



# KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

May  
2012

## Kentwood Public Schools

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

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

### **Board Approves Five Year District Plan Planning Continues to Produce Positive Results**

Describing it as a “framework for the future” the Kentwood Board of Education adopted a five year plan at its March 26, 2012 meeting. According to Board President Mimi Madden, “The success of an organization should not depend on any one individual but on the contributions of many. We are so fortunate in Kentwood to have such hard working staff who intentionally build strong adult-to-student relationships with our students. The five year plan builds on those strengths while setting a vision for the future.”

*The planning by the Board has always led to success in this district. The vision shared in the document ensures that we will continue on a positive path for years to come.*

Explaining that the five year plan is vital for the continued success of the district, Superintendent Dr. Scott Palczewski outlined the process used by the central office leadership team to communicate its shared vision for the future of the district.



Board President Mimi Madden reads to students at Bowen

“The planning by the Board and our leadership team has always led to success in this district.

The vision shared in the document ensures that we will continue on a positive path for years to come.”

Highlighting the global nature of the district, Board President Madden explained that Kentwood has become a destination district for professionals from around the world.

*We are so fortunate in Kentwood to have such hard working staff who intentionally build strong adult-to-student relationships.*

“Families moving to Kentwood know this cosmopolitan community school system and our supportive community provide skills that equip students for a lifetime of work in a world that is becoming both global and diverse in its orientation.”

### **District Refinances Bonds Saving Millions**

In early March, the Kentwood Board of Education finalized the refinancing of bonds originally approved by the community in 2003. According to Assistant Superintendent for Business Steve Zakem, the refinancing of the bonds will save district taxpayers \$6.4 million in interest over the life of the bonds. Thanks to the conservative financial practices of the district, Standard and Poor’s credit rating agency gave Kentwood a strong credit rating (A+ stable) allowing the bonds to be refinanced and sold at a premium.

Board President Mimi Madden commented, “The strong financial planning of the district has allowed Kentwood to implement technology and other programming that ensures the success of our students. Thank you to the entire Kentwood community for its continued support of these efforts.”

*Excellence and Equity in Education*

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

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

# March is Reading Month



Superintendent Scott Palczewski read Owl Moon to fourth graders at Townline Elementary.



Dr. Palczewski read to Mrs. Teipel's second grade class at Endeavor Elementary.

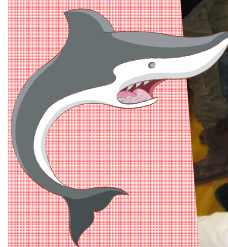
## Discovery Art Prize

Students at Discovery Elementary School held their own Art Prize this year. Every student in grades kindergarten through fifth created an art project for the Discovery Art Prize. Students could draw, paint, glue, or color a picture of whatever they wanted using a medium of their choice. All the pictures were displayed throughout the school hallways. Students then had two rounds of voting. In the first round, a 'top five' was selected for each grade level. Then in the second round of voting, students selected a winning picture for each grade level. Students learned about how the Grand Rapids Art Prize works and the voting process that is used.



## Shark Dissection At Brookwood

Fourth graders at Brookwood learned hands-on science as they performed a shark dissection.



## Challenger's Wax Museum

Challenger's fourth graders recently held an annual Wax Museum. Each student researched a famous person from history, then wrote and memorized a speech about that person. Students created a tri-fold board depicting important events in their famous person's lifetime and dressed up like the person. Students presented their project to the school. Family and friends came to see the presentations in the evening. Student focus was on research, speech writing and delivery, and creativity of the board and costume.



# Save the Date



Jazz Dinner Dance  
Saturday, May 19  
6 - 9 pm  
EK Freshman Campus  
Cafeteria

Attendees will be treated to a program featuring the award-winning EKHS jazz bands, the EKHS jazz combo, and the Crestwood/Valleywood and Pinewood jazz bands. The Olive Garden Restaurant is providing a delicious dinner menu. For more information and to purchase tickets call 698-6700. Sponsored by Kentwood Band and Orchestra Boosters

## Crestwood Middle School's Robotics Team "The Outsiders"

Crestwood began a collaboration with GE Aviation two years ago by starting a robotics team. Last year, the team competed in the *First* Lego League, or FLL, with 7th graders. The team became part of a "pilot program" with *First* by introducing middle school students to a more complicated robotics challenge (previously only available to high school students). The *First* Tech Challenge, or FTC, had 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade members work alongside five different GE Aviation engineer volunteers to construct and program a robot for autonomous (only programmed movements) and tele-op (person controller movements) to gather racket balls, stack crates, and move a bowling ball up an incline while competing against other teams.

