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Our Mission:

Kingston Hill Academy is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity for an inclusive, individualized, and challenging curriculum that supports them to reach their full potential.

KHA Parents Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2007

We Need Your Help... In the Name of Science!!

Dear KHA Parents/Guardians:

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3 As you probably know, for the past couple years, KHA has been using science kits provided by the East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC) in Warren as the primary source of our science curriculum. These kits provide students with 2-3 month long units of study that are hands-on, exploratory, and integrated with other content areas, particularly reading and writing. They are endorsed for use in the elementary and middle grades by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). EBEC has also created a scope and sequence of kits for each grade level that is carefully aligned with the state standards (known as the Grade Span Expectations or GSE's) for science education. Many of the districts in the state are using these kits, and the staff at KHA is very confident that the kits provide for quality content for your children.

However, this is the first year that KHA has formally committed to EBEC to be a "science kit school". This formal commitment entails that we follow a prescribed program, where all students are taught from three kits each school year. The

commitment also provides for formal training for all teachers to successfully implement the kits. This commitment costs a substantial amount of money. This amount is approximately \$9400— which is more than has been budgeted. This expense covers the purchase of the kits, the annual refurbishment and storage, and teacher training.

The PTO has generously donated \$1700 to defray this expense. However, we still have a budget shortfall of approximately \$5000 toward the kits. Therefore, we will be seeking to fundraise, starting with the **Something Sweet Gourmet Pies— a holiday pie fundraiser in which every penny earned will go toward the science kits**. I respectfully request that you and your child work to make this fundraiser a success— so we may continue with the quality hands-on science offerings we offer our students.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Cordially,

Joseph P. Maruszczak
Principal

Interested in Volunteering at KHA??

Kingston Hill Academy's **CARES** program is looking for people who may be interested in becoming a Classroom Volunteer and or a Student Mentor in our school.

South Kingstown CARES (Connecting All Resources Support) is a non-profit organization that started in 1995. A District PTO survey on volunteer usage in schools showed that the use of volunteers in the schools was dependent on the efforts of an individual teacher or community member. It concluded that a coordinated district-wide program would benefit both our students and our community. That conclusion was reinforced by the School Committee's primary strategic goal of community involvement and by Rhode Island's Goal 2000, which specified parental and community involvement as one of the key components of school improvement.

CARES classroom volunteers are prepared for the classroom at a one hour orientation and are invited to attend the CARES, "How to Help Students with Reading and Math", workshops. CARES volunteers are also invited to attend the SK District Development Day workshops for teachers.

KHA CARES also has a Mentoring Program. Mentoring Programs match adult volunteers with students to provide positive role models and one-on-one attention and support. Mentors and mentees meet once a week on school grounds to simply, "be friends". They play games, shoot hoops, hangout and share their lives. Throughout the year South Kingstown CARES sponsors group parties and other outings off campus to encourage the growing relationships. Helping the students with academics is encouraged over time but not required. CARES also occasionally brings



in speakers to the meetings to help the mentors with their students.

The goals of mentoring programs are:

- To keep students in school*
- Increase self-esteem*
- Improve attitude toward school*
- Improve attendance*
- Improve academic performance*

Hopefully, in the future, KHA CARES would like to start a Homework Club as well. Other schools in the area that have SK CARES Homework Clubs, meet twice a week for one hour after school and are staffed entirely by university and high school volunteers.

All information and application forms are easily accessible on the CARES website: www.skcares.org.

As soon as your application is reviewed, CARES will contact you to schedule an orientation. All CARES volunteers must complete a police background check and offer personal references.

If anyone has any questions or comments, feel free to contact **KHA's CARES Co-coordinator; Donna Coulter at or 789-0146.**

Picture Make-Up & Retake Day is Monday,
November 26th at 9:30 am!!

Kingston Hill Academy

Sponsors

Educational workshops

Presented by

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

Understanding ADHD

The purpose of this workshop is to help parents and teachers better understand ADHD. In this interactive workshop, questions and answers will be provided to the frequently asked questions: What is ADHD? How is the diagnosis made? What can parents and teachers do to help the child?

November 13, 2007 6:30-8:30 pm

In the Multi-Purpose Room

Please Register by 11/13, 2:00 pm

No Child Left Behind Made Simple

What is *No Child Left Behind* and how does it affect families? Under this law, families have rights and responsibilities that protect your involvement in your student's education. Spend two hours getting to know how to be involved, what difference you can make, how to make policy in your school, and other exciting opportunities for families in education.

December 3, 2007 6:30-8:30 pm

In the Multi-Purpose Room

Please Register by 11/26, 2:00 pm

To Register- Please contact Donna DeMarco at (401) 783-8282 or via e-mail at ddemarco@kingstonhill.org





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**KINGSTON HILL
ACADEMY**

Part of the Groden Network

[www.
kingstonhill.org](http://www.kingstonhill.org)

Great Job, KHA Community!!

From your generous contributions from the Annual KHA Harvest Festival on 10/26, we were able to contribute \$400.00 to the *Welcome House Shelter* of South County in Peacedale.



A special thanks to Coach Eric Meystre for all of his hard work in organizing the event. Thank you also to all of the staff and parents who donated their time and resources to make this event a success!

Key Dates- November 2007

11/12- No School: Veterans' Day
11/13- Understanding ADHD
Parent Workshop, 6:30 pm
11/15- KHA Thanksgiving Feast, 11:30 am-
1:00 pm
11/19- School Play: 6:00 pm
PTO Meeting, 7:00 pm
11/22, 23- No School: Thanksgiving Recess
11/26- Picture Retakes and Make-Ups,
9:30 am
11/30- Pequot Museum Field Trip,
Mashantucket, CT (Ms. St. Clair,
Miss Facer, Mr. Mark, Mrs. Santerre,

and Miss Geaber's homerooms)

12/1- PTO Craft Fair

12/5- School Improvement Team Meeting,
7:00 pm

12/7- PTO Holiday sale

To All Parents!!

Are you interested in receiving updates, notices, etc. about KHA via e-mail?? Join the KHA listserv!!

Please e-mail your name with the words "KHA Listserv" in the subject line to:

jmaruszczyk@kingstonhill.org