



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

April
2016

Kentwood Realtor Open House Strong Community, Strong Future

'Location, location, location' is the old home-buyer's mantra. For families today, the mantra is, 'location, location near great schools.' This is why over 75 Grand Rapids Realtors attended a "Realtor Open House" at East Kentwood High School on Wednesday, March 9; to learn what KPS is all about.

We have pride in our schools and community.

"This event was so successful; we look forward to similar opportunities to educate others and share the pride we have in our schools and community," Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff shared.



During the event, Superintendent Zoerhoff and the Mayor of Kentwood, Stephen Kepley, gave presentations about Kentwood schools and our community.

Child Nutrition Director, Chef Mo Shamali, prepared lunch as well as a multi-cultural presentation about Kentwood's Child Nutrition Program.

East Kentwood students led small groups on tours through the high school sharing their experiences and passions for their school, after which, the realtors received framed certificates classifying them as "Experts on Kentwood Public Schools." "Educational opportunities like this create positive partnerships as we build a strong community and a strong future for our district," said Superintendent Mike Zoerhoff.

"Positive partnerships build strong communities and a strong future."

Participants now have firsthand expertise about our facilities and programs as they seek to educate incoming families on why Kentwood is a great place to live and learn.

A special thanks goes out to area realtor, Dave DeBruyn, who helped organize this great event. Dave has been a strong supporter of the Kentwood Community for many years.

Together, we create strong schools and a strong community. Together we are Kentwood!!

From Falcon Wings to Olympic Rings KPS Grad Seeks to Continue Olympic Dream

Nearly eight million students currently participate in high school athletics in the United States (according to NCAA research). Less than 6% of them will compete at NCAA schools, and of that group, only a select few compete professionally or at the Olympic level. Like her shot put ball, KPS alum Tia Brooks has thrown those stats to the wind. She continues to overcome the odds through dedication and high expectations.



"Tia is such a great role model for our students. She is the perfect example of the grit and growth mindset it takes to reach one's goals," said Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff.

After graduating from EKHS in 2008, Tia began her collegiate shot put career at the University of Oklahoma. After earning a host of collegiate championships and record-setting performances, Brooks continued to push herself to the next level. "I've learned that my talent is only going to take me so far." Brooks said in a recent interview with MLive's Peter Wallner. "I've learned a lot, as a person and as an athlete, and I've learned that I need to work harder if I want to develop." She placed 3rd at the U.S. trials in 2012 and finished 19th in the world at the Summer Games in London. Tia will train locally in preparation for the Olympic trials on July 7 in the hopes of securing a spot with the U.S team and returning to the Summer Games in Rio.

"Tia's story demonstrates the value of determination and grit that is foundational to success," EKHS Athletic Director Blaine Brumels said. "She inspires others to face challenges head on and work hard to achieve their dreams."

Best of luck Tia as you continue your Olympic dream. You continue to make your country and community proud!

Excellence and Equity in Education

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

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

Future Leaders Begin the Journey Here

Elementary Events

Elementary Students Enjoy a GR Drive Game

Lasting memories were created for many KPS students thanks to a sponsorship of tickets from Pastor Kyle, lead pastor at Kentwood Community Church and Meijers. These students were able to attend a Grand Rapids Drive game. Another thank you goes out to Mr. Dontae Young from Crestwood for securing tickets and organizing this opportunity for the students.



Nearly 800 students, families, and staff from Brookwood, Endeavor, Challenger, Discovery, Glenwood, and Crossroads were in attendance. The energy was high as the students cheered on the GR Drive to a double overtime victory.

Endeavor Students Celebrate Valentine's Day

Third graders from Endeavor celebrated Valentine's Day with special guest visitors from American House Senior Living Communities in Kentwood. The assisted living residents and students exchanged Valentines and got to know one another. Students then performed plays, sang songs, enjoyed treats, and played puzzles with the guests. Bonds were made and these relationships will be fostered with future meetings.



Endeavor Fifth Graders Experience Hands-on Learning

Students were oriented, then examined and dissected the epiglottis, trachea, esophagus, lungs, and heart of a pig. In addition to the valuable vocabulary lesson, students used scissors and scalpel to view the chambers of the heart and opened the primary bronchi and pumped up a lung with a ball pump. Parents joined the investigation as students continued their learning of the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.



