



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER 2022



BREAKING GROUND IN A SPIRIT OF GIVING

The air was chilly, but the hearts and smiles were warm when the Kentwood Public Schools community came together to celebrate groundbreaking for a new 40,000 square foot early childhood center next to Townline Elementary. When finished, the building will be home to Kentwood’s youngest students, serving three and four-year-old children.

In this holiday season, KPS is grateful for its strong partnership with the community. The community’s approval of the 2021 bond proposal strengthens the early childhood education program and makes this center possible.

“Quality early childhood education has many benefits, but most importantly, provides the building blocks for education to our most vulnerable learners.”

“It is fitting that the first bond project invests in our youngest learners and lays a strong foundation for the community’s future,” said KPS Superintendent Kevin Polston. “Early childhood education provides vital learning opportunities for our most vulnerable learners.”



Director of Early Childhood K’Sandra Earle is excited for the possibilities that come with a new facility. At the ceremony, Earle said, “This center will be

a place where a child’s natural curiosity is engaged, their sense of imagination expanded, and their sense of self nurtured.”

In short, the new early childhood center will be a place of giving, a place where Kentwood Public Schools’ teachers and staff will give their energy, expertise, and care to provide the youngest students in the district a springboard for ongoing academic development.

The new early childhood center will be a place of giving, a place where Kentwood Public Schools’ teachers and staff will give energy, expertise, and care to the youngest students.

Throughout Kentwood, the giving spirit is visible. The community donated hundreds of pumpkins to Glenwood Elementary so the students could have their very own pumpkin patch created at the school. That spirit was apparent on the faces of students at Meadowlawn Elementary when the staff provided a tasty, traditional Thanksgiving feast to students new to our country. And, at East Kentwood High School, the Student Council is partnering with the community to “Stuff the Bus” and provide food and funds to support families during this holiday season.

In this time of celebration, the Kentwood Public Schools’ board of education, leadership team, and the entire staff want to say thanks to our community for their support and partnership as together we educate and serve the students and families of the Kentwood community!

A WORLD OF GIVING THROUGH ARCH

The ARCH after school program enhances academic achievement and provides educational experiences for children. During the month of November our students learned about and experienced giving to others and expressing gratitude. Some of our schools participated in community service, shared stories of sacrifice, and expanded our knowledge of other cultures. These experiences help students to understand more about the world around them.

At Discovery, ARCH students participated in decorating lunch bags for Kids Food Basket. Students took pleasure in writing encouraging messages and drawing bright, welcoming pictures on the bags for children they do not know. Showing their support and helpfulness inspired smiles and group discussions on the topic of giving and thankfulness. Our ARCH students also participated in creating Gratitude Rocks. Students painted their rocks while discussing things they are grateful for and were challenged to carry these rocks every day during the month of November as a reminder. Discovery ARCH is grateful for the wonderful families and staff that support our program all year long!

Students of the Challenger Elementary ARCH program learned about the meaning of Veterans Day and the important sacrifices veterans make for our nation. Several students were able to share stories of family members who served in either the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard of the United States. Then students created cards to thank the heroes for their service in anticipation of the upcoming Veterans Day.



