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December 2022 • Volume 25, Issue 11



Superhero Students

A/T Students Explore Their Superpowers

(STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 15)

New KPS Foundation
Will Expand
Opportunities for
Students

PAGES 8 – 10



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KPS Foundation Will Provide The Gift of Possibilities

I AM EXCITED to share news about a new philanthropic effort to support the work being done in the district. The KPS Foundation will help secure funding to help develop and implement best practices in the district, support creativity, and provide an avenue for the district to sustain and maintain innovative programs. The possibilities for this new organization are endless.

These days it is rare for a district the size and stature of KPS to be without a foundation. Foundations provide critical financial support for the essential work that schools do. Yes, schools are funded with support from taxpayers, and we are ever grateful for that investment in our children and in the future health of our society. We are also grateful for the support Kalamazoo taxpayers demonstrate

in passing the district's bond millages, which allow us to maintain and grow our facilities to meet the needs of the students and the community.

But, we also know the state's basic per pupil funding does not provide an equitable education for students across the state. It is a fact that it costs more for a school district to educate students with higher needs. An urban district, such as Kalamazoo Public Schools, often has a larger population of economically disadvantaged students, students who need special education support, and students who require English language services to help them integrate into a new country — and those programs, simply put, are expensive.

KPS teachers and staff work hard to squeeze every opportunity out of the funding we receive from the state. And, we do more than that. Administrators, teachers, and volunteers spend time seeking out grant dollars to supplement our budget. Oftentimes, those funds help launch exciting new initiatives

such as our Urban Teacher Residency Program, which helps current staff seek teaching credentials, and our Career Launch Kalamazoo apprenticeship program. Grants are a great resource, but the grant-writing process can be long and arduous, which limits their ability to respond quickly to needs, and they usually provide only short-term seed money leaving the district to scramble to find long-term funding to sustain programs.

In this holiday season when one frequently thinks about gifts — their giving and receiving — I think about the potential gifts of The KPS Foundation. Already, the district has received a tremendous gift of time and energy from the inaugural foundation board members who have dedicated their talents to forming and launching the foundation:

- **Bill Manns**, president and CEO of Bronson Healthcare
- **Ryan LaPine**, president of R.W. LaPine Inc. Mechanical Contractors
- **Dr. Grace Lubwama**, president and

CEO of the YWCA of Kalamazoo

- **Sonya Bernard-Hollins**, founder and executive director of the Merze Tate Explorers youth development organization
- **Dr. Jack Mosser**, associate dean for Development and Alumni Affairs at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine
- **Dr. Donovan Roy**, vice dean for Diversity and Inclusion at the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

The KPS Foundation is another example of how the Kalamazoo community rallies around the district and shares its gifts with our children. I am grateful for these volunteers, like so many others, who offer their knowledge and leadership to help us do better by our students every day.

With their guidance and the generosity of the community, The KPS Foundation will be a gift that keeps giving into the future as it helps the district and its students explore, grow and learn. It is a gift of possibilities.

A Message from the Superintendent



Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri



Need heat? Give us a call!

If you find your furnace is in need of repair or replacement, **Community Homeworks** is here to help! We offer no or low-cost support to income-eligible homeowners in the **City of Kalamazoo**, such as plumbing, electrical, and other health and safety issue repairs. Call or email us today to see if you are eligible at **(269) 998-3275 ext. 202** or **info@communityhomeworks.org**.

This activity is brought to you in partnership with the City of Kalamazoo and support from other grant funding partners.

5 STEPS To Get Your Furnace Winter Ready

Check and Change Your
Furnace Filter

Make Sure the Thermostat
is Working Properly

Ensure That All Heating Vents
Are Completely Uncovered

Switch Your Furnace Thermostat
From Cooling to Heating

Make Sure the Furnace's Burners
are Free of Dust and Debris

Checking your furnace early can save you from making an emergency service call this winter.



World of Work Opens Up at MiCareerQuest SW

KALAMAZOO Public Schools eighth graders along with other students from across Kalamazoo County experienced hands-on career activities with dozens of employers and educational institutions at the eighth annual MiCareerQuest SW.

The event, which was held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, brought together more than 4,000 students and about 500 adult volunteers for an exploration of some of the most in-demand careers in the region in the areas of information technology and human services; engineering, manufacturing and professional trades; health sciences and natural sciences; and a touch-a-truck activity.

According to Jason Luke and Kathy Spackman with Kalamazoo RESA Career and Technical Education, which organized the event, more than 90 percent of student participants say this event provides meaningful insight into career exploration.

Exhibitors were excited to bring their career opportunities to life for students with a variety of fun and engaging activities, from driving nails

to driving virtual bulldozers.

Mary Walsh, an architect with Diekema Hammann Architecture & Engineering, was at the event as a representative of the American Institute of Architects SW. She had a variety of activities such as cup stacking, a giant Jenga, and decks of cards to build houses.

“We want to show students how things get built and how almost every building you see requires an architect,” Walsh said.

