



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

March
2010

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Kentwood Values and Expectations

Students Achieving Excellence, Competing Globally

While every district talks about modeling community and school values, the accomplishments of East Kentwood students truly exemplify what students can achieve when clear academic expectations are combined with positive adult role models.

Through the advantage of learning in a global community of students and adults, our students are experiencing success on a national level.



Julia Nguyen, National Merit Finalist. Julia is one of only 16,000 students earning this distinction nationally.

According to Board of Education President Dave Schultz, "Our students are clearly prepared for the next step in their academic careers. Through the advantage of learning in a global community of students and adults, our students are experiencing success on a national level. These successes are an outcome of a qualified staff committed to building positive relationships with our students while at the same time maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence. Thanks to such outstanding teaching staff and supportive parents, our students understand what it takes to compete globally."



"We The People" Team wins State Championship in Constitutional Debate Competition. They will travel to Washington, DC, to compete nationally.

"... our students understand what it takes to compete globally."



East Kentwood Debate Team members Anthony Gibson and Ben Smale won a State Championship in the Novice Division.

Excellence and Equity in Education

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI

Phone: 616 455-4400 Fax: 616 455-4476



Kindergarten Registration

District-wide Kindergarten registration will be held on April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at your child's home school.

Kindergarten Orientation/Visitation:

Bowen	May 10, 2010
Brookwood	May 6, 2010
Challenger	May 4, 2010
Discovery	May 12, 2010
Endeavor	May 6, 2010
Explorer	April 22, 2010
Glenwood	April 30, 2010 (Daytime)
	April 29, 2010 (Evening)
Meadowlawn	April 19, 2010
Southwood	May 11, 2010
Townline	April 26, 2010

Bowen's Spelling Bee Winners!



Bowen Elementary School had a 5th grade Spelling Bee on January 15, 2010. The students did a tremendous job! Congratulations to the 1st place winner, Ansel Jeffries and the runner up, Erica Yahya.



Endeavor Takes Wings!

On Monday morning, January 11, the fifth graders at Endeavor Elementary experienced a special visitor. Major Christopher Zuhlke, nephew of Carrie and Sid Hoeksema and a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, returned to Michigan in December from a four year assignment in Australia and shared some of his experiences with the kids. The students and teachers alike were fascinated by the video he brought along which supported training experiences and the F16 in flight. The students really gained an intriguing introduction of what it takes to have a career as an Air Force pilot.

Letters to Santa Receive a Welcome Response



Samantha Dryer, Raquel Rivera, Jordan McBride answer Christmas letters

Ms. Patton's second graders at Meadowlawn practiced their letter writing skills by writing letters to Santa Claus outlining Christmas wishes and stating their case for making the "nice" list. Santa's helpers, also known as Valleywood NJHS members, stepped in to help. These middle school superstars read each note from the holiday hopefuls and replied with encouragement and well wishes. The second graders were overjoyed!!! It was a great collaborative experience in capturing the hearts and minds of KPS children!

Challenger Student Council Donates to "Pasta for Pennies" to Fight Childhood Cancer

Challenger Elementary students collected \$859.75 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Student Council members challenged staff and students to donate money during the two weeks before Christmas break.



Principal Mark Bea with Jacob Moore shown with his Board appreciation certificate.

Jacob Moore, a 3rd grader in Mrs. Bartholomew's classroom and a Junior Amvet, asked for donations by speaking at many of the AMVET Posts and Auxiliaries on how they could help fight childhood cancer. Jacob turned in \$523.00. We are very proud of all the students and the excellent choices they made by serving their community and school.



Glenwood Introduces Cage Ball

Students at Glenwood Elementary were introduced to a "Cage Ball" during their physical education classes. The huge ball stands approximately 40 inches tall and weighs around 6 pounds. The ball will be used by all grades to help students build muscle strength, cardio endurance, and improve motor skills.

EKFC and EKHS Testing

Grades 9-12 will be participating in the annual standardized testing period beginning March 9. Freshman will take the EXPLORE test on March 9. Tenth graders will take the PLAN test on March 9. The results from these tests can give students an idea of where their academic skills are relative to the ACT and prepare them for taking the ACT. Juniors will take the ACT plus writing test on March 9, *The Work Keys* test on March 10, and the Michigan Components test on March 11. These tests will allow students a no cost opportunity to take the ACT for college placement. Success on these three tests are also used to determine whether students will qualify for the Michigan Promise scholarship.

Stephen Peters is keynote speaker for annual Multicultural In-service

In honor of Dr. King’s holiday, the staff enjoyed a presentation from speaker, Mr. Stephen Peters,



President of The Peters Group, a national education consulting company from Orangesburg, South Carolina. Mr. Peters is nationally recognized for starting the Gentlemen’s and Ladies Club programs which provide positive options for thousands of at-risk and honor students.

