KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

May 2014

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

Future Leaders Learn Here

Kentwood Leading at Local, State, and National Levels

Excellence is measured in many ways. For school districts, receiving recognition at the local, state and national level reveals and affirms positive distinction from others. These are exciting times at Kentwood as we reflect upon a year filled with noteworthy accomplishments exhibited by our students, teachers, and staff. Below are three recent recognitions from a local, state, and national level.

"Recognition at the local, state, and national level demonstrates positive growth and reinforces our commitment to quality education that reflects excellence in all we do."-Superintendent Mike Zoerhoff

LOCAL RECOGNITION

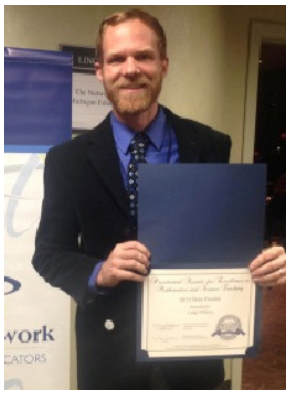
KPS and the City of Kentwood were selected as one of the 8 finalists in West Michigan to be featured in the *"Connecting with Community Awards 2014"* through WOOD-TV8.

KPS was nominated for the award based upon The A.R.C.H. Program (**A**cademic enrichment, **R**ecreation & arts, **C**ommunity & family services, and **H**ealthy relationships).

This partnership between KPS and the City of Kentwood Parks and Recreation Department (KP&R), developed a program structure that provides a healthy supper, one hour of academic instruction and homework help, one hour of physical activities and health education, and one hour of enrichment activities for all students.

"We established this partnership to focus on the needs of our students and families. We are proud to be able to provide this program." – Superintendent Zoerhoff

NATIONAL RECOGNITION



East Kentwood High School math teacher, Luke Wilcox, is currently one of five finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). **The PAEMST is the highest recognition a K-12 teacher can receive for outstanding science or mathematics teaching in the United States**. Hundreds of teachers are nominated each year for this award and the winner will be selected later this summer.

As an Academic Support Coach, Luke has started the AP Professional Learning Community, piloted Classroom Learning Labs, and is currently developing the UN conference 2014 for teacher professional development in the fall. Luke was also the **School Teacher of the Year** for Kent County and also a **Regional Finalist for Michigan Teacher of the Year** in 2011.

"No other teacher has prepared me for college and life as much as Mr. Wilcox. Never again will I search for the easy way out -- it's easier just learning it instead. I now have the secret to success" - Sowmya Surapur

STATE RECOGNITION

Mike Pickard, executive director of elementary education and director for federal and state programs, received the **State Leadership Award** from the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists (MAS/FPS) during the annual National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators held in Washington D.C. **Pickard was one of only four people from Michigan to receive this reward.**

"It is an honor to be nominated by my peers for this award," Pickard expressed. *"Providing outstanding service and a*

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commitment to improving education for students and their families is a value we all share at Kentwood."

After 15 years teaching fifth grade, Mike served as the principal of Meadowlawn Elementary School. He is now the executive director of elementary education and director for federal and state programs. In 2011, he also received the **Title I Educator of the Year Award** from the MAS/FPS. Pickard has been part of Kentwood Public Schools for 24 years.

*"**Mike Pickard exemplifies educator excellence**. He combines a strong vision and common sense approach to issues with a sound understanding of curriculum. His advocacy for educational policy has led to Title I programming excellence in our district. Most importantly, Mike is an educator who loves kids and it shows!"* – Debra McNally, Principal of Discovery Elementary

These are just a few examples of the many positive accomplishments that are taking place across the district. KPS is proud to be an innovative, global community where excellence and relationships matter.

Explorer Students Support the "Kids Food Basket" Project

In the weeks before spring break, Explorer students took part in supporting "Kids Food Basket" of Grand Rapids by decorating food bags that would be filled and delivered to families in need in the Grand Rapids and Muskegon areas. Mr. Derek Braman delivered the bags that the students designed. The designs were meant to be positive messages for children receiving them. Explorer students designed just under 500 bags for this project.

Kentwood Aquatics Club (KAC) 2014 Summer Season Registration

SWIMMERS WANTED. KAC is an age group competitive swim program for children 6 -18 years of age for winter season sponsored by KPS. KAC's goal is to help swimmers improve their skills in a competitive setting, gain confidence, learn sportsmanship, and develop team spirit while having fun.

