



KNOWLEDGE QUEST ACADEMY

Volume 2 Issue 5 | December 2019

A NOTE FROM MRS. SPREITZER

KQA Pillar: Family

If I could offer any advice, it is to take some opportunities in the next few weeks to create memories. The gift of time is the most precious gift of all, and my experience has been that the simple things bring about great memories. Put out a puzzle to work on as a family, have a pajama party with a movie or game night, camp out in the living room, go for a drive to see the lights, read a book together, play minute-to-win-it games, take funny pictures, cook together, do a craft, write a letter to family members, play charades.... the list of fun goes on and on!

During this time of year, I am also so thankful for our entire KQA Family. I always feel such gratitude for the wonderful parents who have chosen our school for their children. I am

grateful for the incredible staff that we have at KQA that I am honored to work alongside - their dedication and talent is unmatched. Most of all, I am grateful for our students. It is hard to put into words the pride, joy, and wonder that I feel as I watch them learn and grow. Their kind words and caring acts are the highlights of my day.

Thank you for being a part of our KQA Family and for all that you do - all year through!

Did you know...

that KQA is governed by a 7 member board of directors? The board is tasked with making all high level decisions for KQA.

We are actively seeking a parent or community member, with a background in accounting or finance. If this describes YOU or someone you know, please join us at one of our monthly meetings and get to know us and what we're all about. Board. Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month or contact Linda Spreitzer at (970)587-5742 x 104.

We're looking forward to meeting you!

KEY DATES

12/5; Board Meeting 6:30 pm	12/11; 5th Grade Concert 1:50/6:30 pm
12/6; Movie Night	12/12; 3rd/4th /Grade Concert 1:50/6:30 pm
12/9; PTO Meeting 2:45 pm Band/Orchestra/Show Choir Concert 6:30 pm	12/19; Board Work Session 6:30 pm
12/10; 1st/2nd Grade Concert 1:50/6:30 pm	12/20; Early Release 10:40 am
	12/23 - 1/7; Winter Break
	1/8; Classes Resume

COUNSELOR CORNER

As parents, we all want our children to grow up healthy and successful. We also want our children to be grateful for what they have been given and have compassion for those who are in need. Teaching your children the spirit of giving, showing them the importance of thinking of others, and modeling kindness are important ways to help children grow into productive and loving members of our world. **Kids who volunteer are more likely to have a greater respect for others, leadership skills, and an understanding of citizenship that can carry over into adulthood. Child Trends 2012**

Giving doesn't require that you travel to a special destination. Showing your child how to give can be as easy as being a good neighbor.

Here are twenty-five ways to teach your child to give all year long.

1. Mow your neighbors' lawn when you know they are out of town.
2. Help elderly neighbors by cleaning out their rain gutters before the winter months set in.
3. When there is a storm, military personnel may be away from home helping others. Help their families by shoveling their driveway.
4. Especially on windy days, bring in your neighbors' trash cans while they are away at work.
5. Bring a casserole or fruit bowl to a neighbor who might appreciate it, or reach out to someone who lives alone.

Pay it forward. Small acts of kindness can help someone who is having a bad day see the good in the world and help us feel positive about ourselves. Model the following positive behaviors to your child any day of the year.

6. Leave a note on a stranger's car wishing them a nice day.
7. When you pick up your morning coffee, pay for the person behind you in the drive-through.
8. Drive by the coveted parking space at the front of the store, and let someone who might appreciate it park there.
9. When you stop to pay a toll, throw in an extra dollar for the person in the car behind you. Or, add loose change to someone's expired parking meter.
10. Offer to bag your own groceries when the cashier is working alone.

Volunteer. Teach your child how to give by giving something priceless—time and energy.

11. Volunteer to help in your child's classroom or to chaperone a school field trip. If you can't help during the day, offer to help with projects you can work on at home.
12. Bring the whole family to your church or spiritual center for service and cleanup days.
13. Volunteer to deliver items or staff the pick-up booth for sports and civic groups in which your child is involved.
14. Volunteer on any day of the year. Use a local volunteer matching service, such as [Volunteer Match](http://volunteermatch.org) or <https://greatnonprofits.org/city/johnstown/CO>, or http://millikenco.gov/residents/get_involved_in_the_community.php to find projects suitable for your family.
15. As a family, pick a local place to volunteer, and make it a family date once a month or whenever possible.
16. If you can't find a volunteer opportunity in your area, create one. [Use United We Serve's toolkits](#) to help design a service project for your family.

Donate. Giving away unused and gently used items is a great no-cost way to show your child how to help someone in need. In addition, helping to meet life-saving needs will show your child that we are all important and connected.

