

The King School

August Newsletter

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Hard work, planning, and preparation continue for next year!

Are you ready for school yet? Can you feel it in the summer air? Our school building certainly is getting ready to welcome returning and new students, teachers, and families! Our wonderful custodians have been working hard over the summer preparing the building and cleaning the classrooms for the first day of school on September 7th. For all JK/K students, the first day of school will be Friday, September 10th. We've also finished construction on two additional office spaces in our lobby. This space was necessary to accommodate the growing populations within our building. We've also swapped our teacher's room with the family liaison/conference room to create better access and privacy for meetings. In addition to these building changes, we are excited about changes to our schedules and learning opportunities.

For the past few months, we have been working on schedules to better align common periods of instruction and lengthier times for math, science, Chinese, and social studies. This effort was made possible by our teachers and coaches. This time will be in the model of a constructivist, hands-on, and collaborative methodology of instruction intended to challenge and support our students in their learning. We

are also excited about the addition of art to all of our kindergarten classrooms and possible tutoring partnerships with Harvard University for our lower grades. Our Chinese program has also been enhanced to introduce more culture and to simplified Chinese language instruction. Our preparations for this coming year have us poised to extend time for learning with our interactive and differentiated instruction in ways to impart the skills and knowledge necessary for success. We will also have our monthly student-led assemblies and a variety of field trips to complement our community approach to education.

As summer winds down, we hope that you find this time to be rejuvenating. We can't wait to see the friendly smiles of our students and families. There are so many reasons why this year will be the best!

The poet Wallace Stevens famously wrote, "the summer night is like the perfection of thought." May you find these weeks to be just as rich and rewarding.

If you have questions or concerns about our school, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached most days at 617-349-6562 ext. 150 or gyung@cpsd.us.

Gerald Yung, Principal

All class lists are posted inside our school by the entrance. Please note that student last names are omitted from the list for confidentiality. Our clerk, Ms. Mason, will be happy to answer any questions from the main office. School hours during the summer are from 9AM-1PM.

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New Wednesday Hours!

Please also remember that every Wednesday starting October 27th the school day will be from 7:55AM to 1:55PM.

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Join our Parent Group! Please considering joining our growing parent group. This group is dedicated, fun, and excited about several upcoming special events.

RISE: RESPECT INDIVIDUALS SELF ENVIRONMENT

Here are some very helpful tips to help all of our families for the upcoming school year.

“Back to School in 6 Easy Steps” from
<http://school.familyeducation.com/>

1. Get a Grip

Your relationship with your children has a great effect on them. So it's important not to act too crazed about the return to school. Build in extra time, put irrelevant projects on hold, stay rested, and try to stick closer to your kids. Dads need to listen up, too. Many jobs seem to pick up at this time of year, and it's easy to get sucked down by the undertow.

2. Case the Joint

Even if your child knows the school well, it still feels good to get reacquainted. My third-grade daughter was always crabby until she saw her classroom, thought about the schedule, met her teacher, and picked out her clothes. Your kids may enjoy getting a "sneak preview" with another child from her school or class. Call before you go, since school buildings may be open the Saturday before opening day.

3. Don't Clean the Slate

Fresh starts are so promising that we tend to overdo them. This may seem like a great time to clean up, sort out, and set new ground rules for family life. Chores are reassigned, allowances renegotiated, and after-school sports and activities scheduled. While change is good, the timing requires some reflection. Too much too soon can make even the most cooperative child balk. Focus on the start of school, and revisit the other issues after your kids feel more settled.

4. Be Reassuring

Tell your kids that they'll be fine! Before school starts, encourage them to reconnect with school buddies they may not have seen over the summer. This may take some brokering, depending on the particular social appetite of your child, but it's money in the bank for reducing fears of isolation in the new classroom. If they want to, let them take part of their sticker or baseball card collection to school (with the teacher's approval). Listen to their worries and don't minimize, dismiss, or try to talk them out of them. These fears are real to your child.

5. Set the Stage

Shopping for supplies and clothes should be fun, but overdoing this can be boring and a little scary to kids. Spend time thinking together about quiet time and reading and work space in the house. Choose special places, like corners of rooms, or certain tables or chairs, to show your kids that you'll help them find space where they can do the things that matter, like reading and homework.

6. Meet the Teacher

Your child is still young enough to feel comforted by an open communication between parent and teacher. In fact, when parents and teachers have regular discussions about school and home events, kids feel a more trusting connection with the school as a whole, and tend to try harder both socially and academically. Check-ins about new or recently lost pets, family moves, births, and deaths can help a teacher fathom something in your child that might otherwise seem mysterious. Most good schools would rather know sooner than later if you are worried about your child's school experience.

Parent Involvement

The King School believes in a community approach to education

We would love to have you involved in our events throughout the year! To learn more about school events and to ask questions you may be interested in our parent-run Google Group.

To join this positive and informative email group, email mlkparents@gmail.com and indicate whether you are a current or incoming MLK School family.

For more information contact Elizabeth at 617-462-5302, Rosalie at 617-645-2608 or Bethany at 617-943-6724.



FREQUENTLY ASKED EXPANDED LEARNING TIME (ELT) QUESTIONS

HERE ARE SOME COMMON QUESTIONS THAT MAY HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING, EXCITING, SCHOOL YEAR. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

When do the Wednesday dismissals at 1:55pm begin?

The Wednesday-only dismissals begin the last week of October on the 27th and continue until the end of the school year.

Why is the King School dismissing earlier on Wednesdays?

There are a couple of reasons. First, the Expanded Learning Time (ELT) budget initially paid for an additional 360 hours per year of instruction. Over the past two years, it has since decreased to 300 hours per year. Our school is currently making the adjustment to stay within the budget of this grant. Additionally, this earlier release time will help our teachers collaborate because they will be meeting from 2-4PM every other Wednesday for professional development. Our goal in conforming with the ELT grant is to strengthen our instruction and provide the highest quality of education possible.

What after-school childcare will be available on the earlier release Wednesdays?

We are currently working with King Community Schools to offer programming on Wednesdays. We will send home a sign-up sheet with expected costs in September. Regularly scheduled buses will transport kids home at 1:55PM. Students staying for after-school programs will need to make arrangements for pick up.

What are the offerings for Explorations this year?

Our hope for Explorations this year is to continue to use the time to build school community and academic enrichment. As a school, we offer an incredible variety of enrichment opportunities. (This includes, but is not limited to, our Mandarin Chinese, PE, art, music, computer and library classes.) Our ability to schedule these classes while offering longer instructional classes of math and English Language Arts often shortchanges our science and social studies programming. As a result, our goal this year is ensure that our science and social studies classes are receiving the emphasis and time necessary for success. This would mean that the old structure of twice-a-week Explorations would be reduced to once-a-week with the intention of a school-wide focus, such as reading groups or math games. Our staff will use this time to ensure the best possible gains for our students.

Can I pick my child up early?

All JK/K students may dismiss early as attendance is not compulsory by law. Older students may do so with permission from the principal. While many families express anxiety about the longer days, almost all of our families attend our expanded schedule and have found the schedule to be more rewarding, comfortable, and satisfying.

Reminder!

There is no school on Thursday, September 9 for the Rosh Hashanah holiday.



Back to School Cookout and Tour!

Grilling and chilling with friends old and new
Wednesday, September 1
from 4:00 to 7:00PM!

Join Principal Gerald Yung for a cook-out featuring meat or vegan burgers, hot dogs and popsicles.
Drop in any time at the M.L. King School Garden.