

Unbelievable! K-grams has delivered over 25,000 letters and smiles since 1998! Through the hard work of many dedicated University students, we have been able to reach out to an even wider community. The past two years have been filled with incredible accomplishments and memories. Recently, a Pittsfield Elementary pen pal told us, "My pen pal is the coolest, and I had the best time at your Kids-Fair!"

All the K-grams teachers and students are very excited for the new year and cannot wait to work with wonderful and swing involvement provides a positive role model for many little kids, and we hope that you will continue to foster pride towards U of M and the community.

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This year, there is a plethora of opportunities for involvement and for making hundreds of little kids smile! Classroom projects and programs like BookMARK will continue to provide tremendous pen pal interaction, and you can also help support our schools through Box Tops for Education. The Third Annual K-grams Kids-Fair is guaranteed to once again be the largest volunteer event on campus with over 3,500 participants. These are open to all students, so get your friends involved. This year is sure to surpass last year's successes, and we can't wait to reach new heights with you!

Elena Marin

Executive Director

Reminder: 1st K-grams letters are due September 18! Check the website for your school, class, and swing kid info. Your Swing Kid will be in touch with you!

What's new!

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BookMARK

BookMARK (Mentoring And Reading with Kids) is off to an exciting second year. This highly successful and fun program, which is open to anyone in the university community, takes college students into elementary school classrooms. It is offered every day of the week and requires only a small commitment. Simply sign up on the web (www.umich.edu/~smile ...look for Special Programs) for the sessions which you would like to attend! This is a very rewarding experience and gives both on and off-campus people the opportunity to interact with children on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please email bookmark@umich.edu. We look forward to reading and mentoring with you this fall!



Kids Being Creative at Kids-Fair 2000



Calling all K-grams pen pals and volunteers!

PROJECTS

A great way to get more involved in K-grams (and hang out with cute little kids at the same time!) is through classroom projects. Each semester, Project Heads from participating residence halls will be planning fun and interactive projects with pen pals at the elementary schools. Some awesome projects from last year included, Making Mr. Potato Head, Science Fair, and College Day. The best part of projects is that everyone is encouraged to participate, whether you are a pen pal for the class or a general volunteer! For information on upcoming projects check out the calendar and project description on the website, or contact your Swing Kid.

LETTER DUE DATES



Fall Term 2000

Mon. September 18

Mon. October 16

Mon. November 13

Winter Term 2001

Mon. January 8

Mon. February 12

Mon. March 19

Letters!

In our first two years, we've delivered over 25,000 letters, an absolutely amazing number for such a small period of time! With all the wonderful and dedicated pen pals, swing kids, hall heads, and SPC members, this year's letters will be more outstanding than last year's. Every month, pen pals write letters to their elementary school pen pals. Each letter is due by 8pm on the designated Monday in the residence hall library.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Eating, Earning, Easy!

Everyone can help raise money for our pen pals' elementary schools! It's easy. The Box Tops for Education program (sponsored by General Mills) donates TEN CENTS for every "Box Top" collected. Box Tops are found on all General Mills cereal boxes, plus Betty Crocker products and Yoplait yogurts. K-grams is coordinating a campus-wide drive to raise as much money as possible for each elementary school. Collection bins can be found in the residence hall libraries and cafeterias. Start saving today!

Hall Heads

Alice Lloyd	Colleen Romzek Amy Christiansen
Bursley	Carlos Remedios Alicia Foster
Couzens	Lauri Nesselrode Elizabeth Post
East Quad	Sarah Smalla Lisa Franzoi
Markley	Matt Kish Manish Mehta
Mosher Jordan	Ashley Scott Jennifer Reiners
South Quad	Eugenia Edmonds Kelly Wells
Stockwell	Linnea Nyberg Jessie Nowak
West Quad	Sarika Khare Vanessa D'Anna

Did you
know?



