

## Kim School District R-88

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Please email Emma Winters with newsletter information. **If you want something added into the October 1st issue, send it to [emma.bell@kimk12.org](mailto:emma.bell@kimk12.org) before September 17th.** If it is sent after this date, it will be added to the next issue (October).

## Kim Town and School Newspaper

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# Kim Community Connections



Produced by Kim School's Journalism Class  
with Editors Emma Winters and Michelle Wait

September 2022



## Back to School Fun!

Kim School jumpstarted the year with some lively games led by Coach Taylor Nittler and Coach Jesse Gamez. The coaches split the students into teams ranging from preschool to high school. The teams had fun working together in a series of team-building relay races. It was great to see everyone interacting and helping each other. Kim School has 32 students this year, ranging from preschool through high school. It was a great icebreaker for our new students and a perfect introduction to the new school year.



## Superintendent's Notes



We are off and running with the new school year, with two weeks already completed. We are looking at another great school year. It's wonderful to have students and staff back to school. The school building is busy once again with learning and activities. It's also amazing when kids return from the summer and have grown and matured dramatically. It's delightful to hear stories of their summer adventures and activities.

We welcome our five new staff and six new students, and we have them highlighted in this edition. So we have a good number of new faces. Wonderful!

Thank you to the Kim Community for your excellent support of our Schools and our students and staff!

We couldn't do it without you.

Paul Blanford, Superintendent



Pictures from the First Day of School



Jora Cranson (1st grade) John Tell (5th grade) and Adlee Burnham (K) Tavin Watkins runs with his balloon. Peyton Cranson (12th grade) helps Noah Bell (PreK). Water Relay Races!! Kaden Gamez (3rd grade) & Coach Jesse Gamez Rex Yocam (10th grade) passes the water to his team.

Kim School Welcomes New Staff and Students

STAFF



**Monica Giffing** is Kim School's new Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Principal. This year, she was hired on staff to assist Mr. Paul Blanford, the current Superintendent/Principal, and to take his place next year. Monica knew she wanted to move to the southern Colorado area to be closer to her kids and grandson, so she searched for jobs on the internet, and Kim's opening was second on the list. She then applied for the job and was hired. She states that Kim chose her because how everything fell into place so perfectly for her to be here. Monica spent most of her growing-up years in Utah on a dairy farm as the youngest of five children. Monica has two married children, her son Casey

and daughter Jaynee. Casey is married to Emily, and they just had a darling son named Clayton Richard. Jaynee is married to Koda. They all live in Garden City, Kansas. Monica, or "Mama G," as the students call her, moved here from Salem, Utah. Before moving to Kim, she was an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor for 17 years. Monica looks forward to getting to know the students and the Kim community. So far, her favorite parts of being in Kim are the sunrises and the people. She said, "The people are so nice and welcoming!" She is known as Mama G in the Kim School because that was her nickname at her old school. The nickname originated when one of her past FFA members said, "You're like a mom to me. You know we should call you Mama G!" So now, the Kim students call Ms. Giffing Mama G too! The nickname fits her well as she has already proven to be a caring, nurturing leader in the Kim school. Monica enjoys traveling and loves the beach. Her favorite place to travel to is anywhere in the Caribbean. She says that the water is a beautiful clear blue color. She just returned from traveling to Denmark, where her daughter's equine vaulting team placed 5th in the world. Her favorite food is Italian, and she loves to bake

and eat pie. Kim School is happy to welcome Mama G on staff and have her as a part of the school family.



Kim School welcomes back alumna **Taylor Nittler**, who graduated from Kim in 2016. Taylor "Coach TJ" coaches volleyball and teaches middle school health classes, elementary physical education, and elementary reading. Taylor is the daughter of Kim school's fantastic fourth and fifth-grade teacher Kandi Nittler. Between her time growing up in Kim and now moving back to Kim, Taylor lived in Perryton, Texas, where she was also a teacher and a coach. Taylor was part of the first senior class to graduate in the new school building. This year, she is looking forward to being back home. In her spare time, she enjoys

School and Community Announcements

Kim First Baptist Church	Church of Christ	Kim Cowboy Church
Sunday School—10:00 am	Sunday School—10:00 am	Wednesdays at Senior Center
Sunday Worship Service—11:00 am	Sunday Worship Service—11:00am	Fellowship and food at 5:30 pm
Women's Bible Study		Worship & Teaching—6:00pm
Tuesdays @ 2:30 PM at the Out-post.		

