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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, Feb. 13 & 27, 2020
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

Feb. 5 & 6
KPS Superintendent
semifinalist interviews
Administration Bldg.
6:15 p.m.

Feb. 18 & 19
KPS Superintendent
finalist interviews
Administration Bldg.
6:15 p.m.

Kindergarten and PEEP
Orientation
March 11

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Community Helps Warm Kids,
Keeps Hearts and
Hands Warm
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Empty Bowls Fundraiser
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Starting the Day Right at
Northglade and Spring Valley
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PARENTS: KEY PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Parental Involvement Evolves Through
the Years, But Always Remains Important

Tina Tabulog says there is an important perk to being involved in her children’s schools: She knows the administrators and teachers — and her children knows that she knows them.

“I very rarely have problems with my children, but if there ever was a situation, all my kids’ teachers ever had to say was: ‘I’m going to email your mom’ to get their attention. They knew the teachers knew me.”

Tabulog volunteers mostly at Woodward School for Technology and Research but she also has children at Loy Norrix High School and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology. She’s chaperoned dances, helped with district



Abigail Haughey and April Alexopoulos serve Loy Norrix High School student Annika Schnell while they work the concession stand at Loy Norrix to raise money for Grad Bash 2020.

bond campaigns, and printed fliers for PTO meetings to recruit other parents — and then brought snacks for the meetings.

“When your kids see you in school helping, it tells them that this — school — is important,” Tabulog said.

The parent-teacher connection is valuable to Kalamazoo Public Schools on many fronts. Parent involvement helps schools run more efficiently and effectively. Good parent support makes a difference in fundraising, community support, and enrichment at a school. But, on a personal level, parents say being involved in their school gives them insight into how their children are doing, what students are learning, the challenges teachers face, and the needs of all students.

“Volunteering is critical to our children’s success in school at every level, because it shows our support not only for our kids, but the teachers and staff who need

(continued on page 3)

Alumni Day 2019: Grads Say Find Alternatives that Suit You and Your Interests

You don’t have to go to a four-year college.

You can start on your college career while you’re still in high school.

You can do what you love.

Those were some of the messages students heard during the 2019 Alumni Day at Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high schools.

Graduates from the past

five years returned to the high schools on Dec. 20 for what has become an annual tradition. Alumni shared their experiences

(continued on page 8)

Clockwise from left, Nina Vestal, Jamie Glover, Jacintha Glover, Sienna Crawford, and Gabby Wark, are all from the class of 2019, except for Jacintha Glover who graduated in 2017. They were visiting before the 2019 Alumni Day at Kalamazoo Central.



Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

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Superintendent Search Enters Next Phase, Face-to-Face Interviews Up Next

It has been an honor to serve as the interim superintendent for Kalamazoo Public Schools since June.

I am especially pleased that the word “interim” is in the title.

For more than 20 years, I have worked as deputy superintendent, responsible for the business and support functions in the district, and that’s where I like it. When the Board of Education appointed me to the job of interim superintendent, I was very clear that while I looked forward to serving the district as interim superintendent, I had no interest in applying for the job on a full-time basis.

During my tenure, I have had the good fortune to work for some very good superintendents. Our most recent superintendent, Dr. Michael Rice was one of the best. Not only was he extremely intelligent, but he was extraordinarily committed to raising achievement for all children. His good work did not go unnoticed. In May, Dr. Rice was named superintendent of public instruction for the Michigan Department of Education.

Kalamazoo Public Schools is in the midst of searching for a new superintendent who must carry on the good and important work of helping KPS grow and improve. There are still several opportunities for the public to participate in the search process, which is being conducted by the KPS Board of Education with the assistance of the Michigan Association of School Boards Executive Search team.

The semi-finalists for the position will be in Kalamazoo for face-to-face interviews at 6:15 p.m. on Feb. 5 and 6. Those interviews will take place in the KPS Administration Building, 1220 Howard St., in the Board Room.

The two finalists will participate in second in-person interviews at 6:15 p.m. on Feb. 18 and 19. Those meetings will also take place in the KPS Administration Building Board Room.



Gary Start, Interim Superintendent

The public is welcome to attend all of these sessions.

Already, the process has been inclusive of as many community members as possible. In October, the district conducted 26 stakeholder meetings to gather input on the qualities the community wants to see in a new superintendent. Meetings were held for parents, staff, students and other interested members of the Kalamazoo area. There was also an anonymous online survey open to the public.

