

Inside

John F. Kennedy High School

Volume 1 Issue 3

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Principal's Message

This newsletter marks both the end of the 2003-04 school year and serves as an introduction to the coming school year. Parents, students and staff should be receiving this letter shortly after the third marking period has ended and the final quarter of the year is underway. Much occurred over the winter months including an outstanding theater production of "Once Upon an Island", the wonderful performance of students in our LTI program as they competed so successfully in the county's "Tech Challenge", the tremendous showing of our orchestra in the county competition, the very successful performance of the ROTC program in an area wide meet against eighteen other high schools, and the division championship that was won by our boys basketball team. These successes have brought a sense of pride to our school and community and we hope to build upon these things as we enter the next school year.

The final quarter of the year will be marked by a number of events. Students will be involved in a variety of standardized, high stakes testing during that time. The state of Maryland's High School Assessment tests (in Biology, English 9, Algebra, Geometry and National, State and Local Government will be given in May as will the Advanced Placement Tests given by the Educational Testing Service. June will have additional assessments including the local end of year tests and county semester exams and we will run our final exam schedule beginning the 8th of June.

The end of year will also feature our Academic Awards program on May 19th, the national Honor Society Induction on May 13th, and our Springs Sports program. The Kennedy Prom will be held on May 22nd and the class of 2004 will be graduating from Constitution Hall on Wednesday, June 9th at 10:00 am.

As of this printing Kennedy students have already been accepted by the following colleges and Universities: University of Maryland (UMCP), UMBC, Towson, McDaniel, Villa Julie, Frostburg, Bowie, Salisbury, and Mt. St. Mary's in state. Out-of-state acceptances include Brown, BYU, Mary Baldwin, Cornell, University of Delaware, University of Florida, South

Continued on page 2 . . .

SUPPORT the PTSA!

Your Support Helps to Print this Newsletter. Please see the membership application on page 16.

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Principal's Message

Continued from page 1

Florida, George Mason, Hampton, Hartford Johnson and Wales, Morehouse, Miami, Marymount, Penn State, University of Pittsburgh, Radford, Rutgers, Susquehanna, St. John's, Temple, Trinity and Tuskegee. We are looking forward to hearing many more acceptances throughout the spring and likewise are hoping to hear of various scholarships earned by our seniors.

The next school year will be even more eventful. Incoming ninth grade students will be involved in one of four academies: Sports Management and Medicine, MediaCom, Cambridge and the Leadership Training Institute and students will be on one of four teams connected to these academies. Courses in existence will continue, and new courses will be added to these academies. More students should become involved in internships in future years, both related to the above academies as well as in other interest areas that our students have.

Many schools in MCPS received Education Officers this past year and Kennedy and other schools will receive these officers for the next school year. We will implement a new system of collecting on obligations beginning this summer with students needing to clear debts that they occurred on an on-going basis. Kennedy will also continue to explore scheduling models that might better improve the use of instructional time.

A great deal of additional news will be forthcoming over the spring and summer months, which will be sent out to parents during the month of August. School is scheduled to start for all students on Monday, August 30th. In the meantime I would like to thank the Kennedy parents for the increased support that we have received this year and I would encourage parents to become even more involved in school life during the next year. ✦

Mr. Fred Lowenbach
Principal


A Special Tribute to a Teacher

Mr. Al Destefano, a teacher and coach for 28 years at John F. Kennedy High School, died of a heart attack in his home on April 8th 2004. Mr. Destefano was a highly respected and beloved member of the Kennedy staff and was well known in coaching circles throughout the Washington area. He taught a variety of different subjects throughout his career, mostly recently math classes and the work-oriented curriculum. In a recent documentary dedicated to this fine teacher, students repeatedly referred to him as a "great teacher", a "friend" and a "father figure."

His colleagues stated that he helped them, advised them and mentored them as they began their teaching careers at Kennedy High School. Mr. Destefano coached a variety of sports at Kennedy. He was best known for the 12 years he spent coaching the boys basketball team and during his tenure as coach guided the Cavaliers to two division titles as well as a regional and county championship. A referees association voted him coach of the year and in 1995 he coached the Capital Classic all star team against a team of national all stars. Mr. Destefano also coached at a number of other Washington area schools, mostly recently St. Johns in the District. He also coached the golf team, softball team and baseball team while at Kennedy. Al Destefano was survived by his parents, his son who teaches in Montgomery County, a daughter who lives in Howard County and two brothers. He will be sorely missed by the entire Kennedy community.

PTSA President's Message

Hello and welcome to the third and final JFK-PTSA newsletter for 2003-2004. Thanks and awe go to Penny Lee and the newsletter committee for publishing and editing, on a small budget, this visually exciting, informative and important link to our community!!! In addition, I would also like to thank, as I am sure everyone would, our Principal, Leader and Chief Cat Herder—Mr. Fred Lowenbach and the Staff at JFK, for giving us the inspiration and constant encouragement necessary to persevere parenting and helping us to eventually achieve all of our shared goals.

As you may know, at our next PTSA meeting, Tuesday, May 18th, Executive Board elections will be held for the upcoming 2004-2005 school year. All PTSA members are eligible to vote and are encouraged to participate in the election and meeting to start at 7 PM in the media center. Most parents choose not to attend our monthly PTSA meetings, surprise, however my experience has been that the only real way to keep up with the large number of events that parents need to know about, from SAT's to International Night to Block 4x4 Scheduling, is to attend our monthly meetings. All participants have benefited from the wealth of shared information available by simply setting aside 2 hours a month to learn about your students' life at school. Progress has been made at Kennedy High School this year and much still needs to be done. I have enjoyed the last 2 years as President of the PTSA and would like to thank the members of the Executive Board for their support and assistance. Together we made a difference! 

