

Kennedy Matters

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John F. Kennedy High School

1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902

(301) 929-2100

fax (301) 929-2240

From the Principal

Dear John F. Kennedy High School Parents and Guardians,

The second semester and third marking period began on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. This is an exciting time of year at Kennedy HS. Academically we have seen our ineligibility rates (students with less than a 2.0 grade point average and/or students with more than one E) drop in every category. That means more of our students are obtaining higher levels of success in all of their classes.

As we begin the new semester, our school is continuing our work toward our school improvement goals. At home, please encourage your child to set self-monitoring goals. This is an excellent way of

helping students take ownership of their academic performance. To assist you in working with your child on goal setting, I am providing information below on setting SMART goals:

S= **SPECIFIC** goals -You want to make sure that your goal is clear and that you know what it is you are trying to accomplish.

M= **MEASURABLE** goals-How will you know when you reach your goal? Remember, what gets measured, gets done!

A= **ACHIEVABLE** oriented goals- You want to set goals that you can obtain through your work and actions.

R= **RESULTS** oriented goals-Your goals should clearly outline what you want to accomplish.

T= **TIME FRAME** for your goals- You want to set a timeframe for accomplishing your goal so you can evaluate your progress towards meeting your goal, and revise or replace your goal.

I believe that together we will continue to have fruitful and enjoyable winter months. With your parental support, the effort of our students and staff, and school leadership that is caring and visionary, we will continue to build a school community that values high levels of citizenship and student achievement.

Regards,
Joe L. Rubens, Principal

School Counseling News

In the Counseling Office this month: January and February are two of the busiest months in the counseling office. We have two very important activities occurring around the same time:

First, the second semester begins on January 22, 2014. Students flood our offices with requests for scheduling changes, although counselors encourage minimal changes with only movement of classes that are absolutely necessary.

Second, counselors are visiting the Social Studies classes of our current students and middle schools for our incoming 9th grade students.

Parents and staff should be aware that from January 22, 2014, through February 21, 2014, you may not find counselors in their offices for much of the school day during those weeks. Instead, we are in classrooms or at middle school visits. Although the dates vary, this practice is consistent for high school counselors across the County as we prepare for scheduling students for the 2014-15

school year. For middle school visits, counselors will rotate their visits so that not every counselor is out of the building at the same time. You should know that the counseling office remains open for business during this time and counselors will continue to respond to your email and telephone calls.

We are excited to announce that Kennedy is one of a handful of schools selected to pilot a new registration process. This year, parents will have the opportunity to access the scheduling "card" online to register students for next year's classes. Since this is a pilot, expect some minor delays in the process as we work through this process for the first time. The benefit to this new process is that parents will not have to depend on students to bring home scheduling cards and return them to school without losing them. Now, you will be able to access your student's registration information online during the registration window.

In other counseling news, the following events are coming up in February:

February 11: ASVAB Interpretation of scores at noon for students who took the ASVAB exam in the Career Center.

February 19: The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Fair will be held at Richard Montgomery High School. This is a big event with dozens of colleges and institutions of higher learning coming out to recruit MCPS students at no cost to the student. You do not have to be a student of color to register; please encourage your student to register. See Ms. Carroll for more information.

Students and parents in need of assistance completing the FAFSA can schedule an appointment with Ms. Carroll before March 1, 2014.

Tia Scott, Resource Counselor

Student Government News (SGA)



The SGA is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Flower Event. Flowers can be purchased in the cafeteria during lunch starting Monday, February 3. Flowers will be \$2 each. They will be distributed on Valentine's Day during lunch in Room 220.

Larisa Kofman, SGA Sponsor

"I can accept failure,
everyone fails at something.
But I can't accept not trying."

Michael Jordan



Leadership Training Institute News (LTI)

Second semester is fully underway after a slow start due to weather cancellations and delays. Our students are hard at work. Students have received letters of commendation as well as letters of probation. Our goal is to have everyone in the program performing at the LTI required GPA of 3.0.

Kudos to our student Sophia Barbieri, who testified before the board regarding funding for extracurricular activity sponsors at its annual operating budget hearing. Congratulations go to our students Marilyn Flores, Kalene Gentles, and Kevin Rop for making it to the county track championship meet. Here is a listing of our students of the month for the first semester. They were voted worthy

by their peers, who think very highly of them.

9th grade: Nelson Chiaravallotti, Deja Brooks, Jael Medina, Evan Menendez

10th grade: Steven Aguirre, Kholene Couana, Marilyn Flores, Evelyn Mena

11th grade: Kiana Jackson, Michelle Chin-Lee, Astrid Garcia, Mia Manning

12th grade: Wendy Reyes, Emma Bearman, Daina Eiser, Nathan Chiaravallotti

We have some exciting things going on in LTI in the spring semester. In March, we will have our leadership

conference at the University of Maryland. A few student representatives are busy planning that with students at College Park. It is sure to be an exciting day! In April, we will travel to Camp Letts for our annual LTI retreat. The cost of that trip will be \$125, which includes transportation, food, lodging, and all activities. Payments can be made online. Permission slips will be sent home and are available at the Parent Night. In May, we have our LTI banquet and we say goodbye to the seniors. Before you blink, it will be June. (That's right, think warm thoughts in the face of all this cold!)

