

Kelvin Grove Middle School

# Kelvin Grove Newsletter



## Upcoming Events:

**Dec**  
**1** 8GBB Regional Date- TBA; PTO Book Fair; BBB vs Oak Prairie 4:15  
**2** Midterm; Band/Chorus Pointsettia Orders Due; PTO Book Fair  
**3** PTO Book Fair; 7GBB State-TBA  
**4** Cheer Competition at Carl Sandburg HS  
**6** BBB at Saratoga 4:30  
**7** Pizza Hut Night 4-8pm; BBB vs Lukancic 4pm; 8GBB Sectionals- TBA; D91AA Board Mtg 7pm  
**8** 7GBB State-TBA; BBB vs Taft 4:15  
**9** Progress Reports; 7th grade Field Trip to Drury Ln.  
**10** 8GBB State-TBA D91AA CSW Event "Hornetmania"  
**12** GBB All Star Game TBA; BBB vs Manhattan 4pm  
**13** BBB vs Richland 4:15; PTO Exec. Board Mtg at MG; D91 Academy Mtg 6:30; Board of Education 7:30  
**14** GVB Tryouts Begin 7am; BBB at Hickory Creek 4pm; Winter Concert & Bake Sale 7pm  
**15** 8GBB State-TBA; BBB at Laraway 4:15  
**18** Cheer Competition at Joliet West HS  
**19** Nicky's Dinner Out 3-9; BBB vs Laraway 4:15  
**20** Holiday Program 9:15 and 1:15 performances; Nicky's Dinner Out 3-9; BBB at Martino 4pm; Jr. High Holiday Dance 7pm  
**Dec 22-Jan 3 Winter Break**  
**Jan**  
**4** Classes Resume; Pizza Hut Night 4-8; BBB at Lukancic  
**5** 8th grade Graduation Pictures and Cap/Gown Ordering  
**6** 7GVB at Homer Tourney  
**9** BBB vs Martinez 4:15  
**10** BOE Finance Mtg 1pm; Board of Ed Meeting 7:30pm

## From the Desk of Principal Pritchard

The holiday season is now upon us. The weather has definitely changed. Please make sure that your child is dressing for the colder weather that is coming. We want to make sure that the kids stay healthy throughout the school year.

Believe it or not, November and December are two of the busiest months at KG. Please make sure to check our activity calendar online. We have basketball games and winter music productions going on throughout the two months. We would love to have you join us.

This is also the time to start planning activities for the kids over the winter break. Remember to take some time to spend with your family. It's a great time to go downtown to a museum, or try to get out to do some cross-country skiing or ice skating. The kids (and the adults) need the outlet. It will make the time pass more quickly and the entire family will have a great time doing something together.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season.

## Hornet Window Decals For Sale!

The Kelvin Grove Girls Softball Team is selling Hornet window decals in an effort to raise the funds needed to build a backstop for the softball field at KG. Mrs. Pacetti has the decals available for sale at all home basketball games, or you can contact Caoach Anderson at KG (ext 130 or saanderson@d91.net) to make your purchase. There are two styles available—black and white Hornet is \$10 and the black, white and gold Hornet is \$15. The actual size if the decal is 5"x5.5".



*Show your school spirit!*

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## Fourth Grade Spotlight

The fourth grade teachers would like to thank all the parents who attended parent-teacher conferences. It's good to know that our students have supportive parents.

Academically, your child has been busy in all subject areas. Reading/Language has brought us to Theme 3 where we will be learning about common and proper nouns, singular and plural nouns, possessive nouns, abbreviations and pronouns. We will also draw conclu-

sions and compare and contrast in our reading. In math we will continue addition, subtraction, multiplication and will begin probability. In Social Studies we have been learning about the northeast region of the United States. We will soon begin the next region, the southeast. In science we have been studying about the solar system and matter. Please ask your child about any and all of these topics.

Once again, we would like to stress the

importance of a good homework routine. Please work with your child on homework sheets, studying for quizzes and tests, and reviewing all math facts. Be sure to check your child's file folder and agenda each night for information regarding these assignments and tests. Don't forget about our web page. It is one more way to find out what your child's assignments are. You can find our web pages on [www.d91.net](http://www.d91.net).

Happy Holidays!!

## Fifth Grade Spotlight

It was great to see so many parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

The fifth grade students have finished their Explorer PowerPoint presentations and research projects. Ask your student about their explorer! Next, the fifth graders will be delving back into

Science, where will be studying geology and landforms.

We are hard at work on our novel studies in Reading, so be on the look out for the novel your child is reading. Everyone seems to be enjoying the novels and the change of pace. Talk to your student about their novel and how it relates to them.

