



# Kings Comets



## Fall Newsletter

### Administration

As the 1st quarter comes to an end we have had lots of great things happening at Kings. Our students have found their stride and the school year is off to a great start. Our volleyball team was very successful this year as they were conference champions and did an outstanding job representing Kings throughout the season. Boys' basketball and cheerleading have started. I look forward to a successful season from both of those teams.

Our annual Pork Chop Dinner was held on September 25th this year and was one of the most successful in recent years, and I personally want to thank the foundation, staff, students, and community for making this event great. Without your support Kings would not be what it is. The Kings Community Club meets on the first Monday of the month at 3:30 and is looking for some individuals who would like to help the school. The community club raises money to help support the school. Their big fundraiser is the spaghetti dinner which is held annually in March. If you



would like to be a part of this amazing team either call the office or just show up to one of the meetings.

With the chance of inclement weather right around the corner, I wanted to tell parents about ways that they can stay connected with the school. We will send out an instant alert to the phone number you have listed with the office. Please be sure your contact number is up to date; if you have not provided a phone number or need to make a change, please contact the school office at 815-562-7191. We will also update our website ([www.kings144.org](http://www.kings144.org)) and our Facebook page if the school is cancelled or let out early due to weather-related issues.

Over the past year, Tammy Greene has been through a lot of positive and negative in her life. She was awarded the Olive Foster History Teacher of the Year in May of last year and unfortunately found out that her cancer was back the very next month. The Kings school will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit Tammy and her fight with cancer. The event will be held at T-Byrds in Rochelle on November 16th, 2019 at 5:30. We would love to see everyone out that evening to support a great Kings educator.



## Kindergarten

Hello from Kindergarten! The students have started this busy year off with a lot of energy and excitement. We have been working on mastering our letter names and sounds as well as our numbers. In addition to this over the first quarter we have been working on our classroom routines and meeting the many different staff members in the building. Gregory, Braxton, Kodi, Addyson, Delaney, Luke, and Eli are a wonderful group. They love to move, sing, dance, and complete hands-on activities. In September they enjoyed visiting Jonamac Apple Orchard with our first and second grade friends. They also made Apple Pie in a Cup and Apple Biscuits with first grade. In class we have practiced our letter writing using shaving cream and even went on a leaf hunt outside after reading the story *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt*.

We have a lot of fun things planned for second quarter as well. We will continue to work on mastery of our letters and letter sounds, sight words, and numbers. We also have some fun activities planned with our first grade buddies and Ag in the Classroom. October is Fire Prevention month so we are anticipating a visit from the local fire department. We will be learning about pumpkins and celebrating Halloween with a fun costume parade and party. November will roll in with some exciting events and learning as well. We will learn about Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Kindergarteners will be working on reaching reading goals



to earn their spot on a trip to an IceHogs game. Students will also get to celebrate Thanksgiving in the classroom by sharing in a feast with first grade. The kindergarteners are looking forward to all the exciting events to come and to continue learning so many things.

Below are the Kindergarteners with their Apple Pie in a Cup.







## 1st Grade-

Fall has arrived in first grade. We have been busy putting to good use our decoding skills in reading. The children have been doing a fine job of reading the assigned books. The students have come a long way from the beginning of the school year. Our first grade word bank is growing by leaps and bounds. We review the words often and use them in our daily learning games.

We have just finished our chapter on addition. The first graders have demonstrated the ability to use many different strategies for reaching the sum of numbers. Subtraction will be our next learning goal to master. The children have established the ability to make links between math and the real world. Good job!!

We have spent the last few weeks learning about apples. Our focus now will be on the pumpkin life cycle, fire safety, and fall projects. Everything is *falling* into place in first grade!!



## 2nd Grade-

It is hard to believe that first quarter flew by so fast. The second graders have been busy learning all kinds of new things! In math the students have finished working through the measurement and data unit. They learned about many tools to measure with including rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and tape measures! Reading and ELA go hand in hand in second grade. So far this year, the students have studied parts of speech and worked on writing sentences and short paragraphs based on what they have read. We are currently working on writing our first personal narrative. The students were very excited to receive their own writing notebook! In science they have been learning all about plants and how they grow. The students even got to grow their own bean sprouts! In other news the students learned all about Johnny Appleseed and even spent his birthday, September 26, at the Jonamac Apple Orchard learning about apples and the process it takes to grow and care for the apple trees. At the end they enjoyed an apple cider donut and some cider. We also spent time focusing on classroom jobs and making it more real life. The students fill out a short job application stating what job they would like to have and why they would be a good fit for that job. Overall, we have had a wonderful start to our year and they have all made so much growth in such a short period of time. I am looking forward to watching them continue to grow throughout the year!