Ian Salo, an instructional manager with the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Groves Campus, was there with two robots for students to use. Students could race a robot to sort dice by number and use a robotic arm to manipulate and sort blocks. KVCC offers classes on robot maintenance and programming and partners with FANUC, one of the largest producers of manufacturing robots in the

world, to offer certification programs.

Josh Spackman was at a Kalamazoo RESA booth to introduce the eighth graders to the Career and Technical Education program’s automotive technology program. Students could race each other to change tires and try using a torque wrench to loosen bolts on an engine.

Spackman said students who participate in the program and attend KVCC through Early/Middle College could easily come out of school with all of the training and certifications they need to work as a mechanic or to earn an engineering degree if they wanted.

Megan Richter was with Lounsbury Excavating, a first-time MiCareerQuest exhibitor. The company had brought a virtual bulldozer program that she said is used to train employees.

“We want students to know they can get a job with us right out of high school. There are definitely opportunities and pathways to employment that don’t require college,” she said. “We will teach you what you need to know.”



Linden Grove's Mariah Coleman loosens the bolts on an engine at a Career and Technical Education booth at MiCareerQuest SW 2022.



Linden Grove student Marcell Lee races a robot with Ian Salo from Kalamazoo Valley Community College at MiCareerQuest SW 2022.



Ciquoya Plair races a Linden Grove classmate to change a tire at the KRESA booth.



Kyla Elliott works with Benjamin Ash from Kalamazoo Valley Community College to operate a robotic arm during MiCareerQuest SW 2022.



Linden Grove student Devon Woodson operates a virtual bulldozer used to train employees at Lounsbury Excavating.

ARTISTS' CORNER

Advanced students in the Career and Technical Education Art & Design program at Kalamazoo Central began working with Adobe Photoshop recently. Teacher Kellen Deau shared their first Photoshop projects — self portraits. The students

worked within a tight deadline and encountered many opportunities to problem solve as they navigated a new and complex digital program. These pieces were exhibited in downtown Kalamazoo as part of the November Art Hop.



Weeeeeee, by Alecia Lamorandier



Zagradia, by Zacchaeus Grady



Hrafinkel's Saga, by Farahnoz Firdavsi

NERF Mobile Games @ the Library



Wednesday, December 28, 2022

2 pm | Central Library | Children | Join in the NERF fun as you run, dodge, dive and defeat the competition! All materials supplied.

TOUGH TOPICS: ENGAGEMENT

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Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri

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The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs or services.

Inquiries by students and/or their parents/guardians should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent for
Instruction and Student Services**

Kalamazoo Public Schools

1220 Howard St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent of
Human Resources**

Kalamazoo Public Schools

1220 Howard St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com**Recipe****from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells****Kirsten Strong, registered dietician****Samuel Dunn, executive chef****Pumpkin Pie Punch**

WHEN YOU think of the holidays, you often think of pumpkin pie. This recipe turns the classic dessert into a drink that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

INGREDIENTS

1 15-ounce-can pumpkin purée
(not pumpkin pie filling)
2 liters cream soda
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1 liter ginger ale
1 750 ml bottle sparkling apple
cider or sparkling apple juice
Ice

GARNISH

Cinnamon sticks
Sliced apples
Whipped cream
Pumpkin pie spice

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the pumpkin puree, pumpkin pie spice, and the cream soda. Pour into a punch bowl.
2. Add the ginger ale and sparkling cider. Stir.
3. Prepare each drink with ice, a cinnamon stick, a sliced apple, whipped cream, and a sprinkle of pumpkin pie spice.

Makes 17 8-oz. servings

Gift Book Sale!

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WMed Announces WMed Promise Scholarship for KPS Grads

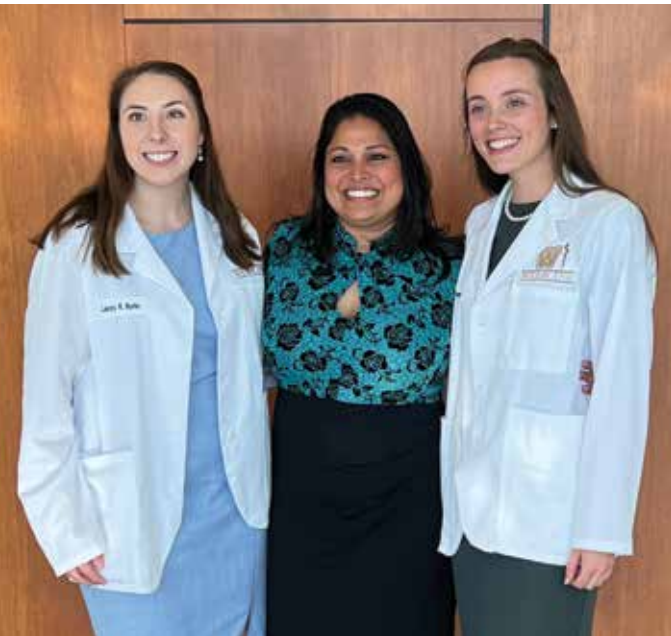
By Western Michigan University Homer Stryker
M.D. School of Medicine

WESTERN Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine's (WMed) new WMed Promise Scholarship aims to increase medical school attendance among Kalamazoo Public Schools graduates and Kalamazoo Promise scholars.