17. Donate clothing that no longer fits your child to local organizations or clothing banks. Drop boxes are now available in many convenient locations, such as grocery store parking lots and along town roads.
18. Give old blankets to your local pet shelter. Donate unopened pet supplies, such as pet food, cat litter, training pads, and other necessary pet items.
19. Send your child to school with an extra set of some school supplies, such as pens, pencils, folders, or paper. Leave a note letting your child's teacher know the supplies are for anyone who can use them.
20. Give blood and consider becoming a bone marrow donor.

Give. You don't have to give much, but monetary donations are always needed. Give when and if you can.

21. As a family, pick a cause or charity to which you are interested in giving.
22. Give your child a three-part piggy bank—one section for saving, one for spending, and one for donating. Let your child decide to which charity or cause they would like to donate money to.
23. In lieu of a gift, give to the favorite charity of a person close to you or in memory of someone special.
24. Organize a bake sale or lemonade stand with your kids and give your proceeds to a charity.
25. Participate in [#GivingTuesday](#). Give and/or share [#GivingTuesday](#) efforts with your friends, family, and social networks.

KINDERGARTEN

Kinders are so excited for our program on the 13th at 9 am and our Holiday Breakfast on the 20th.

Literacy

We are continuing types of words and CVC words.

Writing

We are continuing proper sentence structure and making sure that our letters are formed accurately.

Math

We are continuing addition and subtraction, partner facts and grouping.

Science

We are learning Electricity and magnets.

Social Studies

We are learning about Europe.

FIRST GRADE

We hope you all had a delicious Thanksgiving! We are looking forward to holiday fun and learning this December, especially as we venture out on December 6th to the Greeley Festival of Trees and perform in our holiday concert!

Literacy

Our next unit will focus on changes over time.

Writing

We will be working on informational texts.

Math

Our next unit will focus on base ten and place value.

Science

We will be studying the main systems in the human body.

Social Studies

We will be studying the history of three religions.

SECOND GRADE

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break! We are excited to be working towards our first kindness earned field trip to the Greeley Festival of Trees on Friday, December 6th.

Literacy

We are working on comparing and contrasting literature stories and reading many different examples of expository texts.

Writing

We are letter writing and informational texts from Holidays all over the world. The students will be presenting their information about what they learned about how others celebrate towards the end of the month.

Math

We will continue to work on two-digit addition, money, time and measurement. We will be having our Market Day December 19th where our students get to "sell" products they made!

Science

We are working on matter and food choices/nutrition.

THIRD GRADE

We hope everyone had a refreshing and fun Thanksgiving break! We are so thankful to spend each day teaching your children.

Literacy

We have spent time learning about historical fiction while reading about immigration. We are also learning how to analyze literary devices in poetry.

Writing

We've worked hard to improve our expository writing by writing Veterans Day essays. We have also dabbled in writing free verse poems.

Math

We have finished our second unit that focused on multiplication, division, and understanding word problems. We are now working our way through unit three on measurement.

Science

Mrs. Johnson's class is working on Forces and motion, while Mrs. Spencer's class is studying weather and climates.

Social Studies

We have finished our Native American unit. Our next unit will be on Vikings

FOURTH GRADE

We are thankful for all the help that our parents provide in partnership with the success of our fourth grade endeavors. Thanks from all of us here at KQA.

Literacy

We continue to learn about different genres of literature and their common parts, plot elements and dialogue.

Writing

In mid-December, we will execute our middle of the year writing assessment. We will respond to several short articles with a critical essay about the benefits of eating a varied diet.

Math

We are working very hard on "Long" division and will diving into equations and multi-operational story problems.

Science

Our scienterrific teacher, Lynn Gilbert, taught us about wind energy by making a paper fan that rotates.

Social Studies

We will continue to look into the history of Colorado, the Spanish explorers and fur traders, and learn more about the Louisiana Purchase.

FIFTH GRADE

Like that... First quarter is gone. The fifth grade is striving to keep the momentum for second quarter strong and positive.

Literacy

We are starting our second unit in Wonders that include some non-fiction texts, as well as the folktale stories.

Writing

Our focus is on writing five well thought out paragraphs in different styles of writing. This last week, we took on some opinion writing.

Math

We are doing some work with multiplying and dividing of fractions. Simplify before you multiply, and skip, flip, and multiply is some of the math language we use to help remember.

Science

We are having a blast with "hands on" learning with chemical changes and mixtures. We made miniature stepping stones out of various materials to illustrate these changes that we see occur in science.

