



KENT CITY SCHOOLS

UPDATE

News for Kent parents from Superintendent Joe Giancola

March, 2010

Dear Kent Community Members,

This month we introduce a new idea to the community: "Kent Schools Coffee Talk." You might say it evolved from our 2008-2013 Five-Year Plan, adopted by the Kent Board of Education in May, 2008.

Of the seven subcommittees during the strategic-planning process, the "Communications/Community Relations" group emphasized community outreach. Current Kent Board President **Rebekah Wright Kulis** participated in the Communications subcommittee, and now she has brought us the idea of Kent Schools Coffee Talk.

The first pilot of Coffee Talk took place last month, just before the February board meeting at Franklin Elementary. That evening, parents, staff members, and board members enjoyed presentations by Franklin teachers **Barb Vasbinder**, **Jennifer Weitzel**, and **Jody Frank**. Coffee talk and the presentations began informally at 6:15 PM, immediately preceding the business meeting of the Kent Board of Education at 7:00 PM. I would like to thank members of the Franklin Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), especially PTO Co-Presidents **Tiffany Jones** and **Jeanie Wills**, for their hospitality that evening, and Principal **Todd Poole** for coordinating the entire evening. The pastries and coffee were delicious!

We will be having a "Coffee Talk" before each of our board meetings in the school buildings in the remaining school months. The starting time for "Coffee Talk" at the March board meeting, to be hosted at Roosevelt High School, will be at 6:30 PM, and the actual business meeting of the board will begin at 7:00 PM. (Between now and the end of the school year, our board meetings will be hosted in the following buildings: Roosevelt in March, Holden in April, and Longcoy in May.) Please come to these informal gatherings where you will enjoy the company of the Kent Board of Education, the refreshments of each building's parent support group or PTO, presentations by teachers, and fellowship with your building administrators and other Kent community members.

In February, the Kent Board of Education also acknowledged one of our school guidance counselors, **Laurie Knuth**, with a new program of recognition announced from the board president's seat. This new outreach idea is a letter directly from the board president to a staff member for an exceptional accomplishment. Thanks to Rebekah for bringing forth these two new ideas to expand our communications program with the community!

My closing thought is a serious reminder about Ohio's Achievement Assessments for elementary and middle school (April 19-May 6) and the Ohio Graduation Test for tenth graders (March 15-26). We are hoping for excellent results this year in our pursuit of Ohio's "Excellent" rating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Giancola".

Dr. Joe Giancola
Superintendent

Positive Parenting Strategies

Coleman Professional Services and Kent City Schools join to bring you this free series. You will receive concrete strategies and be given time for your specific questions. Join us for one topic – or join us for all three



March 9, 2010

6 - 7:15 pm

Bruce Kottler, Ph.D.

Director of Child and Adolescent Services, Coleman Behavioral Health

Who's in Control? Effective Discipline

Do you have one in your family who is always pushing your buttons? Improve your relationship with your child and learn the power of supporting positive behaviors. You will feel more in control as you add to your list of effective discipline strategies.



March 23, 2010

6 – 7:15 pm

Jennifer Klatka, PCC and Dana Matthews, PCC
Outpatient Therapists, Coleman Behavioral Health

Anger Management

Do yourself and your child a favor. Learn how to recognize the anger cycle, how to interrupt it and how to diffuse the situation.



April 6, 2010

6 – 7:15 pm

Bruce Kottler, Ph.D. and Liesel Glover, M.A., Coleman Behavioral Health

Youth and Mental Health Issues: Prevention and Interventions

One in seventeen youth will face a mental health issue in their life. Find out what issues your youth is facing, how to recognize potential problems, and the “who, where, and when” of getting help. Discussion will include behaviors such as self-injury, eating disorders, anxiety, and suicidal thinking.



All three programs will be held at the

Kent Free Library

2nd floor Community Room
312 W Main Street
Kent OH 44240



Free childcare – must RSVP for childcare – for more information on the programs, or to RSVP for childcare contact the Parent Mentor at 330-676-7661 or ke_parentmentor@kentschools.net

Check out the new **Bookends Café** on the first floor. Their coffee, bottled drinks, pastries, chips, and more are welcomed in the community room.