

Kamiakin



Newsletter

Summer 2010
June & July

Limitations live only in our minds. But if we use our imaginations, our possibilities become limitless.
- Jamie Paolinetti

Co-Presidents Message:

THANK YOU to ALL of our Kamiakin Volunteers!

It has been a great school year and we would like to say thank you to all the parents that have helped us over this year and the past year as Co-Presidents. Tina is sorry to leave Kamiakin JH as she will miss this community a great deal, but will not be far away at Juanita HS. Debbie is lucky enough to continue serving as the PTSA Secretary for the 2010/2011 school year.

As we step out of our roles as Co-Presidents, we are so grateful for the opportunity we have had to volunteer in this capacity. We have enjoyed getting to know the teachers, staff, parents and students that have been involved with our PTSA. It has been a very rewarding experience. The parents that volunteer at Kamiakin are truly exceptional. In addition, we have enjoyed working with the staff at Kamiakin and we really appreciate how helpful and friendly they have all been over the past couple of years.

We encourage all parents to attend the PTSA Meetings as often as possible. The meetings provide parents with the opportunity to come to the campus and get to know Joe Joss, Kamiakin Jr. High's Principal, and all of the parent volunteers. The PTSA is always in need of volunteers to help with upcoming events. We have plans to have a couple of parent-teacher "town hall" meetings next year, so don't miss out!

Kamiakin Junior High School is "the best junior high in the universe!" As parents, your participation in school activities provides validation and motivation for your students. Our advice to all parents is not to miss out on becoming a part of this wonderful community. It has been an honor serving as the PTSA Co-Presidents for the past two years.

Thank You!

Tina Watson, gudaz.gold@verizon.net

Debbie Gates, wdgates@verizon.net

Kamiakin PTSA Co-Presidents

Principal's Message:

Greetings,

I can't believe I'm writing my article for the **June** newsletter! First and foremost, it certainly has not felt like spring outside, and secondly, have I completed the goals I set out for myself and Kamiakin during this school year?! Proudly I think back on all the efforts and progress we have made. Students are better prepared, teachers are actively improving the content in their classes and the quality of instruction and the community continues to rally around Kamiakin. For all of the above, I thank each and every one of you.

Principal's Message Con't:

May was full of activities and FUN! We started the month with our amazing Mother's Day Brunch, thanks to everyone for making our mom's feel as great as they should. Look for our FALL BBQ next school year. CAPstone night was an opportunity to see the hard work our 9th graders have been putting in all year helping our community, thank you for joining us. The efforts inspire me as we conclude one school year and head into another. This group will represent us well at Juanita High School.

June is here, and with it the events that wrap up our school year.

June 4th is our 9th grade dinner/dance held here at Kamiakin. I'm proud of the fact that we are the only junior high that celebrates our 9th graders and parents on this evening here at school (thanks to our PTSA!). Finals week is **June 7th – 11th**. Check in with your student and remind them to study! Our 2nd annual BBQ & Talent show will be held **Thursday, June 10th**, get your tickets early! The 9th grade picnic and 6th grade visit will be **Monday, June 14th**. During the last week of school we pass out annuals, hold our student awards assembly, and conclude with a half day of school on **Wednesday, June 16th**.

Be sure to keep an eye on your mail in August. We will send home an informational postcard with our date for "Photo & Fees". This day in late August is your opportunity to get your student pictures and pay for annuals/athletic gear/participation fees, etc. as well as meet with your PTSA. We will have a makeup opportunity in September in case you're still on vacation. Tentatively, schedule **Wednesday, August 18th** as the day. We are also looking at **Tuesday, September 7th** for our first PTSA meeting and **Friday, September 10th** for our "Back to School BBQ".

Thank you for your partnership during this school year. Your gifts of time, money and effort to your student(s) and Kamiakin are greatly appreciated. I expect to hear great things from this outgoing 9th grade class, and look forward to a new class of 7th graders. Enjoy your summer!

Joe Joss, jjoss@lwsd.org



Welcome New President Holly!

