

Kennedy Jr. High School Newsletter

Nov-Dec 2007

A publication of the Kennedy Parent Center



Principal's Remarks by Dr. Howard Sagers

I'm excited to share some very good news about Kennedy Jr. High. Kennedy recently learned the results of a three-year, district-wide assessment sponsored by the Granite School District and carried out by Veamos Survey Solutions. As part of the assessment, principals, counselors, staff, parents and students at secondary schools across the District were surveyed about various aspects of each school's Comprehensive Guidance Program as well as overall school environment and communication.

One goal of the assessment was to see how "at risk" schools performed in comparison to other schools. "At risk" schools were identified as those which had: a) higher mobility and lower stability, b) more students enrolled in free/reduced lunch, c) more students enrolled in special education, and d) more students enrolled in English Language Learner programs.

In their report to the District, Veamos noted that no significant differences emerged between guidance programs at "higher at risk" schools and other schools. However, significant differences in learning environments and school-parent relationships were evident. Schools with "higher at risk" populations generally had less safe/friendly environments as reported by students and parents. Such schools also struggled to communicate effectively with and involve and parents. Faculties at the more at risk schools also reported that they had a less collaborative relationship with counselors at their schools.

Nevertheless, the data analysis revealed that a school's demographics did not prohibit a school from communicating effectively with parents and establishing a highly supportive, safe, and welcoming school environment. **"One school with 'higher at risk' characteristics demonstrated a particularly safe, welcoming, and supportive school environment: Kennedy Junior High School.** Over the three years the surveys were administered, Kennedy's students, parents, and faculty reported that the school provides a very safe, comfortable, and welcoming school environment. Parents and students also indicated that school counselors had been highly accessible and supportive. In addition, faculty reported a strong, collaborative relationship with school counselors. These various strengths run counter to what would be expected given the school's demographics...Other schools, particularly those with "high at risk" populations, would benefit from adopting the procedures and attitudes in place at Kennedy JHS." (Quoted from the Executive Summary of the Granite School District Comprehensive Guidance Program Assessment: Spring 2007.)

I would like to congratulate all of you in the Kennedy community—students, staff and parents—who work so hard to make our school what it is. I hope you will continue to let us know what we can do to keep our school a safe and supportive place to be as we work together to benefit our children.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

- ♥ USANA ♥ American Express ♥ SEP dinner volunteers ♥ Volunteer interpreters
- ♥ Vision/scoliosis screening volunteers ♥ Picture Day volunteers ♥
- Community Council ♥ PTSA ♥
- ♥ And everyone else who helps make our school a success! ♥

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Attendance Office: 646-5218

Counseling Office: 646-5216

Fax: 646-5215

Parent Center (cell): 386-0354

Kennedy Jr. High

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Mensaje del Director

Estoy contento de poder compartir muy buenas noticias sobre la Escuela Secundaria Kennedy. Kennedy recientemente se entero de los resultados de una evaluación auspiciada por el Distrito Escolar de Granite que duro tres años y envolvió todo el Distrito y llevada a cabo por la compañía de encuestas Veamos Survey Solutions. Como parte de la evaluación, directores, consejeros, empleados, padres y estudiantes de escuelas secundarias en el Distrito fueron encuestados acerca de varios aspectos del Programa de Guía Comprensivo y sobre la comunicación y el ambiente en la escuela.

Una de las metas de la evaluación era ver como escuelas con riesgos desempeñaban al ser comparadas con otras escuelas. Escuelas con riesgos fueron identificadas como aquellas que tenían: a) alta movilidad y baja estabilidad, b) más estudiantes participando de almuerzos gratis o reducidos, c) más estudiantes matriculados en educación especial y d) más estudiantes matriculados en el programa de Aprendiz del Idioma Ingles.

