



"Touching the Future"



KELLER KANGAROO NEWSLETTER

Bryan K. Relich
Principal

November, 2009

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VETERANS' DAY

In recognition of Veterans' Day, there will be no school on Wednesday, November 11.

THANKSGIVING VACATION

Thanksgiving vacation will be Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, November 25, 26 and 27.
We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

COMMUNITY SERVICE: During each school year, several community service projects are scheduled for students by teachers at Keller. These include things like the Care and Share Food Drive, Jump Rope For Heart, working a booth at the Keller Carnival, and litter pick up on our school grounds and in Keller Park. The educational value of these activities is that children learn first-hand to be a member of and to serve the larger community. It is important for each of us to learn and to feel that we can join together as individuals or small groups doing little things that contribute to and make our community a better place for everyone.

As noted in other sections of this newsletter, this month, we will be asking children to donate items of food to the Care

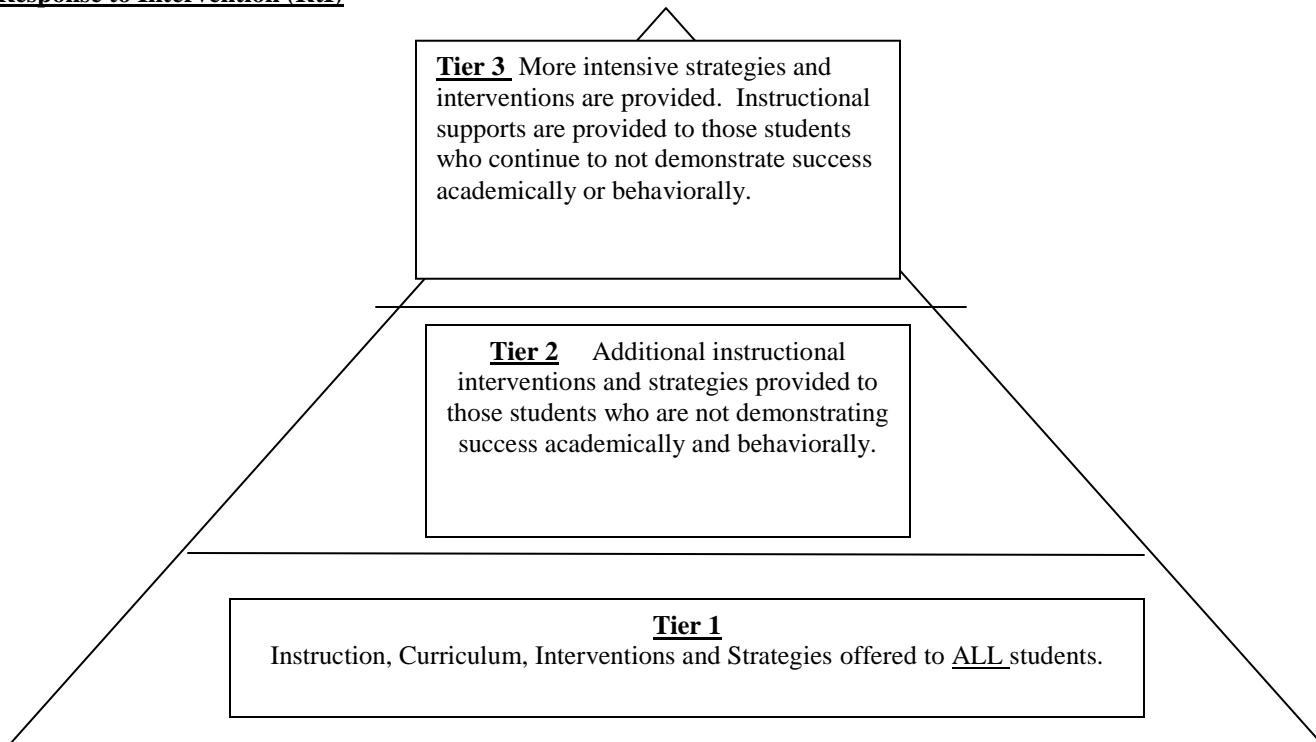
We appreciate our parents who reinforce this message of service by allowing their children to participate in these types of activities offered at school, through scouts, churches, and other community organizations.