Social Studies

We are still chugging away on early people of the Americas. We will be diving into different Native American Tribes that occupied the country. We will be covering much of the culture and creating presentations to fully understand the culture.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Science Fair

The KQA Middle School will be holding its annual Science Fair on Thursday, December 19. It is closed to the public until 3:00 p.m., and is open to the public from 3 to 5 p.m. for parents who would like to come look at projects. We will hold award ceremonies on Friday at 8 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend the awards ceremony.

Science Fair is mandatory for all middle school students. We have over 110 projects in the works right now! Every discipline is used for this huge project. Not only is science incorporated but so is math, language arts, tech skills, presentation skills, and design and layout skills!

DUE DATES

All experiments should already be completed. Students who are currently 7th and 8th graders will be working on their science fair boards the 1st week of December. 6th graders are expected to construct their boards over Thanksgiving Break with the official 6th grade due date is Friday, December 6. Students can purchase boards from Mrs. Cherico or Mrs. Odbert for \$5 each. We have a limited supply, so we will sell them on a first come, first serve basis. The school will also provide paper for students to use on the board.

JUDGES

We are in need of judges for this event. The commitment is for a full day (from 7 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.) during which time you will judge 8 or 9 projects, visit with students, and deliberate with fellow judges. Training is provided by Mrs. Odbert and Mrs. Cherico, our two middle school science teachers. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are provided by our wonderful PTO team.

We would love to see parents of 4th and 5th graders step up to help with judging so you have a glimpse into what lies ahead in middle school. We occasionally have parents of middle school students help judge, but we try to avoid this. **However, if you know of anyone who can help us with this event, please forward Mrs. Odbert's contact information from below to them.** Contact Mrs. Odbert at diane.odbert@weldre5j.org if you are interested.



Shout Outs

The middle school teachers are excited about our Student Shout Outs. Students can earn shout outs for extra class participation, acts of kindness, helping a teacher etc. These work as money at our Student Leadership concessions and can be used to buy candy, drinks, snacks and prizes. If you would like to donate gift items or money to help support our student shout outs, please contact jennifer.cherico@weldre5j.org.

Trailblazer Boys' Basketball

Dec. 2nd Union Colony @ **KQA**
Dec. 5th **KQA** @ St. Joes

- B team plays at 4p and A team plays at 5 pm

- B team please arrive at away games at 3:40 pm and A team at 4:30 pm. Please do not enter our opponent's gym until 3:30 pm.

- Playoffs as of now, are December 9th, 11th, and the 13th. The games start at 4 pm and the finals start at 5 pm.

Trailblazer Girls' Basketball

Girls basketball practices start on January 6th. Games start on the 16th. Be looking for further information in next month's newsletter.

NEWS FROM OUR SPECIALS...

Mr. Stoodly's Physical Education Class

We are getting close to wrapping up a busy and productive first semester! Here is a little more information about what we will be doing in the month of December.

Kindergarten will be working on loco-motor movements, underhand tossing, volleying, dribbling feet, and kicking against a wall.

All other elementary grades (1-5) will be using jump ropes, hula hoops, scoops, and playing winter holiday games.

In middle school we will be finishing our badminton unit, completing our mid-year fitness assessments, and participating in winter holiday games.

'20 - '21 DEADLINE FOR KINDER REGISTRATION

It's that time of year. All incoming kindergartners for the 2020 - 2021 school year need to be pre-registered by going on-line to complete the intent to enroll form through the [KQA Intent to Enroll](#) link. The deadline is December 31. Don't delay.

Mrs. Dermer's Art Class

In the art room, we are very busy learning about famous artists, art movements, and cultures around the world that celebrate art.

Kindergarten is working on a drawing alphabet book that helps our young artists learn to tell a story with their art.

1st grade is finishing their unit on texture and will start learning about prehistoric art.

2nd grade is working on abstract art and will discuss Pablo Picasso's portrait paintings.

3rd grade is going to start their American Indian art unit: focusing first on their weaving traditions.

4th grade is starting their Ancient Chinese art unit and will start with painted hand-scrolls.

5th grade is learning about Renaissance Art and how to create one-point perspective drawings.

Help Needed...

A call for Science Fair judges! The KQA Middle School will be holding its annual Science Fair on Thursday, December 19. Science Fair is mandatory for all middle school students. We have over 110 projects in the works right now! Every discipline is used for this huge project. Not only is science incorporated, but so is math, language arts, tech skills, presentation skills, and design and layout skills!

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We would love to especially see parents of 4th and 5th grade students step up to help with judging so you have a glimpse into what lies ahead in middle school. We occasionally have parents of middle school students help judge, but we try to avoid this.

Contact Mrs. Odbert at diane.odbert@weldre5j.org if you are interested.

MUSIC NOTES...

