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IMPORTANT DATES

Next Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021
7 p.m.

Administration Building
1220 Howard St.
Visit kalamazoopublicschools.com/boardmeetings for more information

Dec. 20 – 31
Winter Break

Jan. 21
Grades 6 – 8
Half Day

Jan. 26
High School
Conferences

Jan. 27
Grades 6 – 8
Half Day
High School
Conferences
5 – 8 p.m.

**Kalamazoo Central
Stuff the Bus and
Neighborhood Food Drive**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
Harding's, 5161 W. Main St.
and Various Kalamazoo
Neighborhoods

All donations will benefit
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

Books, Gifts, Joy: A Holiday Book Guide

By Patricia Richardson
KPS Acquisitions & Cataloging
Librarian and other KPS
Library Staff

One of the main goals in the KPS Libraries this year is exploring joy. The library staff would like to share books that bring joy to students, staff, and families. The kinds of books that bring joy are as different and unique as we are. With that in mind, here are some wide-ranging titles that have made our students smile. Share books, share joy.

PICTURE BOOKS

Great Gifts for All Ages

Milo Imagines the World
by Matt
de la Peña, illustrated by
Christian Robinson



us, no matter what they look like on the outside. That's what Milo learns on a long subway ride with his mother and sister. Watching all the people on the train, he imagines what their lives must be like and draws their lives in his notebook. When one boy gets off at the same subway stop as him, Milo realizes, "Maybe you can't really know anyone just by looking at their face."



Wintercake
by Lynne Rae
Perkins
When Thomas
misplaces the basket of dried fruit

he needs to make his seasonal wintercake, friends old and new come together to save the day. This cozy, gently humorous, and irresistible holiday tale features universal themes of friendship, community, empathy, and generosity. It's also a story about making mistakes and how mistakes can sometimes lead to wonderful things.

Mii Maanda Ezhi-Gkendmaanh = This Is How I Know: A Book

about the
Seasons
by Brittany
Luby, illustrated by Joshua

Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley
In this lyrical story-poem, written in Anishinaabemowin and English, a child and grandmother

explore their surroundings, taking pleasure in the familiar sights that each new season brings.



Outside, Inside

by Leuyen Pham

One day, everything changed. Everyone that was normally outside went inside, and people were forced to stay inside because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to protect those we loved, people stayed inside but continued to grow. This hopeful book encourages readers to consider their own, ongoing paths through the pandemic, without ever denigrating or playing down the seriousness.

(continued on page 8)

2022 Bond Proposal Presented to KPS Board

Kalamazoo residents said in a recent survey that they are willing to support a bond proposal that helps Kalamazoo Public Schools address essential facilities needs — and will not raise the property tax rate for Kalamazoo.

Assistant Superintendent for Operations Jim English shared the information with the KPS Board of Education at its Nov. 11 meeting.

English said the polling firm EPIC-MRA conducted the community survey in August

asking for response to a possible bond issue. In the survey of likely voters, 79 percent said they would definitely vote yes, probably vote yes or would lean toward voting yes on a proposal that would fund "needed improvements to existing school buildings and other facilities, and replace aging facilities."

The survey also said, "Because of growth in home values in Kalamazoo City and several existing bonds being paid off, the bond proposal WOULD NOT

require an increase in the tax rate above current levels," and would be repaid over 25 years.

At the meeting, English presented the board with a proposal for a \$197.1 million bond issue that would not increase the tax rate for Kalamazoo residents. It would keep the property tax rate at 8.2 mills.

The board is expected to vote on the bond proposal at its Dec. 2 meeting. If approved, the measure would go on the May 2022 ballot.

The survey also asked community members to rank projects in terms of perceived importance. Among the needs that received the most support were:

- Technology upgrades, including new Chromebooks
- Air conditioning installation in buildings that do not have air conditioning
- HVAC system upgrades, replacing old and poorly functioning equipment
- Installing solar panels in

(continued on page 3)

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Volunteering Helps Create a Sense of Community

On a busy day, during a busy week, in the midst of the busy month of October, in what has to be one of the busiest years of my life, I somehow found myself on stage doing the tango in front of a crowd of strangers.

The event was Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars, an annual scholarship fundraiser for the Western Michigan University Department of Dance. And, although I am not a dancer and have never been considered a “star,” I was there trying to slink my way across the stage to the “Tango de Amor” from the Broadway musical comedy “The Addams Family.”

