



KSD family CONNECTION

June 14, 2022

Dear KSD Community,

This is our monthly communication, KSD Family Connection.

The 2021-22 school year is coming to a close, and it's a good time to look back at the year and reflect on all we've achieved. So, we're focusing this Family Connection on celebrating the many major milestones completed this year in the areas of facilities, health & wellness, teaching & learning/academics, perfect on-site attendance, visual & performing arts, district & staff awards, and athletics.



this month

Although you wouldn't know it by the weather, summer is fast approaching. To avoid the "summer slide," McGraw Hill provides [9 tips to guide and encourage summer learning for elementary students](#). Ideas range from remembering to use a reading list that is age or interest focused to downloading fun educational apps. For secondary students, the Library of Congress offers "[Write. Right. Rite.](#)" This is a series of short videos with Jason Reynolds, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. In each video, he provides a writing or activity prompt to help young people hone their skills of authentic self-expression and creative storytelling.

- [Juneteenth](#) honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. In 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday; several others followed suit over the years. In June 2021, Congress passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday; and it was signed into law on June 17, 2021.
- [Father's Day](#) is the third Sunday in June. The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972—58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States.

Enjoy the summer!



celebrations & accolades

2021-22 MAJOR MILESTONES ON THE ROAD TO 100%

We hope to make this collection of major accomplishments an annual end-of-year celebration. Looking back at 2021-22, the achievements are many. Our students, staff, and families have much to be proud of. Thank you for all you've done to make this another great year in Kelso's tradition of excellence. We couldn't be more proud of our community.

FACILITIES

- Opened a brand new school (Lexington Elementary) for the first time since 1966
- Finished major renovations on Butler Acres Elementary
- Security upgrades completed at all but three schools (final three in progress or starting soon)
- Huntington staff and students successfully navigated alternative learning site at Catlin

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Added 3 FTE counselors at the elementary level, 1 at KVA
- Added a second district nurse
- Opened a COVID testing center for students, staff and families
- Formally opened the Family & Community Resource Center on Allen Street
 - Helped 247 McKinney-Vento students (homeless or living in transitional housing)
 - Assisted our 16 McKinney-Vento seniors so ALL 16 are on track to graduate, filed for FAFSA, and are either going to college, the military, or into the trades
 - Helped 31 Kelso families (with a total of 59 students between them) get into permanent housing
- Added equitable access to school-based mental health services at all schools
- Added substance abuse prevention services at both middle schools
- Formation of the Kelso HOPE foundation focusing on substance abuse prevention across our community
- Formation of a district Staff Wellness Committee
- Added a new District Staff Employee Assistance Program (Magellan)
- Added a Grades 5-12 Suicide Prevention , Intervention, and Postvention Materials

TEACHING & LEARNING / ACADEMICS

- 5 full days of instruction since the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Expanded early learning opportunities](#) with a new program, Preschool Pups, at Wallace Elementary
- [Boosted kindergarten readiness](#) by starting Transitional Kindergarten (TK) district-wide, serving 75 students
- First year offering K-8 summer school (summer 2021), which served over 500 students
- New math materials adoption for K-8
- First year of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) as a specialist class in four elementary schools
- KSD kicks off first series of [Listening Tours](#), visits every school engaging student voice
- KSD was selected as a 2021-2022 District of Excellence for Coweeman and Huntington Middle Schools' use of Imagine Learning Illustrative Mathematics
- [First Miniboat Project](#) with Columbia River Maritime Museum (at Wallace Elementary)
- Kelso Cosgrove selected as [second-ever US Presidential Scholar](#) from Cowlitz County
- Xander Sunday becomes first student to achieve Master level at Microsoft Office in Kelso
- Emergency Medical Technician Certifications were earned by Jonas Prothero and Jacob A. Neves
- Fourteen (14) students earned the Seal of Bi-literacy, bringing the Kelso High School total to 44 over the last 7 years and the most ever by a Kelso High School graduating class: Kiyoki Carrillo-Camacho – Spanish, Debora Felipe-Perez – Spanish, Maricsa Maldonado-Medina – Spanish, Stephanie Gonzalez-Jaramillo – Spanish, Giselle Bueno Urias – Spanish, Andres Rodriguez – Spanish, Joselyn Ruiz Fuentes – Spanish, Guillermo Cruz-Mejia –

- Spanish, Andrea Gutierrez-Hernandez – Spanish, Adalberto Gonzalez-Mendoza – Spanish, Ciro Belmontes-Bueno – Spanish, Osvaldo Gonzalez-Jimenez – Spanish, Jennifer Negrete Sanchez – Spanish, Ruslan Trenda - Russian
- 100% of senior AVID class graduated and is enrolled in post-secondary opportunities: Adalberto Gonzalez, Norman Hartman, Hanna Kuhn, Giovannie Lopez, Marisca Maldonado, Jared Sanchez
- 170+ scholarships totaling \$1.9 M awarded to graduating seniors

