

## Dates to Remember

<b>Wednesday, March 3</b>	<b><u>Books For Bingo</u></b> 6:30-8:00 p.m., King Open Cafeteria (Snow Date: March 10 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Wednesday, March 3</b>	<b><u>Screening of the Documentary "Including Samuel"</u></b> 3:15 p.m., Library
<b>Thursday, March 4</b>	<b><u>Summer Camp Information Night</u></b> 6:30-8:00 p.m., CRLS Main Cafeteria
<b>Tuesday, March 9</b>	<b><u>Early Release Day</u></b> Dismissal at 12:55 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, March 9</b>	<b><u>School Committee Budget Hearing</u></b> 6:00 p.m. (PBA)
<b>Wednesday, March 10</b>	<b><u>5/6 Ballroom Dancing Performances at CRLS</u></b>
<b>Thursday, March 11</b>	<b><u>1/2 Social Studies Gathering</u></b> 9:00-10:20 a.m., in the Gym 10:20-11:00, in the classrooms
<b>Tuesday, March 16</b>	<b><u>Staff vs. 7/8 Basketball Game</u></b> King School, 100 Putnam Ave.
<b>Wednesday, March 17</b>	<b><u>NO SCHOOL - Evacuation Day</u></b>
<b>Tuesday, March 23</b>	<b><u>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Biogen (Group 4)</u></b>
<b>Tuesday, March 23</b>	<b><u>School Council Meeting</u></b> 6:30-8:30 p.m., Music Room
<b>Wednesday, March 24</b>	<b><u>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Biogen (Group 2)</u></b>
<b>Friday, March 26</b>	<b><u>KOED Family Night</u></b> 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

### SHHHHH! It's a SURPRISE!

This June, family liaison Lena James will retire after 31 years with the King Open School. We're planning a very special celebration for Saturday May 22 at 7pm - Save the date! (Lena knows the date & time but that's all) Invitations will come in the next month. In the meantime, if you would like to join or learn about the various sub-committees, please contact Janet Malenfant at: [badchild@comcast.net](mailto:badchild@comcast.net) or 617-497-5596.

### The Peace Project

Thank you to all the kids and families who joined us in the lobby this past Friday morning to start our all-school read-a-thon to benefit Heifer International.

Here is how it works:

1. Every other Friday, the Peace Project will be in the lobby helping kids make and decorate Heifer bookmarks to take home.
2. On the back of each bookmark is a place to write your name plus 5 books you have read.
3. Once you have read 5 books, you can bring your bookmark back to school and get a new one. You can give us your bookmark and get/make a new one on our (every other) Fridays in the lobby, or you can give it to Jen Mason in the KO library any time and she will give you a new one.
4. We will keep track of all the bookmarks we get to celebrate how much KO kids are reading: we'll hang them all on a tree in the lobby which we'll call the Reading Tree.
5. The Peace Project will tell folks around the city about our Read-to-Feed program, and ask local businesses and organizations to donate money to Heifer in honor of KO kids reading.
6. All money we raise will go to a project in Guatemala to help support a local community there by providing animals, trees, and farming education, and we will also give money to relief work in Haiti.
7. In the lobby on Friday mornings, we will also be collecting spare change in big jars: thank you for any donations you can make to Heifer!

If you have any questions, please let us know. We are off to a great start.

--The Peace Project

## A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL TIM

Dear King Open Families,

We had an uplifting Music Performance this Thursday evening involving many students in grades 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8. These performing groups have grown from student practice in regular music classes, from collaboration between Kathleen, our Music teacher, and Claudine, our 5/6 Extended Day mentor teacher, and other children who come early to practice music and dance with Kathleen before school. It is rewarding to see the enthusiasm for music and dance growing from student interest and staff encouragement and guidance.

