



Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

A Letter From The Superintendent

Dear Kentwood Community Members,

On February 7, 2013 Governor Snyder released his 2013-14 budget to the legislature. In his presentation, the Governor indicated his budget represented a 2% increase in funding for education. While we understand this is just the first step in the budget approval process, it is important for our community members to understand the impact of this budget on our school district and community.

Implications of the Governor's Proposed 2013-14 K-12 Budget for next year.

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

- \$250 per student to help offset retirement increases
- \$36 per student reduction in "one-time funding" for meeting 7 of 8 "Best Practices"
- No change in District Performance Funding
- No change in Per Pupil Foundation Allowance
- Adds \$85 million to Great Start Readiness Program creating 16,000 new slots (approximately 64 slots in Kentwood)

Early childhood education should be a priority but not at the expense of other student programs.

The Governor's increase in educational funding is almost entirely made up of money specifically allocated to early childhood education and to offset retirement increases. These "dedicated dollars" are not available to school districts for any other priorities such as utility increases, new buses, textbooks, reducing class size or technology.

Governor Snyder has proposed that \$85 million be dedicated to preparing four year old students for kindergarten through the Great Start Readiness

Program. While this is additional money to be used toward education, it is not part of Kentwood's K-12 funding.

...the Governor's proposed 2% increase in education funding will mean a \$400,000 reduction to the Kentwood Public Schools.

Early childhood education should be a priority but not at the expense of other student programs. The Governor has proposed no change in the base foundation grant or in district performance funding that supports all students. The Governor's budget also includes a reduction in Best Practice funding for districts from \$52 per pupil to \$16 per pupil, a loss of just under \$400,000 to Kentwood Public Schools.

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Retirement Open House For Dr. Scott Palczewski

Thursday, May 30, 2013

3:00 to 6:00 pm

East Kentwood Fine Arts Foyer

Students, staff, parents, and community members are invited to attend.

Challenger's Kenya Project

When 6th grade students saw a presentation on the "Kenya Project", they were very sad to see how little other children have. The Project is an attempt to provide fresh water to the people of Kenya---something we take for granted every day. Challenger Elementary has adopted this challenge for the school year. The information was shared with students in an attempt to increase awareness of others in need and to explore opportunities to reach out.

Three students felt moved to the point of making a commitment to make a difference! They contacted their former leadership teacher and asked for support in organizing a bake sale to benefit the Kenya Project. Many students chose to help by donating baked goods, and the two-day sale netted \$382 for the Project.



Pictured above are Challenger Principal Mark Bea, Leadership Teacher at Pinewood Mrs. Doezema, Pinewood's 6th grade bake sale team (from left to right) Lindsey Espinoza, Natalia Yosifovski, and Taylor Solomon and Challenger's 5th grade lead teacher Mrs. Martin.

Reading Month At Explorer

To celebrate, Reading Month the Explorer Elementary kindergartners in Kelly Hopkins', Kristin McMahon's, and Julie VanLier's kindergarten classes spent the month reading Dr.



Seuss books. Towards the end of the month, they celebrated with a Dr. Seuss day. Students played in oobleck, ate green eggs and ham, played Twister, and graphed goldfish crackers, among other things. Then students spent the rest of the day engaged in various reading, writing, and math activities based on Dr. Seuss.

Continued from page 1

School finance can often be confusing, and managing Kentwood's \$87.4 million budget is no easy task, but a responsibility we take seriously. When all of the wrangling is done in Lansing, it is important for the Kentwood community to understand the Governor's proposed 2% increase in education funding will mean a \$400,000 **reduction** to the Kentwood Public Schools.

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

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

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

Challenger Mystery Readers



John Bryant, "Griff" from the Grand Rapids Griffins, Zoe Johnson

In celebration of March is Reading Month, the kindergarten classes at Challenger Elementary invited "mystery readers" to visit their classes each day in March to help keep students engaged and excited about reading. What started as an idea to get parents and community members involved in the classrooms and show "role models in reading" grew into an exciting experience for students. Mrs. Baucom's and Miss VanEck's classes were visited by parents and other teachers, Superintendent Scott Palczewski, KPS administrators Michael Zoerhoff and Michael Pickard, as well as firemen, police officers, Miss Grand Rapids, "Griff" from the Grand Rapids Griffins, a professional motocross rider, and many others. At student requests, President Obama was even contacted (We are teaching our students to dream big!). This was such an entertaining and memorable experience for kindergartners and one we hope to repeat each year!

