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IMPORTANT DATES	
Board of Education Meeting	
Thursday, Feb. 7 & 28, 2019	7 p.m.
Administration Building 1220 Howard St.	
For more information, call (269) 337-1572	
UPCOMING DATES	
Letters of intent due first round	Feb. 1
Mid-Winter Break	No school Feb. 22
Elementary Literacy Night	March 6
Middle School Literacy Night	March 7

INSIDE	
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EFE, EFA, EMC Open House, Feb. 5	Page 9

Hillside Middle School Robotics Team Heading to World Championship

Hillside Middle School Robotics FTC Team 13917 will advance to the FIRST Robotics World Championship in Detroit in April after winning the FIRST Tech Challenge state title in Battle Creek in December.

This year’s challenge was called “Rover Ruckus.” It required team members to build and program a robot that would simulate a land rover on a mission to explore a planet and collect mineral samples.

The Hillside team members were: Annalise Alkema, Nicholas Alkema, Maxwell Johnson, Justin Nguyen, and Sean Willoughby. They were coached by parent Hiep Nguyen,

who was assisted by parent mentors Steven Alkema, Jim Johnson, Jodie Johnson, Phuong Nguyen, and Scott Willoughby, and Kalamazoo Central student mentors Emily Nguyen, Daniel Nguyen, and Matthew Nguyen.

“It was a big accomplishment,” said Maxwell Johnson, a sixth grader. “We’ve been working on the robot for so long. It was

(continued on page 5)

Hillside Robotics team won the FIRST Technical Challenge competition in Battle Creek on Dec. 15. Team members are: back row, from left, Justin Nguyen, Maxwell Johnson, Sean Willoughby; and front row, from left, Annalise Alkema and Nicholas Alkema.



KPS Schools Continue to Improve ... and Miles to Go Before We Sleep

President John F. Kennedy used to like to end speeches with the last lines of Robert Frost’s famous poem, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”: “And miles to go before I sleep/And miles to go before I sleep.”

Each November, near the anniversary of the Kalamazoo Promise, I share about the progress made by KPS and where we are as a district. I share about the goals that the board has set out for the district. And, I often end with a paraphrase of the same Frost quote: “And miles to go before we sleep/And miles to go before we sleep.” In other words: We’ve made considerable progress; we have considerable progress still to make.

KPS has made progress on all its board goals over the last several years and has improved in every major academic indicator.

COLUMN
Dr. Michael Rice
Superintendent



Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice talks with Milwood Elementary School students Tejayshreya Dantu and Daniel Pipe.

In reading between 2016 and 2018, KPS students narrowed the gap with the state in all state M-STEP grade levels tested (third through eighth grade) in elementary and

middle school. KPS increased the percentage of students at or above grade level in reading on the national NWEA-MAP test from 42 percent in spring 2015 to 49 percent in spring 2018, compared to a national average of 50 percent.

In math between 2016 and 2018, KPS raised its state M-STEP results and narrowed the gap with the state in all grade levels tested in elementary and middle school. KPS increased the percentage of students at or above grade level in math on the national NWEA-MAP test from 38 percent to 43 percent, again compared to a national average of 50 percent. Last year marked the first year of the board-approved Eureka Math series in grades K-3, while this year the series was expanded to students in grades 4 and 5.

In writing, we began implementation

(continued on page 2)

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KPS Schools Continue to Improve ... and Miles to Go Before We Sleep *(continued from page 1)*

last year of new board-approved writing materials, Being a Writer, in grades 4 and 5. This year, we have started using Being a Writer in kindergarten through third grades. Since the state switched from MEAP to the M-STEP in 2015, there is no longer a separate state writing test. However, from 2008 through 2013, KPS students improved their writing achievement on low-bar and high-bar state MEAP tests at rates faster than state increases.

KPS has demonstrated substantial progress in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, high school classes that are the equivalent of introductory college classes. From 2007-08 through 2018-19, the number of KPS students taking AP courses increased by 156 percent. During the same period, the number of African American/multi-ethnic students taking AP courses rose 313 percent; the number of economically disadvantaged students increased 402 percent; and the number of Hispanic students jumped 1,212 percent. During the same period, the number of AP courses taken by KPS students increased 226 percent. From 2007-08 until last year, the number of AP tests earning college credit increased 10 consecutive years, from 143 to 566 tests (a total increase of 296 percent). In each of the last six years, the percentage of AP tests

earning college credit increased, with last year's percentage at 49 percent. After a number of years of this percentage increasing, the board raised the district goal for this metric from 50 percent to 55 percent.

