

book pen smile and dancers



by Rishi Moudgil

When the year of pen pal letter exchanges concludes with K-grams, over 1,000 K-5 pen pals from Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Ypsilanti will be coming to visit you on campus. The K-grams Kids-Fair serves as a way for younger pen pals to learn about our University and also to meet their pen pal. All year long, the younger kids have been anticipating coming to U of M to meet you! We hope that each elementary student will be paired up with a college student(s) throughout the day, whether it is their pen pal or an older "Buddy". With over 200 student groups setting up activities, we are sure that you won't run out of things to do. This event can only be a success when all students, groups, and schools work together to build a wonderful experience for everyone!

## Pen Pal Commitments

by Sara Wilson

Friday, March 17th is going to be the biggest K-grams event of the year -- the Kids-Fair! If you are a pen pal, the commitment is simple yet extremely fulfilling for both you and your pen pal.

All pen pals are strongly encouraged to come to Kids-Fair for the entire day, but we understand that conflicts do arise. If you cannot come for one or more of the time shifts (see right column), it is your responsibility to find a friend (or more!) for the shifts at Crisler that you cannot attend.

Here's an easy checklist of what you should do:

(1) Fill out a Buddy Card -- the lime green commitment cards available in your library or at the K-grams office (4217 Michigan Union). Just fill in the information for yourself and any buddies who can fill times for you.

(2) Place the card in campus mail or in the Buddy Bin in your residence hall library ASAP.

(3) Invite your friends to Kids-Fair and have them turn in Buddy Cards, too!

If you have any questions about this process, please talk to your swing kid or e-mail [smile@umich.edu](mailto:smile@umich.edu).



## Get Your Friends Involved

by Liz Mauck

Not a pen pal? Not a problem! Kids-Fair needs lots of people to come and help out, not just those affiliated with K-grams. Our goal is to have every little kid paired up with a college student at all times. Get your friends, roommates, hallmates, and your RA to fill out a Buddy Card and come to the Fair! This is also a great opportunity to get your student group involved by providing volunteer Buddies. Whether or not your group is sponsoring an activity booth at the Fair, you can sign up your members to be Buddies for the day. Groups that supply significant number of college buddies will be recognized the day of the Fair and are guaranteed to have a fun time!

## Student Groups

by Kady Davenport

The main attraction at Kids-Fair is all the wonderful and diverse activities that student groups will be presenting. If you are affiliated with an organization, please encourage them to participate in Kids-Fair. This year we already have groups signed up to do science experiments, arts & crafts, athletic contests, music, cultural displays, and more. We want to try to make sure that each booth is not only fun, but also allows the little kids to learn something (educational, collegiate, or otherwise). If you choose to, you may partner up with another student organization to put something together. You can even get some friends together and have an activity without the backing of an official organization. To get more information or to fill out an application, go to [www.umich.edu/~smile](http://www.umich.edu/~smile) or email [kidsfair@umich.edu](mailto:kidsfair@umich.edu).

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## Contact Us...

General Questions:

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Kids-Fair: [kidsfair@umich.edu](mailto:kidsfair@umich.edu)

Projects: [kprojects@umich.edu](mailto:kprojects@umich.edu)

BookMARK:

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Box Tops: [boxtops@umich.edu](mailto:boxtops@umich.edu)

Phone: (734) 615-4726

On Campus dial K-GRAM

Office Location:

4217 Michigan Union

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Winter Office Hours:

M-F 2-5:30

## Kids-Fair Shifts

9:15 - 10:20am

10:20 - 11:20am

11:20 - 12:15pm

12:15 - 1:05pm

1:05 - 2:00pm

# Kids-Fair March 17th 2000

# Pen Pal Concerns

By Elena Marin

Thank you to all pen pals that responded to the K-grams Pen Pal Survey in December! The survey is the best way for K-grams to know what pen pals are thinking and how the program can be improved. Responses were very enthusiastic, informative, and we've already started to use your suggestions for improvement this year and for years to come.

## Projects and fun

This year, projects have become a very important part of K-grams and the interaction between big and little kid pen pals. They are a very easy and fun way for you to meet your pen pal and do very cool projects. We do understand there are schedule conflicts with classes, work, and

other activities yet, we hope you can try your best to attend at least one. Projects are normally held on Fridays, yet we are trying to incorporate different days in order to accommodate your busy schedules. So keep your eyes out for more upcoming projects and get ready for an awesome time. At a recent Carpenter Elementary School Project, "College Day", one 3<sup>rd</sup> grader proudly announced, "I think college seems like a lot of fun, and I can't wait to go!"

