November 2024



Principal Lindsey Matkin

Assistant Principals
Kyle Healy
Erin LaRue

Main Line 970-488-5400

Attendance Line 970-488-5401

Visit our

website

to learn more about

Kinard.



Page 1



Mustang News

Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

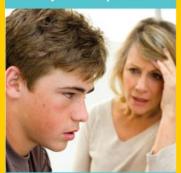
Congratulations to all of our fall sports teams on a successful season! Our 300+ student athletes participating in fall sports showed tremendous dedication and work ethic, along with excellent sportsmanship throughout the season. We have had a variety of high character moments from all of our teams this year. Here are a few highlights:

- Our cross country team continues to define themselves by their high level of character in the Fort Collins community, and we continue to set records with the number of students who participate in cross country. Our boys team finished first and the girls finished second overall in the PSD championship meet. And in a first for Kinard, at the Colorado middle school state meet, our boys varsity team won the championship, with two top ten individual finishes and five top 30 finishes!
- Our football team worked hard, showed great growth, and finished the season on a high note with back-to-back wins in their final games.
- Both our girls and boys tennis teams won first place in the district championship! These athletes have maintained a program of excellence for over a decade, bringing home numerous championship titles, the most in Kinard's history.
- Our volleyball team finished their season as undefeated district champions! This great group of girls was fun to watch and consistently exemplified true teamwork and Kinard character on and off the court.

Up next in athletics is boys basketball! For up-to-date athletics information and results, visit our Athletics Webpage.

continued on next page

Is it just a phase?



CAYAC Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Connections

Helping youth and families find answers, options and support.



CHILD, ADOLESCENT, AND YOUNG ADULT CONNECTIONS

970-221-3308

Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

continued





continued on next page



Page 2



We are here for you and your child's health! ¡Estamos aquí para la salud de su hijo!

Schedule your school or sport physical today!



(303) 697-2583 (303) MYSALUD

1635 BLUE SPRUCE DR | FORT COLLINS< CO



Join The Youth Clinic, your child's ultimate partner in health and wellness.

Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

continued







Your Family's Future Starts Here

work with sarah tyler

your local realtor



1 1



Page 3

Kentwood

CANS Around the Oval

Congratulations and special thanks to Kinard Global Leadership for facilitating the Cans Around the Oval food drive at Kinard last month. The fundraiser was a huge success as we collected over 2,900 pounds of food and over \$5,500 for donation to the Larimer County Food Bank. The top 3 winning 1st period classes in the school were Mr. Wheeler in 6th, Mrs. Lonac in 7th, and Mrs. Husted in 8th. Regardless of who came in first and how much they donated, we all came together as a school to make a difference within our community. We are all so grateful for the amazing efforts of our Mustangs to help those in need in our community.

The SLiCE organization at Colorado State University facilitates the CANS Around the Oval event which results in hundreds of thousands of pounds of food collected every year. Thank you, Kinard families- we couldn't have done it without you!







Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!

Reach parents in your local community & a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school!

Want to sponsor this school?

Please contact Rob Mangelson at Rob@tscacolorado.com or (720) 878-4107.



Page 4

Mustang Music 5K and Fun Run

We had an amazing time at the fourth annual Mustang Music 5K and Fun Run in late September! And a huge thank you to Mr. Perez, all the band students, and our parent volunteers for organizing such an incredible

community event! We are already looking forward to this event again next year.







The School Communications Agency

Supporting Schools & Local Businesses





Page 5

The School Communications Agency

Give Next Kickoff Day

Kinard was one of 36 schools that attended the 2024 Give Next Kickoff Day in early October. Our students connected with over 40 local nonprofit leaders to learn about important issues and opportunities facing communities in Larimer County. During the NextGen Panel, students had Q&A time with youth leaders serving in local nonprofits, and they gained important takeaways on how to start making a difference now in our community. Join us in thanking Mrs. Flemming and Mrs. Grigg for providing our students with this amazing learning opportunity!

Give Next is a school-based grantmaking program for middle and high school students in Larimer County. Through the Give Next program, local businesses, foundations, and individuals become classroom donors by providing each participating school with \$5,000 to award to nonprofits in

Larimer County. With the financial support of these generous donors, students design and manage their own grantmaking programs. Give Next is made possible through the support of many community partners; primary program implementation partners are Bohemian Foundation and the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado.







Fall Music Concerts

October brought our first concerts of the year! The Philharmonia and the Symphony Orchestras, directed by Mrs. Griffey, partnered with the Mustang Chorale and Chor Angélique choirs, directed by Mr. Wheeler, for a joint concert that showcased the many talents of our vocal and instrumental music programs. Then the following week, the Intermediate, Honors, and Symphonic Bands played their first concert of the school year in front of a packed audience. Great job, Mustang Musicians!





