

December 2019

Kerr Elementary School Newsletter



A Monthly Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 4



KIDS OF STEEL - DON'T DELAY... REGISTER TODAY!



We are excited to share that Kerr Elementary is participating in the Kids of STEEL Program from P3R, a nonprofit organization that is passionate about promoting the love of running and enhancing community access to health & fitness education and activities.

Don't miss your spot at the start line! Registration for the Chick-fil-A Pittsburgh Kids Marathon is open and filling quickly! The race on Saturday May 2, 2020 is open to children in grades K - 6th.

To sign up visit the Pittsburgh Marathon's website, click on the "Register Today" and select Chick-fil-A Pittsburgh Kids Marathon. One adult can run for free with each child on race day. There is a field on the form where you can enter the name of the adult participating.

To sign up please visit ...

<https://www.thepittsburghmarathon.com/kidsmarathon>

(Look for the Chick-fil-A Pittsburgh Kids Marathon)

If your child does not want to race but would like to train at Kerr on Tuesdays and Thursdays mornings, please sign up at...<http://bit.ly/noraceKOS>

Starting on February 4th, we will be holding training sessions for participants from 8:30am to 9:00am. Training sessions will be every Tuesday and Thursday. Upon arrival to school, participants should report to the gym after they check in with their homeroom teacher.

Thanks,

Ms. Roman & Mr. Strzempek

Student Change Leadership Students

Fifth Grade students, Emmett G. and Nolan H. set up Kerr Elementary School's designated memorial, which commemorates all those who have served our country in the military.





Kerr Elementary School Construction News

I wanted to update you on the final stages of the Kerr construction.

We anticipate being able to begin the paving process of the upper lot (the staff parking lot) soon, but, unfortunately, all of the paving will not be completed by mid-December, as we had hoped. As the weather turns colder, the asphalt plants are beginning to shut down. Paving cannot be done in low temperatures, as cold weather affects the quality of both asphalt and concrete. Anything that we cannot get done prior to the asphalt plant shutdowns will need to be completed in the spring.

As you may know, tearing down the old Kerr took a bit longer than expected, mainly due to the additional asbestos that was found when the demolition was underway. We also encountered some delays due to weather. Additionally, excavation work for the entire site due to permitting and removal of the excess soil is taking a bit longer than expected.

We plan to have the upper parking lot operational by late December.

We continue to push to get the playgrounds completed. However, with dropping temperatures, it may be unrealistic to get them finished until the spring. Due to weather requirements for the soft-surface playground installation, we need temperatures above 50 degrees for 72 hours.

Please know that the students will still be able to have recess during these final stages of the outside construction. We will continue allowing the children, with close supervision, of course, to use the bus loop for recess.

It is also anticipated that the landscape work will be completed in the spring.

We expect the project to be fully completed in late April or early May 2020.

The crews will be working as long as the weather permits in order to get as much done as possible, as soon as possible.

Paul S. Noro, Principal



District Fundraising

Sharpsburg Library

Kerr Elementary School is supporting our district fundraising efforts toward the Sharpsburg Library. The Sharpsburg Library benefits many of our Kerr families and students directly, while also benefiting families and students throughout our district. We will have many activities to raise money, which also includes several staff events.

THEME WEEK

Monday the 16th: Hat Day



Wear your favorite hat; serious or silly, short or tall.



Tuesday the 17th: Pajama Day

Kerr will be the coziest place on earth when students get to dress in their favorite pajamas.



Wednesday the 18th: Team Spirit Day~

Wear your favorite sport's team gear to school.



Thursday the 19th: Looking Sharp Day

NO casual here. Dress up in your snappiest suit or fanciest dress and look sharp all day long.

Friday the 20th: Ugly Sweater Day

Dig up your favorite ugly sweater, sweatshirt or t-shirt and help bring a smile to the faces of others.





Student Change Give A Gift Fundraiser a SUCCESS!

The Kerr Student Change Committee would like to thank you for your continued support. Our fundraiser this past November for Give a Gift was a huge success. Our Linking Together For A Cause Drive raised \$1157.

