



Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

DISTRICT SCHOOLS EARN STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Honors and awards are not new for schools in Kentwood. Crestwood, Valleywood, and East Kentwood High School have all been recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools by the Michigan Department of Education. Explorer Elementary received the same honor and was recognized as a National Exemplary School as well.

Glenwood Elementary will also be representing the entire State of Michigan as a Title I Distinguished School at the National Title I Conference.

This past November, the Michigan Department of Education released a list of schools that are "Beating the Odds." Despite the challenges of poverty and high numbers of students who do not speak English as their primary language, these schools were identified as outperforming other similar schools with similar risk factors and demographic composition. Glenwood, Southwood, and Townline Elementary schools were all identified as "Beating the Odds."

These schools have good leaders, knowledgeable and prepared teachers who engage students and a commitment to involve and embrace parents and the community.

According to State Superintendent Mike Flanagan, "We have good things happening in Michigan schools. These 'Beating the Odds' schools are helping students to make progress and finding ways to overcome traditional barriers to academic achievement."

All three Kentwood schools credited a variety of factors for their success including strong building leadership, common vision, highly qualified

and dedicated staff, high academic and behavioral expectations, a collaborative school culture, commitment to technology, strong community and parent involvement, and staff commitment to do whatever it takes to help students succeed.

"Beating the Odds' schools have found ways to work smarter and harder, not just harder," Flanagan said. "They have good leaders, knowledgeable and prepared teachers who engage students and a commitment to involve and embrace parents and the community."

In addition to being named a "Beating the Odds" school, Glenwood Elementary will also be representing the entire State of Michigan as a Title I Distinguished School at the National Title I Conference held in Seattle, Washington.

Innovative Programs and Technology Contribute to Student Success



Southwood teacher Marilyn Vandebos works with students Markwane Billingsley and Marcus Hurst in flexible groups using netbooks. Interactive whiteboards and other technology have been in place at Southwood since the beginning of the school year.

Excellence and Equity in Education

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

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

Elementary Events

Donuts with Dads



Meadowlawn Elementary hosted another "Donuts with Dads" event on November 3. It was a fantastic turn out! Many students were able to start the day having donuts and juice with their dads! Staff appreciate dads investing their time on a weekday morning at Meadowlawn!

Sewing Circle At Southwood

This fall, Southwood Elementary offered a four-week extracurricular class to 5th grade girls, called the "Sewing Circle." The focus was to introduce the students to basic sewing instruction including hand stitching, threading needles, making knots, and sewing on buttons. Students also had the opportunity to use sewing machines allowing them to see how the machines work and the difference between sewing by hand and machine stitching. This was the first exposure to sewing for most of the students.



Participants of the Sewing Circle proudly display their projects.

Bowen's Blanket Project

Bowen's Student Council and the Kentwood High School swim team worked together on a service project for the holidays. Funds were raised, and ten fleece blankets were made and given to students in the DART program here in Kentwood. The two groups had fun working on the blankets and getting to know each other.



STARs Shine on Townline School



Townline School was fondly remembered by "STARs" (the Sisterhood of Townline's Amazing Retirees) over the holidays. These retired teachers and paraprofessionals donated gifts for Townline students. STARs shared toys and books with students who might need a brighter Christmas. STARs work with Townline staff and students every February making "Valentines for Veterans." STARs also volunteer many hours at Townline as tutors and guest readers. Townline STARs shine!

Glenwood Holiday Food Drive

Glenwood's Student Council, in conjunction with East Kentwood High School, held a "Stuff the Bus Food Drive," November 28 - December 2. All together 1,235 non-perishable food items were collected!



Mrs. Tidd's 1st grade class collected the most items - 197! They won a pizza party put on by EK Student Council. All food items will go to needy families in Kentwood and local food pantries.

Sharing is caring!

Endeavor Makes Merry Music

Endeavor 2nd graders sang an ice-fishing song for their January "SNOW BIZ!" music program. The "long" arms show the whopper that got away!



Learning Lab at Discovery



Jean Blaydes leading the group in an exercise band activity.

In late November, Discovery, Endeavor, and Bowen staff were treated to an inservice with Jean Blaydes, a world-wide leader in action-based learning. She taught a vast amount on brain research and how exercise, even as little as 10

minutes a day, can strengthen memory and grow brain cells! She led the group through a powerful journey on how

children can improve cognitive skills through movement.

Now, at Discovery Elementary, there is a running club, a movement room, an action-based learning lab, and in each classroom children

are up and moving to activate learning! They

are rolling, stomping, clapping, and jumping more to engage the brain. For more information on this amazing science go to www.actionbasedlearning.com. Thanks to the Kentwood Foundation for partially funding this learning experience with Ms. Blaydes.



