

# Kennedy Jr. High School Newsletter

April-May 2008

A publication of the Kennedy Parent Center



## Principal's Remarks by Dr. Howard Sagers

A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others. ~Author Unknown

The end of the school year is always a time of mixed emotions for teachers and staff at Kennedy. On one hand, who doesn't look forward to summer vacation? But on the other hand, summer also means saying goodbye—sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently—to people you've enjoyed spending time with.

This year we will be saying goodbye to two long-time teachers, Pi Hinch and Jennifer Robinson. Ms. Hinch, who is retiring after 30 years of teaching, has taught P.E. and Health at Kennedy for 20 years. Mrs. Robinson started at Kennedy as a student teacher and spent the next 21 years teaching in our Social Studies department. We will miss these excellent teachers tremendously and wish them all the best.

One of the things I admire most about these two teachers (and indeed, all the teachers at Kennedy) is their dedication to their profession. Teaching is a challenging job, and teaching at the junior high level can be especially demanding. To teach day in and day out, year after year, and still be able to say "I will miss it" at the end of your career speaks volumes about the excellence and never-ending commitment to your children by these wonderful people.

At Kennedy, we believe that parents and teachers are members of a team working together to benefit our students and help them progress. This partnership is critical to student success. I would encourage all parents to do what they can to get to know their child's teachers. Attend Parent-Teacher conferences and other school events. E-mail teachers with concerns or other important information about your child. Schedule a time to meet with teachers on a one-to-one basis. If language is a barrier, please let us know and we will make translation services available. Remember—the more we work together, the greater the opportunity for all of our children to succeed.

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Volunteers are still needed to help out at lunch! Just come one time for one lunch period! The more parents the better! Call Wendy Fayles at 386-0354 or stop by our Front Office and say you're here to help at lunch. Thanks!!!

### Lunch Schedule

Monday-Thursday  
1<sup>st</sup> lunch: 11:20-11:50  
2<sup>nd</sup> lunch: 12-12:30  
3<sup>rd</sup> lunch: 12:50-1:20

Friday  
1<sup>st</sup> lunch: 9:55-10:25  
2<sup>nd</sup> lunch: 10:30-11:00  
3<sup>rd</sup> lunch: 11:05-11:35

**Necesitamos voluntarios ayudar en el almuerzo. Ustedes no necesitamos hablar ingles. Llame Wendy Fayles (386-0354) o pasan la cafetería en el almuerzo. Gracias!**

Main Office: 646-5214

Attendance Office: 646-5218

Counseling Office: 646-5216

Fax: 646-5215

Parent Center (cell): 386-0354

### Kennedy Jr. High

4495 South 4800 West  
West Valley City, UT  
84120

### Web site:

[www.graniteschools.org/jr/kennedy/](http://www.graniteschools.org/jr/kennedy/)

## Mensaje del Director

Un buen maestro es como una vela – se consume a si mismo para brillar por otros.  
- Autor desconocido

El fin del año escolar siempre es un tiempo de emociones mezcladas para los maestros y la oficina. Por un lado quien no esta esperando las vacaciones de verano? Pero por otro lado, el verano también significa que nos despedimos—a veces temporalmente, a veces permanentemente—de personas con quien usted ha disfrutado un tiempo con ellos.

Este año vamos a decirle adiós a dos maestros, Pi Hinch y Jennifer Robinson. Ms. Hinch, quien se jubila después de 30 años de enseñar, en Kennedy ha enseñado Educación física y salud por 20 años. Mrs. Robinson empezó en Kennedy como una maestra estudiante y gasto sus próximos 21 años enseñando en nuestro departamento y les deseamos lo mejor.

Una de las cosas que más admiro de estas dos maestros (y de todos los maestros de Kennedy) es la dedicación a sus profesiones. Enseñar es un trabajo difícil y cada día, cada ano, y todavía decir “voy a extrañarlo” al final de sus carreras muestra cuan excelente estos maestros son y el compromiso que ellos tienen con sus hijos.

