From: K-Kids

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March 2014 Advisor Newsletter

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Contest entries due April 1

It's contest time for K-Kids members, a great time for students to get involved, show their special talents and, especially, grow in areas beyond their comfort zone. K-Kids have awards for writers, speakers and artists, and the scrapbook contest is an ideal way to involve every club member in documenting a year in the life of their club. Contest entries and forms are due to district administrators by April 1. First-place winners will then be judged after April 30 by Kiwanis International. Have your students start by considering which contest inspires them. You'll find the contest process, individual requirements, past winners and forms for K-Kids contests online. Contact Lisa Pyron at lpyron@kiwanis.org and 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 168, with questions.

The Family that Serves Together Stays Together

Each year, all members of the Kiwanis family are encouraged to serve together on Kiwanis One Day. This year, Kiwanis One Day is **Saturday, April 5**, so mark your calendars and start planning your projects! The goal of Kiwanis One Day is to team up with as many members of the Kiwanis family as possible to work on a service project. There are no rules or restrictions, so be creative!
Read more.

Save the date for Eliminate Week

K-Kids Eliminate Week is May 5–9! Kiwanis-family clubs around the globe are using this week to focus on raising funds and awareness for The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis' initiative to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Whether your club hosts a penny war or coordinates a week of "spirit days," every K-Kids club, Builders Club, Key Club and Aktion Club is needed to participate. The time to start planning your fundraising project is now, and we've made it easy:

1. A step-by-step guide will help your club plan, implement and celebrate your event.
2. We've outlined simple fundraising ideas to make it easy for you to choose your event.

3. If your club participates, the club is eligible for fundraising recognition and a 2014 Eliminate Week patch.

Check out all of the great resources online: www.KiwanisKids.org/EliminateWeek. And, don't forget to submit the Kiwanis-family giving form with any donation to The Eliminate Project. Every penny counts to make a difference. Every US$1.80 can save or protect a life.

Electing new officers

The school year isn't over quite yet, but it's already time to think about electing new club officers for next year! April is the ideal month to begin the election process. This leaves plenty of time to make a smooth transition from current officers to new ones, which will help your club hit the ground running at the start of next year. **Read more.**

Annual Achievement Reports: easier than ever

Your K-Kids club has done amazing things this year! In less time than ever, you can let us know all about your club's successes. After you've wrapped up your club's activities for the year, use the updated Annual Achievement Report to highlight your club's accomplishments and earn a banner patch. If you run into any issues or have any questions, please contact lpyron@kiwanis.org.

Things to do in April

Finalize plans for Earth Day on April 22, 2014.

- Coordinate an Earth Day celebration using Kiwanis' Read Around the World project. Organize a reading corner during the lunch hour for one week. Ask club members to read books about different environmental issues each day. Volunteer to set up a display in the school library about how to be environmentally aware. Create a list of books about this topic that can be checked out from the library.
- Consider one of these ideas provided by Scholastic to celebrate Earth Day to help K-Kids members understand their impact on the environment.
- Find even more ideas and resources to inspire environmental awareness and action available in Eductopia's Think Green Guide.

Begin planning for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 7–11. Eductopia has a free "How to Thank a Teacher" guide that includes gift ideas (from traditional to digital), tools to crafting the perfect gift and teacher's feedback on the most surprising gift they've received. There is a Spanish version as well.

Use the Member Resource and Activity Book. Have you had a chance to work through the K-Kids Activity Book with your club members? One activity your students might enjoy is a Brain game.

A **brain game** is an introduction to mindfulness. Mindfulness is "The awareness that emerges through paying attention on purpose, in the present moment, without judgment as the experience unfolds moment-by-moment." Take a few moments to lead K-Kids members through the scripted reflections on page 6. Speak softly and slowly. Instruct participants to sit in a chair, with a straight back, feet on the floor, with

palms facing down and resting in the lap.

Reflection exercises help students relax, focus attention and regulate emotion. When a student feels calm he or she is better able to learn. More mindfulness exercises are available here.

Dates and deadlines

April 1	K-Kids contest entries are due.
April 5	Kiwanis One Day
May 5–9	Eliminate Week
May 5–9	Teacher Appreciation Week

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