Second graders using the Action-Based Learning Lab to activate their brains.

Read Naturally Star of the Month

Townline Elementary student, Jesse Babson, was selected for the Read Naturally January star of the Month. He was nominated by his Read Naturally coach, Candis Malcolm, and he was selected from all students nominated in the Read Naturally program in the United States. Jesse is a 2nd grader in Mrs. Elmore's class at Townline. Jesse will receive a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card and Townline Elementary will receive a \$200 gift certificate to use toward Read Naturally



Swimming With Santa



Thanks to all who attended and contributed toys to this fun event. Over 103 new, unwrapped gifts were donated to Toys for Tots.

Rotary Students for December, January, and February

Tyvon Humphrey – has been in foster care for the past ten years and he wants to help foster kids improve. He sings, speaks Spanish, works with Habitat for Humanity and volunteers at Degaga Ministries, David's House, Up2U Festival, and Fundango. He plans to attend Western Michigan Univ. to major in Spanish and social work with a minor in culinary arts.



Kaileigh Wenglikowski – wants to become a preschool teacher. She joined the National Honors Society and volunteers at Streams of Hope, Gilda's Club, and has become a tutor.



Hoang Nguyen - has been in the US for one year and plans to go to college and use his education to help fight poverty in Vietnam. He tutors others in math and science.

Roudeland Metellus - Music has impacted almost every aspect of her life. She is part of the Symphony Orchestra and earned a MOSAIC Scholarship from GR Symphony.

Marquel Shannon - would like to attend GVSU to major in pre Medicine. He is a member of the Leadership council at Crossroads.

Ja-Quari Moore-Bass– attends Crossroads and lives on his own. He hopes to attend Aquinas to major in Psychology. He has volunteered over 860 hours at UICA.

Middle School Moments

Valleywood and JA Partner for an Extravaganza of Social Studies



On Friday, November 11, 2011, Valleywood Middle School and Junior Achievement partnered for a building wide extravaganza of social studies learning. Valleywood Falcons

grades 6-8 participated in six different economics lessons taught by community members from local businesses. The goal of the lessons was to take social studies standards to the next level showing the real world application of economics. This great opportunity allows staff to bring economics right into the classroom, exposing ALL of the students to economic success stories.

Leadership Project at Pinewood



Macy Brown shown with her project

Pinewood's Teen Leadership students (6th grade) produced over 150 hand-made cards for Hospice of Michigan. These beautiful creations were distributed to hospice patients in the Grand Rapids area by their care-givers during the holiday season. The hope is that these efforts give the clear message that staff and students genuinely care for others as they struggle through this tough time.

Pinewood Middle School Student Selected to All-State Band

Congratulations to Tim Long, member of Pinewood's 8th grade band. He was selected through an extensive audition process that consisted of hundreds of students from across the State of Michigan to be part of the MSBOA All-State Middle School Band. The band performed as part of the Michigan Music Conference at DeVos Place on Saturday, January 21.



P.E.A.K.S. Program

The P.E.A.K.S. (Parents, Educators, and Kids = Success) program boasts the only all-inclusive gifted program for grades 3 through 8 in Michigan. This program is designed for the child that is above grade level in READING, is highly motivated to learn, and will go beyond the regular classroom requirements. The P.E.A.K.S. program is under the direction of Mrs. Mary Molyneux, Gifted and Talented coordinator for Kentwood Public Schools. P.E.A.K.S. has been in existence for 18 years and added a middle school program 7 years ago.

If you are interested in this program for your child, watch for important mandatory meetings on either March 7 or March 8, 2012 at Discovery Elementary School. Brochures are available by contacting Mary Molyneux at either Crestwood Middle School (455-1200, ext. 32257) or Discovery Elementary (871-1080, ext. 19101).

Pinewood Musical: Beauty and the Beast Jr.



Pinewood's musical Beauty and the Beast Jr. opened on December 1 and ran for three evenings. It was a great performance, and the sets and costumes were amazing.

KENTWOOD BASEBALL LEAGUE WINTER SIGN-UPS FOR THE 2012 SEASON

Saturdays, February 4, 11, and 18, 9 am-noon
Thursday, February 9, 5-7 pm
Valleywood Middle, 1110 50th Street SE, main entrance

STUDENTS WHO DID NOT PLAY IN 2011 MUST BRING A BIRTH CERTIFICATE

\$70 one player (ages 8 and up by December 1, 2012)
\$40 each additional sibling (any age)

\$40 for children who are 5 ½ by December 1, 2012
(The child must turn 5 on or before June 1, 2012)

Late registrations will only be accepted after these dates IF there is space available in the appropriate division and will be charged an additional \$25 per child late fee.

