

# JOSEPH KERR MIDDLE SCHOOL

8865 ELK GROVE BLVD  
ELK GROVE, CA 95624



Administration (916) 686-7728 ☎ Attendance (916) 686-7736 ☎ Fax (916) 685-2952

**Cecil Q. Duke, *Principal***  
**Christine Peterson, *Vice Principal***  
**LaNecia Kobelt-Henderson, *Teacher-in-Charge***

**MAY/JUNE, 2008**

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 5/1 Testing/Minimum Day  
Dismissal 12:10 pm  
Track @ Albiani
- 5/2 Spring Fair  
4th Quarter Progress Reports
- 5/6 Day of the Teacher
- 5/7 Track @ Smedberg
- 5/9 Silver K Assembly
- 5/13 Band Concert
- 5/14 Renaissance BBQ
- 5/15 Track @Kerr
- 5/20 Track Championship
- 5/21 Closing the Achievement Gap  
Parent Meeting
- 5/23 Band Field Trip—Jazz Festival
- 5/26 NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day
- 5/28 Awards Night
- 5/29 Yearbook Distribution
- 5/30 8th Grade Promotion Dance
- 6/3 8th Grade Raging Waters Trip
- 6/4 8th Grade Promotion Practice  
Minimum Day  
Dismissal 12:01 pm
- 6/5 8th Grade Promotion  
Last Day of School  
Minimum Day  
Dismissal 12:01 pm



### E-MAIL

Do you have questions for Kerr? Please e-mail them to [askkerr@egusd.net](mailto:askkerr@egusd.net) and the school secretary will answer your questions or forward them to the appropriate person.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have moved, changed telephone or cell phone numbers or use a new email address, please make sure that the school has the correct emergency contact information. Emergency contact information allows us to contact you in an emergency or when your child is not at school. It is important that we have the most current information.

If you need to change this information, add an email address or phone number, please contact us at (916) 686-7728.



### OFFICE TELEPHONE USAGE

Students are not allowed to use the office telephones until 15 minutes after the last bell rings (3:26 p.m.), unless it's an emergency. We realize the traffic in Elk Grove has increased substantially and we feel this will give parents time to get to the school to pick-up their student.

### PARENT VOLUNTEERS

All parents interested in volunteering need to get their fingerprints cleared at the district office. There will be an orientation posted on School Loop and the school website for a parent volunteer orientation.

If you are interested in helping our librarian she will need some help after May 20th.

Please contact Kelly Vicari at (916) 686-7728 between 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. for more details.

## ACTIVITY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### **SPRING FAIR**

Spring Fair is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. To reward our students for all of their hard work and effort during State testing. If you would like to volunteer, please email me at [mfoltz@egusd.net](mailto:mfoltz@egusd.net).

### **FUND RAISER**

All frozen products sold through our spring fund raiser will be available for pick up the first week of May. A letter will be sent home to all students who sold products with pick up instructions. Thanks to all of your students who helped raise money for their school.

### **YEARBOOK**

The Yearbook will be distributed on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Students will pick them up in the Gym and then have an hour to meet in the MP Room with their friends and sign their yearbooks. We will have refreshments, extra autograph pages and pens available for sale in the MP Room. The distribution party will start after school and end at 4:30 p.m.

### **8TH GRADE PROMOTION DANCE**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Promotion Dance is Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>. The dance will be from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the MP Room. We ask that parents contribute baked goods, chips and any other tasty food items for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to enjoy. There will be a flyer going home with all of the end of the year activities and eligibility requirements. The flyer includes a form to complete to volunteer food for the dance.

## DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

#### ***7th Grade***

1. The 7th grade Social Science students are learning about the Middle Ages in Europe. When this unit is completed the students will study the Renaissance, Reformation, The Scientific Revolution, the Aztecs and Incas, and we will finish the year with the Age of Exploration. That is a great deal of material to cover! Ask your student about some of the interest-

ing things they have learned about Medieval Europe and what it has to do with our life today.

2. Since we do not have a STAR test for 7th grade Social Science students the counselors have developed a lesson on career development and will present it to the students during their testing period for 7th grade Social Science. It is important to attend all days of STAR testing so they can participate in this exciting lesson.

#### ***8th Grade***

1. Some of the 7th and 8th grade Honors Soc. Science students will soon participate in the spring Knowledge Master Open, trying to improve their fall scores! Scores to come!

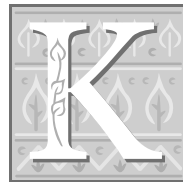
2. Rachel Grondin and Jordan Koch are holding on to 1st places in the stock market game in northern California. The Stock Market Team meets with Ms. Goldsberry and work independently on their stocks from their home computers.

