



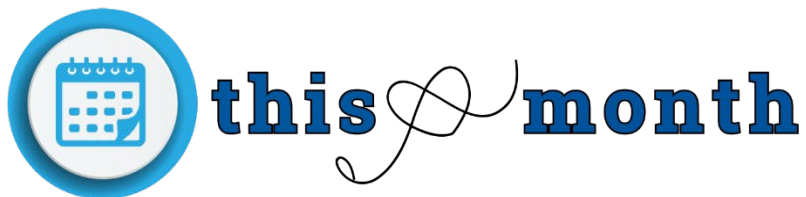
KSD family CONNECTION

April 26, 2022

Dear KSD Community,

This is our twice monthly communication, KSD Family Connection. Due to spring break, we are doing one edition in April. Each edition includes:

- Relevant and timely information based on the month's theme
- A health and safety section
- A brief spotlight on one of our district programs, clubs, services, etc.



April is [National Poetry Month](#), a time to celebrate poets and their craft. Launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month has become the largest literary celebration in the world, celebrated by tens of millions of people. One of the many ways to engage with poetry this month is to check out the [Favorite Poem Project](#), cosponsored by Boston College and the Library of Congress, and watch Americans read poems they love.

April is also host to:

- **Autism Acceptance Month** - In 1970, the [Autism Society](#) started a campaign to spread awareness, promote acceptance, and ignite change for individuals with autism. To learn more about how a person with autism may experience the world, [watch this video](#) by the [Amazing Things Project](#).
- **Earth Day** was April 22nd, facilitated by earthday.org in collaboration with over 75,000 partners. This year's theme for Earth Day was Invest in Our Planet.
- April 30 is **National Prescription Drug Take Back Day**, which aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Locally, the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office will be collecting unused medications at Kelso Rite Aid (230 Kelso Dr.) from 10AM to 2PM.



The health and safety of our students and staff is always a top priority. We continue to work closely with state and local health authorities and follow their guidance.



HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Stable housing is an essential need for the health and well-being of our community. As student learning is largely dependent on well-being, stable, safe, and affordable housing is an important necessity.

The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments is conducting a survey to assess the housing needs and issues of availability and affordability in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties. Results from this survey will be incorporated into the finalized Housing Needs Assessment document that will serve as an in-depth study of regional demographics, housing availability, housing affordability, and overall housing challenges in the southwestern Washington region and Rainier, Oregon.

This survey includes questions related to current living situations and the results will be used throughout the region to support new housing opportunities focused on the needs, challenges and hopes of area residents.

The Housing Needs Assessment Survey is open through **May 16, 2022**. The survey can be found online in English and Spanish at www.cwcog.org on the homepage under Surveys or by clicking the links below:

- English - <https://bit.ly/3J1jygM>
- Spanish - <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/KY86RKT>



REGISTER OR APPLY NOW FOR EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Who's ready for
early
learning?



PRESCHOOL • TK • KINDER

APPLY NOW

Registration and applications are now open for three early learning opportunities in Kelso School District: kindergarten, transitional kindergarten (TK), and preschool. Families can learn more about all three at the Kinderpalooza event, held on May 3.

KINDERGARTEN

Families can register children who will be five years old by August 31, 2022, for kindergarten beginning April 25 by picking up an enrollment packet at their elementary school or at Kinderpalooza, downloading the enrollment packet from the Kelso School District (KSD) website, or enrolling online at bit.ly/enrollatksd.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK)

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a pre-kindergarten program for children not yet age five on August 31, 2022, who do not have access to a high-quality early learning program and would benefit from additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten the following year. Classrooms are staffed by certificated teachers and paraeducators.

- Full day, five days a week
- Access to transportation, specialists, recess, lunch, and all aspects of the kindergarten school day
- Six TK classrooms in four locations: Barnes, Butler Acres, Lexington, and Wallace Elementary Schools

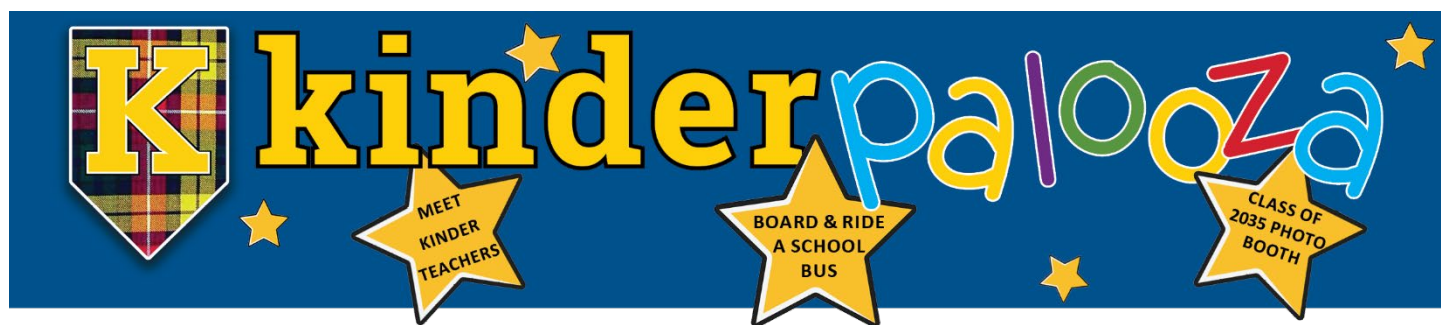
Families can apply for TK online or complete a [paper application](#), both of which can be found at bit.ly/enrollatksd. Paper applications can also be found at Kinderpalooza and elementary school offices.

PRESCHOOL PUPS

Preschool Pups is a tuition-based, inclusive preschool program comprised of typically-developing children who play and learn alongside children with disabilities. This program is housed at Wallace Elementary School.

- Morning and afternoon sessions, four half-days a week

Find the application for Preschool Pups at bit.ly/enrollatksd. Paper applications can also be found at Kinderpalooza and elementary school offices.



KINDERPALOOZA

Kinderpalooza is a fun event for Kelso kindergartners, early learners, and their families. At this event you can:

- Register for school if needed (even if you've already registered, please come)
- Meet Kelso staff
- Board and ride a school bus
- Take a picture at the Class of 2035 photo booth
- Enjoy some snacks
- AND MORE!!!!

Kinderpalooza is Tuesday, May 3rd at Coweeman Middle School (2000 Allen St, Kelso) from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Learn more at bit.ly/kinderpalooza.



Kelso High School senior, Kelso Cosgrove, has advanced to be a semifinalist in the [2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#). Starting from a pool of over [5,000 candidates nation-wide](#), Cosgrove was one of 100 from the state of Washington, and one of only four from SW Washington. He is now one of [620 national semifinalists](#) selected from the larger pool of candidates, one of 10 semifinalists from Washington, and the only semifinalist from SW Washington. Learn more about [Kelso and this accomplishment here](#).



As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email me.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
Kelso School District
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