I had an opportunity to meet our incoming president, Holly Brewer. We are excited to see her pick up where our MOST excellent presidents have left off. Here's a bit about Holly:

I am a Brit, and I moved to Washington State in 1997 with my husband and 10 month old baby to try a new life here. We lived in Spokane for 7 years and had another 2 children, 2 years apart, then moved to Redmond for a year, and finally settled here in Totem Lake 4 years ago. I retain the outrageous British accent and sense of humor (!), but now consider myself a Washington gal. I have a son going into 8th grade at Kamiakin and an imminently incoming 7th grade daughter, along with my younger son who will soon be in 4th grade at Muir. I am a web developer by trade with ongoing interests in travel, history and the visual arts.

Welcome new and returning PTSA board and chairs!

Secretary	Debbie Gates	wdgates@verizon.net
Treasurer	Elaine Mariano	ecmariano@msn.com
Membership	Lile Ellefsen	ellefsen4@comcast.net
Newsletter	Cynthia Cantwell	ccantwell@lwsd.org
Staff Appreciation	Deanna Crowe & Cassandra Sage	awins@aol.com sagechew@comcast.net
Studio East	Mary Farley & Mary Rutledge	patchy14@msn.com maryru05@hotmail.com
Reflections	Cassandra Sage	sagechew@comcast.net
Directory	Amber Peterson & Liz Johanson	amberkp87@yahoo.com billnliz@comcast.net
Scholarship Chairs	Julie Harder & Amber Peterson	
9th Grade Dinner Dance	Deanna Crowe, Tracy Stevens, & Karyn Taggart	

Cougar Calendar

June

- 1st KaJH Band & Choir Concert 7:30**
- 4th Ninth Grade Dinner-Dance (Gym 6pm)**
- 7th-11th Finals Week ☺**
- 9th PTSA Staff Awards (4pm)**
- 10th Talent Show and BBQ**
- 14th Ninth Grade Picnic (All Day)**
- 14th Sixth Grade Visit**
- 16th Last Day of School! (1/2 day)**

August

- 18th Photo and Fees Day**

September

- 7th PTSA Meeting**
- 10th Back to School BBQ**

World Language News

In early spring 56 Spanish students and 20 French students at Kamiakin participated in the highly competitive National Spanish Exam (sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) and the National French Contest (sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French).

13 Spanish students earned national honors in an exam that drew over 125,915 participants in grades 6-12 from schools across the country. Level 1 students competed against 29,169 in their division and Level 2 students competed against 28,058 in their division.

10 French students earned chapter honors in a contest that had 101,161 participants in grades 1-12 from schools across the country. Level 1 students competed against 7,455 in their division.

National Spanish Exam National Winners
Gold - Elena Plenefisch; Silver – Gabrielle Hsu; Bronze – Daniel Stone and Li Wang; Honorable Mention - Oliver Hu, Suelena Lee, Vincent Ly, Colin Pate, Lana Redlich, Devon Jones, Jennifer Nyugen, Emma Frostad, and Alyanna Thongoulay

National French Contest Chapter Winners (WA/AK) 1st-5th place - **Maia Carlisle, Tess Farley, Nicolas Jensen, Katy Sjolund, Stephanie Langford, Steffen Felt and Ajay Joshi** 7th-9th place - **Logan Heine, Annie Kulshreshtha, and Cathy Matey**

Rona Chumbook
 Kamiakin Jr. High; French and Spanish
rchumbook@lwsd.org

String Jam '10

by Reid Watson

On April 10, 2010, a Guinness World Record for the largest string orchestra playing the same piece of music was broken at Juanita High School. In a giant event known as String Jam '10, organized by Redmond High School's Orchestra Director, Paula Ferguson, and the many orchestra teachers throughout the Lake Washington School District. Almost 400 string players came together, filling the Juanita field house, and playing a few memorable tunes. This giant congregation of string players was led by a talented local professional violin performer named Geoffrey Castle. With his loud, powerful six-string electric violin, he led the orchestra and rocked out to "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star", "Canon in D", and "Smoke on the Water" with an army of cellos, violas, and violins playing excitedly behind him.

