

# Kennedy Jr. High School Newsletter

March-April 2007

A publication of the Kennedy Parent Center



## Principal's Remarks by Dr. Howard Sagers

One of my main goals as a principal is to help create a school environment where parents and students feel their needs are being heard and met. That's why I'm excited to introduce a new tool parents, students, staff, and others in the community can use to bring to light issues for the school to address.

The Needs Request Form (included in this newsletter and also found on the school website) is a convenient way for you to share questions, concerns, or suggestions about any aspect of your child's experience at Kennedy. All you need to do is fill out the appropriate sections of the form and turn it in to the school's front office or the Parent Center. For example, in the box that says "Teacher or committee applying to meet need" you would put your name (if you do not feel comfortable putting your name, you may leave that part blank). In the next box ("School need") you would put the need or concern you feel needs to be addressed. For example, someone might say, "I think there needs to be more supervision at the crosswalks to keep students safe and traffic moving smoothly." Finally, in the box that says, "Possible solution suggested by applicant," you would list your idea(s) for solving the problem.

After you have turned in the Needs Request Form it will then be reviewed by our Leadership Committee and assigned to the appropriate committee (Management, Teaching and Learning, or Learning Support) for discussion and action.

I greatly appreciate the work our Management Committee has done in developing this form and hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to more fully communicate your needs to the school. We look forward to hearing from you!

**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/)

Kennedy Jr. High Presents...

# HONK! Jr.

**A musical of Hans Christian Anderson's classic story  
'The Ugly Duckling.'**

**Come down to the farmyard to find out more about this  
'Poultry Tale' of Ugly, Ida, Drake, Cat and all the  
Folk down on the Farm!**

**When: March 28, 29 & 30, (7 p.m.)**

**Where: Kennedy Jr. High Auditorium**

**Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids**

P.S. Be sure to set your VCRs to Channel 2 on Tues., March 27, from 5:56-8 a.m. when Allie MacKay will feature the "HONK" cast in a live broadcast!

## Shop at YellowBrickMall.com



### and Support Kennedy!

We would like to introduce a new and very simple way you can help us financially. Kennedy Jr. High has teamed up with the

YellowBrickMall.com, an online shopping mall that donates a percentage of online sales back to us. You can help by linking to and purchasing from any of the hundreds of national online merchants shown on our page on the YellowBrickMall.com site:

[www.yellowbrickmall.com/jfkjrhigh.php](http://www.yellowbrickmall.com/jfkjrhigh.php)

You can also find the link to this page on our school website:

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

So, please take a look at the wide variety of stores available and remember Kennedy Jr. High when making online purchases for any reason.

## ► CRT ALERT ◀

CRTs (Criterion Referenced Tests) will be held from April 30 through May 16. **All students** will take the CRTs over this three-week period.

**Please try to avoid scheduling doctor appointments, etc., for your student during this time period.** Students absent during any part of the tests need to make them up.

If you know your child will be absent during CRTs, please notify Trudy Roos at 546-5214, ext. 3584.

### Website of the Month

Visit the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry website ([www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org)) and click on the "Facts for Families" quick link for access to over 75 free publications covering such topics as "Children Who Can't Pay Attention," "Understanding Your Mental Health Insurance," "Normal Adolescent Development," "Helping Teenagers with Stress," and "Self-Injury in Adolescents."

## Dinner Auction Huge Success

This year, over 150 children will be able to attend Mill Hollow and more than ten \$1,000 scholarships will be provided for students who would otherwise not be able to attend college—thanks to the money raised at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Children's Friend Award and Auction, sponsored by the Granite Education Foundation.

The dinner auction, which was held Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at Little America, attracted over 600 guests who enjoyed wandering through three rooms brimming with unique auction items ranging from handcrafted items and furnishings to theater tickets and vacation getaways.

One of the more popular auction items was Kennedy's own gift basket filled with handmade all-occasion cards (such as the one above) made by Kennedy students, parents, staff and community members. Thank you so much to all the people who made cards and donated other items to the auction. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Intramural Soccer to Begin

Intramural soccer for Kennedy students is tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, April 16 and will continue through May 2.

Students must have a signed permission form from their parents before they can play. Permission forms can be obtained from Angelica Whitworth or in the Main Office. For questions, contact Angelica Whitworth or Wendy Fayles.