Graduation rates have also risen in KPS. In the summer of 2005, a few months before the announcement of the Kalamazoo Promise, 454 KPS students graduated. Last summer, 692 KPS students graduated, a 52 percent increase. In 2010, when President Obama spoke at the Kalamazoo Central High School graduation as the prize for winning the first Race to the Top Commencement Challenge for work in the creation of a college-going culture, the KPS four-year graduation rate was 63.1 percent. Seven years later, in 2017, the KPS four-year graduation rate was 10 percentage points higher, at 72.9 percent. Our five-year graduation rate was 76.5 percent. The state has yet to release 2018 graduation rates.

Yet we clearly have considerable progress still to make. Our four-year African American male graduation rate rose four consecutive years from 46.7 percent in 2013 to 54.3 percent in 2017, but is still too low. Our five-year African American male graduation rate is 63.0 percent, 2.5 percentage points behind the state's rate for African Ameri-

can males of 65.5 percent. Both Michigan and KPS can do better.

In terms of service improvement, KPS has increased its pre-kindergarten slots by 89 percent in the last several years. We almost quintupled the number of full-day kindergarten students from 176 in 2007 to 862 students in 2008. In the last decade, we passed three bonds, built the first three new schools (Prairie Ridge, Linden Grove, and Washington) in the district since "New Central" was opened in 1972, and replaced a 1921 northern part of Milwood Elementary and renovated the southern part. We have done capital work in all district buildings and have added approximately 970,000 square feet of air conditioning since 2007, more than in the district's entire previous history.

In 2010, we began Lift Up Through Literacy, parent education and family literacy programs at sites throughout the community, in partnership with churches and other community partners. In the last decade, we have trained thousands of district parents. In the same year, in partnership with the Kalamazoo Public Library, we started taking all of our first grade students to the Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) three times a year. In collaboration with Western Michigan University, we started taking all of our sixth graders to WMU to give them a taste of life on

a college campus.

In the last two years, we have done professional development in several areas, including but not limited to trauma-informed care, restorative justice, elementary writing, elementary math, ALICE security training, sexual harassment, and multi-tiered systems of support. In collaboration with the Michigan Department of Education, MASA, MASB, Middle Cities, MASSP, KRESA, and the Reading Now Network, we spearheaded a conference on diversity in children's literature at Western Michigan University entitled "Mirrors of Me: Children Seeing Themselves in Their Literature." We have expanded our mentoring program, in which staff and community mentors provided 1,168 students with 9,572 weekly mentoring sessions last year.

This year, in addition to the establishment of the KPS-KPL OneCard to permit all KPS students access to KPL libraries, we are purchasing collections of diverse classroom libraries for second and third grade classrooms throughout the district. We also began a more balanced calendar at Washington Writers' Academy and Woodward School for Technology and Research, which had students and staff begin school on July 23.

In terms of the improvement of career awareness, exploration, and development, we

partner with KRESA and other local school districts in the county on MiCareerQuest Southwest, an event that exposes eighth graders to a range of career possibilities through hands-on activities organized by dozens of local employers. In collaboration with Kalamazoo Valley Community College, we have added 35 Early Middle College programs ranging from computer science to culinary arts, from accounting to auto brakes, from criminal justice to welding, from machine tool technology to network manager. Early Middle College allows high school students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously and to graduate with a high school diploma and a college certificate or degree.

We know that we haven't arrived. We know that we have more growth to undertake, more progress to make. We've grown by 2,500 students since the beginning of the Kalamazoo Promise, but we know that we can grow additionally, just as we know that we can continue to improve as well. But it would be wrong not to pause periodically to praise the progress and the accomplishments of our students and to thank our teachers, our support staff, our administrators, our parents and grandparents, and our many community partners.

And miles to go before we sleep.



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The center is located inside Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road. Open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., LNCCC offers full-day and half-day enrollment, as well as a daily rate. Tuition is \$160 a week for full-time care, \$105 a week for half-day care, and \$43 a day. Two snacks and lunch are

provided for full-time students.

The school accepts 3- and 4-year-olds. Students must be toilet-trained. School district residency is not required for the

program, which is open to the public.

For more information, call Stephanie Ludwig at (269) 337-0264.



LNCCC is open to any child, regardless of residency.

Prairie Ridge 'Empty Bowls' Fundraiser Benefiting Loaves & Fishes Moves to February

"Empty Bowls," the annual Prairie Ridge Elementary School fundraiser benefiting the food bank Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes will take place several months earlier this year.

The event, which features handmade bowls by students and staff as well as food and music, will be held 5:30-7 p.m. Feb. 8 at Prairie Ridge, 2294 S. Ninth St. The cost is \$5 per family and every \$5 admission comes with a ticket to select one student-made bowl. The event is open to the public.