CROSS COUNTRY Many thanks and congratulations to Mrs. Jenny Rice and everyone who helped make the Keller/King Cross Country Track Meet a success for our students, staff and students across the district.

MESSAGE FROM MRS. MILLER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Welcome to another great year at Helen Keller Elementary! As the Assistant Principal, please let me be one of the many to invite you to come and volunteer in your child's classroom. There is always plenty that can be done! Come into the front office, at any time, to sign in and volunteer your time.

Parents and guardians are essential to the educational success of our students. I look forward to working with you, to help our students be the best they can be! One way to get more involved, is to join our BAAC (Building Advisory Accountability Committee) & KIT (Keller Instructional Team). We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month, for an hour, to hear what is going on in the different grade levels and departments and discuss important topics or issues. Please join us! If I can ever be of any assistance, my door is always open! Have a great school year!

Response to Intervention (RtI)



Keller Students who do not demonstrate academic or behavioral growth at Tier 1 within their regular classroom setting will be provided with additional interventions and strategies to increase their success. This improvement process is provided in two ways here at Keller; the first being with the utilization of “Standard Protocol.” Within Standard Protocol, teachers use their professional discretion along with student performance (academic and behavioral) data to provide students with additional interventions and strategies. The second part of the RtI process is the Problem Solving Team (PST). Within this step, parents/guardians of the student, along with the Keller staff meet together to discuss what interventions and strategies have been utilized, what has worked or not worked, and create a an academic or behavioral action plan identifying the specific interventions and strategies that will be used next to increase the students likelihood of success within the academic environment. Throughout the RtI process, student’s academic and behavioral performance is monitored regularly for growth and improvement. If a student is not showing growth, then the Problem Solving Team will reconvene to discuss next steps. If the student demonstrates success, the interventions and strategies are continued and/or other academic or behavioral needs are addressed if necessary.

Pyramid For Literacy; Reading and Writing

Tier 1= Story Town, Differentiated Instruction, Flexible Performance Based Groups, Rebecca Sinton Spelling, Incentive Reading Program with Home, Orton Gillingham/Multisensory, Supplemental Reading; Scholastic, 6-Trait, Step Up to Writing, Writing Alive, Technology Based Programs; Success Maker Reading and Study Island, 3rd – 5th.

Tier 2= Story Town Intervention, Six Minute Solutions, SIPS Multi-Syllabic, O.G./Multisensory, Mountain Language, Pikes Peak Literacy Strategies, Reading Mastery Plus, Tutoring; During, Before, or After School, Gifted Resource Teacher Intervention, Direct Instruction, Technology Based Interventions; Success Maker and Read Naturally

Tier 3= Story Town Interventions, Orton Gillingham/Multisensory, English as a Second Language, Gifted Resource Teacher, Additional tutoring, Technology Based Interventions; Success Maker and Read Naturally

This is not an absolute list of academic instructional practices for literacy, it allows teachers to continue to identify and locate the best researched based interventions and strategies to get started to improve the student’s literacy skills. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Bryan K. Relich or Mrs. Sara Miller at 328-5900.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR AFGHANISTAN STUDENTS Thanks to our First Grade Students and their families efforts for the donated 70 pounds of school supplies that were voluntarily donated to the students in Afghanistan. What a wonderful volunteer project. First graders make Keller proud.

PTA MEMBERSHIP I am also asking and encouraging all of our staff, parents, guardians and families to become members of our outstanding PTA. PTA supports a variety of student activities that enhance their young lives academically and socially. Through the fundraising leadership of our PTA, our students and staff benefit from the additional academic materials and resources that are provided through the fundraising efforts. The cost, per family, is \$6.50 and attendance at the PTA meetings is welcomed but voluntary.

CARE AND SHARE FOOD DRIVE

Heavy demand for food has depleted the Care and Share food bank that serves the Colorado Springs community. The Keller community regularly contributes to this food bank.

From Monday, November 2 - Friday, November 13, we will be collecting nonperishable food items to donate to Care and Share. Participating in this type of service activity teaches students a valuable lesson about helping others in the community.

All parents are encouraged to allow their children to "earn," by completing extra chores, food items to be donated during this food drive. Items can be brought to school and deposited in boxes which will be located in classrooms.



