



# THE DOLPHIN NEWS

Explorer Elementary

A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

May 10, 2013

**With Excellence and Equity we will...**

**Explore the Past, Experience the Present, Envision the Future**

## Explorer Elementary School

**Principal: Carrie Tellerico**  
Admin. Assistant: Julieanna Nalett  
Attendance Para: Deb Crocker  
**(616) 554-0302**

Explorer Website  
[www.kentwoodps.org/ourschools/explorerelementary](http://www.kentwoodps.org/ourschools/explorerelementary)

**PTC President: MaryBeth Raible**  
[explorerptc@hotmail.com](mailto:explorerptc@hotmail.com)

**Kentwood District Website**  
[www.kentwoodps.org](http://www.kentwoodps.org)

**Meal Payment Website**  
[www.mealpayplus.com](http://www.mealpayplus.com)

## Principal's Perspective...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Partnership between parents and community are vital to the success of all students at Explorer. Our Parent Teacher Council (PTC) is a prime example of an effective partnership between parents and the school.

During this school year, the PTC planned and coordinated fundraisers that generated supplemental income for the school. The monies were used to support students and staff in various ways: field trips, sports equipment, teacher collaboration time, staff appreciation, fifth grade celebration and the Grand Rapid Symphony Artist-in-Residence Program. The PTC also planned and coordinated various family events for Explorer: movie night, a family dance and the carnival. Volunteers for these activities were also recruited and organized by the PTC.

I would like to thank the dedicated officers and members of our PTC for all their effort and hard work this school year. We look forward to partnering with the new officers for the 2013-2014 school year.

Educationally Yours,

*Miss Tellerico*

*Don't forget to cast your vote for new PTC Board Members on May 13 in the Explorer office.*

## Important Dates

- 5/13 GOTR Practice @ 4PM
- 5/13 PTC Meeting @ 7PM
- 5/14 KODU @ 3:45PM
- 5/14 Weblo Meeting @ 4PM
- 5/15 GOTR Practice 5K @ 4PM
- 5/16 KODU @ 3:45 PM
- 5/16 Cub Scouts @ 6:30P
- 5/17 Shooting Stars Celebration
- 5/18 Girls on the Run Event @ EK
- 5/20 Scout Planning Mtg. @ 6PM
- 5/20 Brownie Mtg. @ 6PM
- 5/21 School Picnic - Lunch Times
- 5/22 4th Grade Field Trip
- 5/22 Clinger, Kleersnyder & Osbourne Field Trip
- 5/23 5th Grade Field Trip
- 5/23 Girl Scout Mtg. @ 6:30PM

**No School - Monday, May 28**



**Memorial Day**

## Summer Educations

We have a few Summer School spots to be filled by students exiting grades 1-5. If you are interested in your child attending summer school, the deadline for signing up is **Friday, May 17.**

Also, if you are interested in having a tutor for your child during the summer break, please call the Explorer office at 554-0302.

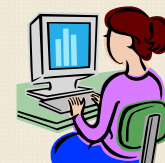


## Check it Out!!

We would like to invite you to an exciting new website that offers news and information about our school district and other districts throughout the region.

It's [www.schoolnewsnetwork.org](http://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org). There are some great stories about Kentwood Public Schools.

Please go there and check it out!



## Talent Show

On behalf of the Talent Show Committee, we would like to extend our sincerest congratulations and gratitude to all of the students who tried out for and participated in the Talent Show.

Great appreciation also goes to the students' parents and teachers who helped prepare and support their children for this fun and talent-filled afternoon.

## Reminders

As we begin to bring this school year to a close, we need to do some housekeeping. Here's how you can help:



**Meal Accounts:** We are no longer able to charge meals for the remainder of the school year. Please settle any outstanding balances on your child's meal account.



**Library:** All books should be returned no later than May 24.



**Lost & Found:** We currently have many unclaimed items including clothing, eye-glasses, sunglasses and much miscellaneous. All items must be claimed by June 7 (any remaining items will be donated).



**Medication:** All medications must be picked up by an adult by June 7 (any remaining medications or medical equipment will be disposed of properly).

## Appropriate Dress



Now that the weather is getting increasingly warmer, we want to remind you that clothing should be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. The following is a non-exclusive list of examples: tank tops (less than two inches wide at shoulder), bare midriffs, see-through or fish-net fabrics, excessively low cut tops or jeans or shorts are forbidden.

Although **sandals and flip-flops** are allowed, children **should not wear** them if they are participating **in gym class** or any type of running activity during recess.



## Picnic Lunch

Explorer's School Picnic will be held on Tuesday, May 21. The all-school picnic lunch will feature grilled beef hot dogs, fruit, chips, milk and a special treat.

Please send in your child's lunch money as usual.

## Are You Moving?

As we attempt to estimate the number of students per classroom for the 2013-2014 school year, it is imperative that we have an accurate count of students.

If you are aware that you will be moving from the Explorer attendance area and have not informed us yet, please contact the school office as soon as possible. This will help us when planning for the upcoming year.



## Counselor's Corner

Be Aware! Video games impact behavior and learning.

Again and again, studies have shown that kids who play violent video games for extended periods of time:

- ◆ Tend to be more aggressive
- ◆ Are more prone to confrontation with their teachers
- ◆ May engage in fights with their peers
- ◆ See a decline in school achievements

Research states that playing video games may increase aggressive behavior because **violent acts are continually repeated** throughout the video game. This method of repetition has long been considered an effective teaching method in reinforcing learning patterns. Also, players who had prior experience playing violent video games responded with an increased level of aggression when they encountered confrontation.

