



Cougar Pawprint



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Illinois PTA District 37

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Kimball Hill Elementary School

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Next newsletter deadline is **Oct. 19**. Articles should be e-mailed or delivered to the "Newsletter" folder in the PTA workroom.

Kimball Hill Pledge

"I pledge at Kimball Hill School to respect myself and the rights and property of others. I am responsible for my behavior. I care about others and my school. I will try to be fair and I can be trusted to do my best."

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PTA already is working hard

I want to welcome everyone back to a new school year. I am very excited to be the new PTA president this year. If you are not already aware, our other officers are **Aimee Brunlieb**, vice president; **Mary Fava**, treasurer; and **Tracy McMahon**, secretary. We look forward to working with **Mr. LeCrone**, Kimball Hill staff and families to make 2006-2007 a great year.

The PTA works hard throughout the year. Much time and effort is put into planning and running various programs and events. At the start of this school year, **Jean Koutas** coordinated the distribution of school supply kits that were ordered at the end of last school year. Jean is also co-chairing the Holiday Store — a student favorite! We appreciate her support year after year.

Dori Johnson and **Jen Elkins** are co-chairing the room representatives committee. Our room representatives not only help in the planning of school parties, but also are valuable in communicating information to parents such as snow days. I thank those parents who have volunteered to be room reps this year. Our students benefit from your willingness to help. I should mention that Dori and Jen are providing ongoing sup-

President's message

Steven J. Mullany

port to the PTA throughout the year by co-chairing the Teacher Appreciation committee. Much time, planning and creativity goes into recognizing our teachers in the spring.

Jodi Check, **Becky Leone** and **Mary Kaye Pollard** generously gave of their time this summer to familiarize our incoming Cougars (kindergarten students) with Kimball Hill through play dates, art-in-the-park and a picnic.

Kevin McAlhaney is responsible for bringing a new look to our PTA website. Please check it out — it contains valuable information that is kept up-to-date and offered in a user-friendly manner. Contact Kevin if you have any suggestions or ideas for the website.

Teri Toenjes has offered to act as our volunteer coordinator. You may know her as the person who brought "Mini Courses" to Kimball Hill. Teri is one of many parents at Kimball Hill who have children at different schools on various

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Coming up

- ✓ **Sept. 1-18:** Innisbrook fundraising
- ✓ **Sept. 15:** Family picnic, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- ✓ **Sept. 19:** PTA meeting, 7 p.m.
- ✓ **Sept. 21:** Market Day pickup, 3:45-5 p.m.
- ✓ **Sept. 25:** Spark program, "Advocacy," 7 p.m., Plum Grove Junior High
- ✓ **Sept. 27:** Sixth-grade cross country meet, 4 p.m., Salk Park
- ✓ **Oct. 6:** Market Day forms due
- ✓ **Oct. 9:** Columbus Day, no school
- ✓ **Oct. 12:** Picture day
- ✓ **Oct. 12:** Market Day pickup
- ✓ **Oct. 16-27:** ITBS/Cogat testing, fifth grade

Cougar Capsules



Put your name among PTA members

Joining PTA allows you to make a difference in your child's life. If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. Please fill out the form attached to this newsletter and show support for PTA programs.

Quality products to buy

Don't forget to turn in your order for the Innisbrook fundraiser. Your child should have brought a packet home.

Orders are due Sept. 18. Your



purchase of excellent quality wrapping supplies and other great gifts will support many PTA programs throughout the year. If you have any questions, call Patti Weicker at 590-8263.

Dist. 15 meets class-size goals

The District 15 Board recently approved 2.5 additional teachers, lowering class sizes to meet targets.

Grades	Estimated Avg Class Size	Target Avg Class Size
1,2,3	24.2	24
4,5,6	26.0	26
7,8	28.07	28

Ready for the picnic?

Come out on Friday, Sept. 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for an evening of fun and celebrate the kickoff of the 2006-2007 school year with family and friends. Music will be provided by STAX O WAX. We'll have pizza and pop for those who ordered, or you can bring your own dinner and spend time enjoying the company of family and friends. We hope you can join us!



