr. We will have our "Equality Extravaganza" on the 5th of November in the Cafeteria at 2:30! We hope to see all of our 2nd grade parents that can make it as well as any others that are interested. You will get to hear a choral reading about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life presented by the entire 2nd grade, peace poems, American songs, and you will get to see some wonderful art work! Hope to see you there for this wonderful event and don't forget to vote on Election Day!



### **Third Grade -**

Third grade students will visit the water Treatment Plant while they are studying the Water Cycle.

### **Fourth Grade –**

Fourth Grade had a great time on their field trip to Mabry's Mill. The children are beginning to work on multiplication and number sentences. Have your child teach you some of the math games in their Student Reference Book. We will soon begin studying Virginia Indians. We will learn how these first Virginians lived in our state and will begin our exciting unit on Jamestown. The children are very excited about our animal unit. Make sure you take a look at their interactive notebook. It is graded on three criteria: Is everything drawn? Is it labeled correctly? Is it colored?

Finally the children are really enjoying the weekly walk we take as a fourth grade and as individual classes. Why not take a walk this weekend with your child and enjoy the beautiful fall leaves!

### **Fifth Grade Rocks! –**

Fifth Grade has just finished an exciting unit on Oceans, which culminated with a visit from the Ocean in Motion. We are now beginning to explore Geology and the history of Virginia through the fossil record. We have been working with rocks and learning about their cycle of life too ~ Just another reason why Fifth Grade Rocks! We are making connections with our Social Studies as we begin to explore the causes of the Civil War and the differences between the agrarian south and the industrialized north. Students have been working on the causes and are ready to begin an in-depth study of how the war affected Virginia, including locations of key battles across the state. Our Civil War novels have also begun. We are meeting three days a week to read and discuss these novels together. Ask your child to share what we are doing with you!

During our math time we have started our tour of America, which will include information and mathematical challenges pertaining to the United States. Students have been learning about a census and have been looking at data from previous years to draw conclusions and make predictions about the future. We have also started our study of Geometry. Be on the lookout for some cool tessellations to be showing up soon.



### Eating For Kipps Kids!

The winners of our random monthly drawing for a class popcorn party are Ms. Jones, Ms. Cusimano and Ms. Lester. Make sure to keep those box tops and A+ labels coming in. If you have any questions please contact Alicia Stone at [incentives@kippspta.org](mailto:incentives@kippspta.org).



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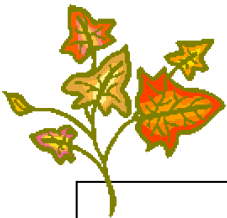
## MISCELLANEOUS

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Thank you to all parents and students who participated in our fundraiser these last few weeks. The orders will arrive in about 3 weeks and we will send out notices before sending the items home with the children. A very big thank you to the volunteers who helped tally the orders with me each morning! Thanks for all your help and support- Kathy DeMatteo

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Reminder: Runnin' Roos is up and running (literally!)- We meet on Fridays in the gym at 8:00 a.m. If you would like to join, please get a permission form from Ms. Patrick or Mr. Jacomen. Any questions, email [lgraves2@radford.edu](mailto:lgraves2@radford.edu). Look for information coming home soon about Roos' fall community service project



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need LOTS of volunteers for our annual **Kipps Carnival**. The Carnival will be held Friday, **November 12<sup>th</sup>**. We still need volunteers to help run games and serve food. There are two shifts that run from 5:45-7:00 and 6:45-8:00. We also need volunteers to donate cupcakes and cakes for the cake walk.

If you can help in anyway please email [volunteers@kippspta.org](mailto:volunteers@kippspta.org).  
Thank you to all who volunteer their time and services!

### Huge Need For Medical Volunteers

Most of us don't realize this, but current school funding only provides for a school nurse at our school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It would be a tremendous help and comfort to everyone if we could provide some help with even limited medical experience on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. CNA's, NA's, nurses, or even people certified in first aid, who are comfortable with band aids and ice packs, and who don't swoon at the site of blood would be greatly welcomed in the front office. Volunteer hours can be very flexible--from one or two hours here and there, to half days each week or more. We will also work with flexible work schedules, so the volunteer hours may change as needed. ***Please consider this significant volunteer opportunity if you feel qualified!!*** There is surely nothing more important that the health and well-being of our precious children!

Volunteers may sign up in the front office, e-mail [volunteers@kippspta.org](mailto:volunteers@kippspta.org) or call me at 552-0215. Thanks so much for your anticipated help.

Sincerely,

Nancy W. Phillips - Volunteers Coordinator

# NOVEMBER EVENTS



**Title I/Reading Parent Information Night**  
**Thurs. November 4th, 2004 7-8 PM Kipps Cafeteria**

This will be a short, informative meeting for PARENTS of students who are receiving extra help with reading from the Title I program or from Mrs. Wright. We will explain what we are teaching your child here at school and how you can help at home to increase your child's reading success.

Parents or guardians will have the opportunity to choose a free book for each child enrolled in a special reading program.

PTA Planning Session November 9th, 7:00 – Kipps Cafeteria - All PTA members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

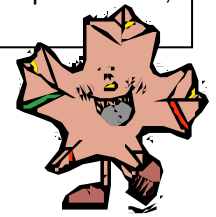
The Creative Works program will be presented in school on November 16 for all 4th and 5th graders. This PTA program is a writing and drama presentation by StageWorks from Charlotte, NC. The first portion of the program is a creative program called Secrets Revealed where students will watch an imaginative drama related to history and science items and get caught up in the secrets that are revealed. The second portion of the program is a writing residency where an educator/actor will visit each classroom and partner with classroom teachers to assist students in enhancing their writing skills. This combination program is designed to strengthen sequencing, listening comprehension, problem solving and build writing skills.

## LET'S GET CREATIVE !

Your *Reflections* Entries are Due In the Main Office  
**November 3, 2004**



# FALL CARNIVAL – November 12<sup>th</sup>



This year's Fall Carnival will be November 12<sup>th</sup>. It is one of the PTA's most popular events. It is a fun FAMILY night with many, many activities for the children. There will be games, puzzles, a cake walk, the Whopper Hopper and exotic animals provided by Zooquatic. In addition, there will be a several raffles during the evening. The Building Blocks Program (that raises money for teachers to allow them to buy non-budgeted classroom items) will be holding a silent auction on carnival night as well.

We are very fortunate to have Blacksburg's Fire-Safe House coming to the carnival this year. People who "tour" the house will get a brief lesson in home safety and then get to practice their knowledge in a realistically simulated HOUSE FIRE! A GREAT experience, especially for those who've never toured the house!

We will also have two demonstrations during the evening. One will be a martial arts demonstration by the American Martial Arts Center. The other will be a gymnastics demonstration by the Virginia Techniques Gymnastics.

The fun will begin at 6:00pm and end around 8:00pm. There will be pizza, hot dogs and baked goods to buy. The Student Council will be selling drinks. Please come and join us for a night of fun.

## DECEMBER PREVIEWS

- **PTA Planning Session** - December 14th, 6:30pm
- **Reflections** – Reception December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

