

Kennedy Jr. High School Newsletter

Jan-Feb 2008

A publication of the Kennedy Parent Center



Principal's Remarks by Dr. Howard Sagers

As a principal, my most enjoyable time of the day is lunch. And that's not just because I like to eat! I like lunchtime because that's when I get to hang out in the cafeteria with the kids on an informal basis, talking with them, joking around, and yes, occasionally correcting their behavior.

Numerous studies have shown that—as much as young teenagers may complain about having adults hanging around them—they actually need and appreciate it when parents, teachers, and other caring adults show an interest in their lives.

At Kennedy one of the things we do to promote both the individual self-esteem of our students and a positive school environment is to have a solid adult presence at our lunches. We always have at least one administrator, along with teachers and other staff members, at each lunch. We have found this to be a great opportunity for the kids to get to know us and for us to get to know the kids—their likes, dislikes, worries, fears, and triumphs. Just the other day I had a young man who lately has spent his lunch period eating with a favorite teacher tell me, "You know, I haven't gotten in trouble for a month-and-a-half." He was proud of his accomplishment and so was I.

That's why I would like to issue a challenge to you parents. I would like to encourage you to hang out at one of our lunches with us. If you have small children at home, maybe you can arrange to get a babysitter for an hour. If you work during the day, maybe you can schedule your lunch hour so you can spend part of it with us. Show your boss this article and say, "The kids at Kennedy need me."

Then call our Parent Center Coordinator, Wendy Fayles, at 386-0354 to let her know when you'd like to come. Or just drop by our Main Office and say, "Hi, I'd like to help out at lunch today!"

Our goal is to have at least 100 parents help between now and the end of the school year. We're going to call it the "100 Club." You can choose whether you want to help out at just one lunch (for example, the lunch your child is in) or if you want to stay for all three lunches (we'd give you a free lunch if you do). Once you get here, all you have to do is walk around the cafeteria and talk to kids. (Or if you're the shy type, just walk around and smile at them!) Every parent that comes in will get their name put on a sign in the cafeteria so the kids can see just how many people care about them.

So come join the "100 Club" today and help make a difference in someone's life. You'll be glad you did.

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/

Lunch Schedule

Monday-Thursday

1st lunch: 11:20-11:50

2nd lunch: 12-12:30

3rd lunch: 12:50-1:20

Friday

1st lunch: 9:55-10:25

2nd lunch: 10:30-11:00

3rd lunch: 11:05-11:35

Mensaje del Director

Como director, el momento en que más disfruto durante el día es a la hora de almuerzo. Y no es solamente porque me gusta comer! Me gusta la hora de almuerzo porque allí es cuando puedo tener tiempo con los estudiantes de una manera informal, hablando con ellos, diciendo chistes, y ocasionalmente corrigiendo el comportamiento.

Muchos estudios han comprobado que—por mucho que los adolescentes se quejan de tener adultos alrededor de ellos—en realidad ellos necesitan y agradecen cuando padres, maestros, y otros adultos muestran interés en sus vidas.

En Kennedy una de las cosas que nosotros promovemos además de la auto-estima individual de nuestros estudiantes como un ambiente positivo escolar, es tener la presencia de adultos en la hora de almuerzo. En cada almuerzo siempre tenemos a alguien de administración, maestros y otros miembros de la oficina. Hemos descubierto que esta es una gran oportunidad para los estudiantes de conocernos y de nosotros conocerlos a ellos—sus gustos, disgustos, preocupaciones, miedos y triunfos. El otro día hable con un joven que últimamente ha estado en la hora de almuerzo comiendo con su maestro favorito, este joven me dijo, “Sabes que, yo no me he metido en problemas por un mes y medio.” El está muy orgulloso de su logro y yo también.

Por eso es que quiero desafiar a ustedes los padres. Me gustaría animarlos a que vengan con nosotros por lo menos a uno de los almuerzos. Si usted tiene niños pequeños quizás puede conseguir a alguien que cuide los niños por una hora. Si usted trabaja durante el día quizás puede planear parte de su almuerzo con nosotros. Muéstrole este artículo a su jefe y dígame, “Los estudiantes de Kennedy me necesitan.”

Después puede llamar a nuestra coordinadora, Wendy Fayles, al 386-0354 y dígame cuando a usted le gustaría venir. (Señora Fayles habla un poquito español.) O simplemente venga a nuestro oficina y diga, “Hola, hoy me gustaría ayudar en la hora de almuerzo.” (“Hello, I would like to help with lunch today.”) No es necesario a hablar inglés para asistir.

