

# Kerr Elementary School Newsletter

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

December 2018

RESPONSIBILITY

A Monthly Newsletter

R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y

Volume 14 Issue 5

## Veteran's Day Ceremony @ Kerr Elementary School

Veteran's Day is always an important event at Kerr Elementary School. This year we were lucky enough to have Mr. Steve McKenna, a former Kerr Elementary School student and Army Ranger, who served in our military from 2003-2011. We also maintained our student involvement in the ceremony as well. Aavree Hill and Cambria Dayton wrote speeches for the event, Lily Cannon and Joseph Costantino played Taps with Mr. Emert, and our students who serve as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts led the flag raising ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance. We were also lucky enough to have Ms. Ehman lead our Kerr chorus and students in a rendition of *America the Beautiful* and *God Bless America*.

I want to also thank all of the parents and guardians who submitted Veteran's Day pictures for our *Recognition Wall*.





## Open House 2018

Our Open House Title 1 Meetings, Book Sale, and classrooms were ready to go after being moved a month later than originally planned. Unfortunately, we became part of the power outage that occurred in the area, which in turn had us end our Open House a little early. I appreciate the understanding and patience of our parents, students, and staff, in making the best of a difficult situation. We still had a very successful Open House, and it shows in the smiling faces of our students!



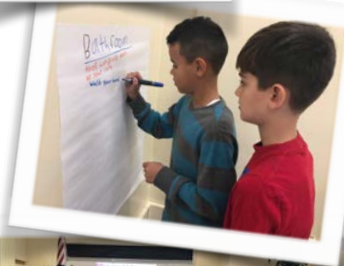
### *Our PBIS Kid's Team*

This year we took a very innovative step forward with our School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (SWPBIS) process at Kerr Elementary School. We decided to form a Kerr Kids PBIS Team. The Kerr Kids PBIS Team is made up of nine students in 4th & 5th grades, who were selected by members of our Kerr SWPBS Committee. These nine students attended a training with Crystal Vogtsberger from the AIU just before Thanksgiving Break. The role of the Kerr Kids PBIS Team is to mimic what our staff SWPBS team is doing, such as:

- \* development of specific roles on the team
- \* project based (assist with boosters, events, communications)
- \* assist with implementing Project Wisdom
- \* provide student perspective in creating a safe learning environment for all students, evaluate our current practices, and contribute feedback on how we may improve our building's systems.
- \* Ultimate goal is to give the students more ownership with PBIS and increase student involvement/buy in.

We think that the Kerr Kid's PBIS Team will have an important impact on our school moving forward, especially as we think about how our practices will translate to the new Kerr Elementary School Building.

*Mr. Strzempek, Mrs. Jakubek, and Mrs. Trpcic*



## Snowman Decorating Contest

Help celebrate winter with Kerr's first 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 and be able to be hung on a bulletin board. Before you decorate your snowman, please write your name, grade and homeroom on the back.

The contest will take place from December 3<sup>rd</sup> until December 11<sup>th</sup>. All snowmen must be handed in by December 11<sup>th</sup> to your homeroom teacher. Student Council will number and hang each snowman in the front hallway. This will help keep our artists anonymous. Kids can vote on their favorite snowman for 25 cents during lunch from December 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. All money raised will be donated to Make-A-Wish.

The top three snowmen will be recognized prior to our Winter Break. Student Council will donate Amazon gift cards to the winners. (1<sup>st</sup> place \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$25 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$10).

Please help us brighten our school and more importantly someone else's day.

Thanks,  
Kerr Student Council



## **Kerr's Themed Dress Up Week**

Kerr Elementary students love helping others. This year, Fox Chapel Area School District's telethon will be working to raise money for Make-A-Wish. During the week of December 17<sup>th</sup> thru the 21<sup>st</sup>, Kerr students will be given the opportunity to do their part. We will be holding a themed dress up week to help raise money.

We are asking for your support by sending a \$1 to school with your child on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>. That \$1 contribution will cover your child all week long for our themed dress-up week. 100% of the money raised will be given to Make-A-Wish. Our goal is to help Make-A-Wish and have a little fun doing so. Please note that your \$1 contribution and our dress-up themed week is optional.

