

INDIAN RIFFLE

November 2024 Newsletter

October has been a busy month! Grade 3 completed their Ohio State test, we had the first round of conferences, the Dayton Performing Arts came to visit, PTO had Trunk or Treat, grade 5 completed Starbase and we celebrated Halloween!





Counselor News

Hello Firebird families! This month, I will be visiting classrooms to teach about problem solving. I am so excited to talk with our students about the "Size of the Problem"– some problems are smaller than others and kids can solve them on their own, while other problems are larger and need help from a grown up. This is one of my favorite topics to discuss with our students, to empower them to be their own problem solvers and discover just how powerful they can be! You can continue these conversations at home by asking if a problem is kid-sized or a big deal.

Please reach out if your student or family needs support in any way.

There are so many great community resources available to our students and their families, and I would love to connect with you to help meet any needs! We are heading into a busy time of year; so as always, take care of yourselves!

Mrs. Elrod, School Counselor
ashley.elrod@ketteringschools.org

DON'T FORGET!!!



UPCOMING DATES

November 4 - Conferences 3:30-7

November 5 - No school - Conferences 12-3:30

November 8 - Veterans Day Program - 9am

November 12 - School Picture Retakes

November 13 - Early Dismissal - 12:30

November 25-29 - No School

December 9-13 - Santa Shop

December 11 - Holiday concert - 6:30

December 14 - Santa Breakfast - 9am



Physical Education News

Hello Indian Riffle Families! What's P.E.? P.E. stands for Physical Education. P.E. is off to a great start this year!

- Students in grades kindergarten through second have been reviewing and mastering their skipping, galloping, jogging, running, and walking. The students have also been participating in cooperative games to help build skills of teamwork and strategy making while maintaining their personal space.
- Students in grades third through fifth have been working on their ability to develop a plan/strategy and use their skills to carry it out in a game (we call that tactic).
- Your students have been working very hard and I love seeing their smiles while they're learning in the gym. Don't forget, families, your child has my class on a specific day. Please send them in appropriate shoes on their P.E. day.



Safety News

Officer Drayton is the Student Resource Officer for the Kettering Elementary schools. He visits the building often talking to students and providing support where needed. He joined us on our slime day, and then also made a visit last Friday - students enjoyed seeing his silly side! Please help us welcome Officer Drayton to our building!

We continue to practice our drills monthly. Students and staff did a great job on October 10th when we did our full scale drill and evacuated the building. We will continue to update you monthly on the safety practices in the building!



PBIS

This month students will be celebrating a Random Reward with their class. Each class will pick one Positive Behavior that they have exemplified as a class. Random Rewards usually take place during the middle of the quarter and can vary from class to class. Some examples might be a spontaneous dance party, a class game, or some free time. Ask your child what their Random Reward was for the quarter and what Positive Behavior they have shown to earn it!

THE CLINIC NEEDS CLOTHES!

**PANTS
SIZES 6-12**

I AM ALL OUT OF **PANTS**. IF YOU ARE GETTING RID OF OLD CLOTHES, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING THEM TO THE CLINIC!





Be in the Know with PTO

- Donations are needed for our holiday basket raffle items
- [Click Here](#) to check out the themes and donate
- Eat at Jet's Pizza (3979 Indian Ripple Road) any Tuesday. Mention the PTO and your child's teacher. Every two months, the top classroom gets a free pizza lunch! This will be an ongoing event every Tuesday through May.
- The second timeframe is Nov. 5 - Dec. 31
- Check out the Indian Riffle [Amazon Wish List](#). We update the list regularly throughout the year! Orders will be shipped directly to the school. Donations can also be sent to the office.
- We'd love your help, making this year great. Can you help at any events? All volunteers have to be approved. Click [Volunteer Background Check](#) to start the BIB process!

Below is a quick glance of our events:

Nov. 4 - Parent-teacher conference meal - [Click here](#) to donate soup items

Nov. 8 - PTO is providing refreshments at the Veteran's Day program

Nov. 12 - 5pm - PTO meeting, Indian Riffle library

Nov. 13 - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Dine to Donate with City Barbeque 2001 E. Dorothy Lane - Promo code: GIVE

Dec. 9-13 - Secret Santa Shop - [Click Here](#) to volunteer

Dec. 10 - 5pm - PTO meeting, Indian Riffle library

Dec. 11 - Holiday Basket raffle starts at the Holiday concert

Dec. 14 - Breakfast with Santa - [Click Here](#) to volunteer

Dec. 19 - PTO gift to students - Madcap Puppets production of The Nutcracker




Attendance

Attendance is so important. We are monitoring attendance carefully this year. Research has shown that student who have good attendance do better in school than those who miss frequently. Students who miss more than 10% of the school year struggle because of missed instruction.

Our goal this year is to help families and students achieve good attendance. Chronic absenteeism is defined as students missing 10% or more of a school year. That means students can only miss 17 days or less a year!

Thank you for working with us to ensure your child has good attendance!