Teacher negotiations update

The District 15 Board of Education and Classroom Teachers' Council are continuing negotiations under the guidance of a Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Please access the following websites for additional information: www.ccsd15.net and www.ctteachers.com.

Our newest teachers

Welcome to the following teachers and staff new to Kimball Hill this year:

Ginger Benning, sixth-grade teacher
Dawn Busse, second-grade teacher
Amy Chandler, part-time social worker
Matthew Hrtanek, fourth-grade teacher
Jennifer Huntzicker, fourth-grade teacher
Pam Laughland, fifth-grade teacher
Amy Lunsmann, third-grade teacher
Mary Redding, assistant principal
Yanira Rivera, fourth-grade bilingual teacher

Dean Stoyas, afternoon custodian
Andy Tieman, administrative facilitator
Chris Warren, night custodian



Holiday crafts alert

The Rolling Meadows High School Athletic Boosters is planning its 28th Annual Holiday Craft Boutique. It will include 125 booths, with hundreds of handmade items for sale, as well as a raffle and craft activities for children. Come to the school between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Nov. 11 to get a jump on your holiday shopping. Admission is \$2; free for those 18 and under.

How to stay current

Keep up to date on what's happening in Washington, D.C. Stay abreast of developments in legislative issues that affect families, schools, and communities, and know what National PTA is doing to advocate for public education and children. Sign up for National PTA's e-newsletter, distributed each week when Congress is in session. The Web site is www.pta.org/ia_newsletters.html.

You're invited to the PTA General Membership Meeting

Please join us at 7 p.m.
on Tuesday, Sept. 19, in the LRC

"There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist or to accept the responsibility for changing them." — Denis Watley

Thanks for a great start to a new year

The first few days of any school year can be nerve-racking to students, parents, teachers and, yes, even principals. Fortunately, thanks to everyone's help, the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year went off without a hitch, and students and staff appear to have settled into their routines.

New policies and routines

For all returning students, one of the most glaring differences from last year was their inability to play on the playground before school. They now are lining up by their homeroom number on the blacktop and are not allowed on the field or the playground equipment. The major reason for this change is safety. Kimball Hill has no supervision on the playground before 8:50 a.m., and in an effort to keep the morning routine as orderly as possible, we are asking that no students arrive before that time. Students are to go directly to their designated area when they arrive and will be brought into school when the bell rings at 9 a.m.

Key Communicators wanted

Last year Mrs. Zarr initiated the "Key Communicators" process, an

Principal's corner

Brian LeCrone

lecroneb@ccsd15.k12.il.us



effort to enhance communication via email between the school and the community. Becoming involved in the process is easy! Look for the HELP WANTED - Key Communicators Needed flier that will be coming home soon, read the brief description, fill out the necessary information and return it to the school office. It is a quick way of keeping all of us on the same page.

On the district level, three of our parents are involved with the Parent Advisory Conference for Educational Excellence (PACEE): Jen Elkins, Pam Fitzgibbons and Lisa Winterstein. The purpose of this district-level conference is to update the community on the happenings in District 15. Superintendent Robert McKanna asked that each school

provide three parents for these meetings. The first meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 at the district office, and subsequent meetings will take place about every six weeks.

Parent survey results

The results of the 2005-2006 parent surveys were shared with staff during the first two Institute Days. With respect to Kimball Hill, most of the survey responses were very complimentary of both the faculty and administration. The overriding concerns were large class sizes, safety issues, outdated technology and timely parent/teacher communication.

Scores to celebrate!

The raw scores for the 2006 ISAT tests have been distributed, and Kimball Hill's scores are excellent. Perhaps the most eye-opening score was in sixth-grade mathematics where all the students either met or exceeded standards. Preliminary reports show that our students are meeting adequate yearly progress in all areas. The official results will likely be out in October. More to come!

Getting back into the routine

PTA.org offers these tips for getting organized as our children head back to school and we get used to the daily routine again.

Busy families need to get organized so parents and children can avoid conflicts and keep their lives together running smoothly and happily.

