

# News of the Stars

A Newsletter of shining stars of Kauri Sue Hamilton School

## Principals Message

As we began the school year with so much uncertainty, my mantra was “I Got This!” I felt the weight of the world on my shoulders as I was trying to make the right decisions for everyone at Kauri Sue - Students, staff, and families. A phrase I have used with my own children for years, and one I have heard often this year, “we can do hard things” stuck out to me as I was frequently reminded of this by my own children when they could see it had been a rough day for me or as I was working into the night. I have never felt as many emotions as I did this year. I have been scared. Tired. Worried. Grateful. Protective. So many things. I was supported by many and ridiculed by others. But above everything else, I have been a champion for all. So, when tomorrow brings a new skill learned, a spontaneous smile, a choice being made, a new vocalization, a routine being followed or a challenge faced. I will continue to be a champion for all.

We made it! The final month of our KSHS 2020-2021 school year has arrived. May has historically been a time for culminating events, performances, field day, classroom field trips, graduation, and boundless energy. While this year has looked a little different, all staff have been committed to providing as much fun, recognition, and closure as possible given the reality we are living in. As we are nearing the end of the school year, we’re preparing for the great activities yet to come. We have so much to look forward to during the month of May. We celebrate all that we have accomplished this school year. We have completed Spring Fling filming. It was a success and we can’t wait to share that with families. We have started end of year testing. We look forward to celebrating our staff this month for all their hard work on behalf of your children. We also look forward to celebrating our graduates and retirees.

As we each anticipate this busy month, let’s remind ourselves to take time and re-discover the many moments which brought joy and grace into our lives this year. I’ve been so fortunate to experience these precious moments with your children over this past year. For that I am so very grateful. School is not over yet, so we need to keep schedules and structure consistent as much as possible to end the year strong. I want to thank staff, parents and caregivers for your support and help throughout the year.

We got this!

*Courtney Titus*  
*Principal*

## Music Corner

### Spring Fling Update:

We are so excited for you to see our students in this year's production of Sing for our annual Spring Fling. I've already watched the movie at least a dozen times, but there's something new that makes me smile each time I watch it. Thanks for sharing the joy your students bring each day. All 213 of our students have such unique personalities, and I love getting to spot each of them come across in the movie. It makes the hours and hours spent behind the computer screen editing totally worth it! You will be emailed a link to watch the show after we watch the show with our students on May 13th.

Thanks again to everyone who helped out in this year's Spring Fling. We hope you enjoy the show!

Cassie Bringhurst  
Music Therapist



## School Climate Survey Deadline approaching

School culture is something that is important to build and improve upon. Here is a letter and link to the School Climate Survey. We would love to have more responses, so please take a minute to use this link below .

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We want to hear about your experience with your student's education. We invite you to participate in completing the Utah School Climate Survey from the Utah State Board of Education. This survey includes questions about your student's learning, school safety, and interpersonal relationships, as well as your attitudes about the institutional environment and your personal involvement in school. Your responses will be very helpful in improving student relationships, learning conditions, and the overall school environment.

We invite all parents, guardians and caretakers to complete this survey. We ask that you please take this survey for each school at which you have one or more students enrolled. The survey is completely confidential and brief; it will take about six minutes to complete. **Please submit your responses by May 7, 2021.**

Survey results will only be reported as group responses. There are no right or wrong answers. We just want to know about your personal experiences. Responses are housed securely in an anonymous format with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) for evaluation research purposes. All evaluation research projects are in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, (343 CFR 99.31 (6)) and human subjects regulations (Protection of Human Subjects 45 CFR 46).

As you respond to each item, think about your own personal experiences as a parent, caregiver or guardian at your student's school. Please answer all of the questions.

We hope you will take the time to provide us with this valuable information. Each school's total survey results will be used to inform and develop appropriate strategies, procedures, and/or programs to enhance our school climate.

The link to complete the survey is below:

[Utah's School Climate Survey](#)

If you have questions about this survey, please contact Ben Jameson, Director of Evaluation, Research & Accountability, at [ben.jameson@jordandistrict.org](mailto:ben.jameson@jordandistrict.org).

Thank you for your time and participation!

## Important dates coming up

**Friday May 7th**

**Friday May 7th**

**Sunday May 9th**

**Friday May 28th**

**Monday May 31st**

**Friday June 4th**

**School Climate Survey Due**

**Bike to Work Day**

**Mothers Day**

**Graduation**

**Memorial Day Recess**

**Last day of school (virtual)**

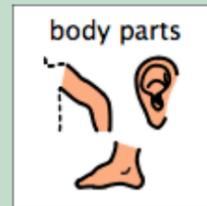
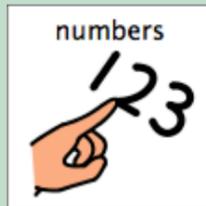
## Speech and Communication

Our Speech Department has teamed up with our SMAC teacher, Korbi, to bring students' communication skills into the world of science and math. Oftentimes, our students struggle with generalizing skills. Maybe they can use their voice to provide answers to structured questions (e.g. during a math lesson to say  $1+1=2$ ) but they may not realize they can use that language in other activities such as during a science lesson to answer, "How many eyes does a bee have?" (the answer is five!). We may also forget how unexpectedly helpful words can be in other settings. For instance, I once had a student who didn't have a word for "bubbles" but we were talking about colors and he insisted on saying, "pink" which turned out to be the color of the bottle of bubbles! Take time this month to figure out how your student communicates numbers, colors, and body parts.

