



KAUFFMAN
SCHOLARS, INC.

Parent pulse

Parents Uniting Long-term for Scholar Excellence

Upcoming

Please mark your calendars:

CLASS 1 - PARENTS

Community Service Project

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Inclement Weather!

Parents it's that time of the year again. As we enter the winter season there will be times when the weather creates situations in which KSI will find it necessary to cancel classes or make adjustments to its normal operating hours. Please familiarize yourself with the protocol for inclement weather. The following tips might help in assisting you with it.

* All Day Closures

When classes are cancelled in either School District (KCMO or USD 500 KCK), After School Enrichment Academy (AEA) will also be cancelled. KSI cancellation information will be included on local television broadcast systems. In addition, please call the Parent Information Line at 816-932-1244, to check the status of classes. Cancellation information will be available at 6:00 a.m. on that day. Information may be posted on the KSI web page. Notices of class cancellations will also be posted at the afterschool site.

* Early Release Before the Start of Academic Enrichment Academy (AEA)

When schools in either district dismiss early because of weather, AEA classes will be cancelled for that day. Students must utilize their normal way of transportation home from school on these days. It is important that parents are notified of the cancellation of AEA classes, so that they can expect their Scholars to get home by their normal transportation means or make other appropriate arrangements.

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One Super Single Dad

Terry Sappington is an inspiring example of how one man can make a difference in the lives of many. As a single dad, he begins each day determined to do his best for his family, his students, and his community.

Terry's life evolves around his family of five children, including sons Terry and Divante, daughter Shantel, and nieces Donnisha and Natalia. "When I graduated from Pittsburg State University in 2003, I came back to Kansas City to help my grandma. She was blind, and trying to take care of my two nieces," Terry remembered. "When she passed away, it took a toll on the girls. So, I decided to have them live with me and my three kids."

Three of Terry's family entered Kauffman Scholars last year, and he is looking forward to the day when he hopes his two youngest will be accepted. "I work with all of them to help them develop good study habits, get their grades up, and to show them a brighter outlook on life than they see on the TV," said Terry. "Education is power, and it will give you the ability to do whatever you want in life."

Terry began his life as a single parent in 1993 while living in Pittsburg, Kansas. As his children attended Head Start, he grew more and more interested in understanding and

influencing their development.

"I realized I wanted to work in education, and that I wanted to understand how to help all children deal with behavior problems." He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in psychology and he now works with children experiencing behavioral problems at Attucks Elementary School, through the Local Investment Commission (LINC) program. He also teaches reading and math in the evening. In the future, he hopes to establish a space where children can come to study drama, arts and crafts. "I want to make the community where I grew up better by helping the children there," he said.

Terry would be the first to tell you that managing a family of five and a demanding job isn't easy. "Some days when I come home, I tell everyone that I just need thirty minutes of silence!" he smiled. "But every since I began working with children, my own and others, it's been so rewarding. When I look into their eyes, and see sadness in their faces, I want to do what I can to make a difference."



Inclement weather, continued

* Early Release During Academic Enrichment Academy (AEA)

Sometimes it may be necessary to close AEA early due to changes in weather conditions after the start of classes. If this is the case, parents will need to be notified as early as possible to arrange for an early pick-up of their students.

In the case of snow or other potentially hazardous weather, KSI staff will not transport students home.

* Saturday Enrichment Academy (SEA)

When a forecast of inclement weather is available on Friday, the decision to cancel class will be made by the

President/CEO no later than 12:00 noon on that day. In situations where a forecast or actual occurrence of inclement weather is not known until the morning of SEA, the President/CEO will make the decision to cancel classes by 6:00 a.m.

The voice messaging system will be used to call each Scholar's home to inform them of this decision. In addition, Parents may call the Parent Information Line at 816-932-1244, which will have a recorded message informing the parents of the cancellation of SEA classes.



Stop, Drop and Read!

Greetings,

One of the most important things parents can do for their children is to become involved in their literacy activities. While reading is a tool people use to function efficiently in every aspect of their lives, achieving literacy is more than simply reading. Literacy pertains to your ability to function effectively and participate actively in your community. Literacy impacts all areas of comprehension, education and life skills, from learning math and science to exercising the right to vote.

Research shows that parents' involvement in their children's learning positively influences academic performance, in both primary and secondary schools. Higher academic achievement is more likely when parents participate in their children's reading and writing activities. Children who have this experience exhibit improved learning skills, greater problem – solving skills, more enjoyment of the educational experience, better school attendance and fewer behavioral problems at school. Studies have also shown that parental involvement in a child's literacy development is a more powerful force than other family background factors in their child's achievement, including social class, family size and level of the parents' education.

Of all school subjects, reading has been found to be most responsive to parental influence. Although the influence of parents has the greatest effect on literacy in the early years, it continues to be important into the teenage and even adult years. For urban youth in particular, the interest of parents in reading and ongoing education activities provides a strong positive example that creates

a sharp contrast with the notion that learning is somehow “not cool.” Research shows that lack of literacy is linked to the national crisis of the high percentage of minority youth currently in the prison or juvenile justice system.

