



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

November
2011

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

THE SEASON OF GIVING:

CROSSROADS STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY PARTNER TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

The staff and students at Kentwood Public Schools know how to build strong, positive relationships. These skills enable them to forge valuable partnerships with the community. In one far-reaching example, staff and students at Crossroads Alternative High School are collecting personal healthcare items to distribute to students and their families who are homeless and living in area shelters.

"Kentwood students are making a significant contribution in today's global community."

According to teacher Janet Sall, the Crossroads students enthusiastically look forward to this project and the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of other students and their families. Sall notes that many of the Crossroads students have friends and neighbors who have experienced the hardships resulting from the recent recession so the opportunity to contribute became personal and exciting.

Morgan Scott, a student at Crossroads, has found service learning to be especially rewarding. "It's full-hearted giving back. Not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it gives us that great feeling of knowing we helped someone in need."

By placing the needs of our less fortunate families before their own, they have put our Kentwood values into action."

When reflecting on the project, Sall noted, "Teaching leadership fosters excitement about serving others, and it empowers students to model positive behaviors. I am amazed by the empathy the students show for their school and community."

Kentwood teachers have worked intentionally at modeling positive relationships with their students. The teachers' goal is to encourage students to en-

gage in similar patterns of behavior with others. Serving in the community is an ideal that students find attractive, so when students see that the staff and teachers at Kentwood Public Schools have a clear commitment to this ideal, they respond positively.

One of Kentwood's values is to help students create great options and choices for their lives. This project exemplifies that value, and through it Kentwood children make the world a better place.

Board President Mimi Madden is pleased with the strong coalition that has formed between the schools and the community, "Our students are making a significant contribution in today's global community," she said. "They have the advantage of learning to build relationships in a cosmopolitan setting. By placing the needs of our less fortunate families before their own, they have put our Kentwood values into action." Any community members interested in making a donation of items to the Crossroads' drive can contact Janet Sall at 261-6166 ext 61116.

Global Leaders of Tomorrow



Crossroads High School students Nathan Anderson and Morgan Scott, pictured with teacher Janet Sall, were recently elected as co-chairs for the Michigan Alternative Education Organization (MAEO). This state-wide alliance of alternative high schools focuses on developing leadership skills in students. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Crossroads students have led this state-wide organization.

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Excellence and Equity in Education

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

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

Elementary Events

Office Max Honors Two Kentwood Teachers



Michelle Howard, grades 3-5 Newcomers teacher at Meadowlawn, was surprised by a team from the Grandville Office Max for "Make a Teacher's Day" Award.



Linda Bartusch, first grade teacher at Southwood Elementary, was nominated as an outstanding educator and won Office Max's "Make a Teacher's Day" award.

Office Max surprises 1,000 teachers with \$1 million in much needed classroom supplies nationwide. The teachers receive a new chair, camera, computer printer, and countless other supplies for the classroom. Office Max also donated an additional assortment of supplies worth approximately \$5,000 to be used building-wide. This gift is the result of an in-store school supply drive in which customers contribute to the additional supplies. The students and staff at Meadowlawn and Southwood Elementary Schools would like to thank Office Max and its customers for their generosity.

Challenger's Innovative TECH Fifth Graders Skype with Students in China

On September 27, fifth graders at Challenger Elementary School held their first Skype conversation with two Chinese students. Students learned about China's education system and how it compares to that of the United States. This discussion was part of the new mode of learning being piloted by Challenger's Innovative TECH Team.

Through the interactive online discussion, students were able to present many questions to the Chinese students and were intrigued by the answers they received. Students learned that Chinese elementary schools begin the day at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m., while their high schools have much longer school days lasting from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Chinese schools hold class six days a week compared to our five, and they only have 8 weeks off for summer vacation. Chinese students are now beginning to learn English in the third grade; however, most of the current parental generation or older adults do not know English.



Students were thoroughly engaged throughout the discussion and eager to talk about what they had learned. The teaching team is looking forward to coordinating future Skype conversations.

Family Fun Night

A Fundamental Shift Toward College and Career Readiness



On Tuesday, September 20, parents were invited to a presentation by Susan Gendron from the International Center for Leadership in Education to hear about the exciting changes in education, the development of comprehensive assessment systems, and the Common Core State Standards which were implemented in Kentwood Public Schools in September 2011. While parents attended the presentation, students were treated to many exciting activities from dance, art, and music to woodworking, swimming, and soccer. Pizza was enjoyed by all.



