

Principal's Report  
Florence Budge  
January 2015  
Enrollment: 249

Happy New Year!!

The annual Winter Concert was held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The lively music and beautiful voices were enjoyed by all the KCS students and staff. Unfortunately, due to spotty icy road conditions throughout Kent, the evening performance was postponed until Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. On that evening, the children performed before a full house. As usual, they were outstanding! We are thankful for the musical talents of our students, the guidance of their music teachers, Sandy Kleisner and David Poirier, and for the volunteers/staff who made this event a success!

Our PTO officers, Mrs. Kurze, Mrs. Nordland, and Mrs. Harrington, attended our faculty meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>. They chatted with the staff about their goals and past and future fundraisers. They answered questions and invited the staff to send them comments and ideas about ways to support our school. The faculty applauded the PTO for coordinating with parents to provide a delicious array of holiday cookies and treats for all teachers and staff before the holidays. We are so lucky to be here at KCS!

Select students in grades 3-7 were invited to participate in a Take Apart event at KCS under the guidance of Cindy Willson. The event was open to students who either participated in last year's CT Invention Convention or received a recommendation from Mr. Szwed. Students worked on dis-assembly and took apart old appliances to better understand the mechanics behind their devices. The Take Apart helped prepare students for designing their own inventions beginning in January 2015.

On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, all students in grades 2 through 6 participated in "Jump Rope for Heart." The students participated in various jumping stations that ranged from competitive to individual to partner tasks. The students raised over \$2,000 for the American Heart Association. Thank you to Mrs. Saunders for all her preparation and work in arranging this yearly event!

Thirty-five KCS students in grades 3-5 will participate in the **Continental Mathematics League's first computer science "coding" contest for elementary school children**. The contest will consist of three sessions of "programming" and algorithmic puzzles, six puzzles in each session. No preliminary knowledge of computer programming or any programming language is expected. The contest is designed to foster students' interest in computing and will focus on "unplugged" activities, questions that do not require any specific computer knowledge. Computer science in the early grades not only teaches students the basics of how computers are programmed, but also fosters problem solving skills, persistence, and precision thinking that will help students succeed in math and other subjects. The first session will be held on January 15, 2015 during the school day and will last 30 minutes. Additional sessions will be held in February and March. Mrs. MacLeod, KCS technology teacher, is coordinating this event.

The KELF Grant this year was awarded to Mrs. Carolyn MacLeod. The grant money will be used to purchase Beebots. Beebots are small robots that children program to make them move. They require problem-solving skills and team work and can be used by first through eighth graders. Congratulations, Mrs. MacLeod!

The Eighth graders fundraising efforts are in full swing. Through their poinsettia sale and discount card sale, they raised \$3,343. They will be selling advertisements for their yearbook and will host a pasta dinner to achieve their final goal.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS -

- January 10 Northern Regional Music Festival Auditions
- January 19 Martin Luther King Birthday - no school
- January 22 Geography Bee - 1:45 pm
- January 23 End MP #2 - Gr. 5-8
- January 26 Gr. 8 to visit HVRHS
- January 26 Parent Curriculum Night for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents
- January 28 Gr. 8 National Assessment of Education Progress Testing (NAEP)
- January 30 End MP #! For Kindergarten
- January 30 Report Cards - Grade 5-8