Please give your child the best chances for future success by enforcing good parenting strategies, such as:

- ◆ Know the rating of the video games your child plays (**Only E and EC; not T, M, AO**)
- ◆ Do not install video game equipment or television in your child's bedroom.
- ◆ Set limits on how often and how long your child is allowed to play video games.
- ◆ Supervise your child's internet use — there are now many "video games" available for playing online.



## **PTC Elections - Monday, May 13, 2013**

PTC elections will be held on Monday, May 13 in the Explorer office from 8am until the meeting at 7pm. Once again, there are three positions open for the 2013-2015 school years. Below are the candidates and a short biography for each candidate:

### **PRESIDENT**

- **Trisha Best** – *Hi, my name is Trisha Best and I'm running for PTC President. I have two children who attend Explorer; a daughter in third and a son in kindergarten. I have been actively involved in PTC and a classroom helper since my oldest was in preschool. For the last four years I have been Explorer's building representative for KPAC (district-wide PTC); currently the KPAC Vice President. KPAC has raised my awareness to the impact of fundraising and volunteer recruitment. I have ideas on how a successful PTC program like this one should operate, and I am interested in hearing what you have to say about it too. Events and fundraising, as well as volunteerism, are all very important. I believe PTC is a collaborative group to better the school, and we need everyone's voice to be heard. Our PTC has done fabulous things in the last several years and we hope to build on that effort.*
- **Cheri Kleynenberg** – *As a mother of two children, one who currently attends Explorer and one former Explorer Dolphin, I am seeking the position of PTC President for the 2013-2015 term. I have immensely enjoyed my time serving on Explorer's PTC Board as the Treasurer for the past two years. As Treasurer, I am responsible for all financial aspects including fundraising, budgeting, and being a good steward of the money generously donated to the school. For the past seven years, I have volunteered extensively throughout the school. I have had the pleasure of leading a Girl Scout Troop for the past three years and most recently, I have volunteered as a coach for the third grade Girls on the Run team. I was chairperson for the Auction and Family Dance in 2012 and 2013. This year, I also served on the Reproductive Health Advisory Committee for KPS and the Explorer Talent Show Committee. I love Explorer and all that the staff does daily to enhance the educational experiences of our future leaders. I am so proud to be a small part of the many successes Explorer has experienced in the last few years. I would love to continue serving our school in the role of PTC President.*

### **TREASURER**

- **Heidi Winkelmann** – *Hi, my name is Heidi Winkelmann. I have a daughter in first grade and a son who will attend Explorer next year. As a family we have enjoyed the events the PTC has put on for our school, being able to meet other families has brought us closer to our community. In our short time being at Explorer we have seen the wonderful additions that have been made and the support that has been given due to fundraising and support efforts of the PTC. Being an educator I understand the limitation a school can face due to monetary constraints. The ability to help provide so many resources that help to better our students' education is important and what makes the PTC so special. My background includes being a high school health and physical education teacher; department head focusing on budgeting and purchasing of curriculum; student council advisor supporting fundraising, school improvement and school events; and sports coach and management of sporting events. Thank you for your time and considering me for PTC Treasurer. I look forward to being involved at Explorer and it would be an honor to be involved on such a committee.*



- **Trista VanderVoord** - *Hi, I'm Trista VanderVoord and I would like your consideration for the role of PTC Treasurer. I have two third grade children at Explorer. I have been very involved as a reading parent in their classrooms and as a leader in our school's Cub Scout program. My career, before children, was in statistical and financial analysis at an insurance company, which I did until my children were born. When they entered preschool, I became very involved in that organization and took on the role of Treasurer for the Board of Directors for three years. The structure of that organization was similar to our PTC, with a focus on fundraising and a non-profit status. I am a "number person" through and through. I am happy to lend my talents whenever can, especially when it comes to things that involve children, and the Treasurer position seems the perfect match.*

## SECRETARY

- **Megan Forman** (co-candidate) – *My name is Megan Forman and I am running for PTC Secretary co-chair with Paula Loehle. My son is a kindergartener at Explorer. I love to volunteer in the classroom and at events when I am able. I work full time as a detective for the Kent County Sheriff's Department, so I am hoping that by co-chairing I can be even more involved.*
- **Paula Loehle** (co-candidate) – *Hello, my name is Paula Loehle and I am running for PTC Secretary co-chair with Megan Forman. I have been an active volunteer at Explorer for the past ten years. Not only did I serve as PTC Secretary in the 2010-2012 term, but I have also helped chair and assist with many PTC activities including the carnival, family dance and auction, parent-teacher conference luncheons and various fundraisers the school supports. In addition to PTC chaired events, I have also been a volunteer in my childrens' classrooms and chaired the Talent Show for the last three years. I love being a part of what it takes to see the parents and teachers come together to support each other ensure our students' success!*
- **Molly Vargas** – *My name is Molly Vargas and I have a son in the first grade. I am running for PTC Secretary because I would like to get to know more parents, teachers, and students. For the past two years, I have been involved in the PTC and faithfully attend every monthly meeting. I have volunteered in the son's classroom as both a reading mom and holiday helper. I have also volunteered for many PTC activities for the past two years. I am presently a co-den leader for the Tiger Cub Scouts and Child Victim Protective Advocate Board Member for Caledonia AYSO.*

# It's That Time!

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual JAZZ Dinner Dance



Saturday, May 18, 2013  
5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

East Kentwood High School  
Freshman Campus Cafeteria

**\$15 Dinner & Concert**  
**\$5 Concert Only**  
Concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

Dinner seating will be limited  
Advanced ticket purchase  
is requested



Featuring the  
**East Kentwood  
Jazz Ensembles**

and special guest

**Bassist  
Joe  
Oprea**

Sponsored by  
Kentwood Band and  
Orchestra Boosters

For more information call 698-6700