



# KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

March  
2012

## Kentwood Public Schools

[www.kentwoodps.org](http://www.kentwoodps.org)

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

### Measuring Excellence

#### New Cut Scores Intended to Reflect Career / College Readiness

This past September, the State Board of Education adopted more rigorous standards for scores on the state-wide achievement tests – the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). Similar to raising the requirement for receiving an “A” in a class from 90% up to 95%, applying the new cut scores will result in a dramatic decline in student test scores across the state.

To assist districts and schools in transitioning to the new state assessment cut scores, the Michigan Department of Education released past MEAP and MME data, retroactively applying the new cut scores adopted by the State Board of Education.

**We have to be honest with ourselves about where we are in preparing our kids for the reality of today’s global economy.**

A sample of those scores and the impact on State and district test scores is included in the chart shown below.

**Fall 2010 MEAP Comparison  
Old and New Cut Scores**

	State (new)	County (new)	KPS (new)	KPS Original
Math – 3rd Grade	35	38	44	97
Reading – 4th Grade	64	68	70	87
Math – 5th Grade	38	44	55	85
Reading – 7th Grade	56	61	59	81

According to State Superintendent Mike Flanagan, “We have to be honest with ourselves about where we are in preparing our kids for the reality of today’s global economy. These updated scores, while they may be difficult to accept, will help lead Michigan forward. Just looking good is not better than being good.”

The new cut scores are intended to better reflect how well schools are preparing their students to be on-track for career and college readiness in high school, and on-track to proficiency in the next grade for students in grades 3-9. Flanagan said, “I applaud the strong support from educators for raising our cut scores to better prepare all students. While assessment scores will show a sharp decline with this change, they will show the academic growth Michigan students have made over the past several years. I have confidence that student growth will continue.”

### Glenwood Wins National Award



Glenwood Elementary staff Jennifer Tidd, Debi Moore, Melinda Geer, Shelley Porter, and Kari Anama traveled to the National Title I Association Conference in Seattle to receive the Distinguished School Award.

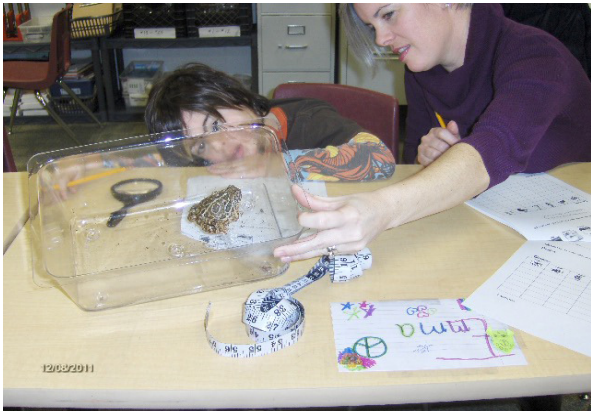
*Excellence and Equity in Education*

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

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

# Elementary Events

## VanAndel Science at Discovery Elementary



1st and 2nd graders, along with a parent, recently spent an evening THINKING AND ACTING like scientists! An inquiry program based on "Science on Saturdays" at Van Andel Education Institute was led by fifth grade teacher Jason Dunn. The evening focused on prediction, observation, and wondering/new questions. Participants were hands-on with a progression of living organisms including kiwi fruit, pill bugs, frogs, toads, and goldfish. Not only were participants using scientific tools and recording observations, they were having fun while learning and spending quality time together. There were many smiles as each participant left with a goldfish!

## Would you like to be a lunch server???

Looking for a little something extra to do during the day? The Child Nutrition Department is looking for people who can work during the breakfast and/or lunch period. It's usually just a couple of hours and it would be on an on-call basis. If interested, please stop in at the Administration Office at 5820 Eastern Avenue SE and ask for Fern or call 455-3166.



## School Closing/Delay Information

Whenever conditions warrant the delay or closing of school, parents are asked to monitor the local television and radio stations beginning at 6:00 a.m. Every attempt is made to have the information broadcast no later than 6:30 a.m.

\*\* All practices and rehearsals are cancelled. A decision will be made at 1:00 p.m. regarding sporting events and evening programs.

\*\* There is no transportation to other districts.

\*\* Childcare is provided for those families already participating in the Kentwood Early Childhood Programs.

\*\* Parents should listen to local radio and television stations: B93.7, WGRD AM & FM, WGUV, WKLQ, WLAV AM & FM, WOOD TV-8, WXMI TV-17, WWMT TV-3, and WZZM TV-13.

## Discovery's Action Based Learning Lab

The equipment for these rooms was attained through Title I dollars, donations, and grant money. The activities and rooms are supervised by an academic interventionist and sometimes classroom teachers. Both rooms are open for any class to use throughout the school day. Physical Ed teachers can use these rooms for their classes when needed. These rooms are also used for recess groups and as incentives for classroom teachers as awards.