The Outsiders competed at Holland Middle School in January against 18 teams and was on the winning alliance team. In February, the team competed at Novi Middle School against 38 teams and was on the "runner-up" alliance team.



Team members were Jacob Beimers, Devon Boodt, Gabrielle Mason, James Mulkern (Pinewood), Taylor Stevens, Amber Swanson, Taya White, Coach Gina Smith, Coach (and engineer) Adam Veenendaal, Mentors Orlando Alvarez, Serge Badiane, David Price, and Corey Smith.

## PEAKS Students work with Business Mentors

PEAKS students are required to spend five months delving into an individual project (5th and 6th grades). They are also required to have MENTORS that come to school to speak on their long term project.



Mrs. Jane Girod from Fitzgerald's Men's Store and Kate Dunbar, Crestwood 6th grade PEAKS. She is studying Fashion Design.

Master Sergeant Olsen with Felipe Pardo from Crestwood 5th grade. He is studying the military.



## Congratulations Spelling Bee Winner



Mwangi WaMaina won the Greater Grand Rapids Spelling Bee held on March 13. He will go on to the National Scrips Spelling Bee in late May held in Washington DC. He will represent all the schools in western Michigan.

The EK Academic Boosters would like to thank everyone who assisted or attended the pancake breakfast on March 10. Special thanks to Meijer for its support and to Peg Edverson for use of the KBL signs.





# 2012 Kentwood Sports Camps

## Register For Grade in Fall 2012



| Sec #   | When                    | Place                      | Grade         | Time                | Cost   |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| <b><u>Boys Basketball</u></b>   |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 100   | June 11 – 14            | EKHS Field House           | 3, 4, 5       | 9:00 am – 10:30 am  | \$30   |
| 101   | June 11 – 14            | EKHS Field House           | 6, 7, 8       | 9:00 am – 10:30 am  | \$30   |
| <b><u>Girls Basketball</u></b>  |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 000   | June 11 - 14            | EKHS Field House           | 3, 4, 5, 6    | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm | \$30   |
| 001   | June 11 - 14            | EKHS Field House           | 7 thru 12     | 12:30 pm - 2:15 pm  | \$30   |
| <b><u>Cheerleading</u></b>  |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 800   | July 23 - 27            | EKHS Stadium/EKFC Aux. Gym | 9, 10, 11, 12 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm   | \$80   |
| <b><u>Football</u></b>  |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 600   | June 9                  | Falcon Stadium             | 3 thru 8      | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm   | \$10   |
| <b><u>Pole Vaulting</u></b>   |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 500   | July 17 - 20            | Falcon Stadium             | Beginners     | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  |  |
| 501   | July 17 - 20            | Falcon Stadium             | Advanced      | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm   |  |
| <b>Cost: \$55.00 for Kentwood students, \$170.00 for non-Kentwood students</b>          |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| <b><u>Co-ed Soccer</u></b>  |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 400   | June 11 - 15            | Pat Patterson Field        | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm   | \$80   |
| 401   | July 23 - 27            | Pat Patterson Field        | 7 thru 12     | 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm   |  |
| <b><u>Co-ed Tennis</u></b>  |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 300   | Beginner – Intermediate | EKHS Tennis Courts         | 3 thru 12     | 9:00 am - 11:00 am  | \$180 for the entire summer or \$50 per week |
| 301   | Intermediate – Advanced | EKHS Tennis Courts         | 7 thru 12     | 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm   |  |
| <b>The camp is held June 11 thru July 27 except for July 2 - 6 Monday thru Thursday</b> |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| <b><u>Co-ed Track</u></b>   |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 700   | June 19 - 21            | Falcon Stadium             | 3 thru 8      | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  | \$30   |
| <b><u>Volleyball</u></b>  |                         |                            |               |                     |  |
| 200   | June 11 - 14            | EKHS West Wing Gym         | 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 8:30 am - 10:00 am  | \$55   |
| 201   | June 11 - 14            | EKHS West Wing Gym         | 8, 9          | 10:15 am - 12:15 pm | \$55   |



**CAMPS WILL BE CANCELED IF THERE IS A TORNADO WATCH/WARNING DURING CAMP TIME**

### 2012 East Kentwood Sports Camp Registration Form

#### CASH, MONEY ORDER, OR CREDIT CARD ONLY – NO CHECKS ACCEPTED

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (Next Fall 2012) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

MALE or FEMALE \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please request camp by section number listed beside each specific camp. Fees are payable upon registration. **CASH, MONEY ORDER, OR CREDIT CARD ONLY. NO PHONE REGISTRATIONS. Mailing address: East Kentwood High School Athletic Department, 6230 Kalamazoo Avenue, SE, Kentwood, Michigan, 49508.**

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code Number \_\_\_\_\_

Camp#/Sport \_\_\_\_\_ Camp#/Sport \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby voluntarily release and hold harmless Kentwood Public Schools from all liability for all types of damages or injuries, whether foreseeable or not, sustained by myself, my child and other family members while participating, watching/traveling to or from this activity.