### 3rd Grade-

How did 1st quarter come and go so quickly? We have been working hard in 3rd grade! We started memorizing our multiplication facts right away! Our goal is to complete all of our facts by Christmas Break. Thank you, parents for working with your student at home on their facts.

In science we have enjoyed learning about fossils and selection. We loved the “designer dog” activity we completed reinforcing the idea of selection.

October 3 we had our first field trip of the year. We attended Outdoor Stewardship Days at Lowell Park in Dixon, IL. Our day was full of hands on learning about conservation, birds, the water cycle, fish of Illinois, prairie grass, and animal tracks! The class was fortunate to try out the awesome new playground area at the park. The zip line was a hit!

We finished reading *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and *Little House in the Big Woods*. Learning about the past has been a lot of fun! We will get to “step back in time” on our field trip this month to Chana School.



## **4th Grade-**

We have been working hard this fall. In math we have mastered place value, adding and subtracting of very large numbers, perimeter and area, and geometry. During the next quarter, the class will be multiplying and dividing into the thousands. In science, we have investigated extreme weather and ecosystems. We are currently studying rocks. The skeletal systems, as well as volcanoes, are also being examined. We reviewed maps, landforms, and learned to read an atlas. The US Constitution was also a topic that was studied. Illinois and early explorers will be the next topics of study before we attack the states in the Northeast. We continue to write in our journals and look forward to writing descriptive stories and autumn poems. The class has a goal of reading 500 pages during the month of October. I believe that we can do it! We have enjoyed several read-aloud books since we started school. I'm proud of the way the class completes homework and is learning to work together. It is never dull in Miss Greene's room!

## **5th Grade**

What an amazing year the fifth graders have had so far and it's only the first quarter! I am so proud of how they have met the academic challenges head on, with a positive attitude, and overcome any obstacles that stood in the way of them being successful.





In ELA we just completed our second novel study. We dug into *Restart* and *Ungifted*, both by the author Gordon Korman. These books are filled with relatable situations and awesome life lessons. I think I enjoyed reading them just as much as the students! Each book had a packet of higher-level questions and journal prompts for the students to complete that really challenged them to read between the lines and think outside the box.

Math currently has us camping in the land of exponents, the distributive property and multi-digit multiplication. We finished a unit on place value to the hundredth and dug in deep to understand the difference between whole and decimal numerals.

The fact that we have a classroom economy this year is helping the students gain some real life understanding and gives value to learning many of the math concepts. The students earn money during the week and are given a check for their earned wages on Friday. They then take their paychecks to the cashier (a rotating job) and receive cash (play money). At the end of each month, they are given the opportunity to spend their hard earned money at the Brains and Books Bistro that inhabits a corner of our classroom.

One last exciting bit of news...WE WON! Each year, the Kings School Foundation gifts a monetary award to the class that sells the greatest number of tickets for their annual pork chop dinner fundraiser. The fifth



graders worked really hard to win that prize this year and succeeded! After a class brainstorming meeting, the students decided to invest in memories instead of purchasing items for the classroom. We already made some fantastic memories by taking an epic field trip to Cave of the Mounds and Devil's Lake. I can hardly wait to see what other memories lie in store for this group of darlings!

### **Miss Costa**

I am extremely excited to return to teaching 8th grade English and Language Arts this school year. The students in my class really hit the ground running at the start of the year and began with a September 11th unit. They read the novel Towers Falling by: Jewell Parker Rhodes and had many discussions about the events of 9-11-2001 and how they are still impacting the United States today. 8th grade also wrote "Me Bag" essays that required them to select three items that described themselves and write about the items. Currently, the class is writing a Halloween narrative and reading the book Craid and Fred. This is a story about a Marine who becomes best friends with a quirky dog during his deployment in Afghanistan. Our next novel is She Dared Malala Yousafzai. It is a story about incredible bravery that the students will learn from, be inspired by, and enjoy. I look forward to the opportunity to



continue to teach, and also learn from the 8th grade students here at Kings.

## Mr. Hickman

### Middle School Math

Sixth grade: This year has started out well for the sixth grade. The biggest thing for this class to learn this year is that work is a good thing and if they continue to work hard they will be able to prepare themselves for the eventual move to high school. We have started the year picking up where they left off last year with making sure they can do long multiplication and division, and reviewing addition, subtraction, and fractions. We will continue to work with fractions as we move into rational numbers and then on to exponents. I can't wait to see where this class goes in the next few years. It will be exciting!