## More Letters Please!

This year K-grams pen pals write one letter a month, and also receive a return letter once a month. This set-up allows for a simple yet very

# A Few Answers to a Few Questions

rewarding pen pal commitment. Yet, there were many questions about more frequent letters. Since receiving letters is a favorite past time for K-grams pen pals, many pen pals would like them more often. A South Quad pen pal said, "My favorite part of K-grams is getting the letter every month. It makes my day!" This is a very important topic that next year's programming board will look into. With joined efforts from the Elementary Schools and next year's pen pals, K-grams pen pal's could possibly see more letters! **2001?**

A common question brought up by many pen pals was what about 2001? Can I still be a pen pal if I

live off-campus? This year, K-grams has incorporated off-campus pen pals through Circle K, a great community service organization. Members of Circle K are writing to Holmes Elementary School. The Circle K pen pal involvement has been a huge success and is showing strong signs for future off-campus pen pal involvement. We know pen pals want to continue their involvement and we are working hard to make this happen. One excellent way to get involved if you will off-campus is through projects. K-grams pen pal alumni are welcome to participate and even if you are not a pen pal, the projects are still very fun and quite memorable!

## Portraits: A look at K-grams on the elementary level

The teacher portrait for this newsletter is Mrs. Knight from Pittsfield Elementary. Mrs. Knight went to U of M and has a B.A. and an M.A. in education. She has been teaching since 1970, "...mostly first grade, which I really love. First graders are at that wonderful age where everything is new and exciting and learning is fun! I love watching their growth and development as the year progresses. I think the K-grams pen pal program is terrific. It gives children a very authentic reason to write. They are so careful with their letters, taking a lot of time to write neatly and to express their thoughts clearly. The relationships developing with their college penpals are so important to them. The first graders feel special when they receive those wonderful letters, which are often filled with color, pictures, and stickers—and they can't wait to read them and to write back!"

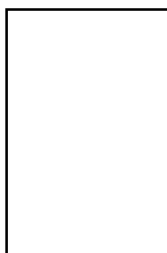
## Mrs. Knight

## Abby Marlette

The elementary portrait pen pal this month is Abby Marlette, a first grader at Pittsfield Elementary. Born on the Fourth of July, Abby's favorite color is blue. When asked about her experience with K-grams, Abby told us: "I like writing letters to a college girl because you get to know all about college. I can't wait until I get to meet my pen pal!" When asked what she loves most about first grade, she said, "the teacher."

When asked to tell five things about herself, she said:

1. I'm nice.
2. I'm smart.
3. My friends think I'm fun.
4. I like to have imaginary friends.
5. I sometimes do the opposite of what my mom and dad say. I have no idea why; I was just born that way.



Mrs. Knight



Abby Marlette

## Projects Corner

## Book MARK

by Cathy Keinath

One of K-grams' new programs this year is BookMARK - Mentoring And Reading with Kids. It is a wonderful program that invites university students into elementary schools to encourage kids to read and to comprehend those texts. This is a great opportunity for off-campus students, pen pals, Swing Kids - anyone - to get involved! The commitment is simple, but you get so much more! You'll always remember the contribution you made by helping a little kid learn to master the skill of reading.

To volunteer, simply go [www.umich.edu/~smile](http://www.umich.edu/~smile). We provide most the transportation for you, as long as you show up at the CUBE (this is where we meet, next to the union) at the times listed below. It is important that once you sign up, you are able to make your commitments!

## Winter 2000 Schedule

**Mon 2:30-3:45** Mr. Barnes classroom #1 at Northside Elementary  
**Tues 9:00-10:30** Ms. Wilkens classroom at Pattengill Elementary  
**Wed 9:40-11:15** Ms. Barnett classroom at Carpenter Elementary  
**Thurs 1:10-2:50** Mrs. Hagan classroom at Mitchell Elementary  
**Fri 12:15-2:00** Mrs. McGarty classroom at Northside Elementary  
**Fri 2:30-3:45** Mr. Barnes classroom #2 at Northside Elementary

## Join Us For...

### Making Valentines' Day Cards

Contact: Danielle Bean  
[dlbean@umich.edu](mailto:dlbean@umich.edu)

Date: Friday February 11th,  
Time: 1:00-3:30pm,

Place: Carpenter Elementary  
Meet: In front of Markley at 1pm

### Teacher's Pet Day

Contact: Sonia Liu [sliu@umich.edu](mailto:sliu@umich.edu)