- Registration is in late April, but swimmers can register with the team through May. Complete a registration form and bring it with you to your first day of practice.
- **Registration forms are available online and at the Kentwood Aquatics Center.**
- Practices are held at East Kentwood H.S. (EKHS) Aquatics Center.
- Season starts the beginning of May.

For more information, please check the KAC website at **www.kentwoodaquaticsclub.com.**

Bowen Students Meet the Reading Challenge

At the end of February, Bowen students were challenged to read for 2,000 hours during the month of March. Reading goals were set along the way and students met every one. At the end of February, students had read for 3,005 hours!! Every student who turned in a reading log showing 2,500 hours received a free book. The Bowen Literacy Committee gave a book to approximately 300 students!

Parent Notice Regarding Within District Transfers

To better serve Kentwood Public School families in an efficient manner, district procedures have changed for parents who are requesting a change in their child's school placement for the 2014-2015 school year. Please be advised of the following process to ensure your request is given consideration:

1. Parents should pick up and return Within District Transfer (WDT) forms at your student(s) home building.
2. Parents who submit their WDT forms by **May 23, 2014**, will be notified in June when school has ended.
3. If a WDT form is submitted **AFTER** May 23, 2014, then parents will be notified whether their application was approved or disapproved **AFTER** registration is held in August 2014.
4. Parents may continue to submit WDT request forms during the summer months at the Kentwood Public Schools Administration building on 5820 Eastern Avenue, Kentwood, Michigan.
5. Parents with questions or concerns may contact the Student Services Office 455-4400, ext. 79927 for further assistance.

Side-By-Side Concert

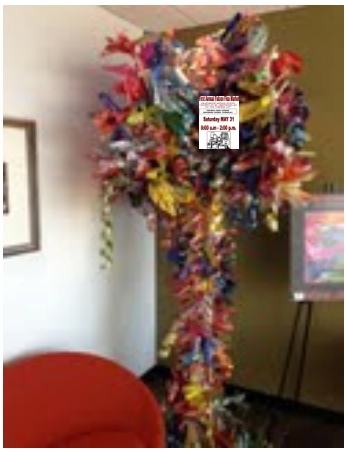
On April 1, the Grand Rapids Symphony performed with the District Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble in a "Side-By-Side" Concert. The first half of the program featured the GRS conducted by Associate Conductor John Varineau and the second half featured the GRS performing with the students. This was a tremendous opportunity for the students, and they performed beautifully. Highlights of the program included Schubert's Unfinished Symphony and Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture!

Symphony members were impressed with how well the students were prepared for this performance!

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle at Valleywood

Plastic grocery bags were collected from staff and students for IMPACT students to deliver to the Kent County Recycling and Education Center.

The 7th grade IMPACT students learned why recycling is important, how to get involved, and how household recyclables are sorted. Through the use of "spy" cameras, students were able to zoom in on areas of the facility and watch the sorting process. They also traveled along the observatory deck, witnessed hand sorting, watched the disc screens, observed the magnets and optical scanners "zapping" different materials, and finally, once everything was sorted, they saw extreme compaction press the materials into bales. The bales are sold to local companies who process them further and make new materials.



The IMPACT students are excited to share the message with all of the KPS District that is it important to "REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE."

David Warsen Memorial Classic Soccer Game

On Saturday, March 28, at the Pat Patterson field, a college soccer game was held between Western Michigan University and Saginaw Valley State. Donations were accepted at the door and contributed to the David Warsen Memorial Fund. David was an EK graduate and a Navy Seal who was killed in Afghanistan in 2012. David was a great representative of the Kentwood community and a proud graduate of KPS.

EKHS Class of 1979

35 Year Reunion

Downtown Grand Rapids at the BOB

Send contact information to:

Terie DiMuzio Vickery at terie@theaicgroup.com

or Patti Gallo-Timmons at missdabeach1@yahoo.com

or call 616 560-3542 to leave a message.

Townline Students Appear on the Katie Couric Show

Townline administration was contacted by Brittney Jones Cooper, a producer for the Katie Couric Show. Brittany asked for permission to highlight one of the classrooms at Townline Elementary. Grade 4 teacher Jean Pergande applied for and received several grants this year through DonorsChoose.org. This is a program that is supported by Katie Couric. Donors Choose is a non-profit group that helps to supply extra funding to classrooms and other worthy causes.

The Katie Couric Show will feature Ms. Pergande and her Grade 4 students on May 26.

