



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

January 2018

Kentwood Public Schools Enhancing Programs through Partnerships

This holiday season, Kentwood Public Schools is thankful for the many organizations who have partnered with the district to enhance and develop a range of programs for our students. These partnerships allow KPS to model a commitment to excellence in all we do.

These partnerships allow KPS to live out a commitment to excellence.

This December, Kentwood partnered with Mr. Mark Wood, an original member of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Mr. Wood taught a two-day clinic with the Kentwood Public Schools 7th and 8th grade orchestras as well as performed a rock orchestra concert with the students.



This was an incredible opportunity for students to work with a professional musician. They learned about performing and they experienced a new genre of music that is atypical for their instruments. The students were so excited that they had their music memorized and ready the day before Mr. Wood arrived.

Partnerships allow Kentwood to provide opportunities not only for students, but also for families and community members.

"Without this partnership, the dream of college might not have been possible for many area families. Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff

Many students believe college is too expensive making it an unrealistic dream for some. As a result, KPS is partnering with Grand Rapids Community College to offer a Middle College program.

This program allows students to obtain both a high school diploma and an Associate's Degree in just five years.

This year KPS has worked with many local business partners, such as Peppino's, Culver's, Chipotle, and Chick-Fil-A on local fundraisers. They have also received generous classroom supplies from the Steensma Insurance Agency and Horace Mann Donors Choice grants.

***"Our KPS partners provide valuable learning opportunities for our community; they work hand in hand with us in a commitment to excellence!"
Superintendent
Michael Zoerhoff***



KPS is partnering with the Steelcase Foundation to start the first KPS Parent Academy. The Foundation awarded a two-year, \$110,000 grant to launch an educational program to teach subjects ranging from English to banking to job skills.

The program was created for non-English speaking parents of Kentwood Public Schools' English Language Learners and offers free classes or workshops.

The KPS district has approximately 1,900 students who identify as English Language Learners. These students come from more than 90 countries and speak more than 70 languages.

The district just finished its first class with 20 parents attending. The next class session will begin in January.

With over 90 countries represented in the district; Kentwood students receive a global education of excellence."

***Dr. Shirley Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
of Student Services***

The commitment to learning becomes a common bond when parents and students are both working at educational goals. By learning English and other skills, parents model the value of an education for their children.

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Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.

Excellence and Equity in Education

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

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

Elementary Events

New Coats from Our Fire Fighter Friends



A big **“Thank You”** goes out to the Kentwood Fire Fighters L-3174. Recently, they donated the first round of new winter coats to the kids at Meadowlawn Elementary. The students were so excited to receive these brand new, warm coats and even more excited when they were told they could keep them.



This was only the first round and more kids need coats, if you or your friends would like to partner with the Kentwood Fire Department to provide a new coat to a child in need. Please visit their website:
<http://www.operationwarm.org/kentwood>

Parent Night at Townline

Townline Tigers and their parents participated in a Math Family Night in November 2017. Tigers came out to show their pride and were engaged by the students of GVSU on a journey through different math stations. At these stations, Tigers participated in math skill builders and received passport stamps for their efforts. Students and parents captured new ways to strengthen their math skills at home.



Townline Celebrates Good Behavior

On Friday, November 3, 91% of our Townline Tigers participated in the first PBiS celebration for having one or fewer referrals since the beginning of the school year. For the celebration, students worked together to make slime. Fractions were added, ingredients were mixed, and voila ... SLIME! It took a village to accomplish this, but a great time was had by all.

A special “thank you” to Sam, the night custodian, for coming in to lead the activity!



Bring Your Dad to School Day



What an amazing day for dads across the district. Dads, granddads, big brothers, uncles, mentors, and other influential male figures in the lives of students joined their children for breakfast and a motivational message from local entrepreneurs in Kentwood and West Michigan communities. Brookwood, along with other schools, was at capacity for this event.



We salute Mr. Lawrence “Donta” Young for organizing and coordinating this milestone event. Thank you Brookwood staff for preparing and serving breakfast to more than 400 Brookwood students and families.