The district hoped to hear from students and their families, KPS alumni, district employees, service providers in public, private, and nonprofit sectors, employers, advocates, and other interested residents — and we did. The community meetings were held throughout the city and at various times to ensure the broadest possible reach.

A majority of the commenters were parents and teachers, who identified issues such as diversity, The Kalamazoo Promise, the students, a



supportive community, and the staff as strengths of the district. Among the challenges that will be facing a new superintendent are: funding, a national teacher shortage, poverty and other childhood traumas facing students, and the need to keep improving student achievement and graduation rates.

Participants noted that they were most interested in seeing candidates with experience as a teacher and or principal. They also want the board to seek out candidates with strong skills in curriculum development, finances, public relations, and human resource management.

I appreciate everyone who took time to participate in the input sessions, because it is essential that the board understand the needs and concerns

of the community. That only happens when everyone has the opportunity to contribute to the process. I encourage all interested community members to put the February dates on their calendars and to consider coming to hear the candidates answer questions about their vision for Kalamazoo Public Schools.

For more than 36 years, KPS has been the center of my work world. I also attended KPS for several years. My wife is a graduate. My sons are graduates. My grandchildren are current KPS students. I am as excited as the rest of the community to meet the candidates and find out who the new superintendent of KPS will be, not only as an employee but as a grandparent and community member who wants to see leader with a strong vision for where KPS needs to go next.

To read more about the results from the input sessions, visit: <https://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/ExploreKPS/DistrictNews/TabId/105/ArtMid/1056/ArticleID/360/Stakeholder-Input-Report-Now-Available.aspx>

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Kalamazoo Public Schools

Parental Involvement Evolves Through the Years, But Always Remains Important *(continued from page 1)*

support to ensure our children receive the best opportunities,” said Tara Ford, a Loy Norrix High School mother, who through the years has done everything from coach Girls on the Run, chaperone field trips and serve on the KPS Parent Advisory Council.

“I highly recommend getting involved in your child’s school because it enriches your relationship with your children, their friends, teachers and overall educational experience,” Ford said.

Christine Pasztor is a parent at Indian Prairie Elementary School and her children are excited to see her volunteering at school. She believes it not only helps parents connect with the educational process but builds relationships between child and parent.

“When my oldest started kindergarten, he was eager to have me involved and it was important to me to be a part of his school life in order to know what was going on with him and to demonstrate the importance we place on his schooling,” she said. “As the years go on, our children naturally begin to pull away from us. Our involvement may shift from reading to kids in their classrooms or accompanying them on field trips to planning events behind the scenes, but staying involved with their schools can keep us connected with them.

“It can facilitate communication with their teachers and keep us informed about their education and school life. Volunteering at school and events can give us shared experiences with our kids, which increases bonds and communication.”

Parents often volunteer at school because they want to make the educational experience better for their children. But healthy parent-school connections spread beyond a single family to help make schools better for all children.

“I truly appreciate the relationship that was built between the PTO and me at Greenwood,” said Greenwood Elementary School principal Sylvia Washing-

ton. “They are a great support to the school community. It means a lot to have a group of parents that is willing to help and who truly wants what’s best for all students at Greenwood Elementary.”

Throughout KPS, parental involvement enriches the school environment through fundraising, teacher support, and special activities.

At Prairie Ridge Elementary School parents launched a highly successful STEAM fair that draws community supporters from Stryker, Western Michigan University and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Winchell Elementary School parents organize everything from an all-grades science fair to a Kindness Week celebration, and keep the teachers’ lounge spruced up and filled with snacks for staff. At Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, parents organized a coin drive that raises thousands of dollars for Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes. Even at Loy Norrix High School, where parents take a less hands-on approach in the classroom, parent boosters and volunteers make sure everything from sports to Grad Bash to the musical theater program run smoothly.

Formal parental involvement can be traced back to the late 1800s and the National Congress of Mothers, which evolved into the National Parent Teacher Association. That organization led the charge on a number of key child and school issues such as the advancement of kindergarten classes, promotion of school transportation safety, and institution of school lunch and immunization programs.

“Research has shown that family engagement improves a student’s success in their scholastic career,” said Lucia MacLeod, El Sol Elementary School parent. “A parent doesn’t have to be fully entrenched in the school, but choosing one or two ways to be involved makes a big difference.”

She began volunteering at El Sol when her daughter – and only child – started kindergarten. MacLeod admits there was

a little “empty nest” syndrome and she volunteered to get a sense of where her child spent so many hours of the day.

