



Kincaid Cat Tracks

Kincaid Elementary PTA
www.KincaidPTA.org

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Com-mu-ni-ty: (Noun) 1. A unified body of individuals Community Outreach and Community Fundraising at Work...

Kincaid Elementary School is more than just our students, families and faculty members; we are a community. Within our community, Kincaid is fortunate enough to have a Community Outreach Committee whose purpose is to coordinate opportunities to give back locally, provide service projects, and raise Kincaid's awareness of needs and issues in the community. As a community, we have been very busy since school began!



- The first Community Outreach event joined over 100 Kincaid volunteers and IBM, one of our Partners in Education, in our annual Hands on Atlanta school beautification project.
- October brought a Halloween Costume Drive in which we donated 29 costumes to the Cobb Center for Family Resources.
- In honor of Veterans' Day, our students and families hand-made over 160 cards that were donated to the VA Hospital. In addition, we presented our own veteran, Mr. Henry Landers, with 115 cards as special Veterans' Day thank-you.
- During Healthy Choices Week, the Kincaid students were part of the annual Thanks for Giving Food Drive for the Cobb Center for Family Resources. We collected 8 boxes (359 items) of donated food and this year's food drive helped over 1500 families enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.
- The Giving Tree program is up and running! We have already placed 62 ornaments on the tree with wish lists for children. Thank you in advance for making this program a success again this year.

Coming in January... *Mittens for Movies!* Community Outreach will be sponsoring a New Mitten and New Hat Drive with the winning upper and lower grade classes receiving a movie party! The drive will kick-off the New Year on January 10, 2011, so pick up those hats and mittens as you are finishing up your holiday shopping.

We are very excited with how much we have been able to accomplish in such a short period of time. We are looking forward to the balance of the school year and continuing to serve our Kincaid and Cobb communities. If you have questions or want to get involved, contact Curi Ahrens, Community Outreach Chairperson, at Outreach@KincaidPTA.org or 770-420-3002.

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From the PTA Co-Presidents

Dear Kincaid Students, Families, Teachers, Staff, and Community,

Do you realize how fortunate we all are to be part of the Kincaid Elementary Family? Our school is a national PTA School of Excellence for Parent Involvement. Our PTA has over 800 members – that's more than one adult membership for every one of our 692 students! Our PTA Business Members, the school's Partners in Education, and Community Sponsors all share a genuine interest in being involved at Kincaid – by attending & helping at events and donating goods & services, including staff and classroom rewards.

Last month's Family Fitness Night brought together Kincaid parents Brian Kennington and Priya Verma, who led us in a cooking demonstration and yoga, respectively, along with Marietta Martial Arts, a Partner in Education, and Safe Kids Cobb.

And Kincaid families donate time, talents, and funding to PTA, to the new Foundation, and to classrooms every day. Family members have logged more than 6,000 hours volunteering at school so far this year! The generosity of our Kincaid families enabled PTA to meet budget requirements through the support of the Boosterthon Fun Run & Roll – and raised \$1,200 in cash and 3,300 in points for our school, just by supporting no-cost programs including clipping Box Tops and Labels for Education! Families also help by attending Spirit Nights at local establishments and using supermarket loyalty cards, which result in money coming right back to our school.

We are truly blessed to be together at Kincaid, where great things continue to happen. Kincaid is successful because we are successful together.

On behalf of the PTA Executive Committee and Board of Directors, we wish all of you a joyous holiday season! Thank you for being a part of our Kincaid family and for helping our students shine – every day.

Susan & Kim

Susan McCullough & Kim McMasters
2010-2011 Co-Presidents, Kincaid PTA

President@KincaidPTA.org



Le gustaría leer este artículo en español. Por favor, contáctenos en President@KincaidPTA.org.

