



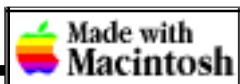
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Published Monthly
by Joseph Kerr Middle School
Publications Class



CHILD LABOR

Kids and Back Breaking Work

The shameful practice of child labor played an important role in the Industrial Revolution in America and abroad. Children spun and wove and were usually deprived of an education. The money they earned was used to pay for food and clothes, usually thought of as the responsibility of parents. This practice has not disappeared. Kids today make soccer balls which sell for \$15 to \$90 and only earn about 60¢ a day. What's worse is that some schools buy these same soccer balls for student use (it's like we are supporting child labor).

Young children in many parts of the world have to do very hard work

....continued page 8

TEEN DRIVING

Changing the Law

As you may or may not know a new teen driving act was just signed into law, taking effect on January 1, 1998. It has made it a lot tougher for teens to get a license. The new law, SB 1329, requires teens have at least 50 hours of daytime driving lessons with an adult of 25 or older and 10 hours of night driving lessons. It also states that you cannot drive from the time of 12:00 AM to 5:00 AM, nor have anyone in the car under the age of 25 for the first 6 months of license experience, unless accompanied by an adult 25 or older.

We asked teachers and students what they thought about this new law.

....continued page 4

BULIMIA AND ANOREXIA

Are You in Danger?

In the March issue of Knightimes was an article on Bulimia and Anorexia. Included was a description of symptoms. This month we have included a self-test which will help determine whether you are in danger of becoming bulimic or anorexic. If you answer "yes" to more than three, please contact someone who can help you. (Friends, Family, counselors at school, or medical professionals).

Just remember, Anorexia is an eating disorder where people don't like how they look and starve themselves.

Bulimia is also an eating disorder which is characterized by self-imposed vomiting because you have over eaten and are also worried about how the eating will affect how you look.

1. Even though people tell me I'm thin, I feel fat.
2. I get anxious if I can't exercise.

3. [Female] My menstrual periods are irregular or absent. [Male] My sex drive isn't as strong as it used to be.
4. I worry about what I will eat.
5. If I gain weight, I get anxious and depressed.
6. I would rather eat by myself than with others or my family.
7. Other people talk about the way that I eat.
8. I get anxious when other people urge me to eat.
9. I don't talk much about my fear of getting fat, because others don't understand me.
10. I enjoy cooking for others, but I usually don't eat what I've cooked.
11. I have a secret stash of food.
12. When I eat, I'm afraid I won't be able to stop.
13. I lie about what I eat.
14. I don't like to be bothered or interrupted when I'm eating.
15. If I were thinner, I would like myself better.

....continued page 8

TUMBLING TO THE FUTURE

Gymnastics is a very demanding sport. It takes years of practice and dedication to do well. Krista Zehnder has been active in gymnastics for seven years. She started when she was FIVE! She practices every day for hours? She leaves school after fifth period, (her gymnastics replaces PE at Kerr) and goes to the gym.

When asked about her plans for the future, Krista said, "I want to continue gymnastics, but in high school, not in club." She currently participates on a club team at Gymagic. She has won many awards. Her highest award was when she won the whole meet at Sac State on February 15, 1998, with a score of 34/40 in the all around. Wow, that's good! Her worst score was a 6.8 out of 10 on the beam.

There are four events. They are the



uneven bars, beam, floor, and vault. Her favorite is the floor. There are many competition levels in gymnastics. When Krista began gymnastics, she was in the 5-10 age group. Then she moved up to the Elite level, where she has competed against gymnasts around the country. When she gets really good she hopes to advance to the Olympic Trails.

Krista's gymnastics idol is Dominique Moceanu who competed on the US Olympic Team in 1996. Krista has trained at Gymagic and Byers Gymnastics. Krista has excelled in gymnastics and academics with a 4.0 gpa. She is a fun and kind person to be around. Keep it up Krista!!!

