



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

April
2012

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

A Letter From The Superintendent

Dear Kentwood Community Members,

On February 9, 2012, Governor Snyder delivered his 2012-13 budget address to the legislature. Claims by the Governor and subsequently the media, that the budget meant a 2.5% increase in funding for K-12 education are not completely accurate. While we understand this is just the first step in the budget approval process, it is important for our community members to understand the impact of this budget on our school district and community.

Implications of the Governor's Proposed 2012-13 K-12 Budget for next year.

Governor Snyder has recommended a combination of one-time and on-going additions to the K-12 budget for next year.

- \$116 per student to help offset retirement increases
- \$45 per student "one-time funding" for meeting student academic growth measures.
- \$77 per student "one-time funding" for meeting 5 of 6 best practices identified by the Governor.

The Governor chose not to discuss several other aspects of his budget that impact school districts across the state that make the statement "K-12 will be receiving more funding" less than accurate. Consider the budget chart that illustrates budget deductions and additions for the 2012-13 budget year and the impact on Kentwood Public Schools.

This scenario would be much worse if not for the reductions we made together over the past year. First, all staff took a freeze on base pay and are contributing 10% of their health care costs. Second, we cut \$2.9 million from this year's budget and are using another \$3.0 million from the district's "rainy day" fund. This was accomplished through reductions in staff and limited replacement of retirees. Finally, we have substantially reduced costs through more efficient special education bus routing and shared services with Kent Intermediate School District.

We will continue to keep you updated on the Governor's budget proposal as information becomes available. In the event you wish to contact your legislator to express your concerns about these proposed cuts, the information is included.

Governor Snyder's Draft 2012-13 Budget	Impact on Kentwood Schools
Deductions	
Current School Aid Bill contains a provision that forces all districts to implement all-day every-day kindergarten next year or face loss of funding.	-\$920,000
Retirement cost increase from 24.46% to 27.37%	-\$1,600,000
Removal of \$200 per student one-time funds from 2011-12 (\$100 retirement costs, \$100 mandated best practice)	-\$1,750,000
Total Budget Deductions	-\$4,270,000
Additions	
Performance based increase - \$45 per student if meeting benchmarks (one-time)	+\$393,750
Mandated best practices identified by the Governor - \$77 per student if meeting 5 of 6 (one-time)	+\$673,750
Retirement (on-going) - \$116 per student	+\$1,015,000
Total Budget Additions	+\$2,082,500
Governor Snyder's proposed 2.5% increase to K-12 results in a \$2,187,500 cut for Kentwood Public Schools in 2012-13 without counting increases in health care costs, utilities, gas, etc.	\$4,270,000 Deductions -\$2,082,500 Additions -\$2,187,500 Total Reduction for 2012-13

As always, if you have any questions about your schools, please contact us at 455-4400.

Dr. Scott Palczewski
Superintendent

Rep Brandon Dillon	brandondillon@house.mi.gov	517-373-2668
Rep Thomas Hooker	thomashooker@house.mi.gov	517-373-2277
Senator Mark Jansen	senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov	517-373-0797
Rep Lisa Posthumus Lyons	lisal Lyons@house.mi.gov	517-373-0846
Rep Ken Yonker	kenyonker@house.mi.gov	517-373-0840

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5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

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

Elementary Events

Career Day at Southwood

On Friday, February 10, Southwood students were visited by community professionals. The careers included an auto mechanic, dog trainer, radio and television personalities, martial arts instructor, Consumers Power lineman, and several others. Students were inspired to work hard in school and develop their interests.

Southwood staff would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy day to bring this valuable information to the students.



Mr. Tom McCoy talks with the students regarding his job.



Valentine Mail Bags



The East Kentwood Student Council brought a little extra sweetness to Explorer's third graders on Thursday, February 9. Together, they created Valentine mail bags. Third graders kept the affection going by writing thank you cards to their older role models.

Reading with Davenport University Students



Mrs. Carey's students read with a member of the Davenport University softball team.

Southwood second graders in Mrs. Carey's class were visited by the girls' softball team from Davenport University. Members of the team read with groups of students and stressed the importance of staying in school and staying active in sports.



Kentwood Media Clerks Host a Fundraiser!

Marianna and Felice Messina check out items at the Zoo Table.



On Saturday, March 3, several KPS Elementary Media Clerks hosted a Lorax movie fundraiser at Celebration! Cinema South. There were activities, games, prizes, live animals, and Thing 1 and Thing 2 were there for pictures with the kids. Over \$900 was raised to purchase new books! A huge thanks to everyone who came out and supported the libraries!