A KPS 403B vendor, Horace Mann, also participates in the program and supplies $25,000 in grants on National Teachers Day—May 6.

Great job by Mrs. Pergande for taking the time to advocate for Townline students and KPS!!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Partnership with Davenport University

Explorer Third Graders Are STEM Researchers

Explorer third graders researched a specific animal ie. characteristics, food, relatives, habitat, enemies, and added thoughts about how it could adapt to changes. With the use of technology, students created a PowerPoint that they presented to the school and community after spring break. The students partnered with Eric Vales, elementary art teacher, and created a piece of art that included two or three elements they learned from their research.

Using the STEM education principles has truly transformed how students are motivated to learn by making the classes relevant and rigorous to the continuing changes in the world.

Valleywood Focuses on STEM Mathematics

Davenport University professors visited Valleywood and Ms. Dryer's 8th grade STEM class. They focused on STEM lessons that included teaching how beautiful math can be and to demonstrate new technology that will allow video teaching outside the classroom.

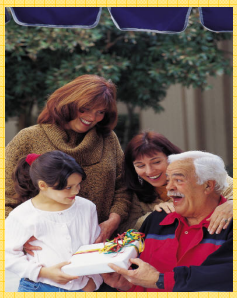
The students learned about Fibonacci numbers and how beautiful they are in nature. They also learned about the golden rectangle, and one student was able to make 13 rectangles out of one. They also learned about the magic of a mobius strip.

The demonstration regarding the moving IPAD prompted many ideas of how such a device could be used in education. One example would be how teachers can still be instructing their students outside of the normal school day.

Pinewood Students Display a Giving Spirit

When kids band together with compassion and energy, it's amazing what they can accomplish! After getting a taste of this fact last year, several students stepped up to spearhead a school-wide clothing drive for the Mel Trotter Homeless Shelter. They gathered hundreds of clean and gently used jeans, sweatshirts, t-shirts and more. Next, they held a bake sale, netting $575 over a two-day period. As a result, students were able to donate funds to Mel Trotter, Kids Food Basket, and Kentwood Community Church to support those food pantries. Pinewood staff is proud of the efforts of these students who made posters and fliers, baked pastries, and donated to this project.

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 2, 2014 **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.

March Was Reading Month At Townline

Mimi Madden, KPS Board President

Principal Karen Friberg read Cat in The Hat

Assist Supt for Student Services Dr. Shirley Johnson read to kindergarten and ELL classrooms.

Walter, a 3-year-old guest reader.

Middle school students acted out the books they read.

Black History Month at Discovery

Discovery fifth graders celebrated Black History Month with a presentation to the entire school. The theme was African-American scientists and the accomplishments they have made for the country. Some students presented information in a rap, while others presented as speakers. It was an educational and entertaining experience for all!

Points Of Pride

- Senior Claire Ross was selected again to participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Honors Orchestra. She has been recognized as one of the best student musicians in the State.
- The Moxie Strings ensemble worked with 7th and 8th grade orchestra students and then participated in a community concert.
- Emily Smokovich, EK graduate of 2005, has been offered a fellowship in the doctoral program at the U of M School of Music as a Graduate Student Instructor.
- Paige Watkins, EK graduate of 2010, was selected as one of Butler Universities Top 10 Women. Paige is a 4th year pharmacy student at Butler University.
- Riley Tanner, 8th grade student at Pinewood, was invited to the U15 national team training camp for US Soccer. Riley is the first female from Kentwood to make the National Player Pool, and this puts her in the top 35 players in the country in her age group.
- KPS and the City of Kentwood were selected as one of eight finalists in West Michigan to be featured in the "Connecting With Community Awards 2014" through WOOD-TV8 for the afterschool ARCH program.
- Alissa Williams, EK graduate of 2011, has been awarded the Barry Goldwater Scholarship for Excellence in Education from Wofford College in South Carolina for her academic achievements in biology and computer science with an emphasis in computational science.
- Dr. Shirley Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, published an article in partnership with Dr. Nagnon Diarassouba of GVSU. The article "Responding to Demographic Change: What Do Suburban District Leaders Need to Know?" will appear in the spring edition of the *International Journal of Educational Leadership Preparation*.
- Deb Stakenas, Latin teacher at the EK Freshman Campus, has published an article in *The Classical Outlook*, an international journal through the American Classical League.
- Six students from EKHS, EKFC, and Crossroads spoke confidently to a group of 50 administrators and teachers in Kalamazoo regarding their experiences in KPS.
- Scott Mellema, drama and English teacher at EK, was recently featured on MLIVE for his excellent work at EK and his work with the GR Civic Theater.
- Lauren Jones, a former EK graduate, was recently published in the March edition of the *International Journal of Wrestling Science.* Lauren played volleyball at Kent State and is currently working on a specialized degree at Ohio State.
- Ajene Robinson-Burris, a 2012 EK graduate, has been granted a full scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. This award provides support so participants may advance into doctoral programs.
- Falcons junior John Keenoy III announced that he will be continuing his education and football career at Western Michigan University.
- Falcons senior Elliot Jordan signed his National Letter of Intent with Western Michigan University this past February.