At the medical school's annual donor appreciation luncheon held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center on Nov. 10, in front of donors, medical students, community leaders and medical school faculty and staff, WMed Dean Dr. Paula M. Termuhlen announced the launch of the WMed Promise Scholarship.

This scholarship will be available to WMed medical students, who are graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools and recipients of The Kalamazoo Promise. The WMed Promise Scholarship is a medical school initiative that is separate and distinct from The Promise and KPS. The fundraising for the WMed Promise Scholarship will be led by the medical school's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

"Kalamazoo has long been recognized as a national leader in supporting higher education with the launch of The Kalamazoo Promise scholarship program more than 16 years ago. Now with the WMed Promise Scholarship, we can make a medical education at WMed accessible and more affordable for graduates of KPS," Termuhlen said. "Our hope is that these KPS graduates will prac-



Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri and WMed students Marah Ranger (left) and Lacey Burke, who are both KPS graduates.

tice medicine in Kalamazoo after graduation and residency training."

Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri, superintendent of KPS, and Von Washington Jr., executive director of community relations at The Kalamazoo Promise, said they are excited about this new scholarship program, which will offer a financial incentive for students of KPS to apply to the medical doctor degree program at WMed.

"KPS is delighted that graduates of Kalama-

zoo Public Schools will have access to financial resources to support their medical education in our community," Raichoudhuri said.

"The medical school's new initiative will encourage KPS graduates to study medicine in Kalamazoo with the hope that they will stay here as practicing physicians to meet the healthcare needs of our community," Washington said. "This is yet another reason why Kalamazoo is a great place to learn and to live."

This new fundraising effort is being chaired by orthopedic surgeon and KPS alumnus, Dr. Rob Gorman. Gorman is a 1990 graduate of Loy Norrix High School and the parent of three current KPS students.

The hope is that community support will lead to a long-term investment that significantly increases the number of

KPS graduates studying medicine in Kalamazoo.

"As a community-based medical school, it is our aspiration that donor support will be used to create an endowment to fund scholarships for KPS graduates to study medicine in Kalamazoo in perpetuity," Termuhlen said.



Learn more about how to support the WMed Promise Scholarship at med.wmich.edu/wmedpromise.



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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE **DEADLINE: MARCH 1**



Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KZCF) offers more than 60 scholarships and grants for today's students to pursue college and the future they want.

Students who plan on using **The Kalamazoo Promise** can use our scholarships for other educational expenses. Deadline for most scholarships is **March 1** (unless noted).

NEW REMYNSE DEADLINE!

Our largest scholarship has moved from a December 1 to a March 1 deadline. This means you'll only need to fill out one application to put yourself under consideration for the RemyNSE Scholarship and 60+ other scholarships.

High school seniors and first-year college students are eligible to apply. The RemyNSE Scholarship can be used at any accredited college in the United States for tuition, room and board, textbooks, and other course materials.



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
AT [KALFOUND.ORG/
SCHOLARSHIPS](https://www.kalfound.org/scholarships)**

Kalamazoo Community Leaders Step Forward to Launch The KPS Foundation to Raise Funds to Support Expanded Educational Opportunities for the Students of Kalamazoo

A SEASONED group of Kalamazoo Public Schools alumni, parents, business and community leaders have worked over the past year to establish a new 501(c)(3) organization to raise funds to support the mission and educational programs of the district — The KPS Foundation.

KPS Superintendent Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri said it is rare for a well-established public education system such as KPS to not have a foundation. There are currently more than 3,000 public school foundations across the country that help supplement traditional government funding for schools.

“The KPS Foundation will provide Kalamazoo Public Schools with new sources of philanthropic funding to allow the district to implement innovative and cutting-edge educational programs.”

— Von Washington Jr., executive director of community relations for The Kalamazoo Promise

“When I became superintendent three years ago, I was surprised to learn that a school system as nationally distinctive as KPS did not have a foundation,” Raichoudhuri said. “School foundations play a vital role in securing philanthropic funds to support educational innovation, creativity in the classroom, best practice teaching methods, enhancements to educational facilities, professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, along with partnership programs with other nonprofit and educational organizations.”

Fortunately, in a community as vibrant and dynamic as Kalamazoo, there is never a shortage of dedicated, hard-working and experienced community members who are ready to step forward to help where and when needed. That has been the case with the group of thoughtful community leaders who have worked over the past year to formally establish The KPS Foundation.

The KPS Foundation is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This designation means



“The children of Kalamazoo are the future of our community. There can be no greater investment in our collective future than in the education of the youth of Kalamazoo.”

— Dr. Jack Mosser, associate dean for Development and Alumni Affairs at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine



“Our community is blessed with lots of people who are proud graduates of KPS and are excited that many of our kids are now able to attend KPS. I am confident that our alumni, like myself, are going to want to get more actively involved in also supporting KPS as they learn about The KPS Foundation.”