3. The 8th grade is now studying the Civil War. Please aid us by checking out books, and viewing films, and T.V. shows that will help the students learn about this war.

4. Rachel Grondin was chosen by staff as Joseph Kerr's G.A.T.E. Student of the Year. Congratulations, Rachel.

5. Reminders...the kids NEED colored pencils, pencils and highlighters in their backpacks. Many kids do not have them and we use them a lot for maps, reading, etc. Can you help us by checking on this, parents?

6. We encourage your students to check School Loop for assignments and/or grades.



### **SILVER K**

Congratulations to our newest Silver K members who are working towards the pinning ceremony next month: Ryan Avery, Ryan Boyd, Courtney Douma, Brandon Feickert, Lauren Haun, Karen Hill, Ashley Kate Hubred, Leesa Kakutani, Steven Khansefid, Julianna Kringer, Jackson Levin, Patrick Levin, Lindsay Murchison, Kristi Rammer, Marissa Siu, Carly Stuart, Jessica Walter, & Elissa White.

## COUNSELORS



We hope you are enjoying the warm spring weather as you read this. As usual, this time of year is full of fun-filled events and activities, as well as important information for students and parents. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or e-mail.



### STAR Rewards Lunch

On Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> students who earned 14 or more stars on their STAR Cards enjoyed a pizza luncheon to celebrate their hard work on the STAR test last year. We look forward to planning our rewards lunch for next year, with all the great scores students earn on this year's test. Congratulations!



### STAR Testing

STAR testing was completed on Thursday, May 1st. Congratulations to all students for completing their STAR testing with both positive and serious test-taking attitudes. Classroom teachers equipped students with test-taking strategies along with practice tests to help them prepare for the tests. Counselors and administrators met with students individually to help ease the anxiety of test taking, as well as motivate students to do their very best on testing. It seems that sharing the important information of why we test and how imperative it is for students to do their very best, has paid off. Test scores should arrive by mail sometime in July.



### Joseph Kerr Summer School

This year we are happy to be offering summer school here on our campus. This year's Summer School program is by invitation only. Priority will be given to those students needing to make up credits or students who need course credits to promote to the next grade level. The dates for summer school are June 16, 2008 through July 11, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Classes will be held Monday through Friday.



### Elk Grove High School Summer School

Summer school applications are now available in the Counseling Center at Elk Grove High School for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Course offerings are extremely limited this year; however incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders may apply to take World Geography. This will be the only course available to incoming freshmen. The class will be filled according to Enrollment Priority as stated on the application, and the date the completed application is submitted.

### Credit Review for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

The final progress report for the year will be sent out on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students who are credit deficient received letters in April encouraging them to achieve a specific number of credits on the fourth quarter report card for promotion to the next grade level. If students do not earn the appropriate amount of credits, they may be required to attend summer school, or they may be candidates for retention. Letters will be sent home to parents for those students who may be retained for the 2008-2009 school year by May 2008. Please take the time to review your child's TrackErr or the Joseph Kerr website ([www.egusd.net/kerr](http://www.egusd.net/kerr)) for information regarding credits and promotion retention.



### Counseling Department

Counselors are available to meet with students and parents regarding academic, personal and/or social concerns. Counselors are assigned as follows:

<u>Counselor</u>	<u>Student Last Name</u>
Ms. Hoyer	A - F
Ms. Wolff	G - N
Ms. Tsuda	O - Z

Jeannie Gomes is the counseling secretary and can assist you with any questions or concerns. The phone number where you can reach us is 686-7728.



### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony**

According to our policy, students will not be permitted to participate in the promotion ceremony if they are credit deficient OR they have more than 1 F on the final report card. If your child's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter progress report indicates that he/she is in danger of failing two or more classes, the following procedure will take place:

1. When promotion tickets are available for distribution on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> your child will be given a final grade check form in lieu of tickets. It is your child's responsibility to obtain this form.
2. Your child will have until Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> to have the form completed by all teachers and signed by you. The grades as of May 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the grades to determine if your child may participate in the ceremony.
3. Once the form is completed, your child must submit the form to their counselor no later than May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
4. If the final grade check results in two or more F's, your child will not be permitted to participate in the promotional ceremony, nor will any tickets be distributed.

The completed grade check will serve as your notification of your child's status with regard to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### **PARENT SURVEY**

We are pleased to announce the release of the 2008 Parent Survey. We value the opportunity to receive your opinion on our school's programs and how we can improve in the future. All information collected is confidential. You should have received a paper copy of the survey at the beginning of April. All surveys are printed on special scantron paper and need to be completed using a #2 PENCIL. In addition, this year the survey is available on-line. You may access the survey from the District's homepage at [www.egusd.net](http://www.egusd.net). We will share the survey results in the fall.