She’s helped on the playground and in the classroom, and she and another parent started Popcorn Fridays to help raise funds for the school. The PTO also organizes the extremely popular Taste of El Sol, which helps bring the community into the school.

“There are endless opportunities for parents to be involved with their schools,” MacLeod said. “One should look at where their interests lie, i.e. gardening, reading, math tutoring, event organizing, and create an opportunity around those interests if one does not already exist.

“Talk to your principal, talk to your teachers, talk to other involved parents about needs the school has. Every school is different, though in my experience, there is lots of room for initiative.”

Parental involvement often evolves as children move from elementary school to middle school and high school. But while there may not be as many classroom opportunities to be involved, parents can still have a huge im-

pact on a school environment.

“In general, there is lower (parental) involvement in the high school years, but there is still need. It just looks different than in middle/elementary school,” said Norrix Principal Chris Aguinaga. “We don’t need classroom helpers, we need helpers with all the extras that the school does. From chaperoning dances (Ms. May got 35 parents to chaperone our winter formal) to helping to fundraise, all can help.”

Sarah Willey, who has two children at Loy Norrix and one child at Maple Street, said that as a busy professional, she found it difficult to make time to be in the classroom when her children were in elementary school.

But at the middle school level, she found her niche as a parent volunteer.

“The involvement at the middle school level is less about being there because you want to see your kids and to be involved with the kids,” Willey said. “It’s more about saying to the staff, ‘What can we do support what’s going on there? What do you need from us that you’re not getting?’”

It can be a little daunting to make that shift as a parent organization, Willey said. The Maple PTO was struggling a bit to figure out its mission when her children first moved into middle school. After several years, the PTO has come up with three main goals: to create a more robust Facebook page for the school to improve communication with families; to raise funds to support activities such as field trips, new drinking fountains, and to buy snacks for the afterschool tutoring program; and to engage the school in community-related events such as the holiday coin drive to benefit Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes.

Whatever parents can make time to do can help schools and students thrive, principals say. And involved parents say it provides a unique way to tell children just how much they value school and the people working to provide their educational opportunities.

“It’s astounding how many great and amazing things that lots and lots of people are doing in the schools that you don’t know about unless you’re involved,” says Ford.

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We invite you to tour the YMCA at Maple at no obligation. With a number of family friendly amenities, programs, events and classes for youth and adults, we have something for everyone. We're not just a gym: We're a community center built up through a membership that lifts our neighbors and each other. FOR A BETTER US

Santa Fe Cheese Soup

Hello, Kalamazoo.
As the cold winds of February howl on, cabin fever strikes again! Enjoy the spicy warmth of this simple but delicious recipe. It's a sure to help to chase away the mid-winter blues. As always, share with friends and family.
Best regards, Chef Shaun



Shaun Robinson is the district chef for Chartwells at KPS Food Service.

Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 (15¼ ounce) can corn, undrained
- 1 (16 ounce) can pinto or black beans, undrained
- 1 (14½ ounce) can stewed tomatoes, undrained
- 1 (10 ounce) can Ro-Tel diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained
- 1 pound Velveeta Mexican cheese, cut into small cubes
- 4 ounce pepper jack cheese, cut into small cubes

- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 3 teaspoons fresh cilantro, chopped

Instructions

1. Brown ground beef with onion in a large pot; drain fat well. Stir in chili powder and cumin.
2. Combine ground beef with corn, beans, stewed tomatoes, and Ro-Tel tomatoes.
3. Add cheese to soup pot; stir over low flame until melted and blended. Garnish with cilantro.

Serves: 4-6

National Honor Society Inductees Announced

Congratulations to the Kalamazoo Central High School 2019 National Honor Society inductees:

Aliya Adams
Jimena Alvarez
Jonathan Andrews
Zachary Arbogast
Abigail Baker
Riley Berlin
Maicee Bishop
Breven Brill
De'Jah Burch
Chrisselle Comer
Josephine Crocker
Makailah Danzy
Aaron Dickason
Eli Duguid
Kaitlynn Felmeden
Vanessa Fernandez
Samantha Finjap
Liam Gakodi
Eliza Geer
Lanysia Gilleylen
Elizabeth Grooten
Owen Haddad
Colin Halloran
Trinity Hardy
Makayla Harris