Usually the fundraiser pairs a dancing newbie, like myself, with a WMU dance student for a ballroom dance-style competition. This year, to accommodate the demands of social distancing, dancers performed Broadway-

style or group choreography to eliminate close contact between participants.

I am eternally grateful for the grace, talent, and flexibility of my student dance compatriots Anna Cafagna and Emma Kuechler for helping me look the part of a dancing star.

The event is one of the major fundraisers for Partners in Dance, a community organization that supports dance at WMU. In addition to promoting awareness of dance in the community and encouraging participation at dance events, the group raises funds for student scholarships, special projects, and the Great Works Dance Project, which allows WMU



Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri,
Superintendent,
Kalamazoo Public
Schools

dance students to perform classic choreography by dance masters.

Scholarships for students? That’s definitely something I can get behind. Our Kalamazoo Public Schools students certainly benefit from The Kalamazoo Promise scholarship. The cost of college is not an easy burden for students and their families to bear, and so anything we can do to help generate scholarships to support them on their journeys is worthwhile. Even trying to slide and glide gracefully across a stage in front of a room full of strangers.

The busy times never really go away. There is always one more responsibility waiting around the corner to step forward and demand our attention and energy. It is easy to feel too swamped to participate in volunteer opportunities and social causes — because quite honest-

ly, we are swamped.

But I am grateful for opportunities such as Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars. It’s not just that it provided a chance to step away from the usual demands of my day and do something completely different, to get up and tango and to share my day with the wonderfully talented Anna and Emma, but it also was a chance to do something for Kalamazoo.

Volunteering is not just a responsibility. It’s an opportunity to celebrate and help build community. I am still new to Kalamazoo and getting to know people and organizations has been challenging during the pandemic, but slowly this is becoming home. Being able to call a place home is about more than buying a house and working there, it is about finding ways to raise up the people who live in our community and who share

our city, our home.

Volunteering is a unique way to connect with those around us. It allows us to share in activities and causes that move us and that we find meaningful. Yes, it is another thing to do, another obligation during your busy day and week, but it is also a gift to meet and work with others on common goals for our community, to create the world we want to occupy. For me, enabling students to pursue their educational dreams is one of the best things we can do for our community.

Thank you WMU for letting me be a dancing star for a night. Thank you to Anna and Emma for staying in step with me during the journey. Thank you to Partners in Dance for giving me a way to help make Kalamazoo the kind of place I want to call home.



CAT KID COMIC CLUB #2

Beginning Wednesday, December 1
Open Hours | Grades K-5
KPL Online Event | Register at: kpl.gov



YA PAINT AND SIP

Saturday, December 18
2-4:30 pm | Grades 6-12
CEN/Teen Studio | Register at: kpl.gov

Enjoy Children’s and Teen programming at KPL this Winter!
For details, please visit: kpl.gov or call (269) 553-7800.



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kpl.gov

KPS Board / Bond Proposal (continued from page 1)

order to provide significant energy savings

- High school renovations to older classrooms
- Classroom upgrades including the replacement of old cabinetry, flooring and windows

English told the board that in addition to the survey, administrators have been meeting for the past two months with a committee of community members to discuss the possibility of bringing a bond proposal to voters. The group of about 40 community members met at various locations around the district to review survey results, tour facilities, hear presentations by staff members, and discuss possible projects to include in the bond request.

English shared with the committee a comprehensive list of needs totaling more than \$509 million, including \$112.3 million for protecting district assets by maintaining facilities and buses,

adding cooling, and improving energy efficiency; classroom investments of \$107.5 million to improve the learning environment for students; and \$36 million for athletic facility improvements for student athletes.

The committee reviewed that list and developed a list of prioritized projects.

Topping its list of identified projects were:

- Improving HVAC systems and cooling at the schools with-out or with limited air conditioning
- Purchasing instructional technology
- Adding secure entries to buildings without them
- Replacing aging roofs, paving projects, and other necessities
- Replacing portable classrooms by constructing permanent classroom additions

Other projects that the group identified as important



but of a lesser need included:

- Making energy efficiency improvements including the ad-dition of solar panels

- Renovating and refreshing classroom
- Adding developmental kindergarten classrooms

- Building a new El Sol El-ementary School
- Buying replacement buses
- Replacing aging pools

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Community Homeworks provides additional critical home repair services for homeowners, such as electrical, hot water heaters, plumbing, and other health and safety issues. Visit **CommunityHomeworks.org** for more information.