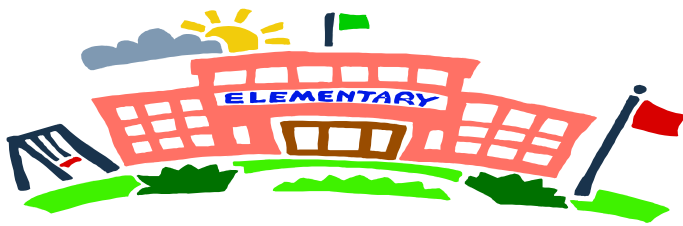


Recently these action based learning rooms were featured on the front page of the health section in the Sunday GR Press.

## Fun Fridays at Meadowlawn!

Meadowlawn hosted its first Fun Friday on October 21 to build relationships between staff and students throughout the building. Students visited another grade level classroom and participated in an activity taught by the classroom teacher. Activities included team building, yoga, checkers, international games, math games, visualizing and verbalizing, and much more. Fun Friday was a huge success! A fifth grade student commented that it was "really cool!" The fourth grade students worked on human knots and the girls won! Students and staff are looking forward to the next Fun Friday.





## Kindergarten Registration Date Thursday, April 12, 2012, at 7:00 pm

Please attend at your child's home school\* to receive important registration paperwork and information.

- All day, every day kindergarten
- Part time kindergarten and young five options
- Safe, secure, and nurturing classrooms
- Experienced, loving, and dedicated teachers
- District before and after school childcare

\*To find out which building is your home elementary school, determined by your street address, by calling the KPS Transportation Department (616) 698-7007 or the



## Middle School Honors Band



7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Kentwood were selected to be part of the MSBOA District 10 Middle School Honors Band. They, along with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from throughout Kent and Ottawa counties, were part of two ensembles billed as the "7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade All-Star Band." This band performed at Allegan High School on Sunday, January 15.

## Vietnamese New Year Celebration at Endeavor



In January, Endeavor Elementary students and staff celebrated the Vietnamese New Year, *Tet Nguyen Dan*, with traditional Vietnamese music and dance. Endeavor students Ana Tran, fifth grade, and Davin Su, first grade, helped to perform a dragon dance using traditional drums and clothing. The whole school enjoyed the opportunity to learn about and celebrate other traditions!

## AYSO Soccer

## Multicolored Carpet at Brookwood

Kindergarten, first, and second grade students at Brookwood Elementary began the second semester with a splash of colorful carpeting in each of the classrooms. Thanks to a generous financial grant from the Kentwood Public Schools Educational Foundation, each student now has a large individual square of space on a multicolored carpet where the student can participate in creative, interactive learning activities. Children are invited to "join in the conversation" as they are given teacher-led opportunities to "turn and talk" with fellow students in a productive manner. Learning takes place with accountable talk, such as, "I have a different opinion," or "Is there another way to solve the problem?" Students are encouraged to move the conversation along and to think more deeply.





## Relay For Life of Kentwood 2012 Ribbon Project



Kyle White, 7th grade and Brayden White, 3rd grade show off their completed ribbon honoring the University of Michigan.

Kentwood Public Schools proudly supports the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Kentwood by decorating 160 awareness ribbons that will be auctioned off April 27th at East Kentwood High School's Falcon Stadium. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. To learn more about participating in the Relay For Life of Kentwood on April 27-28, 2012, from 1pm-1pm go to [www.relayforlife.org/kentwoodmi](http://www.relayforlife.org/kentwoodmi) or contact Alex Willey at 616.364.6121 or [Alexandra.Willey@cancer.org](mailto:Alexandra.Willey@cancer.org).

### Aquatic Center Easter Egg Hunt

The Aquatic Center will again be accepting donations for the 2nd Annual Aqua Easter Egg Hunt, held on Saturday April 7, 2012. For those 6 and under it is from 12:15 pm-12:40pm and for those 7 and up it's 12:45 pm-1:10 pm.

The pool staff is requesting any plastic eggs, candy or Easter related toys. They can be dropped off at the Aquatic Center Mon-Fri from 5am-9pm. As always, thanks to the Kentwood Community for their unbelievable support of community functions like Swimming with Santa and the Aqua Easter Egg Hunt.

For more info, contact Joey Sutherlin at 42336 or email him at [joey.sutherlin@kentwoodps.org](mailto:joey.sutherlin@kentwoodps.org)

### KENTWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

The meetings of the Kentwood Board of Education will be held at **6:30 p.m.** in the Board Room at the Administration Offices, 5820 Eastern Avenue, S.E. unless otherwise noted (Phone 455-4400) on the following dates:

Monday, March 12, 2012	Monday, May 14, 2012
Monday, March 26, 2012	Monday, June 11, 2012
Monday, April 16, 2012	

Note: Official minutes of the Board of Education meetings are available no later than five business days following Board approval. These documents are available during business hours at the Administration Offices - 5820 Eastern Avenue.