Nava Haus
Cole Hemingway
Owen Hoover
Jaelyn Horn
Jasmine Jacobs
Ayah Kasem
Margaret Lekan
Lesly Mares Castro
Benjamin Meyer
Kearney Miller
Stefanie Nizzardini
August O'Neil
Adriana Perez-Herrero
Rose Prendergast
Madeline Reidy
Matthew Salinas
Simon Schwachter
Amirah Scott
Abigail Smith
Harsimran Sohi
Ja'Nya Streeter
Elena Thompson
Aidan Tillman
Gabrielle Unger-Granson
Dorien Watts
Julia Weller
Morasha Wiggins
Yumi Yuag

Best wishes to the following Loy Norrix High School 2019 National Honor Society inductees:

Seniors:

Alexis Antisdell
Cecilia Mireles Caballero
Rianna Clay
Jonna Frayer
Luis Gutierrez
Jozef Meyeres
Henry Parworth
Vivian Segovia-Perez

Juniors:

Ava Apolo
Kohler Briggs
Anna Buck
Samuel Gayney
Elaina Gross
Ellie Haase
Brady Handley
Jane Heystek
Garrick Hohm
Laya Houslander
Keegan Hughes
Nolan Hughes
Evalynn Hurley
Daniel Isacksen
Ashley Keltsch
Abraham Konjoh
Ellie Lepley
Ava Loc
Ava Loncharte
Hannah Mahoney
Annemarie Mansfield
Amaya Moubray
Carlos Jesus Morales-Amates
Abigail Mosher
Addison J. Nachtigal
Raili Nelson
Malin Nordmoe
Chiemela Okpechukwu
Evan Pollens-Voigt
Tieran Rafferty
Anna Sankey
Sofia Santos
Lucas Santos-Pye
Joshua Schaefer
Samantha Shaffer
Madelyn Sheehan
Lily Stickley
Elijah Thompson
Lucinda Wallis
Sierra Ward
Emmerson Wesselhoff
David Wilson
Laurel Wolfe

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

Director of Student Services
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :
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City Commissioner Jeanne Hess Visits Woodward to Engage Students, Support Service

Newly elected Kalamazoo City Commissioner Jeanne Hess wants to get to know her constituents, and she's starting by meeting with some of the youngest.

Hess visited Andrea Walker's fifth-grade class at Woodward School for Technology and Research in November to find out what issues matter to them. They had talked about important issues with Walker and had a list of concerns taped to the wall, including: homelessness, violence, drugs, and trash.

Hess told them that she used to teach and coach volleyball at Kalamazoo College, but she is now retired and serving on the city commission. She asked, "Do you know what the city commission is?"

One student guessed that meant she ran the city, but Hess said, "I'm part of a team that advises the people that work for the city on what to do and how to do it."

A student said that meant



City Commissioner Jeanne Hess gets a group hug from Woodward students after donating to their Books 4 Babies community service project.

that she was smarter than they were, but Hess shrugged off that suggestion saying, "No, I'm just older. We all have our own wonderful intelligences. We can all talk and we can all ask questions."

Hess said she hopes to visit the class and talk about issues that matter to them. "I want you to work with me," Hess

said. "I would love to come to your class on a regular basis and have you tell me what it's like to be a fifth grader in Kalamazoo and tell me how I can take what I learn from you to my work on the city commission."

Walker's class was in the midst of a community service project to raise money for teenage mothers to help them buy books

to read to their babies. Bookbug bookstore donated copies of the new Sarah Stewart and David Small book, "This Book of Mine" to the project and Hess donated to the cause helping the class surpass their \$300 goal.

Hess said she couldn't wait to visit with the students again. "You guys are awesome. I love your energy and enthusiasm."

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Community Helps Warm Kids, Keeps Hearts and Hands Warm

The Warm Kids Project, a local nonprofit, is still going strong 33 years after it first delivered a handful of coats to one family.

Founder Leslie Lami-Reed started the nonprofit as a teacher at Greenwood Elementary School. She saw children underdressed as they waited

for school buses and witnessed children coming to school in the middle of winter with nothing more than a sweatshirt to keep them warm.

That year she helped one family. The next year, she and friends helped three or four families. In 1986, they formed Warm Kids Project as a 501c3. For each of the last 10 years, they have provided 1,200-plus new winter coats, 1,000 new pairs of boots and more than 2,000 new hats and gloves to Kalamazoo County elementary school children.