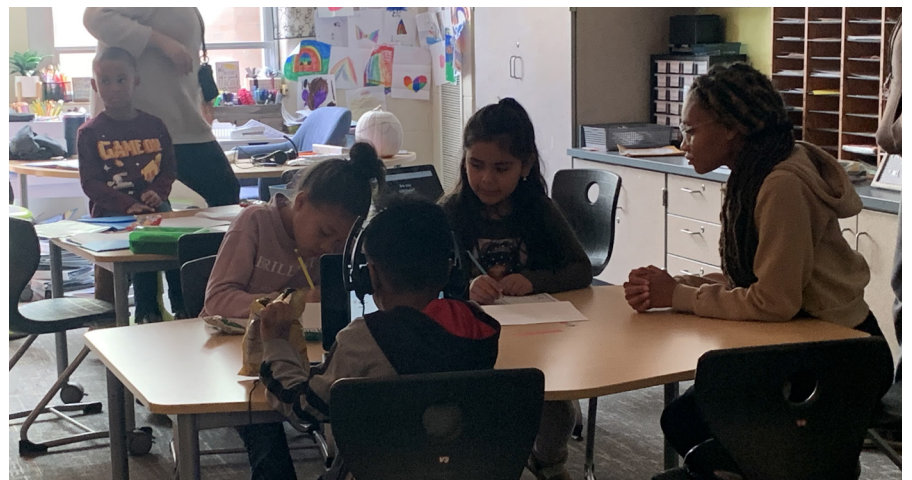
At Southwood Elementary, Ms. Macy took the initiative to lead a four-week anime/manga club for students who were interested in learning more about Japanese art forms. Ms. Macy brought in panel examples from manga books she had at home. She also took time to check out books from the Kentwood library on how to draw age-appropriate anime/manga. She led her group in story exploration after a short lesson on anime and manga, and the history behind those two art forms.

Ms. Macy challenged this group of students to create and present their own manga stories in a “meet the author” activity. The students in Anime Club set up a table to share their work with all ARCH students and family members. Ms. Macy works hard every day to build positive, meaningful

relationships with all students who attend ARCH at Southwood. The time and energy she gives makes Anime Club an engaging and fun experience!

TOWNLINER READING MENTORSHIP

Ms. Ernst’s Crossroads Leadership Class has partnered with Townline Elementary school to create a student mentorship program. The Leadership students volunteer for an hour every Wednesday, helping Ms. Kozin and Mrs. Savino’s first-grade classes practice their reading and math skills. Giving back to others is a visible and viable way to help our Kentwood community. This vital partnership is rewarding for all students and helps expose our Leadership students to potential careers upon graduation.



HONORING THOSE WHO GAVE FOR OUR COUNTRY

To honor veterans around the country, Discovery Elementary fifth graders teamed up with art teacher, Erika Redick, local Honor Flights through Mid-Michigan, Talons Out, and Lone Eagle Honor Flight (a national program). Honor Flights started as a thank you to WWII veterans and has expanded over time to include veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Honor Flight flies veterans to Washington DC for a day of honor, where they visit monuments and memorials. On these flights, each veteran receives a package of mail from friends, family, and the community. Discovery students wrote heartfelt letters and created decorative envelopes demonstrating their gratitude for the service veterans provided. It's amazing to see our kindhearted tiny humans show their compassion for others. We look forward to working with Mid-Michigan Honor Flights later this year with our fourth graders!



CROSSROADS CAREER DAY

Crossroads students recently participated in our 8th Annual Career Day. We utilized each student's career interest (Xello surveys) to recruit our local partners. Career Day exposes students to various careers based on their interests and feedback. We hosted our friends from Kent Companies, Autocam, GVSU, GRCC, Grand Canyon University, Wayland Carpenter's and Millwright Center, Muse GR, Goodwill Nursing, Kentwood Public Works, Haworth, Cooley Law, Gerald R. Ford Airport, RE/MAX Realty, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School, HydroSpider, Kentwood Police, various branches of the military and community entrepreneurs. Students rotated from small room presentations with specific presenters to the gymnasium for a career fair. The event was coordinated by Mr. Lawrence "Donta" Young, Crossroad's Graduation Coach. Thanks to those in our community who gave time to make this event a success!

A GIFT WHICH KEEPS ON GIVING

Here at Hamilton, we want to highlight St. Paul's United Methodist Church for their continued generosity. At the beginning of each school year members of St. Paul's assemble gift baskets for our teachers. This project began in 2014 when members learned that teachers spent a lot of their own money purchasing supplies for their classrooms when the school budget is not sufficient to cover the costs.