Bobby Rencher
President, JFK PTSA

2003-04 JFK PTSA Contact List

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The Passing of a Kennedy Student

Our school and community is deeply saddened by the loss of Kathleen "Kat" Vasquez on Wednesday, April 28, 2004. Kathleen was a sophomore at Kennedy where she was a member of the drama club, the Under Five Club and JNROTC. She will be remembered by many of her fellow students, staff and the members of the community. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathies are extended to her parents Linda and Carlos and her sisters Sonya, Laura and Jenny. **She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all that knew her.** The family has requested that those wishing to honor and remember Kathleen do so in the form of contributions to John F. Kennedy High School PTSA.

PTSA Notices:

The PTSA will be selling pizza slices along with Kennedy shirts, hooded sweat shirts and key chains (lanyards) most Fridays at the end of school as our major fundraiser. If you are interested in a great shirt you can also contact Dieter Klingner at 301-460-4725 or dklingner@starpower.net, anytime. The newsletter is dependent on the success of the fundraisers. Thanks for your support.

Our next PTSA meeting is on Tuesday, May 18 at 7 p.m. We will have our election of new officers for next year. Meetings are open to everyone who wish to attend.

JFK Class Calendar

MAY

Monday, May 3rd & 4th

-MD Functional Writing Retest for seniors

May 3rd–May 14th

-AP tests, am session & pm session

Friday, May 7th

-Last Day for Seniors to Clear Outstanding Obligations by Check

-June 12 ACT registration deadline

Wednesday, May 12th

-Late June 5 SAT I/II deadline

Monday, May 17th

-Senior Locker Clean out

Wednesday, May 19th

-Academic Awards Night, 7 pm JFK

-Last Day for Teachers to submit obligations for Graduating Seniors

Thursday, May 20th

-Senior Review Day

Friday, May 21st

-Late June 12 ACT deadline

Saturday, May 22nd

-Senior Prom 8–12 midnight at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, in Washington DC. H Street, NW across from the Convention Center

Sunday, May 23rd

-Post Prom party for ALL seniors at JFK 12–4 a m

Monday, May 24th

-Senior Exam/HSA

Tuesday, May 25th

-Senior Exam/HSA/Culminating Activity for periods 1&2

Wednesday, May 26th

-Senior Exam/HSA/Culminating Activity for periods 3&4
-Spring Sports Recognition Night 7pm JFK

Thursday, May 27th

Senior Exam/HSA/Culminating Activity for periods 6&7

Friday, May 28th

-Senior Exam/HSA/Culminating Activity & make up

-Last school day for seniors

-Last Day for seniors to clear All Outstanding Obligations by Cash, Money Order, or Certified Check

JUNE

Thursday, June 3rd

-Locker Clean-out (Grades 9–11)

Friday, June 4th

-Review Day (Grades 9–11)

Saturday, June 5th

-SAT I/II Testing

Monday, June 7th

-Final Exam/Culminating Activity for periods 1 & 2

Tuesday, June 8th

-MANDATORY graduation rehearsal at JFK in the gym. Tickets and cap & gowns will be distributed to seniors for graduation. If you are not here you cannot attend graduation.

-Final Exam/Culminating Activity for periods 3 & 4

Wednesday, June 9th

-Graduation 10am at DAR Constitution Hall

-No School for underclassmen

Thursday, June 10th

-Final Exam/Culminating Activity for periods 5 & 6

Friday, June 11th

-Final Exam/Culminating Activity for period 7/Make-Up

Saturday, June 12th

-ACT Testing

Monday, June 14th

-Make-Up Exams (as arranged)

Tuesday, June 15th

-Early Release Day/Last Day for Student-End of fourth marking period, end second semester

Tuesday, June 28th

-Report cards mailed home


Career Center Information

The career center is open during the summer months for any student or parent who needs assistance with college search, testing or other questions you may have. The phone number to the career center is 301-929-2233.

SAT Testing

SAT testing is not available in the summer months.

The summer time is a good time to take a course to help with your test in the fall. The summer school program has a SAT class available and the information for registering is in the regular summer school flyer.

The next SAT testing date after the summer will be October 9, 2004. The deadline for registration is September 7, 2004. You may register during the summer for the fall testing. If you are able to use a credit card, you may register on the web site www.collegeboard.com. 

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS OF JFK SENIORS

Obligations Owed to School

The 2004 senior class owes over \$18,000 worth of obligations. Students owe books, uniforms, fees etc. and will not be able to participate in graduation ceremony without paying or returning these obligations. Obligations letters were sent via certified mail to the addresses that are on file with the school. Mrs. Bahr and Ms. Zachery (the business manager) both have copies of these lists. Mrs. Bahr is also in the process of distributive another copy of these letters. Please get your payments in as soon as possible. These are all of the outstanding obligations—which mean everything from 9th grade on.

Prom

The Grand Hyatt in Washington DC flyer will go out to seniors through their English class with directions, eating suggestions, dress code etc. Tickets will be sold the two weeks prior to Prom during both lunches. If purchased within the first three days they will be \$40 a person. The Thursday and Friday of the end of the first week will be sold for \$45 and the entire week before Prom they will be sold for \$50 a piece. Students may purchase two tickets each.

Graduation

Cap and gowns are the only mandatory purchases for seniors. The money and order form need to be sent directly to Jostens. If you have not done this PLEASE pick up a postcard today or go to room 278 ASAP.

