

Kossack Kable



December/January Newsletter

Principal's Message

What a great time of the year! It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of middle school students during the holiday season. Due to the busy nature of the season, sometimes schedules and added responsibilities can cause stress. Concerts, parties, family visits and so many other events seem to be packed into a limited amount of time. Scheduling becomes an issue and we always seem to be looking for ways to complete our to-do list. Our upcoming band and choir concerts offer the opportunity to slow down and enjoy a little holiday cheer. The choir concert on December 8th and the band concert on December 13th, will both be held at the KCHS Auditorium beginning at 7:00. Students and staff have been working really hard to showcase these special talents. Please come; everyone is welcome!

As the holiday season approaches, please give your child the gift of extra time. Put an I.O.U. for a special event or activity in his/her stocking. When students are asked to write about a memorable event in their lives, it isn't a special gift they usually choose to write about, but a particular experience they have had with someone special.

During this season of the year we would like to say thanks to:

- Parents and guardians who diligently check their child's homework; who are seated beside them as they complete their homework; and spend quality time with their child.
- All the volunteers who give countless hours to make KMS a better place for students and staff. For example; office workers, lunchroom aides, site council members, activity night sponsors, parent drivers, 6th grade swag helpers, etc.
- Community members and parents who organize fund raisers, make phone calls, and bring food to classes and the staff lounge on special days.
- All the people in our district who are committed to giving their best to your children every day. For example: custodians, food service staff, bus drivers, school nurses, student aides, secretaries, teachers, and members of the school board.
- All of you who are doing your very best to send your child ready to learn every day.

I am proud of how much our community gives during this time of the year. We have many programs that reflect the caring community culture that is growing through our population. Our students have started to gather canned food for our annual canned food drive. This supports our Christmas Drive for Mt. View/KMS students. Our 8th grade student leadership class continues to collect clothing for students in the community. We always welcome and appreciate your support in all the endeavors we take on.

Hopefully years from now, during the holiday season, you and your child will remember many wonderful times spent together. On behalf of the staff and KMS Site Council have a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



Vaughn Dosko
Principal, Kenai Middle School

Student Of The Month

We would like to congratulate the following students for being a November Student of the Month:

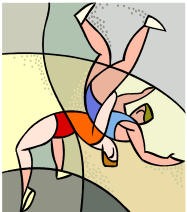
Tania Cazares, Caitlin Crabb, Leah Fallon, Andrew Gaethle, Gabby Hansen, Hayden Hanson, Tyler Hippchen, Maryna Hurst, Kasey Kaiser, and Eva Sorensen. These students will receive a pizza for lunch for their dedication and effort!



Canned Food Drive is in Full Swing!

It is time for the Annual KMS Canned Food Drive. Students can bring in their canned food donations starting November 30th. Students should bring cans to the table at the entrance to the school and receive a ticket for each item donated. Tickets will be used to draw for prizes during the assembly. This year's competition will be Boys vs. Girls. Here are some of the check point prizes: The first gender to bring in 500 cans will get a math homework pass, When the school reaches 1000 can check point we will have a holiday dress up day, when we reach 2000 cans school wide we will have a purple and yellow day, at 3000 cans Mr. Beck will get duct taped to the wall during the assembly, if we reach 5000 cans (we can do it!), Mr. Gustkey and Mr. Felchle will shave off their mustaches! These are awesome prizes! Let's get going on our collections. The last day of the Canned Food Drive is December 16th.

It's Time To Wrestle!



It's time to wrestle! All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are invited to participate in the Kossack wrestling program. Students need to pick up the necessary paperwork at the office. The season will begin January 9th and end on February 27th. No previous experience is necessary to participate. Practice is held right after school and ends at 4:00pm. Just come in your PE uniform and tennis or wrestling shoes. Mark your calendar for January 9th and get ready to wrestle!

X-C SKIING



X-C Skiing is right around the corner. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are invited to participate in the KMS skiing program. Students need to pick up the necessary paperwork at the office. The season will begin January 9th and end on March 4th. No previous experience is necessary to participate. If you have any questions, please call Kenai Middle at 283-1700.

Volleyball Season Starts!

Middle school volleyball intramurals begins January 9th, competitive play begins on January 30th and ends on March 4th. No experience is necessary, but athletes do need to have the paper work filled out and turned in to participate. Bring appropriate clothing, shorts, t-shirt, water bottle, and tennis shoes for our first practice on January 9th. Volleyball is open to all 7th and 8th grade girls.



Keep Your Child Reading Over the Holiday Break!

Holiday break is not a time just for worksheets and textbooks, but your child should continue to learn. The best way is just to read a little bit every day. And that means reading more than text messages! Here's how:

- Link movies to books. Your middle schooler, like many others, may enjoy watching movies during winter break. Encourage her to watch at least one based on a book--and read the book first.
- Give books for gifts. If your child will receive a gift this month, consider giving her a book or a gift card to a bookstore. Suggest this to other family members as well.
- Read for a purpose. Practical reading--the kind you do to learn a skill--is both fun and informative. If your child enjoys cooking, she could read a recipe and try it out. If she likes gadgets, she could read the instruction manual and put one together. If she likes sports, she could check out the newspaper for a look at how her favorite teams are faring.