Lami-Reed said that according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count report, 50.1 percent of school-age children in Kalamazoo County qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. That number is higher in Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Although the program began as an effort to serve just KPS students, Warm Kids now serves students at 45 schools in eight Kalamazoo County school districts and Plainwell, as well as about 15 Head Start sites, students at various KRESA sites,

and the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home.

While this year's coats and boots have been delivered, the work continues for the Warm Kids' eight-member working board. They have already started writing grants to fund next year's coats, and they'll be scouring seasonal sales to find deals on more items for children in need next winter.

Lami-Reed gave much credit for the success of the program not just to her board but to the staff at the schools, who measure the children for coats and boots and who come to the storage facility to pick up the winter wear. KPS allows Warm Kids to use the former Chime Elementary School to store and pack their supplies.

For more information on this project, contact Lami-Reed at (269) 569-0574 or warmkid-sproject@gmail.com. Donations can be made online at www.warmkids.org.



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Colleen Woolpert - Individual Member
Inventor, TwinScope Viewer *Photo by: Jingyu Wan*

"I received the KADI grant which enabled me to partner with the Kalamazoo Public Library, Zhang Legacy Collection, and the Ladies' Library Association to present first-ever displays of late 19th century stereographs (3D photos), while also bringing people to these great community centers. I'm so grateful to the Arts Council for making it possible!"

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Ginny Kowalski, Peg Cancro, Leslie Lami-Reed, Mary Hess-Quinones, and Cathy Finger stand in front of some of the boxes of coats they distribute through the Warm Kids Project. Lami-Reed started the project out of Cancro's basement 33 years ago.

Prairie Ridge 'Empty Bowls' Help Remind Community of Hunger Issues in Kalamazoo

Prairie Ridge Elementary School invites the community to its 11th Annual Empty Bowls event, an evening of art, food, and giving, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28 at Prairie Ridge, 2294 S. Ninth St.

Prairie Ridge Elementary students in third through fifth grade, staff, Kalamazoo Valley Community College students, and professional artists have created hun-

dreds of high-fire glazed ceramic bowls to donate to the event.

During the event, for \$5 a family, a family of four can enjoy a light meal, listen to live music and select a student-made bowl to take home and keep as a reminder of their many neighbors in Kalamazoo who go hungry every day. There will be a silent auction for professionally made and adult-made ceramic bowls.

The event is open to the public. All proceeds will be donated to the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes food bank, which serves the Kalamazoo area.

Art teacher Doug Duncan has organized the event for 11 years to help Prairie Ridge students learn how to give back to the community. Questions may be sent to Duncan at duncanda@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



Students, staff and area artists have all contributed art to the Prairie Ridge Empty Bowls event to raise money for Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes.



Census 2020: Fast Facts

What Is The Census?

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census to determine the number of people living in the United States.

What Will The Census Ask?

The Census asks for less personal information than most social media profiles. Items like name, gender, age, birthday, race/ethnicity, relationship to head-of-household, owner or renter and phone number are asked.

Who Gets Counted?

Census forms are filled out by household. Everyone living at the address matters and everyone needs to be counted, including children.

How Do I Fill It Out?

It's easier than ever for 2020. You can respond online using the unique Census ID that will be mailed to you. If you don't have internet access, you can respond by phone or mail.

How Is Census Information Used?

Being counted helps communities create jobs, provide housing, fund K-12 education, prepare for emergencies and build schools, roads, hospitals and libraries.

Census And Elections

Census data determines how many seats your state gets in Congress. Also, state and local officials use census data to draw boundaries for state and local legislative districts and school districts.

Census And Information Safety

By law, individual-level census information cannot be shared. Also, census information is secure. The Census Bureau has strong cybersecurity measures in place to protect your information.

Language Assistance

- Online form: 12 non-English languages
- Paper form: English and Spanish
- Telecommunications help for the deaf
- Language guides (video and print): 59 non-English languages, also American Sign Language, Braille and large print

Key Dates

- **MARCH 2020**
Census invitations mailed to households
- **APRIL – JULY 2020**
Reminder letters/postcards sent if no response received
- **JULY 2020**
Self-response deadline
- **DECEMBER 31, 2020**
Census Bureau delivers count to President
- **MARCH 2021**
States receive official count

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Alumni Day 2019: Grads Say Find Alternatives that Suit You and Your Interests *(continued from page 1)*

in college and the world of work. Malcolm Jones graduated from Kalamazoo Central in 2017. He works full time as an EMT and part time as a firefighter for Kalamazoo Township while he attends Kalamazoo Valley Community College full time. He hopes to eventually become a flight nurse. If that weren't enough, he also has his own business as a photographer.