Math and Science Family Night at Explorer

Explorer Elementary hosted a Math and Science Family Night in February. What a fun and exciting night!! Students and families had an opportunity to experience many different things from learning more about graphing and sorting, building boats to see how many pennies they could hold and still float, to programming a Sphero ball robot.



These were just a few of the fun experiments and activities. Who knew that you could take Crisco and with just a little bit of cold water it would give you the sensation of what a polar bear's blubber is like. Many students figured out why polar bears are not cold ... they have plenty of insulation.

Celebrating a Lunar New Year



Hundreds of families gathered at the 28th Street Showplace to participate in a wonderful community celebration in honor of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. This festive occasion commemorated a longstanding

holiday focused on expressing reverence and appreciation for their heritage and ancestors, as well as welcoming in a new year with beloved family members and friends. Brookwood Principal Lorenzo Bradshaw and Dr. Shirley Johnson were among the attendees who enjoyed the food, games, and cultural ceremonies such as the dragon dances and musical tributes. Andy Ly, a high school senior, was honored for his outstanding academic achievements. Andy currently has a 4.469 GPA and is involved with numerous school activities while maintaining excellent grades and taking advanced placement courses.



Southwood Students Mix Exercise and Dance to Stay Healthy

Before the Christmas break, kids from Southwood performed an exercise version of the popular dance Whip Nae Nae. You can view the entire video at youtu.be/hsqMm-7nrco.



Page to Screen Book Club at Pinewood

Students read a book that is being adapted as a movie, in this case "The 5th Wave" and attended a private screening of the movie at Celebration! Cinema South. Before the movie, there was a brief discussion of the book and a more in depth discussion comparing the book to the movie was held after the screening. Topics discussed included casting, whether the movie followed the story told in the book, and why changes may have been made by film makers. There has been a lot of excitement about this book club which is a partnership between KDL Kentwood, Celebration! Cinema South, and Pinewood. Upcoming titles include Allegiant, the BFG, and Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children.



Pinewood Students Enjoy a Day in China

On Wednesday, February 24, students in Mrs. Spica's and Mr. Gumz's classes participated in a cross-curricular event in Language Arts and Social Studies, to celebrate the culmination of their unit of study on China.



Mr. Gumz with Ms. Ye in background



Tony Chen, an EKHS student from Guangzhou, China, and Shelly Ye, a teacher in Guangzhou and at EKHS, visited to share cultural traditions. The students enjoyed

food, games, writing, and conversation.

Fun Friday at Townline



As a motivational tool for homework completion throughout the week, third grade uses a process called "fun Friday." Students who have shown determination and responsibility throughout the week, can play games instead of finishing homework. Students in the photo are playing a multiplication dice game.

EK Alum In The News

Devan Cole, class of 2014, is a sophomore studying Journalism and Mass Communication at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Because G.W. students are very politically active, their Student Association elections are both highly contentious and political. Devan was determined to get elected as a senator in the Student Association in order to represent the community for which he so deeply cares. After a competitive race, Devan secured one of the five available senate seats.



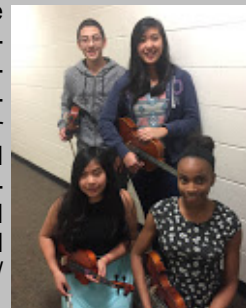
Devan with CNN host Anderson Cooper



Devan is also the president of G.W.'s Association of Black Journalists and works at the university's library where he does archival work for a project that focuses on preserving historical records of African-American life in D.C.

Honors Orchestra at Valleywood

Four Valleywood seventh grade orchestra students were chosen to participate in the MSBOA District 20 middle school honors orchestra. This prestigious event was the first of its kind for MSBOA District 10. The event was held in DeVos Center of the Arts and Worship at GR Christian HS. Students had the opportunity to work with Daniel Long, a well-known string educator/guest conductor across the US.



AP Art Student Exhibit at Schuler Books

The Art students are exhibiting their pastel landscape paintings from March 1 to April 8 at Schuler Books. Students in Ms. Tran's class learned to work with pastels as they painted landscape scenes from around the world. At the end of the unit, the students held a critique with professional artist and retired EKHS teacher Carol Lurn. This experience taught students how to prepare artwork for an exhibition, as well as the importance of connecting with the community through their art.