Mr. Peters shared practical strategies for working effectively with an increasingly diverse population in the district, while providing an inspiring message for all educators and support personnel.

Valleywood Volunteers



Ambitious 7th and 8th grade students have volunteered to be “grabbers” for Mrs. Chrysta McClymont’s special needs classroom. Each morning during “grab” time, designated students come to the classroom and are paired with a student to read with one-on-one. The smiling faces let everyone know that a fun time is had by all.

Kentwood Music Teacher Partners with Hope College

Peter Conniff, music teacher at Discovery and Southwood Elementary schools, has long been involved in an educational partnership with the music students at Hope College. Over the past several years, Peter has formed a connection with Dr. Christina Hornbach, their Director of Music Education at Hope College.

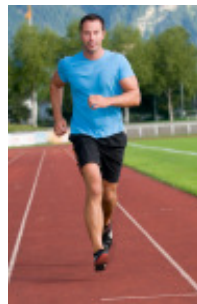


This partnership has resulted in the two working together to educate new music teachers who are completing their teaching degrees. During the second semester of last year, Peter worked with a student teacher from Hope. She was able to work with students in grades K-5 at Hamilton, Discovery, and Southwood Elementary schools, as well as students in grades 6-8 at Crestwood Middle School with teacher, Greg Hewitt.

This year, the partnership continued as Peter was asked by Dr. Hornbach to share his knowledge and expertise with her Music Methods class. He attended the class as a guest speaker, allowed the class to sit in at Discovery to observe his teaching methods, and later guided them individually as they practiced their teaching skills with Kentwood students.

Kentwood Athletic Boosters and our

sponsor, StoneWater Country Club have joined together to offer an exciting opportunity for everyone. The Boosters are selling a maximum of 100 tickets for \$50 each for a single golf membership. Total value is nearly \$4000. If you



prefer, the winner can choose a pool membership for the next four years. Contact Bret VanderWall at bretvanderwall@sbcglobal.net to request your tickets. Boosters accept cash, credit, or check. Please use the link below to review all the wonderful amenities at StoneWater. www.stonewatercc.com.

high school news



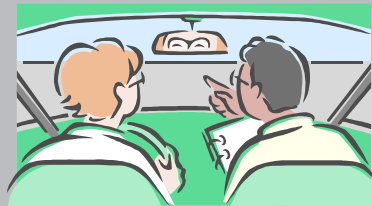
SUMMER DRIVER EDUCATION - SEGMENT 1

Two sessions will be offered this summer for Driver Education Segment 1. JUNE 14-JULY 1, 2010 and JULY 6 – 23, 2010.

Forms are available in the office at East Kentwood High School and East Kentwood Freshman Campus. Students do not have to be residents of Kentwood or attend East Kentwood High School to apply. Registrants must be 14 years and eight months of age prior to the beginning of the session.

The forms must be completed and returned to the Freshman Campus Principal's office with registration fee of \$320.00 by MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010, between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Make checks or money orders payable to East Kentwood High School—NO CASH. This fee includes Segment 2 (6 hours of class) which is offered during the school year. Questions, please call Diane Wagner at EK Freshman Campus (616) 871-1033.

Driver Education (Segment 2) – Application forms are still being accepted for the April session of Segment 2. Application forms can be picked up



at both East Kentwood Freshman Campus and East Kentwood High School offices.

Students who did NOT complete Segment 1 through the East Kentwood Driver Training Program will be charged a fee of \$50. The cost for Segment 1 and Segment 2 is \$320. Please contact Diane Wagner at 871-1033 with questions.

Former Kentwood Special Education Students

The Special Education Department Office of Kentwood Public Schools is disposing special education files no longer needed by the office. Any individual who is 26 years of age or older, received special education services from the district, and needs access to the files before they are destroyed should contact the Special Education office by March 15, 2010. Please send your request to Kentwood Special Education Office, 4479 Kalamazoo Ave, Kentwood, MI 49508 or call 554-3980.

Rotary Students of the Month

Jennifer Nguyen – dreams about attending the University of Michigan or Michigan State to study pre-medical education while also majoring in psychology. She hopes to attend medical school and become a surgeon.

Jennifer is a member of the Junior Varsity tennis team, the National Honor Society and does volunteer work. She was a leader at the Teen Institute and voted Senior Class President. She participated in an internship at Maple Creek Senior Living Home and used those hours towards volunteer service as part of YSO.

Jennifer feels that she is a good leader because she has an outgoing personality and though she knows there is a time to be serious, she feels that a bit of humor helps to brighten the day and keeps people smiling. Jennifer appreciates her mom who raised three daughters alone and has instilled in her an attitude to be the best she can be.