En Kennedy, creemos que los padres y los maestros son miembros de un equipo trabajando juntos para el beneficio de nuestros estudiantes y ayudarles un su progreso. Esto es bien importante para el éxito de los estudiantes. Me gustaría invitar a todos los padres a que hagan lo que mas puedan por conocer a los maestros de sus hijos. A que asistan a las conferencias de Padre-Maestro y otros eventos escolares. Mande correos electrónicos a los maestros con preguntas y otra información importante acerca de sus hijos. Haga una cita para conocer los maestros regularmente. Si el idioma es una barrera, por favor háganos saber y tendremos servicios de traducción. Recuerde—entre mas trabajemos juntos, mayor será la oportunidad para todos nuestros hijos de tener éxito.

### Clases de Inglés Como Segundo Idioma Para Adultos (no costo)

**Cuando:** Lunes y Miércoles a las 9:15-10:15 a.m. o Miércoles (2-3 p.m.)

**Adonde:** Kennedy Junior High School, 4495 South 4800 West  
Parent Center/Centro de los Padres (localizado en Relo C ubicado en el estacionamiento de la escuela al lado este)

**¿Preguntas?** Llame a Wendy Fayles 386-0354 (¡Y habla despacio, por favor!)

### ESL Classes for Adults

Free ESL classes for adults are ongoing at the Kennedy Jr. High Parent Center every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9:15-10:15 a.m. and Wednesday afternoons from 2-3 p.m. (Closed on holidays.) Classes are held in the Parent Center, which is located in Relo C at the east end of the school parking lot. For questions, call Wendy Fayles at 386-0354. (Parents are welcome to bring small children.)

## MESA Team Takes 1<sup>st</sup> at Annual MESA Day Event

Kennedy Jr. High's MESA (Math, Engineering and Science Achievement) Team took first place in the Annual MESA Day event for Granite School District. MESA is comprised of female or minority students with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Kennedy has a total of 129 students in MESA, 44 of which participated in the MESA Day games. This was Kennedy's first time in winning the first place trophy. Our MESA advisors, Mrs. Cropper and Mr. Peterson, would like to commend the MESA students for the many hours spent building trebuchets and egg drop containers and practicing Krypto.

## Students Raise over \$500 for Heifer International

Kennedy's Student Body Officers and Wrestling Team made for an unbeatable combination as they worked together to raise over \$500 for Heifer International, a non-profit organization that provides livestock (water buffalos, cows, pigs, etc.) to poverty-stricken regions throughout the world. The money the students raised will purchase one cow and two flocks of chickens. Villagers who receive the cow and chickens will use the milk, eggs, and offspring of the gift animals to provide for their families.

## Two Teachers to Retire



In June, Kennedy will lose two teachers to the greener pastures of retirement. **Denise "Pi" Hinch** (left) will be retiring after 30 years of teaching, 20 of which have been spent at Kennedy. Ms. Hinch, who taught P.E. and Health, said the things she will miss most are teaching ("I love sports and I love health and I loved teaching about them") and "the friends I made here." When asked what her retirement plans are, Ms. Hinch said, "I have a T-shirt with a picture of an Adirondack chair on the front and a logo underneath that says, 'Simplify.' That's what I plan to do."

**Jennifer Robinson** (right), who retires after 21 years of teaching Social Studies (all at Kennedy), says what she will miss the most are the teachers, the staff, and the kids—especially "having kids come back after they'd left Kennedy and telling me what they were doing with their lives and seeing how much they'd grown." Mrs. Robinson and her husband will both retire on the same day, and then spend their time traveling and taking care of family. Mrs. Robinson also plans to come back to Kennedy frequently as a substitute teacher. (Yay!)



## Community Council Update

You probably know that school community councils are made up of the school's principal along with elected faculty/staff and parent representatives. But how familiar are you with what a school community council does? The purposes of school community councils are:

- To build consistent and effective communication among parents, employees and administrators
- To allow parents an opportunity to be actively involved with the school in the education of their children
- To make good schools great!

One of the responsibilities of the Community Council is to evaluate U-PASS test results and develop a school improvement plan that identifies the school's most critical academic needs and describes how the school will use funding from the School LAND Trust Program to improve academic achievement and enhance the school environment.