"Going to a community college does not mean you're working at a lower level," Jones said. "It's simply a matter of earning an associate's degree versus a bachelor's degree. A lot of the people who teach at a community college, also teach at a four-year college."

He said he's found his classes challenging and he has to make the same adjustments to college as students at a four-year college in terms of practicing good time management and learning how to relate to professors and their different teaching styles.

Jones got a head start on his career choice in high school by taking advantage of Education for Employment classes. He took



Megan Youngs waits in the halls of Loy Norrix before going in to talk to a class during Alumni Day 2019.

one in teaching before switching to the health aide program as a senior. Through that program he attended classes at KVCC and earned his EMT certification by the time he graduated from high school.

He said he still lives at home so he doesn't have the experience of living in a dorm or an apartment — like some other college students — but he's OK with that. The 20-year-old's plans include buying a house in the next few years.

His final word of advice for students: "I recommend you be very critical of yourself. Know what you can and can't do."

Loy Norrix graduate Megan Youngs also found her career path while still in high school — and again by being willing to explore the trades through EFE. The 2016 graduate is now a junior at Ferris State University, where she is majoring in heating, ventilation and air conditioning engineering.

She was a senior at Norrix



Maddy Peterson, 2018 Kalamazoo Central, attends Albion College, and Nathan D. Scholten, Class of 2017, attends Michigan State University. They caught up with each other at the 2019 Alumni Day breakfast.

when the EFE HVAC program jumped out at her while she was registering for classes. Heavy in electrical and mechanical engineering, the program qualified for her third required science credit. Plus, that winter, her father's furnace had gone out and she thought, if nothing else it was probably a pretty good skill to have.

"I fell in love with it," she said. "I was doing something new that no one else did."

Her instructor at KVCC was "amazing." And, although her classmates were mostly older men, she didn't let that scare her.

She'd always done well in math and science classes but had never really considered going into engineering until that program.

She enrolled in Ferris because of their unique 2+2 program, which requires students to earn an associate's degree in HVAC before going on to earn the full bachelor's degree. Youngs knew that she wouldn't stop at the associate's, but she liked that approach to learning, because the hands-on nature of the instruction is valuable even if you're looking at becoming an engineer.

She's already had one internship in Atlanta, and she'll have a second this summer in Chicago — both paid.

"With my degree, it's not a question of if you can get a job,

but where you want to work."

Joseph Domanick, a 2019 Loy Norrix graduate, got his start on his career in a different fashion while in high school. He played varsity golf for four years at Norrix, and he knew that he wanted to play golf for the rest of his life — but he didn't want to be a college athlete.

In his junior year at Norrix, he heard about the pro golf management program at Ferris. At the end of the four-and-a-half-year program, graduates have credentials to become a member of the Professional Golf Association. The PGA golf management program was the first of its kind sanctioned by the PGA of America. It's heavily focused on cooperative learning and provides students with hands-on job experience in addition to classroom work.

He plans to be the director of golf or the head golf pro at a high-end golf club.

"I knew I couldn't work 9 to 5 in a cubicle," he said. "I think you need to do something in life that's challenging so you're not stuck in a routine."

Domanick encouraged students to take that leap and think about what they really enjoy.

"I want to be around golf every day of my life and get paid for it," he said. "What's that saying, find something you love and you'll never work a day in your life."



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE DEADLINE MARCH 1

Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KZCF) offers more than 60 scholarships and grants ranging from \$250 to \$7,500 to high school students for college.

Students who plan on using **The Kalamazoo Promise** can use our scholarships for other educational expenses.

Deadline for most scholarships is **March 1** (unless otherwise noted).



APPLY NOW AT
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SCHOLARSHIPS**

DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER TO APPLY? JUST LET US KNOW AT 269.381.4416. YOU CAN USE ONE OF OUR COMPUTERS.

Family Fitness Fun for Everyone at Milwood Elementary

Family time means fun. Family time means physical activity. Family time means combining both elements in Milwood Elementary School's second annual Milwood Family Fitness Night.

Students and their families were invited to the school

for several hours of hands-on fitness fun. Community partners were on hand to help with basketball, tennis, martial arts, body weight exercises, running, bouncing, and dancing.

The night was an opportunity to honor fifth-grade student McKayla Morgan, who

recently traveled to Italy to represent the United States at the World Cup Karate Tournament. She started her martial arts studies after connecting with Valor Martial Arts at 2018's Family Fitness Night.