## Penny War at Crestwood

The Crestwood Middle School Student Council recently held their Annual Penny War Competition. They raised \$1,111.11 dollars (mostly pennies). The class that raised the most will receive an Olive Garden catered lunch. The Penny War lasted two weeks and during those weeks students listened to facts about Leukemia and Lymphoma. Crestwood is trying to make an impact on its students and community by doing more charitable work to help others.



## Zero the Hero at Discovery ...



Asst. Supt. Michael Zoerhoff plays Zero the Hero

Friday, February 10, was the 100th day of school at Discovery Elementary. 1st and 2nd graders celebrated with a special 100 day breakfast and a

very special visitor. Zero the Hero counted to 100 with the children by 10's and 5's. He cheered them on and encouraged them to keep learning!

## ... and at Challenger



Challenger first graders in Mrs. Gatzka's and Mrs. Hernandez's rooms used their imaginations and created beautiful posters using 100 items. Cereal, cotton balls, pictures, noodles, yarn, beads, and many other items were used. Every poster was unique and creative. What a great way to celebrate 100 days of learning!

## AHERA NOTIFICATION FEBRUARY, 2012

The EPA 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 & Operations Department, 6160 Valley Lane SE, Kentwood, 49508, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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.  
Telephone: (616) 698-8848.

## Youth Empowerment



On February 13, thirty-three 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls from Crestwood, Pinewood, and Valleywood participated in Beautiful U, a youth empowerment workshop, hosted by Maranda from WOOD TV-8. Students participated in several activities and learned skills necessary to succeed in school and life. Topics included health, fitness, career, fashion, beauty, and self-esteem. The Beautiful U workshop will be aired on Maranda's "Where You Live" the first weekend in March.

## Rotary Students for January and February

**Dani DuBay** - My zealous commitment to the American Cancer Society paired with my devotion to my church has provided me with several opportunities to make a difference. I have volunteered at Crash's Landing and U-COM. The qualities I acquired to be an influential leader are an ability to maintain a growth mindset and the propensity to work hard. My mother has instilled in me the importance of



following your dreams. I want to travel and absorb culture. I want to be a glimpse of promise in my underestimated generation.

**Mike Dam** - Early on I knew that I had a hunger for learning and thinking. I grew up in a family who taught us to strive for the best. My commitment to learn illuminates to others that I will al-

ways seek what is best and share what I have been taught. I volunteer at my church and with the National Honor Society. I aspire to utilize my intellect and creativity to aid in researching and engineering medicine to cure dangerous diseases that circulate the world.

**Demeshio Smith** - Goals and dreams are very important to succeed in life. My goals are to go to Bowling Green State Univ to pursue a degree in accounting to become a successful CFO for a football or basketball team. Another goal is to be a good role model to my siblings. I am employed at FB Wright. I competed in the DECA State competition in the advertising campaign and I have volunteered at Vibrant Grains restaurant doing some accounting work. I am a great leader because I listen to others, analyze the task at hand, and am a hard and dedicated worker.



**Diana Rutaremara** -

I was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and moved to the US when I was ten. My history is what makes me a great leader. I am able to get along with people from all over the world and can empathize with those that do not feel fully accepted. I believe it is diversity that makes us even greater people because it forces us outside of what we know and helps us to discover the power within. I plan to attend GVSU to study Biology with the hope of becoming a pediatrician. I have been a member of the swim and soccer teams and work at Burger King. I sing in the school's and my church's choirs, I am a member of the National Honor Society, and Pathfinder Club at church.

**Mark Wood**, world renowned electric rock violinist, will be performing with 6th-8th graders on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, at the East Kentwood High School Fine Arts Auditorium at 7 PM and 9th-12th graders on Friday, April 20, 2012, at the East Kentwood High School Fine Arts Auditorium at 7:30 PM. Tickets will be on sale to the general public sometime in mid-March for \$7.00 each or \$10.00 at the door.



## Odyssey of the Mind for Seniors

Last year the Late Bloomers and Team Nonsense showed audience members that you are never too old to have a good time. The Senior Odyssey of the Mind competition is back for its second year.

Senior Odyssey encourages older adults to use problem solving skills, humor, wit, and creativity to solve complex fictitious problems.



Teams meet with their leader/coach weekly. During practice they come up with a solution to their problem, work on a script and plan for the performance. They also work on more spontaneous problems which require quick thinking.

The program started out small in Kent County with just two teams last year. This year, eleven teams made up of five to seven older adults will represent senior centers, living communities, and faith based groups.