Little Britches Rodeo September 30 – October 2 Kim Mustang Pavilion

09/13/22 KIM SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6:00 PM

Obituary



**Walter Craig Hall**, age 78, died on Friday August 12, 2022, at his home in Clayton, New Mexico. Walter Craig Hall was born on September 3, 1943, in Clayton, NM to James Elbert Hall and Margaret Smith Hall. He was the youngest of six children. Walter graduated from Clayton High School in 1962 and earned a bachelor's degree in business from Panhandle State University. He proudly served in the New Mexico National Guard and later attended Auctioneers School in Texas. Walter was a lifelong rancher and farmer as well as working as an auctioneer for decades. He was the auctioneer at several sale barns throughout his life including Guymon, Texhoma, Dalhart, and his beloved Las Vegas, NM. In addition, he sold out many estates and historical ranches in northern New Mexico throughout the years. He loved history, antiques, artifacts, and oddities. Walter loved livestock & horses and enjoyed horse racing. He loved his family & especially his grandchildren. He spent many hours driving great distances to attend their rodeos, football games, fairs, and FFA award ceremonies. Walter was

a state FFA officer in high school and a life-long supporter of youth in FFA and 4-H. He was a founding member of the Union County Youth Supporters. Later in his life Walter served as County Commissioner for Union County. He loved his county, New Mexico, and the United States of America. He was preceded in death by his wife Florence P. Hall, his parents, Elbert & Margaret Hall, his sisters Twila Hall & Florence Hall Molgaard, and brothers Winston & Anthony Hall. He is survived by his brother Jimmy Hall and his wife Wanna of Clayton, his sons, Shane Hall and his wife Melanie of Roswell NM, Tony Hall of La Junta CO, and daughter Micah Regan and her husband Kevin of Austin TX, grandchildren Cade Hall, Cooper Hall, Tel Ramsey, Blake Ramsey, Dray Hall, Jerni Hall, Kraigan Hall, Avery Regan, and Riley Regan. He and Florence had many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.





## 2022 Branson and Kim Volleyball and Football



Date	Day	Sport	Opponent	Location	Team	Time
Aug 8	Monday	Both	First Varsity Practices		HS	5:00
Aug 13	Saturday	Volleyball	Scrimmage	McClave	HS	9:00
Aug 15	Monday	<i>First Day of School for Branson and Kim</i>				
Aug 19	Friday	Football	Scrimmage	Branson	HS	TBA
Aug 23	Tuesday	Volleyball	Walsh	Kim	JH, HS	3:00
Aug 25	Thursday	Volleyball	Granada	Kim	HS	4:00
Aug 26	Friday	Volleyball	@ La Junta	La Junta	HS	1:00
Aug 27	Saturday	Football	Granada	Branson	JH, HS	JH@11:00, HS @1:00
Aug 30	Tuesday	Volleyball	Springfield	Kim	JH, HS	3:00
Sep 2	Friday	Volleyball	Cheraw	Cheraw	HS	3:00
		Football	Cheraw	Cheraw	JH, HS	JH@4:00, HS@7:00
Sep 3	Saturday	Volleyball	Eads	Eads	JH, HS	3:00
Sep 6	Tuesday	Volleyball	South Baca	South Baca	JH, HS	4:00
Sep 9	Friday	Volleyball	Sierra Grande	Sierra Grande	HS	4:30
		Football	Sierra Grande	Sierra Grande	JH, HS	JH@4:00, HS@7:00
Sep 15	Thursday	Volleyball	Manzanola	Manzanola	JH, HS	5:00
Sep 17	Saturday	Volleyball	Walsh Tournament	Walsh	JH	TBA
Sep 17	Saturday	Football	Sangre De Cristo	Branson	JH, HS	JH@11:00, HS @1:00
Sep 20	Tuesday	Volleyball	Wiley	Kim	HS	4:00
Sep 24	Saturday	Volleyball	Cotopaxi	Kim	JH, HS	3:00
		Football	Cotopaxi	Branson	JH, HS	JH@11:00, HS @1:00
Sep 27	Tuesday	Volleyball	Walsh	Walsh	JH, HS	3:00
Sep 29	Thursday	Volleyball	Des Moines	Kim	JH, HS	4:00
Sep 30	Friday	Volleyball	Primero	Primero	JH, HS	3:00
		Football	Primero	Primero	JH, HS	JH@4:00, HS@7:00
Oct 4	Tuesday	Volleyball	Springfield	Kim	JH, HS	3:00
Oct 8	Saturday	Volleyball	McClave Tournament	McClave	HS	TBA
Oct 8	Saturday	Football	Prairie	Woodlin	HS	1:00
Oct 10	Monday	Volleyball	JH League Tournament	Springfield	JH	TBA
Oct 11	Tuesday	Volleyball	South Baca	Kim	HS	4:00
Oct 15	Saturday	Football	@ Mountain Valley	Mountain Valley	HS	1:00
Oct 18	Tuesday	Volleyball	Holly	Kim	HS	4:30
Oct 22	Saturday	Volleyball	McClave	Kim	JH, HS	2:00
		Football	La Veta	Branson	JH, HS	JH@11:00, HS @1:00
Oct 29	Saturday	Football	Chayenne Wells	Branson	HS	HS @ 1:00