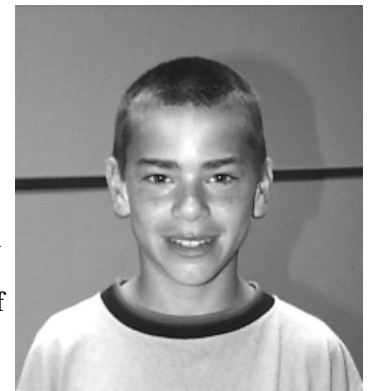
---Melinda Quist
---Nichole Mendes

KICK IT!

There are a lot of people who play outdoor soccer competitively. Fewer people play indoor soccer, and only a select few people play competitive indoor soccer. Matt Vitel is one of the very talented who plays competitive indoor soccer.

Matt Vitel is a 7th grader at Joseph Kerr Middle school. Aside from being a good student at Kerr, he plays indoor soccer on The Predators and is a very competitive player.

Matt has been playing soccer since he was seven years old. Matt is really good. In fact, he was the Most Valuable Player (MVP) for two years in a row. He has earned a whole bunch of trophies and is also on the All Star Team.



Becoming that good at soccer takes a lot of work. When Matt was asked what has kept him going all these years, he answered that it was his parents. His parents are very supportive and come to all of his soccer games. But the real reason he loves soccer is, "Because you can meet a lot of new friends. You can also have fun, run around, and kick a soccer ball!" Matt loves soccer and plans to continue through high school. Who knows. One day you might be lucky enough to see Matt Vitel playing soccer for a professional team. It could happen.

--Audrey Hughey

GEOGRAPHY CROSSWORD



Across continued....

- 10 Its capital is Rangoon
- 12 Its capital is Sana'a
- 14 Its capital is Tehran
- 17 Its capital is Rome
- 18 Its capital is Mexico City
- 19 Its capital is Havana

Down

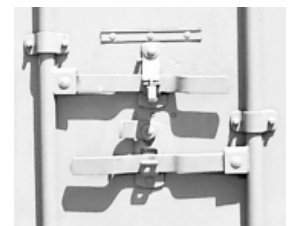
- 1 Its capital is Athens
- 2 Its capital is Vientiane
- 4 Its capital is Oslo
- 5 Its capital is Baghdad
- 7 Its capital is Lima
- 9 Its capital is San Marino
- 10 Its capital is Belmopan
- 11 Its capital is Bucharest
- 13 Its capital is Katmandu
- 15 Its capital is Damascus
- 16 Its capital is Lome

Across

- 1 Its capital is Libreville
- 3 Its capital is New Delhi
- 6 Its capital is Cairo
- 8 Its capital is Moscow

WHA' ZAT?

This photo was taken somewhere on the Kerr campus. Can you identify what it is and where it is located?



RATHER BE WITH FRED COUPLES

Mrs. York—Physical Education

Mrs. York has been a P.E. teacher at Kerr for eleven years. When she was a kid P.E. wasn't co-ed and the uniforms weren't very cool. Her uniform was a polyester one piece that was light blue with white stripes and buttons on the top. She's been teaching at Kerr as a permanent



teacher for ten years and as a long-term sub the first year. Her favorite sports to teach are volleyball and track & field. She wanted to become a P.E. teacher due to her love of sports and working with kids. The best thing about working here at Kerr is making a difference in the lives of students she also likes watching them mess up on the goofy things. She would like to see new fields and a new gym.

In her free time she enjoys playing various sports, spending time with her son Cameron, going on bike rides, and playing on the computer. Her favorite sports to play in her free time are volleyball and softball. Her favorite athletic company is NIKE.



PGA Pro Fred Couples

Her favorite sports entertainers are Jerry Rice and Fred Couples she even met him in person. She enjoys eating Mexican food, but her first job was at Burger King.

She went to Cordova Lane elementary school, Mitchell Jr. High, and Cordova High school. She attended several Colleges including Consumnes River College, American River College, California State University-Sonoma, California State University-Sacramento.

She's visited Mexico and the Bahamas. She's lived in Rancho Cordova, Rohnert Park, and Sacramento, all are located in California.

