

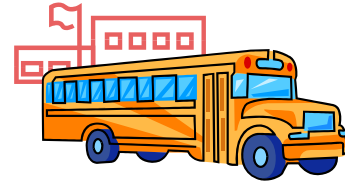


Kincaid Cat Tracks

Kincaid Elementary PTA
www.KincaidPTA.org

Volume 16 Issue 1, August, 2010

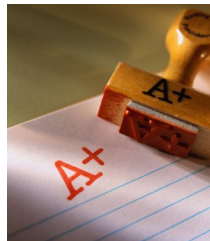
WELCOME BACK!



Kincaid PTA is excited about YOU - Parents and Teachers Helping Our Students Shine! We are striving to reach our goal of 100 % membership by the end of September. There will be a classroom contest again this year! The classroom with the highest percentage of PTA memberships will win a super surprise. Thank you to everybody who has already joined. Your support helps our school by showing others that family involvement is important at Kincaid. Membership is \$5 per person and we encourage each parent to join. Membership forms are available online at www.kincaidpta.org. Simply print the form, fill it out, and return it to your child's teacher with a check made payable to Kincaid PTA. If you have any questions, please contact Amie Fann at Membership@KincaidPTA.org. We are looking forward to another successful year "**Helping Our Students Shine!**"

Your new PTA officers have been working hard preparing for the 2010-2011 school year! One of our first priorities is to have all committee chairs filled. Now is your chance to sign up and "Help Our Students Shine!" The following committees are still available:

- Celebrate the Arts Day
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Hospitality
- Spring Carnival
- Health
- Family Fun Nights



Helping Our Students Shine!
KINCAID PTA

If you are interested or have questions about any of these committees, please feel free to contact Susan McCullough and Kim McMasters at President@KincaidPTA.org.

Mark your calendars for the Boosterthon Fun Run & Roll on **October 1st!** Families are invited to come and cheer for their favorite students. Please read page 6 for more information.

Kincaid
PTA

everychild.one voice.

Kincaid Elementary School
1410 Kincaid Road
Marietta, GA 30066
770-578-7238

Cheryl Mauldin, Principal
Felicia Angelle, Assistant Principal
www.cobbk12.org/kincaid
School hours: 7:55 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

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From the PTA Co-Presidents

Dear Kincaid Families,

Welcome to the 2010-11 school year! The Kincaid PTA is looking forward to another year full of fun, togetherness, and productivity.

Our theme this year is "Kincaid PTA: Parents and Teachers...Helping Our Students Shine." As parents, families, guardians, teachers, and staff members, we all want our children to reach for the stars. Even the smallest star can shine brightly if we work together. Let's help our students realize there is no limit to learning and they can achieve all of their goals.

"Work hard. Do the right thing. Learn something every day." The Kincaid school pledge, recited at the start of every school day, reminds our students of their educational goals. Kincaid PTA also focuses on a few core goals, which remind us of our responsibility to our students, families, and staff members:

1. We want you to join PTA! We need your help to bring meaningful and fun programs and services to our students. Yes, this takes money, but we also need *you*.
2. We want you to be involved. By contributing your time and ideas, you are showing your child that s/he is important to you, to our school, and to the world.
3. We want to recognize diversity & abilities, *including* everyone without *excluding* anyone.
4. We want to work together with families and the great Kincaid staff to provide quality programs to help our children succeed on all levels.

By achieving our goals, we will boost our children's education and instill a love of learning. That is what PTA is all about: working hard to do the right thing for all children every day.

How can we do this? Together! Parent participation is what makes PTA work; we need your help! Research shows that student achievement is directly linked to family involvement. We are asking you to use your talents and resources to make a difference. There are opportunities for everyone no matter your interests, time constraints, or background.

Ready to get involved? You can find volunteer forms on our website at www.KincaidPTA.org. Or, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at VC@KincaidPTA.org. With your help, we can all achieve our goals.

Finally, we want to thank our wonderful and dedicated PTA officers, who spent the summer planning fun and educational activities for our students this year: Lori Bartik, Jesse Brooks, Valerie Harris, Kelley Mellen, John Vogt and Heather Voeltner.

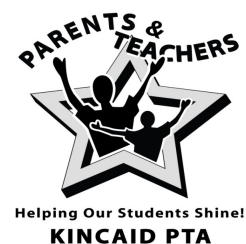
Please read the article on page 4 about the new Kincaid Foundation. PTA looks forward to working with the Foundation this year and to the possibilities the Foundation brings to our school. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.KincaidFoundation.org.