Here are a few ideas to help:

Fill in the household calendar together as a family. Write the times when family members get home from work and when kids' school day or after-school activities end. Write down who is responsible for picking up the kids or whether the kids will bus or walk home on a give day. Complete

as far ahead as possible. Keep up with changes.

Plan menus for the week. Make a grocery list and shop for fresh, healthy items for kids to bring to school or to eat at home. Find out who will be home at dinner time each day and how to plan accordingly.

Anticipate scheduling conflicts. Coordinate the times when family members use the shower, the laundry, the computer, or the TV to keep the peace during busy evening or morning hours.

Talk about the appropriate use of technology. Rather than defaulting to the "electronic sitter" when you are busy doing household chores or planning for the next day, learn more



about appropriately using media and technology: Internet, cell phone, television, movies, video games and music.

Use your social networks. Family members and friends often are willing to help by giving the kids a ride home or a place to study and play after school, so go ahead use these options. Family members can take turns serving supper or arrange to balance daily duties in other ways.

Teacher Features

Mr. LeCrone Principal

Hometown: Aurora

Education: Undergraduate from University of Illinois; master's in mathematics education from DePaul University; advanced degree in educational organization and leadership from University of Illinois.

Hobbies/interests: Playing/watching sports, reading, exercising (jogging and biking), playing with my children.

Family: Wife Samantha is a special education teacher at St. Charles East High School; daughter Dianna will be



4 on Oct. 2; son Jack turned 2 on Sept. 1.

Personal hero: My father

Favorite food: Pizza. Every Friday night is

pizza night at the LeCrone household!

Favorite book: "Foundation" by Isaac Asimov

The best thing about my job is: that I am able to make a difference in the future of our students and hopefully the future of our world.

Mrs. Redding Assistant principal

Hometown: Mount Prospect

Education: BSED, Northern Illinois University, 1983; MAED, Northeastern Illinois University, 1988; Advanced Certification in School Administration, Concordia University Chicago, 2006

Hobbies/interests: Sports, reading, biking

Family: Married to Jim for 18 years, three sons: Jack, 15, a freshman at Prospect High; Terry, 13, an eighth-grader at Lincoln Middle School; and Conor, 10, a fifth-grader at Lions Park Elementary School.

Personal heroes: My parents!

Raised eight children, worked hard all



their lives and instilled strong work ethics and important social values in all of their children.

Favorite food: Mexican

Favorite book: I have many, but I would say "Trinity" by Leon Uris

The best thing about my job is: To be able to work as a team with the teachers, parents and students at Kimball Hill to help all children achieve their highest potential. In the classroom, I could affect only the students assigned to me, but as an assistant principal, I hope to be able to help more students.

Mr. Tieman Administrative facilitator ("the assistant, assistant, assistant principal")

Hometown: Wilmette

Education: B.A. in elementary education from Northern Illinois / M.A. in school administration from National Louis University. Since 1996 I had been teaching fifth grade at Pleasant Hill Elementary School.

Hobbies/

interests: SPORTS — basketball, softball and golf — basically every sport!!

Family: My son turned 1 last week, and my wife is pregnant and due in January. My wife is also a teacher; she teaches third grade in Gurnee.

Personal heroes: Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods

Favorite food: Buffalo chicken wings

Favorite book: All the Harry Potter books.

The best thing about my job is:

Getting into the classrooms and helping students and teachers set goals and collecting data to monitor improvements. I also enjoy getting out on the playground to play a little football or basketball with the kids.

You can become a 'frequent' buyer

Welcome back to Kimball Hill's Market Day program. This year, Market Day has brought back the popular FREEQUENT BUYER program. To qualify, place a minimum order of \$35 in two or more months between September and November. You'll receive FREE Market Day Gourmet seasonings with your order of \$35 or more in December. That's an \$18 dollar value. For more information, please visit www.marketday.com.

There has been some confusion

regarding the calendar and the sales date on September's order form. There was a mixup at Market Day with Kimball Hill's sales date, and due to a clerical error, the system changed all our sales dates for the year. This has been corrected for the remainder of the year. Unfortunately, we were not able to make the change for September; pick-up will be Sept. 21 from 3:45 to 5 p.m.