The number of tickets that each senior will receive for graduation will depend on the number of seniors that are actually eligible for graduation. I will have a better idea when interims are mailed. Students often give away their extra tickets after rehearsal, but the senior class will give as many tickets as possible to each graduating senior on that day. Check the senior web-site, a link from www.jfkcavs.com (go to classes, then senior)

Graduation is on June 9th 2004, at DAR Constitution Hall. *Guests and seniors must be on time (that means early).* Seniors should be there no later than 9:15 am. The doors will close at 10am, and will not be reopened (even if you have a ticket and are very sorry for being late) until after the processional.

Debra Bahr/Senior Class Sponsor
Room 278 / 301 962 5950 **BEST WAY!**
debra_R_Bahr@fc.mcps.k12.md.us



Schedule

High School Assessment HSAs & Senior Final Exams


May 24 – 28th 2004

Plans are now in process for JFK's After Prom Party. The event will be held at Kennedy High School on Saturday morning May 23rd 2004 from 12:30 – 4:30 am (following the Prom). All seniors (even if they do not attend the prom) and guests or seniors may attend the after prom party. Activities planned for the evening include music, laser tag, pinball, games, refreshments and prizes. All of this fun will take place in an alcohol and drug-free environment that will help keep our students safe during one of the most exciting nights of their teenage lives. Since PTSA-sponsored After Prom Parties have been initiated in Montgomery County, not one student has lost his/her life in an alcohol or drug related car accident on prom night.

We plan to continue a tradition of providing a great post-prom party and need your support. We are looking for freshman, sophomore, junior and senior parents to volunteer to help out with the following:

- Set up the night of the event
- Clean up at the event
- Work during the event (Non-senior parents)
- Donate a gift certificate or prize

Each year we have also asked parents to make a donation to the After Prom Party. For the non-senior parents, one day it will be your child's prom. This serves as one of our primary sources of income to make the party possible. Please consider making a donation or volunteering at the event. For the year 2004, we are asking each parent to make a tax-deductible donation of \$20.04, although the donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to Kennedy PTSA Post – Prom Party. Please indicate on a piece of paper, your name, and your child's name with a phone number. And return your check to John F Kennedy High School, PTSA Post-Prom Committee, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902, or place it in the school office in the box marked POST-PROM PARTY.

By working together we can create a fun-filled atmosphere that is safe and supervised all night. Please call me at (301) 460-2988 if you have any questions. 

Mark Becker, Post Prom Chair

	Mon. 5/24	Tue 5/25	Wed 5/26	Thu 5/27	Fri 5/28
Testing block 7:25–10:55	Geometry HSA	English9 HSA	Biology HSA	Algebra I HSA	NSL HSA
Class/Lunch/Exam 11:00–11:30 11:35 – 12:05	5 A & B (*)	5 A & B (*)	5 A & B (*)	5 A & B (*)	5 A & B (*)
Class/Senior Exam 12:10–1:05	6	Period 1	Period 3	Period 6	MakeUp
Class/Senior Exam 1:10 – 2:10	7	Period 2	Period 4	Period 7	MakeUp


(*) Because Period 5 is shortened, teachers of seniors will have the option of administering the period 5 exams over one or two days. Please contact your child's teacher and/or grade level administrator if you need further information.

For Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors

Students enrolled in HSA courses are required to take the tests on the scheduled dates from 7:20am to 10:55am and to remain in school for their regular classes, after the testing ends at 10:55am. On the days that students are not required to take an HSA, they are not required to attend school between 7:20am and 10:55am. ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL FROM 10:55AM TO 2:10PM EACH DAY DURING THIS WEEK.

In addition, MCPS requires final exams to be administered to all students' grades 9-11 for second semester from Mon. 6/7 through Mon. 6/14. All final examinations will count 25 percent of the semester grade. Every class is to have a final exam or culminating activity at the end of the semester. Review session will be conducted during class on Friday, 6/4. The administration of the final exams requires an alternation in the daily schedule for grades 9-11. **Due to graduation, no school will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2004.** During exam week, students are only required to come to school to take their individual examinations.

For Seniors

The administration of senior exams will require an alternative in the daily school schedule during the week of Tues, 5/24 through Fri. 5/28. Senior exams will be administered in the afternoon due to the High School Assessments (HSA) in the mornings. The exam grade for seniors will count 25 percent and will be computed into the fourth marking period grade. Seniors will take exams during regular class periods. Seniors are expected to attend all classes through Friday, May 28, 2004. The review sessions will be conducted Thursday, 5/20 and Friday, 5/21. The last day for seniors is Friday, May 28, 2004. **ALL SENIORS MUST ATTEND THE MANDATORY REHEARSAL FOR GRADUATION ON TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2004 AT 7:20 AM IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.** 

News Around the School

Study Circles Expand

The Kennedy High School Study Circle Program continues to expand, as the second study circle completed six two hour sessions in which it discussed numerous important issues, including cultural misunderstanding and racism and how they affect student achievement at Kennedy High School. John Landesman and Ruby Reubens from the Study Circle Program and the Montgomery County Business Roundtable hosted a joint meeting of Kennedy's two study circles on April 15th. The two study circles discovered that they had reached the same conclusions and formed Action Teams to work on 3 issues: Better Communication, Parental Involvement and Empowerment, and Creating a Culture of Success. Stay tuned for exciting developments! Persons interested in participating in the study circle movement at Kennedy should contact John Landesman at 301-279-3100 or John_Landesman@fc.mcps.k12.md.us. 🐦

ESOL Department

The JFK ESOL department has been very busy this semester. Ms. Brooks organized a wonderful field trip to New York City on April 13th. Forty-five students and three teachers boarded a bus at 6 am bound for Ellis Island and Chinatown. Despite a terrible rainstorm, a good time was had by all.