Thank you for all you do for Kincaid and for our students. We look forward to working with you and "*Helping Our Students Shine*" together!

Sincerely,

Susan & Kim

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



From the Desk of the Principal...Cheryl Mauldin

I hope everyone had a wonderful, relaxing summer. I am very excited to begin the new school year and I'm also excited about some of the new things that will be taking place at Kincaid. The PTA has been busy this summer planning many wonderful events for our students. Kincaid now will also have a Foundation to help with many needs both short term and long term we have because of the projected budget deficit. Both the PTA and Foundation will need volunteers throughout the year. I urge you to look over the many needs they will have and volunteer some of your time to help make a difference for your children.

Welcome New Staff

Kincaid welcomes the following new staff members for the 2010-2011 school year:

Regina Taylor – Guidance Counselor with Lori Kotarba

Kerri Gatlin – Supply Teacher for Kristin Poole

Betsy McAlpine - Fifth Grade Teacher

Marc Tartaro – Fifth Grade Teacher

Ellen Campbell – P.E. Teacher with Scott Furr

Candy Barry—Special Ed Parapro

Cathy Pennell—Special Ed Parapro

Susan Sexton – Special Ed Parapro

Jane Griffeth – O.I. Teacher

Stephanie Solomon – Social Worker

Martha Castillo – Custodian

B.B. Hilliard – ASP Director

Welcome Student Teachers

Adia Fields – counseling from Mercer University

Yoonjin Kim – second grade from Kennesaw State University

And a Big Thank You...

Piedmont Church partnered with us this summer to spruce up the grounds. On Saturday, July 24th they spread mulch, cleaned flower beds, vegetable gardens, and pulled weeds. We love having such a wonderful community partner.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Mauldin

Principal, Kincaid Elementary

Find out more about what's going on at Kincaid, in Post 5,
and with Cobb County Schools!

Sign up for Kincaid PTA E-Messages by visiting www.KincaidPTA.org or emailing President@KincaidPTA.org. Send an email to David Banks, our Post 5 Board of Education Member, to sign up for his e-messages at DBanks.BoardMember@CobbK12.org. Visit www.CobbK12.org to sign up for e-mail updates from the school district.

Kincaid Elementary School Vision Statement:
Growing in character takes us to the top,
hard work keeps us there.

Kincaid Foundation

Have you heard about the new Kincaid Elementary Foundation?

The Kincaid Elementary Foundation was established in June 2010 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization for the purpose of raising funds to support programs and initiatives at Kincaid that goes above and beyond what is offered by the state, county and PTA.



Working closely with teachers and school administration, the Foundation has identified three goals that will be the main purpose of our fundraising efforts this year.

- Curriculum – Provide language arts resources for teachers and students to supplement the county language arts program.
- Technology – Provide document cameras (ELMOS) for classrooms.
- Teacher Supply Fund – Because the state and county have cut supply funds for classrooms, teachers have to pay for their own classroom manipulatives and supplies. The Foundation will raise funds to help provide teacher supply money.

For the long-term, it is the goal of the Foundation to support instructional labs such as a writing and science labs.

You can help the Foundation achieve these goals by making a 100% tax-deductible contribution to the Family Investment campaign. *Invest in your child's future by investing in the Foundation.*

Check out our Website at www.KincaidFoundation.org to learn more about how you can support the Foundation. We appreciate your support and look forward to an exciting school year.

Kincaid Announcements

Volunteer Opportunities



Kincaid Wants You

Thinking of Volunteering? Don't forget to fill out your **Three for Me!** Pledge Card and drop it in the box near check-in to enter our drawing! For more information on volunteer opportunities, or Three for Me! contact your child's teacher, room parent, or the PTA Volunteer Coordinator VC@KincaidPTA.org

Ambassador Program

If you didn't have a chance to join our program at Meet & Greet, there's still time! Print the form on the Kincaid PTA website at www.kincaidpta.org/ambassador, put it in an envelope for Lori Bartik—Ambassador Program and send it in with your student. Kindergarten families have two experienced families assigned per class that will welcome and contact you about information throughout the year. Families with students in other grades will be paired up with experienced Kincaid families. The best part is that you don't have to do anything unless you have a question. Then you have a contact that can help you answer your questions/concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Bartik at Ambassadors@KincaidPTA.org.