Teacher Douglas Duncan has organized the event for 11 years, and said he hopes the earlier date will eliminate some of the scheduling conflicts parents have had with the traditional spring date.

Duncan started the Prairie Ridge fundraiser after being inspired by an event at Kalamazoo College. That activity was too expensive for his students to attend, so he created his own version of the fundraiser, which raises an average of about \$2,000 for the nonprofit every year. The majority of those funds come from the silent auction of bowls made by staff, Kalamazoo Valley Community College students, and community members.

Students craft their bowls out of clay and glaze them with a food-safe glaze. On the day the

Excelsior visited, the students were glazing their bowls.

"Empty Bowls" is not just a lesson in charity. It's a lesson in art, too. The students have decorated the bowls with designs embedded into their clay, and before they began to add glaze, Duncan talked to them about creating patterns and provided some examples on a test bowl.

While they glazed their bowls, Duncan told the students that the glaze is not paint but glass. When their pieces are put in a kiln and fired to 2,000 degrees, the silica in the glaze melts creating the hard, durable, shiny finish they saw on the examples around the room.

The use of glazes is what has preserved pottery that people still find from ancient cultures.

The students were excited to contribute to the dinner and to know they are helping others.

Allison Chase said her grandmother's church sponsors refugees, and that they sometimes help the families go to Loaves & Fishes to select food. The food bank provides them with food basics, and it also helps them try new American foods, she said.

Serenity Lowery is contributing a bowl for the second year — students in third, fourth, and fifth grade make

bowls for the fundraiser. She likes the project because she likes working with clay and glaze, but mostly, "I want to give my bowl to somebody."

Duncan said he continues the project in part, because he appreciates what Loaves & Fishes does for the community, including many families at Prairie Ridge, but also because, "I love the combination of art and students being able to help others."

For more information, contact Duncan at duncanda@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



Andrae Greer, left, and Allison Chase work on pieces for the Empty Bowls fundraiser being held at Prairie Ridge Elementary School.



Jason Buddemeier is preparing a bowl to donate to a fundraiser for Loaves & Fishes.



Kierra Shears applies glaze to her bowl for "Empty Bowls" at Prairie Ridge Elementary.



Teacher Douglas Duncan shows students Ridha Kareem, Michael McDonald, and Gabriel Corradini how to apply glaze to their pottery bowls at Prairie Ridge Elementary School.

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Friday, February 8, 6-8p, \$2
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Alumni Advice: Graduates Return to Share Their Experiences

Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix high schools held their annual Alumni Day celebrations on Dec. 21. Recent graduates were invited back to the schools to share their best advice for making the most of high school and succeeding at college. About 100 alumni visited each school. Here is some of the advice graduates offered to current students.

LOY NORRIX HIGH SCHOOL



Jackson Couch, 2018
Kalamazoo Valley Community College, fire science

The best advice heading into college is that you need to check out as many colleges as you can. All things need to be considered when you're looking at colleges: your price, the distance, the things you can do there. I was pretty ignorant about how I went through colleges and decided where I wanted to go. The biggest advice is to vet out the places you're considering.



Morgan McCue, 2017
Michigan State University, interdisciplinary studies

I went through a period where I was going to be a veterinarian. Just recently, I thought I don't know that I want to spend 10 years of my life to go for something I'm not sure I'm passionate about. My advice would be don't be afraid to switch your majors. Even if your goal was to be something or to follow a career path, don't be afraid to switch it up if you don't find enjoyment in it. Really look back at what you enjoy and follow that dream.



Luis Lara, 2016
Western Michigan University, travel and tourism and Spanish

College students shouldn't conform to this cultural

thinking that college has to be hard and that you have to be anxious. You have a ridiculous amount of freedom. You can try to keep up the 4.0 GPA, but you get to choose what you want out of college. Don't get caught up in the stress of it. It's all about your attitude, how you react to the work you're given, the freedom, and the responsibilities. I want to graduate within four years, but I want to have a good time while I'm there.



Cornez Bell, 2018
Western Michigan University, sales and business marketing

You're officially on your own. It's more difficult to stay on top of everything. The biggest thing to take care of is time management. If you don't have time management, then you won't survive college. As long as you have good time management, things will be a breeze for you. I just made the dean's list my first semester, and time management is what got me through. The thing I see almost every college student with is a big planner.



Champagne Bennett, 2015
Michigan State University, finance and pre-law

My best advice would be to know that everything is worth it. Everything is going to seem hard in the beginning, but definitely know that what you're doing will have a greater outcome. Just know you have a purpose. You're going to do something greater than what you're doing now. The outcome is bigger than anything you can imagine.