Kentwood Aquatics Club (KAC) 2012 Summer Season Registration



KAC is a non-profit age group competitive swim program for children 6 -18 years of age sponsored by KPS. KAC's goal is to help swimmers improve their skills in a competitive setting, gain confidence, learn sportsmanship, and develop team spirit while having fun.

Practices are held at EKHS Aquatics Center. Registration is May 1 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the EKHS Aquatics Center Lobby area. Parent Orientation is May 3 at the East Kentwood High School East Wing Cafeteria from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Registrations will be accepted then also. Season starts May 7. For more information, please check the KAC website at www.kentwoodaquaticsclub.com. **Registration forms are also available on line and at the Kentwood Aquatics Center.**

AYSO SOCCER

EK Debate Team Highlights



Several EK students attended a lecture on politics and sports and had an opportunity to speak with John Carlos, 1968 Olympian Bronze Medal winner, who spoke at Grand Valley State.

John Carlos, Michael McKersie, Becca Rogers, and Abbie Spica.

Ben Smale competed in the "John S. Knight" scholarship competition at Wayne State University. Ben finished 3rd in the state and was the top finishing junior.



Zumba Zantastic at Townline

Townline's PE teacher Nikki Stilson, classroom teachers and Zumba instructors Jenny Love and Stacey Beck, lead students in fun exercises to build brain power!



Southwood 5th graders

visited the State Capitol in Lansing on Thursday, March 1, and met with Senator Dave Hildenbrand.





EK's Outstanding Music Programs



The members of the EK Jazz Band I were named the Outstanding Band for Class AA for the second consecutive year at the Central Michigan University Jazz Festival on February 10. They were 1st out of 12 jazz bands from across Michigan.

Corinthia Croom was named Class AA 1st Runner Up Outstanding Soloist in 2011. She was the Class AA Outstanding Soloist at this event.



Jazz Band II guitarist Cornelius Brown II was named Class C Outstanding Soloist.



Congratulations to the members of EK Jazz Band II who were named 2nd Runner Up Outstanding Band in Class C at the Central Michigan University Jazz Festival on February 10.



Senior All-Night Party!!

When: Thursday, May 24, 2012
10 pm - 4 am
East Kentwood High School

Where: Friends, food, fun (games, prizes, sports)

What: *\$50.00
Registration forms available at switchboard.

*If cost is a financial hardship for the family, please contact Asst. Principal Rick Smith.



Hot Cocoa and Cookies at Glenwood



On Friday, January 27, the Glenwood Student Council held a hot cocoa and cookie sale. For 50 cents Glenwood students enjoyed cocoa and a cookie during their afternoon recess. It was a huge success! The weather was not very cold and there was no snow, but the kids still loved the opportunity to have cocoa and a cookie.

Academy of Pacesetting Districts

Kentwood Public Schools, Godfrey Lee Public Schools, Romulus Community Schools, Saginaw Public Schools, and Ypsilanti Public Schools have been selected to participate in The Academy of Pacesetting Districts. These select districts will work closely with



Kentwood Public Schools Central Office staff and Academy Team members

each other to develop an operations manual that details a coherent district system of support. The Academy experience was designed by the Center on Innovation & Improvement in recognition of districts' responsibility and accountability for school improvement and student performance. The primary focus is on district-level operations that ultimately affect how schools and classrooms operate. These districts are to be congratulated for their strong support of their schools and students.

Transportation Dept Can Drive

The Transportation Dept. Relay Team is holding a Bottle and Can Drive on Saturday, April 21, from 8 am to 2 pm. All bottles, cans, and donations will go toward the goal of raising \$10,000 for Relay for Life. Join us at the Relay on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, at the Kentwood Stadium.