Julie Desai, LTI Director

ESOL News

We hope your child has started off second semester with enthusiasm and pride in their first semester grades. For the new semester, please make sure your child has pencils, pens, and a binder to keep their important papers. If possible, check to see if they need help organizing their materials and papers. Also encourage your child to write important dates in a calendar; because taking responsibility for studying is something we want to teach all our students. If you need help accessing or checking Edline, online grades and assignments of your child, please contact Ms. Fuhrman at (301) 962-5946 or Ms. Haza the Parent

Community Coordinator at (301) 230-0670. You can make an appointment and we will help you learn how to use Edline.net. (We speak Spanish.) These are ways you can help your child be successful in high school.

In February many ESOL students will be taking the ACCESS/WIDA tests. It is mandated by the State of Maryland. Students, including students who signed a refusal of ESOL services, will take reading, listening and writing tests between January 27, 29, 30 and February 5-6. Also, a teacher will test them in speaking one-on-one. These tests determine your child's English

placement for next year.

By the way, Melkam Gena! መልካም ገና! Happy Ethiopian Christmas to our Ethiopian students who celebrated this January 7th! Also, Happy New Year to our Asian students who celebrated this January 31st! (Did you know if your child is absent due to a religious or cultural holiday, they will be excused if you send a note with the reason?)

Elizabeth Fuhrman,
Resource Teacher

Mathematics News

College Institute (CI) finished another successful semester with 2 classes taught at Kennedy: Medical Terminology I and Introduction to Speech. These two classes benefited from the expertise of our Montgomery College (MC) professors who taught small classes of 20 or fewer students. In addition, our CI students gained more practice and confidence in their ability to make the transition from high school to full time college or university next fall.

With regard to Medical Terminology I, it was the first time that this early college class was offered in any MCPS High School. Our students learned not only the definitions of medical terms, but how to adjust to new standards such as a different grading scale in which an A is from 93-100%, etc.

Second, with Introduction to Speech, our students had the opportunity to experience the grand scale of communication, from context, race, small-group to presentation of communication.

Later this month, we will pair with Ms. Marchwicki's Medical Careers class for a special event, February 28, 2014, where two presenters from the Bureau of Labor Statistics will explain how to use their Occupational Outlook website to plan careers, from educational requirements to local rates of hiring and salary expectations. Our combined classes will then work in small groups to research specific career interests.

We plan to offer our first Accuplacer Wednesday, March 12, 2014. If you haven't looked into application for College Institute and are a rising junior or senior, see Ms. Aaron ASAP in Room 241, the Math Office. She also encourages parents to communicate with her to ask questions about this varied early college program.

Reginald Wright, Resource Teacher



MCPS News

Student Transfer Application Season Begins Feb. 3, 2014

Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season, which starts on February 3. All COSA requests must be submitted no later than April 1, 2014. The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents/guardians may request the *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet* that contains the COSA form, describes the process and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February, the COSA booklet will be available in schools and [online](#). The booklet will be available in English and Spanish.

Sign Up for AlertMCPS

Sign up for AlertMCPS to receive text messages or emails from MCPS during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. You can also sign up to receive alerts specific to your child's school. AlertMCPS messages are available in both English and Spanish. Visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx> to subscribe.

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Science News

Science Scholarship Opportunities for Seniors...
Now announcing:

The TI Robotics Scholarship, in partnership with the REC Foundation!

For more information please visit www.ti.com/robotics and www.roboticseducation.org/participants/scholarships/.

The Texas Instruments scholarship is offering two (2) \$5,000 non-renewable scholarships to two (2) high school seniors intent on

pursuing a degree related to science, technology, engineering or mathematics in college. The award will be presented at the VEX Robotics Competition World Championship in April 2014; however the student does not need to be present to win. The second link will list out 76 additional opportunities available worth a combined total of **\$1,523,000!** Be sure to apply by **February 15, 2014.** **Medical Careers Program Applications Due by March 7, 2014!**

If you are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field, please consider applying for the JFK Medical Careers Program. If you are a rising junior or senior, have at least a 2.5 GPA, and a strong interest in medicine; then this is the program for you! Please see Ms. Marchwicki in room 113 for an application and more information. Hurry! Applications are due by March 7, 2014.

Tamara Jennings, Resource Teacher

Physical Education News

The Physical Education Department is working on Fitness Gram Pre-Testing this month. In the beginning of the semester students will be tested on the 5 areas of fitness (Cardio-respiratory endurance, Muscle Strength, Muscle Endurance, Flexibility and Body Composition). After testing they will set goals which they will focus on all semester.

The Health Classes have been learning about Mental Health. The topics learned this month are (Decision Making, Communication, Stress Management, Goal Setting, and Warning Signs for Depression & Suicide). We will have Guest Speakers coming into our classes from Montgomery Hospice Care talking about the grieving process.