KC Alumnus Norm Haynes Shares NASA Adventures at Air Zoo Lecture

Norman Haynes, Kalamazoo Central class of 1954, was at the Air Zoo in September to kick off its Adult Discovery Series. While he wasn't particularly interested in science when he was a student at Kalamazoo Central — he preferred to focus on sports and girls when he was a high schooler — he eventually studied engineering in college.

Haynes received his bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University in 1959 (after spending his first year in college at Western Michigan University) and his master of science degree from the University of Southern



Norman Haynes, Kalamazoo Central Class of 1954, talks about his career with NASA during a lecture at the Air Zoo. The screen shows the spacecraft used in the Mariner 4 mission.

California in 1961.

He graduated at an opportune time — just as the space race was kicking off. NASA launched in 1958, and he joined the Jet Propulsion Lab as a new college grad in 1959.

“I had no idea what we would be doing. I didn't know about the planets or spacecraft — we didn't have spacecraft in 1959.”

He eventually became the director of Mars Exploration at the Jet Propulsion Lab, playing an instrumental role in the Mariner 4 mission in 1965 and the

Voyager 2 mission in 1977.

Mariner 4 launched in November 1964 and almost eight months later it transmitted its first picture of Mars — the first photograph ever taken of another planet.

He recalled that scientists thought that Mars had huge swaths of vegetation, but he was among the first to see the photos that showed a barren planet filled with craters. When the last picture came into the lab the conversation was, “We have a 20 minute head start on the rest of the lab to find a better shot.”

space. It famously carries a plaque with a message crafted by American astronomer Carl Sagan.

Audience members at Haynes' talk asked about his biggest heartbreaks on the job. He said that when they started the space race, the team became almost immune to failure — because “we had colossal failures” when the program started. There were so many failures that engineers and scientists became “a little used to them.”

But the heartbreak he'll never forget is the Challenger disaster which killed seven crew members, “because there were people involved, human lives, including a school teacher.”

What comes next for space exploration? He anticipates a push to collect samples from Mars, but said it will be a 10-15 year challenge requiring multiple trips and spacecraft. And, he said, scientists will be looking for life on other planets, including those outside of our solar system.

“The future will all be biology oriented. We've done the physics. We're looking for life. We don't want to be alone.



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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
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District Directory at :
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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Salmon Potato Pie

The temperature has dropped, leaves have fallen, and the days have grown shorter. It is time to break out those hearty and satisfying recipes that “stick to your bones” to get you through the winter. This recipe is quick and simple but also satisfying and nutritious, making it perfect for an easy weeknight meal. This pie can be assembled ahead of time and then popped into the oven for a hot home-made meal in minutes.

Another reason why this recipe is perfect for this time of year is because salmon is high in vitamin D. Most commonly people absorb vitamin D with the help of sunlight — which can be in short supply during the dark, cold winter months. Vitamin D is involved in many important functions in our body, from maintaining a healthy immune system to boosting our mood and supporting our mental health.

Vitamin D also helps with the absorption of calcium. Guess what is high in calcium? Salmon bones! The canned salmon in this recipe will include the small bones from the vertebra of the fish, but these bones are edible, with an almost crumbly, crunchy texture that almost melts in your mouth. This pie is good on its own, but feel free to jazz it up with fresh dill, peas, lemon dill aioli, capers, horseradish sauce, or a dill dill drizzle. Sweet potatoes, other veggies, or cheeses can be added to the filling.

Enjoy this mood-boosting comfort food this winter!

Ingredients

3½ lbs Russet potatoes, washed, peeled and quartered
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 ribs of celery, finely chopped
⅓ cup milk

½ tsp celery salt
½ tsp garlic powder
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp pepper
14 ¾ oz. can salmon
2 Tbsp fresh parsley, finely chopped (optional)
2 9" refrigerated pie crusts (top and bottom)
1 egg
1 Tbsp water

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Boil potatoes in a medium pot of water until tender, about 12 minutes. Drain and mash the potatoes.
2. Add onion, celery, milk, celery seed, garlic powder, salt, and pepper to the potatoes. Stir in salmon and parsley.
3. Line pie plate with bottom pie crust. Spread salmon mixture onto the bottom pie crust.



Chef Samuel Dunn

4. Place the second pie dough on top. Trim the crusts. Use the back of a fork to decorate the edge of the pie and to seal the crust. Cut a few slits in the top of the pie.

