

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, September 22	<u>Early Release Day</u> Dismissal at 12:55
Wednesday, September 23	<u>K.O. School Council Meeting</u> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Music Room
Monday, September 28	<u>NO SCHOOL – Yom Kippur</u>
Wednesday, September 30	<u>Outreach Committee Meeting</u> 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 30	<u>Grades 7/8 Family Welcome & Curriculum Night</u> 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 1	<u>Title I Breakfast</u> 8:30 a.m. in the Cafeteria
Tuesday, October 6	<u>Grades 3/4 Curriculum Night</u> 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 8	<u>Grades 1/2 Curriculum Night</u> 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 14	<u>Picture Day</u>
Friday, October 16	<u>Grades 1/2 Field Trip</u>
Friday, October 16	<u>Extended Day Family Night</u>
Thursday, October 22	<u>Grades 1/2 Field Trip</u>
Friday, October 23	<u>Grades 1/2 Field Trip</u>
Saturday, October 24	<u>Garden Work Day, 9:00-12:00</u>

Come to the First K.O. School Council Meeting

Wednesday September 23rd, 2009
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Music Room
(snacks and childcare provided)

- **Meet other parents and staff members**
- **Learn about the council's work**
- **Hear about ongoing work on school climate and family involvement**

Title I Compact Information

Dear King Open families,

Did you receive your Title I Compact? If you did please read with your child and sign, then return the white and yellow copy to school. If you did not receive a copy please let Lena know and she will get you a copy.

Lena James
617-349-6540 ext. 135
ejames@cpsd.us

Dear King Open Staff and Families:

Here is a list of parents who signed up for being part of the parent rep system. If there are other names, I would really appreciate it if I can get them so that we can be pro active with family involvement.

Kindergarten

K1 Emy Goldsmith
K2 Bianca Baader, Noa Sher, Debbie Korn, Mary Louise Culpepper
K3 Giulia Fulc
K4 Christina Hong
K Olá Abby Fechtman, Ednalva Dasilva

Grades 1/2

101 Olá
102
104 Jean Cummings, BelindaWatt
106 Jayme Shorin, Xuemei Li
108 Astrid Harmer

Grades 3/4

110 Irene Ferri
112
113
114 Susan Bellows
116 Olá

Grades 5/6

212
214
215
216
218 Olá

Grades 7/8 all inclusive.

Dominique Stassart, Elisa Pepe

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL TIM

Dear King Open Families,

This week begins our grade-level curriculum evenings and breakfasts. Coming in to get to know your child's teacher, classmates' families and curriculum can help you connect with and support your child's education. Some of you may have taken on the role of parent rep, and we appreciate ways you are helping us connect home and school.

Soon you will be getting a letter telling you about King Open's MCAS status. The good news is that King Open Math scores improved significantly. We made Adequate Yearly Progress for the whole school and also for Students with IEP's, Students whose families qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch, and for our two large racial groups: White and African American/Black. The bad news is that even with this progress our white students are scoring much higher than those in the three other categories. Furthermore, we are still a school categorized as in "Restructuring." We have to make big progress for two years in a row, not just one.

We know that some of our students do not score well on MCAS tests, and they are still learning and growing beautifully. We do not judge your children by their MCAS scores, and we don't want them to think of themselves that way either. The conversations you and your child's teacher have and the work that your children show you is the best indication of what and how they are learning.

So come help us build the strong connections between home and school that are so important to student progress. We have a strong school with strong families, but there are important ways we still need to grow.

Science Club for Girls!

Science Club for Girls begins September 29th. Clubs are every Tuesday from 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. Open to girls grade K - 6th grade. Join us for another fun semester and lots of science experiments. All clubs are led by female Mentor Scientists who show young girls that anyone can be a scientist. For more information contact Karen Wilkinson, Program Manager, 617-549-2442. Registration forms can be found in the school lobby.

CitySprouts School Garden Celebration

Saturday, October 3rd, 11am - 3 pm RAIN or SHINE at the Graham & Parks School, 44 Linnaean St.

King Open families: CitySprouts harvest festival is back! The Graham & Parks School will host this year's annual gathering of all 12 K-8 schools in the city to celebrate the school garden harvest grown in schoolyards throughout the city. Our own Sprouts of Hope will have a table at the festival, so please come by and give your support. Bring your family and friends to the festival to enjoy crafts, food and games. For information about the festival, contact info@citysprouts.org or call (617) 876-2436.

Announcing this year's Peace Project

Please join us at our first meeting on Thursday September 24th in the KO library from 3 to 4:30. This year, we will focus on world hunger, and will get involved with the organization Heifer. (check out www.heifer.org). Heifer works in countries around the world to end hunger and poverty by building sustainable communities and by teaching people how to raise and care for animals and how to care for the earth. Our group will start by identifying a Heifer project--probably one in Latin America--and will then help Heifer to complete that project. We will learn together about Latin America and building sustainable communities. We'll then teach the KO community what we have learned through different events and activities. We hope to do some fundraising outside of King Open this year by talking to local businesses, organizations and city groups about joining us in our support for Heifer. **Are you a 7th or 8th grader, parent or teacher who wants to be on our planning team? No experience necessary. Please come to our first meeting next Thurs. Sept. 24th in the library after school.** Anyone who can't make it to the meeting but would like to be informed of future meetings/events, please email us and let us know. Debbie Klein - debbieak20@comcast.net Janet Axelrod - jsaxelrod@comcast.net Jen Mason - jmason@cpsd.us

The JUST RUN Program

Your child is invited to participate in this year's JUST RUN youth fitness program! JUST RUN was designed to combat obesity and to promote physical activity in our youth. The program focuses on nutrition, exercise, and healthy lifestyle choices. For more information about the program, please visit the website at www.justrun.org. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jay Kreisberg at jkreisberg@cpsd.us or Donna Peruzzi at dperuzzi@cpsd.us. WE WILL BEGIN PRACTICE ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 AT 8 AM.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We need new and veteran KO parents--please come to the first Outreach Committee meeting of the year, on **Wed. Sept. 30th at 9 AM**. The Outreach Committee supports Lena and Neusa in their work as Family Liaisons to attract prospective families to King Open. Over the past several years we have: *reviewed all written materials about King Open, updated brochures, improved tour packets *updated the KO websites for current and prospective parents *attended city-wide Kindergarten information nights as KO representatives and created materials for these sessions *organized current parents to meet with prospective parents at the end of each school tour, during tour season (October through January on Tuesdays through Thursdays at 10:30) *hosted an Open House for prospective parents in the winter to introduce the community to our school, staff and current parents *strategized about how to best "spread the word" about King Open among families with young children in Cambridge. Do you have ideas, suggestions for the Outreach Committee? Please join us at our meeting and/or email us. We especially are interested in families with kids in grades K-2. -Debbie Klein (parent of kids in grades 2, 4 and 7)