The next day, Ms. Brooks planned an equally educational field trip to Washington, DC. We thank Ms Brooks for her hard work.

Mr. Wilson, Ms Waite, and Mrs. Polster have been attending the JFK study circles. This is a great beginning. Look for our parent specialist, Ivette Laureano, to be at JFK a lot more next year. Ms Laureano and Mr. Lowenbach are planning to open a Parent Resource Room here. We have nominated five students for the county ESOL awards to be given Saturday, May 15th. The results are secret until that day. We have some outstanding students in the ESOL Department this year. Mr. Wilson and Ms Waite are busy planning the "Annual ESOL Spring Cultural Exchange". (aka Picnic). It will take place on Friday, May 7th. Please see Mr. Wilson and Ms. Waite for details. 🐦

Phyllis F. Polster
ESOL Resource

Kennedy Drama Club



So what's the buzz around school? KDC's exciting productions, of course! The Kennedy Drama Club recently participated in the Maryland High School Theater Festival, where they were featured performers with their production of *Once on This Island*. The production received an award for its selection as a feature and Nubia Dickerson (as Ti Moune) and Jamila McCoy (as Asaka, Goddess of the Earth) were selected by a panel of theater teachers from across the state for individual awards as two of

the best performers across the festival. A few days later the production received two outstanding reviews in the Washington Post.

So what's next, you ask? Our second musical takes us on a trip to the Caribbean with *All in the Timing*, a collection of humorous one-acts by David Ives. We're very proud of our production team this year. ✦

Kennedy's Forensic Challenge in Drama

Kennedy students participated in the county tournament for the Forensics League. We were excited that **Maureen Pierre**, **Chistella Niyonkuru**, **Samrawitt Bayu**, and **Mariela Uceada** made it to quarterfinals in Reader's Theater, and **Nick Reid**, **Jamila McCoy**, and **Daniel Saidman** advanced to semifinals in Reader's Theater. **Daniel Saidman** also made it to quarterfinals in Children's Literature and Humor. The students observed all of the rounds they weren't in so that they could see what the standard was, and are all highly motivated for next year. Ms. Wahrman and Mr. Wilson have started a forensics library this year, which they plan to expand over the summer with the help of some of the students, and we're already making ambitious plans for aggressive recruitment, challenging drama pieces, provocative original speeches, county-wide triumph, and eventually world domination. We're also planning a few pizza sales (world domination can be expensive). Like the *Six Million Dollar Man*, we will only emerge stronger! ✦

Stacey J. Wahrman
English and Drama Teacher

Kennedy Mock Trial Team

Congratulations to the Kennedy High School Mock Trial Team for a fine performance during their first season. Kennedy competed against some very high performing schools that have been competing for years. In addition, almost all of our team members are sophomores and the team members of the schools we competed against are almost all juniors and seniors with prior mock trial experience. Nonetheless, our team did an outstanding job! We lost the last competition by only one point. Ms. Karen Haven was the trial team coach and Angela Davis (a Kennedy parent) served as the attorney advisor for the team. Our students did a great job and look forward to a winning season next year!

Congratulations to our defense team—**Michael Damiano**, **YeSeul Kim**, and **Francisco Slavin**; our prosecution team — **Iranga Kahangama**, **Nadia Sicard**, and **Anitha Vemury**; and our witnesses—**Liza Durongkadej**, **Elyse Goldenberg**, **Daisy Stephenson**, **Christia Panizales**, **Spencer Irvine**, and **Jonathan Beh**. ✦

Camp Shakespeare 2004 at The Shakespeare Theatre

Each summer students ages 10 to 18 converge on The Shakespeare Theatre to explore the craft of acting with professional artists and educators. The program for every two-week session is designed to enhance understanding of Shakespeare's language through performance.

Classes are held Monday-Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm at The Shakespeare Theatre Rehearsal and Education Studios, 507 and 516 8th Street SE, Washington, DC. Professional artists and educators teach all classes. Students are divided by age into Young People (ages 10 - 12) and Teens (ages 13 - 18); each group presents a different Shakespeare play to conclude the session making it possible for first time as well as continuing students to participate in more than one session a summer.

For more information and registration forms visit <http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/campshak.html>

Or call The Shakespeare Theatre Education Department at 202.547.5688. ✦

Activity Calendar

J U N E 2 0 0 4 • K E N N E D Y H S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSA Make-up thru 6/14 IC Meeting @ 2:15 pm – MC CR 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kennedy Weight Watchers Meeting 2:30–3:30 Rm 156 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EST/IEP Meetings 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam Review Day & Clearance Sheet Distribution 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAT
6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exams – 1 & 2 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation Rehearsal @ 7:20 am – 11 am Main Gym MANDATORY Final Exams–3 & 4 IC Meeting @ 2:15 pm – MC CR 	9 <p>NO SCHOOL Graduation @ 10am - DAR Constitution Hall. Students Need to Arrive @ 9:15am BE ON TIME! The doors will close at 10am to All until after processional!</p>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exams – 5 & 6 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exams – 7 & Make-up 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT
13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exams - Make-ups (as arranged) 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day of School Students Dismissed after Lunch End of Fourth Marking Period New Student Orientation - TBD 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROFESSIONAL DAY FOR TEACHERS LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS 	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Congratulations Grads!

Activity Calendar

J U L Y 2 0 0 4 • K E N N E D Y H S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				• Summer School Planning Day for Teachers		
4	5 HOLIDAY Independence Day	6	7	8	9	10
		• First day of Summer School Classes - Session 1				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				• Last day of Summer School Session 1	• Planning Day for Teachers	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	• First Day of Summer School Classes - Session 2					
<p>FUTURE DATES: Wednesday, August 11 – Last day of Summer School Classes Session 2 Graduation Wednesday, August 11 – Rehearsal Thursday, August 12 – Summer School Graduation</p> <p>For Further Information go online to: http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/info/summerschool/</p>						

Have a Great Summer!