Remember to place an order in October and help Kimball Hill earn a FREE Freezer! Your order is impor-



tant to us, so please look for your October order sheets to come home immediately following September's sale, or visit marketday.com to see the great selection of Market Day foods.

We are looking forward to a great year of servicing your Market Day needs.

Aimee Brunlieb, Connie Cali
and Jean Koutas
Market Day committee

President's message

Continued from Page 1

schedules. Yet she has found time to assist us in this capacity. We appreciate her "juggling act." Please contact her if you wish to volunteer. Contact information can be found at the back of the school calendar.

Caroline Wootton and her sixth-grade recognition committee are off to a good start. I think we are all amazed at how quickly time goes by — and all of a sudden our children are in sixth grade! It's nice to know that their last year at Kimball Hill can be a memorable one, and I know **Caroline, Aimee Brunlieb, April Butler, Sandy Pavlakis, Roberta Peterson, Mona Targos, Colleen Thomas, Lori Whittier,** and **Sue Anderson** will do an outstanding job.

Linda Andersen, Tracy McMahon and **Jodi Check** will once again oversee the Kindergym program. I can't say enough about how valuable this program is to our school. Linda, Tracy, Jodi, and our Kindergym parent volunteers find the energy week after week to keep up with our active kindergartners to provide fun and appropriate gym activities under the guidance of **Mrs. Cunningham**. I should also note that **Linda Andersen**, along with **Roberta Petersen**, work on our Cougar House committee. This offers our students an opportunity to publish their own stories.

Sandy Pavlakis not only coordinates the Birthday Books committee and is co-chairing the Holiday Store, but is also responsible for setting up our Book Fair. Last year she brought a knight to school for reading night! The Book Fair encourages in students a love of books and reading that is so important for success in school. It also becomes a home away from home for Sandy as MANY hours are put in to make the Book Fair a success.

Marti McNally and **Marti Hall** will once again handle our Spiritwear sale this year. This committee seems

to run effortlessly thanks to their stewardship and serves an important function — allowing our students the opportunity to demonstrate school pride.

Teresa McDermott will be coordinating Box Tops/Campbell's Soup Labels. She has set up collection dates which you can see noted on our school calendar. Monies raised go directly to the school and do make a difference. We thank Teresa for stepping up to take this on.

Pam Fitzgibbons, Sarah Janowicz, Lisa McAlhaney, Annette Rochelle and **Deb Mullany** make up our yearbook staff. The yearbook captures a sense of our school year by providing photographic memories that allows us to recapture moments in time.

Market Day is a monthly fundraiser for the PTA. The committee this year is chaired by **Aimee Brunlieb** and assisted by **Connie Cali, Jean Koutas** and a whole group of parents who lift, sort and box our Market Day orders. Help is always appreciated — please contact Aimee if you have any time available.

Colleen Thomas has served as editor of our newsletter for years. The "Cougar Pawprint" is a great resource for information on what is going on at school. Colleen is to be commended for her professionalism in putting out a quality newsletter.

Cyndi Chapman and **Lisa McAlhaney** will be co-chairing our Membership committee this year. Many thanks to their marketing abilities. Lisa was also kept busy this summer getting the calendar ready. An incredible amount of time goes into collecting dates, and it is much appreciated.

I also want to recognize **Patti Weicker**, who expressed a willingness to help with our Innisbrook sale even though she no longer has a child at Kimball Hill. The Innisbrook sale is our major fundraiser of the year. The monies raised help to run various pro-

grams such as Kindergym, Cougar House, Sixth Grade Recognition, Birthday Books, Mini-Courses, Fun Fair, and Teacher Appreciation. The funds also go toward printing costs of the calendar, directory and newsletter. We hope you take the time to look through the Innisbrook catalog and hopefully make a purchase. If you prefer, a direct donation to Kimball Hill PTA in any amount is also welcomed and appreciated.

As you can tell, our PTA is fortunate to have the support of so many willing volunteer parents. But we always need new parents to step up to assist with committees and programs. Some of the same people are called upon over and over to help out and are in danger of getting burned out. Please consider offering your time or talents to making the PTA the valuable resource it is to your children and school.