Now that the weather is turning cooler and Winter Break is approaching, please make sure your student is dressed warmly, and has a hat and gloves to wear in the morning and at recess.

On behalf of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Happy Holidays!

## Sixth Grade Spotlight

### Math- Mr. Lindstrom

1<sup>st</sup> period-We just finished a chapter on fractions, decimals, prime factorization, LCM, and GCF. The students did a lot of their own exploration to find the roots of these concepts and they did a great job. We are moving into Fraction operations and the wonderful world of integers. I know that first period will continue to work hard.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> period-We are just finishing a chapter on multiplying and dividing by decimals we also learned how to convert metric units using King Handy Dandy (makes, gives, or licks) delicious cookies Monday. This crazy sentence works and the kids know how to convert metric units. We will be discovering the amazing world of fractions next.

**Language Arts- Ms. Freeman**-Students will participate in Literature Circles as they con-

tinue reading a story about two unlikely friends—Max and Freak—that expresses themes such as deep friendship, teamwork, belonging, and acceptance of people who are different. Students will write a friendly letter in proper format to a certain, jolly someone associated with the Christmas season. A special day is planned for the sixth grade in December that goes along with an informational story about everyone's favorite sweet treat.... Extended responses will be the writing focus. After the new year, students turn the corner into Folk tales, Fairy tales, Fables, Legends, Myths, oh my! Students will begin a unit on the oral tradition, or **FFFLM**, for short.

### Science- Mr. Lindstrom

We just finished to labs that were wonderful, one of labs we found out that  $1 + 1$  does NOT equal 2, and the other lab we saw a can crush right before our eyes. These labs both

relate to particle movement. Parents please ask your student to do the 4 states of matter dance for you. We learned how particles move by dancing to them. We will be moving into the Periodic table next be on the watch out for a science project for this chapter.

### Social Science- Mrs. Soulian

Mesopotamia, Babylon, cuneiform, polytheism are all new vocabulary words the students are learning about as they learn about the first cultures to develop in the first civilizations in Mesopotamia.

**PE-Miss Anderson** - The students are getting ready to start their basketball tournament, they have been practicing many skills and fundamentals for the past 3 weeks.

**Character Education** –The class is currently working on a family and friends unit. We will be taking our midterm in 2 weeks.



## Seventh Grade Spotlight

### Math- Mrs. Stateman (Mrs. Campbell)

Math students are still working on fractions and will then move on to Integers. Pre-Algebra students are working on equations.

Mrs. Stateman returns November 21, 2011. It has been a pleasure working with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers.

### Language Arts- Mrs. Dickson

"Bah! Humbug!" is what Scrooge retorted grumpily to Fred about his Christmas spirit. You won't hear any seventh grade students repeating this phrase in the Kelvin Grove halls. Or will you?

Students will be reading A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens in play format. We will be focusing on tone, expression, interpreting and visualizing stage directions, plot, and sequencing events. We will be going to

Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook on December 9<sup>th</sup>. They will compare and contrast the live rendition and the play in their Literature books in an extended response.

In the months of November and December, we are also excited to begin a unit of study on the basis of the word perseverance. We will be reading about many people in history that have shown perseverance, writing our own narratives or journal entries about perseverance, and conducting a mini research project about a person we are interested in that showed perseverance throughout his/ her life.

### Science- Mrs. Prieboy

In Mrs. Prieboy's Life Science class students will learn how cells interact with their environment, how cells get nutrients and get rid of wastes, and where cells get the energy from to carry out all the activities of life.

Students will also learn about how cells produce more cells. (Chapter 4)

### Social Science- Mrs. Soulian

Seventh grade is in the middle of the Revolution, we are reading the Declaration of Independence and preparing for the U.S. Constitution test.

### PE- Mrs. Prieboy

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders in Mrs. Prieboy's Physical Education class will be playing basketball during the month of November. GREAT continues every Tuesday with Officer Phelan from the Lockport Police Department. The community service project is due November 29.

### Character Education- Miss Anderson

Mental health issues are what we are currently working on and will continue with this unit until the midterm. Then, we will begin our nutrition unit.



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## Eighth Grade Spotlight

**Math- Mrs. Stateman (Campbell)-** Pre-Algebra classes are solving equations during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Algebra students are solving & graphing linear inequalities. All homework is posted daily in the classroom & on Mrs. Stateman's webpage.

Mrs. Stateman returns November 21<sup>st</sup>. I will then move to Mrs. Lawrence's classroom to teach Science & Social Studies until she returns in February.