Brady Markel, Resource Teacher

English News

The Kennedy English Department made headlines this past month. Our 9th Graders were the subject of a Gazette article based on letters they wrote to President Obama about community service. The President sent the students a personal response praising them on their commitment to helping others. The project was led by 9th grade teachers, Ms. Ashley DeLonga, Ms. Anne Reiner, Ms. Jessica Lidh, and Ms. Kelley Adams.

In other news, junior Joshua Baxter won the WordWright Challenge competition. The competition requires students to do a close reading and analysis of many different kinds of prose and poetry.

More than 69,000 high students from 47 states participated in the competition. Ms. Sylvia Kranish oversaw Kennedy's participation.

John Howard, Resource Teacher

"It always seems impossible until its done".

Nelson Mandela

"I am the greatest, I said that even before I knew I was".

Muhammad Ali

ACADEMY News

Our academies continue to provide opportunities for academic and career exploration for our students. Our International Baccalaureate students meet monthly to learn about culture and cuisines. The monthly meetings, which were featured in the Gazette, provide students an opportunity to explore foods from different countries. Our Leadership Training Institute program, our signature program, will have their annual leadership conference in March. The conference is organized by our LTI students and offers a unique opportunity to collaborate with students from the University of Maryland.

The Business Management and Administration academy has been promoting our newly formed Future Business Leaderships of America (FBLA) Club. The academy will host Ms. Chancellor, College Representative from FIDM/Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising during an upcoming assembly. On January 28th, the Naval Academy Fencing Team held a demonstration for our NJROTC students. Afterwards, the student athletes met with students to maintain a balance with academics and extracurricular activities.

Nicole Fortson, Academy Coordinator



ROTC supporting JFK athletics!

Social Studies News

As we enter the second semester, the Social Studies Department would like to give the community an overview of the major topics the core subjects are learning.

US History students are studying World War II, NSL students are studying economic scarcity, and Modern World History students are studying World War I.

Please feel free to schedule an appointment to sit in on a lesson.

Keith Adams, Resource Teacher

“When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.”

Maya Angelou

World Language News

Upcoming Sports Events

2/5 Wrestling – JFK@ Watkins Mill
6:00p V, 7:00p JV
2/5-2/8 Swimming & Diving –
Wash.Metro. Championships@
Germantown Ind. Swim Ctr.
(times TBA)
2/7 Boys Bball– JFK@ Clarksburg
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
Girls Basketball @ JFK
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
2/8 Wrestling – Paint Branch @ JFK
2:30p V, 3:30p JV
2/11 Boys Bball – QO @ JFK
5:15p V
Girls Bball – QO @ JFK
7:00p V
2/14 Boys Bball – @Wheaton
5:15p V
Girls Bball – @Wheaton
7:00p V
2/18 Boys Bball – Einstein @JFK
5:15p V
Girls Bball – Einstein @JFK
7:00p V

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20904
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301-929-2240 fax

Spanish I students are making posters about their childhood for an oral presentation. Upper level Italian students are creating poetic, artistic Valentines for an area-wide competition to see who designs the best one. The winner will be honored at the Italian Embassy. IB French and Spanish students are gearing up for the written and oral exams.

Christine Malich, Resource Teacher



WPGC's, Peter Parker with the Varsity Cheerleaders and Fitz

MCPS News...

Book Club Event Set for Feb. 19

You are invited to join Superintendent Joshua Starr at a Book Club discussion on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. The Book Club will discuss *Making Hope Happen* by Dr. Shane Lopez, a senior scientist with the Gallup organization, who will join Dr. Starr for the discussion. The book

introduces readers to the scientific study of hope, its power, how to create it, and how to teach it to others to lead happier, more successful lives. Parents, staff, students and community members who wish to be a part of the studio audience for this free event are asked to RSVP to pio@mcpsmd.org. Those watching online or on MCPS TV (Comcast Channel 34) can participate in the conversation by sending questions via Twitter (using the hashtag

#mcpsbookclub) or by sending an email to ask@mcpsbookclub.org. Visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org and search "Book Club" for more information.

RESOURCE NEWS

CavaJava Spring Reopening

Our Friday CavaJava coffee service is an award winning program started nine years ago. Uniformed students from the CavaJava Pre-vocational Careers classes run different work stations for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, fruit, doughnuts, bagels and other seasonal items. Students also learn how to inventory items on hand to compile shopping lists of items to purchase based on a budget.



Students prepare to accept staff at Cava Java...

Greenhouse Seedlings and Medicinal Herb Garden



Mr. Rumford with students in the Greenhouse

Our ARS and LFI student programs are collaborating to grow winter vegetables (broccoli, broccoli raab and a variety of lettuces) under grow lights borrowed from Einstein High School.

The program will be expanding in the Spring to include more warm weather vegetables (tomatoes, herbs and flowers). Seedlings will be available in early Spring for staff to purchase and plant in their own gardens.

Our students are also collaborating with Medical Careers students to plant and grow a medicinal herb garden in the courtyard adjoining the Medical Careers classrooms.

Go Cavs!

Poms Competition, DamascusHS, Go Girls!



Fencing Demonstration for ROTC



Congrats to the Quizmaster Challenge students...Its Academic!



Girls Varsity Basketball...