Included in the crowd of musicians were 10 Kamiakin orchestra members: *Stephen Johnson, Matthew Paige, Nick Lemmer, Mallika Iyer, Alex Wyruchowski, Thanh Truong, Paul Carlson, Tanvi Digdhe, Michelle Tanaka, Ashley Manawa, Reid Watson, and Cameron Jones.*

In order to break the world record, String Jam '10 needed to include at least 250 string players all playing together in unison, for at least 5 minutes. The number of people was obviously not an issue for the event; however, performing a 5-minute song with 400 players ranging in ability from elementary school to the professional level is not exactly a cakewalk, and the orchestra missed their first attempt. The song to be played to officially break the world record was "Smoke on the Water" because it was the only one that could be done in over 5 minutes. On the first try, the orchestra played for about 4 minutes and 50 seconds, a bit short of the record. But to overcome this little problem was simple. The orchestra gave it another try and towards the end of the piece Geoffrey Castle broke out into a huge violin solo, hitting high notes so fast they seemed to fly off his instrument, and with the use of several different electric enhancements, the sound of Geoffrey's violin roared like an electric guitar from a rock band. After the end of the performance, the audience was on its feet cheering with deafening applause, and the record had been officially broken.

Even after the record had been broken, the string party wasn't over. More performances celebrating Lake Washington Orchestra Program's momentous achievement followed. First, a double bass-piano-cello trio accompanied by a drum set took the stage and played an upbeat jazz piece. They gave an impressive, crowd-pleasing performance and each player was spot on. Another performance was given by a very talented married couple, both professional musicians, the husband a bassist and the wife a cellist. The two pieces they played were enthralling. Each piece had elements of humor, softness, excitement, more humor, and downright technical masterpiece. Their beautiful recital of classical music gave inspiration to every string player in the room and showed them the result of a lifelong pursuit for greatness in the orchestral arts. But, of course, no

String Jam '10 Continued

one but Geoffrey Castle could take the stage and create String Jam 10's grand finale. He took the stage and performed an unforgettable show. With his electric violin, he was able to temporarily record certain rhythms and beats that he played live, and then played them back again and again in a loop. By doing this several times, Geoffrey was able to create the sound of at least 5 violins playing all at once, with layered melodies and harmonies all coming together. To end his song, he played a fantastic violin solo on top of his multi-layered harmonies, and with the touch of a button he shut off all of the loops as he played the final note. The standing ovation he received was the icing on the cake of a very fun and exciting night for the string players of Lake Washington School District, the current record holders for the largest orchestra ever to play together on this Earth.

A Note from the Science Department

All science students at Kamiakin Junior High participated in the National Science League competition this spring. The competition is a timed 30 minute, 50 question multiple choice test. The top ten scores from each grade level are sent in as a "team" score and compared with other teams across the country. The 7th and 8th grade teams from Kamikan represented themselves well in the national competition and placed in the top half of each grade level.

Our 9th grade team was outstanding and recorded a FIRST PLACE finish in the national competition. There were many outstanding scores on this team including the number one score in the national competition from Nick Jensen. Congratulations to all the teams for their outstanding performances.

National Competition Teams

<u>7th Grade Team</u>	<u>8th Grade Team</u>	<u>9th Grade Team</u>
Conrad Von Schilha	Matt Saathoff	Nick Jensen
Rachel Eakins	Elena Plenefisch	Reid Watson
Nate Thrasher	Holly Cowherd	Ty Griffith
Seth Peterson	Gabrielle Hsu	Tony Tran
Leslie Fisher	Melvin Soetrisno	Evan Lin
Jeremy Harrison	Max Slusher	Colin Pate
Henrik Wiersholm	Kyle Grichel	James Xu
Michali Izhaky	Tom Claypool	Mitchell Friedrich
Meghan Gifford	Chad Gates	Stephen Johnson
Breanna McGehee	Ajay Joshi	Molly Steck
Other Top Grade Level Performers		

<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>	<u>9th Grade</u>
Steven Nguyen	David Tataran	Nick Lemmer
Josh Warnick	Megan Harrison	Matthew Stone
Bruce Lee	Stuart Kobashigawa	Ryan Walter
Robbie Laughlin		Brett Tebbs
		Taylor Gentile
		Lucas Kristiansen
		Emma Frostad



SAMBRANO'S SHINING STARS

Each semester I have certain students who enter my class and just seem to brighten all that is around them. They may not always be the fastest, strongest or the best athletes however they are students I look forward to seeing each day. They arrive to class with a positive attitude and a willingness to always give their best effort. They are kind, courteous, respectful, and compassionate. They are outstanding students and a pleasure to have in class. I would like to recognize these "Shining Stars" and let them know how much I appreciate what they bring to my class and Kamiakin Junior High.