— Sonya Bernard-Hollins, founder and executive director of the Merze Tate Explorers youth development organization

that all donations made to the foundation to support the mission, students, and programs of the school district are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. As such, the mission of The KPS Foundation is to serve as the official gift receiving agency for the district.

The founding members of The KPS Foundation board are:

- **Bill Manns**, president and CEO of Bronson Healthcare
- **Ryan LaPine**, president of R.W. LaPine Inc.: Mechanical Contractors
- **Dr. Grace Lubwama**, president and CEO of the YWCA of Kalamazoo
- **Sonya Bernard-Hollins**, founder and executive director of the Merze Tate Explorers youth development organization



“Education is fundamental to personal well-being and to the health of our community. I am honored to serve on this board and support its work to meet the needs of Kalamazoo children and families.”

— Bill Manns, president and CEO of Bronson Healthcare

“My family has a long history of involvement with Kalamazoo Public Schools. My grandmother taught for KPS her entire career. My service now as a founding board member of The KPS Foundation feels like the continuation of my family’s legacy of engagement and involvement with KPS.”

— Ryan LaPine, president of R.W. LaPine Inc. Mechanical Contractors

“When I see on a daily basis the quality education my two sons are receiving through the Kalamazoo Public Schools, when I was asked to join the board, I jumped at the chance as a way to say ‘thank you’ and to give back to our community.”

— Dr. Grace Lubwama, president and CEO of the YWCA of Kalamazoo.

“KPS is one of the most diverse school districts in the State of Michigan, and I am honored and excited for the opportunity to develop funding initiatives that contribute to the diversity, inclusiveness and national distinctiveness of Kalamazoo Public Schools.”

— Dr. Donovan Roy, vice dean for Diversity and Inclusion at the Wayne State University School of Medicine

- **Dr. Jack Mosser**, associate dean for Development and Alumni Affairs at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine
- **Dr. Donovan Roy**, vice dean for Diversity and Inclusion at the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Mosser has been elected to serve as board chair. Lubwama has been elected to serve as vice chair of the foundation. Roy will be the foundation’s chief diversity officer.

“The children of Kalamazoo are the future of our community. There can be no greater investment in our collective future than in the education of the youth of Kalamazoo,” Mosser said.

James Pollerana, an experienced nonprofit leader, fundraiser and KPS parent, has been selected to serve as director of philanthropic operations for the foundation.

“We are truly fortunate to have an experienced nonprofit leader like James Pollerana working in this leadership role for the foundation,” Mosser said. “His fundraising and nonprofit experience will allow the foundation to hit the ground running.”

The KPS Foundation has garnered the support of organizations that work closely with the school district.

Von Washington Jr., executive director of community relations for The Kalamazoo Promise and interim chairperson of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation board of trustees said, “This new organization will certainly provide exciting new opportunities for Kalamazoo students. The KPS Foundation will provide Kalamazoo Public Schools with new sources of philanthropic funding to allow the district to implement innovative and cutting-edge educational programs. This will be critically important

in the years ahead when state and national funding are expected to decline.”

“The Kalamazoo Promise and Kalamazoo Public Schools have a high degree of mission alignment — to ensure KPS students graduate ready to take advantage of — and succeed in — their post-secondary pursuits,” Washington said. “The KPS Foundation will be a great new partner in this enterprise.

“The Kalamazoo Community Foundation has also been a long-standing supporter of many educational initiatives developed by KPS. The KPS Foundation will be yet another partner in this important collaborative work. I look forward to working with The KPS Foundation on educational initiatives that will continue to help to meet the new and evolving needs of the students and families of Kalamazoo.”

(continued on page 10)

The KPS Foundation *(continued from page 9)*

James Devers, executive director of Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo, said his organization works closely with the school district to empower students to thrive.

“I know firsthand how lack of adequate funding can often hinder the implementation of innovative ideas, projects, and programs that could lead to better educational outcomes,” Devers said. “I have often thought how valuable it would be for KPS to have a foundation — especially because the public education system will be facing funding challenges in the near future once short-term federal dollars are no longer available. I am excited about the launch of The KPS Foundation and what it will mean for our students now and for generations to come.”

According to the website NonProfitPro, the purpose of public education foundations is “to secure time, talent and treasure that gives administration, teachers and students a wider array of educational possibilities.”

The Indiana Association of Public Education Foundation website says, “educational foundations fund initiatives such as teaching innovation grants, classroom equipment needs, student scholarships, STEM programs, summer science camps, creative writing courses, along with college and career readiness programs.” According to the website, foundations also help school districts foster collaboration and build community partnerships — including engagement with school district alumni.

Raichoudhuri said funding from the foundation will help provide long-term sustainability for best practice initiatives within the school district. Many new educational innovations in schools are launched using state and federal grants, which often do not provide continued funding to sustain them after an initial funding period.