5. Beat the egg with the water and brush over the pie. Bake at 400°F for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown.

Serves: 6

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KPS Teacher, 2021 Grad to Be Honored at Community Arts Awards

Kalamazoo Public Schools lead art teacher Mandy Clearwaters and 2021 Kalamazoo Central graduate Morgan Brown have been named two of Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo's 2021 Community Arts Awards winners.

All winners will be honored at the 2021 CAA celebration at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Western Michigan University Shaw Theatre. Since 1985, the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo has recognized outstanding artists, arts organizations, and arts supporters through the awards.

Clearwaters has won the Gayle Hoogstraten Arts Leadership Award – Educator, while Brown has been awarded the Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award. This year's other award winners are: Bryan Zocher, Cara Lieurance, Lori Moore, Bell's Brewery, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Aubrey Jewel Rodgers, Kerry Hagy, and Judah Gesmundo.

"Their talents and skills deepen the artistic richness of our community," the Arts

Council says of the winners.

In a press statement, the Arts Council said, "Clearwaters is the conduit between Kalamazoo Public School's 13,000 students, the community, and the greater art world. Mandy coordinates with local art organizations and community organizations to showcase KPS students' art and help students participate in art installments throughout the city. The partnerships to showcase student art involve upwards of 1,200 KPS student pieces per year to the wider community! The community art showcases include the Bronson Park Art Show, WMU Social Justice Art Competition, Bronson Health Foundation, Young Artist of Promise show at Bronson Methodist Hospital, Young Artist of Kalamazoo shows at the Kalamazoo Institute of Art and installations at the KPS Administration Building as part of Art Hop.

"In addition to the art shows, Mandy coordinates several community projects. Examples include: collaborations with the Kalamazoo Parks and



Mandy Clearwaters, KPS lead art teacher, 2021

Recreation Department to have students design artwork for Bronson Park, a project with the Farmer's Market to provide painted sculptures, and a soon-to-be installed mural on the Kalamazoo Mall in partnership with the Discover Kalamazoo Artists of Color. Mandy is even working with State Representative Julie Rogers to display KPS student art in her office at the Michigan



2021 Kalamazoo Central graduate Morgan Brown

State Capitol in Lansing!"

Clearwaters has worked for the district for 10 years. She's taught at Winchell Elementary School and been the district's lead art teacher for four years. Prior to that she taught at Washington Writers' Academy and Linden Grove Middle School. She has a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from the American College of Education.

"Honestly, none of these shows and events would be possible without my incredible teammates," Clearwaters said. "The KPS art department is top-notch, full of people who are

continuously striving to do what is best for our students."

In its release about Brown, the Arts Council, said "Morgan Brown has danced and trained with the Rootead Youth Dance Company since she was in the seventh grade. Morgan uses dance as a tool to heal internally and express herself. Because of her focus, integrity and dependable and nurturing character, Morgan was chosen to step into many leadership roles at Rootead. She was responsible for communicating all reminders of performances and rehearsals to the team. She became a Rootead Facilitator instructing Rootead in Youth, which involved creating six-week lesson plans and teaching the Rootead 2-13 year-olds.

"Morgan has used the tools that Rootead taught her to heal through art and is now using the same methods to offer other youth in the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous People of Color) community the same opportunities at low to no cost. She has held fundraisers every year to help raise money for youth to travel to Chicago to take master classes, see professional dance companies, and be inspired to travel outside of Michigan. Morgan is now a freshman in college at Howard University (Washington, D.C.) aspiring to become a dancer and study business."



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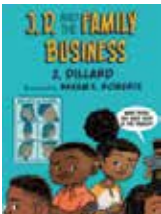
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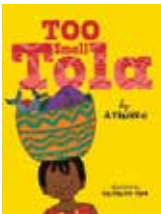
Books, Gifts, Joy: A Holiday Book Guide (continued from page 1)

FICTION

2nd Grade and Up



J.D. the Kid Barber series
by J. Dillard
Hilarious illustrated chapter book series about an 8-year-old barber in Meridian, Miss., and his growing business empire. Titles include: **J.D. and the Great Barber Battle**, **J.D. and the Family Business**, and **J.D. and the Hair Show Showdown**.



Too Small Tola
by Atinuke
This illustrated chapter book offers three delightful stories about Tola, a young girl who lives in an apartment building in Lagos, Nigeria, with her family. Throughout the book’s adventures, Tola proves that she may be small, but she is also helpful, clever, and kind.