PICTURE RETAKES

Student pictures that were taken in October will be back, soon. Many thanks go to Erica Garcia and Crystal Ciuba for their help with picture day.

Picture retake day is Wednesday, November 18. If you would like a retake, send the first set of pictures back to Keller. Also, children who were absent on picture day in October will have their picture taken. Remember to dress-your-best. Pictures must be prepaid. Payment envelopes are available in the Office.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Keller Accountability Committee will meet Thursday, November 19, at 2:45 p. m. in the Library.

THANKS PARENTS AND ALBERTSON'S!!!

Many of you are aware of the Albertson's Community Partners program that returns 1% of sales to local organizations. Albertson's has changed the way that this program works. The program will have a new card and will not be tied to the Albertson's preferred card. Thank you for helping Keller with this program.

Funds from this program have been used to support service-projects sponsored by our school. For example, we have provided a guide dog for a blind college student, planted a memorial garden for a former student who was killed in an accident and provided a canine companion for a former student at Keller, who has cerebral palsy.

Albertson's Community Partner cards that are scanned at checkout allow 1% of your total purchase to be returned to Keller. They are available in the Keller Office. If you are interested in getting an Albertson's card, please complete the form, attached to this newsletter, and return it to the Office. We will send the card home with your child.

HOLIDAY MUSICALS AND CONCERTS

- The Second Grade with Mrs. Gallegos' 1st/2nd combo class and Third Grade class holiday musicals are scheduled at 1:40 and 7:00 p. m. Monday, December 7, (evening performance for parents of students in 2nd grade) and Tuesday, December 8, (evening performance for parents of students in 3rd grade).
- The Keller Orchestra will be performing Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 p. m. in the Gym.
- The Keller Band will be performing Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 p. m. in the Gym.
- The Keller Spirit Singers will be performing Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p. m. in the Gym.

PTA NEWS

THANK YOU for all of the donations of snacks for the Open House in September. Your willingness to help is always greatly appreciated.

FALL BOOK FAIR: The Fall Book Fair was, once again, a great success. Sales were over \$4,900.00 with the Library realizing a profit of \$1,200.00. The money raised will be used to purchase books and software for the Library. A special THANK YOU goes to Chris Boyle and Susan Becar for organizing the Fall Book Fair. Thank you to the many parents who volunteered time during the week to help. Congratulations on a job well done!



REFLECTIONS CONTEST: Once again, it is time for students (Preschool through 5th Grade) to consider participating in the Reflections program. This is an opportunity for students to express themselves through art, music, literature, dance, film/video or photography and to receive recognition for their artistic efforts. The theme for this year is, "Beauty Is" Rules for participation can be picked up by the school office from the bulletin board in the hallway. Students may place entries in one or more categories. The deadline to submit completed entries to the Keller Office is Wednesday, November 12.

We hope all families will encourage their children to create and submit an entry. Winners will be honored at an Award's Assembly.

VOLUNTEERS: Thanks to the parents and community members who logged 336 hours in September! The top volunteers for the month were Erika Garcia, Barbara Carlson, and Karyn Del'Pontone. Many thanks to all of the parents who volunteered to accompany our fifth graders to Golden Bell Camp: Angela Keels, Harold Moyers, Valerie Gallegos, Rick Gallegos, Robert Maestos, Precious Maestos, Jeremy Offutt, Sophia Pena, Heather Wells, Tanya McCarty, Raymond Montoya, Kathleen Parsons, Denise Coughlin, Decorah Setter, Jenny Rice, Eric Ayers, Michelle Quaney, Dawn Morrow, Trish Torres, Tim Adkison and Bryan Relich.

Though many hours go unaccounted for, they are still appreciated. Hours can be logged on the volunteer computer located by the office. If you haven't filled out a volunteer form for this year, please do so. Our volunteer hours are being recorded on the laptop computer in the front hall way, if you need help with the computer please just ask in the office. Mr. Relich and PTA will be providing a popcorn and juice party to the class who has the most logged volunteer hours for November.