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL



Husain Kasem, 2017
Western Michigan University, computer science

My advice for seniors and college freshmen is to take it easy a little bit and not stress too much about things. Grow up as well and enjoy the experience of high school, because you will miss it to an extent. Grow up and mature a little bit. Some people, they head into freshman year, and they still have some maturing to do. They're not taking life seriously.



Felicity Shepherd, 2017
Siena Heights University, child development in education

My best, best advice would be to be yourself, don't lose yourself, because I did my freshman year. So, be true to yourself. Don't change yourself just because you want to fit in. It's just like high school, you want to fit in. When you get to college, there are older people and you want to be like them. Take your time and don't grow up too fast.



Jordyn Boggan, 2017
University of Michigan, gender and health studies

A l w a y s stay motivated and never give up. There is a lot of stress that comes with school and classes. College is a lot harder than high school, and you're on your own. You don't have somebody in your ear telling you to do stuff and making sure you're doing your work and turning your work in on time. It's all on your own. You have to keep yourself up and motivated.



Devin Ziegler, 2016
Michigan State University, actuarial science

R e a l l y study and be able to adapt your study habits. College is more about studying than anything else. You can go to lectures and class and all of that, but if you don't study, nothing can be retained. There's no one good way to study. It really depends on the person. Do what's best for you.



Malcolm Jones, 2017
working for Kalamazoo Township Fire Department, and studying at Kalamazoo

Valley Community College

The best advice while you're in high school still is to take advantage of the EFEs and EFAs (Education For Employment and Education For the Arts), where you can basically get an internship in a career field. For example, you can do health careers or teaching careers and it really gives you an idea of what you want to do, so you can actually take off right after high school instead of just doing pre-reqs in college and not necessarily knowing what you want to do.



Josh Hagemann, 2017
Western Michigan University, acting

The work is going to be as hard as you make it. Just do it. Don't skip out on doing it or that's going to bite you. It's really not as hard as you think it is. You're going to look back on it and think, "Oh that was a piece of cake." The stuff that stressed me out last year would not stress me out right now. Just do the work. You'll be OK.



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Hillside Middle School Robotics Team Heading to World Championship *(continued from page 1)*

was nice to see our work pay off."

Their robot was required to descend from a landing module, travel to collection locations, collect and sort samples, travel back to the landing pad and — for extra points — reboard the module.

The robot that the students designed, built and programmed could be no bigger than 18 inches in height, width and length, and was designed to operate in a 12 x 12-foot playing field. The robot had to operate as an autonomous vehicle for the first 30 seconds of the contest and was operated by students for the remaining 90 seconds of competition.

Annalise Alkema said her focus on the team was writing the code that controlled the robot. "I loved it when the code compiled," which was when the robot actually began responding to the computer code. She's always been interested in coding and was excited to have a hands-on, real-world opportunity to build her skills.

Justin Nguyen said he loved learning about the problem and figuring out ways to make the robot complete the assigned tasks. "It was cool when it was



Hillside Robotics' Nicholas Alkema works on the team's robot.

built and worked successfully."

Some people think of the FIRST program as a robot-building competition, Hiep Nguyen said. "But, that is not really the intent. The main goal is to develop critical thinking and analytical skills."

The team built their robot from scratch and learned about design, engineering, and coding through hands-on activities. The group's presentation boards show the robot as a cardboard model that morphed into a metal frame with cardboard pieces, before taking its final form.

In FIRST Robotics, all teams compete as members of alliances. The Hillside team served as alliance captain and chose alliance teammates #8533 CSPA Miners from Brighton and the #13009 TechnoBot team from Troy.

Nguyen said one of the team's biggest accomplishments was winning the design award at the state competition. "That takes convincing 30 professional designers and engineers that you built and designed the robot and you know everything about the robot," he said.

The team began working on building a new robot after the holidays.

"In middle school, there is no cutoff for working on designs," Hiep Nguyen said. "Every team is constantly looking at how did they do in these games and constantly updating their robots."

"I tell the kids, 'We're not inventors. We're engineers.' As engineers, we have to improve processes. You don't go to the boss and say, 'Let's shut everything down and that will give you 100 percent improvement.' That's a big risk. But, the boss would love to hear you say, 'This incremental change will give you a 10 to 15 percent improvement.'"

FIRST robotics competitions are designed to inspire students to be science and technology leaders. The organization offers FIRST LEGO League Jr. for grades K-3, FIRST LEGO League for grades 4-5, FIRST Tech Challenge for grades 6-8, and FIRST Robotics Competition for high school students.

All four of the district's comprehensive middle schools will offer a robotics course next year."

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All Treats, No Tricks at Hillside Halloween Party

Hillside Middle School WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders made sure Halloween was filled with treats for children at Fox Ridge Apartments.