Please return the completed survey to Joseph Kerr Middle School or complete the on-line survey by May 15, 2008.



### **2007-2008 BELL SCHEDULE**

*Regular Day Bell Schedule:*

* Period 0:	8:00 – 8:52
Period 1:	9:00 – 9:56
Period 2:	10:00 – 10:52
Period 3:	10:56 – 11:48
Period 4:	
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch:	11:48 – 12:23
Late Class:	12:27 – 1:19
Early Class:	11:52 – 12:44
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch:	12:44 – 1:19
Period 5:	1:23 – 2:15
Period 6:	2:19 – 3:11

### *Minimum Day Schedule:*

* Period 0:	8:00 – 8:52
Period 1:	9:00 – 9:31
Period 2:	9:35 – 10:01
Period 3:	10:05 – 10:31
Period 4:	10:35 – 11:01
Period 5:	11:05 – 11:31
Period 6:	11:35 – 12:01

*Lunch is served after school*

- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and AVID students, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Jazz Band ONLY**

# Important Notice

On behalf of the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, Elk Grove Police Department, Sacramento Police Department, and EGUSD Police Services, we would like to bring to your attention an increase of **vehicle burglaries** around our schools which have occurred over the last few weeks.

There have been eleven vehicle burglaries on or about our campuses reported since March 1, 2008. All of these incidents involved the victims leaving valuable property unattended in their vehicles in plain view. Most recently, Robert Fite Elementary School, Cosumnes River Elementary School, and David Reese Elementary School have reported thefts from vehicles parked in both school parking lots and or streets adjacent the campuses. Victims have been parents as well as staff members.

As a reminder to all, please use extra diligence by removing valuables such as purses, cellular telephones, and digital music players (iPods, MP3s, etc.) from your vehicles when leaving them unattended. Vehicle burglaries are often a crime of opportunity and those who commit these theft crimes openly peer into vehicles looking for property of value left behind by the owner/driver.

At this particular time, there is no suspect(s) description regarding these burglaries, however, an older model dark colored BMW has been seen leaving the scene of at least two of these incidents.

Again, please feel comfortable sharing this information with others. **In all cases, remember not to confront suspicious individuals.** Please either dial 911 for any suspected crime in progress or dial Police Services at 686-7786 when viewing any suspicious activity that may prompt further investigation.

We hope by providing you with this information, it will assist in deterring these recent crimes and your constant vigilance may well provide the "tip" information that will assist in apprehending the suspect(s).

Respectfully,

Rick Ewing

Assistant Chief, Police Services

Elk Grove Unified School District

916.686.7786

## **ASK ANN**

*The Ask Anne column featuring District Nutritionist Anne Gaffney, R.D., appears in EGUSD school newsletters and is designed to help families build healthy lifestyles. You can email questions to Anne at [Communication@egusd.net](mailto:Communication@egusd.net).*

Dear Ask Anne,

I have been hearing a lot of advertisements for energy drinks lately and my kids want me to buy them. Are energy drinks good for kids and what is really in them?

Energy Mom

Dear Energy Mom,

Energy drinks are becoming increasingly popular with middle- and high-school students and while some energy drinks are clearly labeled as unsuitable for children, others are specifically marketed to kids as young as 4, promising boosts in energy and nutrition as well as enhanced athletic performance.

Most energy drinks deliver a stiff dose of sugar and caffeine — sometimes as much caffeine as in 1 to 3 cups of coffee. Too much sugar can put your child in the fast lane to the dentist's office and also contribute to weight gain. Excessive caffeine comes with its own set of problems — especially in younger kids. It can cause anxiety and disrupt sleep.

Until recently, caffeine beverages were mainly consumed by adults, so caffeine's effects on growing students has not been well studied. At a minimum, we know caffeine is a powerful stimulant. As in adults, too much caffeine can cause: jitteriness and nervousness, upset stomach, headaches, difficulty concentrating, difficulty sleeping, and frequent urination. Because children are smaller than adults and haven't yet developed a tolerance to caffeine, its effects on them may be more pronounced.

Many of these drinks also contain additional ingredients whose safety or effectiveness has never been tested in children — including herbal supplements, guarana (a source of caffeine), and taurine (an amino acid thought to enhance performance).

The bottom line is this: Energy drinks offer no real health or performance benefit for kids. Children who participate in sports should learn that they can improve their game through hard work and practice — values that will serve them well both on and off the field.

Remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Be critical when reading labels, and teach your child not to be so quick to believe the hype when it comes to power drinks. For athletes and non-athletes alike, nothing beats a well-balanced diet. Most kids who eat well, stay hydrated, and get enough physical activity and rest will have plenty of energy — naturally.