DeShawn Nelson - dreams that he will go to college and play football. He then plans to start his own business and begin a family.

He is involved with football, wrestling, and track and is a three-time varsity letter winner in football and track and a two-time All State winner in wrestling. He is also on the all-academic team and carries a 3.5 GPA. He is the team captain of wrestling and football and he leads by example. He knows that school comes first and sports after that. He tutors a fellow teammate every Thursday after practice to make sure that he will pass his classes.

His motto is: "The very best men know that the mind tires before the body and push themselves farther and farther beyond all limits. Only when these limits are shattered can the unattainable be reached." He has lived this motto for the past four years.

AHERA Notification

The EPS Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Regulation requires all public and private school districts to perform an inspection and develop management plans for each building under their jurisdiction.

The following is pertinent information regarding the Management Plan:

1. The six-month periodic surveillance inspections are performed utilizing in-house staff members.
2. Management plans of any school may be reviewed by any school district employee or member of the public at each school's central office or at the Facilities and Operations Department, located at 6160 Valley Lane Dr, SE, Kentwood, MI 49508 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (616) 698-8848.

Note: Any questions or concerns of the Management Plan or any other aspect of the AHERA Regulation may be directed to Todd Bell, Director of Facilities and Operations for Kentwood Public Schools.



Career and Technical Education at East Kentwood High School

Career and Technical Education at EKHS prepares students for academic, technical, and work behavior skills to enter, compete, and advance in education and careers. Most of the EKHS CTE programs prepare students for a seamless transition from high school to postsecondary education and a career. Students are encouraged to complete a solid academic core and one or more CTE programs to prepare for their future success in a competitive global economy.

East Kentwood High School's CTE Departments and classes are listed on the Kentwood Public Schools' website www.kentwoodps.org, under East Kentwood High School and the School to Careers tab.

The major goals of East Kentwood High School's CTE programs are to: Integrate core academic skills into all CTE based courses, increase student achievement in math, science, Language Arts, problem-solving and technical and employability skills, build strong leadership skills and help to develop community minded citizens, and blend the essential content of traditional college preparatory studies in articulated courses with quality career/technical studies.

Articulated College Credits

East Kentwood High School offers a variety of CTE programs/courses, many of which articulate with local colleges. Articulation allows students to earn free college credit by taking high school courses in approved CTE programs at EKHS.

Articulated College Credits can: Provide a head-start on a student's college program, help students connect today's learning to their future, decrease the cost spent on college tuition.

Area colleges that participate in articulate credits: Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, and Baker College.

*All **Career and Technical/Occupational Education** opportunities are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, gender/sex, age or disability. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in career and technical education programs.*

***Kentwood Public Schools**, together with the parents and the community, will educate all students in a safe, secure environment. We are committed to excellence, equity, and diversity in education. Our goal is for each student to master and apply the essential skills to be successful, productive citizens.*

For Career and Technical Education information contact:

Julietta Brothers, CTE and Schools to Careers Coordinator, East Kentwood High School Guidance Office, 616-698-6700 ext-42227.

For Title IX, Section 504 compliance contact the Student Services Office at the Kentwood Public Schools Administration Office, 616-455-4400.

Ask the Social Worker...

Q. We are wondering about the best way to help our children learn. Should we be involved in their homework?



A. We recommend the daily Family Learning Hour. At a time that is convenient for your family, everyone gathers at the table and learns. Children can complete homework, parents can help with

homework or read while the children study. Having the children read aloud or quizzing them on their studies will enforce what they are learning in class. Parents can read aloud to their children to help them learn to listen, give them new information, and model the importance that their parents place on learning.

Playing games like Yahtzee, Boggle or other math and reading games builds the child's skills and also makes learning fun. Ask your child's teacher for ideas to support their learning or enrichment activities. The more children are excited by learning, the more successful they will be in school and in life. Remember, parents are the child's first teacher. Have fun with your children and help them learn in the process.

Profiles in Community Service

Skot Welch has been mentoring in Kentwood since 2005. "Skot is a man of integrity, character, and family values second to none," said Bill Joseph, Board of Education member.

The KentwoodCares Mentoring Program asks mentors to spend a minimum of thirty minutes a week offering guidance, support, and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee. Skot believes in mentoring and stated, "When it's done properly it can have a tremendous impact both for those receiving and for those giving the mentoring. It is rewarding when you see a youth begin to open up to possibilities. We need to invest in our young people because they are the ones who will lead us domestically and globally. Mentoring is something every adult should do."



Brian Bolton being mentored by Skot Welch.

Brian knows the benefits of having a mentor. He said, "Skot has helped me a lot and has been a big influence on me."

To become a mentor contact Terry Gates, Mentor Coordinator 455-1200. ext. 32275.