About 14 Hillside students organized games and snacks for the children in the apartment complex, which is close to the school. Approximately 40 children and their parents attended the holiday party.

Gull Meadow Farms contributed donuts to the event,

while Kalamazoo 10 movie theater donated popcorn. Decorations were provided by Kalamazoo Support Professionals. Leftover treats were distributed among the homeless in Martin Luther King Park.

The Hillside WEB Coordinators are paraeducators Lucille Neal and Bianca Hall and teacher Lindsay Meulman. Staff volunteers for the event included paraeducator Lolisa Hampton and Nadyne Ford, campus safety.



Samariah Steel, Sanai Palir, Kiara Embra-Hobbs, Zechariah Haywood, paraprofessional Lucille Neal, and and Kierra Gaddie hand out goodies at the Hillside Middle School-sponsored Halloween party at Fox Ridge Apartments. The students are all WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders.

Big Give Is a Big Deal at Woods Lake Elementary School

This year's Big Give was a big gift to students at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts.

Members of Radiant Church in Richland came to the school on Dec. 7 to give the students a day of fun activities and gift giving. In addition to providing special food, music, and crafts for the school, the church members teamed up

with students individually and provided each student with a "shopping" experience in which they chose a new coat, boots, hat and gloves.

More than 400 volunteers helped make the day special for the school's approximately 600 students. The church raises funds for the event throughout the year and invests nearly

\$150,000 in the project.

The Big Give began about seven years ago with backpacks and school supplies, but the effort has grown over the years as the church learned about the needs of students in the area.

Edison, Woodward, and Lincoln elementaries are among the schools that have been recipients of Big Gives.



Mayte Garcia models the new coat and hat she received during the Big Give.



Naviah Boshaw tried on coats before making her selection at Woods Lake Elementary.

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National Honor Society Inductees Announced

Congratulations to the following Loy Norrix High School juniors and seniors for being inducted into the National Honor Society in December.

Seniors	
Julienne Alphonse	Callie Kilduff
Olivia Boblet	Carly Loken
Deon Kelley	Ella Ledbetter–Newton
Kathryn Shantz	
Juniors	
Adonia Alexopoulos	Michaela Martin
Emily Bosak	Carter Miller
Finn Brent	Emma Miller
Eva Bugnaski	Brooklyn Moore
Zoe Bugnaski	Sneha Nath
Caila Chapman	Antoinette Puca
Kim Chheu	Benjamin Sanford
Katerina DeYoung	Ella Schnell
Riley Dominianni	Brandon Schnurr
Lily Dorstewitz	Ethan Semelbauer
Sara Elfring	Montana Thommes
Nathan Goodwin–Kelly	Alexis Wooden
Westin Grinwis	
Clayton High	
Jackson Kiino–Terburg	

Congratulations to the following Kalamazoo Central High School juniors and seniors for being inducted into the National Honor Society in December.

Belsem Aldiney	Natalie Gross	Haleigh Nower
Emily Alvarez	Trevon Gunter	Tasia Parsons
Farida Amini	Syafiq Hafizul	Payton Pomeroy
Michael Bale	Isabelle Hawkes	Grace Poucher
Fen Bassett	Margaret Hennessy	Madeleine Quintanilla
Matthew Bau	Bijou Hoehle	Yanari Raines
Victoria Bellia	Alyxandria Hough	Christian Rakowski
Caleb Billings	Mantra Jackson	Nicholas Rakowski
Abrar Bin–Mahfouz	Madison Jackson	Rebecca Rice
Kaden Birchmeier	Caleb Jackson	Paulina Rodriguez
Lukas Bolton	Miya Johnson–Streeter	Cormac Roth
Mallory Bowker	Steven Kloosterman	Nora Schwartz
Elizabeth Boyd	Alexi Kocefaz	Thomas Seubring
Morgan Boyd	Kayleigh Kostrzewa	Rhajani Shepherd
Noah Bradford	Eleanor List	Charity Sidwell
Ashanti Buford	Lillian Lockhart	Clara Smith
Daniel Camilli	Jacob Lyle	Alexus Smith
Chloe Carlson	Grace Maguire	Jessica Snider
Vanessa Clark	Emmanuel Marfo	Angeley Takyi
Abby Doonan	Jenna McLean	Alora Unger–Branson
Cody Edge	Centenuma Nbhunh	Destiny Wells
Tyler Eisenhauer	Matthew Nguyen	Demi Williams
Ethan Fonger	Daniel Nguyen	Samara Williams
Parker Foster	Genevieve Norr	Elyse Yost
Caitlyn Gerhard		Faith Young

Chef Shaun • KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Crispy Roasted Rosemary Sweet Potatoes

Hello Kalamazoo! Here is a simple but delicious option to enjoy during the winter months. Sweet potatoes are a hearty dinner option that are loaded with vitamins and antioxidants. As always, I hope you have a chance to enjoy this dish with family and friends. Best regards, Chef Shaun.