4th Grade and Up



Stuntboy, in the Meantime
by Jason Reynolds, drawings by Raúl the Third
Portico Reeves’ superpower is making sure all the other superheroes—like his parents and two best friends—stay super. And safe. Super safe. And he does this all in secret. No one in his civilian life knows he’s actually... Stuntboy! Hilarious, hopeful, and action-packed.



Amari and the Night Brothers
by B.B. Alston
Struggling with her brother Quinton’s disappearance and bullying at school, 13-year-old Amari is at the end of her rope when she receives a mysterious container, purportedly from her brother. Inside, she learns of a supernatural world and of an invitation to a training camp hosted by the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. She agrees to attend and learns that she is a magician whose powers are considered illegal. Amari is determined to become a junior agent no matter the obstacles so she can find her brother. First book in an exciting new trilogy.



Lion of Mars
by Jennifer Holm
Bell has spent his whole life — all 11 years of it — on Mars. But he’s still just a regular kid — he loves cats, any kind of cake, and is curious about the secrets the adults in the U.S. colony are keeping. Like, why don’t they have contact with anyone in the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It’s up to Bell — a regular kid in a very different world — to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.

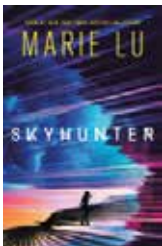
High School and Adult



Game Changer
by Neal Shusterman
All it takes is one hit on the football field, and suddenly Ash’s life doesn’t look quite the way he remembers it. Impossible though it seems, he’s been hit into another dimension — and keeps on bouncing through worlds that are almost-but-not-really his own. The changes start small, but they quickly spiral out of control as Ash slides into universes where he has everything he’s ever wanted, universes where society is stuck in the past ... universes where he finds himself looking at life through entirely different eyes.

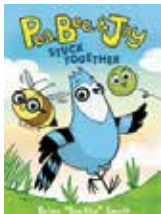
Skyhunter series
by Marie Lu

Talin is a Striker, a member of an elite fighting force that stands as the last defense for Mara, the only free nation in the world, but when a mysterious prisoner is brought from the front to Mara’s capital, Talin senses there is more to him than meets the eye.



GRAPHIC NOVELS

2nd Grade and Up



Pea, Bee, & Jay series
by Brian Smith
A green pea, a bespectacled honeybee, and a blue jay become fast friends in this lively graphic novel early-reader. Books in the series include **Stuck Together**, **Wannabees**, and **Lift Off**.



Pizza and Taco series
by Stephen Shaskan
Best friends Pizza and Taco agree on nearly everything until Pizza declares himself the best of all, leading to debating, voting, competing, and finally defining what being the best really means. Laugh through all of their adventures in **Who’s the Best**, **Best Party Ever!**, and **Super-Awesome Comic!**

4th Grade and Up



Lightfall: The Girl and the Galdurian
by Tim Probert
For fans of Amulet and middle grade readers who love sweeping worlds like Star Wars, the first book of the Lightfall series introduces Bea and Cad, two unlikely friends who get swept up in an epic quest to save their world from falling into eternal darkness.



Long Distance
by Whitney Gardner
After moving to Seattle, Vega’s dads send her to the very strange Camp Best Friend, where she discovers that one can make new friends without forgetting old ones.

High School and Adult



A Map to the Sun
by Sloane Leong
Shortly after meeting, Luna and Ren become inseparable. But when Luna suddenly moves back to Oahu due to a family emergency right before their freshman year of high school, the two lose contact. Years later, Luna comes back and wants to pick up where she and Ren left off. Ren would rather ignore Luna. When their high school starts a girls’ basketball team, both Ren, with her new friends, and Luna join. During their first season, this diverse and endearing group of teens are challenged in ways that make them reevaluate just who and how they trust.

NON-FICTION

Grades K-5 and Up

Thanku: Poems of Gratitude



edited by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Marlena Myles
Gratitude isn’t something we need to save up for a special holiday. What are you grateful for right now, today? This anthology brings together a diverse group of poets who express gratitude for everything from a puppy to hot cocoa to the sky itself. Each writer uses a different poetic form, and readers will encounter a concrete poem, a sonnet, a pantoum, a sijo, and much more.