Take a look at your child's attendance

December usually contains a winter break from school. And once your child returns in January, the school year will be about half over. This is a great time to review the first part of the year and make plans for the next. Looking at your child's school attendance should be part of this important process.

Did your child attend school every day unless she was sick or there was a family emergency?

If so, congratulations! Let her know you're proud of her strong attendance. Help her keep up the good work for the rest of the year and beyond. Strong attendance is one predictor of success in school.

If not:

- Remind your child that regular school attendance is a priority.
- Emphasize the need for rest, nutrition and exercise to stay healthy and stay in school.
- Consider the reasons you take your child out of school. Can you make some appointments outside school hours?
- Create consequences. Let your middle schooler know that skipping school erodes your trust in her.



CLUBS

On Wednesday, December 21st, your child will sign up for one of twenty clubs sponsored by the staff and community members. Starting Wednesday, January 18th, for five Wednesdays during last period, students will be attending their selected club. Students will not be missing out on regular core or exploratory classes because each class period has been shortened five minutes to allow for a forty minute club period. This is an excellent opportunity for staff members to get to know different students in the building, while sharing some of their special talents. Ask your child how they are enjoying their club. Please feel free to come and visit a class or spend some time observing a club activity.



Kenai Middle School Band and Dessert Concert:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Holiday Band Concert and Annual Dessert Auction at Kenai Central High School. The concert will include performances from both the Kenai Middle School and Kenai Central High School Bands.

The dessert auction began many years ago as a fundraiser to help support the Kenai bands and their need for new music, uniforms and instruments. This tradition will continue this year as we endeavor to bring the gift of music to our youth and our community.



Please join us for a wonderful evening of music performed by some of the finest young musicians in our area. The Holiday Band Concert and Dessert Auction is Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 at the KCHS Auditorium. The concert will be a combination of the KMS Intermediate and Concert Bands as well as the KCHS Jazz and Concert Bands. Preview of desserts begins at 6:15pm and the concert begins at 7pm. We hope you and your family will come and join us for an evening of fun, music and goodies!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Ms. Sammie Johnson, KMS School Counselor

This month in 7th grade Health Class, we have been discussing Nutrition and Physical Activity! Students learned and discussed the importance of having daily physical activity in their lives, as well as the importance of a healthy diet. We shed some tears discussing the caloric intake from a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, and discussed the sugar epidemic that has been sweeping the nation. Ask your student about what they have learned so far, you might be surprised by the statistics they can tell you!

Second semester schedules will be available for viewing on PowerSchool Thursday, December 15th. Students will be allowed to fill out and turn in schedule change request forms December 19th through the 21st. Just because a schedule change request form is filled out does NOT mean a student's schedule will change. Factors such as class size and the students required courses will affect the ability for a change to be made. All students will receive their new schedules in paper form on the first day back after winter break, January 9th.



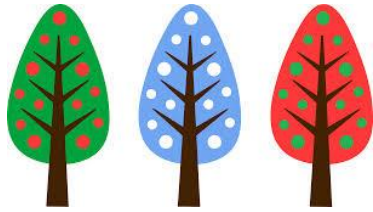
HELPFUL TIPS FROM NURSE DIXIE

Here are some suggestions from the nurse to help you and your family stay healthy.






- Make certain students as well as other family members are fully immunized
- Be vaccinated for the flu
- Wash hands
- Practice cough etiquette
- Avoid direct contact with saliva from another person through sharing of utensils, touching tissues, etc.
- Some of the reasons to consult your healthcare provider include:
 - the child has difficulty breathing or swallowing,
 - the child has a sore throat with a fever or rash
 - the child has a sore throat that is not improving or a sore throat with spots in the back of the throat
 - the child is not taking in enough fluids,
 - the child is lethargic, irritable, does not want to be held
 - the child has paroxysms (fits) of many rapid coughs followed by a "whoop" sound that is high-pitched
 - the child throws up during or after coughing
 - the child is exhausted from coughing
- If your child is ill, keep him/her home. Children with fever must be fever free for 24 hours without Tylenol or Advil
- Children who are prescribed antibiotics need to take the antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WINTER BREAK AND WE WILL SEE YOU JANUARY 9th!





DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Christmas Choir Concert KCHS @ 7:00	Basketball @ KMS vs. Homer 3:00	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Informational Wrestling Meeting	KMS Concert & Intermediate Holiday Concert & Dessert Auction 7:00 pm 1st Round of Basketball Boroughs			KMS Dance for 7 th & 8 th graders 6:00-8:00	Basketball Boroughs @ Seward
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Student/ Staff Basketball Game	In Service- NO SCHOOL		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
MERRY CHRISTMAS						



JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 	3	4	5	6 LAST DAY OF WINTER BREAK	7
8	9 Volleyball Intramurals, Wrestling & Cross Country Skiing Begin	10 KMS Site Council Meeting 4:30pm	11	12	13 	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	17	18	19	20 Wrestling @ KMS 3:00	21
22	23	24 	25	26	27 Volleyball Intramurals End	28 Wrestling Skyview Invitational 9:00 am
29	30 Volleyball Competitive Play Begins	31	1 	2	3	4 Volleyball Jamboree @ Skyview 10:00