En su reporte al Distrito, Veamos no noto que surgieran diferencias significativas entre los programas de guía de escuelas de alto riesgo y otras escuelas. Sin embargo, diferencias significativas entre los ambientes de aprendizaje y las relaciones entre padre y escuela fueron evidentes. Escuelas con poblaciones de alto riesgo generalmente tenían menos ambientes seguros y amigables según lo reportado por padres y estudiantes. Dichas escuelas también batallan con la comunicación y con envolver efectivamente a los padres. Facultades en las escuelas con riesgos también reportaron tener una relación menos cooperativa con los consejeros en sus escuelas.

No obstante, el análisis de esta data revelo que la composición demográfica de una escuela no es un impedimento para que la escuela se comunique efectivamente con los padres y establezca un ambiente amigable de apoyo y seguridad. "Una escuela con características de alto riesgo demostró un ambiente escolar particularmente amigable, seguro y de apoyo: la Escuela Secundaria Kennedy. Durante los tres años que esta encuesta fue administrada, los estudiantes, padres y la facultad de Kennedy reportaron que la escuela provee un ambiente muy seguro, cómodo y amigable. Padres y estudiantes también indicaron que los consejeros escolares habían estado muy accesibles y habían brindado gran apoyo. La facultad también reporto una relación cooperativa fuerte con los consejeros escolares. Estos puntos de fortaleza van en contra de lo esperado dada la composición demográfica de la escuela.... Otras escuelas, particularmente aquellas con una población de alto riesgo, podrían beneficiarse al adoptar los procedimientos y actitudes de Kennedy." (Citado de la evaluación del Resumen Ejecutivo del Programa de Guía Comprensivo del Distrito Escolar de Granite: Primavera 2007.)

Quisiera felicitar a toda la comunidad de Kennedy--estudiantes, empleados y padres--quienes trabajan tan fuerte para hacer de nuestra escuela lo que es. Espero que continúen informándonos lo que podemos hacer para mantener nuestra escuela como un lugar seguro y de apoyo mientras trabajamos juntos para beneficiar a nuestros niños.

Parent Input Needed on Dress Code

How do you feel about Kennedy's dress code? Are there changes you think should be made to the dress code? Do you think we should keep the dress code or not?

In February and March of 2008 parents will once again be asked to vote on whether Kennedy's dress code should be retained. (The dress code must be voted on every three years.) We are currently looking for parent input on our dress code. We want to hear from you! Please contact us with your comments and concerns, either by writing us a note, e-mailing us or giving us a call. Please direct your comments to: Wendy Fayles, Kennedy Parent Center (wendy.fayles@granite.k12.ut.us or 801-386-0354).

We also need a few parents who would be willing to serve on the Dress Code Committee. The Committee will review the current dress code and discuss possible changes/updates prior to the upcoming vote. Please contact Wendy Fayles or the Main Office **BY DECEMBER 5TH** if you are interested in being on the committee.

Necesitamos los padres para el Comité del Código de Vestimenta (no Ingles necesario). Llame la oficina de la escuela (646-5214) si tiene interés. ¡Gracias!

Dress Code Reminders

Please remember that Kennedy's dress code consists of tan, white, or navy (dark) blue polo shirts and tan or navy (dark) blue bottoms. Any undershirts worn beneath a polo **MUST** be a dress code color. GRAY is **NOT** a dress code color. Other common dress code violations include: pants that are excessively faded, streaked, or torn/frayed; pant legs that are rubber-banded around the bottom; polo

shirts with logos (shirts must be completely plain with no logo or design of any kind); polo shirts (on girls) that are not buttoned; and sagging pants.

Dinner Auction to Benefit Kids in Granite School District – And YOU Can Help!

When a single mom with a brain tumor wasn't able to take care of back-to-school shopping for her kids, the Granite Education Foundation stepped in to help out. When the mother of a promising young student unexpectedly passed away, the Granite Education Foundation was able to provide a scholarship to help the young woman's dream of attending college become a reality. Every day, the Foundation quietly works to ensure that students in the Granite School District have the things they need—eyeglasses, dental work, backpacks, etc.—so they can focus on their education.

