

King Cross Country

Think Diph~~run~~t

October, 2017

Martin Luther King High is named after a national hero, a man who stood for justice and mercy and righteousness. King challenged and called Americans “to live up to the meaning of our creed, that all men are created equal.” Given the historic context of his times, if there ever was a call to “think different” – that was it!

For those who are not aware, I teach US History here at King, and I’ve always viewed it a distinct honor to teach at a school named after one of my heroes. I’m continually challenged by the example King set, the words he inspired us with and the legacy he left.

For the last 10 years or so, our cross country program has attempted to live in that legacy, motivated by Dr. King’s call to do justice, to practice mercy. Each season we have tried to do one project that aims at rectifying the institutional injustice of poverty and inequality. Back in 2007, we raised \$1000 in a jog-a-thon to dig clean water wells in Africa. We’ve donated a lot of food with our “Banquet Food Drives”. Three seasons ago, an alum who works in a school where she routinely tries to help students who come to school hungry let us know of the need. So, we provided a year’s supply of packaged snack bars and lunch food. Last year, 30 of our students-athletes teamed up with fifth graders at Fremont Elementary to tutor them and provide gifts of inspiration and love for each young person in the class.

We want to continue our efforts this season with at least two projects.

The first will happen next week, as we’ll join efforts with the Riverside Junior League which annually collects diapers for families in need, for those who can’t afford this relatively expensive item of necessity. This is a city-wide drive to create a “diaper bank” for parents who need help. Two leaders of the RJL are teachers here at King and we’d love to come alongside them with the strength of numbers and conviction

So, starting the day after you read this letter and extending for a full week, we will try to collect 75 packages of diapers. Donate what you can, if you can do more than one package, please do! Bring the packages/boxes to my Room, G123. If you’d like to bring them on the October 2 to our Booster Meeting, feel free to do that.

We can do what is right, and standing in the gap for those who need help, is something that Dr. King would have done. We can, and we should!

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES:

Clovis Invitational – Those going on the trip will need to pay the \$125 by October 2.

Parent help needed - We still need some help in the parking lot of the Riverside City Course on several days in which events are happening. This is a solid fundraiser for us, so thank you. Please go to our website and click on the link to sign up.

Booster Club Meeting – Monday, October 2 at 7:00 PM in G123. All parents are welcome!

2nd League Meet - Coming on Wednesday, October 11, this one is hosted by Centennial HS and will be at Prado Park in Chino. Entrance to the park is \$10 per car.

League Finals Moved to November 1 – We are waiting for final confirmation from the Athletic Directors but it looks pretty certain that our Finals will move from October 31 to November 1st.

Fundraising Request – We ask that all families contribute \$125 to meet our financial needs for the season. We have a \$14,000 need and still some way to go before we meet our budget. Please help, thanks!