The evening included information about fitness oppor-

tunities in the area and plenty of give-aways. The annual event is organized by physical education teacher Jim Horn.

Milwood would like to thank the community partners who made the event a success: City of Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation, YMCA, Valor Martial

Arts, Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers; Body Love Fitness, Soccer Zone, Kalamazoo Valley Community College Men's Basketball Team, Kalamazoo Growlers, WMU PEK, Milwood Little League, Brother 2 Brother, Girls on the Run, Let Me Run, and Kalamazoo Valley Athletics.



Xavier Penny gets a hug from Porter, the mascot for the Kalamazoo Growlers at Milwood Elementary.



Milwood Elementary School students try out tennis thanks to the YMCA.



Destiny Seaton gets a tattoo from a representative for Let Me Run during the Milwood Family Fitness Fair.

Ava Garrison runs around the Milwood Elementary track during the Family Fitness Fun Fair.

get something new and the

winner
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WIN A FREE
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If you finance a vehicle or home with KCCU between January 1st – March 31st, you could be a winner! KCCU will be making **three vehicle payments up to \$1,000 each, and one mortgage payment up to \$3,000, for the first 3 months of 2020.**

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*Raffle period is Jan 1 – March 31, 2020. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. All new and refinanced vehicle and mortgage loans will be automatically entered to win. For auto loans to qualify, the loan must be closed at KCCU. Loans closed at a dealership do not qualify. Refinancing existing KCCU vehicle or mortgage loans do not qualify. Payment amount is dependent on the amount of loan that has been financed. Winners will be selected by the 15th of each month (Feb., March, and April, 2020). Vehicle loan and/or mortgage must be funded by March 31, 2020 to qualify. A 1099 may be issued for tax purposes. Offer is available for a limited time. Limit one prize per person. Visit us online for full details and raffle rules. Federally insured by the NCUA. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Breakfast Buddies Start the Day Together

Breakfast is the most important — and fun — meal of the day when you get to enjoy it with someone you love. Northglade Montessori Magnet School celebrated their annual Breakfast Buddies program in November with yummy yogurt parfaits, muffins and milk. Students had the opportunity to invite some-

one special to visit the school and partake in all of the breakfast treats.

Spring Valley Center for Exploration held its Parent Appreciation Breakfast in December. In addition to a fun, casual breakfast the event included raffle drawings and an opportunity for parents to complete the school's parent survey.



Zaynab Johnson shared breakfast parfaits with her dad, Jacob Johnson, at Northglade Montessori.



Airal Rue and Jessica Jeffrey share a breakfast snuggle at Spring Valley.



William Whitaker and his dad, Sean Whitaker, shared breakfast and smiles at Northglade.

Fifth-grade artists at Arcadia Elementary School recently created clay dishes in the shape of leaves. Students added delicate details to their pottery to create realistic images. All students showed their creativity and individuality by choosing their own natural colors of glaze to decorate their leaves. Arcadia students work with art teacher Kyle Pfeuffer.

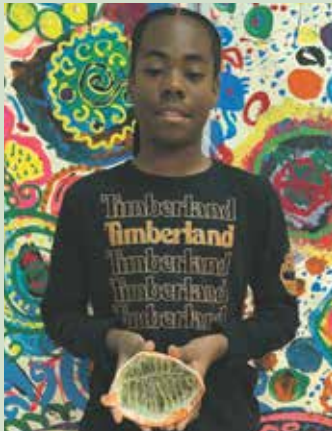
Artists' Corner



Abraham Perez, "Bullseye"



Zanaya Paige, "Dream Leaf"



Rishard Anderson, "Timber"



Leila Fugate, "Mystical Wonderland"



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This position provides delivery of Communities In Schools After School Program, funded through Michigan Department of Education (21st Century Community Learning Centers).



SHERMAN LAKE YMCA SUMMER CAMP 2020

Register today!

[WWW.SHERMANLAKEYMCA.ORG](https://www.shermanlakeymca.org)

The *Excelsior* is mailed to every home in the Kalamazoo Public Schools district each month, except July. It also can be found on the KPS website at <https://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/ExploreKPS/Excelsior.aspx>. There you can download printable PDFs and find sites where extra hard copies of the *Excelsior* can also be found around the community. If you have story suggestions for the *Excelsior*, contact Linda Mah at mahls@kalamazoopublicschools.net or (269) 337-0066.