“Currently there are staffing shortages in every industry — the K-12 education industry is no different,” Raichoudhuri said. “KPS has developed innovative programs such as the Urban Teacher Resi-

dency Program as a way to attract and train new teachers. This was made possible by a short-term federal grant. However, this program is producing results and needs to be sustained beyond the sunset of the federal grant. We also have been able to start an innovative new apprenticeship program called Career Launch Kalamazoo, with an outside grant that provides paid internships for students and provides regional employers with a new source of work-ready employees. Sustaining programs like these two highly successful initiatives will enable the district to continue offering services that benefit our entire community — students, teachers, and our regional employers.

“The KPS Foundation has been established to provide new sources of funding that can help to create and sustain innovative educational programs that lead to great educational outcomes and long-term career success for all graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools.”

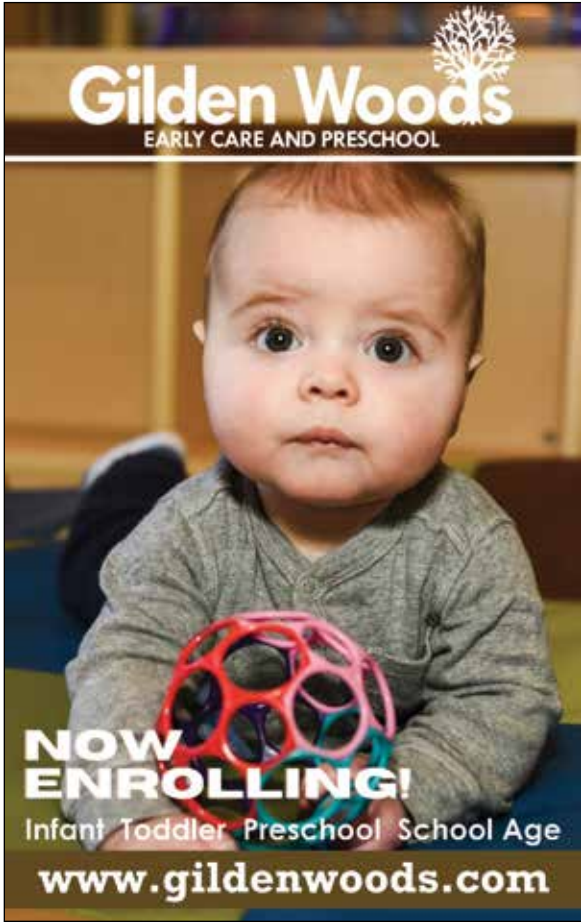


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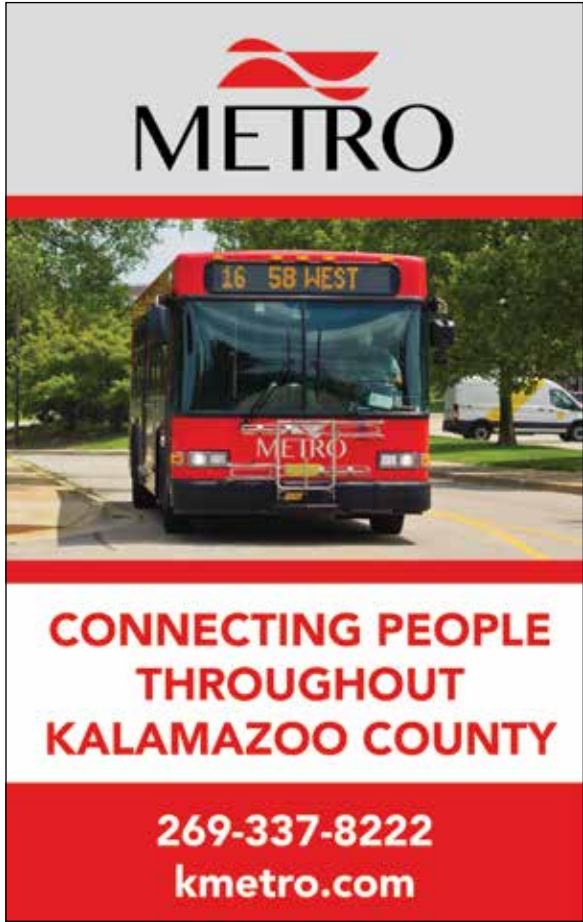


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NORTHGLADE Montessori set a new fundraising record with their annual Fun Run this year, raising more than \$9,000.

The Northglade PTO has been putting on the Fun Run for many years and has focused on making it the school's primary fundraiser over the past five to six years. This year's run raised more than four times the amount the event raised prior to the pandemic and \$1,500 more than last year's record.

During the Fun Run, students wore their Northglade Rocks T-shirts and ran around the school's back field.



It's a race to the end between Christopher Thompson and Kaylee Hampton at the Northglade Fun Run 2022.



The cheering was as epic as the running at the Northglade Fun Run. From left, Fiona Fraaza, Rowyn Biggers, Bryson Mann, and Ophelia Blake-Beach. Behind Bryson are Cora Bular and Sami Horvitz.