Date: Friday February 18th,  
Time: 12:40-3:15pm,

Place: Carpenter Elementary  
Meet: at The Cube at 12:30pm

# Walk Through the Web Fundraiser

Buy a Raffle Ticket

by Elena Marin

Kids-Fair 2000 is approaching and we need YOUR help to make it the best ever! Starting February 16, K-grams is holding an awesome raffle for chances to win many great prizes such as gift certificates to be awarded at Kids-Fair. For a very low price you can help cover some of the expense of Kids-Fair and enter yourself in the raffle of the year! On Wednesday, February 16, K-grams volunteers will be visiting every pen pal with the tickets and more information about Kids-Fair. Make sure not to miss out on this special visit! Tickets will also be available through your Hall Heads until Kids-Fair. All proceeds will go towards Kids-Fair and will make the fair even more fun for you and your pen pal. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! If you have any questions e-mail kidsfair@umich.edu

[www.umich.edu/~smile](http://www.umich.edu/~smile)

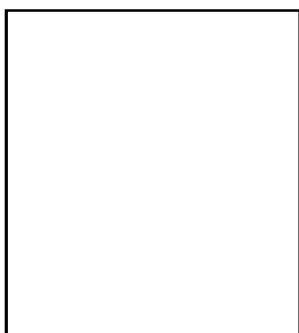
Kevin Rogan: Swing Kid - South Quad  
Nominated by: Ashley Scott - South Quad Letter Head  
REASONS: He's shown up for EVERYTHING. He and his partner make the best packages. They have all the letters, everything is correct, and everything is on time! He is involved in so many other things, and he still finds time to be so involved in K-grams. Plus, he responds to just about every email I've written.



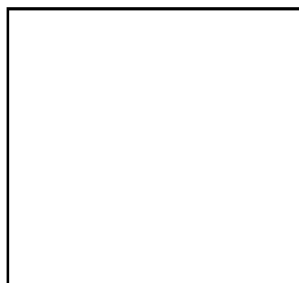
Kevin Rogan

Fernando Yarza: Pen Pal - Alice Lloyd  
Nominated by: Jenni Bess - Alice Lloyd Letter Head  
REASON: He's helped us out in a project pinch for both Lloyd Halloween projects. He's just an all around cool guy. I love him to death.

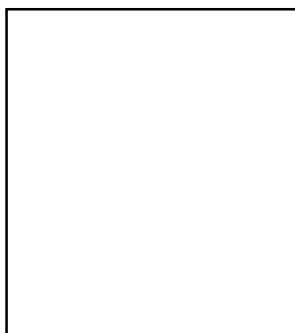
## OK Kid Awards Outstanding K-gramming Kids



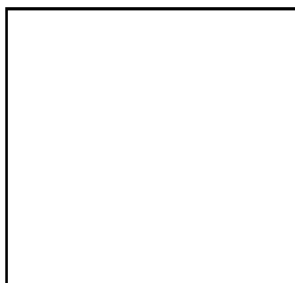
Fernando Yarza Matt Buhyoff



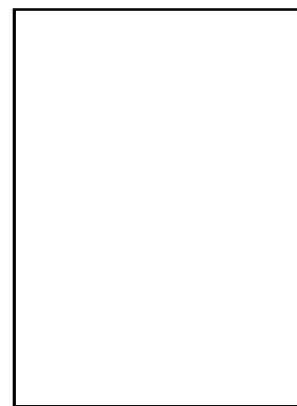
Melissa Zinke + Matt Buhyoff: Pen Pals - West Quad  
Nominated by: Lacey Curtis - West Quad Letter and Project Head  
REASON: They have gone to both of my projects, and the projects weren't even with their pen pal's class!



Marie La Victoire Melissa Zinke



Adam Stonehouse: Swing Kid - South Quad  
Nominated by: Cat Docherty - East Quad Letter Head  
REASON: Adam is a Swing Kid for South Quad, but he came with us to our project for Mitchell with East Quad!



Marie La Victoire: Swing Kid - Markley  
Nominated by: Sonia Liu - Markley Project Head  
REASON: Even if she cannot attend an event, she is willing to drive pen pals to/from project or deliver letters. She is also good at RSVP-ing and makes awesome packages!

label



## K-grams Quotables

### Neha's Jokes Corner

Q. Why did the old man put a shoe in his ear?

A. He likes to listen to sole music.

Q. Why did Cinderella stink at baseball?

A. Two reasons: She ran away from the ball, and she had a pumpkin for a coach.

Q. What do you call a ship that lies on the bottom of the ocean and shakes?

A. A nervous WRECK!

Nurse: How is the girl who swallowed the quarter, Doctor?

Doctor: No change yet.

Q: What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?

A: Ouch.

Q: What is the longest word in the dictionary?

A: The word *smiles* because there is a mile between each s.

Q: What did the mayonnaise say to the refrigerator door?

A: Close the door; I'm dressing!

Quotes from the teacher survey and  
the penpal survey

ummmmmmm.....