Spotlight on Senior Issues Volunteerism and Events

For many senior homeowners the winter weather brings rising heating bills. There is a program in Kent County that helps older adults address problems that may threaten their ability to keep their homes. The weatherization program at ACSET, funded through the Department of Energy and Kent County Senior Millage, provides homeowners with a comprehensive overview of their homes energy usage.



The Source for Seniors

Trained and certified staff conduct energy efficiency tests to look for problems such as air leaks, appliance and furnace effectiveness, window and door seals, and more. Independent contractors and ACSET employees fix problems that are wasting energy and increasing costs for the homeowner. Each home may require different solutions to problems, but all homeowners see reductions in their gas or electric bills.

"Often the problems are in older homes that typically did not follow today's energy efficiency standards," says George Pattok, Project Supervisor-ACSET Energy Services. "Making changes can reduce gas and electric bills and help the homeowner save money."

Five Energy Saving Tips for every homeowner:

1. **Replace light bulbs with more energy efficient ones.**
2. **Remove the clutter on top of the fridge.** A refrigerator needs space in order to cool.
3. **Fix air leaks.** Put your hand up to windows and doors to check for drafts.
4. **Shut heating vents to rooms you don't use and keep the door closed.**
5. **Turn down the thermostat.**

Kent County Senior Millage programs are available to Kent County residents 60 years of age and older. Depending on income, seniors may be asked to pay a portion of the service cost. These funds are put back in to the program. ACSET provides weatherization assistance to Kent County homeowners of all ages.

Homeowners can also access free energy savings workshops at Home Repair Services for additional tips and tricks on how to reduce energy costs. For more information on class dates and times, visit www.homerepairservices.org or call (616) 241-2601.

The Kent County Senior Millage is administered by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM). For more information on the millage, or senior services, visit www.aaawm.org or contact AAAWM at (616) 456-5664.



Kentwood Community Education Crossroads Alternative High School

28 - 60th Street, GR 261-6166

Director: Mr. Brian O'Hara



Mayor's Champion of Diversity Award

Congratulations to Walid Azam, a Crossroads student for receiving the Mayor's Champion of Diversity Award from Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell.

Crossroads Leadership

Crossroads Leadership students will be accepting canned and boxed food donations for God's Kitchen. Donations will be accepted through the end of March. Please send or bring all donations to Crossroads High School Leadership Department.

Crossroads Calendar

March 8	Third Trimester Begins
March 9-11	MME Testing
March 23-25	MME Make Up Test
April 2 - 9	Spring Break - No School K-12

Kentwood Community Education Leisure Classes

Registration for leisure classes are Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Payment **MUST** accompany registration. Mail-in registrations will be accepted but must specify class, time and daytime phone number where you can be reached. Please make checks payable to Kentwood Public Schools. Mailed checks must have your driver's license number and birth date on them. Location for registration is Kentwood Community Education, 28 – 60th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49548. Cash payments made at the office must be in the **exact amount**. For more information, call 261-6166. **ANY REFUND REQUESTS MUST BE PROCESSED BEFORE THE SECOND CLASS MEETING.** WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR CHANGE CLASSES.

Monday

Boaters Safety	03/08/10	7:00-9:00 P.M.	4 wks	Com Ed	\$40.00
Computer Basics	04/12/10	6:00-7:10 P.M.	6 wks	Com Ed	\$100.00
Computer Word/Excel	04/12/10	7:10-8:10 P.M.	8 wks	Com Ed	\$105.00
Yoga	03/29/10	7:00-8:00 P.M.	8 wks	Valleywood	\$45.00

Tuesday

Pilates	03/23/10	6:30-7:30 P.M.	8wks	Valleywood	\$45.00
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Wednesday

Thursday

East Coast Swing	01/14/10	7:00-8:00 P.M.	6 wks	Com Ed	*See Below
How to Become a Professional	03/25/10	7:00-9:00 P.M.	1 Day	Com Ed	\$45.00
Voice-Over Artist					
Zumba	04/15/10	6:00-7:00 P.M.	8 wks	Champion Fitness	\$45.00

***East Coast Swing Classes are \$75.00 couple and \$45.00 single**

Early Childhood and School Age Child Care

3303 Breton Road SE, Kentwood 49512 - 493-5693

Director: Lori Eaton



Kentwood Public Schools 5th Annual Early Childhood Expo held at

Discovery Elementary School

2461 60th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

April 29, 2010 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

FREE EVENT

RSVP by April 16, 2010

616-493-5693

Join Kentwood Public Schools and businesses from around the area to help build a brighter future for your children.

Information focusing on
**Education, Childcare, Parenting,
Safety, and Fun!**

Early Childhood Programs
3303 Breton Rd SE
Kentwood, MI 49512
ph: 616-493-5693 fax: 616-493-5696



Kentwood Board of Education
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