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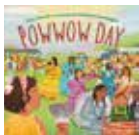
Holiday Book Gift Guide 2022: KPS Librarian Recommendations

IT'S A SEASON for sharing, and one of the most meaningful ways to share time and ideas is with a good book. Kalamazoo Public Schools librarians Tonya Colvin, Jill Franz, John Kreider, Terri Luzenske and Patsy Richardson have compiled a list of books that are great gifts. Peruse the list for fun and inspiring read-alouds, thoughtful books to spark discussion, and books to bring people together.



KPS librarians Patsy Richardson, John Kreider (LNHS) Jill Franz (Maple St), Terri Luzenske (MLK-Westwood & Indian Prairie), Tonya Colvin (KCHS)

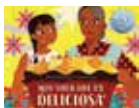
PICTURE BOOKS



Powwow Day
by Tracy Sorrell,
Illustrated by
Madelyn Goodnight

Traci Sorell gives us another amazing contemporary Native American story. One little girl learns to connect with her people in a different way when an illness prevents her from dancing in the annual powwow.

May Your Life Be Deliciosa



by Michael
Genhart,
Illustrated by
Loris Lora

Each year on Christmas Eve, Rosie's abuela teaches her not only how to make a delicious tamale, but how to make a delicious life — one filled with love, plenty of spice, and family.



Kick Push by Frank
Morrison

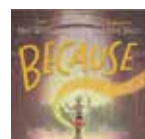
Epic is the kick-flipping, big rail king. When his family moves to a new neighborhood,

he can't wait to hit the street with his skateboard. But his old moves don't feel fresh without a crew to see them. Epic thinks about giving up his board to fit in, but an encouraging word from his dad helps him see the trick to making new friends.



A Very Big Fall
by Emmy Kastner

New situations can be scary but also thrilling, as three adorable autumn leaves, surprised by their turning colors and the promise of the fall to come, discover in this funny and heartwarming story by Kastner, a Kalamazoo author.



Because
by Mo Willems,
Illustrated by
Amber Ren

Follow along as a series of events and important people lead to a young girl attending a concert and realizing her passion for music. Events ranging from historical — “because a man named Ludwig wrote beautiful

music” — to the mundane — “someone's uncle caught a cold” — lead the girl to get a ticket to attend a classical music concert. The girl ends up writing a piece of work that, in turn, inspires others.



**Letters to Live By:
An Alphabet Book
with Intention**
by Lisa Frenkel
Riddiough,
Illustrated by Asa
Gilland

Appreciate art, become brave, and choose compassion. Pairing big ideas like generosity, respect, and joy with the letters of the alphabet, this beautiful picture book encourages children to make the most of each day and leave their mark on the world.

ELEMENTARY EMERGING READERS



**Ty's Travels: Winter
Wonderland**
by Kelly Starling
Lyons, Illustrated
by Nina Mata

In this installment of the “Ty's Travels” series, Ty dreams of visiting the North Pole. His mom and dog are equally excited to visit, and as they take a winter walk, the trio has a delightful time sledding and meeting holiday merry makers.



Doggo and Pupper
by Katherine
Applegate,
Illustrated by
Charlie Alder

An old dog has to welcome a new puppy to the household in this engaging early reader series sure to give children the giggles. Just right for kids on the path to chapter books.

ELEMENTARY FICTION

Willodeen by Katherine Applegate
When the annual migration of “hummingbirds,” a source of local pride and income, dwindles and no one knows why, Willodeen, armed with a magical birthday gift, speaks



up for the animals she loves and vows to solve this mystery. A timely and timeless tale about our fragile earth.



Monster and Boy
by Hannah Rodgers
Barnaby, Illustrated
by Anoosha Syed

When Monster (who lives under the bed) meets Boy (who sleeps in the bed), Boy starts to scream — and Monster promptly swallows him. It's the beginning of a beautiful friendship! Filled with adventure and humor, this chapter book is perfect for sharing.



King of the Ice
by Kelly Starling
Lyons, Illustrated
by Wayne Spencer

From the author of the “Jada Jones” series comes a new chapter book series set in the same group of friends. Fourth-grader Miles Lewis learns the value of having fun over impressing others when he takes on the challenge of learning to ice skate during a class trip.

ELEMENTARY GRAPHIC NOVELS



**Super Sidekicks: No
Adults Allowed** by
Gavin Aung Than

Superheroes have it sooooo easy. They don't have to clean their secret headquarters or walk Super Mutt. No! They leave that for their sidekicks. Well, Junior Justice, aka J.J., has had enough! He thinks it's time the sidekicks made a team of their own.



**Paws: Gabby Gets It
Together**
by Nathan Fairbairn,
Illustrated
by Michele
Assarasakorn

The first in a new

series about best friends, cute dogs, and all the fun (and trouble) that comes with them. Meet Gabby, Priya, and Mindy. They're different in just about every way — but they have a few important things in common: they absolutely love animals, and for reasons that are as varied as they are, none of them can actually have any pets.

ELEMENTARY NON-FICTION



**Rescuing Titanic: A
True Story of Quiet
Bravery in the North
Atlantic**

by Flora Delargy
This exquisitely
illustrated story

tells in rich detail how the little ship Carpathia saved 705 passengers of the Titanic from the icy waters of the North Atlantic.