Three For Me – Congratulations to Kristine Hampson and Jill Maloy our November and December Three For Me drawing winners! Kristine won a \$15.00 gift card for Johnny's Pizza and Jill won a \$10.00 gift card for Target. Thank you to all the volunteers who provide their time and efforts to Kincaid Elementary. Our programs are a success because of your participation. As of this issue, our volunteers have logged in over 6,000 hours! Look for another drawing in the new year! If you have not filled out a Three For Me form, visit our webpage at www.KincaidPTA.org. Go to the Volunteer tab and click on Three For Me.



From the Desk of the Principal...Cheryl Mauldin

The results of September's testing are in! Kincaid students performed well above the nation and within Cobb County. Note that since the test is given to our students in September it reflects learning and achievement from their second and fourth grade years.

The ITBS is a norm-referenced test that ranks student performance according to percentiles.

For example: a student in the 75th percentile scored equal to or better than 75% of all students across the nation who participated in the ITBS at the same level. (Please read the % symbol as "percentile" for the rest of this article). Also reported are grade equivalents or GE scores. A GE score of 5.2 means the student's performance was similar to that expected of any fifth grader taking the same test during the second month of school.

Kincaid's third and fifth grade scores were very good! Both grades scored above grade level on all subsections of the test.

Remember, every group of students has its own strengths, and will score differently year to year. Also, a standardized test is not a sole standard of excellence. The ITBS is not a high priority test. The District concentrates most of its testing resources and attention on the high-stakes, statewide Criterion Reference-Competency Test (CRCT). Nevertheless, the ITBS provides valuable data about how Cobb students compare nationally and helps prepare for the CRCT in April. Cobb County test results by school will be available after the holiday.

Kincaid ITBS Fall 10-11	Reading Comprehension	Language	Math	Core-Total	Social Studies	Source of Information	Composite
3 rd Grade	78% 4.1 GE	85% 4.3 GE	82% 3.9 GE	80% 3.9 GE	74% 4.1 GE	81% 4.2 GE	83% 4.1 GE
5 th Grade	79% 6.7 GE	80% 7.4 GE	75% 6.3 GE	79% 6.7 GE	82% 7.3 GE	78% 7.0 GE	79% 7.0 GE

Community Outreach Continued from page 1...

In addition to Community Outreach, Kincaid also has a very strong Community Fundraising presence. Community Fundraising is another way to make a big impact on the Kincaid community with very little effort. Through simple acts of everyday shopping, you can raise money for our school without any added expense. Kincaid's largest efforts of Community Fundraising come from simply clipping and saving Box Tops and Labels for Education. This fall semester's drive brought our largest collection to date and Kincaid families raised over \$1,200 cash and 3,300 points to purchase products that go directly to our school. Over the past 2 ½ years, Kincaid families have raised nearly \$4,000 from Box Tops for Education and nearly 24,000 points from Labels for Education. Other silent fundraisers include using your Target RedCard when you shop at Target and using your Publix Partner Card when you shop at Publix. Purchases made using these two merchant loyalty cards has generated an additional \$1,500 in cash for Kincaid over the past year alone.

Congratulations to all Kincaid families for your dedication to everyday fundraising in our community - your school appreciates you! Start clipping and saving now for the February drive. It is a great way to get your children involved and they can be "super spies" for labels while shopping and at home! If you have questions or would like to get involved in Community Fundraising efforts, contact the Community Fundraising Chairperson at CF@KincaidPTA.org.

Kincaid Foundation



December is here. How quickly the time has passed. Just six months ago, a group of parents, school administrators and teachers got together to establish the Kincaid Elementary Foundation during a time when our school system was facing one of its most challenging financial years.

Reflecting on the events of the last six months, the Foundation has worked with the school administrators, teachers and PTA to identify short-term and long-term goals that would serve as the drivers for our fundraising efforts.

Through the generous support of our Kincaid families, corporate donations, and various other fundraising efforts, the Foundation has already accomplished two of its short-term goals by purchasing language arts supplements for each grade and providing each teacher with a \$75 gift card to The School Box.