Home Volleyball games are in bold and highlighted in gold.

Home Football games are in bold and highlighted in orange.

hiking, painting, reading, and making coffee. Coach TJ is a wonderful addition to the Kim school, and it is great to welcome back one of their own.

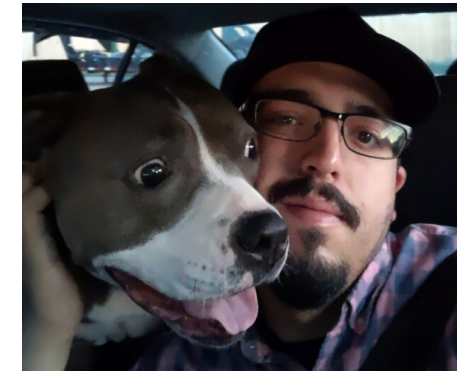


**Jesse Gamez Sr.** coaches basketball, teaches physical education, and co-coaches volleyball for Kim School. He came to Kim School last January from Boise City, Oklahoma, after hearing about the open coach position at Kim. He brought one of his sons, Jesse Jr., with him last year, and this August, the rest of his school-aged kids enrolled at Kim, too: Charlie, David, Cameron, and Kaden. Kim School is excited to have Coach Gamez and his family here at Kim, and Coach Gamez is looking forward to having a great basketball and volleyball season this year!



**Mrs. Kree Day** facilitated Kim School's daycare program in the 2022 spring semester. This year she was hired for an additional role as the Agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor. She is married and has two children: Kinsley, who is in preschool, and Caylin, who is one year old. Kree and her family moved to Kim from

Walsh. She is looking forward to getting to know the Kim School students and seeing all the fun adventures they will go on. When she's not teaching, she is busy with her family, working at the fabric store, and helping her husband's family ranch and farm.



**Thomas Vance** is Kim School's new maintenance professional. He does everything from building desks to climbing around on and maintaining the roof. He joined Kim school's staff partway through the first semester last year. He said, "I came here for the job but stayed for the nice people at Kim." Before working in Kim, he worked in Cheraw doing maintenance. He also worked as a correctional officer for seven years before that. Thomas still lives in La Junta and makes the daily commute to Kim. He is looking forward to the birth of his daughter in October. His hobbies include gardening, whittling, and working on cars. Thomas fills an essential place on staff here in Kim as he helps keep everything running smoothly.

### STUDENTS



**Jesse Gamez Jr.** (Junior) is a junior at Kim School. He first came to Kim School last January as a sophomore

from Boise City, Oklahoma, when his dad Jesse Gamez Sr. got a coaching job at the school. In Oklahoma, Junior ran cross-country and track and played football and basketball. This year he is looking forward to his online college classes. Some of his favorite things are chicken alfredo, running, and math. In addition, Junior participates in FBLA, Student Council, football, basketball, and track.