EK Red Storm Robotics Team

Congratulations on earning the 6th Alliance Captain and Imagery award at the St. Joseph FIRST Robotics competition. Please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=21q3_17ymqM to view the entire performance.



Terrific Times in Tuition Preschool

Dr. Erik Kowalke and two of his interns from Higher Health Chiropractic visited Mrs. Ansell's 4-year-old class at Explorer and her 3-year-old class at Hamilton. Dr. Kowalke visited these Tuition Preschool classes as part of Community Helper week.



The preschoolers learned that each person has a spine or a vertebra and this is connected to the nervous system, which "talks" between the brain and the body. The preschoolers got to be "chiropractors" by positioning an actual vertebra into alignment for the beginning knowledge of chiropractic health.

EK Football Players Continue To Make A Difference

Even during the off season, the EK football players are making a difference in the community. Below are some photos of their Friday night work at Mel Trotter and Degage Ministries.



SUMMER CHILDCARE

The summer childcare will be located at Hamilton Early Childhood Center, 3303 Breton Road SE (Door A). **Children who have completed Kindergarten up through having just completed 5th grade eligible to enroll!** Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, **limited slots available.**

A SCHOOL YEAR **enrollment fee of \$60.00 per family**, a **\$60.00 activity fee per child** and **the 1st weekly payment** is due at the time of registration (THE ENROLLMENT FEE AND WEEKLY PAYMENT MAY BE COMBINED IN 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 2016 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 13th.

The summer program will run Monday, June 13 – Friday, September 2, 2016
WE WILL BE CLOSED THE ENTIRE WEEK OF JULY 4TH

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION 2016-2017 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.

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, 2016.

4-year old program – children must be four years old on or before September 1, 2016 or by December 1, 2016 with a signed waiver

Cost: 3's (2 day) - \$675.00

4's (3 day) - \$975.00 4's (4 day) \$1275.00

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
September 1, 2016 or before December 1, 2016
with a signed waiver**

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.

Rotary Students for the Month

Rachel Sanchez - I am a Crossroads student. I come from a large family and I am a twin. After struggling at traditional high school, I transferred to Crossroads and was able to catch up and enter my senior year right on schedule. I have participated in community service projects through my church, brought food to the elderly, and donated food and clothing/carebags to the homeless. Being a leader and setting a good example is important to me. I believe that hard work, communication, and goal setting are vital keys to be successful. I plan to attend cosmetology school at Douglas J Aveda Institute and there to find the stepping stones I need to make the best of my career choice.

Marilyn Padua - My parents always advised me to do well in school ... to get a better career than they had. So I strived to do well and I was accepted at U of M and will study chemical engineering in the fall. I am on the Varsity Girls Tennis team, I am enrolled in four AP classes, and am a member of the National Honor Society.

My leadership skills have improved because of playing tennis. The team is dependent on each individual. I am an active listener and I try to see things from another's point of view. I am a good leader because I work hard and don't take shortcuts.



Dervin Figueroa - I plan to attend GVSU in the fall to study Electrical Engineering. I am captain of the Cross Country team and participated in three sports throughout high school. I practiced with the debate and robotics teams. I am aware that I don't just represent me, I represent my family, friends, school, and anyone who associates with me.

I am a good leader because I genuinely care about how everyone is feeling and what they are going through. This allows me to gain their trust, which makes following me easier and more appealing. I come from a low income Dominican family. My family has worked hard and now I want to give back to my community.

Surrogate Parent Representatives Needed:

The Special Education Department needs caring volunteers to attend IEP team meetings on behalf of students with disabilities who are wards of the State. These students typically have case workers, but do not have a parent to assure their rights are being met. Comprehensive training on IEP procedures and expectations will be provided. If you are interested or have further questions, please contact the Special Education Office at 554-3980.



Crestwood is excited to announce that Niharikaa Dhage (6th grader) is the winner of the Regional Spelling Bee!! Another Crestwood student Eric Dubois (7th grader) finished in 4th place. They both competed against 15 students from nine other schools. Niharikaa moves on to compete in the Greater Grand Rapids Bee which was held on March 22nd at the Grand Rapids Ballet Theater.

