

Cougar Bulletin

February 2020



February Calendar

6 - PTA Meeting , Media Center, 7-8:30 P.M.

7 - Report cards distributed

14 - Valentine's Day parties 9:15-10:00 A.M. / 2hr early dismissal

17 - No school/ Office closed - President's Day

21 - PTA Bingo Night, Cafeteria, 6-8 P.M.

Principal's Message

We haven't had much winter weather this year, so we'll see if the groundhog is right about an early spring. February is the month of love and I love being at Kemptown!

One of our staff members has decided to take a leave of absence for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Beverage, art teacher, asked me to share the following with you. "I want to thank the KES community for their kindness and welcoming. It was a very tough decision to make but I have decided to go on leave to better care for my family and baby. I have grown very fond of the KES students and I will miss them a lot. Please extend to them my love and regret to leave them so soon."



Mrs. Dana Fitzpatrick is our new art teacher. She has much experience as an art teacher. If you have a chance, please welcome her to Kemptown.

At tonight's PTA meeting I will be doing a brief presentation on Kemptown's ESSA, Every Student Succeeds Act, results for 2018-2019. Please join us at 7:00 pm in the media center, if you are able.

Just a reminder that if school is closed on Friday, February 14th, the Valentine's Day parties will not be rescheduled. Cards will be sent home with the students on the next school day.

I look forward to seeing you at our next PTA evening event – BINGO – on February 21st.

Thank you for your continued support and love of your children, our staff, and our school community. Please let me know how I can serve you and your children best.

2nd Safety, Health and Wellness Family Survey

Hello Parents,

I am hoping you can help Kemptown improve in our practices by taking our 2nd Safety, Health and Wellness Family Survey that is linked in this message.

After reviewing last year's perceptual survey, the KES staff members are determined to find ways to improve our school. The favorable responses received from families in the area of Safety, Health, and Wellness were lower than we want them to be. Therefore, we are closely monitoring the strategies that we are implementing. Your feedback will assist us in this process. We will be sending out this survey over the course of the school year.

Please complete one response per family. The survey will close at 4:00 pm on Friday, February 14, 2020.

<https://forms.gle/3hZEpu1teW5daRNw8>

If you have questions, please contact Karen Perkins, Laura Jones, or Kathy Golightly.

Thank you for your assistance. It is greatly appreciated.

Kathy Golightly

2020 Magnet Program

The Elementary Magnet Program Application season is now upon us! This program is designed for academically gifted students in grades 3 – 5 with superior performance in both language arts and mathematics.

Applications will be accepted from January 24 - February 28, 2020, and may be obtained online at www.fcps.org/academics/elemmagnetprg. The 2020-2021 Elementary Magnet Program application is for students currently in Grades 2, 3, and 4.

WKMS 6th grade registration

Below are some very important dates for our rising 6th grade families.

Feb 7th - Registration forms for SY 2020-2021 classes will be given to students during class.

Feb 13th - Parent Orientation & Registration Night at Windsor Knolls, 6-7:30 PM

Feb 14th - Return all registration forms to current teacher.



Attendance Corner

With cold and Flu season each year, we see several students with multiple days of absences. Please make sure to provide written notification to the front office of your child's absence **each day** they are out. It is also helpful to notify the classroom teacher when your child is going to be absent, late, or picked up early. Prior notification of early pickup may allow students to pack up their things and be ready to be dismissed from class more quickly.

Please use the following format when sending notes/emails:

Student: Full name

Grade

Teacher: Full name

Today's Date: mm/dd/yyyy

RE: Absence due to xyz

PE/Recess reminders

As the weather turns cold, students tend to wear warmer shoes (i.e., Uggs or snow boots). Please remember that your child should wear **ONLY** tennis shoes/sneakers on PE days. They are the safest for not only your child, but other students in the class as well!! Not wearing appropriate shoes on a consistent basis will reduce your child's effort grade, as they are not coming prepared for class.

Also, please be aware that students will continue to go out for recess each day the "feels like" temperature is above 20 degrees. Please make sure your child is dressed for the cold weather with appropriate shoes, long pants, coats, hats and gloves each day.