**Charlie Rosas** is a junior. She came to Kim from Boise City, where she played softball, basketball, and track. She came to Kim following her brother Jesse Jr. who came to Kim last January. Charlie wanted to go to Kim for its good academic choices and opportunities. This year she is looking forward to playing basketball. So far, Charlie especially enjoys sports and forensics. This year, in addition to basketball, she will be playing volleyball and running track, and participating in FBLA and the Student Council.



**David Gamez** is in 8th grade and enrolled in Kim this August, transferring from Boise City with his siblings (Jesse Jr., Charlie, Cameron, and Kaden). He came to the school be-

## Kim School Welcomes New Staff and Students Cont'd

cause he wanted to attend a smaller school and liked the community, sports, and people. David participates in FFA. He is looking forward to learning more, including how to dunk a basketball and getting stronger through sports and practice. He is especially excited for this year's basketball season. He is the 8th-grade class Vice President.



**Cameron Rosas** is in 8th grade and came to Kim from Boise City with his sisters and brothers. He is looking forward to sports, and his favorite subject is science. He loves basketball and Buffalo wings. Cameron is in FFA and sports and is the 8th-grade class secretary and record keeper.



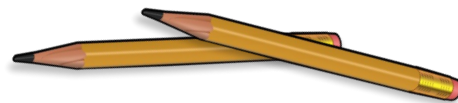
**Kaden Gamez** is in 3rd grade and moved with her family from Boise City, Oklahoma. This year she is looking forward to doing math. Her favorite subjects in school include math, art, and science. Her favorite food is rice, and she loves the colors turquoise and blue. In her free time, she likes to practice gymnastics.



**Jaycee Goodrich** is in Kindergarten and is looking forward to coloring this year in school because one of her favorite things to do is draw. She also loves reading. Her favorite foods include chicken and fries. Jaycee's favorite colors are red and bright pink, and she loves horses and dogs. When she's not at school, she helps her mom raise miniature Australian shepherds. When Jaycee grows up, she would like to be a barrel racer.



**Adlee Burnham** is also in Kindergarten, and the thing she is most looking forward to this year is turning six years old. So far, her favorite subject in school is computer class. Her favorite food is broccoli, and her favorite colors are purple and blue. At home, she loves roping and being a cowgirl. Adlee said that she would like to be a dentist when she grows up.




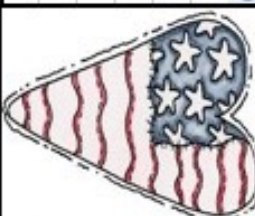


**Kinsley Day** is a preschooler and came to Kim with her mom, Kree Day. She will be in Kindergarten next year. This year she is looking forward to learning how to write. She enjoys writing, eating spaghetti, and the color pink. When Kinsley grows up, she wants to be a horse trainer. Have a wonderful year, Kinsley!



**Austin Ward** joined the Kim Preschool in Ms. Joy's class. Austin and her family live in Branson, Colorado, where her dad Zach grew up. She is excited to make new friends and learn new things! Her favorite hobbies are playing outside, listening to music, and singing. Have a great time in preschool, Austin! Kim School is glad to have you here.



## September Lunch Calendar

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
						
				Sausage biscuit sand. Pizza Day!	HELLO <i>September</i>	3
4	LABOR DAY!	Pancake wraps	Biscuits & sausage gravy	Quiche	8	9
		Nachos w/meat	Grilled chicken sand. & baked beans	Open face hamburgers w/mashed potatoes & gravy		
11	Hormel bars	Bagels w/cream cheese	French toast sticks	Cinnamon rolls	15	16
	Sloppy Joes & tots	Chicken fajitas & spanish rice	Hamburger cheesy mac & California blend	Chili & corn bread		"USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer"
18	Danishes	Breakfast Pizza	Scrambled eggs & toast	Pancaked w/sausage links	22	23
	Breaded chicken sand	Meatball subs & chips	Tostadas & verm.	Chili dogs & tots		
25	Waffles w/straberries	Bacon & cheese quesadilla	Quiche	Asst. muffins & sausage links	29	30
	Hamburgers & potato salad	Chicken stir-fry & egg rolls	Pulled pork sand. & coleslaw	Chicken noodle soup & rolls		
		26	27	28	29	30
						31