Instructional Service Council News

ISC is a group of KCS administrators and staff, Board of Education members and community members that includes parents and business professionals. The council meets several times each year to discuss and give feedback about the curriculum and instructional practices in Kettering City Schools. Here are some highlights from our first meeting.

Safety & Wellness

- The district has a safety and threat assessment team at every building.
- This year we are having Full Scale Safety Exercises at each building. Schools will be evacuated and walk to reunification site. The purpose of this drill is to practice what student's do if evacuation is necessary and what the roles are within staff and administrative teams.
- Website Safety Updates are on ketteringschools.org. Pop-ups will be used for very important notifications (new safety features built into the webpage). SROs are also included on the school website - photos, names, email addresses.
- Transportation "Zonar" software- Wayfinder - used for pre-checks, and for route information with student photos on it. Wayfinder will show the route and students at each bus stop. This will help substitute bus drivers and ensure safety for staff and students. The system will keep track of where the bus is located for safety issues and even monitor speeds.

Quality Learning Environment

- 2023-2024 Report Card Rating System is 1-5 stars - KCSD received a rating of 4.5 stars
- KCSD has consistently earned higher scores on the report card when compared to similar school districts. Thanks to amazing kids, staff, and supportive parents!
- There has been a gradual increase in overall student achievement. We do a little bit better every year!
- Increase in graduation rate for 2023-2024.
- Initiatives to continue our growth: work on improving the 14.9% chronic absenteeism (for any reason - excused or unexcused); curriculums; instructional practices

Dyslexia Law Update and Science of Reading Staff PD

- Science of Reading Professional Development is required by the state. All staff including administrators will complete required training by June 30, 2025, many have already completed.
- Dyslexia Tier I Screener
- Screened grades 1-3 last year (2023-2024)
- Only grade 1 students are screened this year (last year's KG)
- Screening is used to identify possible AT RISK dyslexic tendencies

Career Pathways

- KCS Career Navigation and Workforce Development position is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Program fosters career awareness in elementary school, career exploration in middle school, and hands-on experiences in high school.
- District career focuses for each month changes, for example: September is Skilled Trades and Construction; November is Healthcare; December is IT
- Feedback was collected by students, parents, and businesses. Students shared a high percentage of engagement and relation to what they are learning in school and helped them get ideas about the future.





H.E.A.L.
HEALTH, EDUCATION &
ATTENDANCE FOR LIFE

A HEALTH FLYER FOR PARENTS

When students miss too many days of school, they fall behind and struggle to keep up with their classmates. Whether the days missed are due to illness, truancy or for any other reason, the end result for the student is the same — learning time is lost. Children and adolescents will get sick at times and may need to stay at home, but we want to work with you to help minimize the number of days your student misses school.

Missed Days Add Up Quickly!

- Just a few missed days a month adds up to several school weeks missed in a year.
- Both excused and unexcused absences can make it more difficult for your child to keep up with other students, especially in math and reading.
- Kindergarten and first grade are critical for your child. Missing school during these early years makes it more difficult for children to learn in later years and they often have trouble reading by the end of third grade.

Work with Your Child and Your School

- As the parent, be strong with your child and don't let your child stay home when it is not necessary. This will help your child succeed. Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen can be given at school with a signed OTC form by parents.
- If your child has a chronic disease, make sure that the school staff is aware of the disease so the staff can assist your child if he or she becomes ill. Information about your child's chronic disease should be noted on the school emergency or health information card.
- For students with asthma: if your child has asthma, the school needs an Asthma Action Plan completed by his or her doctor that includes permission to carry an inhaler at school. Make sure that all supplies (inhaler, spacer, etc.) needed to manage your child's asthma are at the school.
- For students with diabetes: if your child has diabetes, the school needs a Diabetes Management Plan completed by his or her doctor. Make sure that all supplies (insulin, blood sugar meter, test strips) needed to manage your child's diabetes are at the school.
- **Provide the school with a reliable phone number. Keep an open line of communication with school staff and teachers. The more the school knows about your child's health, the better prepared everyone will be to work together for your child.**

Helpful Ideas:

- Make appointments with the doctor or dentist in the late afternoon so your child misses as little school as possible.
- If your child must miss school, make sure you get his or her homework assignments and follow up to see if the work is completed and turned in.
- Call the school as soon as you know your child will be absent and tell school staff why your child will be out and for how long. Contact the school nurse if your child will be absent for an extended period.
- Be prepared to get a doctor's note when requested by school personnel.
- If you need medical advice after business hours, most doctors' offices have answering services 24 hours a day to assist you.
- If your child has an emergency, call 911.

For additional information please call the school building and ask for the nurse:

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| Early Childhood Ed. Center | 499-1450 | Orchard Park Elementary | 499-1910 |
| Beavertown Elementary | 499-1740 | J. E. Prass Elementary | 499-1780 |
| Greenmont Elementary | 499-1850 | Southdale Elementary | 499-1890 |
| Indian Riffle Elementary | 499-1720 | Kettering Middle School | 499-1550 |
| J. F. Kennedy Elementary | 499-1830 | Van Buren Middle School | 499-1800 |
| Oakview Elementary | 499-1870 | Fairmont High School | 499-1600 |