Bowen Staff Gets Pie'd

During March, the Bowen Arrows went "Wild About Reading." Students were challenged to read for 1,000 hours. If they did, then Mr. Feldkamp pledged to "take a pie to the face." Not only did students read 1,000 hours, they read for 1,759 hours!! So, 13 staff members "took a pie to the face."



Principal Feldkamp and Resource Room teacher Sandy Schwartz get pie'd



Let A Story Be Told At Southwood

As a kick-off to "March Is Reading Month", the **Southwood Superstars began with storytelling**, the building block of the tales we read and the narratives we write. Talented storyteller, author, and teacher **Jenifer Strauss** lead an interactive assembly for Southwood's lower elementary students as well as one that engaged the upper elementary students.



The performance was filled with drama, puppets, song, movement, visualization, and storytelling from different traditions and cultures. The giggles were endless!

Students learned that even before reading a book or writing, "A story is told, a story is heard, and a story is told again." Strauss encouraged each child to cultivate and practice storytelling with their family and friends. She inspired many of the upper elementary students to journal and *write their story*.

EK Varsity Soccer Team Mentors Endeavor Fifth Graders



East Kentwood Varsity Soccer team spent a Friday afternoon helping the fifth grade students at Endeavor with the typing of their famous person reports. The East Kentwood Varsity Girls team has an average cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Top—sophomore Alexis Fricke and below—Junior Maddie Willerer, both Endeavor graduates, help 5th graders with their reports.



Mentors in the PEAKS Program

Sixth grade students in the PEAKS Program at Crestwood are lining up thirty-one MENTORS to speak in Mrs. Mary Molyneux's classroom about their particular topics of research. Isabelle Do is studying about pharmacy, and Dr. Mark came to visit with her. Eion Reagh is studying about greyhounds and the saving of the greyhound when the dog is done racing. GRACE representative Ms. Jeanine came to speak with Eion. Mentors answered ten questions thought up by the PEAKS student to garner data and information to compile for their particular topics.



VOLUNTEER AT PINWOOD

Mr. Gary Bailey, Kentwood Community Church volunteer, works with Henry Su weekly.

They have become great friends.

Rotary Students of the Month

Mitchell Stanley – After high school, I aspire to attend and graduate from college with an English and Cinematic Arts degree. I hope to have a career within the film industry writing screenplays and directing film or as an editor at a book publishing firm.

I have been active as senior class president, Student Council member and committee head, Youth Group/Youth Retreat high school leader at St. Mary Magdalen, cellist in the St. Cecilia Music Society Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, cellist in EKHS Symphonic Orchestra, National Honor Society member, private cello instructor and care giver/home-health aid.

I enjoy the responsibilities of being a leader amongst my peers, and I always put my peers first. I listen and respect the opinions of others, and strive to be the best example of a leader.

Jazelyn King – I attend Crossroads High School. I plan to study medicine to become a pediatrician and work with kids.

I feel I am a good leader because I am able to stay focused as I strive to achieve my goals.

Ayantu Kebede – I am a senior, and next year I'll be heading to the University of Michigan to study biology and psychology. I plan to attend med school.

I have been involved in music and volunteering. I have played in the Symphony Orchestra for three years and in the ABC Orchestra for two. I am a MO-SAIC scholar and received lessons with the Grand Rapids Symphony. I have been part of EK's Drama Club, worked on the Happy Haunted Theatre, Sweeny Todd, and The Wiz. I also enjoy volunteering at Gilda's Club. I go there every other Thursday and cook meals and bake treats for the members.

Michael Crenshaw – I hope to pursue an education in computer technology and game art and design with the hope to go into a career in game development.

I am a Crossroads Board of Education representative, have chaired and co-chaired two Michigan Blood Drives, and was a member of the IATCA GR Artworks Program.

I feel that I am a good leader because of my dedication to service for others. I am a strong advocate of teamwork, and I have a positive attitude.



Crestwood Supported the Polar Plunge

Crestwood's Student Council supported the Michigan Special Olympics by donating funds totaling \$345 received from participating in the "Polar Bear Plunge." This year's plungers were Bryony Lowe, PE teacher, and Joseph Wilucz, science teacher.

Golden Age Pass

If you are 60 years of age or older, you are eligible for a Lifetime Golden Age Pass. This pass entitles you to admission to school sponsored activities and athletic events offered by member schools of the Kent Regional Community Education Association. (Some restrictions apply for special programming and/or state tournaments). Stop by the Administration Office at 5820 Eastern Avenue to receive your pass.



KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PHYSICAL EXAM NIGHT

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013 5:30-8:00 PM

All athletes grades 7-12 are invited

A-M 5:30 - 6:45 pm

N-Z 6:45 - 8:00 pm

EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DOOR E

Behind the building—Music Wing

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

ITEMS TO BE TURNED IN AT PHYSICAL NIGHT:

- Physical & info card completed by parent & athlete
 - Insurance Waiver (on card) completed unless you are purchasing insurance.
- The physical card may be picked up in advance for parents to complete and sign the forms prior to the doctor's physical. Cards are available at all three middle schools, the freshman campus, and the high school athletic office.
- The completed physical card (except for the doctor's portion) must be brought to the Physical Night with \$20.00 for the physical. **(Make checks payable to East Kentwood Athletic Department)**
- RETURNING ATHLETES:** This is a great time to get your physical for next year **and get all of your paperwork done.** We **urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.**

SAVE THE DATE

Plan To Join Us At The 5th Annual



Monday, June 17th, 2013

Visit 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

SAVE THE DATE

Endeavor's Famous Person Reports

During the month of March, Endeavor 5th graders wrote reports on famous persons in history and then prepared oral reports to present to their class.

Mr. Conlon's class is officially declaring independence from 5th grade.



Christian McNeil, Vincent Scognamiglio, and Himzo Sejdinovic preparing for their oral reports.

2013 Kentwood Sports Camps

Register For Grade In Fall 2013

Boys Basketball

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Rows 100, 101.

Girls Basketball

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Rows 200, 201.

Football

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Row 300.

Cost is \$50 for 1st camper from a family. Cost is \$25 for each additional camper from the same immediate family.

Golf

Learn about and improve your golf game by working with Coach Murphy in the Grand Rapids Golf Academy at the Pine Golf Course. For more information, call 616-538-8380 or e-mail pinesgolfcourse@gmail.com

Gymnastics - Tumbling

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Rows 400, 401.

Pole Vaulting

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Row 500.

Cost: \$55.00 for Kentwood students, \$170.00 for non-Kentwood students

Co-ed Soccer

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Rows 600, 601.

Co-ed Tennis

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Rows 700, 701.

Co-ed Track

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Row 800.

Volleyball

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Rows 900, 901.

Wrestling

Table with columns: Sec #, When, Place, Grade, Time, Cost, Boys Basketball. Row 1000.



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

2013 East Kentwood Sports Camp Registration Form

CASH, MONEY ORDER, OR CREDIT CARD ONLY - NO CHECKS ACCEPTED

Registration form fields: Camper's Name, Address, City, Zip, Grade, Home Phone, Parent's Work Phone, e-mail.

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.

Registration form fields: Credit Card No., Expires: Month, Year, V-Code Number, 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.

Registration form fields: Parent or Guardian Signature, Date.



Can you imagine giving the gift of reading skills to another adult in your community? Did you know that 21% of adults in Grand Rapids are unable to read their mail, read a bedtime story to their child, or read their heating bill?

After some tutor training from the Literacy Center of West Michigan, you will be equipped to give this gift in return for about three hours of your time each week.

Call the Literacy Center at **(616) 459-5151 x-10** for information about attending a volunteer tutor orientation. You don't need to be an expert—you just need to be willing to help

Becoming a volunteer tutor is likely to enhance your life as well!

Upcoming Tutor Orientation Dates: 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Tuesday, May 14

Thursday, June 6

Wednesday, June 12

All orientations will be held at the
Literacy Center of West Michigan
1120 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 240
Grand Rapids

or visit the website at <http://www.literacycenterwm.org/volunteer>.



Congratulations Dr. Jim Sawyer!!

Dr. Jim Sawyer has been named the local winner of the Barnes and Noble "My Favorite Teacher" contest. He was chosen from all the entries received at the Woodland Mall store. Sarah Fisher, a current freshman and freshman band member, wrote a moving essay on the impact that Dr. Sawyer has had on her life and the lives of other fellow band members. The essay received a "perfect" score from the judges. Dr. Sawyer was recognized, along with Sarah, on Wednesday, April 17, at the Woodland Mall store. Dr. Sawyer will now be entered into the regional competition where five nominees will be selected.

Alumni In the News

Congratulations to Kaitlyn McKnight, 2011 graduate of EK, who graduated from the United States Air Force basic training on March 29. Her proud mom is Gwendolyn McKnight, Child Nutrition worker at Townline.