2020 INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS OF COLOR CONFERENCE



inspire. conference

FEB. 29, 2020, NOON - 5 P.M.
WMU'S BERNHARD CENTER BALLROOM
WMICH.EDU/EDUCATION/IFTCC-REGISTRATION

- ▶ REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO FIRST 200 PARTICIPANTS
- ▶ FREE TO ATTEND, LUNCH AND MATERIALS PROVIDED*

*Must provide own transportation and high school chaperones.

A conference to inspire future teachers of color and potential future teachers of color through mentorship, education, networking and visibility.

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FEBRUARY MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

WICKED PLANTS: THE EXHIBIT UNTIL MAY 17

Explore a creepy Victorian home and learn about botany, medicine and history through an interactive exploration of the villains of the plant world.



PATIENT NO MORE: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SECURING CIVIL RIGHTS FEBRUARY 9 - JUNE 7

Uncover the stories behind a moment in history when people with disabilities successfully held protests to get Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 signed into law.

FRETBOARD FESTIVAL CELEBRATING 15 YEARS MARCH 6 - 7



FREE GENERAL ADMISSION



Handicapped accessible. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled with a minimum of two weeks' notice. Assisted listening devices are available in the Stryker Theater and planetarium.



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

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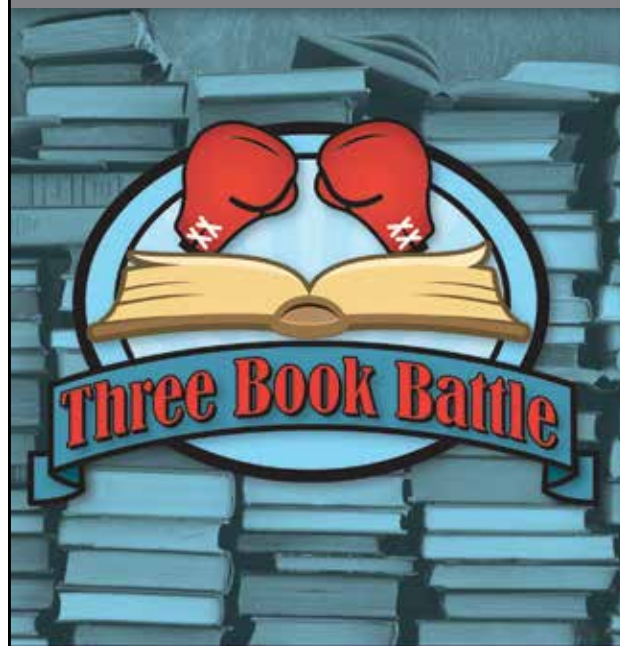
“What do you want to be when you **grow up?**”

Broken up into three separate pathways—Career 101, Career 2.0 and CareerNOW—participants age 14-21 are exposed to career training, soft skills development, paid internships, financial literacy and much more!

If you're ready to take the next step toward your future self, apply for MyCITY at kresa.org/mycity. Applications will be accepted until April 8.


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Three Book Battle

**Registration Opens
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**First Saturday
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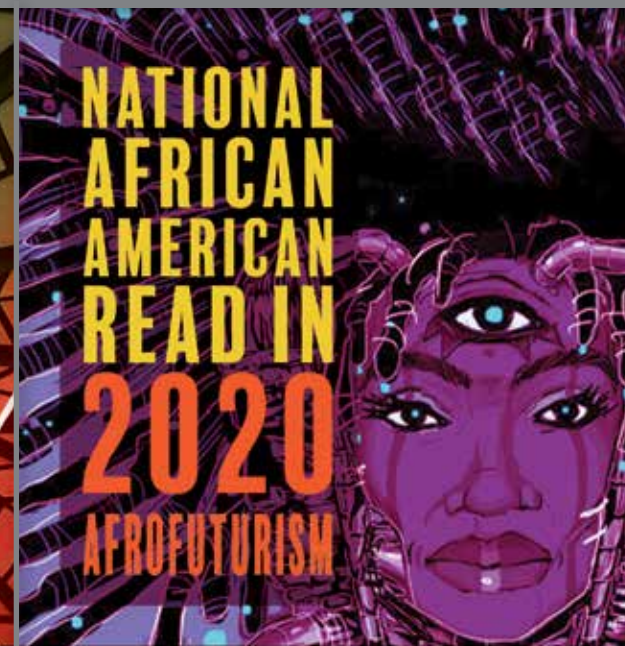
**Orchestra
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