Money to support the Foundation's programs comes primarily from the annual Dinner Auction and Children's Friend Award. This year's event will be held Friday, February 22, at Little America. Tables for the auction can be purchased for \$650 and seat 10 people. Individual tickets can also be purchased for \$130 per couple. Auction items are donated by businesses, individuals, and schools throughout the Granite District. Some of the wonderful items donated last year included gift certificates, handmade blankets and baby clothing, home furnishings, artwork, gift baskets, sports equipment/memorabilia, theater tickets, a Pepsi machine with a year's supply of Pepsi products, a suite to a Grizzlies game, and much, much more!

If you or someone you know is interested in purchasing tickets for the dinner auction or donating items to be auctioned, please contact Wendy Fayles, Kennedy Jr. High Parent Center Coordinator, at 386-0354. Donated items can also be dropped off at the Kennedy Main Office. **Also, since last year's gift basket of handmade greeting cards created by Kennedy staff, students, and parents was such a big success at the auction, we will be making another basket this year. So if you or someone you know is into scrap booking and card-making, we would encourage you to make some cards for our gift basket. Cards need to be turned into Kennedy's Main Office by February 1st.**

Kennedy Choir to Sing at Grizzlies Game

On Wednesday, Dec. 17th, the Kennedy Chorale will be singing the National Anthem at the Utah Grizzlies hockey game in the E-Center. Discount tickets are available for this game and can be purchased from Mrs. Reusch or any choir member. Tickets are \$13.



Students Visit Shakespearean Festival

A group of Kennedy students, under the direction of Drama teacher Amanda Waterhouse, had the unique experience of being able to travel to Cedar City to attend the annual Shakespearean Festival.

Students were able to tour the theaters in Cedar City, including the backstage areas where they saw the sets and props for the shows. After the tour, guides lead the students through a workshop on Shakespeare's language, using a speech from "Henry V". One group got to do this workshop on the actual stage of the Adams' Theater's - a replica of the Globe Theater! (See photo at left.)

Students then saw an outstanding performance of "The Tempest", followed by a post-show discussion with the actors from the play. Our students received many compliments on the intelligence of their questions, their focus and energy as workshop participants, and their behavior as audience members.

After-school Program Draws Big Crowds

We are happy to report that the Kennedy After-school Program is a huge success. An average of 47 students per day showed up the first week of the program, with numbers sometimes reaching as high as 60 students per day.

Students in the after-school program participate in a variety of activities, including sports, dancing, art, tutoring, community service projects, and so on.

The after-school program is also looking for parents who can help with supervision or with teaching classes/helping with special projects. So if you have a talent or skill (such as scrap booking, card making, etc.) that you would be willing to teach on a one-time or occasional basis, please contact Jessica Holtzer, After-School Program Coordinator, at 801-718-7740 (JHoltzer@slco.org). In addition, the program will be holding a special Parent Night sometime after the first of the year. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Students Collect Food for Needy

Kennedy's Student Body Officers and Peer Leadership Team combined to collect over 500 canned food items for the Utah Food Bank. Students were encouraged to bring food and donate it in the name of their favorite Utah college. The winning collegiate group was the "other" category (meaning any college other than BYU or the University of Utah). Teachers affiliated with the losing schools were then asked to wear their rival school's colors on November 20th. (Editor's note: Some of us may have been wearing red, but we still bleed blue!)



Handmade Cards Available from "Cards by Design"

Mandy Bingham's class has created "Cards by Design," a business where they create and sell handmade greeting cards. (The sample card pictured at left reads, "Wishing you loads of holiday cheer.")

