

# Kennedy Jr. High School Newsletter

Sept-Oct 2007

A publication of the Kennedy Parent Center



## Principal's Remarks by Dr. Howard Sagers

There is always something exciting about starting a new school year, and this year I feel we've gotten off to our best start ever! As a school, we are continually striving to make the kinds of changes and improvements that make Kennedy a great place to be, whether it's brightening up our halls by painting the lockers blue or starting an after-school program to give our students a safe, fun place to hang out.

Our goal is to have everyone—parents and students alike—feel comfortable and welcome here. Parents, please do not hesitate to call us if there is some way we can make your child's experience at Kennedy a better one. We especially want parents who speak English as a second language to know we always have translators available to help them with any problems or issues they have relating to their child's education. For example, at our upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences, American Express will be providing volunteer interpreters for Spanish-speaking parents. Just look for the friendly people in the blue "volunteer" vests!

Finally, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of our wonderful Parent Center located at the east end of the school parking lot. The Parent Center offers a wide variety of free resources and materials to help you with your parenting challenges. The Parent Center is generally open from 9-3 Monday through Thursday and 9-1 on Friday, or you can reach Wendy Fayles, our Parent Center Coordinator, by calling 386-0354.

**Main Office: 646-5214**

**Attendance Office: 646-5218**

**Counseling Office: 646-5216**

**Fax: 646-5215**

**Parent Center (cell): 386-0354**

## After-School Program Begins

Are you looking for a safe, fun place for your kids to hang out after school? Look no further! Kennedy Jr. High has partnered with Salt Lake County to provide a free, after-school program for all interested Kennedy students. The program provides students with a snack and a variety of activities, including dancing, sports, art, theater, homework help, etc. Students who would like to participate in the after-school program need to have their parents or guardian turn in a signed, completed registration form. These are available in the Main Office.

After-school program hours are:

2:45-6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday (Sept-Nov 4) (March 10-June 1)

2:45-5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday (Nov 5-March 7)

12:45-4:00 p.m. Friday

### 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/)

### Sept. 28 Deadline for Free and Reduced Lunch

If your child is on the Free and Reduced Lunch program and you have not filled out a new enrollment form for this school year, you need to do so **by Sept. 28** or your child will be charged for his/her lunches. New enrollment forms must be filled out at the beginning of every school year. Forms are available in the Main Office.

## Shop at YellowBrickMall.com



### and Support Kennedy!

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)

## Parent-Teacher Conference

Wednesday & Thursday, Sept. 26-27  
4-7 p.m. in the Gym

Tips for successful parent-teacher conferences:

1. Come prepared with questions and comments. If your child is happy in the classroom, let the teacher know! Share any problems the child has mentioned. Take notes on what the teachers say.
2. Ask the teacher if there are ways you can help your child do better in class. Let the teacher know you are interested in your child's progress or lack of it.
3. If problems arise, don't blame the teacher, the child, or yourself—focus on solving the problem. Getting angry with the teacher is not in your child's best interest. Often a conversation between the teacher, the parent, and the child will help find a solution.

## Drama Department Presents ...

Come see the Advanced Drama play, "The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood!" A hilarious retelling of the classic tales of Robin Hood—you'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll yell, "Boo! Hiss!" at the evil Prince John. It's a fun time all around. Performances will be November 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Meanwhile, auditions for the Spring Musical, "Once Upon a Mattress," will begin Monday, November 26th at 2:55 in the auditorium. All Kennedy students are invited to audition for the musical. Rehearsals will be after school Mondays-Thursdays and the performances will be the second week of March.

## Anxiety Workshop for Parents

Does your child suffer from anxiety? The Utah Association of School Psychologists will present a free Parent Workshop, "Helping Children Cope with Anxiety," on Thursday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. at the Granite District Offices (2500 South State Street, Room D102).