Next, we will be talking about farm animals. Springtime is a great chance to talk about all the baby animals being born and how they look, sound, or move. We will help the students use attributes to match them to their parents. Are the animals 'big' or 'little'? Are they the 'same' or 'different'? What color are they?

Finally, we will be ready to talk about the routine of SWIMMING! You can talk about the actions they do such as getting changed, walking/jumping in, or getting out. You can talk about all the things you use (i.e. swimsuit, towel, lifejacket). We'll be ready for a summer of fun!!

# Get Ready with Words



## Nurses Update

Summertime is coming with the sun and heat and the need to protect the children from too much sun and dehydration. Listed below are some of the most useful ways to protect children (and yourself) from overexposure to the sun and dehydration.

- Avoid exposure to the sun between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM (or use sunscreen).
- Stay in the shade if possible.
- The best protection from sunburn is covering up. Wear cotton clothing with a tight weave.
- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes (a wide brimmed hat will help too).
- Use a sunscreen with a SPF rating of 30 or greater.
- Make sure you reapply your sunscreen every two hours and after swimming or sweating.
- Never use baby oil, mineral oil or cocoa butter in the sun.
- If you wear bright colors or white – the sun will reflect onto your face and increase the risk of sunburn.
- Be especially careful around water and sand because the sun's rays reflect off the water and increase your risk of sunburn.
- well hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids before, during and after an activity and reduce the intensity and duration of activities.

Have fun in the sun in a safe and healthy way!

## Sensory Spotlight

Tips for addressing vocal (or other) stimming

Individuals engage in self-stimulatory behavior for a variety of reasons. In persons with autism, self-stimulatory behavior may:

- Provide internal pleasure,
- Help them cope with stressors in the environment,
- Enhance their focus or
- Help them express their emotions.

Vocal stimulation is often a fun rhythmic pattern that is fun to produce, listen to, and feel. It is predictable and easy for the child to control.

Generally, interventions to reduce or eliminate stereotypical behaviors should be used only if these stims interfere with learning, community inclusion, or are dangerous to themselves or the people around them

### **Before trying to manage the behavior you may first want to follow these steps**

- **Assess:** It is important to first assess the function of the behavior and situations/events that may trigger more intense self-stimulatory behavior.
- **Vocal and/or motor self-stimulatory behaviors** sometimes interfere in learning or community inclusion. Finding a competing replacement behavior or a less obvious behavior which serves the same function(s) will limit interference of such behaviors.

When planning a competing replacement behavior take into consideration your child & age, if he/she can follow simple instructions and can imitate to a certain degree.

- **Process:** Try to determine the possible function of the vocal and hand stimming by conducting observations of different situations or noting when/where the behavior occurs the most and what may be possible to change in the environment.

### **Some general strategies to use to limit the behavior or stim**

You don't have to stop the behavior, just teach when and where it is appropriate.

- 1) Make a few rules around engaging in vocal stim. You might want to write a social story around when it is appropriate and when it is not. Make sure to acknowledge and validate the importance the stimming has for the child, while teaching him when and where it is appropriate.
- 2) Review these rules frequently, especially before entering into events where vocal stim is not acceptable. Let him know when it is not acceptable, but also when and where it will be allowable. If the setting, or activity, has a place and time for which the child can engage in the stimming, then review that with him.
- 3) When entering stressful situations, if the vocal stimming is used to either mask or avoid stimulation, or to cope with being overwhelmed, then identify a safe area where the child can go to stim and regroup as needed. By being aware of your child's state of being, and whether the vocalizing is for fun or coping with stress. Respect the need behind the stimulation before trying to suppress it.
- 4) Address the child's emotions. If your child is stimming because of their feelings, then try to identify that feeling and respond to it appropriately. Think of emotional stimming like a facial expression—it is a way for them to express something. Here is an example of how to respond; Well, you look excited today! Are you flapping because you're excited to see Grandma?

This information was found on the website [theowlhousegoa.org](http://theowlhousegoa.org)

## HEALTH SERVICES

[nichole.conk@jordandistrict.org](mailto:nichole.conk@jordandistrict.org)

(801)567-8508



- Due to the Covid-19 emergency, ACA (Affordable Care Act) has extended their Special Enrollment Period through August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021! If you have been impacted and need insurance you may qualify for Premium Tax Credits and Cost-Sharing Reductions.
- H.E.A.T. (Home Energy Assistance Target) is assistance with your utility bills. UCA is accepting applications year round. You can apply once in a season. Income limits apply, call us for details.

Do you need information on?

- ❖ Medicaid
- ❖ Disability Medicaid
- ❖ Medicaid Expansion
  - ❖ CHIP
  - ❖ SNAP
- ❖ Guardianship
  - ❖ SSI
  - ❖ DSPD

Health Services can help, call us today!

(801)567-8508 ~ Monday-Friday ~ 8:00am-3:30pm