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

- Eight KHS students won 12 awards between them at the [SW WA Regional Art Show](#) (Kelsie Collins, Remy Frey, Kylana Hegnes, Isabel Lopez, Mia Nestaval, Josie Settle, Mei-Lien Tanner, Maggie Waddell)
- Kelso had two [finalists in the Southwest Washington Congressional Art Competition](#) (Remy Frey, Kylana Hegnes). Their art will hang in Congresswoman Beutler's office until the end of next spring.
- Gullermina Rios Rios, KHS student, juried in to the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition
- Four students earned a place in the 2022 WMEA High School All-State Choir (Amber Creed, Eric Long-Erickson, Darci Martin, Kaleo Perez)
- KHS student Haylee McFadden was accepted to the Honor Band at the Western International Band Clinic

PERFECT ON-SITE ATTENDANCE

Students:

- Pricila Bautista-Hernandez, 2nd grade, Wallace
- LeaLynn Crow, 3rd grade, Lexington
- Max He, TK, Lexington
- Yahir Rodriguez-Bautista, 4th grade, Wallace
- Felix Rodriguez Lopez, 5th grade, Wallace
- Connor Shaw, 5th grade, Wallace

Staff:

- Jake Alabiso, administration
- Angie Boyer-Blum, Carrolls
- J'aime Graff, administration
- Bob Gustin, Kelso High
- Tauni Hatfield, Coweeman
- Bob Johanson, administration
- Joe Krieder, Coweeman
- Marilyn Melville-Irvine, administration
- Denise Prescott, Kelso High
- Jan Rauth, administration
- Misa Reardon, administration
- Atticus Tatum, Wallace
- Kristy Larson, Kelso High
- Nicole Nickel, administration
- Perri Odell, transportation

DISTRICT & STAFF AWARDS

- Cindy Sholtys-Cromwell, Principal of Kelso Virtual Academy and Loowit High School, was named [2021 Digital Principal of the Year](#) in June 2021 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals
- Nancy Baldwin was named [Washington's 2021 Classified Employee of the Year](#) by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in September 2021.
- Former KSD Superintendents, [Glenys Hill and Gay Selby, received the WSU College of Education's Advocate for Education award](#)
- Kelso School District board of directors have been recognized as a [2021 Board of Distinction](#) by the [Washington State School Directors' Association](#) (WSSDA)
- Megan Moon: KLOG's Teacher of the Month in December
- The amazing staff of Kelso School District brought home [every award for K-12 at the Crystal Apple & Pillars of Strength Awards](#) Ceremony (Zoe Dieter, Stefanie House, Kelli Stewart, Scott Westlund)
- [WSPRA Awards](#): Kelso School District won [six state-wide Washington School Public Relations Association \(WSPRA\) awards](#), including three Best in Category and one with a Perfect Score

ATHLETICS

State Champions in 2021-22

- Girls golf team: academic state champions (4.0 cum GPA)
- Baseball team: academic state champions
- [Jaida Barrows in cross country ambulatory](#)
- [Ethan Freund in wrestling](#) (3A 132-lb weight class)
- [Josie Settle in triple jump](#)

Coach and Athlete of the Year

- Bobby Freund: GSHL 3A Coach of the Year, wrestling
- Jen Hamilton: GSHL 3A Coach of the Year, girls basketball
- Joe Kinch: GSHL 3A Coach of the Year, boys basketball
- Michael Foust: GSHL 3A Player of the Year, boys basketball
- Natalie Fraley: GSHL 3A Player of the Year, girls basketball
- Ethan Freund: GSHL 3A Player of the Year, wrestling
- Josie Settle: GSHL 3A Athlete of the Year, track
- Erin Tack: GSHL 3A Athlete of the Year, field
- Kamren Mattison: GSHL 3A Athlete of the Year, track
- Bella Hadaller: GSHL 3A Player of the Year, girls volleyball
- Emily Strehle: GSHL 3A Player of the Year, bowling
- Spencer Thomas: GSHL 3A Athlete of the Year, swimming

Kelso Records in 2021-22

- Girls track: [Highest placing at state in Kelso history](#) (3rd place overall, state), and only SW WA school team to place this year
- Girls soccer: [first ever league championship](#)
- Girls basketball: [first time being league champions since 2005](#)
- Slowpitch: [first time saving stranded travelers](#) after taking 2nd at state
- Natalie Fraley, basketball: Points in a game, Career assists and steals record
- Bella Hadaller, volleyball: Season kills and Career kills
- Josie Settle, track: 1st individual state champ in track since 2018 (State Champion triple jump), School record in triple jump (4th place, state)
- Erin Tack, track: school record in javelin (2nd in state), school record in shot put (2nd place, state)

(NOTE: As is the nature of such lists, there is a good possibility something has been unintentionally missed. We apologize, in advance, for any omissions.)



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

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
Kelso School District
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