SAFETY TOWN: Kindergarten and First Grade students had a wonderful time participating in Safety Town, an event teaching safe street-crossing procedures and pedestrian safety rules. Thanks to Melissa Rice and Kandyce and Kevin Hartsuiker, Nicole Egen, Erika Garcia, Stephanie Hernandez, Carlen Hobbs, Zahkila Miller, Julie Neilson, Mellisa Rice, Stacey Linemeyer, Brenna Woodcock, Tim Adkison, Jenny Rice, Damin Bowen, Sara Miller, Sharon Bay and Bryan Relich for helping run this event.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL THANKS: Of all Keller events, the Carnival requires the most volunteers. Thanks to everyone who will be helping make this year's Halloween Carnival a success:

Deborah Licht, Karyn DelPontone, Adam & Jamie Womack, Angela Keels, Heather Alford, Tim Robins, Desiree Perez, Shauna Smith, Heather Cunningham and children, Liz Klingensmith, Dennial & AIDonna Rogers, Ed Marynowski, John Rollence, Annette & Matt Brown, Gary Cunningham, Denise Coughlin, Carla Walker, Holly Smith, The Houde Family, Pam McWilliams, Debbie Sarty, Gloria Peluso, Kaitlyn Burch, Kamren Walker, Geri Sanders, Elise Cimino, Hayley Edmonds, Carmen Moyer, Lavendar Foot, Matthew Hawthorne, Iliana Gallegos, Michelle Quaney, Andrea Anderson, Pene Copen, Cody Kinney, Maria Corona, Kamber Dones, Amy Kingensmith, Kim Harper, Cici Pena, Alli Howe, Matthew Hellen, Cole Krause, Angela Kammerer, Judy Bailly, Jen French, Eric Ayers, Chris Reilly, Mara Herrera, Nikki Hernandez, David Zuniga, Devon Pontaski, Nathan Howe, Jimmy Grover, Tyler Parsons, Sandy Ramsey, Andrea Creedon, Decorah Setter, Julian Pena, Roland Pena, Alexander Fahey, Nicole Tom, Nickolino DelPontone, Nickola Barone, Michelle Ansarian, Becky Alexander, Romeo Maestas, Caitlyn Bradley, Atlanta McKithen, Eva Licht, Tabbatha Barone, Kaitlyn Ayers, Beth Ayers, Tahira McIntosh, Gwynn Trotter, Brandon Moyers, Ray Wells, Amy Womelsdorf, Kaitlyn Lashua, Mitch Mangold, Margaret Campbell, LeeAnne Rutledge, Zahkila Miller, Tabbatha Chesire, Julie Neilson, Tammy Colvin, Ana Cejudo, Jeane McKim, Jeannine Murphy, Jessica Barbo, Mike Satriano, Alana Hawley, Shelley Moser, Erin Morse, Diane Smith, Donna Anderson, Terri Maynez, Megan Humphreys, Tina Robertson, Emma Chesire, Stacey Sorensen, Kim Ehlers, Paula Carole, Samantha Taylor, Vickey Aguilar, Dawn Morrow, Dina Wohlman, Tricia Torres, Shannon Merrifield,

Sammy Keels, Steven Sarty, Sylvia Pena, Mark Anderson, Kim Harper, Latoria Maynez, Kaleb Colbert, Alex Wilson, Rianna Lockhart, Didi Burows, Ethan Miley, Cindee Weaver, Jenna Wanner, Jennifer Patterson, Zachary Bosler, Celina Pena, Matthew Breakey, Mikayla Cornelison, Deandra Pickering, Leslie Aceves-Rios, Sonia Nieto, Destiny Dean, Raina Hansen, Veronica Gallegos, Karna Prime, David Kleschik, Nick Weaver, Alex Offutt, Elicia Cantu, Makenna Huffman, Elizabeth Melendez, Shayd Hester, Riley Davis, Michelle Ansarian, Jazmyn Snead, Dominic Smith, Skylee Callaway, Marcos Martinez, Sydney Berg, Dennis Sifford, Sharon Bay, Christopher Bay, Crystal Bay, Kayla Bay, Bryan Relich, Damin Bowen, Tim Adkison, Sara Miller and Valerie Gallegos.

Apologies if you helped and your name does not appear on the list.

NOVEMBER PTA MEETING: Our monthly PTA meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. All officers, committee chairpersons, and interested parents are invited to attend. We need your participation. Childcare is provided.

KELLER FAMILY SKATE NIGHT: The next PTA sponsored Keller all-family skate night will be Monday, November 2, from 6:00 to 8:00 p. m. at Skate City, 4575 Austin Bluffs Parkway. Also, this is a chance for families to donate a food item to the Care and Share Food Drive. Plan to join us for a fun-filled night.

