



# DRAGON NEWS

Russell Jones Education Center - School Newsletter

May 2015

## Russell Jones Education Center

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Russell Jones Education Center

As the school year comes to a close, our minds and hearts are filled to the brim. It's been a great year. What a school! Together we've learned much and shared experiences that will long remain with us in the years to come. The strength of our community and whole-hearted passion to make our school a wonderful place of learning for our children primarily, but for all of us, makes Russell Jones truly a special place. Sometimes I

have to take a double-take as I watch our students and realize how much they have changed since late last summer when the school year began. Of course you see it too, together we have the complete picture of just how much your student has matured, how much they have learned, and how quickly they are becoming the people they are meant to be. What a joy it is to work with children and watch them navigate their world and be so successful in it!

I would like to congratulate and thank our hard working and caring staff members who have made a huge difference to our students this year. Their commitment is outstanding and our kids are the beneficiaries. I would also like to thank our parents

who have helped their children in the learning process; the partnership between home and school is important and I know that thanks needs to go to parents for supporting their child's learning. Thank you for providing rich and engaging, well-rounded experiences for your children and knowing that education is about joy, wonder and fostering curiosity, along with the development of social skills so needed to succeed. For these, and a million other things, I am truly grateful.

To those of you who are leaving us for new places and adventures, we wish you all the best. Congratulations to our Seniors who are onto a new stage in their academic career and life! And, well-wishes, albeit with saddened hearts, to Mrs. Cook, and Mr. Moss as you move to new positions in your careers. You've been a gift to us this year and will undoubtedly be a great asset to your new schools.

Summer is a very special time for children and is the source of many happy memories. I hope that you and your children enjoy many opportunities to have fun as a family in the weeks ahead. I look forward to seeing your children in August.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lance Miller

## Important Dates

### March

13<sup>th</sup> - Last Day for Seniors

15<sup>th</sup> - Awards Assembly &  
End of Year Picnic

17<sup>th</sup> - PHS Graduation  
(Community of Christ @ 1pm)  
PHHS Graduation  
(Municipal Auditorium @

5:30pm)

22<sup>nd</sup> - Last Day of School  
(dismiss @ 10:40am)

### August

4<sup>th</sup> - Summer Movie Night  
(enrollment & registration)

13<sup>th</sup> - 1st Day of School



Mr. Moss & Ms. Porter

## A Word From Our Therapists: Group Therapy

An integral part of preventing school violence involves knowing students individually, building relationships with them, and noticing subtle, gradual, or dramatic behavioral changes, according to a school safety expert. And school counselors, whose roles

and responsibilities focus on understanding the students, their interests, worries, and behavioral concerns, are essential contributors to an effective violence prevention plan.

Kenneth Trump, president of National School Safety and Security Services, said that the way school counselors get to know students differs from how teachers, principals or other school administrators know students. They specialize in kids' social and emotional needs, identifying the "red flags" that signal a particular child is heading into circumstances that could possibly escalate into violence.

He stressed that it's not simply a "type" of personality, conduct or appearance that lends itself to violence, but rather changes in behavior, subtle or dramatic, such as falling grades, sudden depression, or increased alcohol or substance abuse, that schools need to take notice of, and the only way to recognize altered patterns of behavior is for someone, as in the school counselor, to take note of them, and bring them to the school's attention.

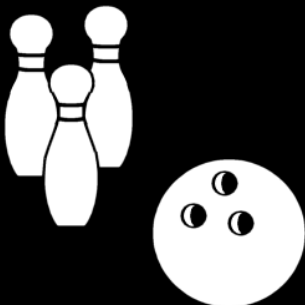
Schools either place too much emphasis on prevention, or too much emphasis on providing more and better security, he said, when in reality it's a balance between both aspects that contribute to safe and nonviolent schools.

\*Taken from <http://www.school-counselor.org/>

## Congrats!

The Park Hill School District named Jones Center school-based therapist Rachel Porter the 2015 **Support Staff Employee of the Year**.

"She's one of the leaders in our building. She does a really good job of thinking of the entire building when she's making decisions about what will most benefit kids," Jones Center Principal Dr. Lance Miller said. "She does a great job of building relationships with students throughout the building. Students feel comfortable coming to her and discussing problems and situations they need help with."