She feels students are facing many different issues these days like peers pressuring them to try drugs and the lack of motivation in their learning. Adults also face important issues such as raising respectful and competent children.

Ask Mrs. York about the experience of meeting Fred Couples.

---Heather Mantz

YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL?

Traditional vs. 4-Track Year-Round vs. Modified Year-Round

Kerr teachers were asked which schedule they liked better; 4-track year-round, modified year-round, or traditional. The Results: Modified year-round (26), 4-track year-round (8), and Traditional (5).

Why did they like modified year-round so much? Modified is a shorter summer, but includes a six week break in the winter months and a two week break in the spring. Teachers liked this schedule, because, "It gives me and the students time for a break, without the long 'haul' from Jan. to June." Another teacher said, "Those two breaks are nice and relaxing, like college." Though we students have never been to college, we now know that you get two breaks in spring! We also asked why they didn't like the other choices. "Year-round doesn't have enough 'down time' for teachers." From another teacher, "I never said I didn't like them, they all have good points— I simply prefer modified if I have a choice".

....continued page 7

ENTER THE DRAGON'S DOMAIN

Mr. Meredith—Science

Mr. Meredith has been working at Kerr for 11 years and has been teaching for 12 years. He says that the best thing about working at Kerr is that he enjoys the students and teachers. His favorite topic to teach is definitely astronomy. Mr. Meredith wanted to be a teacher, because his family are all teachers. His first job was as an Ambulance Driver. He substituted for Elk Grove, San Juan, and Grant districts before he was hired to teach at Kerr. Mr. Meredith went to college at Sacramento City College, CRC, CSU



Long Beach, CSU Sacramento, National University. He went to college for 8 years (5 years as an undergraduate, 1 year for his Teacher Credential, and 2 years to earn his

Masters Degree). Mr. Meredith went to Charles Mack Elementary, James Rutter Middle School, and Valley High School.

Mr. Meredith thinks that the most important issues facing students these days are families, friends, drugs, media influences, relationships, and emotions. Mr. Meredith thinks that the most important issues facing adults these days are work, family, getting older, money, and happiness.

Mr. Meredith would like science teachers at Kerr to be given more equipment. He would also like to get a faster computer so that all the teachers on his team can share files with him more easily (he also is a computing speed freak).

Mr. Meredith has visited Mexico, Canada, England and Scotland this year. He plays on his computer and on his piano in his free time. He also likes to visit San Francisco with his friends and enjoys watching the Discovery Channel. Mr. Meredith likes to ride horses, take Kung Fu classes and play sports such as roller-hockey and ice hockey in his free time. If you are confused by the title of this article, go ask Mr. Meredith.

---Serena Woods

....continued--Teen Driving

Most thought that it was a good start toward making the streets a safer place and reducing the number of teen-related accidents. Some, however, thought that this was going overboard by taking away a teen's freedom. They felt that this law does not encourage trust.

Is this change in the law really necessary and will it make a difference? According to the California Highway Patrol, teens make up only 4 percent of California's licensed drivers, yet they account for 9 percent of drivers in fatal crashes and 10 percent of drivers in injury crashes. In addition, 16-year olds have the highest percent-

age of crashes involving speeding, driver error, and the highest rate of teenage passengers killed in their cars.



There are mixed reviews about this new law, but one thing that is for sure is that this law is in effect and teens will be required to obey the law, like it or not. We hope that most will understand the value of it.

--- Jeffrey Lawson
--- Jeff McGee

MEASURE "A" BENEFITS KERR

You may be wondering about Measure A. Measure A was a bond issue intended to raise money through property tax assessments that will pay for 48% of new construction and for renovation of old schools over the next ten to 12 years. More money comes from the state of California and the Elk Grove school district. Measure A passed with 80.7% of the vote and will affect our school in the following ways: it will keep our school populations to reasonable sizes by building new schools when needed. EGUSD student population, is expected to double in the next ten to twelve years, reaching 80,000 students by the year 2010 based on development areas already approved by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. To accommodate those students, Elk Grove will need to build 24 elementary schools 4 middle schools 4 high schools and 2 alternative schools. Kerr grows up to about 2,000 kids again.