**Language Arts- Mrs. Forristall-** The eighth graders are hard at work in language arts. Journal writing continues to

be done on a daily basis. We have finished our study of nouns and will be taking a look at verbs. Spelling and vocabulary test continue to be given weekly.

Reading short stories from the *Literature* text continues. Our stories currently focus on the writings of Jack London. A poetry memorization project is an additional assignment for the students. Presentations of the poems will begin on December 19, 2011. The students are also working on a Reading Response Report that will can be

turned in by January 5, 2012. However, the students have been encouraged to turn in completed reports by December 21, 2011.

### Physical Education- Miss Anderson-

The students are enjoying their basketball unit, we are in the middle of our round robin team tournament.

**Character Ed.- Miss Anderson-** Starting out the new quarter with the consumer education unit. The students will be working on an advertisement to present in class.

# Train Your Brain

By Dr. Swayne

This is one in a series of articles dedicated to all of you – District 91 students, parents/guardians and grandparents of our students, staff, and community supporters. These articles are written to help each of you to become more efficient in your learning and memory. Each of us can help our memory processes through development of various, easy to learn skills and strategies. Throughout this series, you may find the answers to questions such as:

*\*Why do I remember some things and not others?*

*\*How can I remember more?*

*\*How can I study more effectively?*

*\*How can I improve my brain's "filing system"?*

As you better understand how your brain works, you will be able to improve your memory, increase your learning skills and develop more efficient thinking & mental organization. Interested? Let's get started!

## What you already know can help you learn something NEW!

Whenever you can, use any personal experiences or past knowledge to make sense of new information. For example: Some students had recently studied about the Boston Tea Party of the 1700's. You may have seen a documentary or read some stories about this event – your past knowledge can help you build on this new information about the Boston Tea Party.

You might enjoy building things – many younger students like puzzles or working with Legos. Your ability to put these things together helps you to understand the process from beginning to end; such abilities can help when you are designing a project for a science or art class.



## Breaking down information into smaller parts – "chunking"

It's easy to get overwhelmed when learning new information. One of the best practices is to break down the information into smaller bits or chunks. For example, look at this string of 10 digits for five seconds, look away and write down the digits: 4256842057. How did you do? What if I wrote the digits like this: 425-684-2057. Easier? Probably. It was chunked into three groups – just like a phone number.

You can apply chunking to information, long-term projects and other things that may, initially, seem difficult to learn.

These are just a few ideas for you to begin to use your brain power more efficiently.

Next month's topics will include **Discover Your Learning Style.**

Any comments or questions? I would love to hear from you! Email me at [lswayne@d91.net](mailto:lswayne@d91.net).

Resources include:

How to explain a brain: An educator's handbook of brain terms and cognitive processes by R. Sylwester [2005].

How the brain learns, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. David A Sousa [2006].

Your memory: how it works and how to improve it, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Dr. K. Higbee [2001]

[www.brainconnection.com](http://www.brainconnection.com)



## Computer Exploratory Class

The new quarter begins in Computer Exploratory Classes and students are working on Microsoft Word, Keyboarding Connection, Type to Learn 3 for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Type to Learn 4 for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Expectations and Rules of Computer Exploratory Class were discussed and computers were assigned.



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**WANTED: Please send your empty coffee cans and old CD-Roms and/or DVDs to the Kelvin Grove LRC to be used for special winter crafts. Contact Mrs. Bruemmer at 815-838-0737, ext 109 with questions.**

## LASEC Academy News

LASEC Academy is transitioning into the fall months. To celebrate, we decorated pumpkins for the library's annual contest! In reading, we are concluding our study of *The Outsiders*. Additionally, we continue to work on expanding our vocabulary and specific reading comprehension skills. In language arts, we finished learning about different parts of speech, and we are now studying various types of sentences and sentence structures. For writing, we began learning about personal narratives. We will be putting these lessons into practice when we com-

pose our personal narratives in the upcoming weeks. We wrapped up Earth science and are beginning a unit on life science. We learned about the rise of the Islamic Empire in social studies. In math we practiced manipulating percentages and fractions. We look forward to the great opportunities second quarter will bring!

## Mr. MacFarlane's PE Class

We have had a student teacher in Mr. MacFarlane's PE class. Mr. Ferazzi is will be fulfilling his student teacher requirement for Trinity Christian College through December 15<sup>th</sup>.

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades – We are finishing our soccer unit and getting ready to start basketball. Dribbling,

passing and layups will be the skills focus.