In addition to raising money, our Give A Gift present collection also made a great impact. We collected over 30 presents for the program.

Kerr students, hold your heads high and because you are making a difference. Your kindness will be responsible for making the holidays brighter for a lot of families.

Thank you,
Kerr Student Change Committee



Snowman Decorating Contest

As part of the District Fundraiser Telethon, funds are being raised for the Sharpsburg Library. To help, we are holding our second snowman decorating contest.

The rules are simple, take home a snowman worksheet and decorate how you see fit. You can color, paint, attach material, make a mosaic, etc. Your decorated snowman must fit on the paper provided and be able to be hung. Before you decorate your paper, please write your name, grade and homeroom on the back of the paper.

The decorating contest will take place from December 3rd until December 11th. All snowmen must be handed in by December 11th. Please hand your snowman into your homeroom teacher. Each snowman will be numbered and hung in the main hallway near the cafeteria. This will help keep our artists anonymous. Kids can vote on their favorite snowman for 25 cents during lunch from December 12th to the 18th.

The top three snowmen will be recognized during our Holiday Sing along on December 19th. The winners will receive an Amazon gift card. (1st place \$50, 2nd place \$25 and 3rd place \$10.)

Please help us brighten our school and more importantly the Sharpsburg Library.



Lost & Found Update

Our Lost and Found area is becoming very overwhelming for us to maintain at this point. We are now going to clean out our Lost & Found area on a bi-weekly basis. We will clean our Lost & Found area every second and fourth Friday of each month. Please encourage your child to look for their missing coats, gloves, and hats as much as possible.

Kerr Makerspace Consumable Drive

The Kerr Makerspace is in need of supplies. Below is a list of items we are collecting. Many items are recyclable materials that we tend to throw away. Please consider donating items. If your child does bring an item to school, please have them drop the item off in the Kerr Makerspace.

Thanks for your support,
Mr. Strzempek



Flat Empty Cereal Boxes



Yarn, String, Thread and Rubber Bands



Gift, Paper Towel and Toilet Paper Tubes



Felt of Fabric Scraps



Plastic Bottles, Bottle Caps and Corks



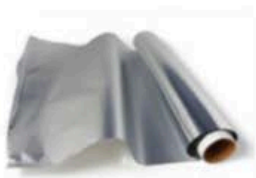
Unwanted Art and Craft Supplies



Small Plastic Toys You No Longer Want Or Need



Duct, Masking or Scotch Tape



Aluminum Foil, Pans and Trays



Popsicle Sticks, Straws and Pipe Cleaners



CDs and Old Computer/Electronic Parts



Wood Blocks and Legos

...and pretty much anything else you think would help make an awesome creation!

December Dates:

December 2019 Dates to Remember

December - 2 - NO SCHOOL

December - 4 - Spanish Immersion Parent Information Night - Kerr Elementary School - 6:00 p.m.

December - 5 - Districtwide Festival of Strings Orchestra Concert - Grades 4-12 - High School Aud. 7:00 p.m.

December - 7 - Creative Dramatics Performance - O'Reilly Theater - 9:00 a.m.

December - 16 - 20 - Theme Week Activities

December - 20 - PTO Holiday Celebration - 1:00 p.m.

December - 23 - January 1 - Winter Break NO SCHOOL

January - 2 - Resume normal schedule.

Pre-K Visits the Zoo

Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring the Pre-K field trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. For many, it was their first time riding a school bus! We learned about colors and patterns at the Education Complex. We had the opportunity to touch an opossum, chameleon, and snake. Animal's colors are important because they can camouflage the animal or warn other animals to stay away. Afterwards, we journeyed through the zoo learning and having a great time together.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Fox Chapel Area School District is planning a number of Spanish Immersion information sessions at Kerr Elementary:

- Tuesday, November 19
- Wednesday, December 4
- Thursday, January 23

All sessions begin at 6 p.m.

Questions? Please contact Dr. Ashley Constantine at (412) 967-2411 or ashley_constantine@fcasd.edu.