News from the Nurse

Hand Washing: Why It's So Important

Why Is Hand Washing So Important?

It's a message worth repeating – **hand washing is by far the best way to keep kids from getting sick** and prevent the spread of germs.

What's the Best Way to Wash Hands?

Here's how to scrub those germs away. Teach this to your kids – or better yet, wash your hands together often so they learn how important this good habit is:

1. **Wet your hands** with clean, running water (warm or cold). Make sure the water isn't too hot for little hands.
2. **Use soap** and lather up for about 20 seconds. Antibacterial soap isn't a must – any soap will do.
3. Make sure you **get in between your fingers**, on the backs of hands, and under the nails where germs like to hang out. And don't forget the wrists!
4. **Rinse and dry** well with a clean towel.

When Should We Wash Our Hands?

To stop the spread of germs in your family, make regular hand washing a rule for everyone. It's especially important:

- before eating and cooking
- after using the bathroom
- after cleaning around the house
- after touching animals, including family pets
- before and after visiting or taking care of any sick friends or relatives
- after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- after being outside (playing, gardening, walking the dog, etc.)

How Do Clean Hands Help Health?

Good hand washing is the first line of defense against the spread of many illnesses – from the common cold to more serious infections, such as meningitis, bronchiolitis, the flu, hepatitis A, and many types of diarrhea.

How Do Germs Spread?

Germs can spread many ways, including:

- touching dirty hands
- changing dirty diapers
- through contaminated water and food
- through droplets in the air released during a cough or sneeze
- on contaminated surfaces
- through contact with a sick person's body fluids

When kids come into contact with germs, they can become infected just by touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. And once they're infected, it's usually just a matter of time before the whole family comes down with the same illness.

So don't underestimate the power of hand washing! The time you spend at the sink could save you trips to the doctor's office.

Health Room Needs

Please consider donating warm weather clothing to the health room. We are in serious need of girls and boys pants, size 6-12. We also need both boys and girls underwear.



Dismissal Information

Please provide the front office (karen.cook@fcps.org, amy.kennedy@fcps.org) and the teacher with any dismissal changes as early in the day as possible. We like to deliver notes to the students when they transition back to the classroom after lunch, in order to minimize classroom disruptions.

When notifying school of a change, please include:

- student's name,
- teacher's name,
- bus number **OR**
- car rider (whom with, if not with you) **OR**
- day care provider

Cafe Corner

Today's school lunches offer students fruits and vegetables, whole grains and milk, and meet federal nutrition standards limiting fat, calories and sodium. Families can conveniently pay for school meals online and access up to 90 days of the student's purchase history:

<https://www.fcpsnutrition.com/index.php?sid=1496937421390&page=prepaidacct>



Find out about locally sourced food, and see links to videos about meal benefit applications and more: <https://www.fcps.org/about/news/1667518/fcps-celebrates-national-school-lunch-week>

Breakfast is served every morning from 8:30-8:55 a.m. Students who wish to eat breakfast must first check in with their teacher before they eat. For a more complete breakfast menu with all the nutritional information, follow this link: [Breakfast Menu](#). Students do not have to buy a full breakfast. We have a-la-cart options such as yogurt, string cheese, rice krispies, juice, capri sun, etc.

Now that your morning is off on the right foot, don't forget to fuel back up in the afternoon with another round of menu options for lunch. Follow this link for our lunch menu:

[Lunch Menu](#)

Elementary School Meal Prices

Milk, when bought separately \$0.60

BREAKFAST \$1.60

REDUCED-PRICE BREAKFAST \$0.20

LUNCH \$2.65

REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH \$0.30

Adult lunches cost \$4.25

Please make sure that students who bring their lunch also bring a drink and utensils in their lunch boxes. We are noticing a very large number of students without drinks in their lunches. Classroom water bottles are not taken to lunch. Also, plastic utensils from the cafeteria will only be provided for those students who purchase a meal at school.

**** Cafeteria contest coming soon!!! Winners will be able to pick the lunch menu. ****



Kemptown Elementary School

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