Handy Helen
New Home Maintenance Classes for
Female Caregivers

Many older women may have relied on their husband to be the handyman around the house fixing the leaky faucets and keeping up with the home maintenance. But what happens when their husbands are not able to do these chores due to health or memory issues and the role of wife now also includes caregiver? For some women, the added task of home repairs becomes an additional stress and expense. *Handy Helen* is a new class designed to empower female caregivers (age 60 and over) with the skills they need to tackle minor home maintenance projects.

Each interactive series will include instruction in minor plumbing, electrical and seasonal home maintenance. Participants will also learn how to use the more common tools in the toolbox and who to call when you can't fix it yourself.

"There are a number of wives caring for their husbands and, due to traditional gender roles, may never have needed to learn these tasks before. This class gives them the opportunity to learn the basics alongside other women," says Anne Ellermets, Contract Coordinator at the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. "In addition to learning a new skill, they are able to connect with women in similar situations and also get a break from providing care."

Each series will meet for two classes at Home Repair Services, 1100 South Division, Grand Rapids, MI 49507. Classes will run from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. with lunch provided. Respite care for their husband can be arranged at registration, if needed. Series one will meet on Tuesday May 7 and May 14. Series two will meet on Tuesday June 4 and June 11.

"We are excited to offer this class for older women who are caring for their husbands," says Judy Jordan, Education Coordinator at Home Repair Services and Handy Helen instructor. "We encourage female caregivers, no matter their current skill level, to give the classes a try. I believe they will walk away from the sessions feeling empowered and confident in handling more minor home chores which can help prevent stress and costly repair bills."

Classes are sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Caregiver Resource Network, and Home Repair Services and were developed by the Outreach & Access Subcommittee of the Caregiver Resource Network.

For more information or to register for classes, contact the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan at (616) 222-7014 or email your name and series date to registration@aaawm.org



Kentwood Community Education Crossroads Alternative High School

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



Rotary Students Of The Month



Congratulations to Michael Crenshaw and Jazelyn King for being selected as Rotary students for the month of March.

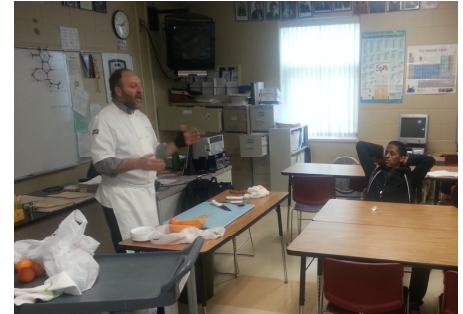
Scholarship Award Winner



Congratulations to Michael Crenshaw who was honored as the recipient of the 2013 Kent Community Education Association Alternative Scholarship Award. Michael was selected from candidates throughout Kent County.

Career Day

Thank you to all the community professionals, colleges, and military branches that participated in "Career Afternoon" on March 26.



Director of Child Nutrition Services
Moh'd Shamali.

Students were able to learn about potential post high school opportunities while discussing with professionals about educational requirements for the various positions that were highlighted.

ARCH Program

Art classes were highlighted in the ARCH Program during April. Students had the opportunity to take a class on how to explore, learn about, and start their own business.



On April 18, the ARCH program went downtown to the Planetarium, and on April 25, some ARCH students were rewarded with a trip to Chicago where they visited the Shedd Aquarium and had a special dinner.



Students looking at Career Fair information.

Crossroads Registration Dates 2013-2014

Returning Students only:		
August 14, 2013		8:00 am to 4:00 pm
August 15, 2013		9:00 am to 7:00 pm
New Students only:	Open Enrollment	
August 19-23, 2013		8:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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A Big Thank You ...

to the City of Kentwood
Parks and Recreation
for the grant to purchase
the canopy for the playground
at Hamilton Elementary.

Early Childhood and School Age Child Care

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

Director: Lori Eaton

Preschool Enrollment 2013-2014 School Year

***** REVISED *****

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-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, 2013. 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 November 1, 2013.

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

FREE - Preschool Readiness Program

Run by the Kent Intermediate School District

FREE Preschool programs are available for four year olds only. **Call 616-447-2409 for more information.**

**Children must be four years old
on or before**

November 1, 2013

(Previously stated December 1, 2012)

This program is available **FREE** to qualifying residents. It is available to 4 year old children who meet certain financial and/or other eligibility criteria.