*Students may dress-UP the day of their concert (nice clothes - no jeans so t-shirts) or wear uniforms. During the evening performance they will also dress-UP. *The night of the concerts the back door to the gym will be open so parents may park BEHIND the school and enter into the gym that way. Seating is first-come, first-serve. The book fair will also be open during the concert starting at 6 pm.



Save Those Can Tabs!

Hello, families! At the front office, we have a collection bin for can tabs from a student in the community that will benefit The Ronald McDonald House.

The money from the recycled can tabs will go into their house operation funds, which pays for everything they need to keep the house open and running.

Up to 73 families sleep at the Denver house at any given night, and they also have a house in Aurora that serves up to 45 families.

Please save those can tabs and send them to school with your child!

LEGO ROBOTICS

We are celebrating two big wins for KQA with our Robotics Teams from the qualifier competition event that was held on the 9th of November.

Congratulations to the Homeless Heroes who took home the Core Values Teamwork trophy.

Coached by Sherry Zorack and Kaye Petsas - Team members include Jessica Balderson, Caven Alexander, Anderson Petsas, Devon Allen, Preston Wiant, Jazlin Bean, Kaleb Garcia, and JackWoodson.

Congratulations to the Joy Droids who took home the Judges Award trophy. Coached by Mrs. Odbert and Debra Falasco - Team members include Sophia Nietert, Keith Nietert, Cadence Richburg, Emerson Richburg, and Bryan Falasco.

Give these students high fives when you see them this week. Ask them about their experiences. It was a great competition.

LIBRARY NEWS

Save the date! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming just in time for the holidays. Mark your calendars for December 9th-13th.

The book fair will be open from 7:30 am-3:00 pm, with special hours on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 13th starting at 6 pm. Half of the funds raised will benefit KQA's library.

Something new for this years book fair...

Book Fair eWallet

Give your student a secure, cash-free way to shop the fair. Simply create a free account, preauthorize a spending limit, and have funds immediately available. Use the link above to set up the eWallet starting November 21 - December 5.

Volunteers are also needed, if you are able to help, please contact Mrs. Ortiz at geogina.ortiz@weldre5j.org or sign up through the link above.

KQA MUSIC CONCERTS

Monday, December 9th @ 6:30 only – Band/Orchestra & Show Choir

Tuesday, December 10th @ 1:45 & 6:30 – First/Second Grades

Wednesday, December 11th @ 1:45 & 6:30 – Fifth Grade

Thursday, December 12th @ 1:45 & 6:30 – Third/Fourth Grades

Friday, December 13th @ 9 am ONLY –Kindergarten



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

To: Parents/Guardians of students enrolled in Colorado schools
From: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Immunization Branch
RE: Tdap vaccine required at 6th grade entry
Date: March 20, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In Colorado, students entering 6th grade are required to get the tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine before they start school. See www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines.

Tetanus is a rare, non-contagious disease that can cause painful muscle tightening and stiffness; people can get tetanus through a cut or wound. Diphtheria is a rare, contagious disease that can cause breathing problems, heart failure and other serious issues. Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a very contagious disease that can cause severe coughing spells, difficulty breathing, and other serious issues, especially in infants, toddlers and other people who have weakened immune systems. Adolescents who get pertussis can be sick for up to three months.

Students who are 10 years of age when entering 6th grade can get the Tdap vaccine; however, some health care providers may choose to wait until the student is 11 years of age. Parents who can't or don't want to get the Tdap vaccine for their student must file a medical or non-medical exemption in order for their student to attend a Colorado school. See www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption. If your student doesn't get the Tdap vaccine before 6th grade or doesn't have an exemption on file, he or she will be out of compliance with Colorado school immunization law and may not be allowed to attend school.

For questions or more information, contact cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us.




Thompson Rivers Parks & Recreation presents

Breakfast With Santa

December 14
9-11 am

Tickets:
\$5/Individual or \$15/Family

TRPR.ORG

- Pancake Breakfast
- Hot Chocolate Bar
- Santa Visits
- Holiday Crafts



MILLIKEN ATHLETIC COMPLEX
320 CENTENNIAL DRIVE

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AGES: 4-10 ENJOY GAMES & CRAFTS PIZZA & MORE!


HOLIDAY

• DROP & SHOP •

Drop kids off to play, leave to shop away!

at the

JOHNSTOWN ACTIVITIES CENTER



THURSDAY
DEC 19

4-6 PM
or
6-8 PM

COST:
FREE

Registration Open Now! trpr.org



Johnstown Senior Center

Christmas Boutique

December 7, 2019

9 am to 3 pm

101 W Charlotte St

**Silent Auction, Vendors, Food,
Drawing for a Wagon Full of Toys**