Julie Lake, Health Promotions Coordinator, Senior Neighbors Inc. says, "Many older adults don't have the opportunities to use their creativity and problem solving skills like they did in their younger years. We know that keeping the mind active is an important part of overall health and Senior Odyssey of the Mind is a great way to engage the brain."

Senior Odyssey of the Mind (Senior Odyssey) is a collaboration between Senior Neighbors, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Community College and Creativity Unlimited of Michigan (Michigan's Odyssey of the Mind Program) with funding provided by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. For more information on Senior Odyssey of the Mind, contact Julie Lake at (616) 233-0283.

For more information on other senior programs call the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan at 456-5664 or visit [www.aaawm.org](http://www.aaawm.org).

## Elementary Music Teacher Uses Technology To Connect To Hope College

Over the past few years, Peter Conniff has been developing a working relationship with Hope College's School of Music. College students have visited his classroom, made observations, and taught mini lessons with Discovery Elementary students. He has also had two student teachers from Hope College. This year, schedules didn't work out to have the music methods classes come to Kentwood so Peter and Professor Dr. Christina Hornbach turned to technology for a solution. In Mid-January, they collaborated over



Skype to bring real world teaching models into the college classroom. The fifth grade students involved loved showing off their skills and the professor reported that the discussions held after the Skype session were invaluable. Peter hopes to expand his online collaboration using technology tools like his interactive white boards that were purchased by the Kentwood Education Foundation, Skype, and other online music collaboration tools.

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### **We want your opinion!** What grade would you give the Kentwood Public School District?

With all of the issues facing public education these days, it's important that we hear from our community. Active parents regularly meet with teachers and district administrators to provide their input, but not everyone has the opportunity to attend a board meeting or join the PTC for their building. That's why we're inviting you to express your opinion on our web site at [www.Kentwoodps.org](http://www.Kentwoodps.org) or at our Kentwood Public Schools Facebook site [www.facebook.com/kentwoodps](http://www.facebook.com/kentwoodps).

Last year, legislators cut school funding back to 2005-06 levels and required all employees to pay a portion of their health care. They lifted the cap on charter schools and are now considering creating an unlimited number of "cyber academies" that would allow students to earn a diploma online, and many more education reforms.

Amid all of these changes, we at Kentwood Public Schools are doing all we can to provide the best possible education for your children. We've made some adjustments, but not without working diligently to maintain programming for our students. We want to know what you think about the challenges facing our schools, and what you consider essential for our students to receive a good education. Please go online today and complete the survey at: [Kentwoodps.org](http://Kentwoodps.org). If you would like us to visit with your community group to discuss these issues, complete that portion of the survey or call us at 616-455-4400. We look forward to hearing from you.



# Kentwood Community Education Crossroads Alternative High School

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



## Crossroads Students Have Been Busy This Winter

Congratulations to leadership student Marquel Shannon who has qualified to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award! This award recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their community and their country. On behalf of President Barack Obama, Marquel Shannon will be presented this prestigious award as a Prudential Spirit of Community Honoree.



### Michigan Blood Drive



Crossroads students held the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 scheduled blood drives on January 18. It was a wonderful turnout and Leadership volunteers were very busy. Thanks to those students, staff, and community members who donated to Michigan Blood Drive (Facilities

worker, Collin Crumback, has donated over eleven gallons.) The mother of a Crossroads teacher is currently receiving whole blood and is on dialysis. She expressed her appreciation for this truly lifesaving gift.

### Leukemia and Lymphoma Society



Crossroads is participating in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Pasta for Pennies." Pasta for Pennies is a school-based program where students learn about blood cancer while collecting coins to help area patients. The money raised will benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society which funds life-saving research and local patient services.

### Sports at Crossroads



Crossroads will attend the State bowling tournaments on February 17 and will host a Spring Bowling Bash on March 21.



Basketball season has begun!

### Kentwood Freshman Academy Art Show

Wednesday, March 14 6:00 to 7:00 pm

AT: WMCAT 98 East Fulton, Grand Rapids

Please join us in celebrating the creative work of the Kentwood Freshman Academy students.  
For more info, please call 454-7004

### Senior All-Night Party!!

**When:** Thursday, May 24, 2012  
10 pm – 4 am  
**Where:** East Kentwood High School  
**What:** Friends, food, fun (games, prizes, sports)  
**Cost:** \*\$50.00

**Registration forms available at switchboard.**

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

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*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Expo

Thursday, April 19, 2012 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. 616 493-5692

**NEW HAMILTON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER** 3303 Breton Rd SE, Kentwood, MI 49512



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

## Preschool Enrollment 2012-2013 School Year

Early Childhood Program Office, 3303 Breton Road, (Hamilton Elementary, Door F). Phone 616-493-5693

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

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.

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