Nuestra meta es tener por los menos 100 padres ayudando entre ahora y el final del año escolar. Lo vamos a llamar “el club de 100.” Usted puede escoger si quiere ayudar solamente en un almuerzo (por ejemplo, el almuerzo en el que su hijo o hija está) o si usted quiere quedarse por los tres almuerzos (nosotros le daremos su almuerzo gratis). Una vez que usted este aquí, lo único que tiene que hacer es caminar alrededor y hablar con los estudiantes (si usted es una persona tímida, simplemente camine alrededor y sonreír). Cada uno de los padres que vengan se le pondrá el nombre en un aviso en la cafetería para que los estudiantes vean cuantas personas se interesan por ellos.

Venga y únase a “el club de 100” y ayude a que haya una diferencia en la vida de alguien. Usted va a estar feliz de hacerlo.

Horario de almuerzos

De lunes a jueves		Viernes	
1er almuerzo	11:20-11:50	1er almuerzo	9:55-10:25
2do almuerzo	12:00-12:30	2do almuerzo	10:30-11:00
3er almuerzo	12:50-1:20	3er almuerzo	10:05-11:35

Skills for Success Class Brightens Marines' Christmas

Every semester, students in Stacie Dastrup's Skills for Success class participate in a service learning project. This last semester, students chose to show their support for the men and women serving in our military by raising money to buy DVDs for the men and women of 2nd Platoon, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion 11th Marines. For one month, the class spent their lunch periods collecting change from students and staff in the cafeteria. “Junior high students don't have much to give,” Ms. Dastrup noted, “but we were able to raise \$131.70 in a month's time.”

With that money, the class purchased 16 previously-viewed DVDs from Blockbuster and sent them to the platoon. In response, they received a thank-you letter from 1st Lieutenant Peter McGrath, who said, “Boredom causes plenty of problems here, especially at the holidays when the thought of being away from home and the loneliness seems to peak.... The support of the American people and their selfless gifts definitely helps to ease the burden of being in a combat zone at the holidays. The DVDs were a perfect choice to help relieve some of the boredom.”

Parent-Teacher Conference
February 26 & 27
4-7 p.m.

Conferencia para Padres y
Maestros
Febrero 26 y 27
4-7 p.m.
(intérpretes disponible)

Spring Musical: "Once Upon a Mattress"

The delightfully humorous "Once Upon a Mattress" (the "Getting to Know You" edition) will be performed by Kennedy students March 12-14 at 7:00 p.m. The cast and crew will also be presenting the show to elementary school students on Tuesday, March 11th, and for the Kennedy student body on Wednesday, March 12th. Please come support our talented and dedicated students!

(Parents and students involved with the musical, remember you can download the rehearsal calendar, plus any other vital information about the show anytime on Ms. Waterhouse's UEN page. The address is: <http://my.uen.org/61018>)

Dress Code Information Meeting

Wednesday, February 13th, 6-7 p.m.

Kennedy Junior High Auditorium

**Parents/Guardians of Kennedy Jr. High students
are encouraged to come.**

Explanation of the Dress Code Policy

Panel Question & Answer Period

(Intérpretes disponibles)

Dress Code Reminders

We have noticed a new trend among some students at Kennedy. This trend involves putting a rubber band around the bottom of the pant leg, or tightly rolling the bottom of the pant leg so it looks like it has been secured with a rubber band. This is called "pegging," and has been identified as gang-related. **WE DO NOT ALLOW OUR STUDENTS TO "PEG" THEIR PANTS.**

We would also like to remind you that any shirts, camisoles, tank-tops, etc. worn underneath a student's polo shirt **MUST** be a dress code color. Dress code colors are navy blue, tan, and white. Gray, pink, brown, black, and other frequently-seen colors are **NOT** part of the Kennedy dress code.

Parents who have questions about Kennedy's dress code are encouraged to attend the dress code meeting on February 13th.

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. (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.)

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

Cuando: Lunes y Miércoles a las 9:15-10:15 a.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!)

Kennedy Media Center Launches Reading Incentives

Anyone who thinks all school librarians do is help students check out books obviously hasn't been to Kennedy Junior High! To get students at Kennedy excited about reading and promote the importance of lifelong learning and reading, Angela Christensen (Media/Technology Specialist) and Amy Gerritsen (Library Secretary) are implementing several new programs. These include:

500 Books!

The goal is to have students read 500 books by the end of the semester. Students will fill out a card for every book they read and the cards will be displayed outside the Media Center. To spice things up, a competition will be held between advisory classes, with the class that reads the most getting a reward at the end of the semester. There will also be a prize for the student that reads the most books.