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
Wednesday, February 7 or Thursday, February 8, 2018 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 9, 2018.**

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

EKFC Celebrates "Young Scholars"

On October 31, several staff members of EKFC held a *Young Scholars Welcome Breakfast*. Young Scholars are a group of African American freshmen male students who were recommended by their teachers for enrichment and empowerment activities they will participate in throughout the school year.



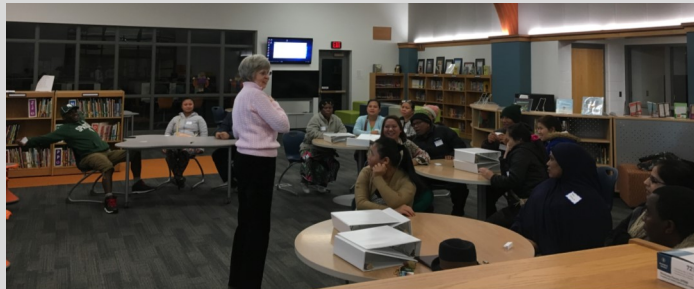
The welcome breakfast featured several male community leaders, KPS parents, Board of Education members, and teachers. The men took time from their schedules to talk with the students about pride, mindset, and development of a vision.

More will be shared throughout the school year about the positive experiences of these young men.

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Janice Borst, a teacher in the KPS Parent Academy noted, "I'm teaching adult students in a place where everyone I've met is focused on doing their utmost to make it possible for students to succeed. I've never experienced such a positive teaching environment."

KPS parents model a hard working growth mindset during the educational process. Parents in these classes want their children to have the best educational opportunities possible. KPS is honored to work with them as they engage with our school community.



The Bosch Corporation, the City of Kentwood and the Kentwood Education Foundation have partnered together, raising \$35,000, to fund Challenge Day.

Challenge Day has been a part of East Kentwood High School for six years. The program seeks to inspire students to join a movement aimed at creating compassion and positive change. The actual day is designed to create school connectedness, empathy, and inclusivity.

KPS is also grateful for the employees working in local businesses who volunteer their time to work with students, to teach them Career Education, during our STEAM events several times throughout each year.

Kentwood Public Schools would like to take a moment to thank all our partners. Together, the Kentwood community and Kentwood Public Schools are creating a positive and vibrant future.

*It's only as we develop others, that we
permanently succeed.*

- Harvey Firestone

Life Leadership Summit



EK's Rotary Life Leadership students participated in a leadership conference over the summer and are now engaged in several leadership roles in their schools and communities.

Pictured are: Sarah Lobsiger, Kelly Giles, Brandon Love, Monet Hawkins-Day, and Adetola Ojo from EKHS along with Tim Kondracki and Jazzmynn Chirco from Crossroads.

Author David Burch Presents at Pinewood



Author David Burch visited Pinewood to speak with 8th grade students about his book titled, *Pocket Full of Dreams* which describes his hardships growing up in Detroit and Northern Michigan, overcoming adversity, and becoming a successful businessman and father. Ask your child about his positive message.

We also celebrated "It's your lucky day! You get to read!" day. Students wore pajamas and read during the half day of school.

PBIS Celebration at Crestwood

On October 31, Crestwood held the monthly PBIS celebration with an exciting staff vs. student volleyball game. In addition to the game, time was taken to recognize several students for following the ROCKS expectations during the month of October. Students who earned ROCKS tickets had their names placed in a drawing for a variety of prizes.



One lucky student was selected to receive a brand new bike and helmet thanks to our amazing School Resource Officer, Chad Nawrocki, as well as the generosity of the local Wyoming Walmart Store for their donation of not one, but TWO bikes. Another winner will be drawn at the end of this month.

It's always hard to say good-bye ...



The District will lose three long-time employees as of December 31, 2017.
Delisa Benfield - Secretary to the Assist Superintendent for Student Services - 27 years,
Kim Kerkau - Child Nutrition Accounting Clerk - 26 years, and
Alison O'Gorman - Sub Teacher Caller - 27 years.