Kerr gets the following improvements from Measure A: they will expand the library and the covered walkway between the C & D wings to be made into classrooms. Adding individual exits in every math room

and they will use the hall as a computer lab. Improving original classrooms and buildings, improving the security systems, heating and air conditioning improve grounds, and improve access for the physically challenged. How much all that will cost no one is sure, but inspectors and architects have been working at Kerr to determine the price.

According to the Elk Grove Unified School District, enrollment in the Elk Grove Unified School District is expected to double again.

Elk Grove believes in maintaining and modernizing its 42 existing schools to ensure the same educational environment as future schools. With inflation, the district will need 1.1 billion dollars by the year 2010 to keep pace with growth and to maintain and upgrade its existing schools. It is inspiring to discover that the public cares enough to support educating our future leaders in up-to-date and well maintained schools. Thanks to all the people that voted yes on Measure A.

---Kenny Harland
---Bill Hosmann

KNIGHTS IN THE MAGIC KINGDOM

At 11:30 pm all nine buses pulled out of Joseph Kerr's parking lot on their way to the happiest place on earth, Disneyland. Lights outs for most buses was at 12:00 am, but kids were so excited they couldn't sleep. We finally started settling down and sleeping, but the buses stopped practically every hour.

At 5:15 bus three's engine blew. All buses stopped, but bus one and two went ahead. After about 40 minutes each remaining bus had to add 8-11 kids from bus three, then it started to snow. At 8 in the morning we made bathroom stops. Lines for the bathrooms and food were both long. Some kids who didn't wait in line for the bathrooms, changed in the buses.



When we first got to Disneyland, it was raining and windy. Throughout the day the weather was mixed. Then after a little while the sky cleared, but it was still cold. At eleven it abruptly went from sun to hard hail that whiplashed our faces. It sprinkled throughout the day, but was cold and windy until we left at 10:00 pm. An advantage to the cold weather was that the lines were shorter. The lines for Space Mountain, Matterhorn, and Splash Mountain would have been at least 90 minutes long, but were much shorter.

While we

were at Disneyland, Space Mountain broke down 3 times for about 30 minutes each time. Indiana Jones also broke down one time.

At 8:00 pm the Fantasia Light Show started on the big lake in Disneyland. It was really cool how they made the images appear to be moving in the smoke.

The day wound down and we loaded the buses at 10:00. We were off on our way home. Buses started to arrive in Elk Grove at about 5:45 am.

We would like to thank Mr. Ishikawa and Mrs. Mendoza for organizing such a fantastic trip. We had a great time!

---Rachel Flores
---Amber Contreras



FAVORITES

Students Rate Their Faves

Selected students at Kerr were asked to rate their favorites in several categories. Their Top Two choices are compiled in this article. See how many of your personal favorites are also popular at Joseph Kerr Middle School.

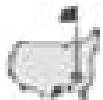
SPORTS



NBA
Michael Jordan
Dennis Rodman



MLB
Ken Griffey, Jr.
Barry Bonds



PGA
Tiger Woods
John Daly



BOXERS
Oscar Dela Hoya
Evander Holyfield



FREESTYLE BIKERS
Matt Hoffman
Brian Castle



NFL
Deion Sanders
Steve Young



SKATEBOARDERS
Cain Gayle
Tony Hawk



AGGRESSIVE SKATERS
Aaron Feinberg
Matty Mantz

CARS



Ford
BMW
Chevrolet
Mercedes

STARS



Will Smith
Tom Cruise
Matt Damon
Harrison Ford
Leonardo DeCaprio

MUSICAL SUCCESSES

Kerr has been competing at Golden Empire since the early 1980's. Our Joseph Kerr concert band won Triple Superior rating in this years competition. We also have won triple superior every time with the exception of one year. We asked why Mrs. Kreis and Mr. Winstead got interested in teaching band. Mrs. Kreis said she liked her band director at her school. Mr. Winstead enjoyed playing in elementary school, so both decided to continue in music. We asked both what they feel is the most popular instrument at Kerr. Mrs. Kreis said drums and Mr. Winstead said flute. We asked the teachers what their favorite instrument was and they both said the clarinet. Mrs. Kreis still enjoys playing all of the instruments and Mr. Winstead also plays all of the instruments.