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Kentwood Public Schools participates in both the Kent County Schools of Choice and the State 105c Plan.

**Kent County Schools of Choice Program**

- **Student lives in the Kent Intermediate School District**
- Annual reapplication is not required
- Signature from releasing Superintendent is not required
- Transportation is not provided
- A student who has been suspended, expelled or convicted of a felony may be excluded
- Siblings of current Schools of Choice students may receive preference in filling district openings
- The Michigan High School Athletic Association requires a student to wait one semester after enrolling in a new district (under Schools of Choice) before participating in athletics
- **Open enrollment period: April 9 – June 1, 2012**
- **Applications will be available on April 9**

**State 105c Plan**

- **Student lives in an Intermediate School District that borders Kent Intermediate School district**
- Annual reapplication is not required
- Signature from releasing Superintendent is not required
- Transportation is not provided
- A student who has been suspended, expelled or convicted of a felony may be excluded
- Siblings of current Schools of Choice students may receive preference in filling district openings
- The Michigan High School Athletic Association requires a student to wait one semester after enrolling in a new district (under Schools of Choice) before participating in athletics
- A written agreement between the resident district and the Choice district must be in place for students who receive special education services
- **Open enrollment period: May 18 – June 1, 2012**
- **Applications will be available on May 18**

**Additional Information**

- Applications will not be accepted prior to the open enrollment period or after the open enrollment period has ended.
- If more applications are received than openings are available, there will be a random drawing of applications that were received prior to the deadline.
- After a student is accepted as a Schools of Choice student, continuous enrollment will be allowed until graduation or a student withdraws.



**Aquatic Center Easter Egg Hunt**

On Saturday, April 7, the second annual Aquatic Center Easter Egg Hunt was held in both the warm water pool and the splash pool. Over 178 kids participated in the hunt.



**Thank you** to all who donated gifts and candy. The overwhelming generosity made this a great day for many kids in the community.

**EK Cheer Celebrates A Memorable Season**



The Varsity Competitive Cheer Team won its tenth consecutive State Championship competition under the direction of Coach Stacy Sheler. "EK's Competitive Cheer team has become known as a perennial powerhouse under her leadership," states Athletic Director Blaine Brumels.

**KPS—Sports Physical Exam Night**

**Tuesday, June 5, 2012 5:30 to 8:30 pm**  
*All athletes grades 7-12 invited \$20.00*  
*East Kentwood Campus—Door E*  
*(Behind the building—Music Wing)*

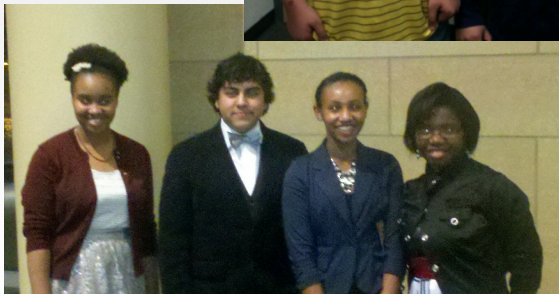
The Michigan High School Athletic Assoc. requires that **all students participating** in athletics grades 7-12 have a physical on record with the school, and it must have been **administered after April 15 for the following year.**

- Items to be turned in at Physical Night:**
- \*Physical and information card completed by parent & athlete
  - \*Insurance waiver—unless purchasing insurance
- Physical cards are available at all 3 middle schools, EKFC and the Athletic Office and must be brought to the Physical Night with \$20.00 for the physical. (Checks payable to EK Athletics.)

# Grand Rapids Symphony Mosaic Scholarship Winners

The Mosaic Scholarship is designed to provide talented African-American and Hispanic students with the opportunity to develop musical skills and to immerse them in the world of classical music. Students living in Kent County who have been playing an instrument for at least one year are eligible to audition for the scholarship. Mosaic Scholars receive completely subsidized lessons with a Grand Rapids Symphony musician, as well as opportunities for the scholar and their family to attend Grand Rapids Symphony concerts and events. Scholarship auditions are held in the spring for lessons beginning in the fall.