Kennedy Swim Team

Although the JFK Swim Team was one of the smallest teams (in terms of # of participants) we have had in year, it was definitely one of the more productive ones in terms of setting team goals and personal improvements.

The team was lead by captains **Josh Josephson, Andrew Yewdell, Veronica Lopez and Amanda Zack**. Both men's and women's teams won more dual meets than in the past season and placed around the middle of their division—all this without receiving any points in the diving events (as we had no divers this season).

There was a new team record set at the relay carnival. The foursome of **Josh Josephson, Nick Garrard, Ryan Yuen, and Kyle Wisor** broke the record in the men's 200-yard breaststroke relay with a time of 2:06:20.

We had several people qualify for the Metropolitan Swimming and Diving Championships (the highest level meet). **Kyle Wisor, Ryan Yuen, and Jill Zung** all qualified individually, while additional relay qualifiers **Andrew Yewdell, Jason Lee, and Josh Josephson** joined them. **Kyle Wisor** placed 4th in the 100 yard freestyle and 8th in the 200 yard freestyle at this very competitive meet (he was also part of the "All County" team in both of those events.)

While everyone on the team earned their varsity letters this season, we also gave out some special awards. Our "High Point Swimmer" was **Kyle Wisor and Jill Zung**. The "Most Improved Swimmer" was awarded to **Chelse King**, and our "Senior Award" went to **Josh Josephson**.

Our graduating seniors were **Emily Frizzell, Josh Josephson, Samantha Klinger, Veronica Lopez, Rahul Shah, and Greg Visscher**.

Finally, the team would like to point out that amongst all of the winter sports teams, swimming had the highest amount of academic excellence awards. 81% of the team received at least one academic award, and we contributed more than 30% of all the academic awards for the entire winter sport population, showing high levels of concentration in both the pool and classroom environments!

Coach Terry Kominski is extremely proud of her team and continues to look forward to the future. She would like to thank all of the supportive parents who helped make the season possible, and her team for the nice things they did for you at the banquet. **✦**

JFK Boys Varsity Divisional Champs

Kennedy's 2003-2004 varsity basketball team enjoyed one of its most successful seasons in recent history. Starting out from last summer's second place finish in the Summer Recreational League, where Kennedy played some of the county's best teams, the boy's varsity played with great intensity and heart. For many of the seniors this was their final year with Coach Diallo Nelson and they put together impressive strings of victories during the season. Led by the scoring of **Noah Kamara**, the floor leadership and defense of **Lamine N'dour**, the rebounding of **Desmond Green and Derrick Gray**, and the all around play of **Ben St Ulme, Kevin Lee, Eric Jones, and Chris Bolakai**, the team was able to stay atop the division through the whole season and wound up the second seed in the regional. Congratulations to Coach Nelson and his Cavaliers for finishing first in their division and a great season. **✦**

Indoor Track State Meet Updates

Kennedy Girls team finished 3rd in the Maryland State overall Competition. Individual highlights include the following:

- **Phobay Kutu-Akoi** came in 5th place in the 55 meters and 2nd place in the 300 meters races
- **Asia Nettles** came in 5th place in the 300meters race
- In the Girls 4x200meters, Kennedy Team placed 2nd—**Phobay Kutu-Akoi, Jessica Jenkins, Asia Nettles, Shyneka Townsend**
- In the Girls 4x400meters, Kennedy Team placed 1st—**Phobay Kutu-Akoi, Jessica Jenkins, Asia Nettles, Thioro Fall**

Kennedy Boys team finished 20th overall in the 3A class for the State of Maryland.

Individual highlights include the following:

- **Kimery Williams** came in 5th place in the 300 meters and 5th place in the 500 meters races
- In the Boys 4x200 meters, Kennedy Team came in 6th place—**Yamil Martinez, Kimery Williams, Lewis Allen, Richard Clinkscales**. **✦**

Summer Leadership Program

The Civic Education Project, an award winning service-learning program at Northwestern University, is currently seeking outstanding high school students to participate in our Summer 2004 Civic Leadership Institutes. As someone who is able to identify the best and brightest students at yourschool, we need your help in reaching them!

The Civic Leadership Institute will bring together talented 10th - 12th grade students from across the country to participate in an innovative leadership and citizenship program. The Institute combines rigorous academic coursework in Civic Engagement & Contemporary Social Issues with community service and hands-on field experiences designed to help young people develop the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills necessary to make a positive impact on society.

This summer, our Civic Leadership Institutes will be offered:

June 27 - July 16, 2004 Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
OR July 25 - August 14, 2004, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois

We would love your help identifying students you think would be a good match for the program, and sharing this information with them. The students who are typically most successful in our programs are bright, motivated high school students with a genuine interest in service and a desire to develop their leadership and citizenship skills.

To find out more about our Civic Leadership Institutes, visit our web site at <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/cep>. To request materials or learn more about how to get your students involved, please contact me directly at 847-491-7688 or by email at c-dearmond@northwestern.edu.

