

KELLY LANE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S KNIGHTLY NEWS

Kelly Lane Middle School, Pflugerville ISD

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Red Ribbon Week

This is Red Ribbon Week at Kelly Lane Middle School, a week where we make a structured effort to bring attention to the fight against drugs and to also honor the life of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a DEA officer that was killed in the line of duty battling drug traffickers. In order to bring attention to this week, we go a little outside the norm with dress up themes for each day. Here are the themes for the week:

Monday: "Don't just go red, Go Green!"
Tuesday: "Put a Cap on Drugs" (wear a hat)
Wednesday: "Sock it to Drugs" (odd-looking socks)
Thursday: "Shade out drugs" (sunglasses)
Friday: "Kelly Lane Spirit Day" Wear KLMS stuff

Our football team battled Dessau last week and both the 7th and 8th grade teams came away from the field victorious. The volleyball teams also won all games against Westview in a quick Thursday matchup. Volleyball has a bye-week this week while the football team takes on our closest rival, Park Crest, on Tuesday night.

It seems that our directory "restriction" form that parents sign keeps your child's information from being published in any directories, but also keeps kids from the being in the yearbook. Our current tally would keep nearly 200 students from being published in the yearbook. If you believe you may have inadvertently

Devin Padavil, Campus Principal
Sarah Coleman, Administrative Associate

Curtis Seiferman, 8th Grade Principal
Rose Marques, 7th Grade Principal
Ben O'Connor, 6th Grade Principal

Sherri Vigil, 7th Grade Counselor, 8th Grade A-L
Cristina Garza, 6th Grade Counselor, 8th Grade M-Z

restricted your child from the yearbook, please email: leslie.courington@pflugervilleisd.net. Otherwise, we'll just send a note home asking you to confirm the decision.

Many of our 8th graders will begin tutoring our 7th and 6th grade students next week during CATAPULT. Seeing 8th graders eager to help others is another reason we're proud to be part of the Knight community. Because we have a few days off in November, and to keep things consistent for students, we'll be operating on "normal schedule" instead of CATAPULT during the week of Veteran's Day (11/10) and Thanksgiving (11/22).

Lastly, progress reports go out on Thursday. Please look for these to come with your child after school.

Best regards,

Devin Padavil

Upcoming News and Announcements for Kelly Lane Families

Tues. Football: 10/27, 5:30 vs. Park Crest (7th Home)

Choir Concert: 10/27, 7:00 in the Cafeteria

Picture Make-up Day: October 27th for those that were absent on the original picture day or just had a REALLY bad hair day. You must pre-pay to have re-takes. Please contact Ms. Courington for the re-take form.

Daylight Savings Time: Don't forget that this weekend is Daylight Savings. Turn the clock back by one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night and make the

most of the extra hour of sleep/extra hour to get things done on Sunday.

Community Forum: Superintendent Charles Dupre will have a community forum on October 29th @ 7:00 at the PISD administration building.

CBAs: District based testing called "Curriculum Based Assessment" (CBA) begins this Friday. Over the course of the next two weeks, students will take assessments in each class that help our teachers understand the needs of each student.

Middle School Minds: Emotion/Reasoning

Students develop (cognitively and physically) more during the middle school years than at any other stage of life, other than at age 2. Many are aware of the dramatic development kids go through at this age and how we make every effort to help them get through this stage “just right.” There are all kinds of magazines and books dedicated to raising toddlers, but not as many for the second toddler-hood: middle school.

For a middle school student, the emotional center of the brain develops far faster than the cognitive reasoning area of a child’s brain. Until these areas balance out, middle school students are prone to more emotional reactions than older students. In addition, students make impulsive decisions because of the emotional reward of things that are fun, exciting, extreme, scary, entertaining, etc.

Following this line of logic, staying focused on schoolwork is difficult when compared with hanging out with friends, games, or the drama of their peer groups as relayed through text messages. It’s not so much that the work is being put off, there are just many things appealing to the emotional center. Teasing/Bullying also feels more prevalent and painful during middle school because of the extreme emotional variables. Despite these variables, here are some things we can do with students to help them feel successful:

- Having a set place and routine for doing homework that is free from distractions. Providing some choice can help this time be more productive.
- Seeing the clear value for getting the work done and attaching that value with short-term rewards (grades, incentives, intrinsic pride).
- Keeping a clear agenda/planner to refer to over the course of the day. It’s particularly useful if someone older (parent/sibling) can model strong use of an agenda for the younger student.
- Using poor interactions with others as an opportunity to “debrief/plan.” Talk through how things went and how things can go better “next time.” Most often, there will be a “next time.”
- Providing opportunities to just vent feelings with school/life/schoolwork. Many times, kids aren’t able to capture their frustrations into words. Just having the opportunity to “get it out” sometimes makes things a lot better than they once seemed.
- Praising /remaining optimistic about the student’s chances of successfully dealing with a challenge. Middle schoolers, despite outward appearances, are easily susceptible to self-doubt and then low self-esteem, which only complicates issues.



Kelly Lane’s teachers are committed to serving our students best! Stay connected and let us know if we can do anything to provide excellence in learning for our students or your child.

Principal: devin.padavil@pflugervilleisd.net