



April 22, 2015

KFCS' District Newsletter

By Paul Hillyer, KFCS' Superintendent

Actions Speak Louder than Words

No truer saying exists, in this writer's opinion, than this: "Talk is cheap." It is easy to say the right thing but when actions do not follow, words are merely noise. That is why it is so refreshing to see KFCS' students doing more than merely saying they appreciate all the Klamath Falls community does for them. They follow those words up with the actions of **Give Back Day**. Thursday, May 21st, marks the second annual **Give Back Day**. Students at each school will be working throughout the community to put a sparkle and a shine on their hometown. They will be picking up trash, cleaning graffiti, planting, raking, and doing general beautification projects. Rumor has it they may even be washing the superintendent's car. That is one rumor this writer hopes is more than urban legend.

This year, some non-district schools have caught the giving spirit for KFCS' students. Henley and Triad are joining the effort on their part of town. Hopefully others will also catch the spirit of service and help our students take pride in our great community.

If you are interested in helping out or if you have a project you would like done, contact Valli Lonner (lonnerv@kfalls.k12.or.us). Mrs. Lonner is coordinating the event for the district.

More News:

1. The KU remodel project is still in the design phase. The architects and contractors are putting the finishing touches on the academic wing design. Design work has also started on the arts wing.

There has been a change in the work schedule. Originally it was hoped that the wellness center would be finished first. Concerns over tight timelines and needing gyms for winter sports put the Pel Court remodel at the end rather than the beginning of the project. The auxiliary gym will still be under construction soon, however. Following that, work will proceed to the academic building.

The demolition, remodel, and rebuild of the 85-year-old building is a very complicated project. However, the rewards at the end will be well worth the great effort.

You are invited to the 12:15 p.m. ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday, April 28th, in the V-Parking lot.

2. On a related note, there has been concern that the project will run short of funds before the completion of the final phase, the arts wing. Three very distinct budgets have been created to make sure this does not happen. One budget is created for the academic center, one for the arts center, and one for the wellness center. The district will not take money from one budget to pay for another. This ensures that all three areas are carefully planned, budgeted, and completely carried out.
3. There is a Citizen's Oversight Committee that meets monthly to receive construction updates. They also do a monthly report to the KFCS' Board of Directors. Their job is to serve as liaisons to the community and to make sure that the promises made during the bond campaign are completed. Committee members are: Mike Moore, Bill Jennings, Jeremy Morris, Dorothy Hudson, Raul Mirande, and Gayle Yamasaki.
4. Congratulations to Coach Bill Patterson and his Pelican Destination Imagination team who took first place at state competition. They now go to the Global Competition in Knoxville, TN. Best of luck to the team!
5. The KU math team under the leadership of Andrea Young took first place in the southern Oregon competition at OIT. Well done students and coach!
6. Congratulations to 2015 Mr. Pelican, Luis Rivera, who is also a State Showcase Finalist at the state acting competition.
7. Ninety-seven percent of parents of K-5 students gave their child's school either an A or B grade in a parent survey conducted during Parent/Teacher Conferences. This compares to 83% last year and to a 75% nationwide average. They also rated the friendliness of their school very high.
8. In case you missed the latest version of the KU and YOU video magazine, here it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgo3sgUSkol&feature=youtu.be>.
9. Video magazines for other district schools are also available on our website: <http://www.kfalls.k12.or.us/>. This website contains much more important information.
10. KU recently received an \$18,000 grant from NIKE to continue with AVID implementation.
11. New principals were hired this week. At Conger School, Julie Bainbridge was selected to replace the retiring Barbara Headden. Mrs. Bainbridge has eight years experience as principal. She also has been an assistant principal, instructional coach, and classroom teacher. Julie comes to us from the Ontario, Oregon, school district.

Jennifer Cole has been hired as the new KU assistant principal. She replaces Scott Mason who will be KU's athletic director next year. Mr. Mason replaces Mike Herron who is retiring. Mrs. Cole has a strong background as a high school English teacher, a curriculum resource teacher, and as the head of EagleRidge High School.

12. We will have summer school offerings for all grades this summer. Please call your child's school office if you would like to have your student enrolled. KU's summer program will be at KCC this year and includes math credit recovery classes along with college-credited vocational classes in health occupations and computer science.
13. A hearing will be held at OIT on Friday, April 24th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for citizens to speak out in support of K-12 educational funding.

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.