



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

December 2018

Knowledge will bring you the opportunity to make a difference.

KPS Students and Staff Support the Community through Holiday Giving

During this holiday season, our students have again been seeking out ways to support the community through servant leadership. Giving back is always a strong goal for our schools. Every age group, from elementary to high school, has hosted some type of service project.

“It is always so inspiring to see our students and staff selflessly giving to the community during the holiday season,”
said Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff.

One example of this initiative is the East Kentwood High School sophomore class and their “Adopt a KPS Family for the Holidays” program. The students identified families from the high school who are in need. They have set up a Christmas tree at the school that contains ornaments with gift requests attached. The tree is displayed for people to select a gift request, purchase the item, and donate to the family in need.

Said EKHS Principal Omar Bakri, “The students love connecting with families and other members of the community.”

Students at the East Kentwood Freshman Campus started a student-led Winter Clothing Drive that will run from November 26 through December 14 and will benefit Mel Trotter Ministries.

The Junior Honor Society at Crestwood Middle School organized a sock and toiletry drive in December to benefit “In the Image.” This annual drive has been very successful for the group. They, along with the Student Council, also raised money for “The Children’s Healing Center” by selling popcorn at lunch.

Fundraisers, donations, and charity events are a key part of the KPS curriculum. Giving back and paying it forward is important to the students.

KPS students also partnered with community organizations to help others. Earlier this fall, Brookwood Elementary partnered with “Radio for Divas” to purchase new coats, snow pants, hats, and gloves for 40 students in the district who were without warm clothing. The students in need had the chance to select their own winter attire during our “Macy’s at Brookwood” event.

Continued on page 2

East Kentwood Students lead Model UN Day for District Middle School Students

On Saturday, November 3, East Kentwood High School students and staff hosted the first ever Model UN conference for the middle school students within the district.

The group met at the Freshman Campus and participated in four hours of debate, with coaching help from the high schoolers. The debate topic was how to prevent a “Global Zombie Apocalypse” – a parallel to our United Nations being tasked with containing infectious disease.



By the end of the debate, two delegates from the group submitted official resolutions. The committee was blown away by the high academic work the students completed!



The high school students did an incredible job making the middle school students feel welcome. The event went so well the participants expressed that they wished they could do it every weekend! In response to the question, “What can we do better next time” one student’s comment card read, “Nothing! Just be like today all the time!”

Excellence and Equity in Education

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

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

Elementary Events

Meadowlawn and Their Falcon Friends



Meadowlawn kicked off its Falcon Friends Mentoring Program in October. Members of the EK Conference Champion football team came to Meadowlawn to work with students, serving as mentors both academically and socially. The EK players were paired with a younger student selected for this program.

Partners spent time getting to know each other, played some games, and spent some time in the gym.

Big thanks to Randy Draayer and Janelle Hart for organizing this program, to the EK coaching staff for its role in making this opportunity happen, and to the EK players for volunteering their time to serve the students, showing that they not only excel on the field but off the field as well.



Continued from page 1

Explorer Elementary partnered with Kids Food Basket to support the efforts to feed the community. Students decorated over 500 bags to bring cheer to the children receiving food.



Over at Pinewood Middle School, the students ran an event called "Socktober" where they were able to collect over 1,000 pairs of socks for Mel Trotter Ministries. These socks were donated to the homeless in the month of October.

KPS staff and students annually give to the David Warsen Legacy, "Holiday packages for our Heroes." We honor Dave's legacy by purchasing gifts and students make cards for Navy Seals to let them know they are being thought of during this holiday season.

"As a district, we are so proud of the ways the students are transforming and supporting the community and their world!"

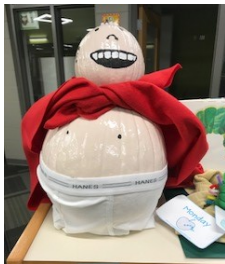
Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff

As we think about the ways the district strives to be a transformative community, build positive relationships, and create strong partnerships, we are inspired and grateful for the ways the students have lived out these goals through their giving projects.

Halloween Fun at Challenger

The Challenger staff got into the Halloween spirit by participating in a pumpkin decorating contest. Staff decorated a pumpkin as their favorite book character to show their love of reading. The students voted and determined the winners. The students were excited to see some of their favorite book characters represented and very complimentary of the staff's creativity and effort.

