



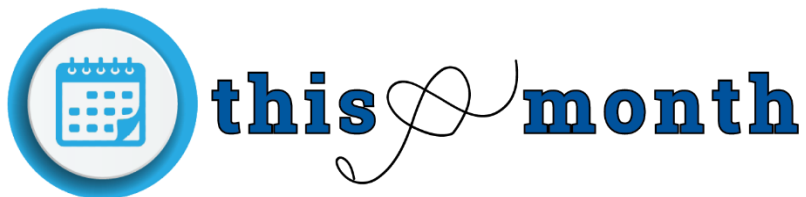
KSD family CONNECTION

December 14, 2021

Dear KSD Community,

This is our twice monthly communication, KSD Family Connection. Due to winter break, this will be the only Family Connection sent this month. 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.



This month is the perfect time to celebrate and enjoy the people in our lives who bring us joy and fill our hearts with love. We can let go of all that is happening out in the world, just for now, and shine a light on those right in front of us. Reach out to family and friends, share hugs and smiles, say "I love you" when you feel it. Whatever your faith, spend some time reflecting on that which gives you strength and peace. These are the true gifts of the season.

This month is also host to:

- [International Persons with Disabilities Day](#) on December 3rd
- [Inclusive Schools Week](#) from December 6th to December 12th
- [Audubon Society's 122nd Christmas Bird Count](#), which takes place Tuesday, December 14, 2021 through Wednesday, January 5, 2022

The winter issue of our Hilander Highlights newsletter should have been in your mailbox over the weekend. In case you missed it, you can [read the digital copy here](#).



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, such as Washington Department of Health (WDOH) and Cowlitz County Health & Human Services department (CCHHS) to ensure our mitigation strategies are strong and effective.

CCHHS is now publishing their report every 4 weeks instead of every 2 weeks. The next report will be published on Wednesday, December 15. More frequent data updates can be found on [their Facebook page](#) and [COVID-19 Data webpage](#).

COVID-19 links and resources:

- WDOH [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements](#)
- CCHHS [COVID-19 Reports & Presentations](#)
- WDOH [K-12 Isolation and Quarantine Decision Trees](#)
- Kelso School District [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- Cowlitz County is 1 of 8 WA counties participating in the [Say Yes! COVID Test program](#), allowing residents to get free at-home test kits. [Learn more here](#). (NOTE: At-home tests are not acceptable proof of a negative result for coming back to school.)



The [High School & Beyond Plan](#) (HSBP), a graduation requirement, helps students get the most out of high school and think about their future. Students work with school counselors and advisors to create their own individual plan, a “personalized pathway,” throughout high school and revise their plan annually to accommodate changing interests or postsecondary goals on what they expect to do the year following graduation from high school. The postsecondary aspirations may include pathways to four-year colleges or universities, two-year community or technical colleges, apprenticeship programs, industry standard certificate programs, military training, or on-the-job training.

In Kelso School District, students begin their HSBP in the 8th grade. Each year students revisit, reflect, and update their plan. Upon completion of their HSBP in 12th grade, students participate in a Senior Exit Interview where they share their HSBP and reflect on their high school experience in front of a panel of local community members. (Due to COVID-19, the Senior Exit Interview is currently not required.)



We have much to celebrate! In our last Family Connection issue, we highlighted the importance of parent-teacher conferences. At the time, our elementary conferences were in full swing and I’m happy to share that we had **93% of our elementary families participate!** Other celebrations from this fall are included below.

CROSS COUNTRY – Boys team 1st in League

State competitors

- [Jaida Barrows, 1st Place](#)
- Jake Beck
- Giovannie Lopez

FOOTBALL – Hilanders took 2nd in League and went on to the State playoffs

SLOW PITCH – 1st in League, 2nd in State. On the way home, they [helped out a stranded motorist](#).

SOCCER GIRLS – 1st in League and went on to the State playoffs

SWIM & DIVE GIRLS - Angeline Eugenis participated in State competitions

VOLLEYBALL- 1st in League, 7th in State

DECA – One team (members listed below) took 1st place in the Hospitality Professional Selling Event at the DECA Fall Leadership Conference

- Kirra Anderson
- Bubba Declue
- Emma Ramey

CHOIR – Four students earned a place in the 2022 WMEA High School All-State Choir

- Amber Creed, Treble Choir, Alto 1
- Eric Long-Erickson, Symphonic Choir, Bass 2
- Darci Martin, Treble Choir, Alto 2
- Kaleo Perez, Treble Choir, Alto 2

KLOG Athlete of the Week – Three of our Kelso students were recognized

- Jaida Barrows - track
- Bella Hadaller - volleyball
- Presley Nippert - volleyball



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

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent

Kelso School District

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