We asked 10 band students about their instruments and when they started playing them. The majority said they started during the 7th grade. Mainly because the elementary band program no longer exists in most schools. By most students responses they practice a half hour a day. Obviously this paid off. We also asked if their parents made them play their instrument. About 70 percent were yes and 30 percent answered no. Most responded that they do enjoy playing, however a

select few said they do not. Most of the students said that they will not play in the future, do to other high school interests and pressures.

The Joseph Kerr Concert Choir also performed at the Golden Empire Music Festival on Saturday, March 14, 1998. The music festival was held in the music building of CSU Sacramento, the same location as the Golden Empire Band Festival. The choir performed before a panel of three judges, parents, friends, and choirs from other schools. They performed 4 pieces, one of them in Latin. Their performance earned them

a superior rating, the highest possible. This was the highest rating of any middle school choir at the festival that day. Following their performance, the choir watched the Elk Grove High

School Concert Choir perform, and then celebrated their great work at a pizza party back in Elk Grove.

We would like to congratulate both the Joseph Kerr Concert Band for earning their Triple Superior and the Concert Choir for earning their Superior. We would also like to thank Mrs. Kreis and Mr. Winstead for letting us interview them and their hard working students.

---James Casey
---Sheldon Steele

MUSIC TYPE



Rap
Heavy Metal
Alternative
R & B

CLOTHES



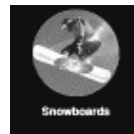
Nike
Airwalk
Levis
Senate

STORES



Across The Board
Nike
Mervyn's
Macy's

SPORTS



Football
Aggressive Skating
Skateboarding
Basketball

RADIO STATIONS



98.5
102.5
106.5
100.5

---Matt Kelly



BEFORE TEACHING, I WAS...

Teachers are always telling us to plan for our future so we were wondering what they did for their first jobs. Here is what we discovered when we caught some teachers and counselors.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Dr. Adreani | He worked at a beach carnival and at the youth center. |
| Mrs. Blackwood | She worked at Hallmark. |
| Mrs. McIntosh | She was a baby-sitter and sold jewelry at parties. |
| Mrs. Wilson | She worked as a lifeguard, gardener, and as a tutor. |
| Mrs. York | She worked at Burger King and the Penny Saver. |
| Mrs. Gesler | She worked at the Earring House. |
| Mr. Palmiere | He worked at the Peppermill. |
| Mr. Lee | He worked at Baskin Robins. |
| Ms. Harwood | She worked at a yogurt shop. |
| Mrs. Robards | She worked for her dad pulling weeds. |
| Ms. Heieck | She worked at Weinstocks. |
| Mrs. Phillips | She worked at a laundry mat. |
| Mrs. Cooper | She was a waitress at the Steak House. |
| Mr. Fong | He worked in inventory service. |
| Mr. Stevens | He swept the Bel-Air parking lot at 4:00am. |
| Mrs. Cook | She was a counselor at YMCA and a bus driver. |
| Mrs. Francia | She was a secretary for her father's company. |
| Mrs. Williams | She was a hamburger cook. |
| Mr. Kucera | He was a baby-sitter. |
| Mr. Bettencourt | He watered neighbors lawns. |
| Mr. Telles | He was a cook at Carrows. |
| Mrs. Clark | She was a waitress at A&W. |
| Ms. Bogle | She was a daycare provider and a vineyard worker. |
| Mrs. D'Andrea | She was a daycare provider. |
| Mr. Cuthbertson | He worked at a golf course. |
| Mr. Link | He was a park aide at Del Norte Coast Redwoods St. Park. |
| Mrs. Goldsberry | She worked at weinstocks in the junior department. |
| Mrs. Cadwallader | She worked at the Seattle First National Bank. |
| Mr. Ish | He did landscaping and mowed lawns. |
| Mr. Jacobson | He had paper routes and he was a baby-sitter. |
| Ms. Burton | She was a baby-sitter and full time mom. |
| Mr. Newton | He was a soda jerk and a bill collector. |



---Heather Mantz
---Serena Woods

MATH

AT GREAT AMERICA?