Kentwood Public Schools 2012 Summer School and ARCH Program Information:

Grades K-8

June 18-August 2, 2012

Monday- Thursday - NO Fridays

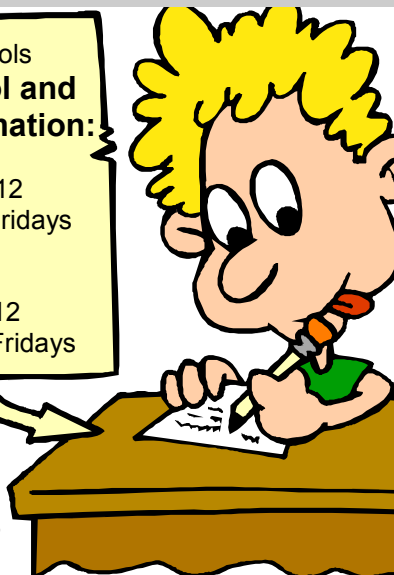
Grades 9-12

June 18 - July 31, 2012

Monday - Thursday - NO Fridays

No ARCH or school for
Grades K-8 July 2-6, 2012

No ARCH for 9-12 Jul 2-6
No school for 9-12 Jul 4-6



Global Tech 21 Students Visit Lansing

On February 21, three Global Tech 21 students participated in West Michigan Business Day at the Capitol in Lansing. They were guests of Chris Glass who works with the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Chris interviewed eight students and chose these three to represent the program and East Kentwood High School.



LaTasha Thomas, Romello Frazier, Representative Ken Yonker, Sebastian Dudas, and Jillian Williams from Jenison High School.

Jump Rope for Heart



On Saturday, February 25, Kentwood Elementary students participated in the annual district-wide Jump Rope for Heart event. Nearly 300 students jumped rope for two hours and raised \$6,200. When combined with the dollars that were raised from the "Red Out" football game, the Kentwood family has raised over \$18,000 to benefit the American Heart Association. Thanks to the students, parents, and the Kentwood community for their support in this life saving event.



Student Leaders Shine at Crossroads and Townline



Keyvon Croskey, a student at Crossroads, has been hired by the Kentwood Recreation Department as an ARCH worker at Townline. His potential was noticed by the Townline Arch Staff when doing

a collaborative activities day involving both Townline and Crossroads ARCH students. Townline students were especially drawn to Keyvon as he was able to connect with a special student at Townline in a way that other adults in the program had not been able to do.

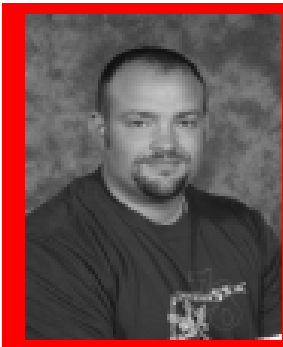
Quarters For A Cure

Kentwood bus drivers will have cans on the buses starting Monday, April 16, and will continue for the two weeks prior to Relay For Life. Drivers are asking students to donate 25 cents. Students can donate more than one day, but only 25 cents at a time. Stickers and pencils will be available to those who donate. Please help Kentwood Transportation reach their goal of \$10,000!



Calvin Lee, Explorer, donating a quarter!

Staff in the News!



Last May, heavy rains caused the Thornapple River to rise, leading to violent currents. Several rafters struggled to stay afloat and one woman nearly drowned. The sheriff's department honored Ian Gibson, Crossroads' Dean of Students, who helped pull the people from the river to safety. Ian received lifesaving honors at the department's annual awards dinner

held at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on Friday, March 2.

Kentwood Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2011-2012 School Year

Meetings held at 6:30 pm in the Board Room at the Administration Offices, 5820 Eastern Avenue SE on the following dates:

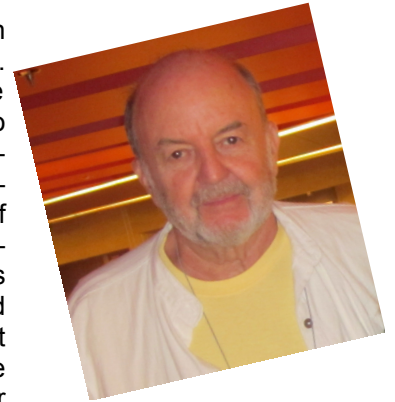
Monday, April 16, 2012 Monday, May 14, 2012
 Monday, June 11, 2012



Volunteer Spotlight on Tom Appel, Community Volunteer

"Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless". --Anonymous

Tom Appel (69) has been volunteering most of his life. From his time in the Peace Corps as a young adult, to his current standing with senior groups, community service is very much a part of who he is. Even his profession was geared towards helping others. He worked for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights as well as the Equal Opportunity Office for the Columbus, Ohio Police Department. He also interacted with neighborhood organizations throughout his career.



When he retired and moved back to West Michigan in 2002, he started participating in groups geared toward older adults. "I decided to get involved because I now see the issues that impact seniors; these weren't on my radar when I was younger," he says.

