



Kipps Konnection



Ray E. VanDyke, Principal
Kipps Elementary School
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Michele Wolfert, PTA President
J Dobson, Editor
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SCA NEWS:

Hats off to Kipps Kids for donating 2,341 items of food to our local Food Pantry. Mrs. Sterrett, the volunteer at the food pantry, told the SCA members she thought it was the most food ever delivered to the food pantry at one time!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parents who came out to help us with the huge effort of packing, loading and unloading all this food at the pantry! Adrienne Rogers', mother Cheryl Rogers, Charlie Scott's mother, Elaine Scott, and Alynne Hendricks' mother, Joyce Hendricks, all showed up and gave us their support!

The following SCA members came to school early and worked for two hours on this project:

Audrey Polk, Kyle Stone, Adrienne Rogers, Alynne Hendricks, Catherine Christian, Isabel Jones, Laura Froggatt, Charlie, Scott, Ester Jeong, David Hirsh, Andrew Simpson, Tommy Treser, Mitchell Williams, Daniel Lee, Joshua Dove, Anita Yang, Kathryn Benson, Taylor Dobson, Clayton Proctor, Rosa Chung, Allyson Buennemeyer, and Lucas Colpitts.

Congratulations to our entire school for their compassion and giving. We have helped many area families who need support during the winter months. We are indeed a caring community!

Runnin Roos started back up on Friday 2/18. We will continue to have Runnin Roos on Friday mornings from 8-8:30. Students should come to the gym to sign in and then a decision will be made whether or not we will run inside or outside. If there is a delay to school, Runnin Roos is cancelled. If you're new to Runnin' Roos you need to fill out a permission form and bring it to club.

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ESL NEWS:

Did you know that 2005 is the Year of Languages? Here at Kipps we have many students that speak foreign languages. We have at least 10 languages spoken by students everyday! Have you heard Korean, Spanish, Polish, Russian, Japanese, Marathi, Singhalese, Arabic, Indonesian or Mongolian? It was probably one of our international students that take part in English as a Second Language (ESL) program. At present there are 42 international students in the ESL program at Kipps.

For the rest of the year, Mrs. Renqvist, the ESL teacher, has a student teacher from Virginia Tech. Her name is Lisa Francis and she is a graduate student in ESL Education. She has experience working with international students both here, in Roanoke and in Japan and is really excited about being at Kipps!

We invite you to learn more about languages and the ESL program here at Kipps. Take a look at our international bulletin board near the main office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Helen Renqvist at hrenqvist@mcps.org.

Kindergarten-

Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school in a BIG way! TWO Zero the Heroes came to visit, we made a snack by counting out 10 pieces of 10 different foods for a special trail mix, we wore hats made for the occasion, and we learned a 100th day song. We brought bags of 100 items from home that we weighed to see whose was the heaviest and lightest. Passing 100 days didn't mean the fun was over, however! We studied 2 famous Presidents, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, learning important facts about their lives. We ended our patriotism unit with a parade around Kipps celebrating our flag and country. We wore our best red, white, and blue clothes and carried flags, rhythm instruments, and streamers.



First Grade –

The first graders marked the 100th day of school February 9th with a grand celebration. They spent the morning traveling to each classroom to work on numerous counting activities and games. Two "Zero the Heroes" were spotted in the hallway!

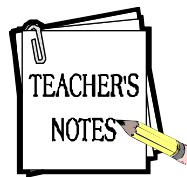
As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, first grade culminated their economics unit with a bake sale. It was a great success! We earned around \$80.00 and contributed it to the Tsunami Fund. What a wonderful example of giving and compassion!

We just completed our social studies unit focusing on President's Day, Columbus Day, and famous Americans, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington Carver. Ben Franklin once wrote, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Have you eaten a healthy apple today?