I Am the Shark
by Joan Holub, illustrated by Laurie Keller
In this hilarious book, the Great White Shark thinks he is the greatest shark there is. One by one his fellow sharks — from the oldest Greenland Shark to the fastest Mako Shark — challenge Great White, leading him to be down in the

(continued on page 9)





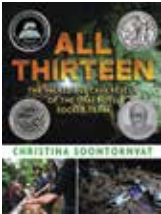
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Books, Gifts, Joy: A Holiday Book Guide (continued from page 8)

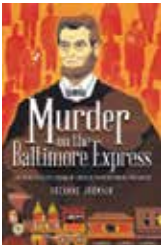
dumps and think he isn't so great after all. However, when all is said and done, the other sharks in the book encourage Great White to like who he is just the way he is.

4th Grade and Up



All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team
by Christina Soontornvat

A unique account of the amazing Thai cave rescue told in a heart-racing, you-are-there style that blends suspense, science, and cultural insight. Meticulously researched and generously illustrated with photographs, this page-turner includes an author's note describing her experience meeting the team.



Murder on the Baltimore Express: The Plot to Keep Abraham Lincoln from Becoming President
by Suzzane Jurmain

In 1861, newly elected U.S. President Abraham Lincoln set out on a train journey from his home in Springfield, Ill., to his inauguration in Washington, D.C. When an assassination plot by Confed-

erate sympathizers is uncovered, detective Allan Pinkerton races to keep the president alive. Includes black-and-white photographs and a timeline.

High School and Adult

The Kitchen Without Borders: Recipes and Stories



from Refugee and Immigrant Chefs
Refugees by status, chefs by calling. This is a special kind of cookbook. In it, chefs from around the world — all part of Eat Offbeat, a catering company staffed by immigrants and refugees who have found a new home and new hope through cooking — offer 70 authentic, surprising, nourishing recipes. The food has roots that run as deep as its flavors, celebrating the culinary traditions of Syria, Iran, Eritrea, Venezuela, and more.



The Power of Style: How Fashion and Beauty are Being Used to Reclaim Cultures
by Christian Allaire

Style is not just the clothes on our backs — it is self-expression, representation, and transformation. As a fashion-obsessed Ojibwe teen, Christian Allaire rarely

saw anyone that looked like him in the magazines or movies he looked to for inspiration. Now the fashion and style writer for Vogue, he is working to change that — because clothes are never just clothes. Men's heels are a statement of pride in the face of LGBTQIA+ discrimination, while ribbon shirts honor indigenous ancestors and keep culture alive. Allaire takes the reader through boldly designed chapters to discuss additional topics such as cosplay, makeup, hijabs, and hair, probing the connections between fashion and history, culture, politics, and social justice.



All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto
by George M. Johnson
Journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist Johnson takes readers through his life from childhood to young adulthood, reflecting on how his identity as a queer Black boy was shaped, refracted, and often suppressed for his own safety.

Parkwood Art Teacher Contributes to 2022 Kalamazoo Calendar Project

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School art teacher Jamie McKinney-Brown will have her artwork featured in the 2022 Kalamazoo Calendar Project.

McKinney-Brown's art shows a spunky squirrel snowboarder catching some air in November.

"In my art, I like to combine a love of the outdoors and rec-

reation with a dash of whimsy," McKinney-Brown said. "My calendar page this year is meant to evoke joy and remind people to find a little adventure."

The Kalamazoo Calendar Project is in its 18th year. The calendar features 12 original hand-pulled silkscreen prints made by Kalamazoo artists. In addition to McKinney-Brown, this year's participating artists are:

- Stewart Fritz
- Meg Tang
- Jill Terwilliger
- March Morris
- Ryan Brown
- Kim Shaw
- Peter Brakeman
- Grace Spink
- Mike Klok
- Jaakan Page-Wood
- Heidi Fahrenbacher

The calendar is \$50 and is available at Brakeman Design and PFC. For additional information, search Kalamazoo Calendar Project on Facebook. A portion of the calendar sales will be donated to a local charity.



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Functions, Transformations and Candyland: Math Games at KAMSC

Katelyn McCarthy wasn't surprised to find that her Math II/Precalc students at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center preferred old-fashioned lectures and lots of problems to solve, "kill and drills," as she calls it.

"But I wanted to challenge them. One of the joys of working with upperclassmen, and precalc kids at KAMSC in particular, is that we can push them. They're accelerated," said McCarthy, a former KAMSC kid herself, who joined the staff this year.