In November, we kicked off the Family Investment Class Participation Contest to earn money to purchase 15 ELMOs (document cameras) and to build up reserves to support a writing lab and a science lab. As a result of the contest, the Family Investment participation rate increased from 23% to 39%. In addition, the Foundation is happy to announce that we have now raised enough money to purchase 10 ELMOs for the school. This is just 5 shy of our goal. With your help, I know we can fully achieve this goal. When making your year-end charitable contributions, please consider your child's education and make a 100% tax -deductible donation to the Foundation.

In closing, the Foundation has already been able to make an impact by providing much needed resources for our school in just six short months. Thank YOU for your generous support of the Foundation and our school. None of this would have been possible without you.

The Kincaid Foundation wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy the break.

To learn more about how you can support the Foundation, check out our Website at www.KincaidFoundation.org or email Alene Lee at President@KincaidFoundation.org.

Kincaid Announcements

Save the Date: February 12, 2011, 7:30 -11:30 AM

Foundation Pancake Breakfast, Vendor & Auction Fundraiser

The Foundation will be hosting a fundraiser that is open to the community on Saturday, February 12, 2011, from 7:30 – 11:30 AM. Come enjoy breakfast with the Kincaid community then peruse the vendor and auction area for a wonderful way to support the Foundation and our local small businesses. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help to fund writing and science instructional labs at Kincaid.

Are you a local business owner? Would you like to purchase a booth at this event? Please contact Michele Rhyne at MicheleRhyne@comcast.net for more information.



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Important School Information

PTA Supports Academic Goals at Kincaid: Focus on Writing

One of Kincaid's goals for academic improvement this year is Writing, and PTA has been working with school administrators and the School Council to determine how to best support this goal.

Beginning this month, all students will start working on writing for publication! Each classroom teacher will select a topic for the writing piece, and students will work through the process of drafting, revising, and submitting a final draft -- along with artwork! Each classroom will then publish a bound book of the finished work from every student in the class. Homeroom teachers will receive a complimentary copy of the book, and additional books will be available for purchase at cost; this is *not* a fundraiser. Katherine Hubbard, PTA Reading & Writing Committee Chair, is coordinating the process, working with the vendor, and managing the supplies need to produce quality publications for our students.

If you have questions or want to help, contact Katherine at Education@KincaidPTA.org. Look for a "Focus on Math" in the next issue of *Cat Tracks*.

Fall Book Fair... A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Fall Book Fair! Your volunteer efforts and patronage helped to make our "Reading Saves the Day" Book Fair a huge success. Our volunteers worked very hard and we would like to thank each and every person who stepped up to fill all the available slots. Thanks to our school community's generosity, we were able to add over \$600 worth of new books to Kincaid's media center, and each class has more books in their classroom libraries, too. Still crazy for books? Plan to stop by the Book Fair Carnival located in Kincaid's Media Center coming in March 2011! And who raised the most money for the One-for-Books contest? The HEROES of course!!

Keep Writing Over the Break... The 2010 Honoring Our Heroes Essay contest is underway! This is a great opportunity to have your student write about someone who has really made a difference in his/her life, or exemplifies what a true "Hero" is to your student. Remember that improving writing skills is one of our school's goals this year; one way you can help is to keep your student writing when school is out. The deadline for entries is January 12th. The class in each grade with the highest percentage of entries will earn an extra recess. If you have any questions or need an entry form, contact Catherine Batterton and Christine Farlow at Heroes@KincaidPTA.org.

Lost and Found - If your student has misplaced any jackets, sweaters, coats or any other items such as lunch boxes, hats, etc, then ask them to check out the Lost and Found. There is an unbelievable amount of very nice items that do not have names on them. Families, please make sure you label everything with your child's name to help return items to their owners! Everything in the Lost and Found will be donated to charity over the Winter break. Items will be picked up December 17th and will not be returned. If you have any questions, please contact Curi Ahrens, Community Outreach Chairperson, at Outreach@KincaidPTA.org.

Hello, 你好, Hola, Hallo, 안녕, Olá, Ciao, Bonjour, こんにちは, Здравствуйте!