## Bowling Fieldtrip

On Friday, April 10, the staff and students at Russell Jones took a field trip to Gladstone Bowl. Everyone got to play at least two rounds with their friends. After a little bit, hot dogs and soda were given to the students. We learned some great bowling fundamentals and how to handle new social situations. A great time was had by everyone!

# A Word From Our Therapists: Recreational Therapy

The greater Kansas City area is a wonderful place to get out and explore, so I'm giving you homework for Recreational Therapy. Grab your family, your camera, and get out and make some memories together. Included for you convenience is a list of exciting family activities to weave into your family schedule.

## Museums

Harry Truman Presidential Library  
Kaleidoscope at Crown Center  
Nelson Atkins Museum  
National History Museum (Lawrence, KS)  
Moon Marble Factory (Bonner Springs, KS)  
National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial  
Negro Leagues Baseball Museum  
Reading Reptile Bookstore (Brookside)  
The College Basketball Experience at Sprint Center  
Union Station  
Wonderscope Children's Museum  
Worth Harley Davidson  
Weston's Red Barn Farm  
Worlds of Fun

## Stadiums

Kauffman Stadium  
Nascar Speedway (The Legends, KS)  
T-Bones Stadium

## Miscellaneous Fun

AMC or Gladstone Bowl  
Arthur Bryant's BBQ  
Gates BBQ  
Picnics  
River Roll Skating Rink

## Outdoor Fun

Cave Spring and Historic Site/National Center  
Children's Peace Pavilion (Independence)  
Coco Key Water Resort  
Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead (Overland Park, KS)  
18th and Vine Jazz District  
English Landing Park  
First Fridays at the Crossroads District (Music and Art)  
Fountain at Zona Rosa  
Kansas City-City Market  
Kansas City Northern Railroad (Waukomis/Line Creek)  
Kansas City Zoo  
Martha Lafite Nature Center  
Oceans of Fun  
Powell Gardens  
Schlitterbaun  
Smithville Lake  
Tiffany Spring Water Park  
The Fountains at the Plaza  
Weston's Red Barn Farm  
Worlds of Fun

## Theaters

AMC theaters  
Coterie Theater  
Starlight Theater

The Russell Jones Education Center wishes your family a wonderful summer filled with lots of adventures. We are excited to hear about the great experiences your family will embrace over this summer when the 2014 – 2015 school year starts in August.

Have a wonderful summer,

*Ms. Cathy, MA., CTRS.  
Recreational Therapist*

# What's Going on in Our Classrooms?

## High School - Career Connections

By Haleigh Andreasen, 12th grade

This semester the high school students and teachers have been working hard at the coffee bar. There have been quite a few changes this year. Some of those changes include the set-up of Java Jones, the positions (manager and 1 delivery person), and of course there are some new faces added to Java Jones. Java Jones gives us experience with jobs and what is to be expected of us. For example, you must have good customer service, meaning you have to be friendly, but not like creepy friendly. There is a lot of time and effort put into the coffee bar. We do many different things with our funds. There have been times that we have given some of our funds to charity, the school, and even fundraisers! Some may say it is easy, but there is a lot behind the scenes that people do not know about, but hey you never know! You might end up in the coffee bar during your high school years!



## Middle School - Mrs. Bledsoe

Spring has arrived in middle school! Students have started seeds in the classroom and worked the soil outside in preparation for planting. The classroom atmosphere has been “electric” as students learn how to build circuits. Eighth graders have been curious and amazed as they’ve discovered what’s going on under their feet everyday within the layers of the Earth. What are the characteristics of a hero? Just ask a middle schooler. Students have identified those characteristics within a person that they believe is a hero. You can read all about those “heroes” in student’s writing projects. We also want to give a shout out to our eighth graders who will be “graduating” from middle school and moving up to the high school level. A wonderful journey awaits...



# What's Going on in Our Classrooms?

## Mrs. Hickman's Class

It's hard to believe we are in the final weeks of school! We are currently working hard on the MAP tests in Language Arts, Math, and Science.

Students are working on a History of Science project. Each student has chosen a person in history who made a significant contribution to Science. They have done research about the person and are creating a video presentation to share with the class that will introduce their scientist.

If you've been in our classroom, you probably know there is a timeline that goes around most of the room. The information that is presented relates to significant events in American History we have studied this year. As we have learned about these events, we have added them to the timeline. Our class timeline will be featured on Park Hill Channel 18 in mid-May. We hope you will watch for us!



