



# KSD family CONNECTION

March 8, 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 safety section
- A brief spotlight on one of our district programs, clubs, services, etc.



## this month

So much is happening in March! The already lengthening days will get even longer on March 13, thanks to daylight savings, and it seems the budding trees and flowers somehow know March 20 is the first day of spring.

This month is also host to:

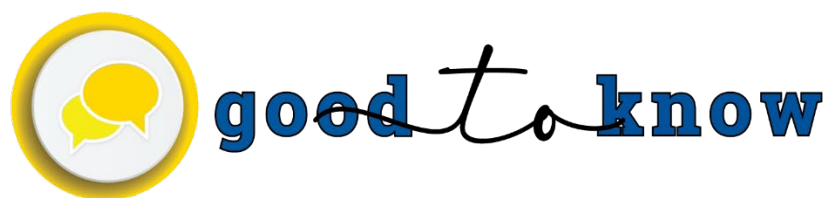
- [International Women's Day](#) and [Women's History Month](#), honoring and celebrating the important contributions, accomplishments, and leadership of women to our nation and world.
- [St. Patrick's Day](#), for the love of all things Irish and green.
- [National Reading Month](#), and Kelso elementary schools are pulling out all the stops to encourage and celebrate literacy. Here are just a few examples:
  - Lexington encouraged literacy by reading aloud a book during morning announcements on March 2 and invited students to Drop Everything And Read (DEAR). Students lined up in Lexington's long beautiful hallways and read their favorite book for 10 minutes school-wide!
  - Carrolls Elementary is celebrating community and kindness in their literacy week (March 7-March 10). Students are encouraged to wear shirts that can be read on March 8, community members (from Sheriff's office, school board, Fire Station, KSD District Office, coaches, etc.) are reading aloud to students in grades k-5, and March 10 is dress like an idiom day!
  - Butler Acres literacy committee developed the theme of "camping out with a good book" and decorated the school with camping materials. They have a different literacy activity each day.
  - Rose Valley celebrated Read Across America Week with spirit dress up days, reading in the dark, and door decoration contests all centered around Awesome Authors! They ended the week with a fun assembly and a teacher reader's theatre created by Miss Flores! The Panther mascot, Paws, even joined in!
  - Barnes Elementary engaging in Read Across America with community members who volunteered to read two books to two different classes, as well as a Spirit week celebrating the importance of reading.
  - Wallace's 3rd grade is doing a reading tournament, like a March Madness of books.



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. To that end, here's some current information:

- Beginning Monday, March 14, masks, physical distancing, and contact tracing are no longer required.
- DoH released [updated K-12 guidance](#). We will send more detailed correspondence very soon.
- Free [COVID Testing for KSD](#) students and their immediate family members is available
  - Through April 1 at the KSD Family Community Resource Center from 7 AM to 10 AM on weekdays
  - From April 2 all testing will be held at individual school sites

Please [pre-register here](#) when possible.



### Transitional Kindergarten

Following months of planning and preparation, Kelso School District launched its premier Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program on January 3, 2022. Five TK classrooms are currently serving 75 students with 15 students in each classroom.

Kelso's grant-supported TK program provides all this and more:

- Full-day, fully integrated program
- Reading, writing, and mathematics
- Science, social studies, art health, music, and PE
- Communication skills

- Large and small motor skills
- Social and emotional skills
- Hands-on experiences
- Certificated teachers and highly-qualified paraeducators

We are proud to offer TK. Interest has been so high, we are adding an additional classroom at Wallace Elementary, and we are hoping to provide additional classrooms in the future.

Our current TK students will follow the KSD calendar through June, and be ready to attend full-day kindergarten at their home school this fall.

Kelso's Transitional Kindergarten is designed to provide an opportunity for students who may not have access to high-quality preschool experiences. To be eligible for the 2022-23 TK classes:

- your family must live within the Kelso School District boundaries, and
- your student must turn 5 years of age between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023

If someone in your family is interested – or you know someone who might benefit from TK – registration will open on Monday, April 25, 2022. Families may register on the Kelso web site, at the District Teaching and Learning office, or at any elementary school office. Registration will remain open until November 10, 2022.



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

Sincerely,

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 Kelso School District  
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