Rotary Students For The Month

Sebastian Dudas – I plan to become a CRNA to be able to provide for my future family. I am involved with football, Youth Ventures for Christ, and several other volunteer opportunities. I am a good leader because I am willing to do whatever it takes to be successful. I am passionate and very focused about reaching my goals. I have lived on my own since I was sixteen so I am aware of what it takes to succeed in the adult world.

Leslie Cueva – My future goals are to become a pediatrician and go back to my home country to help children who are unable to receive medical attention. To be a good leader, one needs to have a positive attitude and go the extra mile to do the work required to succeed. A good leader is a good listener and is very aware of their surroundings. I am involved in National Honors Society and help out at the nursery at my church. Whether it is by going to a shelter, distributing food in a food pantry, or by just being there for someone, I enjoy helping others.

Erica Roxbury – I plan to become a pediatrician. I have been involved in Lead America, a leadership representative, MAEO student representative, participant in the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, Student of the Week, MAEO STARS Spring College Day competition, Legislative Day participant, Across America Day and Global Youth Service Day representative. I am a good leader because of my involvement in many leadership activities. I have been empowered by others to develop skills to help me reach my goals. My father passed away when I was nine years old and my mother suffers with a chronic illness, so I have had to develop the skills it takes to be successful to help me and my family.

Marquez Shannon – I have a strong passion to become a medical illustrator, and I have a plan to write books. I have chaired a Michigan blood drive, have donated blood, and been involved with Literacy 4 Life. A good leader is humble and does not think of himself as entirely self-sufficient. He is dependent on his team and is open to advice and counsel. A good leader is aware of his strengths and leads in areas where he is most suited. Lastly, a good leader always benefits others in some form. He seeks to be strong, humble, and diversified to serve and profit others even at the expense of himself/herself. I enjoy drawing, reading, and attend church regularly. I have very strong beliefs and plan to incorporate those believes into every part of my future.

Spotlight on Senior Issues

AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
The Source for Seniors

What to do When Experiencing Hearing Loss

Many adults will face hearing loss as they age. While the reasons and types of hearing loss vary, the acceptance and adjustment to a hearing loss is very common. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services provides assistance in understanding, adjusting to, and dealing with hearing loss.

"When someone is dealing with hearing loss later in life, it often brings with it feelings of isolation, depression, and embarrassment. They may not want to talk about what they are experiencing, so it may be harder for family members and friends to help them work through these additional issues," says Deb Atwood, Business Manager at Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS).

DHHS helps older adults work through these complex issues with services like hearing loss rehabilitation, group education on adjustment to hearing loss, and lip reading classes. They even can help individuals find devices, equipment, and other resources to help adjust to hearing loss.

"Many people don't realize all the great technology and equipment that can help with hearing loss. They just assume it means wearing a hearing aid all the time, which may or may not be the best option for them," says Atwood. "Hearing aids have come a long way in the last few years and, as technology has advanced, so have the available options."

In fact, some devices are now using Bluetooth technology to better integrate with other audio devices like television and cell phones. With all the equipment options available, Atwood recommends connecting with the staff at DHHS who can meet one-on-one to help identify equipment that best fits someone's individual needs. She also encourages people to follow these steps when adjusting to hearing loss.

1. **Try to understand.** If you have a loved one who is dealing with hearing loss, try to understand that this is a big change. If you are the one who is experiencing hearing loss, communicate this with your family and friends so they can provide additional support.
2. **Talk with your doctor.** Have a conversation with your doctor and explain your concerns about hearing loss.
3. **Ask questions.** For many people this is new territory which can be confusing and overwhelming.
4. **Research, Research, Research.** Research the company and the product before purchasing any product or device. If you have access to the internet, you can get a lot of information online which could prevent you from making a costly mistake.
5. **Find out what's included.** If purchasing hearing aids, or other equipment, be sure to ask what all is included in the price.