Crestwood Rocks Spelling!!

Southwood Goes to College



Fourth and fifth grade students from Southwood spent the day at Davenport University participating in STEM-related activities and learning about STEM-related jobs. They also

had a tour of the campus and athletic facilities to see where the Panthers (which includes some EK grads) play 30+ different sports! President Richard Pappas stopped by to welcome the students. It was an opportunity for Southwood Superstars to picture life as a college student. A special "thank you" to Davenport for allowing the students a chance to see what college is all about.

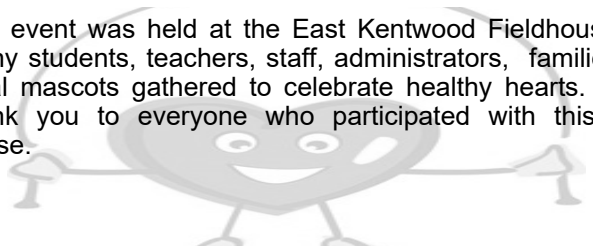


Jump Rope for Heart 2016

It was a huge success again this year!! The Kentwood community was able to raise \$22,275 for the American Heart Association.



The event was held at the East Kentwood Fieldhouse and many students, teachers, staff, administrators, families and local mascots gathered to celebrate healthy hearts. A BIG thank you to everyone who participated with this great cause.



Points Of Pride

Bethany Love, EK grad, has been named MIAA Field Athlete of the Week. In the throws, Bethany, a sophomore at Calvin College, came up big, winning the shot put with a throw of 42-9 while also placing second in the weight throw with a heave of 52-6 feet.

In February, **WZZM stopped by Challenger Elementary** to have some of the classes do the morning salute. The students were excited and intrigued by the camera man. The morning salutes were aired the week of February 23. Each morning a different class was featured.

Valleywood Hosts an ELA Reading Day

Students enjoyed reading, hot chocolate, and pj day.

It was a huge success!



Meadowlawn Shares Its Playground With Valleywood ASD Students

What a great day! Principal Michelle Downs and her staff at Meadowlawn carved out some time for the students in Ms. McClymont's ASD classroom to spend some time on their playground! It was a great opportunity for the ASD and MOSI students to get moving.



Being in middle school now, these students do not get much time to move their

bodies quite the same way as they could on the playground when still in elementary school.

Teachers noted that they saw an improvement in the student's behaviors for the remainder of the afternoon. They are all looking forward to incorporating more time out on the playground as spring approaches.



New Hearing Services Now Being Provided Through the Kent County Senior Millage

Are you deaf, hard of hearing, or experiencing deafness in later years? Do you feel isolated because of not hearing well? Do friends or family members become impatient when you ask them to repeat comments or instructions?

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions, new services available through the Kent County Senior Millage may be the answer. Disability Advocates of Kent County (DAKC) is now providing specialized hearing services to adults 60 years or older, living in Kent County. Hearing services include individual consultations, referrals to audiology services, a comprehensive hearing assessment, and assistance in obtaining hearing aids.



DAKC will also assist with the temporary loan or purchase of assistive technology or adaptive equipment, including a home evaluation provided by a Michigan licensed Occupational Therapist to assess daily living activities and the ability to function independently in the home. An individual service plan will be implemented, which includes equipment inspection, set up, and training.

Some examples of assistive devices that are available include:

- Hearing Aids
- Assistive Listening Devices which can be used with a hearing aid or cochlear implant to hear certain sounds better. An example of an assisted listening device is a product called the "Pocket Talker".
- Alerting Devices which connect to a doorbell, telephone, smoke detector, carbon monoxide systems, or alarms, and emit a loud sound or blinking lights.

"Adaptive equipment will empower independence," says Trina Edmondson, Independent Living Program Manager for DAKC. Using adaptive equipment can result in increased safety and a greater sense of independence and security.

For more information or to enroll in the program, contact Disability Advocates of Kent County at 616-949-1100 x249 or email info@dakc.us.

The Kent County Senior Millage is administered by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. For more information or to obtain a full list of KSCM services visit http://www.aaawm.org/senior_millage or call Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan at 616-456-5664.