St. Paul's donated 19 gift baskets this year, one for each teacher at GSRP, Tuition Pre-K and ECSE programs. Each basket is filled with a variety of items, including snacks, cleaning, and school supplies. Our preschool teachers particularly enjoy receiving these gifts in September when they are busy with classroom preparation and a myriad of responsibilities. This is what some of our teacher have to say:



"They helped me out so I had a lot less items to purchase with my own money. The snack items also gave a variety of choices to the children with our limited snack options"

"It was so nice to receive a big chunk of basic supplies that we really need for the kids!"





CROSSROADS SUPERBUDDIES

Crossroads Superbuddies began another year of fellowship with the ASD Program and MOCI Program at East Kentwood's Freshman Campus by celebrating Halloween with awesome activities planned by Rachel Rogers, Brandy Ghoston, and their respective colleagues.

As always, the students engaged in peer communication, arts and crafts, and tons of laughter! Students painted mini pumpkins/ gourds, decorated pumpkin patch brownies, and made/enjoyed jack-o'-lantern floats!

EKHS STUDENTS GIVE TO THE COMMUNITY

East Kentwood High School's Black Student Union attended the Harvest Festival at Kentwood Community Church (KCC) on October 29, 2022. Responses after the event from the Kentwood Community Church highlighted their appreciation of our EKHS students giving of their time:



EKHS CANNED FOOD DRIVE

EKHS, along with Bowen, Glenwood, Discovery, and Explorer Elementaries, held a food drive from October 24th through November 11th. The food donated went toward East Kentwood Student Council's Stuff the Bus event, held on November 12th. We stood outside Family Fare from 8am-12pm collecting money and non-perishable goods from shoppers. Community members donated \$1300 and a generous amount of non-perishable goods. All donations were delivered to the Streams of Hope food pantry to provide families with food throughout the holidays. Thank you to all who made this project so successful! We look forward to making our food drive bigger and better next year!



I just wanted to say, thank you so much for coming to help with the Harvest Festival at KCC this past Saturday! You all are such amazing, mature, servant leaders and this day would not have been so awesome without YOU! Thank you for giving your time to serve kids in the community! I heard that throughout the whole two hours, over 3,500 people came through the event! You should be so proud of these students because they are the real deal!

GIVING A TRADITIONAL WELCOME

The English Learners (EL) teaching staff recently organized and hosted a traditional American Thanksgiving meal for students new to the country as well as those new to Meadowlawn Elementary. Meadowlawn staff members cooked and provided the food, and students (many of whom once took part as guests themselves) served it up. The dinner menu included turkey and dressing and was topped off with pumpkin pie. The meal came at the end of a unit EL teachers taught on American Thanksgiving and family traditions. [Please enjoy this video put together by our partners at AVES Films to get the full flavor of this special event.](#)





A GIFT OF TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY FUN

The fall season brings a variety of traditions and celebrations. For many, that includes an annual trip to a pumpkin patch to pick out a special pumpkin to be decorated at home. However, this beloved tradition is not accessible to everyone as pumpkin patches are often located in rural areas. This is challenging for families with transportation issues. Pumpkins may also be a low priority for those facing economic hardships. Others may not practice this tradition which is unique to the USA. Glenwood staff and our KSSN coordinator, Maddie Rhoades, made this opportunity available to every student at Glenwood by offering an on-site “pumpkin patch” for the second year in a row. Every student at the school was able to “pick” a pumpkin from the patch lining the front of the building, decorate it to their delight, and take their artwork home.

While searching for donors to contribute pumpkins for the “Glenwood Patch”, Maddie Rhoades reached out to Providence CRC who partners with Glenwood to provide their Kids Hope mentoring program and Hand2Hand to ask, “Are there, by chance, any farmers in your congregation?” She was then connected to one of the sons of Buck Creek Produce who has now generously provided 400+ pumpkins to the school for two years in a row! Glenwood is so thankful for the many ways our community partners

give to our school, from providing sack lunches for students, mentoring, help at the school, resources for our parents, and the occasional pumpkin!

