

KAIRS Today October/November 2008

Welcome!

This is the monthly electronic newsletter of the Kansas Association of Religious and Independent Schools (KAIRS). *KAIRS Today* is sent as a service to KAIRS members across Kansas. Each issue will also be available on the KAIRS Web site at <http://www.kairs.org/>.

Our goal is to keep you informed about legislative, regulatory and national news, and educational issues. Contact Corey Reese, editor, with questions or concerns – crkairs@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER ISSUE:

1. VIDEO WEB MAIL WELCOME FROM KAIRS PRESIDENT
2. NOV 5 KAIRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - INVITATION
3. DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AND HALL OF FAME NOMINEES
4. KNCA MEETING, OCTOBER 8 SUMMARY
5. KIDS FOR WISH KIDS
6. IMPORTANT 2008-09 DATES
7. KAIRS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2008-09

VIDEO WEB MAIL WELCOME FROM KAIRS PRESIDENT

Greetings to all KAIRS members from KAIRS President, Dr. Nick Compagnone – but for the first time, you can see and hear him via a video link.

To access this link, please paste in the following link into your browser and a message from Dr. Nick will appear via SightSpeed. Please try it out! (Please be sure to copy and paste the entire link.)

http://app.sightspeed.com/current/viewmedia.php?euid=kclg&mid=x3q9f5ttd4nx96sqm2yt214ycc1x4yy1&refid=1&locale=en_US

NOV 5 KAIRS GENERAL MEETING - INVITATION

Next Wednesday, November 5, the KAIRS Executive Committee will meet at 10 am in Wichita at the Catholic Diocese offices. The Executive Committee would like to invite the membership to “drop in” via the Internet and listen – or contribute – to the meeting. You can stay for a few minutes or the entire meeting.

In the future, the goal is to make all KAIRS meetings available via the Internet. All you need is to load the software onto your computer and log in. You will be able to see the meeting and if you have a microphone, you can talk to the participants. If you would like

to be seen by the meeting attendees, you will need a camera on your computer – but it's not necessary.

It's really very simple – so if you have a few minutes between 10 and 12 next Wednesday, please contact Bob D'Andrea prior to the meeting and he will instruct you. Bob's email is bob@sacredheartknights.org.

Agenda

- Dr. Eddie Krenson: AdvancED, Senior Vice President, Nonpublic School Services, Follow up KNCA Discussion
- KAIRS Annual Meeting Issues
- Theme: Mission and Money
- Recruitment- New Schools
- Webinars- Using Technology for future meetings

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AND HALL OF FAME NOMINEES

Please submit all nominees for the 2009 Distinguished Teachers and Hall of Fame. This is one of the highlights of our year, so please submit your nominees.

November 3: ACSI and Independent school's nominations due to Shelli.

November 3: Hall of Fame nominees due to Shelli Kadel.

(note: this is a change so please send your nominees to Shelli)

December 1: Catholic and Lutheran Schools nominees due to Shelli (kadelshelli@juno.com).

Nominations from Catholic Diocese and Lutheran schools go directly to the appropriate Superintendents or Executive Director.

Please return form to:

Shelli Kadel, Head of School, Wichita Friends School

Forms are available for downloading on our website: www.kairs.org.

KNCA MEETING, OCTOBER 8 SUMMARY

(Note: This was a discussion held at an additional meeting arranged after the two-day KNCA conference. It was designed specifically with KAIRS members in mind. Thanks to Shelli Kadel, Head of School, Wichita Friends, and KAIRS Board member for her notes.)

During the NCA State meetings, KAIRS met with Dr. Eddie Krenson, AdvancedEd National Representative. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible options for KAIRS as we move forward with the proposal to the State of Kansas to recognize alternative accreditation models.

Dr. Krenson pledged the support and resources of the AdvancedEd organization. He stated that they would go with us to the State Department of Education to help establish KAIRS as the conduit or whatever is needed. Dr. Krenson encouraged us to consider emphasizing the economic advantage to the State to adopt our model.

Discussion was held about various accrediting models represented in KAIRS and which approach would be most advantageous; AdvancedEd, or KAIRS as the agency working with the State, and working through various accrediting models used by our different schools. Dr. Krenson thought that KAIRS might be more responsive than NCA to the individual needs of our particular schools. He did state that AdvancedEd is currently working to bring commonality to all the accrediting agencies with which they are associated; SAIS, ISAACS, SACS, just to name a few. Dr. Krenson recommended that we move now before some of this becomes set, because once it is established, it will be harder to compromise with other accrediting agency processes. Again, he emphasized his organization's readiness to deliver support to KAIRS.