Aimee Brunlieb has finalized plans for the **Family Picnic**, which is to be held on Friday, Sept. 15 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. This is a fun event that we hope you can attend. Music will be provided by a DJ.

PTA meetings are listed in the school calendar. We invite all to attend at least one meeting this year. We welcome new faces and fresh ideas. Our PTA meeting for September will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Last, but definitely not least, we invite you to join the Kimball Hill PTA and show your support. Individual membership is only \$4, and family membership \$8. There are many advantages to joining the PTA and showing your support of PTA-sponsored events. Benefits include free admission to our roller skating party in April, a family copy of the school directory and voting rights on PTA issues. It does not obligate you to become a volunteer.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR SCHOOL — JOIN THE KIMBALL HILL PTA!

Make a difference for our school with Box Tops

We've launched our 2006-2007 Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign with a goal of earning \$1,500.

For over 10 years, Box Tops has helped America's schools raise more than \$175 million to buy the things they need. The Box Tops for Education program offers three easy ways to make a difference through everyday activities: buying groceries, shopping online and making purchases with a credit card. School budgets are tighter than ever, and Kimball Hill is asking for the support of families and community members like you.

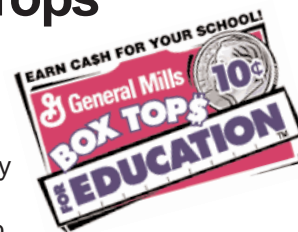
Another easy way to help our school is to sign up for the Box Tops

website at boxtops4education.com. Every new person who signs up through Sept. 29 earns Kimball Hill an entry in a random drawing. Twenty-five schools will each win 10,000 Bonus Box Tops! The more people who sign up to support Kimball Hill at boxtops4education.com, the better our chances of winning!

Anyone who has a computer with Internet access can sign up to support our school.

Call on grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, neighbors and co-workers. It doesn't matter if they live next door or across the country! Just enter the name of our school (Kimball Hill) and zip code (60008).

Tell your family and friends they will get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops, the latest Box Tops news and much, much more. Best of all, it's absolutely free!



For more information on how you can help our school earn cash through Box Tops for Education, contact Teresa McDermott, Box Tops coordinator, at mcdermott241@comcast.net.

From the Ecology Committee . . .

• Put on your walking shoes:

Oct. 4 is Walk to School Day USA.

Choosing to walk or bike that day will save energy and help you get some fresh air and exercise.



• **Putting fun in recycling:** The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County is starting a "recycling Rangers" website/program for children. Sign up at www.swancc.org.

• **Safe battery disposal:** The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corp. is a non-profit public service

organization dedicated to recycling used rechargeable batteries and old cell phones. The group collects the nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd), nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH), lithium ion (Li-ion), and small sealed lead *(Pb) rechargeable batteries that power cellular and cordless phones, power tools, laptop computers, camcorders, two-way radios and digital cameras.

Through their national program, Call2Recycle™, consumers can recycle these items through a convenient and environmental-friendly way.

Some states have disposal bans of

Ni-Cd and Pb batteries. State law requires these batteries to be recycled or properly disposed.

Consumers can recycle their used rechargeable batteries and old cell phones at Sears at Woodfield Mall, Radio Shack on Wilke Road in Arlington Heights, Verizon Wireless at Woodfield Mall, B&J TV Service at 2445 Kirchoff Road in Rolling Meadows, Circuit City on Golf Road in Schaumburg and Office Max on Golf Road in Schaumburg.

For more information, log on to www.call2recycle.com.



Put on your best smile!



Picture day is Oct. 12.

Room reps are ready to serve

Room Reps for the new year have been successfully placed in each classroom. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to volunteer.

The Teacher/Room Rep luncheon, held Aug. 21, was well-attended. If you were unable to attend and have not yet received your Room Rep folder, please contact a committee member immediately.

Room Reps, as well as teachers, should feel free to call on us any time with questions or concerns. We hope everyone, especially the children, has a great year!

Jen Elkins, (847) 255-0975, and Dori Johnson, (847) 259-9264 Room Rep committee co-chairs