The winners were:
1st place: Captain Underpants by Dana Meyer



2nd place:
Harry Potter by Brooke Younce



3rd place:
Golden Snitch by Jennifer Ray



P.E.A.K.S. - Kentwood Public Schools Gifted Program, Grades 3-8

Kentwood Public Schools offers an all-inclusive gifted program called P.E.A.K.S. (Parents, Educators, and Kids = Success). This program is a full-time, self-contained gifted and talented program for students in grades 3-8 that focuses on the development of STEM Skills, 21st Century Skills, and Service Learning. This program emphasizes rigorous academic instruction and independent student learning. Kentwood's Gifted and Talented Program is tailored for students who are gifted in multiple areas and motivated to learn.

To apply for the P.E.A.K.S. Program:

- Parents must attend a program information meeting at Discovery Elementary
Tuesday, February 5 or Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm
- Parents must ensure the completion of all application processes and forms and return materials to Amanda Barbour at Discovery Elementary or Missy Truskowski at Crestwood Middle by **March 8, 2019**

Note: Application process details will be explained at the informational meetings in February.

Rotary Students of the Month - October

Courtney Guyott - I am interested in attending a college with a great study-abroad program because I want to gain experience and learn more about other cultures and ways of life. I plan to study nonprofit administration or something in the political arena. I am excited to play a bigger role in the issues that have for so long motivated me to action. I have been involved in many activities to learn new skills and connect with others like the Animal Rights Club. I have taken project-based science and am part of the reptile group where I organized presentations with elementary schools to educate kids about these animals. I am also part of the We The People Competitive Team. We study the U.S. constitution and government to compete with other schools' teams. I love learning about government and plan to study this in college.

I have been working on becoming a better leader. I have discovered that I hold others and myself to a high standard. I try to share my ambition and ability to see the bigger picture with others in order to motivate them as well.

Scottie Footman - I want to become a public defender. I hope to help those who were incarcerated or served time to become productive members of society. Changing the world one person at a time is my goal. I have volunteered at Kids Food Basket, volunteered and donated to Goodwill, served food at Degage Ministries, and in my sophomore and junior years, I was part of the EK Football team.



I am able to take charge and adapt when necessary. Controlling, monitoring, and organizing are my specialties. I work well under pressure and am

able to utilize one's strengths. These are all qualities of a good leader.

I work at Culver's and maintain a 3.0+ GPA. I love working with technology at my uncle's company iActivate. I also help to care for my sick grandmother every other day of the week.

Debate Day at the Gerald Ford Museum

EKHS Debate students participated in Debate Day. This provided all students involved with an informative day of discussion and access to policy debate.

One of the facilitators and demonstration debaters was Abbie Booker. Abbie graduated from EK and is one of the best debaters in the program's history.



This year's students who participated were: Madison Catching, Leanna Lugo, Brooklyn Brown, Tyler Buck, Wyatt Reynolds, Tanasha George, Amaya Saffore, Kamiya Brown, Sandra Wanjiku, Joslyn Jean-Baptiste, Savannah Jackson, and Ava Viola.

Lead organizer of Debate Day is former KPS teacher and Debate coach Ellen Zwarensteyn.

What We Know About EK Sports

- Boys soccer -MHSAA State Runner-up
- Football - OK Red Conference Champions
- Girls Cross Country - Alayna Babcock - State Finals Qualifier
- Girls Swimming and Diving - Kathryn Ejsmont - State Finals Qualifier in diving.

EKHS Presents *Wiley and the Harryman*

The East Kentwood Theatre, led by Scott Mellema and Alex Pushkar, put on the production *Wiley and the Harryman* in the Bonnie Brush Theatre. The students did a fantastic job of transporting the audience to the world of Wiley in the Southwest County as he battled to outwit the Harryman. The show was filled with great acting, sets, directing, and laughs!



Storm Team 8 Weather Experience

Students from across West Michigan joined WOOD TV8 for the Storm Team 8 Weather Experience. This interactive field trip allowed students studying weather to learn first-hand from a local meteorologist. Second and third graders from Endeavor and Meadowlawn came to the Media Arts Center, where Storm Team 8 meteorologist Ellen Bacca taught students about everything from snow totals to tornadoes.



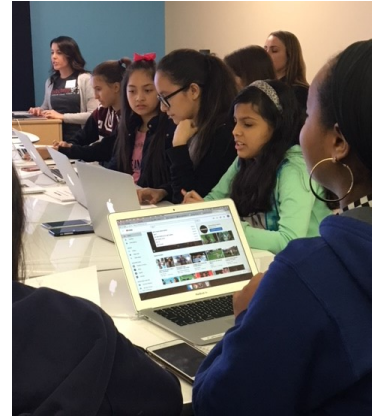
8th Annual Swimming With Santa Day

Children of all ages are invited to swim with jolly St. Nick on Saturday, December 22 from 12:15 to 1:30 PM. Admission is free. We only request you bring a new, unwrapped toy or financial donation to the local Toys for Tots. Have fun swimming with Santa, get a picture with Kris Kringle, and enjoy the water.