The District and Kerr Elementary take this fundraising opportunity very seriously. While the week is exciting and fun, we don't want our students to lose focus on our goal....to help Make-A-Wish. It will be a normal school week at Kerr.

Listed below are the dress-up opportunities for the students to participate in for the week.

### **Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>: Hat Day**

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

### **Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>: Pajama Day**

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

### **Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup>: Team Spirit Day**

**Wear your favorite sport's team gear to school.**

### **Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup>: Looking Sharp Day**

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

### **Friday the 21<sup>th</sup>: Ugly Sweater Day**

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

*We hope your child enjoys participating in this school-wide event.*

*Thank you in advance for your support.*



# Make a change...



We will be collecting change as part of  
our fundraiser for the  
Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The classroom that raises the most  
money will win a pizza party!



Check your pockets and your couches!

**We will be collecting in your classroom for 14 days,  
Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>**



# Our Kindergarten Shares A Thanksgiving Feast @ Kerr



Kindergarten participated in their 4th Annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 21st. As a culminating activity in our Social Studies Unit-How Do We Make Friends?, we learned that the pilgrims and Native Americans introduced themselves to each other and shared a feast to celebrate their friendship. Each kindergarten class made corn and pumpkin breads as well as created placemats, turkey-theme crafts, and Native American headdresses. The students also learned how to play a Native American stick game. We are thankful for our kindergarten families and hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends.



## Thank You All!



Dear Parents and Students,

The Kerr Student Council would like to thank you for your continued support. Our fundraiser this past November for Give a Gift was a huge success. ***Our feather drive raised \$1011.***

In addition to raising money, our Give A Gift present collection also made a great impact. ***We collected over 100 presents for the program.***

Kerr students can hold their heads high, 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 Council



# Note From Our Kerr Elementary School Library: Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! A brand-new book was purchased for every child in the school, thanks to the PTO. The following third and fifth grade students volunteered to help with the Book Fair; Sophie Jacobs, Sophia Tai, Nevaeh Snyder, Jane Weber, Annika Kubiska, and Valentina Hanchar. Can't wait to see everyone at the Scholastic Book Fair next year!



## DECEMBER Dates to Remember **ADD MORE DATES**

- December 3** - Spanish Immersion Meeting Parent Information Meeting - 6-7 P.M. - Library
- December 4** - Author Visit to Kerr - Christine Petrell Kallevig
- December 5** - Kerr Elem. PTO Mtg. Conf. Room. - 9:15 A.M.
- December 6** - Districtwide Festival of Strings Orchestra Concert - Grades 4-12 - HS Aud. - 7 P.M.
- December 13** - McTeacher Night - 4:30-7:30 P.M. - Waterworks Mall (Page 8 insert)
- December 15** - Creative Dramatics Performance - O'Reilly Theater - 2:00 P.M.
- December 17** - Kerr Chorus Visits local Personal Care Homes in Shaprsburg to Perform
- December 17** - Hat Day @ Kerr
- December 18** - Pajama Day @ Kerr
- December 19** - Team Spirit Day @ Kerr
- December 20** - Looking Sharp Day @ Kerr
- December 21** - Ugly Sweater Day @ Kerr
- December 21** - Kerr PTO Holiday Celebration - 1-3:20 P.M.
- December 24** - January 4 - Winter Break

## REMINDER

### Warm Coats or Appropriate Outdoor Gear

Please make sure to send your child to school with appropriate winter wear for school. If a child is not dressed for the cold weather, he or she will not be permitted to go outside for recess.

Thanks!



# Come and join us for McTeacher's Night!

Come and see some of your favorite Kerr  
Staff Members at Kerr Elementary School's  
McTeacher's Night!

**Where:** McDonalds located at the Waterworks Mall,  
Fox Chapel

**Date:** Thursday, December 13th

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



**20%** of all purchases that evening will be donated  
to the Make-A-Wish Foundation

Drive-Thru purchases count toward donations  
as well as those Dining-In.