Cavalier Pride Announcements

- Recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as eligible for the 2005 Scholarship Program: *Adedana Ashebir* and *James Cahill*
- Recognized by the National Achievement Scholarship Program as eligible for the 2005 National Achievement Program: *Adedana Ashebir*, *Marcus Bagley*, *Antoine Cheek*, and *Odav Jallah*
- U. S. Dept. of Education Presidential Scholars in the Arts competition: *Kevin Lee*
- 2004 Montgomery County NAACP Scholarship Awards: *Abena Akomeah*, *Brittany Jackson*, *Cheri Grigg*, *Hasina Jamal*, *Jamila McCoy*, *Bettel Mussie*, *Chinwendu Opara*, *Allison Pitt*, and *Daneil Toal*
- Skills USA Maryland Statewide Championship: *Amanda Osbourne* first place winner Basic Health Care Skills
- ACT-SO Competition: *Nicolas Reed*—Silver Winner in Drama and *Jalika Gaskins*—Gold winner for drawing
- Career and Technology Education Excellence in Internships Award: *Thomas Locastro*
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute/NIH: *Adedana Ashebir*—NIH internship for 2004-05
- Maryland General Assembly Student page Program: *Romeo Hillman*
- National Museum of American History, "Talkback in the Classroom:" *Spencer Irvine*—Student Panelist of American History

SENIOR CLASS HOMEPAGE CLASS OF 2004 TIGERS CHECK IT OUT!

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/kennedyhs/orgs/classes/seniors/index.shtm>

Debra Bahr, Senior Class Sponsor

From the NJROTC

At the beginning of this year NJROTC started strong with 87 cadets who were ready and willing to make this year a success, and succeed we did. Just count our trophies. At the beginning of the year I considered it my mission (as the Commanding Officer) to motivate and mold these 87 cadets into a tight knit, winning unit. I wanted this to be a year to remember Here is our story...

During the first semester we had three field trips. We traveled to the Quantico Marine Base for the Marine Corps Expo. We saw many of the latest technological developments that the Marine Corps uses to fulfill its mission. The first year cadets visited the Naval Academy. They had the opportunity to tour the campus and see if they had what it takes to become Naval Academy midshipmen. The NS-3 cadets toured the Pentagon where we had the chance to see all of the excitement there (Okay so it was not the most thrilling places to go but we did learn a few interesting facts).

The competitive year started with a NJROTC soccer competition hosted by our athletic team. It was a great success. Five NJROTC units from Maryland schools participated. The Kennedy boy's team won 1st place and the combined girls and boys score earned Kennedy 2nd place overall. Our next event was for the drill team. We had an overnight trip to Seaford, DE for the Seaford HS NJROTC Drill Competition. We won 1st place in inspection, 3rd place in armed standard drill and 3rd place overall.

After our victory on the eastern shore, we returned home to Kennedy where we participated in various events at school. Our Color Guard and drill team marched in Kennedy's Homecoming Parade; we provided the color guard for the State of the LTI address and Mr. Cavalier night; and we assigned other cadets to assist at other school functions like the 8th Grade Parent's Night, the Winter Concert, and the Fashion Show.

We participated in Patuxent HS Drill Meet in January where we earned 2nd place in standard drill without arms and inspection. In February, we traveled to just outside Ocean City, MD to the

Decatur HS Drill Meet. Our streak of success was clipped but we learned we had much work to do because we were about to compete with the best in all of Area FIVE. Area FIVE is the Navy designation for all the Navy JROTC units in the states of Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia. The Area FIVE Drill & Field Meet is an invitational meet, where 14 of the top NJROTC Units compete. You can imagine our happiness when they called us for first place for drill with arms and second place for drill without arms. For the rest of the events we were never far from the top.

The drill team had little time to catch our breaths before we were off to our next drill competition, sadly the last for the seniors, at Gaithersburg HS. We took home a First Place trophy for Drill with arms and a Third Place Overall trophy. Also we had a cadet (yours truly) make it into the top ten for knock out drill (sort of like the game "Simon Says" with drill movements). It was a great day.

While the Drill Team was Marching at Gaithersburg High School, the Athletic Team was playing hard at Patuxent High School in their Annual Volley Ball Tournament. After our poor showing last year, we returned with a fire burning brightly in our hearts for a trophy. That fire led us to a Third Place Trophy. Six trophies in two weeks! Go Kennedy NJROTC!!!

We started our air rifle team this year led by Senior Chief Petty Officer Christia Panizales. The team participated in both postal and shoulder-to-shoulder matches. Our team put in many long hours honing their skills. It paid off when we placed third at the Area FIVE meet in the novice division.

It has been an outstanding year for us. We still have our three-day trip to the Norfolk Naval Complex where the cadets will visit ships, aircraft, and play in some simulators. We have our final culminating activity and our annual NJROTC ball. As Commanding Officer, I would like to express how proud I am of each cadet and how we have performed as a unit. We accomplished a lot this year:

CONGRATS NJROTC!!! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!

By Lieutenant Commander Alicia Rodriguez



CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY UPDATE

The Cambridge Academy is happy to report that we have had six more teachers trained in various subjects in preparation for the incoming freshman class. This brings our total number of teachers trained to 14. We expect to have another 4 to 5 trained in the summer or fall. We are preparing curriculum for the Cambridge Connections link, a challenging higher order thinking skills class that is essential for all Cambridge Academy students to complete. This course encompasses problem solving in humanities and mathematics and critical thinking skills for all courses. Students will have a better understanding of the Cambridge style of questioning and examination process after completing this course.

