

**From the Desk of Mrs. Bartosiak
May 2010**

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**NO Silly Bandz or Japanese Erasers are allowed in the Kingston  
Elementary School, for they are causing a disruption to our  
students' education and their safety. That concerns me.**

**Calling on all parents and guardians to assist KES staff in making sure that the Japanese Erasers and Silly Bandz** (also known as Animal Bandz, Zany Bandz Stretchy Shapes, Bama Bandz, Goofy Bands and there are a few others names that escape me right now) do not come to school each day with the children.

This latest craze among our student population is beginning to cause some inappropriate behaviors and lack of attention in our classrooms and other areas. These small, cute, novelty erasers, which actually come apart and are used for erasing are a new craze for kids to collect and I might add...they LOVE them! Yes, kids are collecting them all over the country and they have arrived in Kingston!

The Silly Bandz is also a collection item and as I understand the goal is to collect as many bracelets as you can, wear as many as you can, and then trade them with your friends. They come in all different shapes such as animals, food, toys which makes them very appealing to young children. Both the Japanese Erasers and Silly Bandz items are environmentally friendly, lead free, recyclable and are Made in Japan. This makes them even more appealing to everyone. However, as cute as they are and as environmentally safe as the companies who make them claim those to be...they are causing a disturbance in our classrooms each day.

Students are turning away from listening and learning in order to look at their friend's collection, take the eraser or bracelet indefinitely, and we have even had some students grabbing them away from other students

Iwako and Dream Erasers are two of the Japanese companies who are making these products. Imposter companies have sprung up as well on this latest craze. Although the subtleties are there, one of the imposter companies is in China. From what I have read about these products and companies who make them, there are real differences. The Japanese companies of **Iwako and Dream Erasers** have created an environmentally friendly product and stamp Made in Japan. One of the imposter company's is stamping Made in China and stamps in the name of the company **Imako**. So, there may be a difference in the product you are buying for your child. The company in China (Imako) may not be as environmentally safe, or may not be lead free or recyclable as you might think. An informed consumer is a wise consumer. If you go onto the Internet and read up on these products it may help you to make a more informed decision.

**However, Japanese Erasers and Silly Bandz are not allowed in school.**

Other than this slight deterrent, the students have been wonderful. In most cases they are working hard, and are very energetic too. The staff is keeping the lid on as we wind down these last few weeks. It might be helpful as their parents and guardians to stress this concept, positively; it is not over until it is over. Although, the children may be seeing it differently☺!

The last day of school is June 18<sup>th</sup> (Friday). No lunch will be served and the students get out at 12 noon.

**Some additional reminders for parents are noted below.**

Flip flops are the height of fashion and we have seen a spectacular display of them coming to school. Although they are stylish and easy to put on they do not make the best shoe for recess, climbing the playground structure, climbing the stairways in school, and at physical education. Please think about alternative choices for your children in regards to foot wear for these purposes. We want to keep the safety of the children our first consideration during these times.

Although the weather is just starting to get warmer, it is good to have a sweatshirt or shirt handy in their backpack in the event we do get hotter weather which will result in the air conditioning be turned on here at school. Also, children should be wearing appropriate clothing to school. Please do not dress your child in shirts or T-shirts that may be offensive to others.

Reminding our students that school is not over yet is important. If there is homework, then it is expected that the children complete it. We try to keep the students on the usual schedule as close to the end of school as possible.

If your child has a library book(s) out there, please have your child return it to school by the due date suggested by Ms. Raynard.

Last day for all students will be June 18 (Friday). There will be a 12 noon dismissal on Friday and no lunch will be served on that Friday as well.

I wish all of our KES students, parents, families, and friends a wonderful, healthy, fun filled summer vacation. School will open for the 2010 -2011 on Wednesday, September 1 for students in grades one and two only. Kindergarten students entering in the fall will receive information in the mail as to the events surrounding the opening of school.

Thank you again for all your support and encouragement over this past year. As I have said many times before; Kingston is a great place to be!