We also had the largest School Council attendance we have had in many years for discussion of the Superintendent's budget proposals that would change the shape of the Ola Program next year. Many parents and staff, from both the Ola Program and from the other King Open classrooms, spoke about their worries about these cuts and what they would mean. I also spoke about the small number of students in grades 5/6 and 7/8 Ola and how the District is questioning how to provide the best instruction for students in such small groups; the District is also asking how to provide strong instruction in Literacy, Math, Science and Social Studies to students in self-contained homerooms. It is clear that so many of our families who have chosen the Ola Program and our staff who teach in Ola are passionately devoted to its success. I know that the teachers in the Ola Program are very skilled, dedicated teachers who help their students make great academic gains. This budget cut feels to many like a death blow to the Ola Program and is, therefore, of great concern.

Later in that School Council meeting we talked about the Superintendent's proposal for Middle Grades in Cambridge. The ideas expressed by parents and staff supported the continuation of King Open as a K-8 school. A few speakers also worried that by starting one middle school, the District might start to neglect the resources remaining K-8 schools need. There was no consensus, however, that having a middle school in Cambridge would be bad for the District. There was consensus that King Open can best serve this community and the District by retaining its K-8 structure. This conversation was shadowed by the realization that the Ola Program may not be able to retain its K-8 structure.

I am confident in the strength and resourcefulness of the whole King Open community. However these proposed changes develop, I feel very fortunate to be part of King Open and am committed to assuring that all of our students learn at the high levels we all want and expect for them.

-- Principal Tim

## REBIRTH OF THE KING OPEN GARDEN

Is the King Open garden a place you love? Do you have ideas about how you would like to see it changed? CitySprouts is forming a group to plan and work on improvements to the garden. We will meet Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm in the King Open Library. If you like the garden, stop to look at it in the next week or so and think about how it could be improved. What could be changed to make it a place where more kids would love to spend time? Are there ways you like to see the garden used that it isn't now? If you have ideas about what you would like to see the garden become, come share them at the meeting March 1.

## TITLE I PRESENTS: BOOKS FOR BINGO

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 – 8:00PM, King Open Cafeteria (Snow date: March 10<sup>th</sup>)

This event is for Kindergarten to Grade 4 and their families! Please register by calling 617-349-6492 or by emailing [msavilonis@cpsd.us](mailto:msavilonis@cpsd.us).

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SUMMER RESOURCE/CAMP INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday, March 4, 2010, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
CRLS, 459 Broadway, Main Cafeteria (Snow Date: 3/11)  
Come meet the representatives for Cambridge Community School camps and other private and public camps, including programs for children with disabilities. Parking is available in the school garage. For additional information, call Roslyn Shoy at 617-349-6227.

## PEABODY SCHOOL ISP OPEN HOUSE RESCHEDULED

Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8:00 in our Auditorium.  
We will have staff and ISP students available for questions and presentations. For more information please call Nicole M. Sullivan, Acting Family Liaison 617-349-6530 - x 1101 [nsullivan@cpsd.us](mailto:nsullivan@cpsd.us).

## NEW FLU CLINICS ADDED

Three new flu clinics have been scheduled by the Cambridge Public Health Department. These free clinics will offer both H1N1 (swine) and seasonal flu vaccines, and are open to everyone ages 6 months and older. Parents must accompany children; there will be no pre-registration.

- 1) Morse School (Nurse's Office), 40 Granite Street, Wednesday, March 3 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- 2) Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (Nurse's Office), 459 Broadway, Thursday, March 4 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- 3) Windsor Street Health Center (2nd Floor Small Conference Room), 119 Windsor Street, Wednesday, March 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. It is not too late to protect yourself and your family against flu by getting vaccinated! At this time Massachusetts Department of Public Health is projecting that H1N1 (swine) flu transmission will continue into the summer months, so for children who still need a second shot, this is a great opportunity to do so. Updates about Cambridge Public Health Department's free flu clinics are also available on the Cambridge Flu Line at 617-665-3855, online at [www.cambridgepublichealth.org](http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org), or by text message (sign up at <http://trumpia.com/exsignup/publichealth/flu> or text "VACCINE" to 69302. Standard text messaging rates apply.)