We are in the midst of enrollment for the academy and are planning parent meetings to address topics of student summer preparation and material lists. The Cambridge Academy is planning with Montgomery College educational field experiences including auditing a Montgomery College class and attending cultural activities. This is an exciting time for us as Cambridge Academy instructors. We look forward to working with the incoming Cambridge Academy students. 📖

*Jennifer M. Petering
Cambridge Academy Head*

The Engineering Technology Challenge was held on March 26, 2004. There were 39 teams representing seven High schools. (Blair, Damascus, Edison, Kennedy, Paint Branch, Richard Montgomery, and Sherwood)

The Freshman LTI Teams from Kennedy captured all three first place awards, two second place, and one third place award. In the category of "One Thing Leads To Another" The First place winner was the Paradise Park Team with participants: Naomi Kling, Alex Chin-Lee, Rod Tamanaha, Steven Lee, Ross Barthold, and Jason Lee.

The Second place winner was the Time-Out Team with participants: Genniee Wilkinson, Leigh Brandt, Lilli Pham, KanoKphan Rattanawatkul, Missy Bethke, and Laura Becker. The third place winner was the Jerzey Gurlz Team with participants: Mollie Shore, Kaley Howard, Brittney Givens, Jenna Gang, Ahslee Payne, and Ebony Nicholson.

In the category of "Peak Performance", the first place winners were Kennedy's Kids in Black Team with participants: Jade Walden, Annie Drury, Loan Dong Tiara Kennedy, David Soncrant, and Anthony Riddick. The Second place winner was the Mushroom Kingdom Team with participants: Rosana Espinoza, Vivian Yohannes, Sara Lee, Daniel Castilla, Teddy Wescott, and Nyakeh Nyaley. Third place went to Paint Branch High School.

In the category of "Hydrobots", Kennedy took first place with the winner team, Cafe' Delizioso with participants: Esther Lee, Vaidehi Patel, Mandy Pazouki, Julia Bernstein, Ada Grillakis, and Christine Khouri. Second and third place went to Paint Branch High School.

In an exciting finals match against Paint Branch, Kennedy's "The All-Stars Team" led by Oliver Wong, Prashant Rao, Grace Park, John O'Donnell and Hieu Nguyen were able to hold off Paint Branch and bring home "The Stanley Hydrobot" trophy. Kennedy will keep this trophy for one year. Next year we will return the Trophy and must defend the rights to continue to house it at JFK. A tradition started in 2002, the Kennedy Cavaliers were the first to win the 2002 Championship, the Paint Branch Panthers won in 2003 and now the Kennedy Cavaliers are the 2004 champions again!

LTI Sophomore's Show, "We've Got the Power"

One March 17, 2004, the John F. Kennedy High School LTI hosted its annual Women in Leadership Conference, "Super Women: We've got the Power!" Each year LTI sophomores must organize and plan the conference, which is used as an educational tool to inspire students to succeed by hearing the success stories of others. The conference allows an alternative to traditional classroom learning and provides students with an opportunity to recognize and learn about prominent female leaders. The sophomores must organize the entire conference themselves from booking speakers to publicizing the event. The conference includes short speeches from each speaker about their path to success and concludes with a reception to honor the guests and to facilitate informal dialogue. Speakers from many different professions were asked to speak at the conference so that the student body, made up of students with a variety of career interests, can identify with the speakers. Speakers for this year included: Allison Moore, Chief Information Officer for Montgomery County; Angela Davis, Professor of Law, American University; Annette Brieger; German television/ZDF; Carole Working, Administrator for Montgomery County, JFK; and Janet Nettles, Mortgage Loan Officer.

LTI Seniors Internship Updates

As part of the final LTI curriculum, each senior is required to seek an internship to prepare for life beyond high school. While many seniors choose the option to complete their internship requirement during the summer, a large number of students choose to take two or three periods during this second semester to fulfill the minimum 15 hours per week.

Yiana Siders interns in the LTI office at JFK as the LTI secretary. In the field of education, Elisa Lee, Samantha Klinger, and Tiffany Thomas intern at Glenallan Elementary School, Emily Frizzell at St. Charles School in Arlington, Virginia., and Rana Rabie, Stefanie Caicedo and Corey Love at Bel Pre Elementary School. Martin Stevenson works with band students at Argyle Middle School, Alicia Rodriguez works at Grafton School, and Paola Gonzales is at the Academy for Education and Development

In the field of medicine, Annie Phung interns at the Smiley Dental Care office.

Azita Adli interns at the Potomac Dental Group as an assistant. Angela Schaefer is a physical therapist aide at James Clarke Physical Therapy. Muriel Langley is a volunteer in the nursing department at Montgomery General Hospital. May Nguay interns on the Clinical Brain Disorder Branch at NIH-NIMH and Michelle Allen interns at Montgomery General Hospital. Taylor Jessamy interns at the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services, Nidhi Juneja at the Forest Glen Medical Center, Jamie Rich at the Chesapeake Physical and Aquatic Therapy, and Joshua Josephson with the Sports Medicine and Management Academy at JFK

In the field of science, Morgan Young and Amanda Silva both intern at the Maneuvering and Control Unit while Anikka Ahmed works with ceramic analysis at the Naval Surface Warfare Center. DiAundra Davis is the Physics Trainee at NIST, testing airplane security.

In the field of law and public service, Kashi Johnson and Samantha Amoonarquah are law interns at the Rosalind Ray Attorney At Law office. Lissan Yard interns at the law offices of Lulit as a legal assistant. Ashley Ray deals with 1099 forms, faxes, and provided papers for clients at the offices of Rubloff and Moffett. Anitha Vemury is the student representative on the Democratic executive board for the District 19. Christia Panizales is a Montgomery County Police intern.