6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades – We are getting ready to start basketball. Learning how to play offence and defense will be our main focus. We are finishing the soccer unit with some daily soccer tournaments.

Students keep up the good work and parents feel free to contact me @ [mmacfarlane@d91.net](mailto:mmacfarlane@d91.net) with any questions.  
Mr. MacFarlane



## LASEC Multi-Needs Classroom

The multi-needs classroom has been working on their money skills: counting coins, exchanging coins, and giving change. We've also started elapsed time which is

a skill everyone needs. Each week, we plan part of a meal, go shopping, compare prices, and then cook what was purchased. Trying new foods is exciting!

We're also working on bringing our DOL skills to our writing.

## Art News

The fourth and fifth grade art students have concluded their study of the color wheel and will be putting their color knowledge to use by creating paintings and holiday sculptures to celebrate the season. The fourth grade students will be using Van Gogh and his masterpiece, "Starry Night" as inspiration; however, the fifth grade students will be starting a formal painting using Claude Monet to motivate their efforts.

The second quarter exploratory classes have completed their place card to identify their seat in art class.

They have also completed their portfolio, which will house all their work in progress, and sketchbook for class. Sixth grade students are currently experimenting with various techniques associated with watercolor. Seventh grade students are also using watercolor, however, within the art of architecture. Students also had an opportunity to use an architecture computer program to design their dream home with the help of Frank Lloyd Wright! Eighth grade students are completing a drawing assignment with a focus on highlight, shadow, and shading and

will progress into painting and sculpture within the weeks to come.

Please note the following ART CLUB dates in December:

December 1, 2011  
December 8, 2011  
December 15, 2011

Thank you for your interest in the Art Department at Kelvin Grove, and happy holidays to all!

-Mrs. Cravens



## Lunch Room Information

Please be advised that the lunch menu and order forms are available online through the school website. Just go to website: [www.d91.net](http://www.d91.net) and click on lunch menu and from there you can print the order

form and menu. All due dates are also posted on this page.

All students must submit a lunch order by the due date in order to receive hot lunch. The order form must

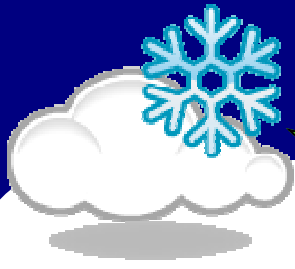
## Mrs. Shew

include child's name, first period teacher, A or B choice circled and payment.

All Free/Reduced lunch students must also submit a lunch order each month!

## Lunch Order Dates:

Month of:	Date to Go Home	Due back
JAN	12/1	12/7
FEB	1/12	1/18
MAR	2/9	2/15
APR	3/8	3/14
MAY	4/12	4/18



# Learning Resource Center [www.d91.net/cyberlibrary](http://www.d91.net/cyberlibrary)

Mrs. Bruemmer, LRC Coordinator  
815-838-0737, ext. 109

## Chill With A Good Book!

Kelvin Grove Middle School

The Learning Resource Center turns into a “**Winter Wonderland**” this time of year, with the help of KG student-created snowflakes and student projects. One part of the LRC transforms into a reading forest blanketed with snow and icicles.

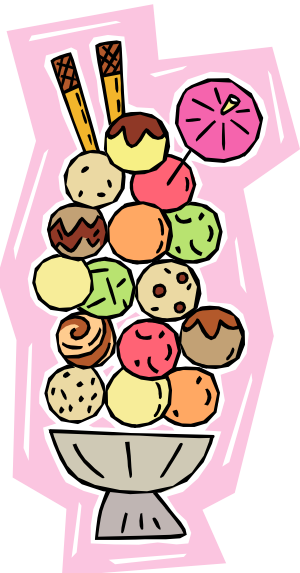
We are asking our families to please make time to read together this winter. Hot chocolate or a cup of tea and a good book is the perfect ending to a long winter day!

There are many winter activities and skills instructions taking place in the LRC throughout December and January. In addition to discovering the Big 6 Research components and different recreational reading materials, the winter term’s focus will ensure that student research skills are honed and enhanced through a variety of mini-lessons that mirrors curriculum needs. A better understanding of the Dewey Decimal Classification system will also be the LRC goal during December and January.

**VOLUNTEERS**  
Thanks to Mrs. Beavers and Mrs. Gende for their help with shelving books this year!  
Volunteers are always welcome in the LRC.  
Call 815-838-0737, ext 109 if interested.

**LRC Paperback Book Exchange & Parent Resource Center**  
**AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICT 91 PARENTS/GUARDIANS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS!**  
Free recreational reading is available for District 91 community members , parents/guardians and staff through the Kelvin Grove LRC **PAPERBACK EXCHANGE**.