Student Essay Contest Winner!

Kinard student, Amelia Gold, was one of the essay winners of the Fort Collins Reads contest for a second year in a row! The prompt for this year's contest was, "Tell a personal story that explains the role social media plays in your life. How important is it, and what are the advantages and dangers you see for young people?" You can read Amelia's essay, along with other winning entries, by clicking here. Way to go, Amelia!



Important Student Laptop Reminders

We have a very limited number of spare laptops to distribute to students, and we must prioritize using the spares for students whose computers are broken or in for repair. Therefore, please help your child to bring their laptop to school each morning. Here are some helpful reminders for students:

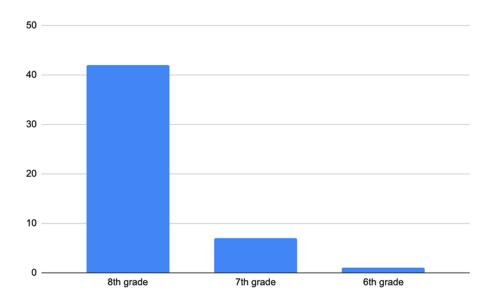
- Every Night: plug in your laptop to charge overnight
- Every Day: bring your <u>fully charged laptop</u> to school <u>each day</u>
- <u>Laptop Care:</u> handle the laptop carefully and store it in a safe location

Cell Phone-Free Policy: A Success for Our School Community!

We are thrilled to share the positive impact of our <u>cell phone-free policy</u> this school year! By encouraging students to focus on their learning without the distraction of phones, we've seen improved engagement in the classroom, more meaningful social interactions, and a calmer, more focused atmosphere throughout the school day. Staff continues to report that students are more present and actively participating in lessons without the distraction of their phones. In addition to having a relatively low number of students violating the policy, many of our students are reporting that they appreciate the increased consistency across the school and benefit from fewer distractions.

We appreciate the continued support from our school community as we prioritize the well-being and success of our students through this initiative!

As of mid-October, we have had 50 incidents when a cell phone and/or Airpods have been collected. Seven of the 50 incidents were a 2nd offense, which required a parent/guardian to pick up the device at the end of the school day.



We want to continue to thank our Kinard families for supporting these guidelines. We encourage all families to discuss the changes and understand the expectations.

November Volunteer Requests

In November, we are looking for some help from our valued parent community. We appreciate the time, dedication, and energy our parents put into supporting our staff and students in so many different ways! Please read below and consider signing up using the provided links if you are willing and able. If you are signing up for an opportunity that requires any interaction with students (all of these particular options), you must be a registered volunteer. Please contact us if you need help with that process.

- Incoming 6th Grade Family Night: Help us welcome a new group of Mustangs to our school and share with prospective 6th graders and their families what makes Kinard such a great choice for middle school! We still have some openings for volunteers to help us welcome families, pass out information packets, and give directions when needed during our Incoming 6th Grade Family Night on Thursday, November 14. If you are interested, please sign up here.
- Book Fair: The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way on November 12 15. Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. If you would like to help inspire and motivate our students through the joy of books, please sign up here. In addition to the days of the fair, we also have volunteer opportunities for set-up on November 8.
- Media Center: Volunteers are essential to our media center in the morning before school, during lunch, and during ELO. We have several opportunities still available if you are interested in helping students find and check out books. This sign-up is organized by day and time, and our hope is volunteers will be available most or all school days on the specified day of the week. If you have any questions or your availability doesn't fit within this schedule, please contact Sarah McLean for additional options (samclean@psdschools.org or 970-488-5418). Training will be provided.

If you have questions about any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Virginia Chevalier, Parent Volunteer Coordinator, at kinardvolunteers@gmail.com, or Cecilia Bonertz, Academic Dean, at cbonertz@psdschools.org or (970) 488-5407.

Page 11

Kinard Middle School

Scholastic Book Fair

The most exciting event of the school year is coming soon!