In the field of public relations and communications, Mark Starr is a Brookside Garden assistant. Jing-fei Chen and Issara Pimpawathin intern at the Allworld Language Consultants, Inc. Boyd Tamanaha interns as the secretary for the International Language Institutes. Romeo Hillman interns at the Aspenwood Senior Living Community. Dominique Williams interns in the circulation, advertisement and editorial department for the Bowie Blade News. Mandy Tith interns at the Izak Walter Organization, Eman El-Kabli at the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Kristy Irvine at the Accuracy in Media organization, Ben Cripps at the Aspen Hill Library, and Christina Allen at Buntersville Childway. Kimberly Blackmon was an office assistant at Ceiling and Partition Inc. Guy Shemtov is the computer technician at Fitzgerald Auto. Blair Amos is an artist at the Backyard Workshop. Andy Rivera is an apprentice at J&G Auto Repair and Sandra Vuong interns with Brainbox Television. ❖



THE ACADEMIES AT
John F. Kennedy

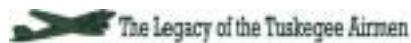
Academy Coordinator

Ms. Ruth Green
1901 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, MD 20908
301.929.2100

MediaCom Academy

Flying with the Tuskegee Airmen

One of the hallmarks of the MediaCom Academy at Kennedy is integrating technology rich experiences into daily instruction. The MediaCom Team sponsored the Tuskegee Airmen Essay Contest in conjunction with MCPS Instructional Television. Ninth grade students participated in Socratic Seminars on the airmen researched the



history of the airmen using an online research tool and finally wrote essays describing these brave African Americans' legacy. Winners of the contest received prizes including Comcast



Study Packs, a trip to meet and interview the real airmen for an upcoming MCPS TV show and even a free flight lesson from TuskegeeAirmen.org.

Winners:

Munachimso Okoji, Laetitia Kabasele, Charles Zulu, and Ivan Bachabi

Runner Ups:

Ryan Harper, Jessie Morrison, and Derriquee Newsome

"Kennedy Offline in Video Battle Royal"

The 48 Hour Film Project is the hottest new filmmaking experience in the country; it combines film and video production in a survivor-like setting.

Filmmaking teams come together and have only 48 hours to produce a movie from scratch. This year more than 300 teams in 12 cities will compete to see who can make the "Best Short Film in 48 Hours." Kennedy Offline, a team of students from JFK, will make their directorial debut in May in this no-holds-barred battle of the cameras. Go team!

MediaCom Highlights:

The MediaCom Planning Team's number one goal is to make all learning experiences authentic. Check out these highlights from MediaCom classes.

- TV Production Classes participated in the MCPS Media Festival at the American Film Institutes Silver Theater.

- Vernon Loeb, a former Washington Post reporter, now an editor at the Los Angeles Times, talked with Kennedy students about his month long stay in Iraq. Thanks to Ms Greer, of the MediaCom team, for putting together this fascinating dialogue.

- Digital Art students visited EEI Communications, a MediaCom Business Partner, for a free interactive MultiMedia Experience. Students created websites using the latest technology.

- Plans are in the works to bring Nelson Ginebra, a producer for MCPS Instructional Television, to run a lighting workshop for TV Production students. **✦**

Carrie Anne D'Amour
MediaCom Academy Head
www.msdamour.com

Academy of Sports Medicine & Management

The Cavalier Academy of Sports Medicine and Management is just beginning to develop, but is building upon a strong foundation. This year's class of primarily juniors and seniors has begun a tradition of excellence and hard work. The academy focuses on actions that benefit the athletic department. Students also study current events in amateur and professional sports and study medicine to help prevent and treat injuries.

The Introduction to Sports Medicine and Management class has been an exciting experience. The first semester was dedicated mostly to medicine. Students learned about the different body systems, the various injuries that athletes might suffer from playing sports, and how to treat and rehabilitate these injuries. The class discussed how to improve the school's training room, had a physical therapist speak to the class about injuries and rehabilitation, and created committees to oversee promotions for fall and winter sports. Students also had to complete a project in which they created an ideal athletic department. The second semester has been dedicated to analyzing current events, relating them back to our school, and teaching more managerial skills. Students have debated whether high school basketball players should jump to the professional ranks, and if Kobe Bryant's actions warrant the struggle he has come to face. Students have also discussed the events concerning the University of Colorado football program, steroids in baseball, and how young is too young for athletes. They have completed projects on creating promotional profiles for each spring sport and possible sponsors for each sport, and on upgrading our training room. During each athletic season, students have been required to work during home athletic events. For example, during basketball season students had to show up an hour early before the game, help the athletic director set up, complete one of a variety of tasks during the game, and help clean up after the game ended.

Although the Cavalier Academy of Sports Medicine and Management has accomplished a lot in its first year, it looks to expand in number and ideas. Next year's class will continue the fresh tradition of excellence and hard work. **✦**

Written by Josh Josephson
Sports Medicine & Management Intern

John F. Kennedy High School PTSA

1901 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902

www.jfkavcs.com

The Next PTSA Meeting is Tuesday May 18, 2004 at 7 p.m.

Your support pays for this newsletter! Become a member today!

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PLEASE PRINT. PLEASE SEND THIS APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT TO THE MAIN OFFICE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PARENT/GUARDIAN/FACULTY NAME(S)

PARENT/GUARDIAN/FACULTY NAME(S)

STUDENT NAME(S) & GRADE(S)

STREET ADDRESS

APARTMENT #

CITY

STATE

ZIP

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

PLEASE LIST ANY COMMITTEE(S) IN WHICH YOU MAY BE INTERESTED

DUES

Individual.....\$15.00

Family\$25.00

Family\$50.00

(Includes a Kennedy Cavalier Polo Shirt)

Subtotal:

DONATIONS

\$10.00 \$40.00

\$20.00 \$50.00

\$30.00 Other

Subtotal:

Dues & Donations Total:

FORM OF PAYMENT

Cash

Check # _____

THANK YOU!