**Highlights Almanac
of Fun 2023: A Year
of Puzzles, Fun
Facts, Jokes, Crafts,
and More!**

Get ready for a year
of fun with favorite

Highlights puzzles and activities that celebrate traditional and wacky holidays, historical anniversaries, world events, and everything in between.



**Cooking Class:
Global Feast**
by Deanna F. Cook

Food is a fun way to celebrate diversity, and this cookbook leads young chefs on a tasty tour of global cultures and cuisines.

UPPER ELEMENTARY / MIDDLE SCHOOL FICTION



**The Turtle of
Michigan**
by Naomi Shihab
Nye
This stand-alone
companion to “The
Turtle of Oman”

(continued on page 13)

Holiday Book Gift Guide *(continued from page 12)*

follows 8-year-old Aref as he travels from Muscat, Oman, to Ann Arbor, and adjusts to a new life and a new school in the United States. Carrying a suitcase and memories of Oman, Aref experiences the excitement and nervousness that accompany moving to a new home and new school.



The Unforgettable Logan Foster by Shawn Peters

In this humorous and action-packed story, Logan Foster has been in and out of foster care ever since being abandoned at the age of three. He has pretty much given up on the idea of ever being adopted. Logan soon discovers his latest foster parents are totally different — they are actual superheroes!



Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Lisa Yee

When Maizy Chen's grandfather gets sick, her mother drives them from Los Angeles to the family's restaurant in Last Chance, Minn. What starts as a week-long visit turns into the entire summer. She learns about her family's history as well as discrimination faced by the Asian community.



A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga

Fans of space exploration will enjoy the story of Resilience, a rover built to explore Mars. He was not built to have human emotions, but as he learns new things from the NASA scientists who assemble him, he begins to develop human-like feelings.

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL GRAPHIC NOVELS

Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas

A coming-of-age story that explores the meaning of friendship, family struggles, bullying, and the history of discrimination regarding swimming and access to pools and beaches in the United States.



Invisible by Christina Diaz Gonzalez, Illustrated by Gabriela Epstein

A must-read graphic novel about five students who meet in the school cafeteria when they're forced to complete their school community service hours. They immediately know that they have nothing in common. None of

the kids wants to be there, and each has their own issues in their lives outside of school.



Wingbearer by Marjorie Liu, Illustrated by Teny Issakhanian

Zuli has special powers and was raised by bird spirits in the safety of her Great Tree. Facing a threat to her home, Zuli embarks on a journey with her guardian owl, Frowly, to save her family and save the Great Tree. This book is the first of a new series.

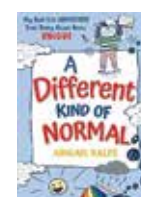
UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NON-FICTION

Crash from Outer Space: Unraveling the Mystery of Flying Saucers, Alien Beings, and Roswell by Candace Fleming

Fleming examines stories surrounding



Roswell and the "crash from outer space." It is a story that asks quite a few thought-provoking questions. Can you just take a person at their word? Is something true just because someone claims to have witnessed it?



A Different Kind of Normal: My Real-Life Completely True Story about Being Unique by Abigail Balfe

In this illustrated memoir, author-illustrator Abigail Balfe takes you on a journey through her childhood and early adulthood as an undiagnosed autistic girl. Celebrating neurodiversity, the book covers typical topics including school, bullying, social relationships, and

(continued on page 14)

STAND OUT. START HERE. STAND OUT. START HERE. STAND OUT. START HERE. STAND OUT. START HERE. STAND OUT. START HERE.

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~ Greta Salamun, Alumna

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JANUARY 9

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Holiday Book Gift Guide *(continued from page 13)*

family interactions. This book is for anyone who has ever felt different.



Inheritance: A Visual Poem by Elizabeth Acevedo, Illustrated by Andrea Pippins
In her most famous spoken-word poem, "Hair,"

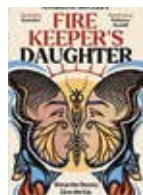
author Acevedo embraces all the complexities of Black hair and Afro-Latinidad — the history, pain, pride, and powerful love of that inheritance. Beautifully adapted as a visual poem by Pippins, every square inch of every page is full of color and depictions of the poem's evocative lines.

HIGH SCHOOL FICTION

What The Fireflies Knew by Kai Harris
A coming-of-age novel told by almost-11-year-old Kenyatta Bernice. She and her older sister try to make sense of their new life in Lansing



with their estranged grandfather in the wake of their father's death and their mother's disappearance. She is forced to carve out a different identity for herself and find her own voice.



Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley
A YA thriller. Half-Anishinaabe and half-white, 18-year-old Daunis Fontaine puts her plans for medical school on hold after her uncle overdoses on meth and her grandmother has a stroke. Sticking around her Sault Ste. Marie home, Daunis is dealt further tragedy when she witnesses her best friend's murder by a meth-addicted boyfriend. Daunis begins an investigation into the components

of a deadly form of the drug, who's dealing it, and how she can protect those in her community.