Dr. Aureen Pinto Wagner, Ph.D. will discuss various forms of anxiety including: worry, separation anxiety, school refusal, perfectionism, test anxiety, social anxiety, panic, and fears after disasters and tragedies. She will help you tell the differences between normal and problem anxiety, recognize early warning signs in children and teenagers, and learn how anxiety manifests in school. She will share practical guidance and valuable strategies to use at home and school to help children conquer anxiety.

## ESL Classes for Adults

The Kennedy Parent Center will be teaching English classes for adults beginning October 3. Classes are free, and will be held Wednesday mornings from 9-10 a.m. at the Parent Center (located at the east end of the parking lot). Topics include: Introducing Yourself, Asking for Help with English, Talking about School, Renting or Buying an Apartment or House, and more! For more information, call Wendy Fayles at 386-0354 or stop by the Parent Center. (It is okay to bring small children with you to class if you need to.) If you know someone in your neighborhood who would be interested in attending, please share this information with them!

## AVID Parent Night

There is a meeting for parents of AVID students on Wednesday, September 26th, at 7 p.m. (right after Parent/Teacher conference). It will be held in Ms. Waterhouse's room (Room 25). All parents of AVID students are invited to attend!

## Tutoring Available for Students

The Kennedy Media Center is open every morning from 7:00-7:30 a.m. for students who need help with homework or who just want to come in and read a book.

We also have tutoring Monday-Thursday from 2:50-3:50 p.m. in the Math/Science hall (the room changes, so just look for the room with the White Bunny on the door). Students can receive homework help through the Kennedy After-School Program.

## PTSA News

PTSA has some new faces! They are: Amy Gerritsen, President, Jennie Williams, Vice President, and Linda Litster, Secretary. Kelly Allen returns as Treasurer.

PTSA has a full schedule this year. In August we sponsored a breakfast for faculty and staff members.

September is the month for our membership drive. Parents, students, faculty and staff members are invited to join PTSA. Memberships are available at the school's Main Office for only \$5.00. Remember, the money from your membership fee goes to help support PTSA-sponsored activities such as "Reflections," the Halloween Dance, Teacher Appreciation Week, etc.

At the end of September, we will be providing dinner for the faculty prior to Parent-Teacher conference. We appreciate those who have signed up to help with that.

In October, we will be helping with vision/scoliosis screening for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This will be held Oct. 15-16 and we are still looking for volunteers who can help. We need to have 10 volunteers each day. If you can help, please contact Amy Gerritsen at 646-5214 ext. 3558 or Wendy Fayles at 386-0354.

We want to put the "fun" in our fundraiser this year by partnering with Papa Johns Pizza. Buy Papa Johns pizza on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month and state that it is a Kennedy Jr. High order. Our PTSA will receive 20% of their Kennedy sales for any order placed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month. The class that orders the most pizza on our school night will be the recipient of a pizza party.

Thank you to the past PTSA council, Byron King, Melody Bennett, Wendy Fayles and Kelly Allen for supporting our school.

## Volunteers Needed, Loved and Appreciated!

We have a great need for parents (and aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.) to volunteer at the school. We also have opportunities for people who would like to volunteer but aren't able to do so during regular school hours. Even if you can only volunteer an hour or two during the school year, that is still a big help. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Wendy Fayles at 386-0354. Here are a few volunteer opportunities:

- Sept. 26-27 -- Volunteers needed from 4-7 p.m. to help with the Book Fair.

- Oct. 15-16 – Volunteers needed to help with vision/scoliosis screening (8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and lunch is provided).
- Nov. 30 (tentative) – Volunteers needed to help with Reality Town for 9<sup>th</sup> graders (8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).
- Ongoing – Our new After-School Program is looking for parents who could teach a class or help out with other activities. If you have something you are skilled at (scrapbooking, jewelry-making, photography, music, etc.) and would like to teach a one-time or occasional class, contact our After-School Program Coordinator, Jessica Holtzer, at 718-7740.
- Ongoing – Volunteers are needed to help with lunch supervision (11:20 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. M-Th, 9:55-11:35 a.m. Fridays). THIS IS THE FUNNEST VOLUNTEER JOB OF ALL! It gives you a chance to talk to your kids, their friends, and lots of other kids who will become your friends. Feel free to come once a week, once a month, or whenever you're able.