They have a variety of cards for sale for all occasions, including birthdays, weddings, holidays, baby showers, etc. Cards range in price from 50 cents to \$1.00. If you are interested in ordering cards, you can stop by Mrs. Bingham's room (Room 52) or e-mail her at: mandy.bingham@granite.k12.ut.us

Free/Low Cost Dental Care Available

Salt Lake Community College School of Dental Hygiene (located just off of Bangerter and 9000 South) is providing the public with \$5 dental examinations. This

exam includes a cleaning, x-rays, and a dental checkup. Appointments are on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. To make an appointment or for more information please call 801-957-2710.

(Please note that the college is currently approaching the end of their semester, so appointments are hard to get right now. However, after the new semester starts in January, there will be more openings.)

Dental care is also available at the Utah Department of Health Family Dental Plan Dental Clinic. The Clinic is located at the Granite Technical Institute, 2500 South State Street, Room GTI-404. The clinic will treat patients who are enrolled in Medicaid, CHIP, and Primary Care Network (PCN). Call 646-4377 for an appointment.

Exámenes Dentales

Salt Lake Community College (La escuela de Higienistas Dentales) esta ofreciendo exámenes dentales por \$5 para todo el publico. El examen incluye limpieza dental, radiografias y un chequeo dental. Se pueden hacer citas lunes y miércoles a las 8:30 y alo 1:00 de la tarde. Para hacer una cita puede llamar 801-957-2710. El locución es 3400 W. Wights Fort Road (9000 South y Bangerter Highway).

También, El departamento de Utah de la clínica dental del plan dental de la familia de la salud esta abierto ahora. La clínica esta situada en el instituto técnico del granito, calle del sur Rm GTI-404 del estado 2500. La clínica tratara a pacientes que se alistan en Medicaid, el plan del seguro medico de niños (VIRUTA) y la red primaria del cuidado (PCN). Si usted tiene cualesquiera preguntas o las quisiera concertar una cita por favor llamar 646-4377.

How to Check Your Child's Grades and Find out What Assignments They are Missing

When you go to this Web page (<http://gb.granite.k12.ut.us>) you can check your student's progress and attendance. Go to the box that says, "Create a Login Account." Click on the "Parent/Guardian Account" link. Then enter your child's student number and birth date. Click "Continue" and you will see "Create Guardian Account." When you are done entering that information, click continue and you will see a list of students available for checking progress and attendance. If you have more than one student in the Granite District, you can add to your list by clicking on the "+Add New" button. If you have any problems, contact Wendy Fayles, Parent Center Coordinator, at 386-0354.

Como Conseguir Sus Grados De Estudiantes

Cuando usted va a esta página <http://gb.granite.k12.ut.us> del Web usted puede comprobar el progreso y la atención de su estudiante. Vaya a la caja que dice que "cree una cuenta de la conexión." Chasque encendido "el acoplamiento de la cuenta de Parent/Guardian." En la pagina siguiente incorpore el "numero del estudiante" de su estudiante y de su "fecha del nacimiento." Después de que usted haya proporcionado la información solicitada, el tecleo continua y usted vera "para crear cuenta del guarda." Cuando le hacen, el tecleo continua, y usted vera una lista de los estudiantes disponibles para comprobar progreso y la atención. Si usted tiene mas de un estudiante en distrito granito, usted puede agregar a esta lista chascando en el botón nuevo de "+Add."

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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 Ingles 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 porque mi español no es bueno!)

Kennedy Class Receives Very Special Letter

When Mandy Bingham's students were having a hard time dealing with the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, her assistant, Kaiya Waterfall, suggested the students write letters to a member of the military.

"I told her if she could find an address then we would use this as a language activity," Mrs. Bingham said. "So she got an address off the Internet and each of the students wrote a letter to Mr. Mike Corbin. The Internet site said we should not expect anything back, but to my great surprise we received a letter two months after we initially sent ours."

In the letter, Corbin—an Ordnance Officer in the U.S. Marine Corps—expressed his gratitude for the students' support and included a picture of himself holding their letters and standing with his unit in front of an AV-8B Harrier "Jump Jet" (the aircraft the crew is responsible for maintaining).