On April 24, select Kerr 7th graders are going to Great America for Math Day. They aren't just going there to have fun. They are also going to solve math problems related to the rides and the operation of the park. They must have good grades (C or better) and no U's before they may be picked for the trip. The students who get to go will be given problems on worksheets created by the Prentice-Hall Company. When the worksheet is completed, then the fun will begin. While at the park kids are given problems like the following: find the average circular speed of a horse on the carousel, describe the geometric shapes used as supports or components for rides, or determine the height of a roller coaster (using a big protractor, weighted string, and trig tables). Only 56 seventh graders will get to go. They will depart from Kerr at 7:00 am and return home between 6:30 & 7:00 at night. The cost for the trip is \$33.50. We hope that you are one of the chosen who will be able to go to Great America. Have lots of fun.



---Aaron Crotwell
---Lucas Navest

TEXACO ACROSS FROM KERR?

Gas Station, Star Mart, and Alcohol Sales to Come

Student safety, increased traffic, and the sale of alcohol near schools top the list of concerns of area residents over a proposed Texaco gas station on the southeast corner of Elk Grove Blvd. and Elk Grove-Florin Road.

Concerns were voiced at a contentious meeting the night of April 16, a meeting set up by community members to discuss concerns before the issue goes before the Elk Grove Community Planning Advisory Council on May 12. The proposed station

will include a 2,500 square foot Star Mart, with two fast-food restaurants inside.

Opponents said the station is too close to Elk Grove High School and Joseph Kerr Middle School, traffic will increase at an already congested intersection, making it more likely that a student will be hit, and sale of alcohol at the site may still occur, even though the developers have withdrawn their application for a beer and wine license.

More than 300 students cross the intersection twice daily, according to

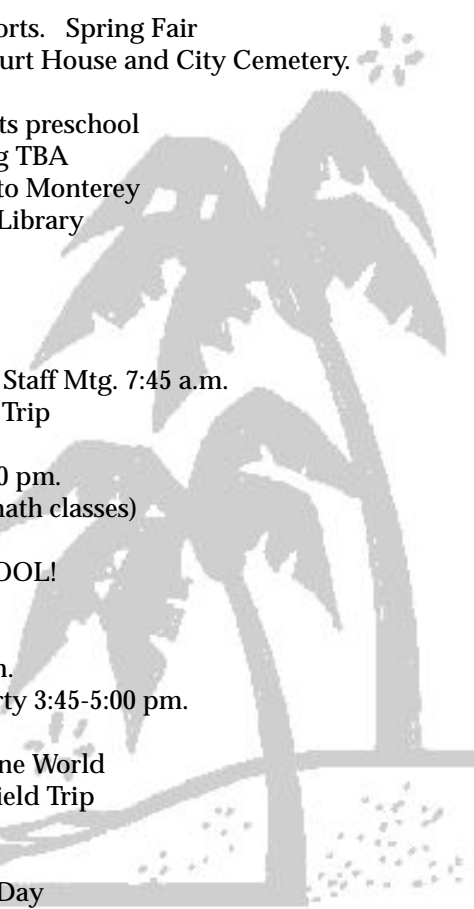
EGUSD Board Member, Brian Meyers. Though no deaths have occurred, several student pedestrians have been hit in the past several years. There have been 26 injury collisions with 50 victim injuries from 1992 through Oct. 1997. Even though the alcohol application has been withdrawn, they can reapply after they are open without a public hearing to do so. Close to 1000 signatures from Elk Grove Residents have asked that this application be denied. Hearings will be held May 12, 7pm, at the EGUSD Board Room, and is open to the public.

Make your voice heard.