## Stake Center is Kennedy's "Safe Place"

Parents, if there were an emergency that required the school to evacuate its students, do you know where you would go to find your child?

According to Merla Bybee, Assistant Principal, the Stake Center located just north of Kennedy on 4800 West is the school's designated "safe place." In a situation where the students needed to be evacuated from the school for an extended period of time, they would be taken to the Stake Center and their parents would be contacted from there.

**In an emergency situation, students will not be allowed to leave without being officially "checked out" by a parent or guardian—so keep your contact info updated!**

## A Friendly Dress Code Reminder

Spring is bursting out all over, and so are a lot of other things! Parents, please remind your children that they should stay in dress code until they leave the school grounds. We have been seeing a lot of students removing their polo shirts, etc., as soon as the school bell rings. This makes it difficult for staff to tell whether the kids wandering around after school are actually Kennedy students or other people who could be on our campus to cause problems.

We would also like to remind parents that your child's polo shirt needs to be buttoned to cover the chest area, even if they are wearing a shirt underneath. Thanks for helping us with this!

## JFK Media Center to Celebrate National Library Week

In conjunction with National Library Week, the JFK Media Center will be holding a variety of activities during the week of April 16 to encourage students to read.



These include:

**Book Drive** to collect books for the Media Center. Students can bring new or used books suitable for teen reading to their

Advisory classes. The class that collects the most books during the week will win a prize!

**Lunch-time Read-a-thon.** Students will be allowed to visit the Media Center during their lunch periods this week to read their favorite books or magazines. **VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED TO HELP WITH THIS ACTIVITY. PLEASE CONTACT THE PARENT CENTER AT 386-0354 IF YOU CAN HELP!**

We would also like to thank the students, parents, and staff who supported our recent Book Fair. We sold \$1816 in books and related products—which means the Media Center was able to purchase over \$900 in books from Scholastic. These books will be used to restock the Media Center bookshelves and put more books in our classrooms for students to read during Advisory.

## Staff News and Notes

**Heather Stewart** has joined Kennedy as our Intern Principal, replacing Judy Giles who is now Vice Principal at Hillside and Hillsdale Elementary schools. (Congrats, Judy!) Heather is a native Salt Laker who married and raised her family in the UK before returning with her

husband, Mike, who is Dramaturge for the Salt Lake Acting Company. (Yeah, we didn't know what a Dramaturge was, either, so we looked it up. According to dictionary.com, a dramaturge is "one who acts as a consultant to a theater company, advising them on possible repertory.")

Heather's first career was law in the UK, where she was a Legal Executive for several years (no, she didn't wear one of those funky wigs). After returning to Salt Lake she taught adult ESL at the U of U and Granite District. She got her 2<sup>nd</sup> Masters and Administrative license in June 2006, the same month her middle son got his Ph.D. from the University of Oxford.

Heather is also a talented musician and singer who has performed in numerous venues in the U.S. and abroad. (There are serious rumors that a staff band is materializing with Heather as one of the players. We'll keep you posted on that!)

## Strengthening Families Program Begins in April

Strengthening Families, a 7-week program for parents and children, is designed to strengthen the ability of families to raise successful, non-violent and non-drug-using children. Classes will be held in the Kennedy Media Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday, April 10th and running through May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

During the classes, parents will learn about stages of child development, stress management, goals and objectives, improving communications, setting limits and other issues related to successful child-rearing.

Meanwhile, children will learn such valuable skills as communicating effectively, problem-solving, giving and taking directions, dealing with anger, and handling peer pressure.

To register for this free program, please contact Angelica Whitworth, Prevention Specialist, at 646-5214, ext. 3573, or [angelica.whitworth@granite.k12.ut.us](mailto:angelica.whitworth@granite.k12.ut.us).

## Lagoon Day

Lagoon Day for 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. To attend, students must have had a GPA of 2.0 or better **each quarter** and cannot have any F's in the last quarter. They must also have a 2.0 or better in citizenship and cannot have had any discipline referrals in the last quarter of school. (Students who do not meet these requirements can stay home that day.) Students must remember to come to the school in dress code to go to Lagoon!

