



Transition Process

Looking for updates on the redistricting process? During December, Dr. Padalino met with several parent groups to discuss the progress made so far. On Dec. 11 the Zena Elementary School PTA hosted a joint meeting with the Crosby PTO and on Dec. 12 the Robert Graves Elementary School PTO hosted a joint meeting with the Anna Devine PTA. Complete meeting summaries can be found online at: www.kingstonschools.org/transitions.cfm

Here are some answers to common questions posed by parents who attended the meetings.

Transportation

1. The district hopes to pilot the Peaceful Bus program this spring.
2. For 2013-2014, video monitors will be installed on every bus as a deterrent to misbehavior.
3. Bus monitors will not be used on a regular basis but may be used in special circumstances.
4. There will not be separate buses for students in grades 5 and 6.
5. Transportation routes are 50% complete.
6. For next year, parents of Bailey students are encouraged to send students on the bus rather than drop them off, due to limited space for vehicles.

Middle School Schedules

1. The district will provide professional development for middle level educators who will be teaching grade 5 students.
2. Students will continue to have recess.
3. Grade levels will be housed in separate wings of each building, and interaction between grade levels will be limited.

More details on enrichment, remediation, and new opportunities will be coming soon.

STUDENTS AT SOPHIE FINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHARE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS WITH FUTURE CLASSMATES



Matteo Corona-Castillo and Mylie Bigando spotted the Gingerbread Man in Principal Krupp's office at Harry L. Edson Elementary School.

In the fairy tale "The Gingerbread Man," the legendary cookie taunts his pursuers with the famous line, "You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

Each year, this fairy tale comes to life in Mindy Quinn's and Kimberly Collins' Kindergarten classrooms at Sophie Finn Elementary School. Explains Mrs. Collins, "We bake and decorate gingerbread cookies and make one giant one (2 feet tall). Amazingly, every year he runs away! During the month of December, we search for him and he is spotted all around the building. We receive clues in the form of pictures of him in the main office, at the nurse's office, and

in different classrooms. Students even write us letters with clues and reports of sightings!"

This fun holiday tradition was shared with students at Harry L. Edson Elementary School, as this year's Gingerbread Man "ran away" with Edson Principal William Krupp to visit the students at the school.

Students from Edson had a fun time hunting for the tricky Gingerbread Man, and their future classmates were also able to join in on the adventure. On Monday, Dec. 17, Sophie Finn Kindergarten students engaged in a school-wide scavenger hunt as part of a field trip to the Merilina Avenue school.

Playground Palooza

Jennifer Boughton, president of the Playground Palooza Association, is a woman with a mission: to improve playtime and recess in the Kingston City School District.

Along with parents Karen and Wes Seery, Mrs. Boughton formed the Playground Palooza Association to build a new playground for students at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School. In just a short time, Mrs. Boughton was able to secure tax exempt status, and the Playground Palooza is officially a non-profit association!

If you'd like to make a donation, checks can be made payable to **The Playground Palooza Association** and sent to **John F. Kennedy Elementary School, 107 Gross Street, Kingston, NY.**

Several fundraising efforts are currently in the works. Students at JFK are selling Fun Pasta (available at www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/playground-palooza). The student who sells the most pasta will win either a WalMart gift card or a family four-pack of tickets to see Yo Gabba Gabba at the Ulster Performing Arts Center on Jan. 29.

The Association has also organized a benefit dinner to raise money. The event will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. on March 2 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars headquarters on East Chester Street. The menu includes a buffet-style dinner with a choice of cider house



Students at Meagher Elementary School play on the monkey bars during a springtime recess in June 2012.

chicken with glazed apples, marinated London broil, pizza-stuffed Italian loaf, or veggie lasagna, with sides of mashed potatoes and a choice of corn, green beans, or a zucchini and squash medley. Drinks include coffee, soda, and water, and a cash bar is available. Tickets for the event are \$20.

"It's not every day you can say you love your job," comments Mrs. Boughton. "We work for the children. They are our priority. As our

mission statement says, our goal is 'to afford every child the opportunity to have the education they deserve, a safe place to play and a community to depend on.' We will do just that. And the only reward we look for is the smile on their faces."

Sophie Finn + Edson: Making New Friends |||||



Ortea Houghtaling, a student at Sophie Finn Elementary School, makes a friendship bracelet with Chloe DeCicco, a student at Edson Elementary School. The bracelet includes beads representing the colors of each of the schools, and an additional "sparkle" bead to represent new friendships.

SHARING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

continued from page 1

"I'm excited to see this beloved tradition being carried over to Edson School," comments Dr. Paula Perez, principal of Sophie Finn Elementary School. "Valuing the history and traditions of Sophie Finn Elementary School is a key part of creating a smooth transition for students."

Adds Principal Krupp, "The gingerbread hunt was an age-appropriate activity to help acquaint some of our youngest students with each other and with Edson School. It's definitely a great tradition that we will continue for years to come!"