While students practiced gratitude on the day of the pumpkin patch by yelling “thank you!” and offering paint-smudged hugs to staff, the school also took time to thank the partner who made it possible by offering a giant handmade card signed by students from every grade in the school. When students were asked why they thought it was important to sign the thank you card, third grader Holy responded, “I think what the man did was nice, and with that many pumpkins we could have a pumpkin patch, decorate them, or bake them into a pie!”. First grader Alex responded, “Farmers work really hard for pumpkins, so it was really cool that they gave them to us.”



A GIFT OF TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY FUN

During the month of September, Kids’ Food Basket set a goal to collect 200,000 decorated food bags by the end of the month. Pinewood students answered the call by sharing their artistic skills and inspirational messages to bring joy to others. Thanks to generous donations of supplies, every classroom had access to bags and markers. Students adorned brown bags throughout the entire month with uplifting images and kind messages such as, “You’re important!” and “Keep smiling!” Even after September, students continued decorating bags and giving their time and energy to help others.

STAFF TOP LAST YEAR’S GIVING

KPS staff again demonstrated their spirit of giving during the annual United Way fundraising campaign. Last school year, the Heart of West Michigan United Way presented Kentwood Public Schools its 2021 - 2022 Top Campaign trophy after 38% of staff members donated \$40,328.70 to the organization. This year, KPS staff members pledged \$45,001.00, with a more than 49% participation rate. The district is excited about the impact staff members’ generosity will have on our community. Go Falcons!



KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Calendar 2022-23

Aug 22 *First Day of School

- Sep 2 No School
- Sep 5 No School
- Sep 21 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- Sept 28..... Middle School Conferences- Evening (Full Day for Students)
- Sept 29..... Middle School Conferences- Half Day for 6-8 Students
- Sept 30..... Half Day for 6th-8th Student & Staff
- Oct 12 & 13.... High School Evening Conferences (Full Day School)
- Oct 14 Half Day for 9th-12th Students & Staff
- Oct 26 Elementary Evening Conferences
- Oct 27..... Half Day K-5 Students / Evening Conferences
- Oct 28 Half Day K-5 Students & Staff
- Oct 31 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- Nov 23 Half Day for ALL Students and Staff
- Nov 24 & 25 ... No School - Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 16 Half Day for ALL Students/KEA records day
- Dec 19 - 30 Winter Break
- Jan 2 Winter Break
- Jan 16 No School - MLK Day / PD for Staff
- Feb 14 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- Feb 20 & 21 Mid-Winter Break
- Mar 1..... Middle & High School Evening Conferences / Full Day of School
- Mar 2 Middle & High School Evening Conferences / Half Day 6-8 Students ONLY / Full Day High School
- Mar 3 Half Day 6-12 Student & Staff
- Mar 27 Elementary Evening Conferences / Full Day
- Mar 28 Half Day K-5 Students
- Mar 29..... Half Day K-5 Students & Staff
- Mar 30..... Half Day for ALL Students and Staff
- Mar 31 - Apr 7. Spring Break
- May 26 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- May 29 No School - Memorial Day
- Jun 2..... Last Day of School - Half Day for Students & Staff

School	Start	Dismissal	Half Day Dismissal
Elementary	9:00 AM	3:55 PM	11:55 AM
Middle	8:15 AM	3:04 PM	11:20 AM
Freshman Campus	7:30 AM	2:31 PM	10:53 AM
High School	7:30 AM	2:31 PM	10:53 AM
Crossroads	7:37 AM	2:29 PM	10:45 AM

AUGUST							JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30		26	27	28				

OCTOBER							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
										1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30	31												

NOVEMBER							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	28	29	30				30						

DECEMBER							MAY/JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	1	2	3

No School For Students
 Half Day *check left column to see what schools have ½ days