Freshmen  
Broderick White and  
Reynaldo Hernandez-  
Vasquez



Rudy Metellus (violin-12th grade), Gabriella Davis (violin-12th grade), Ayantu Kebede (viola-11th grade) and Rene Osorio (viola-11th grade)

## Hearing Loss in Older Adults

Hearing loss is something that many older adults experience. Most insurance plans do not cover the cost of hearing aids and equipment can range in cost from a couple hundred up to several thousand dollars.



Katie Prins, Executive Director at Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), says advances in technology have increased the options for those who do not have the means to purchase hearing aids. Prins recommends looking into the following products, if you are unable to afford hearing aids:

- **Pocket talkers.** These are readily available and often resemble headphones and a portable speaker.
- **Amplifiers for phones and televisions.** These can be connected to specific devices and increase the volume just for the item it is attached too.
- **Modified smoke alarms or doorbells.** Safety is a number one concern for those with hearing loss.

Hearing aids are still the most common choice for those with hearing concerns. Prins recommends that no matter how much you are spending on these devices, you should always be cautious. Take the following steps when purchasing hearing aids:

1. Talk with your doctor. He can recommend you to an audiologist.
2. Ask questions. This is new territory for many people so the terms used and the results after an audiological test may be confusing.
3. Do your research. Unfortunately there are individuals and companies that have questionable sales tactics or misrepresent the truth. Doing your research before you purchase anything can help prevent you from making a costly mistake.
4. Find out what the price includes. Some companies may offer warranties or fittings in with the cost of the hearing aid while others don't.
5. Schedule an appointment with DHHS staff.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) works with individuals of all ages to help with hearing concerns. They offer support groups and one-on-one assistance as well as classes and events for those with a hearing loss.

For more information on services for those with hearing loss, contact Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at (616) 732-7358 or [www.deafhhs.org](http://www.deafhhs.org).

For more information on other services for older adults and caregivers, contact the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan at (616) 456-5664 or [www.aaawm.org](http://www.aaawm.org) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAging](http://www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAging).

**SAVE THE DATE**

Plan To Join Us At The **4<sup>th</sup>** Annual

**Falcon** 2012  
Charity Classic

STONEWATER Country Club

The New Stonewater Country Club  
A Watermark Property

**Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Visit [www.falconcharityclassic.golfreg.com](http://www.falconcharityclassic.golfreg.com) for further information.  
For questions, please contact Kathleen Johnson at 616-698-7532  
or by email at [kathleen.johnson@kentwoodps.org](mailto:kathleen.johnson@kentwoodps.org)

**SAVE THE DATE**



# Kentwood Community Education Crossroads Alternative High School

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



## Leadership Team at Crossroads Is Very Involved in Community Projects

### MAEO Outstanding Program Award

Leadership students received notification that they have been selected as the 2012 MAEO Outstanding Program Component. The Program is being recognized for its contribution to alternative education in Michigan and will be awarded at the MAEO Spring Conference held in Bay City.



### Used Cell Phones Collected And Donated

The Leadership Team collected used cell phones to donate to the YWCA and AT&T. The YWCA gives the used phones (with adapters) to victims of domestic violence. The phones that do not have adapters are donated to AT&T for the program called "Cell Phones For Soldiers." Each recycled phone generates money to purchase calling cards to give to the troops.



### Michigan Blood Drive

The third and final blood drive will be held on April 25 from 1 to 4 pm at Crossroads. The Michigan Blood Bank will make a \$10.00 donation for each person registered to donate. Those funds will be used to sponsor future service-learning projects.



### Scholarship Award Winners

Keyvon Croskey has been selected as a recipient of the KCEA Committee Choice Scholarship Award.



### Congratulations to ...

Morgan Scott for being selected to serve on the second assembly of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's Student Advisory Group. She will be attending a meeting in Lansing on April 30. Her participation in the student group will include sharing her unique perspective on her educational experience.



Michael Roersma has been selected as the recipient of the KCEA Alternative Education Scholarship Award.

### Legislative Day

On Wednesday, March 14 Leadership students attended Legislative Day as part of their participation with the MAEO STARS Leadership Organization. Students toured the Capitol, met with legislators, observed a senate session, and listened to guest speakers from Cooley Law School.



### Hamilton Relay Recess- A Great Success!



The first annual Hamilton Relay Recess was a great success! On March 22, Hamilton preschoolers and their family members were able to actively participate in the fight against cancer. Families walked laps for the cure, engaged in fun planned activities, ate healthy snacks, and decorated luminary bags. Students spent the week learning about making healthy life choices. Students also collected

\$540 in pennies for HOPE and will continue to collect throughout April.

AYSO news to be inserted

## **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**

**Registering now**

Phone 616-493-5693

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

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