

KHASA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011

www.khasa.ca

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BOTTLE RETURN PROJECT

Mme Nicolson's class has headed Keating's Environmental Ambassador Team for 3-4 years now (thanks!) with her students emptying the classroom composts biweekly and collecting recyclable beverage containers. This Team has noticed a need for new composters at the school. The composters we need cost \$400 each, with 2 required for a school of this size. The composters will be relocated to an area on the school grounds where a concrete pad will be laid and the area fenced to serve as a secure and self-contained recycling centre as well, housing all of our Green Initiatives in one place. Mme Nicolson has found a competition through *Encorp Return It* for Elementary Schools with 1st, 2nd and 3rd cash prizes that will be matched by Encorp. Third prize alone is \$500 that would be matched, which means we have a chance at winning \$1000 to be used for Keating's Green Initiatives.

Elementary School Program

“Encorp has developed a program to encourage the recycling of containers. Refunded money can be used for school fundraising opportunities. Based on our pilot program in the Burnaby School District, we have determined that an average elementary school can raise approximately \$50 - \$100 a month. This program does not cost you anything, and your school will receive a full deposit refund on all of the Encorp containers you collect.”

<http://www.return-it.ca/elementaryprogram/>

Our first collection is happening right now until Thursday, November 3rd! Kelset won first prize last year, so let's pull together Keating and bring those bottles in! Drop off is 8:15-9:00am and 2:15-3:00pm. **If you can help or have any questions please contact the Social Responsibility Committee: Nicole Bains (mnbains@shaw.ca) or Heather van Campen (vcfam@hotmail.com).**

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

At the KHASA General Meeting in October, parents in attendance voted that funds raised from the Keating Spring Fair 2012 would be allocated for playground equipment and enhancement. Historically in School District 63, playgrounds are the financial responsibility of Parent Advisory Councils (Keating Home and School Association, here at Keating). The current playgrounds were installed over 15 years ago, and are slowly disappearing as they age and become unsafe to play on. KHASA would like to form a Playground Committee to discuss/plan long/short term financial strategies to make our playground accessible for all children and then present options to the KHASA General Meeting. The date of the first meeting will be announced soon, through the school. If you are interested on being a part of the committee please contact Nicole Bains @ mnbains@shaw.ca or 250-652-3983, so we can take your schedule in to consideration for the time and date. We will need parents of older and younger children, to share the history and to look forward to the future. Playgrounds generally take a lot of financial and logistical planning and could take 5-8 years to see all of the stages complete.

SCHOOL PLANNING COUNCIL

Thank you to all candidates who took the time to consider a position on the SPC and submit their names. It was exciting to have so many wonderful people step up and to have a meaningful election. The new Council for this year consists of Andrew Bowler, Heather van Campen, and Erin Lumley.

PARENT VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR

Parent volunteer needed to co-ordinate volunteers. If this may be of interest to you, please email khasa63@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING

Good news! The SaveAround Victoria coupon books raised \$2662.50, and \$892.50 was raised through the sales of Vesey's Flower Bulbs --- great job by the Keating community! Thank you to everyone who participated.

Next fundraising deadline is November 16 for:

- **Purdy's Chocolates** (submit your order online at www.purdysgpp.com and use Group Number 23520)
- **Poinsettias** (see order form that was sent home)

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Last spring, parents present at the KHASA General Meeting voted to spend \$14,994.13 from funds raised at Keating's 2010 Spring Fair on the installation and purchase of 19 media projectors in classrooms and the purchase of 3 document cameras. Such technological improvements are in use at other schools like Bayside and Kelset. KHASA would like to thank our Spring Fair 2010 volunteers for making this possible.

ROAD SAFETY

Please remember that it is **illegal** to text/check messages/etc. on your iPhone (or other hand held device) even when stopped at a traffic light. Let's keep the safety of our Keating kids the number one priority on the roads --- whether you are driving to and from the school or have volunteered to drive on a field trip! For more details visit http://www.icbc.com/faqs/road_safetyfaqs and click on "Cellphones and driver distractions".

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 17 – KHASA Education Evening

Friday, November 25 – Hot Lunch (volunteers always welcome)

Saturday, November 26 – Celebration of Life for Marilyn Pinder