Nick Compagnone expressed the opinion that it might be better to wait until after the election. After we see the make-up of the new school board, we might know better how to take action.

One Possible Model: Schools belong to KAIRS. KAIRS could negotiate with the state, and all the accrediting bodies of our various schools.

Another Model: If you are a member of KAIRS and are following the AdvancedEd model, you would have state accreditation. For the two data pieces, one could be state tests, but would not have to be.

The discussion turned to the question of opting out of particular pieces of State accreditation requirements. They were: Kids Count, State assessments, and Mentoring at a state school.

We clarified the advantage of state accreditation for Dr. Krenson. The value of accreditation would be to allow our teachers to qualify for state licensure and for our high school seniors to be qualified for state college entrance.

KIDS FOR WISH KIDS

Editor's Note: Katie Hill, (daughter of Bunny Hill, Assistant Head of School at Wichita Collegiate) asked to send out the following letter (and attached brochure) on behalf of the Make A Wish Foundation to our member schools. As is our policy when outside organizations request our mailing list – which we do not give out – the KAIRS Executive

Committee reviewed the material and elected to pass it along to our members in this *KAIRS Today*. While KAIRS is not specifically endorsing this organization, it would like to give our members the opportunity to review the material and act on it as each school sees fit. Katie's letter follows:

Dear Principal,

As the daughter of a school principal, I have grown up watching and learning the complex and overwhelming task of preparing a child for life. It is not just arranging schedules, working with teachers, and making sure the children learn the required material. I know firsthand that educators have a heartfelt goal of instilling in their students the importance of philanthropy and compassion for others.

Make-A-Wish Foundation can help you achieve your goals

At the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Kansas, we have a special project we would love to invite your school to participate in called KIDS FOR WISH KIDS. This unique project allows students to form committees and use their creativity, leadership, teamwork, compassion and imagination to create a fundraiser to help the Make-A-Wish Foundation raise money to help a sick child receive strength and hope from other children.

Our Wish Kids

Every child has the inalienable right to enjoy life and savor simple pleasures. However, children who face life-threatening illnesses spend their days in doctors' offices, hospitals, and treatment centers instead of on playgrounds with their friends. Your students' fundraising efforts will help us give each suffering child one wish. While doctors provide the medicine, your students and the Make-A-Wish Foundation can provide the magic it takes to inspire hope and happiness in a child.

Imagine the Possibilities

You will be amazed by the leadership and enthusiasm of your students for this project. Regardless of the amount of money they raise, they will learn that helping others is fun and rewarding—that is our main priority. You will be amazed at what teamwork between the students and their teachers can produce. Munson Primary in Mulvane, Kansas raised over \$2,500 last year alone! Imagine what your students can do.

Mentoring Continues Forever

This special project will be run by me, Katie Hill, under the supervision of Lori Stone. Lori is the Special Events and Communications Manager for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Kansas, and she is teaching me how to help others this semester. She is doing just what we hope for you to do! She is supervising me, guiding me, and giving me all of the resources that I need to successfully run the KIDS FOR WISH KIDS program. She is also willing to work directly with any of you, as am I.

Let's Get Started!

Now that you have some basic information (brochure included), we would love to help you take it to the next level. If you are interested in participating at all during this year, please contact us!

LORI— LStone@kansas.wish.org, Make A Wish #- 316-838-9474

KATIE— Khill@kansas.wish.org, Make A Wish #- 316-838-9474

Let's work together to create compassionate leaders of tomorrow,

Katie Hill and Lori Stone

Intern and Special Events and Communications Manager

IMPORTANT 2008-09 DATES

November 3: Nominations due for KAIRS Distinguished Teachers and Hall of Fame nominees.

November 5: KAIRS Executive Committee Meeting

February 9, 10: KAIRS Annual Meeting, Topeka

KAIRS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2008-09

President: Nick Compagnone, Salina Catholic Diocese

Vice President: Terry Tilson, Head of School, Berean Academy

Treasurer: Holly Goodwin, Assistant Superintendent, Wichita Diocese

Annual Meeting Secretary: Shelli Kadel, Wichita Friends School

Member-at-Large, Lutheran Representative: Neal Kurtz, Principal
Linn Lutheran School,

Staff: Corey Reese, Communications Director
crkairs@yahoo.com