

KSD UPDATE

January, 2012

Dear Parents and Patrons of the Kimberly School District,

Happy New Year to all! Although we start a new calendar year, our school year is not quite at the half-way mark, and already our students have been recognized for many accomplishments, in addition to their daily learning. Our FFA team placed 5th in Food Science at the National FFA Convention. The third grade choir was featured on the KMVT Christmas special. Our Gifted and Talented Team placed second in the state at the Robotics Competition in Moscow. The debate team has won numerous awards. The Christmas concerts were outstanding and our sports teams have made us proud with their victories, athletic skill and good sportsmanship.

Perhaps, **most exciting was the \$100,000 award to Kimberly High School** from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation in the Go On Challenge for increasing the number of students taking upper division math and science classes. The purpose of the Challenge was to initiate or expand high school programs that assist and encourage students to Go On to post high school education. With direction from staff, students and parents, a plan will be developed on how to use these grant dollars to continue the Go On programs.

On March 13, **patrons of the Kimberly School District will be asked to renew the current \$300,000 supplemental levy.** The school district has relied on a supplemental levy for the last seven years as part of the operating budget. Without passage of this levy, \$300,000 will have to be eliminated on the expenditure side of the ledger. Please let me know if you are willing to serve on the Levy Committee.

As you know, for the past two years education funding from the state has been reduced and another reduction of 4.05% in state base support is part of the school reform legislation now being implemented. This amounts to about \$200,000 for the Kimberly School District next year. Some legislators indicate that this reduction will not be necessary as the economy is recovering. Others believe that the law as written will stay in place and any additional revenue will be used to replenish the state rainy day funds. Another financial concern is replacing the one-time federal funds that are currently part of the school budget.

A Community Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on February 8 in the Middle School Commons to provide additional information and an opportunity for community input on school issues. After a brief presentation on the State of the School, we will break into discussion groups to address the following issues:

1. Supplemental levy and the long range plan for the school district
2. Discussion on how best to use the \$100,000 to help students Go On
3. Current and proposed technology in the classrooms
4. Summer STEM Day Camp for students in grades four to twelve
(STEM is integrating science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the curriculum)

If you have suggestions of other topics that should be explored, please let me know.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Kimberly School District. Checking our website www.kimberly.edu will keep you up-to-date on what's going on in your Kimberly Schools.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Noh, Superintendent
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