---Sacramento Bee Neighbors
---Jeanene Harlick
---Staff Writer

APRIL TO JUNE

- Apr 16 A-Track 6th graders visit Kerr. Kerr @ Smedburg Track.
Semi Final Oral Language Faire, Smedburg
- Apr 21 Renaissance Celebration
- Apr 22 National Knowledge Masters. Student Council Orientation
- Apr 23 Finals Oral Language Faire, Sheldon High.
Kerr @ Eddy Track. Spring Pictures
- Apr 24 Math Day to Great America (7th graders)
- Apr 27 UCD field Trip
- Apr 28 Open House 6:30-8:00 pm
- Apr 28-30 STAR 9 Testing...period 1 classes
- Apr 30 Friendship Day
- May 1 3rd quarter Progress Reports. Spring Fair
- May 4 Honors History to EG Court House and City Cemetery.
STAR 9 Makeup
- May 4-8 Peterson's 4th period visits preschool
- May 5 District Meet @ Smedburg TBA
- May 5-6 Language Arts field Trip to Monterey
- May 6 Gate Science Field Trip—Library
- May 7 Silver K Assembly
- May 10 Mothers' Day
- May 11-15 **No Activities Week**
- May 12 Admin. Council 7:45 am.
- May 13 Restructure Comm. 7:00 Staff Mtg. 7:45 a.m.
- May 16 7th Grade Great America Trip
- May 18-22 **No Activities Week**
- May 19 Summer Concert 6:30-8:30 pm.
- May 21-22 Golden State Exams (in math classes)
- May 22 Jazz Festival-Jazz Band
- May 25 Memorial Day -NO SCHOOL!
- May 25-29 **No Activities Week**
- May 27 Staff Meeting. 7:45 am.
- May 29 Promotion Dance 7-10 pm.
- June 1 Yearbook distribution party 3:45-5:00 pm.
- June 2 Awards night 6:30 pm.
Silver K field trip to Marine World
- June 3 8th Grade Water World Field Trip
- June 4 Promotion Practice
- June 5 Promotion 7 am.
Last Day Of School Min. Day



....continued--Year-Round!

In a distant second place was the 4-track year-round. Each track is on for three months and off for one. No more than three tracks are on the campus at one time. Why did some teachers like it? "I don't have to look for another job during the summer months." "I feel fresher and better able to give students my best." One teacher said that if Kerr went back to 4-track, they would retire! Why did 4-track fans not like the other choices? They all pretty much said that traditional is too long without breaks.

Last but not least came traditional. Every one knows what the traditional schedule is, since Kerr has gone back to it from modified. It has long summer, short Christmas, and short spring breaks. Why was this chosen by some teachers? It "allows appropriate growth and rest between grade levels." Our favorite, "I'm a traditional kind of guy!" Why didn't they like the other choices? There are "too many scheduling conflicts for families with kids at different grade levels."



In conclusion, Kerr teachers seem to lean toward modified more than the other schedules. Teaching time is more spread out, but the whole school is on the same schedule, making it easier to work together. Personally, we agree.

---Melinda Quist

---Nichole Mendes

STAR 9 STATEWIDE TEST

There are many achievement tests given to students in California. Some are the CTBS, ITBS, CAT-5, and the new STAR-9 test. The STAR-9 is meant to replace the last statewide test, the CLAS test. The CLAS test was dropped several years ago due to complaints about questions that went too deeply into students personal beliefs and disagreements with the scoring.

There is some controversy about using the STAR-9 as a statewide test,

too. The state Superintendent of Public Instruction, Delaine Eastin, and the Governor, Pete Wilson, disagree on whether this test is the best to compare students statewide, but it is now a legal requirement to give this test.

The STAR-9 achievement test will be given on April 28 through 30. It will test students grades two through eleven. It includes reading, written expression, math, spelling, science, social science, and language arts. Kerr students will only be tested on the first

—> The STAR-9 Test will be given on April 28 through 30.

four subjects. The testing will take 70 minutes the first two days, with about 20 minutes used for preparation before the test. There is a no calculator rule throughout the entire test. Makeup tests will be given on May 4 and 5.