Wishing you all the best in your Retirement!

Ready for Summer Fun?

Player Registration is going on for the 2018 Season



Boys 5-14 and Girls ages 5-15 are eligible to play. Register online at
<http://www.kentwoodbaseballleague.net/>
Registration ends March 1



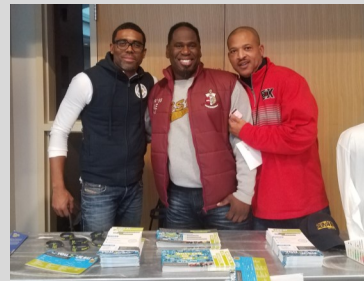
EK Students Attend the HBCU College and Career Fair



Over 15 EK students had the opportunity to attend the city-wide 4th Annual HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) College and Career Fair.

More than 300 students from all over the city filled the GRCC Applied Technology Center to attend informative workshops and visit HBCU booths to learn more about the participating colleges and universities. Students also visited career booths to connect with professionals representing the major career fields and to explore their career aspirations.

Several KPS educators and administrators participated in the event. - Omar Bakri, EK principal, and Jennifer Bailey, EK counselor, worked to get students from EK to the event providing transportation for them.



- Gary Harmon, Pinewood principal, spoke to students about the importance of being successful in high school and transitioning to college.

- Lorenzo Bradshaw, Brookwood principal, Damon Johnson, grade 4 teacher at Explorer, Sheree Bos, grade 4 teacher at Endeavor, and Nick Hardiman, Behavior Specialist at EK represented their HBCU alma maters speaking to students about their colleges and careers.



It was an event where students walked away with information and resources to help them become more successful in school and in life. They walked away inspired about their futures.

Endeavor Has TWO Published Authors

Grishma, a second grade student and Prajeeta, a first grade student, along with eight other students from The Refugee Education Center (REC) wrote tales with the help of Ada native author and editor Betty Epperly.



The girls read their stories to visitors at the Rivertown Barnes and Noble and talked about how they created their book. The girls were very excited to share their experience with everyone. Among the ten authors in the book, seven are Kentwood students.

Interested in supporting REC? You can shop Barnes and Noble to support the important work the Refugee Education Center does right here in Kentwood.

Staff and Students in the News



Celebrating our Alumni

Gwyneth Hoeksema, 2017 EK graduate,

auditioned and was selected to join the prestigious Valparaíso

University Chorale. This is one of the top Lutheran collegiate choirs in the US. The Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany invited the Valparaíso choir to be the ONLY international choir present on the historic occasion of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's reformation, when he posted his 95 theses on the doors of the church. The choir spent 13 days touring and performing nine concerts for the people of Germany including singing in the famous church of J.S. Bach, performing in several services in the Castle Church, and participating in a parade and bell dedication in Seyda, Germany.



EK Grad Named Most Valuable Player

EK grad, **Izzy Leon**, was named the Most Valuable Player for the 2017 MIAA soccer league. Congratulations Izzy and thank you for representing KPS in such a positive manner.



CCIW Player of the Week

EK alumni **Kyle Friberg** was named CCIW player of the week. Kyle, a 2016 graduate, is the starting quarterback for Carthage College. This past fall, Kyle threw for 375 yards and three touchdowns in a 45-27 win over rival Milikin.



Kyle's outstanding performance also extends beyond the football field, as he maintains a 4.0 GPA.

Kentwood Grit and Mohamed Hisabu



East Kentwood senior, Mohamed Hisabu, is an EL student, who unfortunately is no longer eligible to compete in Michigan High School athletics. According to MHSAA rules, Mohamed "aged out" due to a common clerical error at the immigration office upon entering the US. Mohamed's given birthday is January 1, 1998, easily the most common birthday among our refugee population.