What Book Will Get Me Hooked?

Teachers will give a survey to all their advisory students, asking for student input on what books they would like to read. The Media Center will then try to find books for as many students as possible, with special emphasis being placed on obtaining books for "reluctant readers."

Book Talks & Reviews

Students are encouraged to write a review for any of the books they're reading. Reviews brought to the Media Center will be displayed for others to read. Students can also do "book talks." This can be done and scheduled through advisory time or created as a video project to be shown on Channel One. Students will receive rewards for their work.

Faculty & Staff Picks

To serve as good role models for the students, faculty and staff are invited to share information about the books they are reading. This information will be posted on the Media Center website and in the Media Center.

Library Lunch Reading Program

Lunch time is a great opportunity to read without distraction. Students can receive library passes from their advisory teachers that allow them to visit the Media Center during lunch. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, reading specialist Kendra Divine is available to help students improve their reading skills and find books they're interested in.

Library, Books, BIG 6, & Media Literacy Education

Advisory classes will be scheduled to come to the Media Center to learn more about libraries, the research process, and media literacy.

Genre of the Month

Each month books from a different genre (mystery, science fiction, non-fiction, etc.) will be displayed in the Media Center. This will help students learn more about each genre and identify books they like.



Book Fair
February 25-28
Kennedy Jr. High Media Center

Be sure to visit the Book Fair during Parent-Teacher Conference!

News from the Student Body Officers

The Student Body Officers at Kennedy have been working on several projects to get more students involved this year. Some of the fun things the SBOs have helped with include morning announcements, school assemblies, and school dances (including the upcoming Valentine's Day dance on Feb. 14th). The SBOs are also holding a Student Forum once per term in Room 22. These forums give students a chance to voice their opinions about things they would like to see

happen at Kennedy. We hope students will take advantage of these forums and other opportunities to get involved in our school and make this the best school ever!

After-School Program Keeps Students Hopping (and dancing and kicking and painting and snowboarding and)

The Kennedy Jr. High After-school Program has had quite the start! The program, which serves an average of 50 students each day, provides a multitude of activities, including break-dancing, mural art, salsa dancing, Kung Fu, and much more!! Some of the students are participating in a six-week snowboarding program where they get to go snowboarding every Monday. On Fridays, we have a group of students who go to the Kearns Senior Center to visit with the seniors there and learn different activities and skills from them.

Students in the program are also giving back to the community as well. In October they planned and carried out a Halloween Carnival at the Hunter Media Center. In December they crocheted and knitted 30 hats and scarves that were donated to The Road Home shelter. Over the next few months students will begin their anti-violence campaign, which focuses on educating other students about the effects of gang violence, dating violence, and bullying.

On January 30th, the After-school Program hosted an open house where parents and families of students could tour the after-school room and enjoy a variety of performances by the students. Jessica Holtzer, the program coordinator, said that parents are always welcome to stop by the program to see what the kids are doing and to help out in any way.

Community Forum Results

Beginning in October 2007 the Granite District Board of Education began hosting a series of community forums throughout the district. During these open meetings, parents, patrons, and other citizens were invited to speak and leave written comments to the board. Comments covered a wide range of subjects, from the size of the hot lunch plates to educator accountability and evaluation. You can view all the questions and responses at: www.graniteschools.org

Emergency Preparedness Information from West Valley City

West Valley City has developed an Emergency Preparedness Handbook that is available on the City's website. Topics covered in the handbook include:

- Family Preparedness checklist
- Evacuation Plan
- Utility shut-off
- Food storage
- First Aid basics
- And much, much more!

You can download a copy of the handbook at: www.wvc-ut.gov/DocumentView.asp?DID=1146

Calendar of Events

Feb. 13	Dress Code Information Meeting, 6-7 p.m.
Feb. 14	Valentine's Dance, 3-4 p.m.
Feb. 18	No school (President's Day)
Feb. 20	Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
Feb. 26-27	Parent-Teacher Conference, 4-7 p.m.
Feb. 29	No school
Feb. 29	Musical Dress Rehearsal
March 3-7	Direct Writing Assessment (9 th grade)
March 12	Girls Basketball championship
March 20-24	Spring Break
March 28	No school (end of term)
April 28-May 31	CRTs

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