Second Grade Superstars! –

Second grade has traveled back in time to the Ancient times of China. We have been reading novels for the past 3 weeks based on this wonderful country. We have focused our studies on the culture, architecture, written language, and inventions. Did you know that China is credited with inventing the kite, fireworks, the wheelbarrow, the compass and so much more? We have thought about what our lives would be like without these contributions. The people of China recently celebrated Chinese New Year. Our second graders will have the annual Chinese Potluck feast at the beginning of March for all of the 2nd grade families. We will end our unit with a tribute to Ancient China: a parade around our school community!



Third Grade –

Third grade would like to extend warm wishes to Mrs. Wheeler as she recovers from her surgery, and welcome Mrs. Angie Bain as the long-term substitute.

Mrs. Shull and Mrs. Lester's classes have been learning about the ancient kingdom of Mali. Be sure to ask your child to sing "The Twelve Days of Mali" for you and tell you the story of the real Lion King!

Coming up next in science will be a unit on Cycles in Nature. We'll be talking about the earth's rotation and how it affects day/night, seasons and tides. We'll also learn about the phases of the moon. There is a great program in the Skylab on this subject at the Roanoke Science Museum that we'll see in March!



Fourth Grade –

Can you believe that we have been in school for 6 months? Time flies here in fourth grade. Fourth graders are learning so much!

Bachorik and Gray's classes are reviewing Geography and Jamestown by singing songs. The children love learning and singing these songs so don't hesitate to ask your children to sing them for you. We are learning about fractions in math. The children need to study their fraction cards at home. In science, the children are wrapping up the Sun, Moon and Stars Unit.

Ewing and Olsen's classes are learning about the early cultural landscapes of Virginia. In science, the children are learning about weather. Ask your child to predict the weather for you! In math, the children are learning a new algorithm for division. Please ask your child to share this method with you. We are all excited to welcome the newest Ewing to the world.

We would like to welcome two new additions to the Kipps family. Reed Ewing was born on Feb. 23rd and both Mom and Baby are doing great! Mr. Sean Sharp will be her long-term substitute. Mr. Sharp has nine years of teaching experience.

The children are very excited about the upcoming Jamestown field trip. Some of the children will be bringing home fundraising packets for this trip. Please encourage your child to participate with this fundraising. The children greatly enjoy the units we have been teaching so please ask them to share their Interactive Notebooks with you. Encourage your child to review his/her multiplication facts. The children really are coming together as a team of learners. What great children! Thank you for sharing each of them with us.

MARCH EVENTS



Barter Theater Productions – BMS – March 16th

Kindergarten – Second Grade to see Miss Nelson is Missing from 10:00-10:50am

Third – Fourth Grade to see A Thousand Cranes from 1:00-1:45pm

PTA Planning Session - March 8th – 7:00pm Kipps Cafeteria

Fifth Grade Writing SOL

March 8th – Writing multiple choice – 9:15am

March 9th – Writing Prompt – 9:15am

March 10th – Writing SOL Make-up – 9:15am

2005 PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP

Who?: Any child who will be entering kindergarten at Kipps in the fall.

What?: A time to bring your child to Kipps to visit the school, meet the teachers and interact with some of the children he/she will be going to school with in the fall. Parents are encouraged to drop their children off at 1:30pm and return at 3:00pm.

Where?: Kipps Elementary in the kindergarten classrooms

When?: March 17th & April 27th from 1:30 – 3:00pm



If you have any questions please contact Amy Ruppert at 951-5760

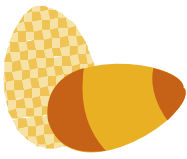
APRIL PREVIEWS

April 5th - **Fine Arts Festival**

April 18th – **Fourth Grade Music Program – PTA Planning Session prior to program**

April 26th – **Green Eggs and Ham Production for K-3**





MISCELLANEOUS

Eating For Kipps Kids!