Tips to help all families get the most out of school:

Whether you work full time or stay home, you're a single parent or have a partner, if you never completed school or have a Ph.D., or if you know English well or not:

Praise effort. The effort children put into their studies is more important than the grades they get, and a better indicator of how much they are learning. Encourage your children to do their schoolwork diligently and praise them for doing it. High grades are something to be proud of, but as long as your children are completing their work, don't show them your disappointment if they don't get top marks. This could make them feel bad about themselves, which could lead to poorer academic performance.

Make a space for studying. Set aside a workspace for your children that's theirs alone, even if it's just a corner of a table.

Establish a routine. Make sure your children go to bed at night and rise in the morning at regular hours. Set aside a regular period of time each day for your children to study and to do their homework, whether or not you can be at home at that time. Make sure the T.V. is off, and that the children are not distracted. Make sure whoever is taking care of them—even if it's not in your home—enforces the study time. Or, you can phone them to make sure they're studying. (Remember to praise them for doing their work.)

Ask about school. As often as you can, ask your kids about what they did at school that day. Don't take "nothing" for an answer. Tip: the more specific your questions, the better chance you have of getting an answer. For example, instead of asking "How did it go today?" ask: "Who did you talk to today?", "What was the nicest thing that happened?", "What was the least nice thing?"

Ask for your children's opinions. More and more, schools are emphasizing thinking skills. Asking your children their opinions about issues of the day, or asking for their suggestions about household decision, helps them develop these skills.

Ask your children to teach you. Sometimes the best way to learn something is to try to explain it to someone else. If you want to help your kids with their homework, but don't understand it, say so. Ask them to explain it to you.

Talk to teachers. If you don't have time to visit school, email your students' teachers or check their blog. They can be found at [www.kincaidcougars.typepad.com/teachers name](http://www.kincaidcougars.typepad.com/teachers_name). Save it in your favorites to access it easily. Ask what your children are doing right, so you can praise them, and ask for suggestions about helping your child do better.

When you can, read aloud to your kids. Experts agree that this builds love of learning no matter what language you read.

We know that children do a better job in school when parents are interested and supportive. Studies have shown that student achievement is linked to parental involvement. This means getting involved in many of your children's activities and taking the time to let your child know you care about their growth and development.

Positive attitudes toward learning begin at home. When you encourage those attitudes, your child will get the most out of school.

Kincaid's Special Services Committee continues to look for resources that families and students can use to remain successful as they learn and grow at Kincaid. Through this commitment to support all of our families, the committee would like to share a new website: www.p2pga.org. Parent to Parent of Georgia connects families with others who understand the challenges that come with having a child living with a special health care need.

This organization makes it their mission to support Georgia families and individuals from birth to 26 affected by disabilities or special health care needs. Some of the services offered include: One on One Telephone Assistance, Parent-Led Navigator Teams, Free Training Courses, Special Needs Database, Supporting Parents and Services in Spanish. All Parent to Parent of Georgia services are provided free of charge. To get started or learn more please check out the website or call 1-800-229-2038.

Boosterthon

Back by popular demand...the Boosterthon Fun Run & Roll is returning to Kincaid!! The Boosterthon is PTA's main FUNdraiser for the year and believe me it is a lot of FUN!! The great thing about Boosterthon is that ALL students get to run or roll and ALL students get a Boosterthon T-shirt regardless of the number of pledges. The kick-off pep rally is set for September 27th with the Fun Run & Roll on Friday, October 1st! Look for more information to come home soon. Once again, all pledges will be entered online this year so no sending the folders back and forth. YEAH!! (If you don't have access to a computer, pledge folders will be available.) We had outstanding participation last year and the money raised was used to pay for many programs including but not limited to Family Fun Nights, Spring Fling, Celebration of the Arts, Heritage Night, World Explorers Club, Science Club and several school field trips. These programs help to make Kincaid the incredible school that it is. Look for more information coming home soon. If you have any questions or ideas or would like to volunteer for this event please contact Alison Plomaritis at 770-565-1494 or Boosterthon@KincaidPTA.org.



Cougar Pride

Welcome Back Kincaid Cougars!

This past summer was hot but Kincaid's spirit is even hotter! We are so excited to kick off the new 2010-2011 school year with some fabulous NEW additions to our spirit wear and Cougar Pride team! Your votes were greatly appreciated and we ended up with a TIE for the top two winning designs for the official new school T-shirt!