Crestwood Girls Attend Bit Camp

Nineteen seventh and eighth grade girls from Crestwood attended Bit Camp. This all-day experience taught the girls about coding and how to create their own website. Amway World Headquarters hosted this event and connected the girls with women who work in a variety of IT positions at Amway. At the end of the day, each girl presented her website to a group of Amway personnel.



Connecting with Families at Hamilton Early Childhood Center

Hamilton hosted "Pastries With Parents" on October 18. The event invited family members of children attending Hamilton, to join their child for a pastry and an information sharing time.



The preschool staff welcomed parents and shared some learning activities related to appropriate programming and/or curriculum that they have been working on. More than 220 family members attended this wonderful event.

Red Storm Robotics

Congratulations to the Red Team for qualifying for the State Robotics Competition. The team finished runner-up for the Connect Award for their community outreach by representing the program at Art Prize, a 4th of July parade, and other events.



The Red Team finished runner-up for the Inspire Award which is given to the most well-rounded team. Also, mentor Steve Stout received an award for being an outstanding mentor.

STEM Learning at Explorer and Discovery

Explorer hosted 185 fifth graders from Explorer and Discovery as they took part in the annual STEM learning experience. Many thanks to the nine guest instructors and groups who took time to impact the students. Guests included:

Lacks Enterprises
GVSU Engineering Department
Sweet Pines Aviary
Kent District Library
Custom Profile
Kent ISD
EK Reptile class students
EK AP Biology students
Gordon Food Service



Activities included:
Ozo Bots-Spherical robots
Reptiles
Coding large robots
Bernoulli's Principle
Daphnia heart activity
Bee Keeping
Creating/Testing PomPom launchers
Learning about Autonomous vehicles



Sweet Dreamzz Presentation at Townline

All Townline students had an opportunity to learn about how important sleep is to their health and academic success. Sweet Dreamzz, Inc. presented the R.E.M. (Rest, Educate, Motivate) Sleep Program.



The program taught students how sleep affects them physically, socially, psychologically, and academically. Students learned a bedtime routine (R.E.A.D.Y.) they could use each night before going to bed. Before returning to their classrooms, students were given a sleep kit containing a blanket, toothbrush, and toothpaste.

Open Skate at the Ice Arena
Saturday night from 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Cost is \$5 per person and \$2 for skate rental.
In December, there is a buy 1, get 1 free admission.
Skate rental is not included.

Alumni, Students, and Staff in the News

Amber Johnson - Grad of 1998

Amber graduated from MSU with a degree in Environmental Biology/Zoology. She then went to Gonzaga University to earn her Doctorate of Law. Amber was recently named to Spokane WA/Coeru D'alene, Washington's top 20 under 40. This prestigious award recognizes twenty professionals under the age of forty, who devote themselves to making life better in their community.



Logan Brown

- He was presented his game jersey for the All-American Bowl game. This game will be played in San Antonio, TX on January 5 at 1:00 pm. The game will be telecast on NBC.



Mike Knuble -

He recently began working with Hospice of Michigan and its Give a Quarter Back campaign. This campaign features a new sports personality each week, sharing their story about how hospice affected their life. Mike highlights the care his father received from Hospice and how his dad's care team stayed in touch the entire year after losing his dad when he was just 15. Mike is currently the GR Griffins assistant coach - one of our many successful alumni who also gives back to the community.



Matthew Dippel - Grad of 2012

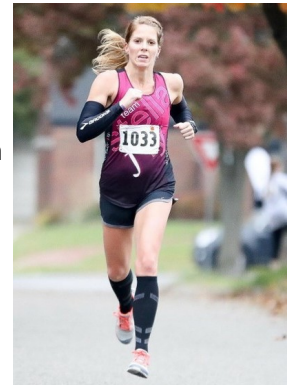
Everyone meet Charlie Vo and his fiancé Melissa the happy couple that was out on the point in Yosemite National Park. Matt captured the second proposal, the more special and official one in Charlie's words, while

hiking with a friend. The photo went viral when Matt posted it on social media in an attempt to find the happy couple.