CLOTHING SWAP

RECYCLE, REUSE, RENEW

Please donate your clean, gently used clothing at a drop box near each elementary school's main entrance. The Clothing SWAP is just for families of Kentwood Public Schools and will be a FREE event! SWAP location will be announced at a later date.



Please contact Priscilla Carreras
District Parent Liaison, for more information
616.455.4400 ext 79931
priscilla.carreras@kentwoodps.org

2011-12 SUBSTITUTE SIGN-UP

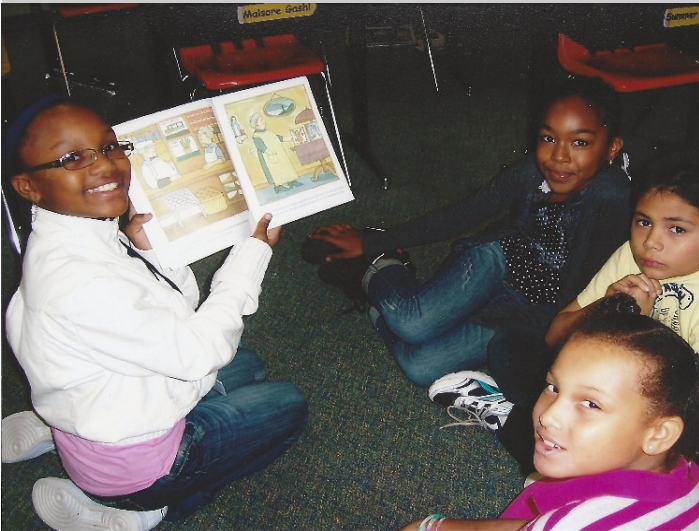
If you are interested in substitute teaching for Kentwood Public Schools and did not sub in the 2011-12 school year, please plan to attend the following meeting:

Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at 6:00 pm

You must bring with you:

- Teacher Certificate or Transcripts showing 90 credit hours
- Driver's License with one of the following: Birth Certificate, Passport or Social Security Card
- Fingerprint information: **Your fingerprints must be current as of 1-1-06.** If your fingerprints are on file with another district or college, please have them emailed to Pauline.storm@kentwoodps.org before the meeting you have chosen to attend. Or if you need to have your fingerprints done, you can do this through the Kentwood Police Department, 4742 Walma, Kentwood, MI 49512. You can pick up a fingerprint application form at the Kentwood Administration Office, 5820 Eastern Ave., Kentwood, Mon-Fri 8 am-4:30 pm.

Pinewood Sixth Graders Share A Love Of Reading



On Thursday, September 29, Mrs. Kendall's sixth grade Read 180 class from Pinewood Middle School went to Mrs. Pinckney's third grade class at Townline Elementary to read to the students. The experience was not only rewarding, it was fun for all involved.

Fishing With Family Is Fun!



Maia Perez is a 7th grade student at Crestwood Middle School who will be featured on a very popular hunting and fishing show. Maia and her dad Rob caught a Tiger trout which is a very rare catch. Rob contacted the host of Michigan Out of Doors Jimmy Gretzinger and sent him the picture. Jimmy will air a segment on his show about parents river fishing with their kids and how that can be a fun and affordable family activity. While they were filming, Maia caught another Tiger trout! After filming, Maia and her dad went below the dam where she caught a 20 pound salmon on a fly rod.



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, November 28, 2011
- Monday, December 12, 2011
- Monday, January 9, 2012
- Monday, January 23, 2012
- Monday, February 13, 2012
- Monday, February 27, 2012
- Monday, March 12, 2012
- Monday, March 26, 2012
- Monday, April 16, 2012 (third Monday)
- Monday, May 14, 2012
- Monday, June 11, 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, S.E.

Kentwood Staff Has True



Explorer Elementary staff won first place by having the largest percentage of staff participation in the fundraiser event.



Valleywood Middle School staff came in second with a total contribution of \$468 to the "Tackle Heart Disease" t-shirt fundraiser.



Aquatorium News

Our motto: *From birth throughout life, we're here to serve all your aquatic needs.*

Coming Events: Halloween Horror Tread, Boy's Water Polo Regional Tournament, Swimming with Santa, West Michigan Relays, Splash for the Cause, and much, much more.

Pool membership is \$50.00/year, and for \$90/year you can include your entire family household.