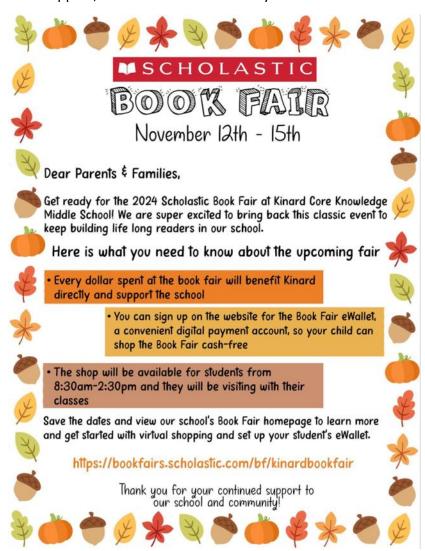
The Scholastic Book Fair returns to Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School this year, giving students the opportunity to choose their own books and inspire them to become stronger readers. Plus, every book purchased earns our school rewards and benefits!

The book fair will be from November 12th through November 15th from 8:30am -2:30pm and students will be able to visit with their classes during these times.

Along with payment methods of cash, check, and credit card, you can set up an eWallet for your student so they can shop cash free! You can set up your student's eWallet on our Scholastic Book Fair website: https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/kinardbookfair

If you can't make it to the Fair, you can also shop at our school's Online Book Fair. All orders will be shipped directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Online orders will also benefit our school.

Thank you for your continued support, and we can't wait to see you at our Book Fair!



Turkey Round Up

Kinard will once again be participating in the PSD Turkey Round-Up! Help families in need by bringing frozen turkeys, hams, or chickens to school the morning of Thursday, November 21. Our NJHS students will help by collecting your donations straight from the drop-off line in the oval of the main parking lot. Hope to see you there!

Tour de Turkey!

Thurs., Nov. 21st @
7:45am in the front of
Kinard (drop off circle)
Donate frozen turkeys,
hams and chickens!
an NJHS community activity
This supports the Larimer
County Food

Bank

Sponsored by Poudre School district, Larimer County Food Bank, Anderson Consulting and New Belgium

Parents of 8th Graders- Help Us Celebrate & Recognize Your Students!

Please read below for some opportunities and requests specific to 8th grade students at Kinard.

Baby Photo Request

We are excited to start planning our annual 8th grade celebratory activities, including our 8th Grade Celebration that is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2025. As part of these festivities, we will be sharing a slideshow that will include pictures of all our incredible 8th graders. We would like to include **ONE** photo in the slideshow of your child when he/she was younger! The slideshow is always one of the most memorable moments of the celebration for all our students.

Please complete the following steps by Friday, December 13, to ensure the photo of your child is included in the slideshow during the 8th grade celebratory activities during the last week of school.

- All photos should be sent via email to Ally Lonac, our yearbook advisor, at alonac@psdschools.org.
- The photo should be a picture when your child was younger (between 6 months to 5 years). It can be silly or serious. The kids like to guess who it is!
- Please include your **child's first and last name** in the email with the digital image attached.
- If you are not able to send a digital photo of your child, we will include a current school photo.
- If you or your child prefer we don't include a photo of them, please
 email Erin LaRue, Assistant Principal, at elarue@psdschools.org with
 that request. Letting us know this preference will ensure we don't
 personally remind or ask your student about the photo. You may still
 get group email reminders, but you can ignore them if you let us know
 your preference.
- So that we can create a quality slideshow, all photos are due by Friday, December 13, at 3:30 p.m.

Thank you for your time and effort to make this a special celebration for all! Please contact Erin LaRue at elarue@psdschools.org if you have specific questions about the photo request or our 8th grade celebration events. More information will be coming about all the celebratory activities for our 8th graders later this school year!

Parents of 8th Graders- Help Us Celebrate & Recognize Your Students! continued

Yearbook Recognition Ads

Honor your 8th grader with a Recognition Ad! Celebrate them for their accomplishments and achievements this year. Order at

<u>www.theyearbookcompany.com</u> by November 30th!



School Accountability Committee Meeting

A reminder that our second quarter School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting is on Monday, November 18, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Kinard Media Center.

As a reminder, the Kinard School Accountability Committee meets four times per year, approximately quarterly. The SAC is a wonderful opportunity to enhance our partnership with parents through an organized group composed of both parents and teachers at Kinard. We welcome any parent to attend our next meeting, even if you were unable to join our first quarter meeting.

Kinard Holiday Bazaar

Attention all Kinard business owners and creators! The Kinard Madrigal Dinner is seeking sponsors and Holiday Bazaar participants! Again this year, our traditional Madrigal Dinner will be performed **2 nights** on December 13 & 14, and based on the great success last year, we're once again organizing a **Holiday Bazaar** each night for 2 hours before the performance. Local businesses and creators can set up a booth at the Bazaar to sell their products to the Kinard community for a tax-deductible booth fee. Businesses can also sponsor the Bazaar with a tax-deductible donation for inclusion in our sponsor board and the Madrigal Dinner program.