It will be interesting to see how Kerr students will do compared with other middle school students in California.

---Janelle Kunz



....continued--Child Labor

for very little pay. What responsibility do our students have for what occurs in other countries?

Students from several American schools went to the head of their PE Departments and complained about soccer balls and other sports equipment being made by children for unreasonable pay and in poor working conditions. We are sure that you've heard about the Nike boycott caused by reports of young children making these products. They are reported to be working in very poor conditions similar to what children suffered under during the Industrial Revolution. American laws prevent students from working more than a specific number of hours each week to prevent companies from taking advantage of those who have the least power.

Here are stories similar to the Nike incidents in other parts of the world. A reporter traveled for about two hours from Madurai to Sivakasi, India. He wanted to go there to photograph children in match factories. The industry is infamous for the exploitation of workers young and old. Although he visited many factories, most owners would not allow him to photograph the workers. The owner of the factory where this picture was taken was not in. The photographer told the shop manager that he wanted to talk with the owner and insisted on



waiting inside the factory. After an hour the manager returned and demanded all of the photographer's film. He left, but not before he managed to capture the child seen here stacking matches in a rack. Each child will stack thousands of matches per day.

You can visit the "free

the children "web site at: <http://www.freethechildren.org/> to learn more about how children are abused in the workplace.

You can learn how to help save children like Rosie Baroquillo. She started working in the sugar cane fields when she was seven years old. Now she is nine and is still doing the same work. She stopped going to school, because her family could not afford to spend the money on her education. The money she earns is used to support the rest of her family. Her father is dead so she helps contribute what he no longer can.

The money she earns is not enough to buy the food she needs to survive. She is always hungry and tired of hard work in the fields. She



wishes she could have soup to go with the rice she eats, because without soup the rice is hard to swallow.

Jitti Tumrin, 13, arrived in Bangkok,

Thailand, from his northern village to work in a leather factory. From the day he arrived Jitti worked 11 to 14 hour days, with two days off every month. His job was to glue pre-cut pieces of leather together. For his efforts, he received \$45 a month of which \$16 went to a middleman. While the glue fumes gave him headaches and he disliked the work, Jitti seemed to have resigned himself to his fate. Although laws exist to protect him from this kind of exploitation, he is not aware of them. "I don't know what else to do," he told a reporter in his native Thai. Knowing how his parents depend on his earnings, he replied, "I cannot disappoint them and tell them the truth that I am very unhappy."

Child Labor is unfair to youth who need a chance to learn how to be children before they must become adults. Please help save the children by learning about their plight!

--Based on an article by Mikel Flamm

--adapted by Missy Owens

....continued--Bulimia and Anorexia

16. I like to read recipes, cookbooks, calorie charts, and books about exercise.

17. I have missed work or school because of my eating habits.

18. I tend to be depressed or irritable.

19. I feel guilty when I eat.

20. I avoid some people because they bug me about the way I eat.

21. When I eat, I feel bloated and fat.

22. My eating habits and fear of food interfere with friendships or romantic relationships.

23. I binge eat.

24. I do strange things with my food (cut it into tiny pieces, eat it in special ways, eat it on special dishes with special utensils, make patterns on my plate with it, secretly throw it away, give it to the dog, hide it, spit it out before I swallow, etc.)

25. I get anxious when people watch me eat.

26. I am hardly ever satisfied with myself.

27. I vomit or take laxatives to control my weight.

28. I want to be thinner than my friends.

29. I have said or thought, "I would rather die than be fat"

30. I have stolen food, laxatives, or diet pills from stores or other people.

31. I have fasted to lose weight

32. In romantic moments, I cannot let myself go because I am worried about my fat and flab.

33. I have noticed one or more of the following: cold hands and feet, dry skin, thinning hair, fragile nails, swollen glands in my neck, dental cavities, dizziness, weakness, and rapid or irregular heartbeat.



Karen Carpenter before her death, weighing little more than 80lbs.