



KHA Parents Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Message	1
School Photos	1
PBIS 101	2-3
Parent Reminders	3
Nurse Judy's Update	3
SIT Meetings Begin	4
Key Dates- October	4

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.

October Means NECAP Testing...

Dear KHA Parents/Guardians:

It's hard to believe that this coming week will be the fifth full week of school! How time flies!

The month of October brings the annual state assessments in reading, writing and mathematics. All public school students in the state, in grades 3-8 and 11, will be tested during a three week span. The tests are known as the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). Here at KHA, the schedule will be the following:

Reading: October 9, 10, & 11

Mathematics: October 15 & 16

Writing: October 18 & 19 (Grade 5 only)

As each testing session takes approximately two hours to complete, we will be administering the test during the morning hours.

While state testing is a disruption to our normal school operation, I cannot overstate its importance. The specter of *No Child Left Behind* and high-stakes testing as the major indicator for school accountability has been with us for several years. KHA's

most recent school accountability ranking from the Rhode Island Department of Education is "high performing." Quite frankly, we wish to maintain that label, as it is a public snapshot of the outstanding teaching and learning that occurs each day in our school.

Thus, I respectfully request that you help us in communicating the importance of these tests to your child. In an upbeat fashion, tell them to **try their absolute best**, as their results reflect not only their progress, but the progress of the entire school. Also, as I am sure happens most school days, ensure that your child gets a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast during the testing period. These little things go a long way in having all students ready to learn.

Thanks in advance for your help. Have a great month!

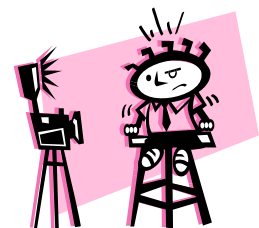
Cordially,

Joseph P. Maruszczak

Director

Picture Day at KHA is October 15

KHA has contracted with a new school photographer, Mare Studios of East Providence, to provide student portraits. As we have done in the past, we will be doing outdoor portraits, capturing the beautiful foliage and outdoor settings that we enjoy. Photos will be taken on Monday, October 15th starting at 9:30 am. If the weather is inclement, the date will be rescheduled to October 17th. Pricing and package information will be sent home next week!



What is PBIS? And How Does It Work at KHA?

For the last two school years, you have probably noticed that your child brings home bright, shiny tokens that are used when he/she is “caught being good”. These tokens are part of a larger program known as the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) Program.

A national and research-based program which was conceived in 1999 at the University of Oregon, PBIS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. It is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom behavior support systems. The process focuses on improving a school’s ability to teach and support **positive behavior** for all students. Rather than a prescribed program, PBIS provides systems for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide, classroom, non-classroom, and student specific plans. PBIS includes school-wide procedures and processes intended for all students and all staff in all settings.

As the process requires, we have adopted a unified set of school-wide and classroom rules. These rules define our expectations for behavior in our school. They are simple and common sense. They are:

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Kind**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Responsible**

You will see these rules posted throughout the school and your child is exposed to them on a daily basis. It is the responsibility of all staff members to consistently define what each means (i.e., being safe, kind, respectful,

and responsible) and to teach and model that good behavior accordingly. These school-wide expectations are stated clearly and specific positive behaviors are detailed in a school-wide rubric that is posted in all classes. Additionally, to reiterate the rules in a positive manner, we do the following when teaching academics and behavior: constantly teach and refer to our school-wide expectations; provide students with more praise than correction; talk to stu-



dents with respect using positive voice tone; actively engage everyone in the class during instruction; use pre-correcting, prompting, and redirecting as we teach; and, look for the positive first and provide positive, immediate, frequent, and explicit feedback.

PBIS is still relatively new to KHA, however we are working to ensure greater consistency and follow through in implementing the program this year. We invite you to ask your child about how they are “caught being good” during a typical school day, and how KHA staff responded with school-wide and classroom rewards for positive behaviors. If you have questions about Positive Behavior Support, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher.

KHA News & Reminders

- **Parent Teacher Conferences** will be held during the week of October 1-5. At this meeting, your child's learning goals in their ILP will be reviewed, They are by appointment only. If you need an appointment, please call the school.
- The **PTO Pasta Supper** is Sunday, September 30 from 5 to 7 pm at South Kingstown HS. Tickets are available at the door for \$6 for adults, \$4 for children, and free for kids under 4. Come support the school during this fun (and tasty) fundraiser!
- Due to Parent-Teacher conferences, the **Groden Arts & Leisure Program** (after school) will start the week of October 8th, not October 1st as originally advertised. Please also note the attached flier adding another program, the "Art & Soul" Mosaic Mirror session. The program cost is \$35.
- Are you interested in doing any **after school tutoring** (particularly in the area of mathematics)? If so, please contact KHA Director Joe Maruszczak at 783-8282 or via e-mail jmaruszczak@kingstonhill.org
- If you have not completed **free/reduced lunch** forms and you qualify, please complete the forms and return to the KHA office as soon as possible. Additional forms are available in the office.
- The busing situation with SK has improved, and school has been starting on time this year. If your child is late (after 8:50 am), they should report to the office so they may receive a tardy slip.

News & Notes from Nurse Judy...

We have gotten off to a great start this year at KHA. Thanks to everyone for keeping me updated with their child's health concerns.

Please remember to call the school when your child is absent. You can leave a short detailed message on the health office voice mailbox or call directly into the front office. This helps KHA track any illness that occurs in our school and helps keep all of our students healthy...

Lost and Found is beginning to pile up. Please remind your child to look on the rack for any items they may have misplaced. Remember to label all your child's belongings to assist in a speedy return from the school's Lost and Found...

Hearing screenings have been completed on students in grades K-3. vision screenings for grades 1-3 are scheduled for October 25th and the school dentist will be coming soon. Those students without

documentation of a visit to the dentist will be receiving a note from me. Please return the bottom section of the note to me if you do not want your child to be seen by the dentist...

Please remember that all children should have a change of clothes in their locker. Accidents do happen!!

As always, please give me a call with any concerns.



Kingston Hill Academy
850 Stony Fort Road
Saunderstown, RI 02874

Phone: (401) 783-8282
Fax: (401) 783-5656
Email: jmaruszczak@kingstonhill.org

**KINGSTON HILL
ACADEMY**

Part of the Groden Network

www.kingstonhill.org

The KHA School Improvement Team Wants You!!



The first meeting of the KHA School Improvement Team (SIT) will be Monday, October 1 at 7:00 pm in the multipurpose. The SIT is open to all parents and staff members, and the intent of the team is to study substantive issues that shape teaching and learning at KHA. Among the topics that we will be exploring on 10/1:

- New School-wide Spelling Program
- Mathematics Achievement at KHA: What does the data tell us?

Please come and join us on the 1st!!

Key Dates- October 2007

9/30- PTO Pasta Supper, 5:00-7:00 pm,
South Kingstown High School
cafeteria

10-1- Parent-Teacher Conferences (by
appointment only)

10/1- School Improvement Team Meeting,
7:00 pm, multi-purpose room

10/3- KHA Advisory Board Meeting,
6:30 pm

10/8- No School- Columbus Day

10/9-11- NECAP Reading Testing

10/15-16- NECAP Mathematics Testing

10/15- Picture Day (rain date 10/17)

10/18-19- NECAP Writing Testing

10/22- PTO Meeting, 7:00 pm, multi-
purpose room

10/25- Vision Screening for Grades 1-3
students, 1:00 pm

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:

jmaruszczak@kingstonhill.org