- K-grams was founded in the summer of 1998 by Circle K president Rishi Moudgil
- K-grams is short for kids-Programs
- 6 Ann Arbor schools, 9 residence halls, and over 700 students took part in the first letter exchange
- Over 850 kids attended the first Kids-Fair!!
- The mission of K-grams is to establish a strong sense of community and understanding for a wide range of university and elementary students, staff, and families by developing positive relationships and experiences that extend beyond the classroom

September						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Community Plunge Maize Craze	2 Football Game vs. BGU
3	4 A Student Affair	5 Pre-Class Bash	6 Classes Start	7 Swing Kid Meeting Festifall	8 Pen Pal applications due	9 Football Game vs. Rice
10	11	12	13	14 Swing Kid Orientation	15	16
17	18 First letter due	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Projects @ Carpenter & Northside	30 Football Game vs. Wisconsin

Cute Kids!

Although I've never had an actual pen pal, I managed to make a connection with a second-grader last year that makes me smile every time I think about it. I went to a project in Mrs. Kitzmann's class to fill in for a big kid pen pal that couldn't make it. The project was a Valentine's Day party that the little kids threw for us. They had worked really hard on the decorations and were so proud of them (it was incredibly cute). Anyway, the little girl I was paired with, Mercedes, was a wild child. We had a great time decorating cookies, painting hats, and playing on the Internet together. Her grandma was also at the party, so I talked to her for a little while also. After the party, we said goodbye, got a picture together, and I didn't think I would see her again. About a month later, I was shopping at Briarwood Mall with a friend of mine. I heard my name and turned around to see Mercedes and her grandma walking around. I couldn't believe they had recognized me. We talked for a few minutes, and I left the mall feeling incredibly satisfied because I felt special. This little girl and her grandma knew who I was and wanted to talk to me just because I went to a project for a day. It was a great feeling, and it reminded me why K-grams is such a special program: it helps people make connections that they wouldn't normally get to make.

Neha Shah

Send us your stories online!!

Win a new 2001 K-grams T-shirt!!
Simply answer the following questions
and be the first to email
smile@umich.edu

- Where did the first Kids-Fair take place??
- To which classroom are pen pals from Martha Cook writing?

Visit K-grams at: 4217 Michigan Union on Mon-Fri 2-5pm

Phone: 61K-GRAM

Email: smile@umich.edu

Check out the K-grams website at www.umich.edu/~smile



T-shirts!!

Get yours
now,
before
they're
gone!!

Only \$10!!

Email smile@umich.edu

Check out how to win a
free T-shirt on Page 4!

K-grams is HUGE!! We're getting pumped up for the new year, and we have all kinds of goodies to prove it. There are T-shirts and promotional cards waiting to jump in your hand. How do you obtain all these goodies? The T-shirts can be purchased for just \$10. Bring your money to 4217 Michigan Union or email smile@umich.edu. To receive a promotional card which offers amazing discounts in the residence hall snack bars, Tubby's and more, all you have to do is join K-grams. Visit www.umich.edu/~smile if you are interested. There are lots of ways to become involved, and we can't wait to hear from you!

KIDS-FAIR 2001!!

On February 9, 2001 over 1050 elementary students from schools in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Detroit will join the U-M campus at Crisler Arena for a day of fun-filled learning activities! Over 100 student groups will have the opportunity to teach kids their special skill or talent in an exciting interactive environment. The K-5th graders will meet their year-long pen pals or spend time with a college "Buddy" throughout the day.

New to K-grams is another opportunity for student groups to work one-on-one with children throughout the year. "Swing Sessions" are already being organized for groups to go to the classrooms and do "educative" projects with the kids.

K-grams encourages you to become involved in what looks to be the most promising year of Kids-Programs yet! See you at the Fair!



February 9, 2001
Crisler Arena



Want to Meet Your pen pal Before Kids-Fair??

This year, K-grams is working on a fun new event for both big and little kids! It's called K-Day, short for Kids-Day. On Friday, October 20, 2000, 50 elementary schoolers from Ford Elementary in Ypsilanti will be coming to explore U of M's campus. The 5th graders will visit the Big House, take a tour of the Art Museum, and eat a scrumptious lunch in the Markley cafeteria. They will also get a tour of Mosher Jordan, the residence hall with which Ford Elementary is paired, and hopefully the kids will have the chance to meet their pen pals. K-Day is a wonderful opportunity for elementary school students, many of whom have never seen a college campus, to experience college life. K-Day promises to be an enthusiastic, fun-filled event for all!