Hollow Fires by Samira Ahmed
In this unconventional and fast-paced murder mystery, high-school senior and budding journalist Safiya Mirza is determined to find the killer of classmate Jawad, an Iraqi refugee. Told in alternating perspectives, this is an all-too-real story that educates as much as it enthralls.

HIGH SCHOOL GRAPHIC NOVELS



Across a Field of Starlight by Blue Delliquanti
Fassen and Lu are from different worlds and separate solar

systems, but they can't help but feel drawn to one another after meeting as children. Fassen is a soldier in training to fight in an intergalactic war, and Lu is a scientist from a peaceful colony on the outskirts of space.

HIGH SCHOOL NON-FICTION



Inaugural Ballers: The True Story of the First US Women's Olympic Basketball Team by Andrew Maraniss
Though they were unknowns from small schools at the time of the '76 Olympics, the American team included a roster of players who would go on to become some of the most legendary figures in the history of basketball. Pat Head, Nancy Lieberman, coach Billie Moore, and others took on the world and proved everyone wrong.



Disability Visibility (Adapted for Young Adults): 17 First-Person Stories for Today Edited by Alice Wong
Organized in four sections, "Being," "Becoming," "Doing," and "Connecting," these 17 eye-opening essays offer keen insight into the complex and rich disability experience.



Ink Knows No Borders: Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience Edited by Patrice Vecchione and Alyssa Raymond
This collection of 64 poems by poets who come from all over the world shares the experience of first- and second-generation young adult immigrants and refugees.

GET THE LEAD OUT!

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ORANGE

LOWER
IQ
LAVENDAR

GROWTH
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DISORDER
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LEAD: The Silent Pediatric Epidemic

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KPS Students Identify The Superpowers That Help Them Succeed

WHAT MAKES a superhero super? That was the question that the students in the Academically Talented program pondered recently. The lesson focused on helping them identify their own strengths, A.K.A “superpowers,” and how those strengths make them unique.

The Academically Talented (A/T) Program is a supplemental curricular program to support students in grades 3-5 who consistently perform at the highest achievement level in mathematics or reading. Participating students receive instruction from an A/T specialist in English Language Arts and/or mathematics once per week.

Students explore topics in research writing, problem solving, foundations of algebra, the logic of chess, coding, innovation, creative movement, the Harlem

Renaissance, and much more. All KPS students in grades 2-4 are screened in the spring for potential placement in the program the following school year.

Fall, winter, and spring NWEA-MAP Growth or FastBridge aReading and aMath tests as well as teacher recommendations are used in the screening process. The specific test scores necessary to qualify depend on the building, but typically students need to consistently score in at least the 85th to 90th percentile

in order to qualify for either the ELA or mathematics components (students can qualify for one or both subjects). Other factors are taken into consideration for the Curiosity Lab programming at select schools.

Students and parents are notified in late summer or early fall if qualified. Programming typically begins during the third or fourth week of school. Due to staffing and class size limitations, the district is usually not able to admit students mid-year, although attempts are made to make exceptions for new-to-KPS students who have qualifying scores from other districts.

Parents should note that participation in the A/T program in elementary school is not a requirement for participation in advanced middle school or high school courses.



Superheroes Josiah Loehrke, RaSean Johnson, and Christian Landry



Superheroes Lila McCullough, Alicia Vallar, and Ja'Viah White



Superhero Maddie Hernandez-Haw

WHAT'S NEW

@

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo

THE EARTH WITHOUT 'ART' IS JUST 'EH'.

The most important role of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo is to ensure the health and sustainability of our creative sector, from musicians to dancers, actors to artists and all the creativity in between. Yet, nearly two years later, the pandemic continues to impact the arts economy, visitation and jobs.

Please consider supporting the Arts this gift-giving season, so we can continue to promote, create opportunities and support artists and arts organizations through funding, grants and technical assistance. Together, we can amplify the arts and build a vibrant and strong community for all.

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WINTER BREAK FAMILY FUN

Visit the museum during winter break for special family activities and create memories together. More information at kalamazoomuseum.org.

EXHIBIT

NOW - JUNE 4, 2023 | **FREE** MOMENTS IN TIME: THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY PHOTO DOCUMENTARY PROJECT



See photos about life in Kalamazoo County that have been collected since 1984 and learn about the people who made it all happen. A public reception is planned for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, to celebrate the immense achievement of this important history project.

PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | DEC. 2 - 31 | \$3

Let It Snow | All Ages | 11 a.m. | 30 min.

Celebrate the winter season with a holiday music and light show.

CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story | All Ages | 2 p.m. | 24 min.

Why did we go to the moon, and what is Apollo's lasting legacy? Learn about the goals and missions of the Apollo program.

 **WINTER BREAK | DEC. 27 - 30 | 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.**
Let It Snow extra showtimes!



PUBLIC HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday | Noon - 4 p.m.
Please call or check kalamazoomuseum.org for holiday hours.

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Note: Some areas of the museum may be closed due to exhibit changes, staffing needs, special programs or collections care. We thank you for your patience.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.



230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo
kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7990