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

- Ingredients**
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
 - 3 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1/4 teaspoon dried rosemary crushed; or 1/2 teaspoon fresh rosemary, chopped
 - 3 lbs (3–4 medium) sweet potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced, approximately 1/8 of an inch

- 1 shallot, peeled and thinly sliced
- Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

- Instructions**
1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
 2. Combine melted butter, oil,

and rosemary in a small bowl. Pour 2 tablespoons of butter-oil mixture in the bottom of a 2-quart baking dish. Arrange potato slices vertically in the dish. Add a sliver of shallot between every few slices of potato. Brush top of potatoes with remaining butter-oil mixture. Season generously with salt and pepper.

3. Cover dish with foil and roast for 1 hour, until potatoes are tender. (If your potato slices are slightly thicker, you may need to increase cooking time.) Increase oven temperature to 450 degrees F. Remove foil and roast for another 10 to 15 minutes, until the tops of the potatoes are browned and crisp.

Servings: 4

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KC Feeds Kzoo Food Drive Collects More than 11,000 Pounds of Food

Kalamazoo Central High School held its most successful food drive ever in December collecting more than 11,000 pounds of food for the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes food bank.

It was the second year for KC Feeds Kzoo, an expansion of Kalamazoo Central’s traditional Stuff the Bus food drive. This year’s effort included the school collection and the one-day stuff the bus collection at Harding’s Friendly Market on West Main Street, plus collection sites at Gazelle Sports and Anna’s House, expanded neighborhood collections and a fundraising concert at Old Dog Tavern with the Out of Favor Boys.

“We really pushed it this year,” said senior Suja Thakali, who has been involved in the food drive since she was a freshman. “I’m not surprised at all that our hard work paid off at the end.”

National Honor Society advisor and government teacher Rex Hafer said the KC food drive is one of the biggest food drives



Ashanti Buford, Yanari Raines, Emily Weal, Remington Ragan collected food from donation boxes around Kalamazoo Central with other National Honor Society members.



Kalamazoo Central KC Feeds Kzoo Food Drive 2018. Students unload donations at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.



Kalamazoo Central students pose during the Stuff the Bus portion of the student-led food drive, KC Feeds Kzoo 2018.

Carlson said. “It was surprising that we hit that high and went so much over our goal.”

Thakali said students had a lot of ideas for the drive and it was challenging to pare down their ideas.

“The hardest part of the drive was getting everyone involved and updated on what was going on,” Thakali said. On Dec. 15, the day of the community collections, students had to be very organized to coordinate the collection of goods and their delivery to Loaves & Fishes.

While the NHS and Link Crew lead the food drive effort, she said the entire school participated with many student clubs getting involved to help boost donations and aid in collecting items every day.

Carlson said Kalamazoo Central is a caring community that really wants to help the broader community.

“I know that in our school district there are a lot of kids and families that deal with the problem of hunger,” she said. “Anything we can do to solve that problem is important.”

Thakali thanked the students and the community for making the food drive a success.

“Hunger should matter to everyone around the community,” Thakali said. “You never know who is next to you who goes to the food pantry or who is in need of things from the food pantry.”

for the local food bank, second only after the annual U.S. mail carrier’s drive held in May.

In mid-December, the unofficial totals for the KC drive were more than 11,000 pounds of food and about \$5,500 in cash donations. The school was holding a raffle and continuing to solicit cash donations in an attempt to make its \$7,000 monetary goal.

The majority of the food donations came from the school community and the collection sites, most notably at the bus collection at Harding’s, Thakali said.

Junior Chloe Carlson was a first-time food drive coordinator, and she was impressed by the response from the community.

“Being involved with leading one of the neighborhood drives, it was crazy to me how many people were willing and wanted to help and donated food,”



SAMANTHA P.

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Kalamazoo Central High School Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor Induction: Celebrating the Footprints of KCHS Alumni

Earlier this year, Kalamazoo Central High School inducted several new members into the school's Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor in a ceremony held at Western Michigan University Bernhard Center.

Joe Mitchell served as the emcee for the event, while KC Principal Valerie Boggan offered opening and closing remarks. The event is supported by the Kalamazoo Central Maroon Foundation.

The Athletic Hall of Fame inductees were:

Charles C. Hall, Class of 1896 – Hall assisted in the formation of the Athletic Association at Kalamazoo Central and was the first coach-player at Kalamazoo Central and Kalamazoo College.

