



May 3, 2013

KFCS' District Newsletter

Junior Achievement: A Great Community Partnership

One of the district's six goals is to increase and expand community partnerships. This is one of the most critical focuses, as the success of students cannot be guaranteed by the school staff alone. It takes a great community working together to help students develop and reach their individual potentials. Next Monday and Tuesday we will see a tremendous event enacted that provides an excellent example of what such a partnership can accomplish. This program is Junior Achievement's Finance Park.

Over the last two years at Ponderosa, Junior Achievement volunteers have been working with social studies teachers to provide seventh- and eighth-grade students a comprehensive personal finance educational unit. Volunteers from the community have come in to teach a series of personal finance lessons. The social studies' teachers have followed this with more consumer education information to help students understand the impact and costs of financial decisions in such areas as loans, credit cards, and personal spending choices.

In order to check the understanding of Ponderosa students in personal finance, a culminating activity will take place next Monday and Tuesday, May 6th and 7th. The simulation, called Finance Park, will take place in Exhibit Hall 1 at the Fairgrounds from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day. This traveling exhibit is a series of technological modules that the students will visit and with which they will interact utilizing IPADs. Each student will have a set income to spend and decide how to spend it at each stopping point. Examples of the components include housing, entertainment, transportation, and insurance. Learn more at this website: http://www.ja.org/about/about_news_video_finpark.shtml. The decisions the young person makes at each point will directly impact what they have left in their bank account. Each student will make decisions that allow them to have a positive balance in their accounts. If they overspend, they will have to go back and change their decisions in order to make their finances last. Sounds like real life does it not?

This experience comes to Klamath Falls on a semi truck that is going to Junior Achievement sites across the state. Klamath Falls will have more students benefitting from the opportunity than any other site in the state. It is being paid through Junior Achievement fundraising. Schools also help defray some of the costs through their educational funds. If you would like to see this event in action, please stop by Exhibit Hall 1 during the day on Monday or Tuesday next week. There also is a launch party to which all are invited from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7th, at the Fairgrounds.

This is an excellent example of how children's educations can be enriched when the schools and the community work together to promote student learning and growth. Hopefully, Tuesday's 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. party will not only launch Finance Park, but also community volunteerism in all areas in support of developing a well-rounded and successful generation of young people that will make Klamath Falls strong and prosperous well into the future.

Other News:

1. Speaking of important partnerships: No more important partnership exists in our schools than those that come about through parent involvement. For the second year in a row, one of our school volunteers has been recognized as Klamath Falls' Volunteer of the Year. This year's winner is Carol Usher. Carol helps out our schools and our district in a number of ways. She volunteers at both Roosevelt and Fairview schools, serves on our district Budget Committee and provides many other services. We appreciate Mrs. Usher being a model of service.
2. If you would like to volunteer to help with Finance Park next week, Junior Achievement is still looking for volunteers. If interested, please call Deanna Wilson, JA Coordinator, at 541-884-1190.
3. There are still summer school openings for students in grades K-6. If you are interested in more information, notify your children's school office.
4. The Graduation Rate Improvement Steering Committee is looking for volunteers in each of their five subcommittee areas. Below is a description of each subcommittee and who to contact if interested in helping:
 - a. Ready to Learn: This committee is focusing on early childhood and helping children come to kindergarten ready to be successful kindergarten students. [*Amy Boivin @aboivin@klamathyouth.org*]
 - b. Caring Adults: The focus here is on volunteering to help students inside and outside of our schools. This could be as mentors, visiting speakers, SMART volunteers, business internships, or any other number of areas where adults can share their time and talents to promote student development [*Debbie Vought @dvought@citizensforsafeschools.org*].
 - c. Safe Places: In this area, there is an emphasis on developing more after school programs and opportunities for students at all levels. [?]
 - d. Education: KFCS, KCSD, KCC and OIT are working together to create more college credit opportunities for high school students. Another emphasis is on developing more vocational education opportunities for students [*Paul Hillyer @hillyerp@kfalls.k12.or.us*].
 - e. Youth Opportunities to Serve: Providing service opportunities for youth as well as helping youths provide help to one another is the emphasis of this group [*Scott Hines @scotth@klamathchristiancenter.org*].

A community-wide survey will soon be distributed by the Herald and News to determine Klamath Falls' citizens' thoughts on the importance of graduation and how best to help students attain this goal. Please be watching for this survey and participate by expressing your opinions.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested in KFCS' news. If you are not a regular recipient of this free newsletter and would like to be, please respond to this email and let us know.