Kennedy's Community Council met on March 18 to review the 2007-2008 progress report and the 2008-2009 School Plan. The council noted that money received from the School LAND Trust Program was used to hire three classroom assistants who monitor and tutor students in the areas identified as having the "most critical academic need." These areas are math, reading, writing, technology, and social science. The classroom assistants serve an average of 40 students per month. If increased funding is received for the upcoming school year, Kennedy will continue its focus on numeracy and literacy and would use the funds to increase the number of students served.

Community Council meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 3:15 p.m. in the Conference Room. All interested parents are invited to attend.

## Fee Waiver/Free & Reduced Lunch Reminder (*Renuncia de Honorarios/Comidas Gratis o a Precio Reducido*)

Please remember that you must reapply EVERY YEAR for fee waivers and free/reduced lunch. Applications will be in your registration packets for the upcoming year, or you can pick them up in the Front Office.

***Se acuerdan aplicar cada año para comidas gratis o a precio reducido y para renuncia de honorarios.***

## Family Fitness Festival Coming to Centennial Park

On Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Select Health will be holding a Family Fitness Festival at **Centennial Park, 5405 W. 3100 S. West Valley City**. It is free to the public. They will have free immunizations, free health screenings, booths with information about nutrition and exercise, and lots of fun activities. Primary Children's Hospital will also be giving away 250 bicycle helmets.

## News from Our Student Body Officers

### Upcoming Dances:

- Spring Dance, Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2:50-4 p.m. in the gym. FREE.
- Farewell Dance, Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:50-4 p.m. in the gym. FREE.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance (9<sup>th</sup> graders only!), Tuesday, June 3, 6-8 p.m. in the cafeteria. FREE.

**SBO Elections.** Elections for the 2008-09 student officers will begin at the end of April. Eighth graders with a 3.0 GPA and no F's or zeros can run for SBO. Applications will be available on April 28 and interviews will take place after school May 5-8. Elections will be held the following week. Seventh and eighth graders can also run for senator. Applications will be available on May 12 and interviews will take place May 19-22. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Owen.

**Spirit Week.** Spirit Week will be held April 21-26. Get ready to show your Crusader Spirit by participating in Crazy Hair Day and other wild activities!

**Cheerleader tryouts.** Attention all 8<sup>th</sup> graders who would like to try out for the 2008-2009 cheer team! Tryouts will be held May 12-16. (Times will be announced.) Start getting ready now! Good luck!!

**Service Project.** From April 14-30<sup>th</sup>, the SBOs will be holding a **Change for Children Drive** to benefit the Granite Education Foundation. Help support this worthwhile cause!

## Honoring Our Mothers Program set for May 14

Kennedy Jr. High's Third Annual "Honoring Our Mothers" Program will be held Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7 p.m. in the school auditorium. The program is designed to celebrate mothers from all cultures, and will feature Latin American, Polynesian, and American songs and dances performed by Kennedy Junior High students. This year we will be honoring Veronica Gonzalez, the mother of a former student. Veronica, who unexpectedly passed away recently, was very involved in parent programs at Kennedy and was a wonderful example to her children and to the other parents in our school.

### **Crusader Banquet**

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
6-8 p.m.

Airport Hampton Inn and Suites  
For Crusaders of the Month  
and their parents

### **ANNUAL SPRING ART SHOW**

Tuesday, May 13

5-7 p.m. in the Media Center

Come see the wonderful artwork from our  
Advanced Art classes!



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade CTE Students Serve up Sweet Treats

Students in Mrs. Shaw's 7<sup>th</sup> grade CTE (Career and Technical Education) classes (pictured at left) got a "taste" of the real world as they learned how to run a restaurant and serve customers at their student-run ice cream parlor. Customers (mostly consisting of hungry teachers during their consultation periods) were able to sit at brightly-decorated tables and choose from a variety of delicious sundae options, which were then delivered by cheerful waiters and waitresses.

## PTSA Says “Thanks”

This year has been a great year for PTSA at Kennedy. Thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped with SEP dinners, school pictures, Halloween dance, scoliosis and vision screening, Red Ribbon week, Reflections, and Awards night. If you are interested in being a board member or volunteer next year, please contact Amy Gerritsen at 646-3558.