Instead of quitting his passion for running, Mohamed has continued to train and works as a manager on the East Kentwood Cross Country team. This fall, Mohamed competed in the Grand Rapids Marathon (26.2 miles) and finished 5th out of 970 competitors!!!! His time of 2:46 was a terrific time on a rainy, windy, and cold morning. Mohamed demonstrates "Kentwood Grit" by overcoming every obstacle he encounters.

Growth Mindset + Kentwood Grit = Excellence!! There are many districts where students can go to be good, but KPS is where greatness is achieved.

GVSU's "Bard To Go" Traveling Troupe Visited Crestwood



Bard to Go is a part of the educational outreach program incorporated into the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival designed to introduce middle school students to Shakespeare.

Crestwood eighth grade students participated in an **In School** field trip as GVSU performed: *The*

Wonder of Will: This Is Your Afterlife! The troop performed eight plays in 50 minutes, taking the students on a whirlwind experience featuring scenes from: *Hamlet*, *Richard III*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, and *The Merchant of Venice*.

It was a reminder that Shakespeare is relevant and applicable to audiences of every era.

EK's Academic Booster Awards

On November 27, EK hosted its annual Academic Boosters Awards Assembly with more than 450 students earning an award for having a GPA of at least 3.5. This is the result of hard work put in by not only the students, but all the teachers, parents, and the Kentwood Community.

It's a great day to be a Falcon!!



Acts of Kindness

Discovery students were surprised by a winter wonderland in the main hallway of the school. The fifth grade teachers and a group of parents organized and led by Amanda Barbour, decorated over the weekend so everyone could appreciate the spirit of the season.



EK APUSH Students Meet "Hank" Meijer



Advance Placement US History (APUSH) students Gerald Perry and Aidan Baas got to meet with Hendrik "Hank" Meijer at the

Hauenstein Center (GVSU Downtown Campus). APUSH students are encouraged to take part in speaker events sponsored by local colleges and universities.

SPECTRUM HEALTH
Helen DeVos
children's hospital

meijer

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.

Spotlight on Senior Issues

AREA
AGENCY
ON AGING
OF WESTERN
MICHIGAN
The Source for Seniors

Caring for the Caregiver During the Holidays

Given that almost 20% of the population in the United States is aged 60+ and that more than 5 million people in the United States live with some form of dementia, it is likely we have at least one person in our family who is a caregiver. We may not recognize them as being a caregiver. We might look at it as mom taking care of dad, or the sister who drives mom and dad places since she lives nearby. As the holiday season comes into full swing, the caregiving role can take on added stress. Reaching out to caregivers and helping them plan for holiday festivities can go a long way toward helping the caregiver and their loved ones enjoy the holidays alongside family and friends.

We can begin by helping to choose holiday activities. As invitations arrive, it can be challenging for a caregiver to decide what to accept and what to decline. Some people might decide the amount of planning required is too much and decide to just stay home. Social isolation is an unfortunate reality for many caregivers and their loved ones. It doesn't have to be this way though. Julie Alicki, Certified Advanced Dementia Practitioner, agrees, "Particularly in people with dementia, the tendency is to want to isolate, but being included in gatherings is beautiful. It allows them the opportunity to be social and this is important." Planning is key in helping caregivers approach the holiday season.

Sitting down with a caregiver and mapping out the holidays can help us plan in advance for how we're going to manage the holidays. Sarah Sobel, LMSW, AAAMW Caregiver Services & Contract Administrator, says, "Decide what invitations the caregiver would like to accept and, of those, which events the loved one would like to attend and start from there." Knowing in advance what events will be attended helps with the next phase, which is to make plans for each event – a Plan A, Plan B and even a C just in case. For example, if there is a large family gathering, a person with dementia may require a quiet place to go when things become loud or chaotic. Alicki also suggests, "When getting together as a family, if there are big, important things planned to take place, like gift opening, move those to the beginning of the gathering so both the caregiver and loved one can participate, and they can leave when necessary without missing out."