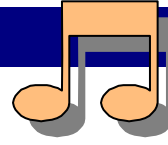
- Please call 815-838-0737, extension 109 or email [sbruemmer@d91.net](mailto:sbruemmer@d91.net) to set up a time to browse through the paperbacks in the KG LRC workroom. Here’s a chance to pick up some recreational reading materials—FREE!!!
- The KG LRC Parent Resource Center contains print materials designed to help D91 parents. Contact the LRC for details.



Encourage your student to read (or hear) a minimum of three 2012 Rebecca Caudill nominees in order to participate in the **I-SCREAM FOR CAUDILL PARTY IN FEBRUARY!**

Students can participate and build their very own ice cream sundae during a special lunch party in February IF they qualify by reading three or more nominee selections.

Go to [www.d91.net/cyberlibrary](http://www.d91.net/cyberlibrary) for details on the 2012 Rebecca Caudill book nominee selections.



# Music – Band and Chorus News

**D91 – All year- SAVE metal tabs** off soda and other cans to help purchase gym sound system & equipment. Tell friends and family to save, too. Send to school.

**Wednesday, December 14 (7pm)**

Chorus and Band Winter Concert and Bake Sale in KG old gym. Come enjoy music of the holidays and stock up on delicious home baked goodies.

**Tuesday, December 20 (9:15 am & 1:15 pm)**

The Musical “Toyland” Presented by Grades K-5 & KG Chorus (Admission FREE and open to the public - enter Kelvin Grove Door # 1)

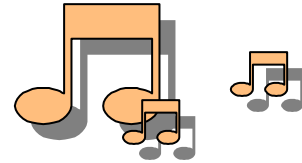
**NOTE:** Morning Kindergarten will only perform at 9:15 am; Afternoon Kindergarten will only perform at 1:15pm.

**COSTUME:** Students wear their best clothes for performance. (For grades 2-5 & chorus – nice clothes or red & green colors; Don't buy something just for the program. Please try not to wear anything with advertising on it. This will NOT be on TV due to COPYRIGHT restrictions. You may bring your own camera to video, but NO flash or lights.)

**SEATING:** Kindergarten and First Grade students will be singing on the stage and return to Milne Grove as soon as they have

performed. Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth & KG Chorus (about 400 voices) will sing on the gym floor in front of the stage. Second, Third & KG Chorus Part 1 will sing on the side nearest the hall and Fourth, Fifth & KG Chorus Part 2 will sing on the side nearest the baseball field. Chorus Soloists will be on stage or the center of gym floor.

Mrs. Randolph 815 838-0737x140 or email at [rsrandolph@d91.net](mailto:rsrandolph@d91.net)



**UPCOMING CONCERT INFO:**

The next concert and the first concert that will feature the Beginning Band is Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm in the old gym. Please mark your calendars. An updated calendar of band events and other information can be found at our website: [www.d91.net/Classes-KG/Band/index.htm](http://www.d91.net/Classes-KG/Band/index.htm).

**LTHS 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND STEP-UP DAY:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade band members will be going over to the high school on Wednesday, January 11 for Band Step-Up Day in the morning. Permission slips will be coming home the week back from Winter Break.

**MANDATORY 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND PARENTS' MEETING:**

For all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students continuing in band at the high school, there will be a mandatory parents' meeting on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00pm at LTHS east campus auditorium.

**CONCERT BAND LOCK-IN:**

Chaperones are needed for the Concert Band Lock-in on Friday, February 3-Saturday, February 4. Forms will be coming home at the beginning of December. The lock-in is only possible with the help of the parents, so please consider chaperoning this event.

**FUNDRAISING INFO:**

We will be selling Poinsettias from Nov. 21-Dec. 2. The poinsettias will be used as decoration for our December concert and then can be picked up at the end of the concert. There will also be a bake sale at the Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 14. All parents are encouraged to donate baked goods (homemade or store bought) to the sale. More information will be coming home at the beginning of December. A reminder that the first Wednesday of every month is Pizza Hut Night and the third Monday and Tuesday of every month is Nicky's "Dinner Out". Pizza Hut Night will be Wednesday, December, 7 and Wednesday, January 4. Nicky's "Dinner Out" will be Monday, December 19 and Tuesday, December 20 and Monday, January 16 and Tuesday, January 17. Forms are available through e-mail or on the band webpage. Thank you for supporting the band through our fundraisers.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Plagman at (815)838-0737 x139 or [nplagman@d91.net](mailto:nplagman@d91.net).