## Book Fair Brings \$900 in New Books to Library

Angie Christensen, Kennedy's Media and Technology Specialist, reports that the Spring Book Fair (held during February Parent-Teacher conferences) helped Kennedy earn almost \$900 worth of new books for our library. Thanks for making the Book Fair a screaming success!

## Staff News and Notes

- ♥ Jan Appgood (English) has been nominated for English Teacher of the Year award.
- ♥ John Peterson (Science) has been nominated for the 2008 Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education.
- ♥ Kenley Mauerman (U.S. History) has been selected by the Center for Civic Education and the John Marshall Foundation to represent Utah at the 2008 John Marshall Seminar in Richmond, VA.
- ♥ On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Janelle Ruesch (Choir) gave birth to daughter Emma Roselle Ruesch. Mom and baby are doing great! Elizabeth McPhie (Teen Living) also had a baby girl in April. Mandy Bingham (Life Skills/Functional English & Math) is anxiously awaiting the birth of HER baby girl in May. Meanwhile, the rest of us have decided there must be something in the water here at Kennedy, so we're not drinking it anymore.
- ♥ Shannon Morris, 8<sup>th</sup> grade interim counselor, who leaves us at the end of the year, would like to share the following message: “Thanks to Kennedy Jr. High parents, staff and students, for giving me such a fabulous intern experience!! I have learned more at Kennedy than I ever thought I would have learned from my internship and it is all thanks to you. I have loved my time here and I'm sure that I will have a very difficult time finding a school that will ever measure up to Kennedy and all of you here. I will truly miss everyone but especially my 8<sup>th</sup> graders. I have come to love all of you and will always remember the experiences we have had together. Please continue to work hard and set your goals high. I believe in you and I know that you all have to potential to become whatever it is that you choose to become! Have a great future!”

## Tips for Preventing Unsightly Summer Brain Rot

Studies show that kids who are engaged in a variety of learning activities over the summer (such as going to the library, visiting museums, etc.) retain more of what they learn during the school year. Mrs. Shaw, Career and Technical Education teacher, recommends parents take time during the summer to cook with their kids and help them learn how to make healthy snacks and meals, such as yummy Strawberry Fruit Dip (see recipe). She also recommends [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org) as a fun web site that educates students about where food comes from.

### Strawberry Fruit Dip

8 oz. cream cheese  
16 oz. package frozen sweetened strawberries, thawed  
2 Tbsp. plain or vanilla yogurt  
Fresh fruit: strawberries, bananas, apples

Directions: Cut cream cheese into little squares. Put strawberries, yogurt, and cream cheese in the blender. Blend until smooth. Refrigerate. Serve with fresh fruit.

## Calendar

April 22 Anti-Violence Assembly  
April 23 Spring dance, 3-4 p.m. in the gym  
April 24 Orchestra festival at Bonneville  
April 25 Shakespeare Festival  
April 28-May 31 CRT Testing  
April 29 LaCaille field trip  
April 30 Choir Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium  
May 5 Dance Company try-outs begin  
May 6 Crusader Banquet, 6-8 p.m.  
May 7 Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium  
May 12 Cheer try-outs begin  
May 13 Spring Art Show, 5-7 p.m., Media Center  
May 14 Student Body Officer elections  
May 14 Honoring Our Mothers program, 6-7 p.m. in the auditorium  
May 19 Quest End-of-Year program, 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium  
May 21 Film Festival, 3-4 p.m.  
May 28 Senator Elections  
May 28 Awards Night, 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium  
May 29 Farewell Dance, 3-4 p.m. in the gym  
June 2 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Lagoon Day  
June 3 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance, 6-8 p.m. in the cafeteria  
June 4 Last day of school for 9<sup>th</sup> graders  
June 5 Last day of school for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders

### *Kennedy Dress Code Policy*

for 2008/09 - 2010/11

**PASSED by 78%.**

Thank you for your support!

See JFK's website for a copy of the policy.

Kennedy Jr. High  
GRANITE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2500 S. State Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115