



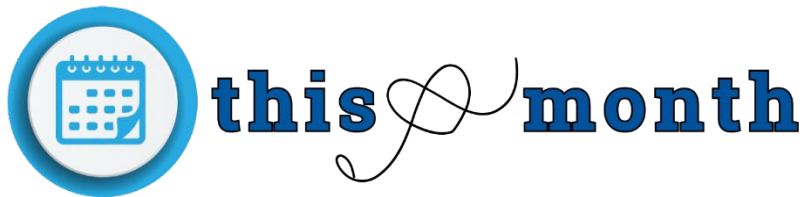
KSD family CONNECTION

May 10, 2022

Dear KSD Community,

This is our twice monthly communication, KSD Family Connection. Each edition includes:

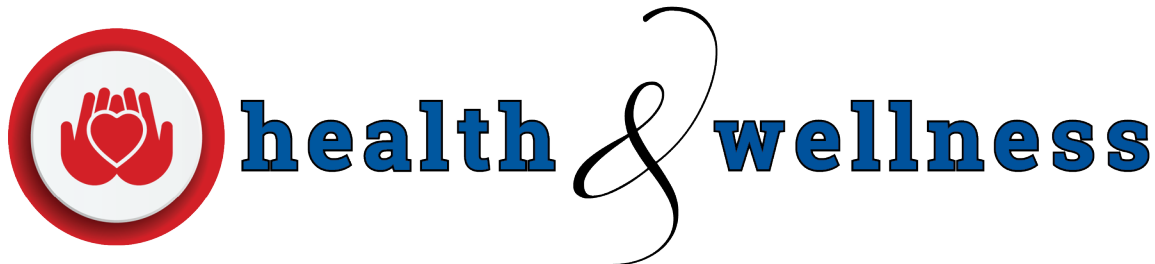
- Relevant and timely information based on the month's theme
- A health and wellness section
- A brief spotlight on one of our district programs, clubs, services, etc.



As the weather warms up, people are itching to get outside and get active. Must be why May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month; a designation hosted by the [President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition](#) to promote physical activity. SHAPE America has put together [101 easy-to-implement tips](#) to increase family fitness when you're at home, in the kitchen, at school, at work, in the great outdoors, in your backyard, around the neighborhood, stuck inside on rainy days, or just about anywhere! #MoveinMay

May is also host to:

- [Mental Health Awareness Month](#) and a time to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and break the stigma for those who need help coping with life's challenges.
- **Mother's Day** was May 8. Did you know that The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914? Learn more about the [history of Mother's Day here](#).
- [Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month](#) (AAPI Heritage Month) is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to the United States.



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.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC), mental illnesses are among the most common health conditions in the United States, with an estimated 1 in 5 Americans experiencing some form mental illness in any given year.

[Here \(at bit.ly/ksd-mh\)](https://bit.ly/ksd-mh), you can find resources to support you if you or someone you care about are struggling with issues related to your mental health.



357 EARLY LEARNERS & THEIR FAMILIES ATTEND KINDERPALOOZA!

The annual Kinderpalooza event was attended by 357 early learners and their families. There were lots of smiles, fun in the photo booth, first school bus rides, free books, hugs from schools mascots, and so much more!

All six Kelso elementary schools and Kelso Virtual Academy were there with kinder teachers, paraeducators, interpreters, secretaries, and administrators. Also in attendance were community partners that included Kelso Public Library, Head Start and ECEAP, Cowlitz Indian Tribes, Youth and Family Link, YMCA, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts.

The event was coordinated with help from all areas of the district, including Teaching & Learning, Special Programs, Student Services, Transportation, Nutrition Services, students, and staff from multiple schools and sites.

Registration for kindergarten is still happening and can be done in the way that works best for you:

- pick up an enrollment packet at your elementary school
- download the enrollment packet from the Kelso School District (KSD) website at bit.ly/enrollatksd
- enroll online at bit.ly/enrollatksd

The enrollment packet and process was revised this year to be cleaner and more user-friendly. Many thanks to Kelly Toftemark, Molly Guler, and Jan Rauth for all their great work!



We have much to celebrate! They say good things come in threes...

- 1) Congratulations to our Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce Crystal Apple and Pillar of Strength Award winners:

- **Stefanie House** – K-12 Classified Person of the Year
- **Kelli Stewart** – K-12 Teacher of the Year
- **Scott Westlund** – K-12 Administrator of the Year
- **Zoe Dieter** – Lifetime Achievement Education Award

Tim Yore and **Nancy Karnofski**, who were nominated for Administrator of the Year and Teacher of the Year, respectively, were also recognized for their outstanding successes.

- 2) **Kelso School District won six statewide awards** at the [Washington School Public Relations Association \(WSPRA\) Awards](#) Banquet on April 28. Three of the six earned Best in Category (top of the top honors), and one was awarded a Perfect Score – which means every judge rated the work as “Excellent.”

Kelso School District awards were:

- Annual Report – Best in Category and Perfect Score
- Branding/Image Package – Award of Merit (Lexington Elementary branding)
- Email Newsletter – Best in Category (Family Connection – external newsletter)
- Email Newsletter – Award of Merit (Inside Connection – internal newsletter)
- Print Newsletter – Best in Category (Hilander Highlights)
- Special Purpose Publication – Honorable Mention (Getting To & From School – Lexington)

- 3) **Coweeman & Huntington Math Teams** earn Imagine Learning District of Excellence Award:

KSD was selected as a 2021-2022 District of Excellence for Coweeman and Huntington Middle Schools’ use of Imagine Learning Illustrative Mathematics (formerly LearnZillion). This award represents the highest distinction in the Imagine Nation recognition program.



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

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent

Kelso School District

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