Robert Lake, Class of 1956 – Lake won three state champion titles in cross country in 1955 and in the 880 yards in track and field in 1955 and 1956. He was ranked 25th in the world by Track & Field News in 1959 while running at Michigan State

University.

Jim Short, Class of 1966 – Short is known around the school community as the “unofficial historian” of Kalamazoo Central and has served in numerous roles in the KPS community, including 24 seasons – and counting – as a member of Kalamazoo Central Football Team’s “Chain Gang.”

Kay Barstow-Clark, Class of 1976 – In 1977, Barstow-Clark was the first female athlete to receive a full athletic scholarship to Western Michigan University, where she is also a member of the Hall of Fame. Barstow-Clark set an indoor high jump record at WMU of 5 feet 9 inches in 1979 and is the first Bronco to earn All-American Honors, with a fifth-place finish in the high jump at the 1979 AIAW National Championships.

Jimmy Ross, Class of 1978 – Ross attended the University of Michigan on a track and field scholarship. While there, he was three-time Big Ten long jump

champion, All-Big Ten track and field team honoree, and track and field All-American in the long jump. Ross was an Olympic trials long jump finalist in 1980 and is a 2011 U of M Athletic Hall of Fame inductee.

James Thomas Long – Long has served as Kalamazoo Central’s head football coach for 14 seasons, the men’s track and field coach for 31 seasons, the women’s track and field coach for 20 seasons, and the men’s and women’s cross country coach for 20 seasons. He is a member of the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Honor inductees for 2018 were:

Mikell Thurston Griffith – Mock Trial team founder and coach emerita, Griffith helped lead the team to 11 state championships and three national second place finishes.

Among her many honors are State Bar of Michigan Teacher of the Year in 1992, National High School Mock Trial Tournament Golden Gavel Award Recipient in 2008, and YWCA Woman of Achievement Award in 2011.

1996 Mock Trial team – To date, this is the only Kalamazoo Central Mock Trial team to become National Mock Trial Champions. Team members and coaches are:

Dr. Aash Bhatt – Partner in Nephrology Center PC

Sonya Datta-Sandhu – Certified Nurse-Midwife with Bronson Women’s Services

Nick Dybek – Assistant Professor, Creative Writing-Fiction, Oregon State University

Linnaea Eberts Thomas – Former elementary teacher and school administrator with Teach for America

Dr. Andrew Fink – Ph.D. in Neurobiology and Behavior, Columbia University

Aida Levy-Hussen –

Associate Professor of English at the University of Michigan

Jordan Klepper – Host and executive producer of Comedy Central’s “The Opposition with Jordan Klepper”

Dr. Ursula McTaggart – Associate Professor of English at Wilmington College

Joelle Renstrom – Writing Instructor at Boston University

Ghislaine Storr Burks – Partner at Gardner & Burks, P.C., in Spotsylvania, Virginia

Kurt McCammann, coach – Lawyer with Miller, Canfield, Paddock, Stone PLC

Annette Nickel, coach – Prosecutor/presenting officer for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

Keith Platte, coach – Retention manager at Kalamazoo Covenant Academy

Sherry Ransford-Ramsdell, coach – Former teacher and Kalamazoo Education Association Teacher of the Year honoree

Middle, High School Students Invited to EFE, EFA, EMC Open House on Feb. 5

Kalamazoo County students and their families are invited to “Connect the Dots” to their future at the annual Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency’s Education For the Arts, Education For Employment, and Early/Middle College Open House from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Road.

Education for the Arts (EFA) offers arts-intensive courses in theater, music, dance, as well as visual and literary arts. Learn more at kresa.org/efa.

Education for Employ-

Open House
Tuesday, Feb. 5
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Air Zoo
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ment (EFE) offers career and technical education courses to prepare students for careers. Learn more at kresa.org/efe.

Early/Middle College (EMC) offers high school students the opportunity to dual enroll in Kalamazoo Valley Community College and after five years

graduate with their high school diploma and an associate’s degree or a certificate. Learn more at kresa.org/emc.

Middle and high school students and their families are invited to the open house. (In the event of a snow day, the open house will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7.)

KRESA provides a continuum of educational services and support to students, families, school districts, and communities. To learn more about Kalamazoo RESA follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kalresa/ or visit www.kresa.org.

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Sister and Brother Writing Team Shares Inspiration Behind Hit "Babymouse" Series

Author Jennifer Holm and her illustrator brother Matthew Holm grew up in a house filled with comic books — their dad was a fan of strips such as Prince Valiant and Calvin and Hobbes.