Support Kennedy by Shopping at YellowBrickMall

The Holiday shopping season has begun! And you can help support John F. Kennedy Jr. High School by shopping online this year at the YellowBrickMall! Over 750 online stores to choose from including Lands' End, Amazon, Target, Best Buy, Circuit City, Dell, Old Navy, Aeropostle, Kohl's, Macy's, Barnes & Noble, Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops, Dick's Sporting Goods....just to name a few! ALL of your online Holiday shopping can be done from John F. Kennedy Jr. High School's page on the YellowBrickMall here: www.yellowbrickmall.com/jfkjrhigh.php (Simply click on a merchant's link from this page and your purchase generates a donation to John F. Kennedy Jr. High School!)

It's not just for personal shopping either--probably you or someone you know has a business that already shops for office supplies at Staples.com or Office Depot.com. By simply linking to these merchants through John F. Kennedy Jr. High School's YellowBrickMall page, a percentage of each sale goes to John F. Kennedy Jr. High School!

Other ways to support Kennedy include:

- Turn in your newspapers, catalogs, junk mail, etc. to the recycling bins at the front of the parking lot
- Collect Boxtops for Education and turn them in to the Main Office or the Parent Center
- Turn in your used ink cartridges, cell phones, DVDs/CDs to the recycling box in the Media Center
- Buy pizza from Papa John's on the first Tuesday of every month and mention "Kennedy Jr. High"

Volunteers Needed for Reality Town

Kennedy Jr. High needs volunteers to help with "Reality Town," an educational and entertaining activity where students are assigned a job, family and income based on their grade-point average. Their challenge is to visit each "business" in Reality Town WITHOUT overdrawing their checking account.

Volunteers are stationed at each "business" (tables that are set up in the school gym) to tell students how much they need to pay, offer advice and help ensure that students fill out their checks properly and don't overdraw their accounts. Reality Town will be held on Friday, Dec. 7, from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the gym. If you or someone you know can help, please contact Wendy Fayles at 801-386-0354.

Winter Dance Concert

The dance department is preparing another exciting concert highlighting the holiday season. It will feature several numbers from the Dance Company as well as pieces from each of the dance classes. Please join us on December 19th at 7:00 PM in the JFK Auditorium. Tickets are \$2 and can be purchased that evening. (Parents of dancers involved, please be aware that students will need to be there at 6:30 p.m. to prepare for the concert.)

PTSA News

The PTSA Halloween dance was a great success. PTSA student members received free a slice of free pizza and a soda. Doughnuts, pizza, and soda were also sold during the event. JFK's student body officers decorated the gym which added to the scary theme.

Kennedy Jr. High has the opportunity to participate in National PTA's Reflection program. The theme is "I can make a difference by..." Students may submit work in any of the six art areas: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance, film/video and theatre, 3D. Reflections projects are due November 28. Projects can be turned in to Jennie Williams (7th grade counselor).

Calendar of Events

Nov. 26-30	Auditions for Spring Musical
Nov. 28	Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium
Nov. 29	Author's visit by Karen Fog, author of <i>Serpent Tide</i> , 10:15 a.m., Media Center
Dec. 3	Wrestling and Volleyball matches
Dec. 5	Band Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium
Dec. 6	Granite Youth Symphony
Dec. 7	Reality Town (for 9 th graders), 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Wrestling Division Championship
Dec. 10	Volleyball semifinals
Dec. 12	Winter Dance, 3-4 p.m in the gym (free) Volleyball championship Choir Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium
Dec. 15	Wrestling District Championship
Dec. 19	Dance Concert, 7 p.m. in the auditorium
Dec. 20	Winter Assembly (a.m.)
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	No school
Jan. 7-9	Talent show tryouts

Kennedy Jr. High
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