EK Soccer Athletes Play in MCAA Final

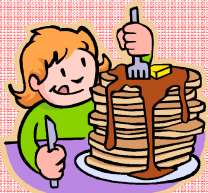


On December 3 and 4, four former EK Soccer Players contributed to leading Calvin College to the NCAA Final Four and eventual National Championship game, where they lost to Ohio Wesleyan 2-1. Dino Duratovic, Dan Nederhoed, Alec Goorhouse, and Mirza Harambasic played a major role in getting Calvin College to this tournament.

Bowen's Student Council and EKHS Swim Team make blankets for DART Students.



The students at DART received a special gift this holiday season. The EKHS swim team and Bowen's Student Council provided students with beautiful hand made blankets. A special, heartfelt thank you to all who participated!



Pancake Breakfast

The East Kentwood High School Academic Boosters will be holding a pancake breakfast on Saturday, February 18. Please mark your calendar and support this event!

Senior All-Night Party!!

When: Thursday, May 24, 2012
10:00 pm - 4:00 am

Where: East Kentwood High School
What: Friends, food, fun
(games, prizes, sports)

Cost: * \$50.00

Registration forms available at the
EK Switchboard

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



Driver Education Segment 1

Application forms will be available after January 3, 2012, at East Kentwood High School, East Kentwood Freshman Campus and all middle school offices for students to enroll in the summer 2012 Segment 1 East Kentwood High School Driver Education program. Two sessions are available; Session 1 from June 12 – June 29 and Session 2 from July 9 – July 26. The fee is \$325.00 (Segment 2 is included in this fee). The deadline for turning in completed application forms with payment to Mrs. Videan at the Freshman Campus of ice is Monday, April 16, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Videan at 871-1033.

Parents and students must attend one of the student/parent information meetings. The dates are Tuesday, May 8, or Thursday, May 10, at 7:00 pm in the East Kentwood Freshman Campus Cafeteria.

Congrats to East Kentwood female soccer players Alexis Fricke, Brittany Tanner, and Jess Bleckley on winning the Super Y National Championship in Tampa, Florida. This is the first North American championship by a girls team from this area.

Brittany Tanner was awarded the Golden Boot (leading goal scorer) of the national tournament.



Congratulations!



John Conlon, 5th grade teacher at Endeavor and Varsity Soccer coach, was awarded the Central Region/Sectional Coach of the Year from the National Federation of State High School Associations! This award covers IL, IN, IA, MI and WI and was given to him for his fall '11 boys soccer season. Along with this honor, he also won the State of Michigan Coach of the Year. He was also a finalist for the National Coach of the Year.

EK Mural Project

Students in Adrienne DeMilner and Le Tran's art classes painted a beautiful mural on a retaining wall at 5165 Kalamazoo Ave by invitation from the owner of the State Farm Office located on the property.

Stop by and take a look!!



Grandparent/Special Guest Day

Discovery Elementary held Grandparent/Special Guest Day on November 4, 2011. Over 200 guests had the opportunity to eat lunch with the students, have a special photo taken together, and visit in the classrooms. It was a very fun and memorable day for everyone.



Madison Zainea with her special guest Julie Wenberg

Glenwood ARCH Students and EKHS Varsity Voices Sing at Senior Luncheon



On December 14, 24 Glenwood ARCH students were invited to the Kentwood Activities Center to sing during the Senior Luncheon. These students were chosen to participate in this special event based on academic excellence and exemplary behavior. They sang four holiday carols and were able to enjoy lunch with the seniors and watch East Kentwood High School's Varsity Voices who also were invited to sing.



Resolve to a Healthy New You!

Healthy Eating for Successful Living in Older Adults

January is often a time to jumpstart fitness goals or make resolutions for a healthy new you, and while nutrition is a key component in building a healthier lifestyle, it's often neglected or overlooked. Yet, proper nutrition can be critical in preventing the development and progression of lifelong diseases such as diabetes. Coupled with exercise, healthy eating habits can also reduce the occurrence of heart disease and osteoporosis.

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) wants to help older adults reach their healthy lifestyle goals through a new program called Healthy Eating for Successful Living in Older Adults (*Healthy Eating*).



If you want to learn about healthy lifestyle choices using a hands-on approach, then this is the class for you! Sessions include cooking demonstrations, group outings to a grocery store and restaurant, and a group physical activity segment. The group outings help participants learn how to incorporate the healthy choices into everyday life activities.

Registered Dietitian, Staci Shell, says older adults may not understand how their nutrition needs change as they have aged or possibly developed chronic conditions. "The goal is to teach people how to fit healthy eating into their lifestyle and how to make those healthy food choices in the grocery store, out to eat or wherever you are. It's not following the latest diet but learning how to incorporate smart nutrition choices into everyday life."