She came up with an unusual assignment: Create a math game.

McCarthy had students focus on transformations (dilations, translations, reflections, inverse transformation and absolute value) and functions (linear, quadratic and exponential). A key component of the grading was based on how clearly they wrote directions and rules.

"You made a game and you know the game, but could you explain it to someone? You need



Yasmeen Adams, KCHS, left, and Emma Schramm, KCHS, play "Froggy's Math Adventure," a computer-based game that requires players to correctly solve math problems to reach home safely.

to be able to write instructions so someone else can play the game without you in the room. That's how a real game works," McCarthy said. Being able to explain and express complex concepts is an essential skill for anyone working in math, science and technology in the real world, she said.

There were no design rules, and students were stymied at

first, but she "pushed them to think back to their childhoods and go with games that they knew, that they could modify. They took those ideas and really ran with them."

Kalamazoo Central's Zach Risley said the hardest part of the project for his team was finding a way to represent the functions in different ways for their math version of Candy-



Ava Moaiery, KCHS (bottom/front), plays a Math Matching Game; with several students in the background. Ava Achwachter, KCHS, is the next student, playing "Memory Math" with a partner.

land. "In the end, we represented the functions algebraically on the game board and verbally and graphically on the cards," he said.

Other students created riffs on classics such as Uno and Spoons. Graphing the Ungnomes (Unknowns) had gnomes trying to find their way out of a garden and answering math questions to take advantage of shortcuts. One group created a computer game using Google Slides. Another group created a take on the nerd classic "Magic

the Gathering," where students completed math problems instead of rolling dice to use the skills cards.

The class favorite was 84 Steps (the famed number of steps students climb to get to KAMSC), in which penalty cards were personalized to the school. For instance, "Miss Hohler's dog barked while you were talking. Go back two spaces," was based on experiences in Zoom last year. "You could hear the laughter when they got a math question wrong. It was pretty hilarious," McCarthy said.

For Risley, it was a great alternative to regular homework.

"It has a deeper level of creativity than other projects do, and it has a practical use for studying the material," he said. "In-depth projects like this help students really process the material more than regular textbook assignments, because of the connections that have to be made to construct a project of this level."

McCarthy is hoping to give the assignment to other classes for different math concepts. If students don't want to keep their games, she'll use them to start a math game library. "Kids got pretty excited about leaving that legacy and taking ownership of their classroom."



COMMUNITY Arts AWARDS

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Community Medal of Arts:
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Morgan Brown

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Bell's Brewery

Epic Award:
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

Gayle Hoogstraten Arts Leadership Awards - Educator:
Mandy Clearwaters and Aubrey Jewel Rodgers

Gayle Hoogstraten Arts Leadership Award - Administrator:
Kerry Hagy

Theodore C. Cooper Award for Volunteer Service:
Judah Gesmundo



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KPS Grads in Action: Katelyn McCarthy Returns to Kalamazoo to Teach, Fulfill Her Promise

This fall, when 2009 KAMSC and Kalamazoo Central High School graduate Katelyn McCarthy joined KAMSC as a math teacher, she fulfilled a dream and a promise.

"These kids give me life and being able to be back in my home district is so special to me," said McCarthy, who is teaching information technology to freshmen in the morning and two sections of integrated math 3 (pre-calculus) for juniors.

Not that it didn't feel a little odd for her to walk into her old classroom. "I was immediately transported back to being a scared little ninth grader and a slightly less scared 11th grader."

And, her first staff meeting with teachers turned colleagues? She laughs. "At our first staff meeting, we did a quick shareout about how everyone's summer was. I listened to my former teachers talk about their vacations and their hobbies and I thought, 'Holy cow, my teachers have lives.'"

McCarthy, 30, exudes enthusiasm for teaching, which has been her dream since her first day of school.

"The first day of kindergarten, I got off the bus from Mrs. (JoAnn) Yochim's class and told my mom, 'When I grow up I want to be a teacher.'"

When she was getting ready



Katelyn McCarthy graduated from Kalamazoo Central and the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center in 2009 — and this year she returned to the district as a KAMSC math teacher.

for high school, McCarthy decided to apply for KAMSC in hopes that it would open scholarship opportunities for her. The fall of her freshman year, The Kalamazoo Promise was announced and she had second thoughts about KAMSC.

"I thought, 'Well, shoot, now I have free college. Do I need to be at KAMSC?'" she said.