Library News and Notes Library News and Notes

Keller is once again proud to be a part of the Colorado Department of Education's Power Library Program. This means that Keller teachers and the Library/Technology program collaborate together to instruct students in information skills that will prepare students to thrive in our information society. We welcome you to use the Keller web page at <http://www.d11.org/keller> as a source of school information. On the library page, you can find information about our technology programs, search the library catalogue for books from home, and find links to educational resources and classroom projects.

Keller has the following resources available using student's to use from home:

- Accelerated Reader – we've upgraded to the "Enterprise" version of this which means many more books are available for student quizzing that we previously had. Student's can see their progress toward goals from home, though quizzing is limited to at school. Some classrooms are still transitioning from the old AR (in school only) to the new AR. Find AR books using the AR "Bookfinder" link at our Library/Reading page at http://www.d11.org/Lib_Read.htm, or read Frequently Asked Questions about AR.
- Think Central.com is a site that teachers will use more and more as they get further acquainted with the resources available with our new reading and math series. There are possibilities for students to use some of these resources at home for assignments and enrichment.
- Study Island (for grades 3-5) provides practice in Math, Reading, Language and Science (5th grade). Students are welcome to practice and get better at skills using either "game mode" or regular "test mode." In addition, some teachers occasionally use Study Island as an additional assignment for students to complete.

For research or additional learning, students also have these resources available on the Keller library page:

- World Book Encyclopedia. The World Book has two separate areas.
 - Use the World Book: Kids for grades K-2
 - Use the World Book: Student for grades 3-5
 - A Spanish Language choice is also available.



For World Book, students do not use a password in school, but will put in a Username and Password to use from home.

- Username -- dist11
- Password -- dist11
- Visual Thesaurus. The Visual Thesaurua is a creative new Dictionary/Thesaurus/Word Tool. Learn word relationships and meanings in a visual format. A Username/Password is required:
 - Username -- es35@d11.org
 - Password -- d112009



have to

COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEVEN

SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes CHOICE as an option for students to enroll in schools other than those of their assigned attendance area within District Eleven. This option can be exercised during the open enrollment period: **November 1, 2009 to February 1, 2010 for the 2010 - 11 school year**. Parents who wish to exercise this option must obtain a CHOICE permit form from their school of choice.

NOTE: Prior to seeking a CHOICE permit, please call the school of your choice to determine if that school has reached its enrollment capacity. If you choose to complete a CHOICE permit form, your name will be placed on a waiting list for placement when and if space is determined to be available during the 2010 – 11 school year.

Students who reside within an attendance area shall have enrollment priority.

CHOICE permits will be approved based on the following criteria:

- Building is under enrollment capacity.
- Staff is available.
- Student applying for a permit does not have any violations relative to the safe school legislation.
- Special Education placements will be considered individually.
- Students from outside of District Eleven's attendance boundaries may be considered under these same guidelines and must complete the appropriate student permit form at their school of choice. In addition, within one month of moving to District Eleven, families will have a CHOICE of determining which school their child(ren) will attend. This allows for CHOICE outside of the established November 1 to February 1 window period.

Please note: Approved applications for any permit shall be valid for attendance at that school for the applicable year only. All permits will be reconsidered annually by the building principal for the subsequent school year.

CHOICE permits may be denied or revoked by the school for the following reasons:

- Lack of space or teaching staff within a particular program or school requested.
- The school requested no longer offers appropriate programs or is not structured or equipped with the necessary facilities to meet special needs of the student or does not offer a particular program requested.
- The student does not meet the established eligibility criteria for participation in the particular program (including age requirements, course prerequisites, and required levels of performance).
- The student has been expelled or in the process of being expelled.
- The student has exhibited behavior in another school during the preceding twelve months that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or of school personnel.

ALBERTSON'S CARD

If you are interested in receiving an Albertson's card, that when presented with purchase at Albertson's, returns 1% of sales to Helen Keller School, please complete this page, detach and return it to the Keller Office. We will send the card home with your child.

Name (please print): _____

Student Name (please print): _____

Student's Teacher (please print): _____

Your support is appreciated!