Kentwood Community Education Crossroads Alternative High School

28—60th Street, Grand Rapids 261-6166
Principal: Rick Hatfield



Tiger PRIDE

Congratulations to **Kentwood Rotary Student of Month**,
Rachel Sanchez.

Thank you for representing yourself, Crossroads and KPS in such a positive way. Tiger Pride!

Rachel Sanchez, was chosen by her school counselors. She is now eligible for our Strive Scholarship program in Spring 2016.



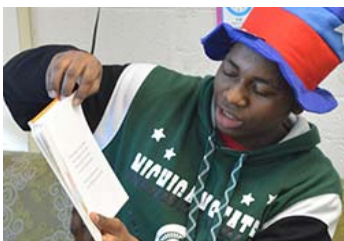
Crossroads Writing for Publishing students participated in "mock-interviews" conducted by representatives from **Goodwill Industries**. Our students did an amazing job practicing the interview skills they have learned over the past few weeks. A few students landed real interviews for positions based on their mock-interviews. Thanks go out to **Goodwill Industries**, Mr. Mike Ketelaar and Mr. Donta Young for providing this opportunity to our students! It was a great day to be a Crossroads Tiger!!!



Goodwill Industries representative and Jaylon Nathan.

Crossroads' **Leadership** participated in a **Literacy for Life** book collection program and visited students in our community on **Read Across America Day**. Crossroads' Leadership class collected books from throughout the community to give to children in 21 Kentwood Public Schools classrooms. Way to go TIGERS!

Pictured Clockwise from left: Jimel Davis, Alexis Sell, Madalyn Austin & Marialenny Dejesus with students from Bowen Elementary, Marialenny Dejesus and Madalyn Austin working on Author's Chairs.



CONGRATULATIONS to the **Crossroads Basketball** team on their tournament **WIN** at **MVP Sportsplex**. Players exhibited outstanding teamwork and GRIT!!!! Thank you to Ms. Keigan Brown-Edward, Mr. Kenneth Gordon and Mr. Mike Ketelaar for setting up this event and coaching our team! Players exhibited outstanding teamwork and GRIT!!!!



(front row) Ramar Young, Monte Gales, Dominic Couch, (second row) Kaden Boyd, Javontae Braylock, Jaylon Nathan, Brendon Davis, Darren Robinson, Josh Young, Starsky Cook, and Tyler Chirco.

High achieving Crossroads students, along with students from the Life Learning Center, were privileged to attend a **Grand Rapids Drive** basketball game at the **Delta Plex**. Thanks to Mr. Donta Young, for procuring tickets to watch this event and celebrate students who displayed grit daily. Thanks to all staff who assisted with chaperoning and planning this fun experience for Kentwood students.



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO.278



Signs of



Thinking outside ourselves and doing a job for the good of all, third graders at **Townline** helped clean up the playground. Students were able to recycle most items and by doing so, help the environment as well!!

Students at **Southwood** explored the “urban forest” behind the school for signs of spring.



Kentwood Band and Orchestra Boosters

TRIVIA Night

When: Friday, April 29 6:30 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm
Where: EKHS - Main Cafeteria

Join us for a night of FOOD, FRIENDS, and brainteasing FUN while supporting EKHS's band and orchestra programs!!

Prizes for the top 3 teams

PIZZA, POP and Water available to purchase—Bring your own table snacks.

Table reservation: team of 8 for \$70 when paid in advance

Tickets: \$10 per ticket in advance, \$12 at the door (Players not on a team will be placed together at the event)

Sponsors & Auction/Prize Donations or for more information:

contact Dawnese Openshaw at 563-299-7825 or dawnese@me.com

KPAC CORNER:



Paul McCatty

Recently Paul McCatty, the Kentwood Safety Director and Chad Songer, the Kentwood Safety Coordinator presented a very informative program to our Kentwood Parent Advisory Council (KPAC). It was exciting to see some of the ways the recently passed Technology/Safety Bond will positively impact safety in our District. We also got a tour of the Safety Office and cameras at East Kentwood High School. The staff explained their safety procedures and how they work closely with surrounding law enforcement to keep the students safe. The KPAC group thanked Paul and Chad for taking the time present to our parents.



Chad Songer