Box Tops winners for the month of February are Ms. Mullins, Mr. Stenger, and Ms. Gray. Great job guys! Keep the coupons coming in but please be sure not to cut off the expiration dates. Coupons with out their expiration dates are not redeemable and have to be discarded. **The deadline for this school year is March 15th.** If you are holding any coupons please make sure they make it to school by that date. If you forget, don't worry you can keep sending them and they will be redeemed next school year. **Thanks for all the support for this program and keep clipping!**

RELAY FOR LIFE



Once again this year we will have a team participating in the Montgomery County American Cancer Society Relay For Life event. The "Kipps Relay Roos" team will be collecting donations for the American Cancer Society. The event will be on May 20 and May 21 at the Christiansburg High School track. The band "The Kings" will be playing for entertainment and there will be a special Children's Lap again this year. The Children's Lap will be on Friday, May 20 at 6:00pm. Children who register before April 11t and raise a minimum of \$5.00 in donations will receive a Relay For Life t-shirt and will be eligible for prizes. To help raise money for the American Cancer Society we did had some purple "Celebrate Life" bracelets for a minimum \$1.00 donation. The bracelets have been so popular we are currently out. We are trying to order more from the American Cancer Society and will offer them again if possible. Bracelet donations alone totaled more than \$130.00. Thank you to everyone for your donations. See Ms. Wade if you have questions (e-mail at kwade@mcps.org) about Relay For Life or if you would like to register for the Children's Lap.



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Our "Pennies From Heaven" service project to assist the tsunami victims was a huge success! As a school we raised a total of \$2,292.52! **Believe it or not \$1541.52 of that grand total was all in coins.** The remaining \$751.00 came from the National Bank of Blacksburg's \$300 donation and the rest of the cash/check donations came from Kipps Elementary students and families. We are still researching which relief organization we will be contributing our "Pennies From Heaven" donations to. Once this decision is made, we will let you know. Thinking about our Kipps pledge/virtues this service project really shows how compassionate and giving our students and families are. Thank you all so much for helping out with this very special project!

Kipps would like to welcome Dr. Tiffany Anderson as the new Superintendent of Montgomery County. On February 15, 2005, the Montgomery County School Board voted five to one to offer a four-year contract to Dr. Tiffany Anderson. Dr. Anderson intends to begin work in Montgomery County Public Schools on April 4, 2005. She is currently the assistant superintendent for student services in the Rockwood School District in Missouri, which is the largest district in St. Louis County with 22,000 students. This is also the highest performing district in the state of Missouri.



Special Thanks to all of the parents who helped chaperone at the Sock Hop—especially to Gus Teller who braved the cold weather outside to make sure that our children arrived safely with their parents!!

Dede Stone, once again, arranged a special and fun evening which we all enjoyed. Thanks Dede for your tireless dedication to our school. A great time was had by all!

News from the Consulting Teacher for the Gifted

Even though it is cold and snowy outside, it is not too early to start thinking about summer and camp opportunities. Our area provides several opportunities for children to attend camps that provide programs full of academic enrichment. If this sounds interesting, please check the camps listed below.

Ferrum College Summer Enrichment Camp (<http://www.ferrum.edu/fcsec>)

Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) at UVA
(<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/enrich.indes/home.html>)

Saturday and Summer Enrichment Program at the College of William and Mary
(<http://www.cfge.wm.edu/sep.php>)

Have you ever wanted your child to learn a foreign language? Well, now is your chance. The English Language Institute of Virginia Tech is teaching French, German, Japanese, English as a second language, and Spanish. Classes are offered after school at the Institute's building in Blacksburg and run for an eight-week period. For more information call the institute at (540) 231-9814.



Kipps SCA Newsletter – Isabel Jones

Many of you don't know the wonderful things that we do at Kipps. Some of the things we do to help people are relief funds, food drives, Relay for Life, Christmas store, friendly helpers, reading buddies, kids tutoring other kids and much more. We do these things to help the community and when we do these things all of the students get involved. Our schools goal is to make our community a better place. Please continue to help us make these programs successful.