



# KOEPSSELL CONNECTION

January/February, 2012

## Principal's Comments:

New Year's resolutions or goals do not happen simply by stating them. A successful resolution is followed by a plan to make sure they happen. Recently, the staff, along with myself, all met to renew our energies and commitment to being a Glasser Quality School. We discussed the fact that we are only one out of nineteen schools in the nation with this distinction.

Yesterday, we had an assembly and as a school community talked about what makes our school unique and proud. We introduced one of the building blocks of our philosophy, the idea that each of us has what we call a Quality World. Our Quality World is the people and things that we value and bring meaning to our lives. The students loved

seeing the \*DVD presentation, complete with pictures of our families, pets, and other special things, as they glimpsed into our lives. We will continue this positive energy by looking at the concept of Love and Belonging at our next assembly at the end of the month.

Our vision of creating a Glasser Quality School that will enhance every person's natural desire to learn is alive and felt by many as we begin another wonderful year at Koepsell.

Best wishes in your own resolutions and goals for the new year,

Diane Boehm, lead teacher

\*the DVD can be checked out in the media center, if interested

**Office Calls:** Please remember to call the office (586) 435-1500 by 8:30 am if your child is going to be absent. You may also call the attendance line at (586) 435-1550 any time before 8:30 am . Give the child's name, teacher's name, reason for absence and the date of the absence. Absences that are not called in are considered an unexcused absence. Please do not leave attendance messages on the main office voice mail (435-1500). If your child is going to be late and needs a hot lunch, please call (586) 435-1500 by 8:30 am. Thank you!

**Every Minute Counts!** Please make every effort to schedule appointments for your child after school hours. Every minute of instructional time is precious! Please have your student to school on time - **SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:20** - each and every day.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

### **January:**

- 26 Early Dismissal at 1:45pm  
Vision Testing (Grades 1,3,5 and rechecks for 2,4)

### **February:**

- 2 Vision Testing (Grades 1,3,5 and rechecks for 2,4)
- 3 5<sup>th</sup> Graders to South Lake Middle School for orientation
- 6-10 Lolligrams sold (5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser)
- 9 Burger King Night
- 14 Early Dismissal at 1:45  
Lolligrams delivered  
Family Council Meeting at 6:30
- 17-20 No School - Mid Winter Recess
- 29 Early Dismissal at 1:45



## Early Childhood Family:

Welcome back from our Holiday Break! We hope you all had a restful and joyous two weeks with family and friends. Mrs. Zentz and her kindergarten class are anxious to continue our 3<sup>rd</sup> unit...Where we are in place and time. Before the break, we studied various holidays, traditions and customs. We are currently learning about the past, present, and future. There are many objects that we don't even know about...pay phone, chalk boards, horse and buggy, etc. Our desire to learn new things will keep our brains thinking.

Our writing is really important right now. We are on our way to creating stories that include sentences with spaces, punctuation, capital letters, and complete thoughts. Help keep us on track by practicing at home. We love all the parent involvement and encouragement.

A special thank you goes out to all our parent volunteers in and out of school hours. Mrs. Zentz's class would not be successful if it wasn't for our parents ☺

-Mrs. Zentz and Kindergarten Students

The First and Second Graders at Koepsell would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and are already started on some great units of study! We have begun our exploration of "How the World Works" and are investigating the properties of matter, specifically magnets and sinking and floating. Practicing being a scientist has been a great way to jump back into school. A visit from Neutron Neal from "High Touch, High Tech" allowed us to be even more engaged in the unit.

We are building our stamina again for Daily 5 and are doing very well strengthening our reading and writing skills. Additionally, our classes, along with the whole school, have begun having lots of discussion regarding our 5 Basic Needs. The need that we are focusing on this month is Love and Belonging so we will be creating lots of projects and reading stories about our need to be cared for and feel that we fit in with the group. We are looking forward to the end of the month assembly on January 30<sup>th</sup> that will highlight this basic need.

-Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Summers, and Ms. Berbenchuk



## Intermediate Family:

Mrs. DeCook and Mr. C's intermediate classes have been embarking on many new adventures. Recently, our classes have set sail exploring the life and adventures of the world's most famous explorers. Through these adventures, we learn that the Age of Exploration helped shape the world as we know it. Students have also spent time reading and writing biographies.

-Mrs. DeCook and Mr. Chmielewski



## A Note from Roxanne Barzone:

Koepsell students were treated to a visit from Minnie, a Leader Dog for the Blind "puppy in training". Jess Barzone brought her puppy to school and they visited each classroom to educate students about the process of raising a Leader Dog puppy. Students learned that volunteers take the puppies into their home for about a year to teach them basic obedience and to socialize them until they are ready for the next step, which is further training and evaluation by Leaders Dogs for the Blind to determine if they are appropriate for the program. Koepsell students had an opportunity to interact with the puppy after learning that when the puppy is wearing her "working vest", they must always "ask" to pet her first!

## Student Council News:

The Koepsell Student Council raised \$180 through the raffle for the Adopt A Family. The students made crafts and cards for the Soldiers in Afghanistan and a local nursing home.

-Mrs. West, Student Council Sponsor

## News About Physical Education:

Want to know what the kids are doing in Mrs. Conlan's Physical Education Class? Check out my website at [www.schoolnotes.com](http://www.schoolnotes.com). All you have to do is put in the districts zip code (48080) and you will find an updated schedule of units that we are working on. You will also find suggested homework for the kids to do, so that they stay active. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Conlan at [mconlan@solake.org](mailto:mconlan@solake.org).

-Mrs. Conlan, Physical Education Teacher

## Student Safety:

Parents: Please remain with your child in the morning until 8:15 am if they are not in our latchkey or breakfast programs. There is no adult supervision, as teachers do not begin until 8:15. Also, at dismissal, please wait in the foyer for your child.

## Philosophy:

*A Glasser Quality School...*

At Koepsell Education Center we are working with students according to William Glasser's "Choice Theory." This means we believe in creating a school environment that promotes:

\*warm and caring relationships

\*learning that is meaningful and useful

\*self-evaluation for staff and students, meaning everyone asks himself/herself what he/she can do to make things better