## Dr. Kalis' Class

The students in Dr. Kalis' class have just finished Terra Nova testing and are now working on the MAP test. It amazes me how much each of them has grown as a learner since the beginning of the year. I can almost see their brains growing in capacity, it is just amazing. I am hopeful their test scores will show their individual growth. I have been astonished by their hard work.

In reading we are learning about figurative language and reading books from our favorite genres. We have been asking students to engage with their texts by asking questions and thinking more deeply about their reading. In writing we are preparing to begin writing an informational text they will publish before the end of the school year, students will be expected to complete research, integrate nonfiction text features, and teach their readers about topics which interests them in a clear and succinct manner.

In math we continue to push forward on the various concepts. Some are working on adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Others are working on developing multiplication and division fluency, while still others are building their foundational knowledge of time, money and measurement. The students in my class have built great stamina for their work. I am very proud of them.

## Health News from Nurse Kelley in the Jones Center Health Room:

### 7 Summer Steps for Healthy Living

In the warmer, longer, lazier days of summer, the living may not be easy, but your life probably feels less chaotic. Even adults tend to adopt a “school’s out!” attitude in summer. That’s why this is a perfect time to improve your health in a fashion so seasonally laid back you’ll barely notice the effort.

Give your diet a berry boost – blackberries, blueberries and strawberries every day. They will help you load up on antioxidants, which may help prevent damage to tissue and reduce the risks of age-related illnesses.

Get dirty and stress less – plant a small garden or flower box or even a few potted plants. Just putting your hands in soil is “grounding”. Being mentally grounded can help relieve physical and mental stress.

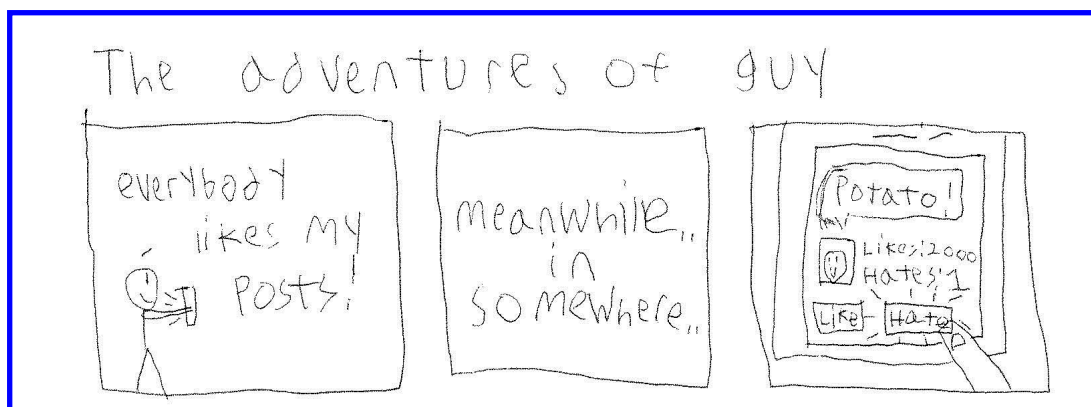
Floss daily – You know you need to, now it’s time to start; floss every single day. Flossing reduces oral bacteria, which improves overall body health and in turn gives your body more resources to fight bacteria elsewhere.

Get outside to exercise – Pick one outdoor activity, going on a hike, taking a nature walk, playing games such as tag with your kids, cycling, roller blading or swimming. The family that plays together not only gets fit together, it’s also a great way to create bonding time.

Be good to your eyes – When outdoors, wear sunglasses that block at least 99% of ultraviolet A and B rays. Sunglasses can help prevent cataracts, as well as wrinkles around the eyes.

Vacation time! Improve your heart health – take advantage of summer’s slower schedule by using your vacation time to unwind. Vacations can help lower your blood pressure, heart rate, and stress hormones such as cortisol, which contributes to a widening waist and an increased risk of heart disease.

Sleep well – Resist the urge to stay up later during long summer days. Instead pay attention to good sleep hygiene by keeping the same bedtime and wake-up schedule and not drinking caffeine later in the day.



By Jones Center 4th Grader, Connor Soper

**ATTENDANCE:** It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to contact the school office and state the reason for your child's absence. If the absences have not been excused by a parent or guardian, the student will be considered truant. The office number is (816) 359-4510. For your convenience, a phone answering machine is in operation 24 hours, 7 days a week. Please call before 8:00am if your child will be absent.