Lap Swim: Mon-Fri 5:00 —7:30 am,
10:30—11:55 am and Saturdays 8:00—9:30 am.
Open Swim: Mon,Wed,Fri 6:00—9:00 pm
Saturday 12:00—5:00 pm
Sunday 12:00—3:00 pm

Classes also offered:
Learn to Swim Private Lessons
Water Aerobics Water Exercise
Arthritis Plus Deep Water Aerobics

Call (616) 698-6700 ext-6 for more information on days, times, and cost for classes.

Tune in to Michigansportsradio.com for internet broadcasts of Falcon athletics such as football, men's/women's basketball, and ice hockey.

Friday Night Vocabulary



"Number 23, escorted to the turf by a host of Falcons!"
If any of you have attended a home Falcon football game this fall you would have heard Malik Baker, Physical Education/Health teacher at the Freshman Campus, belting out vocabulary-rich announcements which are brilliant! He has a captive audience of about 500 kids who are being exposed to a great selection of words within the context of a football game. Thank you, Malik!

You Are Invited!!

The East Kentwood High School Academic Boosters will be holding a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 10. Many thanks to all that participated and donated to the breakfast held earlier this year including Kava House and Meijers.



Above: Writing in our journals

Below: Just having fun for the camera



Newcomers' Center

Kentwood Public Schools is proud to announce a new program. Due to the rising population of refugee students in the district, we now have a Newcomer Center for kindergarten through 5th grade students. It is located at Meadowlawn Elementary. There are two classrooms with a total of 30 students. The children in these classes have been in the USA for less than one year.

The goal of the program is to develop the students' language skills so that they will be able to participate fully in their grade-level classrooms in succeeding years. As they are working on basic language skills, they are also following the Common Core Curriculum Standards and grade-level content expectations. As children learn the English names for playground and school items, they are also learning the more rigorous academic language of the content areas.



Above: Learning names for playground equipment and the verbs associated with them.

Below: Learning about mass and weight in science class.



Spotlight on Senior Issues

Class of 2012 -

Thankful for your friends at East Kentwood?
Show them you'll be there for them at the ...



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: \$45.00* before December 31st and be entered in the \$200.00 cash drawing.
After 12/31 fee is \$50.00
Registration forms available at EK switchboard
*If cost is a financial hardship for the family, please contact Assist. Principal Rick Smith

"LITTLE FALCONS NIGHT"

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 17, from 6-9 pm at East Kentwood High School Door K. Hosted by one of our high school clubs, your child can enjoy games and swimming for \$5 per student grades K- 5. Print the registration form at <http://www.kentwoodps.org/ourcommunity/parents/> to bring with you, or for more information contact the District Parent Liaison Priscilla Carreras at priscilla.carreras@kentwoodps.org or (616) 455-4400 ext.79931.

Bus Driver Profile



Rick Carroll retired as a truck driver for Holland Motor and decided he would try school bus driving. Rick has been driving for Kentwood for two years now. He likes people and kids and has lived in Kentwood for 30 years. In his spare time, he likes water sports, riding bikes, working on cars, and racing.

Rick and his wife Janice have been married for 36 years and have two children, David and Liz, who are EK graduates. The grandkids are a great joy for them too! Rick has said, "This job costs me money. I see all the garage sales and have to go buy something."

Active and Home-bound Seniors are Beating the Blues

Feelings of loneliness and depression are a reality for many older adults. Factors such as the loss of a spouse, dwindling social circle, and an inability to leave the home may play a big role. However, there are options and programs to help, even if the individual is home-bound.



Tom Oosterbaan, Director of Client Services at Senior Neighbors Inc., has seen many older adults enter one of their centers for the first time because they are depressed. "Often times they have lost a spouse or friend and they are struggling with feelings of loneliness," he says.

This was the case for Florence Goodgasell, 81, who first came to the Walker Firehouse Café because she was lonely after her husband passed away. She has made a lot of friends and often spends time with them even when she isn't at the center.

Sondra Lienesch works with volunteers through the Friendly Visitor program which pairs volunteers with older adults struggling with loneliness. Volunteers are often college students, retired professionals, or others who want to help make a difference. Volunteers are partnered with a senior and are asked to commit at least a year to the program, although many volunteers end up building lasting friendships and staying with the program longer.