She decided to stay. Her mom encouraged to do a second year. By her junior year, McCarthy decided she might as well stick it out. She was glad she did, because that's when she decided what kind of teacher she wanted to be.

"I was always a smart kid. Math has always been my favorite subject. I liked the logic of it. I



liked getting a single answer and that single answer is right," she said. "My junior year I took physics and that's where I found math had been a great subject and I loved it, but physics answered the question of why we learn math. It opened up the whole STEM field."

She went on to Michigan Technological University, where she majored in physics and focused her electives on education classes, following the advice of KC history teacher Richard Cahow, who told her, "You need to make sure that you really understand what you are teaching, even if that means going back to college later to get the teaching part of it."

After earning her bachelor's degree she began teaching and earned a master's degree in ap-

plied science and math education from Michigan Tech. She went on to help develop the Mi-STAR science curriculum and taught at Battle Creek Lakeview High School for four years.

She still gets excited by teaching math concepts to students and helping them see the importance of the subject — beyond just getting the right answer. "STEM is everywhere, especially when you put art into it and it becomes STEAM — that covers our entire life."

She also enjoys her role as former KAMSC student turned teacher, because it gives her a unique perspective into the academic and social challenges facing her students. McCarthy said she is a strong advocate for students maintaining active lives at KAMSC and their home schools.

"I'll ask, 'Do you know when homecoming is?' You want to know about these things. You want the full high school experience," McCarthy said. "I tell my students I don't regret anything I did during my time in school, but I do regret the things I did not try or do."

McCarthy and her husband live in the Valleywood neighborhood, two minutes away from her parents. She jokes that she chose Michigan Tech because it was as far away as she could get from her parents and stay in state for college, but being close to her family is very important to her now — especially with a 2-year-old and another child on the way.

Being back in Kalamazoo is also important to her as a professional who wants to repay a debt to the community that helped make her an educator.

"Ever since I left KPS and KAMSC, I said, 'I am going to be a KPS teacher,'" she said. "100 percent need to pay this district and those Promise donors back for what they gave me. Because I was able to go through my undergrad without debt, I was immediately able to go into my graduate degree while I was teaching in my first job. I would not have been able to do that if I didn't have The Promise."

"Kalamazoo and The Promise donors gave me a big promise. I made a promise right back, that 'I will repay this. I will come back.'"

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CELEBRATE THE Season

Celebrate the holiday season throughout November and December downtown with Kalamazoo Valley!

NOVEMBER 20, 2021

Kalamazoo's Maple Hill Holiday Parade is scheduled for 11 a.m. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is sponsoring the after parade day activities from 12 - 3 p.m. with take-away craft kits. Visit with Santa at Anna Whitten Hall! Check out the November Art Hop exhibit at the Center for New Media, featuring art by Mark Olson.

NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

The Holly Jolly Trolley will once again run its traditional route throughout downtown Kalamazoo, with seven stops for riders to enjoy a free ride. The trolley runs Thursdays and Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 12 - 4 p.m. Special hours include Dec. 24 from 12 - 4 p.m. and Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 3, 2021

Kalamazoo Valley's Design Crew students will showcase their work at the Connecting Students to Community exhibit at the Center for New Media. The exhibit will open at 5 p.m. on Dec. 3 and will be on display all month. Also during Dec. 3 Art Hop, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum welcomes the Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra presenting holiday music and traditional audience favorites during concerts at 6 and 7:30 p.m. Space is limited. Reserve your tickets today at kalamazoomuseum.org

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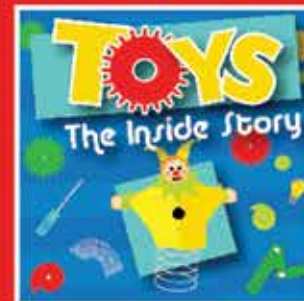


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JANUARY 22 - MAY 1, 2022

This special exhibit includes twenty play/learn stations and displays that illustrate the simple mechanisms commonly found in toys, letting visitors create their own toy-like combinations of gears, pulleys, linkages, cams and circuits. It also explores the history of toys throughout the ages, allowing visitors to reminisce and play with toys of days gone by.

This exhibition was developed by the Montshire Museum of Science and TEAMS Collaborative, with funding from the National Science Foundation.

UPDATED HOURS

TUESDAY - SATURDAY

10 - 11:30 A.M. & 1:30 - 3 P.M.

www.kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7900

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