Seventh grade: The beginning of the year has been a roller coaster ride for the seventh grade, but we are all finding out just how strong of a class this could be in the end. They are very talented but we have run into some bad habits that we are trying to change. Writing down work, having confidence in our work, and putting forth our best effort at all times are some of the things we have been really working on in class. We have worked on reviewing fractions and dealing with percent equations, and we will be moving into working with our four operations and making sure



we have a solid idea of them before we move into linear expressions. I have high expectations for this class, but they will blow them away in the end!

**Eighth grade:** This class is small but mighty. So far this year we have been working on making sure they are prepared for high school next year. Most of that preparation is dealing with a range of topics that are introductory at this point, but will be added to in their future. Having that solid foundation will lead them to success in high school. The first unit is spent reviewing old topics such as exponents, fractions, and percents, but soon we will be moving into solving multi-step equations. This class is very good at getting things done, but our concentrations have been on creating quality work, making sure we are doing what directions ask, and taking the time to produce something we will be happy with each time. It has been the start of a great final year at Kings for them!

**8th Grade Science:** Science has been a learning process for both students and teacher as we continue to navigate through the first couple of months of the year. We are concentrating on cells, the very foundation of everything, and that conversation is leading us to talk about heredity and genes. We are in the middle of learning about traits and how all of that works together, and the kids have really enjoyed the hands-on activities that we have done so far. Especially the one dealing with lettuce! We are





all anxious to see what kind of learning and fun that will be had in 8th-grade science this year!

The 6th and 7th graders are working on physical science this year. We have covered motion, forces and have just started Newton's Laws. During the second quarter, we will learn about machines and energy. My goal for the students is to understand the concepts and applications of physical science.

**Mrs. Hopp**

**6th Grade ELA  
Mrs. Dewey**

Students have been focusing on several topics within ELA during the last several months in school. We started out the year with some challenging vocabulary practice including words from Greek and Latin roots. While working with our vocabulary, we took some time to read and discuss the variety of stories, news articles, plays, and arguments published in our SCOPE magazines. One of the articles covered the topic of sea glass and how it is formed from various old bottles, car tail lights, and other trash that has been tossed around by the waves of the ocean. The 6th grade students took this information and turned their knowledge into creative narratives about finding sea glass. The students did a fantastic job in taking one subject and turning it into some very exciting



stories. We'll continue our narrative writing practice throughout the year.

We have also started our unit on "Growing Up" which includes reading the novels, "Peter and the Starcatchers" and "Peter Pan." Our main character in each novel is Peter and he is introduced as having been raised in an orphanage. We put ourselves in the shoes of this character and discussed our feelings about what it would be like to live in an orphanage, and how we would cope with some of the difficulties of living away from our family. We also reflected on a time in life when we did something grown up and composed another narrative on these experiences.

We will continue to read "Peter and the Starcatchers" throughout the month of November. Along with this novel, students are working hard to reach their collective reading goal of reading 4500 pages for the entire class. Good luck 6th grade and read on!

### **Mr. Steiner's Classes:**

#### **6th History:**

The class begins at the Stone Age, and continues until the Age of Exploration. Now, at the end of the 1st Quarter, the classes are currently learning about Ancient Greece. History class includes lectures with note taking, and involve open-note quizzes to verify students are following the lectures well. Students thus far have created presentations about ancient



civilizations, just finished a debate, and will soon do research about Greek gods.

#### **7th History:**

This class examines ancient civilizations, and involves itself in the humanities often. The classes are involving themselves in debates to cover philosophy, and will soon examine Mythology. The timeline covered in 7th grade History is parallel to the other grades, with increased emphasis on the Humanities, in order to understand other cultures across the globe.

#### **8th History:**

This class is extensively built in World History. The students in 8th Grade History learn new content through various angles of class discussions. Instruction follows a Socratic method, which is to say the lessons involve a fair amount of dialogue to examine new topics. Students in this class are currently learning Ancient Greece, and are soon to move on to Ancient Rome. The timeline covered in 8th Grade History is parallel to the other grades, with increased depth on each topic to further content knowledge and understanding of new ideas.

#### **7th English:**

Mr. Steiner teaches 7th Grade English specifically. This class mainly covers Literature, but also includes writing response activities, and



grammar analysis. The Fall semester is designed to cover Fiction, and nonfiction for the Spring semester. In this class, students have read a short story, and made posters illustrating that story. The students are currently reading a Mystery Novel by Agatha Christie, and are soon to enter a video based unit involving a coming of age story.