Shining Stars for March, 2010		
HENRIK WIERSHOLM	CHANELLE FAHSOLTZ	JEFF ROETCISOENDER
NICHOLAS TEOH	AMY POTTS	MACKINZIE HARDER
MADI HEDLUND	EMILY PETERSON	JULIE STEVENS
Shining Stars for April, 2010		
KAMDEN CHEW	ALEX GREEN	ISABEL MINTZ-SCHUFFMAN
BRANDON JACKSON	SHANNON ONEIL	OLIVIA GROSVENER
NIAN NIAN GAO	DZENJA JAGANJAC	STEVEN NGUYEN
Shining Stars for May, 2010		
ERIC BRIGMAN	JOSHI AJAY	TERRY JUNG
BREANA MAUGHAN	REID OLSEN	ANDREA WOODS
TESS PATE	TABATHA WOLMUTH	SETH PETERSON



School's Out for Summer!



PTSA will be selling refreshments on the last day of school. Please stop by after school from 12-3.

- ⦿ **make summer plans with friends**
- ⦿ **shoot the breeze**
- ⦿ **sign yearbooks**
- ⦿ **visit our concessions stand**



HELP!

Here are the PTSA positions we still need to fill:

Legislative Representative (Board Position)
Ways and Means/Fundraising (Board Position)

Volunteer Chair

Emergency Prep Chair

Parent Education Rep Chair

Special Needs Rep Chair

Health Screening Chair

Book Fair Chair (work with Librarian)

School Representatives for Keller, Muir & Juanita HS

(rep needs to attend PTSA meeting at elementary and report back status)

We need you!

Please contact Holly Brewer, PTSA President, at holly@hollybrewer.com



Kamiakin PTSA

Working hard for the benefit of all students!

We thank our many volunteers:
Join us in enriching our kids' lives.



WHAT WE DO:

Back to School BBQ
Book Fair
CAPstone
Counseling Center Grants
Dinner Dance, 9th Grade
Emergency Preparedness
Newsletter
Parent Education
Reflections
Staff Appreciation
Student Directories
Student Planners
Studio East Productions
Testing Treats
And so much more...

Please contact Holly Brewer at holly@hollybrewer.com if you are interested in volunteering during the next school year.



Our Kamiakin “Walk of Fame” Staff Appreciation Week was a smashing success! Thank you to all our parents who made this possible---from sending in food, desserts, and items for our fabulous raffle—we couldn’t have done it without you!

Nancy Miller, Angela Ruggeri, Nalini Iyer, Theresa Peloso, Anne Green, De Hu/Bei Guan, Kristin Retzlaff, Suzy McNabb, Caroline Roetcisoender, Carole Redlich-Lim, Amber Britton, Shawn Thornsberry, Cynthia Cantwell, Amber Peterson, Karen Larsen, Twyla Baird, Cathy Benson, Karen Taggart, Deanna Crowe, Beth Griffith, Binh Ly & The Fresh Vitamins’ Store.

Romey Gilbert, Kristin Retzlaff, Jill Caver, Nancy Rusch, Carole Lim, Corinne Eng, Susannah Caton, Diane Crim, Brandi Potter, Caroline Roetcisoender, Tom Griffith, Tammy Rae, Christina Chaney, Brenda Jensen, Amber Peterson, Debbie Nelson, Susan Baird-Joshi, Karen Larsen, Suzy McNabb, Beth Griffith, Deanna Crowe, & Cassandra Sage.

Staff Raffle Winners:

The Wine Connoisseur: Robert Wagner

Cooking “In” Italian: Seth Hayden

Healthy & Fit: Lana Nelson

Time to get the garden planted: Debbie Lanzafame

Stay in tonight: Mark Egger