Literacy is a fundamental tool for success, especially in our global, multi-lingual economy. People in modern, industrialized countries must respond to many different types of information every day, in many different formats. The more literate a person becomes, the more fully he or she can contribute to the advancement of their society. The more information one can understand, the more information one can share.

Parents can do a lot to keep the literacy ball rolling. Why not create a special time when the family turns off the TV, stops the video games, and spends an hour reading? Parents and children can form book clubs with other families, where everyone gathers once a week or so to discuss a book they've all been reading. Literacy is a vital area where parental involvement is one of the most important elements of a child's success. We've probably all heard the adage about what to do if one's clothes catch fire – stop, drop and roll. Perhaps now is the time to create a new adage in response to the urgent need to promote literacy for our urban youth; stop, drop and read!

Regards,



R. Stephen Green, Ed.D.
President and CEO



Pam Harris,
Parent Engagement Specialist

Parent Engagement Specialist: *Thought for the Month*

The Kansas City, KS Public Schools has a wonderful website! It includes a link to the *Parent Institute*, where parents can gain knowledge and advice on various issues that affect their families.

This month's “Thought” comes from an article on the website entitled “Teach Your Child the Success Secret of Hard Work”. For more information about the *Parent Institute*, go to: <http://www.kckps.org/parents/>.

What's the most important factor in predicting a child's success in school? Many people think it's “intelligence” or “ability”. Yet experienced educators know that *hard work* is the real key to success in school. Students of average

intelligence often get better grades – and do better in life – than those with very high IQs. Why? They have been willing to invest the time and effort it takes to succeed.

That's good news for parents. It means that every child has a chance to learn the “success secret” of hard work. Here's how parents can help instill this attitude in their children.

Effort, not just ability, is the key to success. Too many students believe that only smart children will do well in school. Yet the parents of many successful students teach them that anyone can succeed – if they are willing to put in the work.

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Make the connection between sports and school. On the athletic field, kids usually understand the importance of hard work. They know that practice will help them improve their jump shot or their batting. They also know that even the most gifted athlete can't be a winner if she doesn't practice every day. But kids don't always make the connection between the practice field and the classroom. That's where parents come in. Make sure your child has a regular time for homework daily. If your child is frustrated because he or she is having trouble catching on to a new subject, encourage him or her to keep at it.

Plan – Do – Finish. Some children are naturally organized. But most kids need a little help from their parents. Teaching your child to “plan, do, finish” can help improve their organization skills.

Step 1: Plan. Although planning may seem like a waste of time, it can actually save time. Before your child starts a project, help him plan what he needs to do.

Step 2: Do. All the planning in the world doesn't take the place of attacking a job. If your child is working on a large project, she should make some progress toward her goal every day.

Step 3: Finish. Dishes aren't finished until they're put away. A report isn't finished until it's neatly copied. Make sure your child knows that it's the extra effort that can make the difference between an A or a B.

Admissions for Kauffman Scholars Class 4

The new recruiting season for Kauffman Scholars is coming in February, 2007. During the February parent workshop, KSI will present our new recruitment flyer, and ask you to think about families you may know who have a student who is eligible to be a Kauffman Scholar. To be eligible to apply, remember that students must meet the following requirements:

- Enter seventh grade in the Fall 2007.
- Live within the Kansas City, Missouri or Kansas City, Kansas school district boundaries.
- Attend a public or charter public school within the Kansas City, Missouri or Kansas City, Kansas school district boundaries.



- Qualify for free or reduced lunch program.
- Earn a C or above in all core subjects during the first semester of the sixth grade school year. Core subjects are Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- No more than one out-of-school suspension during the first semester of the sixth grade year.

If you know a motivated student who wants to go to college and needs encouragement and support to get there, please encourage them to visit our Web site at www.kauffmanscholars.org.

What can you do to prepare your Scholar financially for college?

Start saving now... Basic advice for Parents of Scholars

A college education is an investment that pays lifelong dividends. In many cases, it comes with cost that must also be considered over a long period of time. The typical four-year degree ranges from \$34,000 to \$90,000, depending on the type of school a student attends. This adds up to a significant expense, which is best managed well before a child heads to college.

Find out what different colleges and universities are charging today. Use your research on college costs and set your total education savings goal. Now

that you know your education savings goal, you can perform some “what-if” calculations to figure out how much to save and how you may want to invest to achieve your goal.

The old adage, “wealth is built little by little” is true in relation to saving for college. Parents and guardians who wish to provide their scholar with a quality college education can achieve this goal by saving for college or technical school years in advance. Develop a systematic family savings plan, even if it is just putting away a few dollars a week. Start saving now.

KSI Staff



R. Stephen Green
President & CEO



Marcella Gladney Lee
Vice President /
General Counsel



Terry Gibson
Controller



Joy Vann-Hamilton
Vice President of
Program Operations



Pam Harris
Parent Engagement
Specialist



Manomay Malathip
Lead Life Coach/Scholar
Engagement Specialist/
KS Site Manager



James McGirt
Lead Academic Coach-
Math/MO Site Manager

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IT Specialist

Karen Collins
Executive Administrative
Assistant

Sue Emslie
Administrative Assistant

Maribel Martinez
Administrative Assistant



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SCHOLARS, INC.

4801 Rockhill Road Kansas City, MO 64110-6789