The program, provided in partnership with Spectrum Health Healthier Communities, can accommodate up to twelve adults age 60 and over. The first session will be held on Wednesday, March 7 through April 11 from 1:00 until 3:30 at Spectrum Health Healthier Communities (665 Seward, Grand Rapids, MI 49504). Instruction will take place in a classroom, kitchen, grocery store, and restaurant.

Healthy Eating sessions are held weekly for six weeks and is a National Council on Aging model program. Upon completion of the program, 80% of participants changed their diet or behavior to make healthier food choices or include physical activity in their daily routine.

Healthy Eating is one of seven healthy aging programs offered throughout West Michigan by the AAWM. Other classes address fall prevention, physical activity, chronic conditions, and arthritis. For more information on healthy aging programs or other resources for seniors, visit www.aaawm.org or call (616) 456-5664.



Kentwood Community Education Crossroads Alternative High School

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



MEEMIC Insurance Gives Back



Andy Steensma of MEEMIC Insurance shown presenting a check for \$500 to Janet Sall to help fund the Literacy for Life project that buys books for elementary students. Literacy for Life was founded by Nathan Anderson a Crossroads student.

"You will find, as you look back on your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others." - Henry Drummond

Thank you to all who donated to the
14th Annual Care Bag Project!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Dorrie Bender | Mary McDowell |
| Nancy Bruinsma | Bernadette Morgan |
| CitiFinancial of Kentwood | Mr. Pelerito's class |
| Deb Coch | Brian O'Hara |
| Crestwood Kitchen Ladies | Dr. Scott Palczewski |
| Katie Dean | Kim Pitsch |
| Gerda Didion | Janna Renkema |
| Lynn Eickhoff | Southwood |
| Heather Terbay | Pauline Storm |
| Kent Intermediate School District | Valleywood Middle |
| Julia Malta | |
| Michelle Yates | |

Crossroads Students Network with State Leaders

Morgan Scott and Nathan Anderson were invited by Representative Yonkers and his wife to attend the GOP hosted 124th Annual Lincoln Dinner held on November 16 in Grand Rapids. The students networked with the Honorable Terri Lynn Land and attended the interview of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who spoke about 9/11 and national security.



KENTWOOD COMMUNITY EDUCATION LEISURE CLASS INFORMATION

Registration for leisure classes may be made at any time. Payment MUST accompany registration. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 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 St. SE, Kentwood, 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.

<u>DAY</u>	<u>BUILDING</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>STARTS</u>	<u>WEEK</u>	<u>COST</u>
<u>MONDAY</u> Boaters Safety	Valleywood	6:00-8:00 P.M.	3/5/12	4	\$40.00
<u>TUESDAY</u> Baton & Dance-Twirl Classes	KCE	6:00-8:00 P.M.	1/31/12	16	\$5.00 /class (\$2.00 Registration Fee)
Pilates	Valleywood	6:30-7:30 P.M.	1/24/12	8	\$45.00
<u>WEDNESDAY</u> Self Defense	KCE	5:30-8:00 PM	2/8/12	16	\$7.00 /class
<u>THURSDAY</u> Zumba	Champion Fitness	6:00-7:00 P.M.	2/9/12	8	\$45.00

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO.278

Early Childhood and School Age Child Care

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

Director: Lori Eaton

Preschool Enrollment 2012-2013 School Year

REGISTRATION: Friday, March 2nd

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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-served basis.
Phone 616-493-5693

A CURRENT PHYSICAL WITH UP-TO-DATE IMMUNIZATIONS AND A CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE WILL BE NEEDED BEFORE YOUR CHILD MAY ATTEND PRESCHOOL, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Tuition Based - Preschool

Preschool programs are available for three and four year olds. The preschool programs will be available at Endeavor, Explorer, and Hamilton. **A \$130.00 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT** (applied to tuition) is required at the time of registration. **An activity fee of \$30.00 is also due** at time of registration. A separate check is needed for this fee. A packet of information will need to be filled out at time of registration.

3-year old program – children must be three years old on or before September 1, 2012. Children must be **fully potty trained prior to starting class**. (We do not allow pull-ups; children must be able to go on their own to the bathroom.)

4-year old program – children must be four years old on or before December 1, 2012.

3's (2 day) - \$630.00 **Cost:**
4's (3 day) - \$930.00

FREE - Preschool Readiness Program

FREE Preschool programs are available for four year olds only. A packet of information will need to be filled out and turned in at the Early Childhood Office.

Children must be four years old on or before December 1, 2012.

This program is available **FREE** to qualifying residents. Families must meet at least 2 out of 25 different criteria. A few of these are listed below:

- *Low birth weight (5 lbs 8 oz or less)
- *Developmentally delayed
- *Language deficient
- *Non-English or limited English speaking household
- *Single parent
- *Low family income
- *Teenage parents