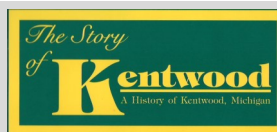
Kattie Carpenter, physical education

teacher at Crestwood Middle, was recently named the head coach of the women's triathlon team for Calvin College. This will make Kattie and Calvin College, the first in Michigan to offer triathlon as a NCAA sport.



Tori Brooks - was

recently selected to be a member of the Harlem Globetrotters. While at EK, Tori was twice selected as All-Conference. As a star basketball and track and field athlete for Davenport, he was selected as an NAIA All-American seven times. Tori "Bionic" Brooks will be a dunker for the Globetrotters' 2019 Rookie Class.



Woodland Mall and the Incorporation of the City of Kentwood By Dwell Moore

With the City of Grand Rapids annexing (taking over) more and more land from Paris Township (now the city of Kentwood), many were interested in the township officially incorporating as a city. In the 1960s, the question of incorporation was put to a vote three times before it was approved. Plans for the construction of the Woodland Mall in Paris Township, helped to tip the scales in favor of incorporation. The risk of annexation of the site was real since Grand Rapids had already annexed the land to the east of the proposed mall. The size and potential tax revenue from the proposed Woodland Mall is remembered as the most significant factor in the final incorporation efforts. Kentwood became a city in 1967 and in 1968 Woodland Mall opened for business.



Transportation Dept. Does Pumpkin Carving

The Transportation Department had a little fun with a carving contest as well. They also enjoyed a soup and chili day on their half day of work.



The EKHS staff participated in a “Teachers in Industry” Program where they had a chance to visit local businesses. The focus was to talk about the many career pathways that are available to students after high school, apprenticeship programs, and what career readiness looks like to businesses employing students in our community.

Many educators have specific experience that led them to being a classroom teacher, so it is not uncommon that they emphasize traditional “4-year college” options. The learning day took teachers outside the traditional 4-year college track and taught them about apprenticeship programs that pay for college while working in a career. This reinforced what teachers already know about hard work, commitment, and how these responsibility traits can lead to successful and lucrative career options. Things like being a good problem solver, being able to work in groups, and showing up regularly and on time, are areas that are still very relevant to employers.

Thanks to Eric Kelliher and Gerry Verway from Kent ISD for organizing the day. Host sites were: Wolverine Building Group, Consumer’s Energy, Swoboda, Presidio, Autocam, and Lacks Enterprises.



Winter Safety

When the weather gets cold, we spend more time indoors. It’s important to be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide. *Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause illness and even death. It is the most common cause of poisoning death in the US. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include:*

Mild exposure: mild headache
Prolonged exposure: flu-like symptoms, including severe headache, dizziness, confusion and fatigue, as well as impaired memory and coordination. Loss of consciousness if early symptoms are ignored.
FURNACES: Have a licensed heating contractor inspect your furnace each fall.

CLOTHES DRYER: It should be properly vented outside. Regularly check the vent to make sure it doesn’t become plugged with lint.

STOVES: A clean flame will be blue, not orange. Never use the stove or oven to heat your home.

CARS: Always warm up your car outside, never in the garage (even if the garage door is open).

GAS GRILLS: Keep your grill 10 feet away from open doors and windows.

INSTALL A CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR: With a detector, half of all carbon monoxide deaths could have been prevented.

For more information go to:
www.carbonmonoxidekills.com or contact Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital at 616 391-7233 or injuryprevention@helendevoschildrens.org.

Gifting Family Caregivers Over the Holidays

By Regina Salmi

Over 40 million people provide unpaid caregiving for a family member in the United States. The daily routine of caring for another often means caregivers are not taking care of themselves. The holidays can be a particularly stressful time for caregivers due to the break in daily routines, the additional planning necessary to join in celebrations, travel, or to receive visitors. Some caregivers may choose to isolate rather than to burden themselves with making these plans. The holidays are a wonderful time for other family members to express their gratitude and appreciation for their family member’s caregiving and help them enjoy the holiday season.



Caregivers often put their needs second, third, or last to other people in their lives. Offering the caregiver some relief would be a marvelous gift for the holidays. Sarah Sobel, AAAMW Caregiver Services & Contract Administrator says, “Caregiving is stressful and the holidays can add to that stress. It is important for caregivers to do self-care.” How can family help with this? Having a friend or family member stay with a loved one would offer the caregiver the freedom to get away for some rest and time for themselves. Stepping into the caregiver’s shoes for a weekend or a day can be eye-opening as to what the caregiver experiences regularly. Julie Alicki, Certified Dementia Practitioner, points out, “This clues the rest of the family in on what the caregiver is going through – it keeps them in the loop.” If family members providing relief isn’t feasible, arranging for professional in-home care or respite services would be a great way to provide relief for a caregiver.