For more information on services for those with hearing loss or deafness, contact Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at (616) 732-7358 or visit them online at www.deafhhs.org.

Kentwood Community Education
Crossroads Alternative High School
28—60th Street, Grand Rapids 261-6166
Principal: Rick Hatfield

Legislative Day

Devin Lee Gibson and Joel Hobson

On Tuesday, March 25, leadership students attended Legislative Day as part of the Michigan Alternative Education Organization Student State Leadership team. Students convened at the Michigan Historical Museum to participate in a Community Conversation—a public agenda—setting dialogue including thousands of diverse Michigan residents through spring 2014. The goal: citizen-driven input on the 2014 Michigan elections.

Voni Williams, Emily Oosterbaan, Devin Gibson, Joel Hobson, Shoneonna Curry-Dempsey, Marquel and Marquez Shannon, Arnela Cangalovic, Ericka Roxbury and Brekeezia Sylvester-Bell

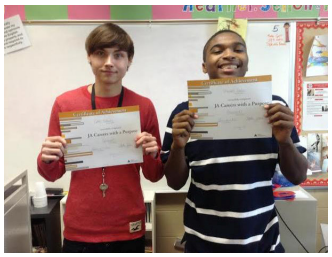
Girlz Rock Group

The Girlz Rock Group decorated food pantry donation bags during their lunch time. The bags will be given to children of families who receive food assistance from Streams of Hope food bank. Each child's bag is designed to inspire, recognize, and create hope for the child who received the donation.

Junior Achievement Course

Heather Sellon's Economics class completed a trimester of Junior Achievement coursework taught by Shannon Burkel of Axios Inc. Ms. Burkel walked the students through a program endorsing work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills. Students were excited to have a local professional share her knowledge and time to prepare them for what they will face after high school and college. Shannon enjoyed her time with the students and was impressed by their passion, inquisitiveness, and kindness. Congratulations to the graduates of the Junior Achievement course.

Trentin Thomas



Seth Brown and Montez Gales

Binyam Garoy, Ms. Shannon Burkel, Lashaya Longer, and Christian Bentley

Second Place Finish for the Basketball Team

A huge thank you to Crossroads coaches Ed Colburn, Rick Chymes, and Matt Miller for all their efforts in guiding the basketball team to a second place finish at the class A MAAA tournament. The young men represented well academically, athletically, and socially over the season. Job well done students and coaches!!

Toys, Toys, Toys!! The Leadership classes will be hosting a toy drive for Arbor Circles' Youth Center. We are accepting gently used and new toys for kids ages newborn to 11 years of age. Drop off at 28— 60th Street, Kentwood.

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

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Information Regarding - SUMMER CHILDCARE

The summer childcare will be located at Hamilton Early Childhood Center, 3303 Breton Road SE (Door A). **Children entering first grade through those who have completed fifth grade are eligible to enroll.** Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. L**imited slots are available**.

A SCHOOL YEAR **enrollment fee of $60.00 per family,** a **$60.00 activity fee per child** and **your 1st weekly payment** is due at the time of registration (THE ENROLLMENT FEE AND WEEKLY PAYMENT MAY BE COMBINED ON ONE CHECK, BUT THE ACTIVITY FEE MUST BE ON A SEPARATE CHECK!). All fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE**!!! The deposit covers your family's enrollment for the summer program in 2014 only. A full day of activities will be planned. The activity fee is per child and covers such items as bus transportation, entrance fees for any trips, special guests, and supplies and materials needed for activities for the summer.

All registration forms must be turned in by Friday, May 16.

The summer program runs Monday, June 9, thru Friday, August 29, 2014—***CLOSED entire week of July 4***

Early Childhood and School Age Child Care

3303 Breton Road SE, Kentwood 49512 (616) 493-5693
Director: Lori Eaton

Now Enrolling for Preschool 2014-2015 School Year

Early Childhood Program Office, 3303 Breton Road, (Hamilton Elementary, Door A). Phone 616-493-5693
Open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. on a first-come, first-served 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 $150.00 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT** (applied to tuition) is required at the time of registration. **An activity fee of $50.00 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, 2014. 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 October 1, 2014.

Cost: 3's (2 day) - $675.00
4's (3 day) - $975.00 4's (4 day) $1,275.00

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 October 1, 2014

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.