One of those issues was the Kent County Senior Millage. He played a role in the renewal campaign in 2006 and made presentations to many community groups about the importance of the millage and the great work done by the service providers. His contributions helped the millage pass with overwhelming support. It also led to his serving on the millage Review Committee, which allocates the funding for the Millage and plays a role in monitoring the services.

Tom also volunteers his time for the Advocates for Senior Issues (Advocates), a non-partisan Kent County group dedicated to educating and advocating on behalf of older adults. This isn't his first leadership role with the Advocates; he served as the Vice President in 2010-2011 and as the Sponsorship Committee Chair since 2009. Under his leadership, the sponsorship committee was expanded, the number of sponsors increased and the sponsorship funding nearly doubled. This has enabled the group to grow in size and offer additional programs and opportunities for its members.

"Tom has been an asset to the Advocates for Senior Issues," says Krystyna Rosas, Advocacy Assistant and the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan liaison to the Advocates. "He has a passion for the group to continue to grow and increase its advocacy efforts."

For more information about the Kent County Senior Millage, visit www.aaawm.org/senior_millage. For more information on the Advocates for Senior Issues, visit www.advocates4seniors.org/



Kentwood Community Education Crossroads Alternative High School

28—60th Street, Grand Rapids 261-6166
Director: Mr. Brian O'Hara



Crossroads Penny War



Congratulations to on-line learning teacher Amanda Bursey and the evening students for collecting the most donations for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients. The goal was to collect \$200.00 but \$294.39 was actually collected. Mandy's class will be treated to a Hospitaliano lunch.

Literacy for Life

On Thursday, March 1, and Friday, March 4, Crossroads' students visited Bowen, Meadowlawn, and Townline schools' K-2 students to read and demonstrate the importance of literacy. Each child was given a book so they could practice reading at home.



Helen DeVos Children's Hospital / Austin's Art Party

Crossroads will be operating as a drop off site for donations to this effort until April 25, 2012. Austin's Art Party collects donations of art supplies to donate to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.



THANK YOU

... to one of the "40 Days In The Word" Life Groups at Kentwood Community Church for their donation of backpacks, socks, pens, paper, pencils, calculators, and city bus passes for Crossroads' students.



Mrs. Green, Life Group member and Ian Gibson accepting the donations.

Alliance for Young Artists and Writers



Gary Wildfong has received the Gold Key regional award for his pinhole photography "Figure" submission. His work is now being considered for national level recognition.

Rotary Students for the Month



Congratulations to Ja-Quari Moore-Bass and Marquel Shannon for being selected by the Rotary for the month of March.

Kentwood Board of Education
KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
5820 EASTERN AVENUE SE
KENTWOOD, MI 49508

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Early Childhood and School Age Child Care

3303 Breton Road SE, Kentwood 49512 (616) 493-5693

Director: Lori Eaton



Kentwood Public Schools

7th Annual Early Childhood Expo

Thursday, April 19, 2012 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

NEW HAMILTON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

3303 Breton Rd SE Kentwood, MI 49512 616-493-5693

FREE EVENT

Join Kentwood Public Schools and businesses from around the area, to help you build a brighter future for your children. Information focusing on education, childcare, parenting, safety, and fun.

Preschool Enrollment 2012-2013 School Year

Early Childhood Program Office, 3303 Breton Road, (Hamilton Elementary, Door F).

Open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m., on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Phone **616-493-5693** for more information and to enroll your student.

Bus Driver Profile

Stan DeJong has been driving for Kentwood for two years and has eight years in other districts. Stan and his wife Jan have three children. He enjoys hunting, trapping, and fishing. He loves collecting old lures and surviving for a week in the woods using the land for food and shelter. Stan also has a pest control business called Stan's Predator and Varmint Control. He is very busy in the summer which makes bus driving a very good fit for him. He enjoys the students and working with the other expert drivers.



Amila Coralic, Katie Schuch, Meredith Whitmer, Erika Heinz
Kate Dunbar, Emma Pinchak, Anna Bielecki

Congratulations ...

... to the Odyssey of the Mind team from Crestwood on placing first in Division 2 at the regional event held Saturday at Forest Hills Central High School. The team's total score was 347.85 out of a total perfect score of 350 points. Way to go!!

Freshman Boys Basketball Team Undefeated



On March 1, 2012, the Freshman Boys Basketball Team defeated South Christian in their final game and capped off a remarkable undefeated season. This has never happened at EK for the Freshman Team. What makes it even more special is that many of the team members also played on the undefeated Freshman Football Team. The last game ended with a slam dunk from Jose Gonzales. What a way to end the season!