Caregivers often put their needs second, third or last to other people in their life. Offering the caregiver some relief would make a tremendous gift for the holidays. How can friends and family help with this? Having a friend or family member stay with a loved one for a weekend would offer the caregiver the freedom to get away for some rest and time for themselves. Alicki points out, "This also clues the rest of the family in on what the caregiver is going through – it keeps them in the loop." Arranging for professional in-home care can also provide some relief for a caregiver.

Try to make the holidays guilt-free for caregivers. If a caregiver needs to leave a gathering early, let them know how happy you are that you got to spend time with them rather than how disappointed you are that they have to leave. If traveling is too much, consider changing the location to accommodate them. If a plan needs to be cancelled, be understanding.

During the holidays, like everyone else, caregivers and the loved ones they care for want to be involved in holiday festivities: attending parties, gatherings, concerts and events. The holidays are time to connect with friends, relatives who live states away, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, etc. Those who care for caregivers can help the holiday season be an enjoyable one by offering support, participating in planning, and sharing in the responsibilities of caregiving.

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

2017 Career Fair



To the far right is Crossroads 2015 graduate, CSSN Alex Hoezee, who returned to share goal setting and the message of "grit".



On October 26, 2017, Crossroads held its 5th Career Fair. Thank you to the various professionals who spent their time educating students on 21st Century occupations, timeline of certification, and employability once one receives their desired certification.

Thank you to Mr. Lawrence "Donta" Young, Crossroad's KSSN Community Service Coordinator for planning and preparing this special day for our students and community members.



MTSS Team

At the 2017 National PBIS Leadership Forum

Crossroads Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Team took the stage to present in Chicago at the National Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) Leadership Forum.

The team was able to merge the positive school-wide interventions along with the message from Bob Puntam from the National PBIS Technical Assistance Center.



Crossroads competed in the Annual Slug-Fest Alternative Softball Tournament in October.

Thank you to these students for representing Crossroads with class, integrity, and grit!



Crossroads Superbuddies...



had a blast spending time with their friends in the ASD Program at EKFC. While celebrating the Halloween spirit, students played bingo and read stories together!

Update on Construction Bond - Winter 2017

The 2016 Bond construction continues as District officials and the Board of Education continue to plan for enhanced technology, security, and facility upgrades. It's hard to believe that it is winter! Construction crews continue to work hard on many upgrades throughout the District.



Meadowlawn

Building addition will include a new, full-size, multi-purpose center and cafeteria with new kitchen and server. Both will open in February 2018.

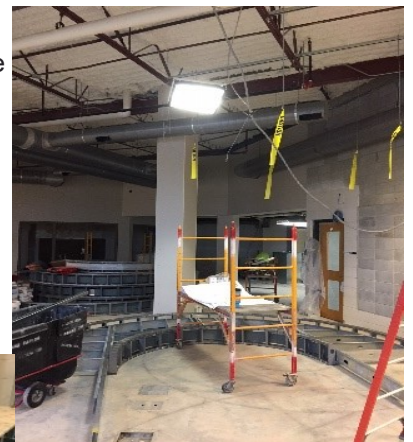


Interior Upgrades
Bathroom renovations, a new hydration station with bottle filling capabilities, and a renovated gymnasium.



Explorer

Collaboration center inside the Media Center.
Scheduled to open in April 2018.



Challenger

Collaboration center inside the Media Center.
Scheduled to open in April 2018.



Glenwood

Collaboration center inside the Media Center.
Scheduled to open in April 2018.

Valleywood

Collaboration center inside the Media Center with presentation stage and necessary technology to promote collaborative learning. Scheduled to open in April 2018.

Throughout the course of the year, District officials will continue to communicate progress of the construction projects across the District that are possible due to the passage of the Bond issue in 2016. We encourage you to visit our website (www.kentwoodps.org) for updates, including pictures and a link to the construction blog, for all of the projects. Detailed information is also available by contacting Todd Bell, Executive Director of Finance and Business Operations at 616.455.4400 ext. 79918.

Thank you Kentwood Community for your support!