

Kipps Konnection



Ray E. VanDyke, Principal
Kipps Elementary School
April 2005

Michele Wolfert, PTA President
J Dobson, Editor
Volume 10, Issue 8



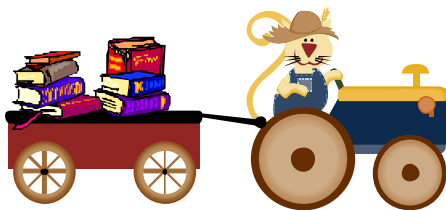
April is National Library Month

April is a wonderful time to introduce your children to the public libraries if you have not done so yet. The Blacksburg Public Library is in our downtown area and offers a wide variety of activities for children.

Here at Kipps, when students in grades 3-5 come for their weekly library class they will be involved in "book hunts". They will be working in small groups to find a variety of books and other items that are in the library. These activities are fun, but also challenge them to think about how and where to find specific items in the library. During skill lessons, students often do not have time to check out a book. Please remind your children that they are always welcome to come to the library between 8:45-9:15 in the mornings to exchange books.

If your child is not bringing home a library book, it may be because he or she has not returned one. Please call the librarian if your child is not bringing home a book and she will update you on why this may be happening.

"Some books are so familiar that reading them is like being home again." Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888)



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Teacher's Notes	Page 2
April Events	Page 3
May & June Previews	Page 3
Miscellaneous	Page 4
Calendar	Insert
Gifted News & SCA Article	Insert

The Kipps Chess Club meets on Friday mornings at 8:15 in the Library and is now in preparations for its annual Blacksburg area chess tournament. On April 27th, our Kipps players will be traveling over to Harding Avenue Elementary where the tournament will be held this year. Teams from Kipps, Harding Avenue, Prices Forks, Belview, Margaret Beeks - and possibly a few other schools - will be coming out for our annual event. Parents of Kipps Chess players will be receiving more information about the tournament as the date approaches and any Kipps chess players are invited to our regular club meetings.

Art News:

The theme of this year's Fine Arts Month was "Fine Arts are the Heart of Education." Student art work from Kipps was displayed at University Mall, Easy Chair Coffee Shop and at the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley in Pulaski. Several student art works were part of a display last month at Radford University entitled "Where Art Begins." Special events were planned in the art room during March including "visits" from some famous artists. Thanks to all the staff and parents who help encourage and support the arts at Kipps!

Kindergarten-

Spring is popping out in kindergarten! We are starting to look like the first graders we will be in a few months. Our writing, reading, and math skills are coming along at a fast clip, and we're having fun, too! In March we learned more about maps while searching for a leprechaun and his pot of gold. We watched rainbows "bloom" around us with our book of the week *Colors of the World*. We met Roy G. Biv as we learned the order of the colors of the rainbow. We explored the world of magnets, learning about their pushing, pulling, and attraction of certain objects. In math we worked hard on the concept of Number, using many different math materials to create addend combinations. In our handwriting program, *Handwriting Without Tears*, we worked on lower case letters, and soon we will have learned enough letters to write our names the first grade way, using a capital letter only at the beginning. As you can tell, there's never a dull moment in kindergarten!



First Grade –

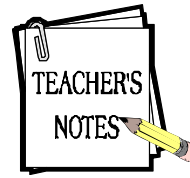
First grade has been very busy learning all about our American traditions and symbols. We have learned all about The Statue of Liberty, The Washington Monument, The Bald Eagle, The American flag, and The Pledge of Allegiance.

We are very happy to have Katie Gates and Christina Smith, student teachers, working with us. They did a great job planning all of the activities associated with our unit on symbols and traditions! We are looking forward to our guest speakers who will share about cultures and countries different from ours. We will be hearing all about Sri Lanka, Brazil, Mexico, England, and Japan.

Parents, I hope you heard all about the wonderful production that we saw at BMS. It was a musical based on a book, *Miss Nelson Is Missing*. It was a delightful production and all of us enjoyed the walk through the snowflakes to and from the school.

Second Grade Superstars! –

Second grade at Kipps Elementary just finished their unit on Ancient China. To celebrate, a Chinese Feast was planned by the teachers and parents to enjoy part of this rich culture. Students (and parents and teachers!) were able to learn how to practice eating with chopsticks while tasting new and favorite Chinese foods. During this feast, many students were able to share projects completed during this unit to show their learning of architecture, written language and inventions of China. To end this wonderful unit, 2nd grade students gathered in the hall to put on a parade in celebration of this beautiful and interesting culture. A lively dragon, art projects, and music were seen by all of the (2nd grade) parents, students and staff at Kipps Elementary! This was the 5th annual 2nd grade Chinese parade and feast. As our year moves on, we will travel back in time to Ancient Egypt. During this unit, we will learn about the culture of Ancient Egypt and compare it to other cultures we've studied this year. Other focuses will be on the geography and contributions of Ancient Egypt. Stay tuned for our report of "Night on the Nile", happening in May.



Fourth Grade –

The excitement continues to grow as fourth grade approaches the dates of the Jamestown trip. We just completed our cookie dough fund raising sale. Thank you to all the parents and students who participated. We will continue to have cookie dough for sale until all tubs of dough are purchased. Please see a fourth grade teacher if you are interested in making a purchase.