We'd love to have your business and product join our Second Annual Holiday Bazaar and our 19th Annual Madrigal Dinner. See the flier below or contact Mr. Scott Wheeler at swheeler@psdschools.org or call (970) 488-5488 for more details.



Parent/Teacher Conferences Feedback

Did you join us for parent/teacher conferences in October? We hope you found these evenings helpful and supportive for you and your student. We also are always seeking to improve and provide the best experience for our students and families. With that in mind, please share your feedback on parent/teacher conferences so that we can continue to best meet your needs and support all of our students to learn at high levels. If you were unable to attend conferences and have ideas for how we can make them more accessible to all families, you can also share that information in the survey. Thank you!

Page 16

Kinard Middle School

8th Grade Transition to High School

Positive transitions are a large part of a successful middle school experience. Thus, Poudre School District intentionally creates opportunities to assist students as they move from one level to the next. Please review the information below regarding the transition events for our high schools in PSD.

- All students have an assigned home high school based on their home address.
- If you are planning to have your child attend a high school other than their designated feeder school, the PSD School Choice application must be completed by **December 16, 2024.** Please visit the <u>PSD School Options and Choice</u> website for more details.
- The comprehensive high schools in PSD are offering evening informational nights for incoming freshman and prospective students. See below for a list of dates or visit each school's website for more details. We will also update 8th grade families as we learn of other registration events from the various PSD high schools.
- In late January, high school counselors will visit Kinard to help students with the registration process for 9th grade courses.

If you have any questions about high school transitions, please contact Patti Young, Counselor (student last names A-G), at pyoung@psdschools.org or (970)488-5406 or Karen Irvine, Counselor (student last names H-Z), at kirvine@psdschools.org or (970)488-5408.

Fort Collins High School	8th Grade Open House Wednesday, Nov. 20th, 2024, 6:00-7:30 pm Registration Q & A Thursday, Jan. 30th 2025, 6:30-7:30
Fossil Ridge High School	Fossil Ridge Open House Thursday, December 5th, 2024 6-8pm 9th Grade Registration Q & A Night • Wednesday, January 29th, 2025 6-7 p.m.
Poudre Global Academy	Information sessions instead of open house - Every Tuesdays at 9 am PGA's South Building, RSVP on Website. Link to Register: PGA Tour Registration Link

Page 17

Kinard Middle School

8th Grade Transition to High School

continued

Poudre High School	Poudre Preview Night 12/4/24 6-8pm IB Information Nights November 4th - 5:30-6:30PM @Lesher November 7th - 5:30-6:30PM @CLP November 13th-5:30-6:30PM @ Lincoln
Rocky Mountain High School	8th Grade Open House December 9th 6:00-7:00 8th Grade Registration Q&A Night • Monday, January 27 6:00-7:00
Timnath Middle-High School	Timnath High School Incoming 9th Grade Night December 4 - 6-8:00PM Curriculum Fair: January 23 6:00-8:00PM Evening Tours: December 3: 6:30-8:00 December 5: 4:30-6:00 Morning Tours: December 3: 9:30-11:00 December 13: 9:30-11:00
Centennial High School	Orientation Sessions 1:30 or 5:30 PM on
Polaris	Middle & High School Open House December 10th 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Poudre Community Academy	Quarterly Orientations: 12/5 3:45 2/26 3:45 5/13 3:45
Wellington Middle-High School	Open House ■ 12/4/24, 5pm-7pm
Career Tech Center	Information Night • Dec 16th

Support for Families in Need

We are heading into the time of year where some community organizations are offering support to families in a variety of ways (e.g., food baskets, coats, holiday gifts, etc.). We know there are circumstances families face that create needs for support. If your family would like to be considered for support, please fill out this linked confidential <u>Google survey</u> that our counselors will use to get you connected to helpful resources. While we cannot guarantee that an organization can fulfill every request, we want to gather information to best support our families where possible. You can also click on this link to access community resources: <u>211</u>

Please reach out to our school counselors with any questions: Patti Young (student last names A-G): (970) 488-5406, pyoung@psdschools.org

Karen Irvine (student last names H-Z): (970) 488-5408, kirvine@psdschools.org

Counselors' Corner

As we continue to teach SEL (Social-Emotional Lessons) in each grade this year, we will be integrating Career and College Readiness skills into the lessons. This includes helping students develop their Individual Career and Academic Plan, also known as 'ICAP'. In high school, students will solidify their ICAP so they have an active and effective post-secondary plan. Below are the topics we are covering at each grade level in our first semester lessons:

- 6th Grade: Conflict Resolution Skills, Intro to ICAP & Learning Styles Inventory
- 7th Grade: Self-Awareness & ICAP; Interests Survey & Career Matches
 - Healthy Relationships Online (lesson happens in Tech Class)
- 8th Grade: Individual Skills & ICAP; Transition to High School

As students create their ICAP with us, all of their career & college readiness work and explorations will be recorded in their individual account in Xello, the career and college planning software program used in PSD. Ask your child to show you his/her ICAP in Xello and find out which careers he/she has identified as interesting. You can also explore Xello yourself and get a glimpse into your child's account by using your personalized parent Xello sign-in code; access to your code was sent to you via an email on Oct. 17, 2024.