We also have a NEW Cougar Pride ball cap, water bottles, magnets, visors and returning by popular demand the ever-so-soft-and-cozy hoodie sweatshirt. Don't miss out on all of these HOT new items and be sure to stop by the Cougar Pride table at the Welcome Back Picnic on August 6th to preview and purchase all of your gear.

We are also excited to announce that Cougar Pride has a position for you! If you are an enthusiastic parent interested in sharing your school spirit and want to join the Cougar Pride team, all while supporting your PTA, contact Elise Carter at 404-202-3285 or 770-321-0077 or Pride@KincaidPTA.org. Get involved in designs, spirit day ideas, Cougar Pride functions, decorating or just "kicking-it-up-a-notch" Cougar Pride style. Be a part of uplifting children's lives while having fun! Be a part of COUGAR Pride!

Great thanks goes out to Joe Green at Jag Designs for all of his hard work with Kincaid's new creations and to Lori Bartik for being my new VP!!

Go KINCAID COUGARS!!!



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everychild. one voice.®



New Families Get-Together

New to Kincaid? Have questions about the After School Program or the Clinic? Then come to the New Families' Get -Together on Monday, August 9. This year, we will have two sessions; pick the one that's most convenient for you! Either 8:15-9:15am or 5-6pm. Questions? Email President@KincaidPTA.org or call Kim McMasters at 404/434-2720.

PTA MEETING

The first PTA General Membership Meeting of the 2010-11 school year will be held Thursday, August 12, at 6pm in the school gym. We will present the proposed budget for approval. Everyone can attend, but only PTA members can vote. Kincaid's Open House event will follow at 6:45. Questions? Email President@KincaidPTA.org or call Susan McCullough at 770/429-0797.



AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Welcome Back Picnic 6-8 pm	7
8	9 Kindergarten & New Families Get-Together 8:15-9:15am or 5-6pm	10 Kincaid Night @Stevi B's	11	12 General Membership Mtg. 6pm Kincaid Foundation Mtg. 6:30pm Open House 6:45-7:45pm	13	14
15	16 Room Parent Orientation (Kindergarten) 9:15-10:15am	17 Room Parent Orientation (1st-5th grades) 9:15-10:15am	18	19	20 Kincaid Foundation Biscuit Sales Cougar Pride Day	21
22	23	24 School Council 7:30 am Kincaid Night @Domino's	25 Early Release 12:20pm	26	27	28
29	30 Character Ed Lunch	31 1st Day of Student Banking Kincaid Night@Texas Roadhouse				

Coming Up Next Month: Sept. 2 School Store

Sept. 3 Relay for Life Biscuit Sales

Sept. 6 Labor Day

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.

PTA Officers

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770-429-0797

President@KincaidPTA.org

Kim McMasters

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Legislation & Advocacy: The Heart of PTA

At its core, PTA is an *advocacy* organization. That means that PTA encourages everyone to get involved with the policy making at all levels that impacts education to give a strong, united voice for all students.

Our legislators pass the budget that our school systems must abide by. The legislature decides the dollar amounts that come to the school systems. Legislators decide – and then the school systems have to figure out how to balance the budgeted funds that we will receive from the State. We have seen the impact of recent budget cuts right here in Cobb County, in East Cobb, and at Kincaid.

What Can You DO?

You can start right now, in this election year!

REGISTER to vote. To vote in the November 2nd general election, you must register by October 4. Students can register to vote if they are at least 17½ years old and will be 18 by October 4. Visit www.CobbElections.org for more information about elections.

VOTE! The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd.

How Do You CHOOSE?

You can find out how **your** Legislators have voted over the past two years on issues that affect our children. You can find out if your Legislators' children went through public school or are currently in public school. Check out the Capitol Watch section of the Georgia PTA website at www.GeorgiaPTA.org and read the reports, look at passed legislation, and research. To find out who your legislators are, go to **Capitol Watch** in the left column of the Georgia PTA website; click on Officials, then District Lookup Page. When you plug in your home address, it will tell you who your Legislators are. It is as easy as that!

Find out about the candidates who are running for Office. Ask questions, go to Forums, research, become an informed voter so you can make an educated decision regarding your best candidate to help our education system get the need funds it deserves so our children can receive the best public education possible.

You can make a difference – right here at Kincaid. If you would like more information about the Kincaid PTA Legislation & Advocacy Committee, please contact Carmen Roglan at Legislation@KincaidPTA.org.