And, of course, they loved all of the superheroes like Batman, Superman and Spiderman.

“But when we were growing up in the olden days of the 1970s there were not a lot of ladies in the comics,” Jennifer Holm told students at King-Westwood Elementary School. “I didn’t really identify with Wonder Woman. I was always hoping

there was a girl character I could really relate to. Someone who was like me when I was a kid, someone like ... Babymouse.”

Jennifer and Matthew Holm, the creative team behind the bestselling Babymouse graphic novels spoke to students at King-Westwood in November. Their presentation was courtesy of the Kalamazoo Public Library, which brought the Holms to Kalamazoo for the 2018 Mary Calletto Rife Youth Literature Seminar. Every child at the lecture received a book.

Jennifer Holm is the Newbery Honor Award-winning



Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm, authors of "Babymouse: Queen of the World," visited King-Westwood in November.

author behind the novels “Our Only May Amelia,” “Penny from Heaven,” and “Turtle in Paradise.” When creating Babymouse, she didn’t have to look any further than her own life for inspiration; Babymouse shares everything from Holm’s chronic bad hair days to her annoying little brother.

And, when she was looking for someone to illustrate the “Babymouse” series, she didn’t have to look any further than that annoying little brother for an illustrator.

Matthew Holm, the youngest of her four brothers, has been doodling since he was a child, he told the children.

“Doodling is drawing randomly, usually when you’re supposed to be doing something else,” he said.

He drew his first comic strip in middle school, about a boy who was a space alien, and after college he started another comic strip about aliens. When he got to Babymouse, she even looked a little alien, he said.

The Holms have been collaborating since 2003 and have written 40 books together, including stories about “Babymouse,” and “Squish,” the super amoeba.

Their presentation took place in the school library, which Jennifer Holm declared the best room in the school.

“When I was your age, I loved to read. I loved the library, and I wanted to grow up to make some of the books I loved reading.”



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Loy Norrix Food Drive Provides Meals for 110 School Families

The Loy Norrix PeaceJam and National Honor Society’s annual food drive provided food baskets to 110 school families this past holiday season. Students collected food and cash donations from the school community to provide the holiday meal baskets to Loy Norrix families in need. PeaceJam members also collected food and cash donations for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes during the annual Holiday Parade in downtown Kalamazoo. Loy Norrix would like to thank

the following businesses for food donations and for gift donations for the food drive competition: Meijer, Harding’s, D&W, Costco, Sam’s Club, Olive Garden, Barnes & Noble, Sky Zone, Noodles & Co., La Cantina, Cafe Meli, and Texas Roadhouse.



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EDUStaff training dates can be found online at their website.

Artists' Corner

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School kindergarteners have been learning about penguins: where they live, what they eat, and some of the adaptations they use to survive. Teacher Jamie McKinney-Brown has extended the learning to art class, where the students made delightful penguin collages out of construction paper, pastels and watercolors.



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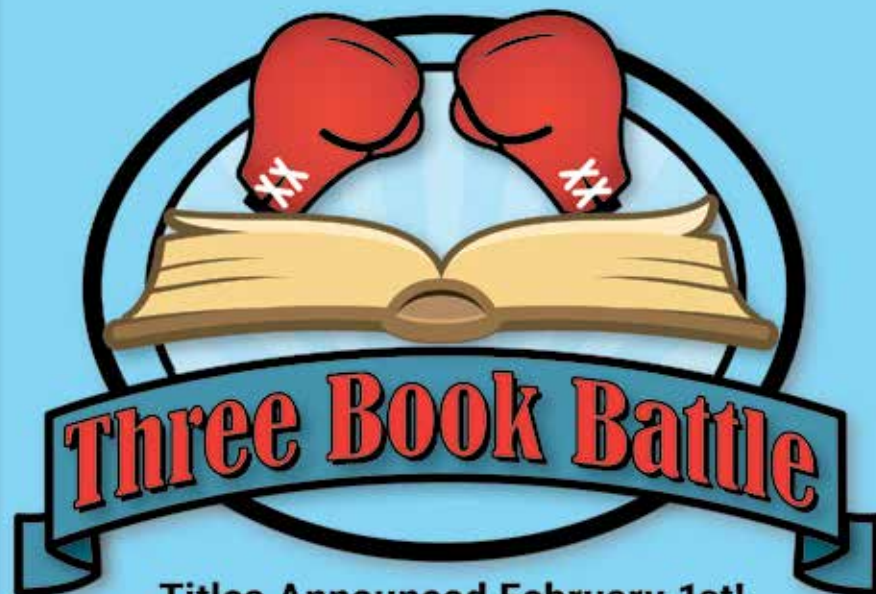


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