## Look Who's New at Kennedy!

We are excited to welcome two new teachers to our staff this year. They are **Keith Reynolds** (Algebra/Pre-Algebra) and **Sharon Folland** (Business/Keyboarding). Mr. Reynolds is a native New Yorker who has four children (ages 13, 11, 9, and 10 months). He and his wife live in Layton near Hill AFB ("We get a free air show every day"). Mr. Reynolds' claim to fame is that he went to school with two famous people: Academy-award winning actress Jennifer Connelly and Olympic medalist Nikki Stone.

Mrs. Folland is a Utah native who graduated from Kearns High School. She began her teaching career in Alberta, Canada, which she remembers as being "very cold." A 35-year teaching veteran, she retired from Eisenhower Junior High but was lured back to Kennedy because we are just so wonderful! Mrs. Folland actually taught at Kennedy in 1974, so if any of you parents had her as a teacher back then, stop by and say hello!

**WE COLLECT BOXTOPS FOR  
EDUCATION. TURN THEM IN TO  
THE MAIN OFFICE!**

## Dental Clinic Now Open

The Utah Department of Health Family Dental Plan Dental Clinic is now open. The Clinic is located at the Granite Technical Institute, 2500 South State Street Rm GTI-404. The clinic will treat patients who are enrolled in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) and Primary Care Network (PCN). Services provided at the clinic are check-ups, x-rays, and cleanings, as well as fluoride treatments, sealants, fillings, root canals, extractions and dentures.

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment please call 646-4377.

## Support Our Recycling Programs

Help earn money for Kennedy by supporting our recycling efforts. We have two recycling bins in the parking lot next to the Seminary building where you can bring your newspapers, school and/or office papers, junk mail, phone books, and flattened cardboard boxes to be recycled.

We also recycle old cell phones, computer ink cartridges, and DVD movies/video games. These items can be sent to school with your student and deposited in the recycling bin in the Media Center.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Sept. 17-Oct. 5	Iowa Testing for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Sept. 18	Cross Country
Sept. 19	Volleyball / Soccer
Sept. 24	Volleyball / Soccer
Sept. 25	Drama/English Field Trip Cross Country
Sept. 26-27	Parent-Teacher Conference, 4-7 p.m. in the Gym Book Fair 4-7 p.m. in the Media Center
Sept. 26	AVID Parent Meeting, 7 p.m., Room 25
Sept. 28	NO SCHOOL
Oct. 2	Cross Country – Division meet
Oct. 3	ESL for Adults, 9-10 p.m., Kennedy Parent Center (Relo C) Volleyball / Soccer
Oct. 4	Anxiety Workshop, 7-9 p.m., (2500 South State Street, Room D102).
Oct. 8	Volleyball / Soccer
Oct. 9	MESA Parent Meeting, 7 p.m. Cross Country – District meet
Oct. 10	PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY ESL for Adults, 9-10 a.m., Kennedy Parent Center (Relo C) Volleyball / Soccer quarterfinals
Oct. 11	MESA Parent Meeting, 7 p.m.
Oct. 15-16	Vision and Scoliosis screening
Oct. 15	Volleyball semifinals
Oct. 16	Soccer semifinals
Oct. 17	Volleyball championship
Oct. 18	ESL for Adults, 9-10 a.m., Kennedy Parent Center (Relo C) Performing Arts Assembly (a.m.) Soccer championship
Oct.24	ESL for Adults, 9-10 a.m., Kennedy Parent Center (Relo C)
Oct. 26	NO SCHOOL – END OF TERM
Oct. 29-30	NO SCHOOL – FALL HOLIDAY
Oct. 31	ESL for Adults, 9-10 a.m., Kennedy Parent Center (Relo C) Halloween Dance, 3-4 p.m.

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