## Mark Your Calendar!

March 27	"HONK" will be featured on the Channel 2 morning news. Set your VCRs!
March 28-30	Spring Play: "HONK, Jr.," 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids.
April 5-6, 9	No school (Spring Break)
April 5	Free dyslexia presentation featuring Susan Barton, one of America's leading dyslexia experts. 5-8 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel, 10695 South Auto Mall Drive, Sandy, UT. Pre-registration required. For more information, call 801-281-5546.
April 16-20	Book Drive
April 17-18	TLC Career Days
April 18	PTSA Meeting, 3 p.m., Parent Center—All parents invited!
April 18	Band Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
April 18	Trip to La Caille for Teen Living and French students. (Best dress required.) Money (\$28) is due by the end of March.
April 19	Community Council, 3 p.m.
April 20	RSVPs and payments due for Crusader Banquet.
April 25	Dance Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
April 27	Shakespeare Festival (9 <sup>th</sup> graders only). *9 <sup>th</sup> graders will leave school early on this day!
April 27	9 <sup>th</sup> grade panoramic photo picture day.
April 30-May 23	CRTs
May 2	Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
May 7	Dance Company tryouts
May 8	Crusader Banquet, 6-8 p.m., Hampton Inn and Suites, 307 North Admiral Byrd Road.
May 9	Choir Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
May 14	Cheerleader tryouts.
May 15	Art Show featuring JFK student artists. 5-7 p.m. in the Media Center.
May 16	PTSA meeting, 3 p.m. in the Parent Center. All parents invited.
May 16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual "Honoring Our Mothers" Program, 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
May 21	End-of-Year Program for Quest students and their families. 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
May 22	"Good-Bye" Dance, 3-4 p.m. in the gym. Free.
May 23	Awards Night, 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
May 29	Lagoon Day for 9 <sup>th</sup> graders.
May 30	Farewell Assembly (morning).
June 1	Last day of school!!!

## Crusader Banquet to Honor Crusaders of the Month

The annual Crusader Banquet to honor the 2006-07 Crusaders of the Month (along with the JFK artists selected to paint the Crusader Panel) will be held Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 p.m. at the Airport Hampton Inn and Suites.

Invitations and information on the banquet will be sent to students' homes in April. Cost for the banquet is free for the students being honored and \$14 for each additional guest. Dinner choices include chicken breast supreme or vegetarian lasagna. RSVPs and payments are due by April 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Kennedy Students Learn about Career and Technical Education

There's no time like the present to start thinking about your future—especially when it comes to career planning! That was the message 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Kennedy Jr. High received as they attended a workshop presented by the Granite Technical Institute.

At the workshop, students visited displays and took part in activities that taught them about careers in home building, health technology, cosmetology, computer technology, engineering, aviation, and a wide variety of other occupations.

In a related activity, students from Melanie Clay's class, who had been talking about careers and post-high school education, took a field trip to the Granite Education Center where they attended presentations from Salt Lake Community College and the Applied Technology Center, both of whom talked about concurrent enrollment courses available to the students during high school. (Concurrent enrollment is when the student takes classes that count for both high school and college or towards a certification at the same time.) Taking concurrent enrollment courses means that a student could be certified in a technical profession by the time they graduate from high school.

The class also toured the Granite Technical Institute, where they saw the Nursing lab, Dental lab and the Computer Animation lab. They also learned that the Granite School District builds houses every year; this year there are three, and students can take construction classes right on the building sites. All in all, the students were able to get some good ideas about some of the high school classes available to them and their options for a successful future.

## Bits and Pieces from around Kennedy....

☺ The Valentine's Dance in February was great! The SBOs and Senators raised money by selling candy bars for 75 cents.

☺ Not to be outdone by the SBOs, the cheerleaders sold carnations for Valentine's Day and made about \$400!

☺ Eight students from Kennedy, accompanied by Angelica Whitworth, Resource Specialist, were able to attend the Service Learning Students Leadership Conference on March 8 at the Granite Education Center.

☺ Angelica Whitworth would like to thank the Kennedy students who have been volunteering their time to read to students at Academy Park Elementary School. You guys are awesome!

☺ A big **THANK YOU** to: the American Express volunteers who helped translate at SEPs; the volunteers who helped provide dinner for the staff and man the Book Fair during SEPs; and the USANA basketball team who came and gave the Kennedy boys team a good workout!

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