The World Explorers Club... This favorite PTA event is returning to Kincaid! The World Explorer's club offers students the opportunity to discover the world through the World Explorers' Club. This is a volunteer run after-school program designed to teach students about other countries through culture, language and food. The club will be held immediately after school on *Jan. 24, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7*. Each week the students will explore a new country! Look for more information to come home soon. Interested in volunteering or want more information? Contact Alene Lee at LyonLee@Comcast.net.

What's Happening at Kincaid

2010-11 Kincaid SPoTYs: Carol Bass & Lynda Gordon

Ms. Bass and Ms. Gordon are both so integral to the success of Kincaid that they tied for this year's Support Personnel of the Year! It's no surprise that these ladies have both spent their entire paraprofessional careers at Kincaid; Ms. Gordon has been a Special Education/ Orthopedically Impaired Paraprofessional for almost 10 years, and Ms. Bass is in her 25th year as a Paraprofessional supporting the Physical Education program. They agree that the best part of working at Kincaid is getting to know all of the students and watching them grow. They say that the children really haven't changed over the years, although some of the circumstances are different; the need for a stable, safe environment remains the same.



The number one lesson these SPoTYs have learned on the job is to be flexible! Their most important role is to support the students with any need that arises, allowing the teachers to continue with the class without disruption. In her role, Ms. Gordon is embedded with a classroom where she works with the entire class, but is dedicated to a few OI students; she has training and certification in some medical procedures.

When not working, Ms. Gordon enjoys hiking, shopping, and going to movies with her daughters, who are in high school and college. Ms. Bass plays tennis, enjoys watching the Falcons play, and loves being with her grandchildren, ages 3 years and 8 months; both of her daughters work in public education.

We are fortunate to have both of these women here at Kincaid Elementary. Through their dedication to the students and love of education, it's no wonder they both are Kincaid's SPoTY's!

Kincaid PTA extends a heartfelt
THANK YOU to all of our
wonderful volunteers

Important! – The Holiday Store has been cancelled this year. Even though it is on the school calendar, there will be no Holiday Store on December 4th.

Yearbook – It's not too late to order your 2010-2011 Kincaid Elementary Yearbook! The sale price is \$25.00 until January 26, 2011. Orders cannot be accepted after this date. Not sure if you already placed your order? Contact Tammy McAnich at Yearbook@KincaidPTA.org.



Kindergarten Orientation – Orientation for parents of new kindergartners for the 2011-2012 school year will be January 19, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Please pass this information on to your neighbors who have a student coming to Kincaid next year.

DECEMBER 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Hanukkah begins	3 Relay for Life Biscuit Sales	4
5	6	7 Student Banking Kincaid Night @Chick-fil-A	8	9	10 4th & 5th grade Spelling Bee	11
12	13 Character Ed Lunch	14 Student Banking Kincaid Night@Stevi B's	15	16 Class Holiday Parties 1-2pm	17 End 2nd Grading Period Kincaid Foun. Biscuit Sales Holiday Sing-a-Long 12:45 pm 3rd grade Multiplication Challenge 0-10 Cougar Pride Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
Winter Holidays– No School (return Jan. 4th)						
26	27	28 Kincaid Night @Domino's	29	30	31	
Winter Holidays– No School (return Jan. 4th)						
Don't Forget: Return to School January 4						

PTA Business Sponsors

If you own a business and are interested in becoming a Kincaid Elementary PTA Business Sponsor, please contact Amie Fann for further information at Membership@KincaidPTA.com.




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Character Ed Winners – Citizenship

Isabella M., Jack F., Louie C., Mia H., Edward A., Tyler C., Ashley H., Connor McA., Will P., Benjamin M., Ethan S., Justin S., Flynn D., Kaiya C., Abigail W., Jacob L., Madison R., KC H., Hannah W., Leah A., Maggie D., Sam C., Ben S., Calvin R., Amy C., Ava N., Justin Y., Timothy S., Nati W., William K., Bayley C., Erik S., Kara H., Elizabeth S., Thorne A.