Counselors' Corner

continued

We are always available through a call or email, so don't hesitate to contact us:

Patti Young--students with last names A-G: (970) 488-5406 -- pyoung@psdschools.org
Karen Irvine--students with last names H-Z: (970) 488-5408 -- kirvine@psdschools.org

KINARD COUNSELING LEARNING PAGE:

https://sites.google.com/psdschools.org/kin-learning-counseling/home

SRO Corner

Happy November! I want to take a moment to explain the **Standard Response Protocol (SRP)** developed by the *I Love U Guys Foundation*, which Poudre School District uses to ensure the safety and security of all students and staff. The SRP provides a clear set of procedures to follow during various emergencies, such as:

- Secure (increasing security measures when a potential threat is outside the school)
- Lockdown (securing the school in response to a threat)
- **Evacuation** (safely removing everyone from the building)
- Hold (keeping students in their classrooms during a potential incident in the hallway)

If you receive a notification that the SRP has been enacted at your child's school, it is important to remain calm and avoid rushing to the school, as this can hinder emergency response efforts. Please wait for official updates from Poudre School District officials or law enforcement, who will provide guidance and information as the situation unfolds. Your cooperation is crucial in maintaining a safe environment for everyone involved. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our school community safe.

Sincerely, Kate Garcia Kinard SRO

School Club Information

Most of our school-sponsored clubs are now up and running for the year! We encourage all students to check out our club options and to explore the many opportunities we have to pursue their interests or to learn more about a new topic. Click here to view the most up-to-date list of all clubs, including a variety of student-led clubs, that are offered at Kinard.

Lost and Found

Has your student misplaced a water bottle, lunch box, jacket, or other belongings at school? Have them come check the lost and found in our main office- it is overflowing with student items! We donate any items remaining in our lost and found at the end of each month. Also, please encourage your child to write their first and last name on items they bring to school, especially water bottles and lunch boxes. We return any items that have student names on them directly to the individual.

Elks Essay Contest

Calling all aspiring writers! See details below about a community essay contest.

Every year, our local Elks Club hosts an essay contest for PSD 5th-8th grade students, with an opportunity to win cash prizes. Last year, a PSD student advanced to the state level award.

5th-8th grade students are invited to submit a < 300 word essay by December 15th using the google form linked here:

https://forms.gle/5n9M1xG9N6gPUFd3A. Alternatively, students can use this attached PDF and mail it to the address indicated.

CONTEST DETAILS:

Essay must be submitted on or before **December 15, 2024.**Students may use <u>this form</u> to submit directly, or teachers/parents are free to copy/paste student essays and submit on students' behalf.

Elks Essay Contest

continued

ESSAY PROMPT: "What Does Patriotism Mean To Me?"

RULES:

- 1. Eligible participants must be Students enrolled in the 5th-8th grade at the time of the contest.
- 2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words.
- 3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink if mailed.
- 4. The participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending and the sponsoring Elks Lodge (#804, Fort Collins) on the essay itself if mailed.

LOCAL AWARDS:

- 1st Place \$200.00 (\$100 from local Elks Lodge + \$100 from district Elks Lodge)
- 2nd Place \$75.00
- 3rd Place \$50.00

STATE & NATIONAL AWARDS:

All winning essays will move on to the District Level then the State Level and finally National Level. District and State have cash awards similar to the local competition. However, the National competition has cash awards of \$1,000 for 1st place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for 3rd place.

CRITERIA & POINTS:

- 1. **Originality.** This is where you should avoid the use of trite or wornout words and phrases. 30 points.
- 2. **Development of the theme.** Stay focused on ideas and thoughts—don't ramble. 40 points.
- 3. **Mechanics and neatness.** *Use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.* 30 points.

Many thanks to our local Elks Club for extending this opportunity to our schools!

FRHS Jr Dance Clinic

Is your student interested in dance? Check out the details in the flier below for FRHS's Dance Team.