Mr. Sharp and Ms. Olsen's classes continue to learn about the Revolutionary War in social studies and the weather in science.

Ms. Bachorik and Ms. Gray's class began their study of cultural landscapes in social studies. They will continue to review both science and social studies concepts during their Friday review sessions.

Please mark your calendars for the April 18th music program. The students have begun to prepare their singing voices in order to perform for their families. It will be an evening you won't want to miss out on.



Fifth Grade Rocks! –

On February 18th the four fifth grade classes headed to Lexington, VA. We spent an entire day visiting the Marshall Museum, The VMI Museum and chapel, The Lee Chapel on the Washington and Lee Campus, the Jackson House and the cemetery where Stonewall Jackson was buried. We saw first hand many things we had learned during our study of the Civil War and we learned many new things too. Our trip made the facts presented in the book, *Ghost Cadet*, seem more real. We also had fun eating in the VMI canteen!

We want to thank the fifth graders for their respectful behavior on our fieldtrip. Many of the tour guides commented on how much the students knew about this time period and their great behavior. We were very proud of everyone who went.

Thanks to all the wonderful parents who chaperoned this trip. Without your help, trips such as these would not be possible. We appreciate your giving your entire day to the fifth graders!

We have begun our study of the 20th Century in Social Studies and our next unit in Science is Matter. We are also practicing with Mr. Lewis for our Diversity Program in April.





APRIL EVENTS

Fine Arts Festival – April 5th – During school hours – 18 different local artists will participate. Each child will get the chance to Clog and participate in two other activities in visual and musical art.

LUNCH WITH PRINCIPAL – April 5th – Noon to 1:00pm – Kipps Cafeteria –
Topic: Gifted Education

Fourth Grade Music Program – April 18th – 7:00 pm

Our fabulous fourth graders will be presenting the Spring Program on April 18th at 7:00 in the Kipps Cafeteria. Be prepared for some foot-stompin' musical fun as they perform in an adaptation of the Marc Harshman/Bonnie Collins story "Rocks in My Pockets." This tale of life high on an Appalachian mountain will have you laughing and cheering for good old-fashioned values and music. The fourth graders will be singing, dancing, and playing instruments along with their acting. Come for a grand old evening of entertainment!

PTA Planning Session - April 18th – 6:30pm Kipps Cafeteria – Immediately preceding the Fourth Grade Music Program.



Virginia Opera production of Green Eggs and Ham for grades K-3 -
Tuesday April 26th, during the school day.

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?: April 27th from 1:30 – 3:00pm



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

**Don't forget to register your child for Kindergarten next year during the week of
April 4th – 8th**

MAY & JUNE PREVIEWS

May 5 - 6th - Fourth Grade Trip to Williamsburg

May 16 - 27th - SOL Testing Window, Grades 3, 5, and 4th Retakes

June 3rd – Field Day – We will be scheduling Parent volunteers in May.

June 7th - School Parade

June 10th – Last Day of School!



MISCELLANEOUS



Eating For Kipps Kids!

Box Tops winners for the month of February are Ms. Fontenot, Ms. Bachorik, and Ms. Wood-Setzer. 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. **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 Falling Branch Elementary. Please note this change in location due to construction at CHS. 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 11th and raise a minimum of \$5.00 in donations will receive a Relay for Life t-shirt and will be eligible for prizes. 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. We are also planning another Relay Yard Sale this year. The yard sale will be in the Kipps cafeteria on Saturday, April 23rd. Look for additional Relay for Life information coming home soon!



Gifted Education Conference

Mark your calendars for Saturday April 9th. The annual NOVA (Northern Virginia) one-day conference on gifted education will be held at Marshall High School in Falls Church. The title of the conference is Destination Diversity: Creating a Continuum of Challenge for All Children. This year's conference will host a variety of national experts in the field of education offering several sessions just for parents of gifted students. Registration is easy, just go online to www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/diversity/index.htm and follow the directions. For more information call 703-846-8670 or email Carol.Horn@fcps.edu.

News from the Consulting Teacher for the Gifted

Another summer opportunity for students who love to write is the All Write @ Virginia Tech Summer Creative Writing Youth Camp. This is a week-long half day creative writing camp June 20-24 and includes professional instruction, materials, daily workshops, and opening and closing featured sessions. Workshops are for 8-18 year old students. To find more information on this and to register online go to <http://www.conted.vt.edu/awvt/>.

Many parents and students are familiar with the summer enrichment opportunities provided through Gifted Education in Montgomery County Public Schools. Plans for this summer are in the planning stages. We hope to have the brochure out to families early in May. Watch for these exciting offerings to come home in your child's backpack.

March was music month! This was the annual time that schools across the country celebrate music.

Here at Kipps, we recognized this special month, with music buttons. Each of the students and staff received a pin-on button that they could wear to support music month. Students were rewarded for wearing their buttons on their music days, with M&M's. Kipps' kids were encouraged to wear their music buttons during the full week, but were only rewarded for doing so on their music days.

One other thing that we at Kipps do to celebrate our love for music, is listen to it! Occasionally throughout the month of March, a selected piece of music was played over the intercom system, before the announcements began. This started the day on a good tone.

Thank you for all of your support for our school that makes it possible for us to continue to make March Music Month so much fun!

Article by Alynne Hendricks - SCA