Relieving some of the daily tasks of a caregiver can also make a thoughtful gift. A membership to a grocery delivery service like Shipt or a meal delivery service like Hello Fresh would offer the caregiver one less task to manage. With winter coming on, arranging for a snow clearing service would provide some stress relief as well as additional safety for the caregiver. Gifts they can use during some precious time off, like a spa day, tickets to a sporting event or the theatre, gift certificates to favorite restaurants, a round of golf, movie tickets or a weekend get-away make wonderful stocking stuffers for caregivers. If you’re a little more on the creative side, putting together a book of IOU coupons to be used throughout the year would not only help provide support, but would also assist the caregiver in being able to ask for much needed help more easily.

The greatest gift a caregiver can receive is time – time for themselves. Being given the ability to be worry-free and able to choose how they want to spend a few hours, a day, a weekend or even a week to themselves is a precious gift to a caregiver. It is also a tremendous acknowledgement on the behalf of family members of the gift the caregiver gives to another all year around. Whatever we can do to though to demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation during this holiday season to the caregivers in our lives will reverberate throughout their year.

If you need help making in-home care or respite arrangements, contact Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan at (888) 456-5664 or aaainfo@aaawm.org.

Crossroads Alternative High School

Crossroads 2018 Career Fair



Crossroads hosted its 7th Annual Career Fair! Students were exposed to a plethora of career and educational paths they can begin preparing for upon graduation. Thanks to Mr. Lawrence "Donta" Young for organizing and providing this opportunity for students.



Crossroads R.O.A.R. Team

Crossroads R.O.A.R (Remember Our Actions Reach) students and Townline Elementary students participated in a PBIS based assembly at Townline. The ROAR team members performed a short friendship skit based off of the children's book *The Three Little Pigs* and a character based poetry rap on accepting others, respecting others, and integrity. Special thanks to Mrs. Michelle Downs, Mrs. O'Brien, and Mrs. Frank for the collaboration on this activity.



Crossroads Leadership's Blood Drive

Thank you to those students and staff at Crossroads Alternative High School who chose to be heroes and help to save lives! The impact of their generosity resulted in 45 patients receiving life-saving blood! Patients at Spectrum, Mercy/St. Mary's, Metro, and even kids at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital will receive "the gift of life" from these selfless donors.

We appreciate Domino's Pizza, Russo's Pizzeria, and Subway for generously donating pizza, pasta, gift cards, and coupons to our blood donors.



Superbuddies



Crossroads Superbuddies had a great time with their ASD friends at the Freshman Campus.

2018 Softball Slugfest



Crossroads students participated in the 16th Annual Slug Fest Softball Tournament hosted by Mr. Ed Colburn. Students represented Crossroads with pride and grit!

Bring Your Mom To School Day

On October 19, all KPS elementary schools hosted “Bring Your Mom To School Day” and it was a HUGE SUCCESS!! At Brookwood, over 500 mothers, grandmothers/mother figures, and students enjoyed a Chick-Fil-A breakfast. Nikeidra Debarge shared a heartfelt and sincere message of resilience and grit with the Moms.



We love hosting our families, and most importantly, we are humbled that these families trust us to serve their children and this community.

STEAM Event for Meadowlawn and Endeavor

Endeavor and Meadowlawn fifth graders had their turn to participate in the annual STEAM event. Thanks to the efforts of Nancy McKenzie and the KPS curriculum office, district 5th graders have participated in this powerful learning opportunity for years.

The following community partners and friends provided the engagement this year:

- Kent ISD - Rubi the robot
- GRCC - Sheep brain dissection and DNA extraction
- Kent District Library - Ozobots - Spherical robots
- FTC&H - Team building / tower build challenge
- GRHBA - GR Home Builder Assoc - plumbers and carpenters
- DeWys Manufacturing - Virtual welders
- EKHS - Reptile Club/class - snakes, tortoise, tarantula, and geckos
- GVSU - Engineering Dept - Bernoulli's Principle

A School Bus Message to Parents:

We often get asked what the different school bus lights mean and when our drivers must turn them on. Below is a short guide to what you should do as a driver and how you should proceed.

Remember, red lights mean stop and yellow lights mean caution.

- 1 Two-lane roadway:**

When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!
- 2 Two-lane roadway with a center turning lane:**

When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!
- 3 Four-lane roadway without a median separation:**

When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!
- 4 Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation:**

When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.