#### **Middle School Technology:**

Technology is a class co-taught between Mr. Hickman and Mr. Steiner. The goal of technology is to address technology in all its capacities. This includes the History of technology, current technological devices and how to use them, and the creation of new media with technological assistance. The students in Technology class finished a video montage that welcomes people to King's school, which is soon to be on display for visitors on the office television.

#### **P.E.**

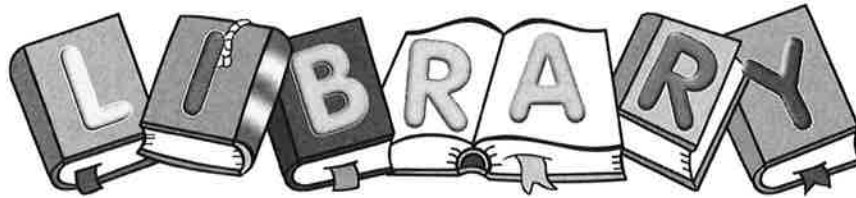
I am grateful to be spending this school year with the amazing students and staff at Kings School. I am pleased to report the students have all been actively participating and putting forth great efforts in Physical Education. My goal is to keep the students active while having fun. During the first quarter, the students played frisbee games, volleyball, football, and soccer. Physical fitness testing begins this month and we will start





meeting for health classes as well. During the second quarter, we will work in basketball and bowling.

Mrs. Hopp



Greetings from Mrs. Butler,

\*Congratulations to all of our Summer Readers. A big thank you to everyone who supported summer reading. Students recently enjoyed an Ice Cream Party in the Library at lunch. If you didn't have a chance to read over the summer, now is your chance. Fall reading logs were sent home and students who read everyday or K-3rd graders who read 16 picture books or a combination of chapter books and 4th-8th graders who read 3 novels will be invited to our next reading party in December. We are so proud of our students' accomplishments, be sure to check out our Facebook page and Local Newspaper.

\*Family Makerspace is also off to a good start. Families recently were creative using a box. If you would like to attend a fun-filled after school program where you make and take a craft, or stay and play, please come to our next session, which will be Wednesday, October 23rd from 3:10 to 4:15 p.m. A form will be sent home for those interested in coming. A permission slip is required for all students, especially those staying alone. Halloween is our theme this



month. Makerspace supply donations are still needed and appreciated: (googly eyes, pipe cleaners, foam shapes, clay, and pom poms).

\*Students in Library have been learning about Information Access and Literature Appreciation. Basically, this means that students are learning how to find books, learning about the important parts of books, learning about the kinds of books (genres), and learning about how the library is organized using the Dewey Decimal System. Students have listened to book talks and primary students have listened to Mrs. Butler's favorite characters, especially, Pete the Cat, Dewey the Library Cat, and the Library Dragon.

Thank you to everyone who attended "Family Reading Week" and Dropped Everything and Read with us. A quilt rack and books will be given away as door prizes. Congratulations to the lucky winners. Prizes will be awarded at the end of October.

\*Kings Library has been the lucky recipient of several grants this past year for new books for our Library. A huge thank you to the Illinois State Library, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Kings School Foundation, Scholastic, and AISLE (Association of Illinois School Library Educators) for the Monarch Award books.

This year we have a new \*Library theme "Wild About.... (Kings, Library, Books, Learning, STEAM...) Everyone is "Wild About Reading" at Kings so to Kick off the School Year and to promote reading, we our having a student fun-filled reading activity afternoon - (B.E.A.R.) Be Excited About Reading, at the end of October.



With the cold weather coming upon us, get warmed up with a good book and Fall into Reading. Thanks for everyone's support! Color Your World, READ!

## Music



We've been working hard in music class. Kindergarten and First Grade have been learning about a steady beat and how to sing together as a group. Second and Third Grade have been learning how to read basic rhythm patterns. Fourth Grade has learned about musical instruments and Fourth Grade Band has begun and is in full swing. Every month, all students learn about a different musician. Our Musicians of the Month so far have been Chuck Berry and Antonio Vivaldi. Band has been focused on learning music for our upcoming Winter Concert. Choir has also been working on our Winter Concert, but they have been working on music literacy as well. Grades K-4 will be starting Winter Concert Music soon as well. Our Winter Concert has been scheduled for Thursday, December 19th at 6:00 PM