While social contact is often the key to warding off loneliness, it may also be something to discuss with your doctor or a mental health professional. Depression can be serious and should not be dismissed or ignored. For more information on these programs, contact:

- * Spectrum Health Visiting Nurse Assn (616) 486-3900
- * Senior Neighbors Inc. (616) 459-6019

For more information on programs for older adults in Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo, or Osceola counties, call the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan at 456-5664 or visit www.aaawm.org.



Kentwood Community Education Crossroads Alternative High School

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



We want to take a moment to thank Wood TV on behalf of the students at Crossroads Alternative High School for donating the following: \$50 gift card from Fifth/Third Bank for four of the TI-30 scientific calculators, a box of notebooks given to the English department, pencils, markers, colored pencils, glue, hand sanitizer all purpose cleaner and posters

You really made a difference in the life of our kids!

Crossroads' Leadership 14th Annual Care Bag Project

Crossroads' students annually donate items to charities at Christmas time. This year, our leadership class has decided to collect items for personal care packages again, due to the huge success of the last 13 years of generous donations. These items will be donated to Holland Rescue Mission, Kentwood Public Schools' homeless youth, Mel Trotter Ministries, and the Bridge.



Please consider donating any personal care items by December 12 to allow for a timely distribution. Send your items to Crossroads Alternative High School.

Michigan Blood/Summer Step-Up

On August 25 of this year, several Leadership students volunteered to host a Michigan Blood Drive. We had 27 community members attempt to donate and 24 units were drawn for the potential to save 72 lives. Michigan Blood also donated \$270.00 to leadership which will help to fund future Service Learning Projects.

We would like to thank the following businesses:

- 68th St. Subway for donating boxed lunches for our volunteers,
- Grand Rapids Popcorn for supplying popcorn and cotton candy,
- Ron Sall Body Werx for providing classic cars,
- Townline Elementary for loaning us their popcorn and cotton candy machines.



We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Wood TV for providing an avenue for the community partners to be supportive and to assist educators with the most valuable resources - the children. It has become increasing difficult with funding cuts to provide the children with the tools they need to learn and become successful.

One of Janet Sall's students MacKenzie Bergey posted a wish for 100 student planners. B52 Express Oil Change, (on Broadmoor) purchased and delivered the planners to Crossroads High School in Kentwood. The students were thrilled to begin organizing dates and assignments in their new planners.

We are extremely grateful to Jenny Kim (a former student and the current manager at B52 Express). We would also like to thank the owners of B52 Express Oil Change and Car Wash at 5121 Broadmoor Ave in Kentwood for the generous donation. Thank you all for being involved in the welfare of children's futures.

Kentwood Board of Education
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KENTWOOD, MI 49508

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Hamilton Early Childhood Center

Preschoolers at Hamilton ECC are celebrating October as Fire Safety Month. Students participated in a fire drill in the morning and afternoon classes, and we had a wonderful visit from the Kentwood Fire Department. Students met in the gym for some great tips on how they can be safe (stop, drop and roll). Students watched a video and had some fun during the presentation. Afterwards, everyone got a close up look at a real fire truck with lights and sirens.



Early Childhood and School Age Child Care

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

Director: Lori Eaton

School-Age Childcare

School-Age Childcare is for children kindergarten through 5th grade. Before school childcare is available in Kentwood Public Schools' elementary buildings, pending adequate enrollment. Childcare is available from 6:30 a.m. until school begins. Enrollment for after school childcare at Challenger, Discovery, Endeavor and Explorer is available from after school till 6:00 p.m. For more information, please call the Early Childhood Office at 493-5693.

Full day childcare is available daily at Endeavor Elementary for 3-5 year olds, pending adequate enrollment. **Children must be fully potty trained; no pull-ups allowed.** All sites are licensed by the State of Michigan and approved to receive FIA reimbursement for those who qualify.

A deposit of \$40 per family is required at the time of enrollment and covers your family for one school year. Deposits are NON-REFUNDABLE! No cash is accepted. Parents will pre-pay for childcare on a weekly basis.

Fees:	1 st Child	2 nd Child
6:30 a.m. until school starts	\$ 7.50	\$ 6.00
½ day care (less than 6 hours)	\$21.00	\$16.50
Full day (6 hours or more)	\$26.00	\$20.50
After school until 6:00 p.m.	\$ 7.50	\$ 6.00

**STILL ENROLLING FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOLERS.
CONTACT 493-5693 FOR REGISTRATION.**