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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, Nov. 7 & 21, 2019
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

Board Advance Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019
6:15 p.m.
Media Center
West Main Professional
Development Center
1627 W. Main St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

PreK-12 — No School
Nov. 1

Elementary Conferences
Nov. 4-7

Grades K-5 — Half Day
Nov. 7-8

Grades 9-12 — Half Day
Nov. 22 and 25

Grades 6-12 — No School
Nov. 26

Thanksgiving Break
No School
Nov. 27-29

INSIDE

Full Calendar
see page 14

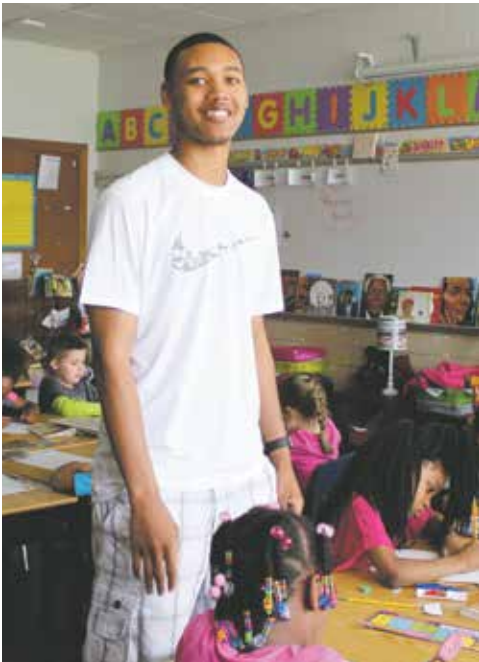
KPS Alumni Helping Teachers of Color Prepare for the Classroom

Hailey Timmerman said she knows that having a teacher of color always inspired her to do better in school.

“When I was little, I didn’t think about the importance of having a teacher of color, but I do remember feeling some connection with Mrs. Bolton, like if my hair was messed up, she knew how to fix it,” Timmerman said of her kindergarten teacher, who was African-American.

Having a teacher of color “makes me want to learn more,” she said. “It makes my participation and attendance go up, because I feel I’m heard and I feel someone actually understands me as more than just the academic part of the classroom.”

Now, she and some fellow Kalamazoo Public Schools alumni are working to help support developing teachers with Future Teachers of Color, a new student group at Western Michigan University.



William Wright is an education major at Western Michigan University, but here he is pictured as a high school senior when he worked in Woods Lake second grade teacher Marlean Wilson-Bridges’ classroom as part of Education For Employment. Wilson-Bridges was Wright’s fourth-grade teacher and inspired him to become a teacher.

Timmerman and William Wright, both 2017 Loy Norrix graduates, and Sarah Giramia, a 2015 Norrix graduate, are three of the founding members and officers for Future Teachers of Color, whose mission is “to bring together future educators of color at WMU with a focus on various topics related to career preparation, academic success, mentorship, community service outreach, and networking skills.”

All of the students are part of the Future Educator Program scholarship at WMU. The group is advised by Marcy Peake, director of

(continued on page 3)

KPS Search Collecting Public Input, Survey Open Until Nov. 8

Kalamazoo Public Schools has launched an extensive campaign to solicit public input on the qualities the community wants in the district’s next superintendent.

Former KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice was named Michigan’s Superintendent of Public Instruction in May. KPS Deputy Superintendent Gary Start is serving as the Interim Superintendent for KPS during the search process. In August, the Board of Education selected the Michigan Association of School Boards Executive Search Services to help with its search for a new superintendent.

Community members are invited to participate in a confidential online survey available through Nov. 8 at: bit.ly/KzooSuptSearch.



input meetings that were held throughout the district in October. The information will be shared with the KPS Board of Education to help board members develop the selection criteria for the next superintendent.

The district hopes to hear from students and their families; KPS alumni; district employees; service providers in public, private, and nonprofit sectors; employers; advocates; residents; and other interested stakeholders.

The tentative timeline for the search includes posting the job description by the end of the month. The job posting would close in early January, with interviews scheduled in the spring. The board hopes to make a selection by the beginning of April.

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

Find information at <http://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/Departments/HumanResources/EmploymentOpportunities>

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Student Services Expanding to Provide the Social-Emotional Tools Children Need to Learn

Long gone are the days in which schools were responsible for just the mastery of basic reading, writing and math skills.

The needs of our students are greater than ever, and schools — more than ever — are looked to as a key resource for all of the challenges and traumas facing children and their families.

According to 2016 Scholastic survey of almost 5,000 public school educators, a majority of principals reported that their students:

- Experienced family or personal crisis
- Needed mental health services
- Lived in poverty
- Came to school hungry
- Required health care services
- Were homeless
- Needed support as an English language learner.

According to Scholastic,

95 percent of principals reported having students experiencing personal or family crisis. Schools, accordingly, have incorporated social-emotional learning into their curriculum programs to help students learn to manage their emotions, set goals, and learn how to make good decisions.

Kalamazoo Public Schools was very lucky over the last two years to add three new positions to facilitate a multi-pronged system of supports in our schools.

Heather Misner has worked for KPS for 20 years as a teacher, administrator and instructional coach. But, two years ago she took on the role of climate and culture coach for the district. Her position is focused on



Gary Start, Interim Superintendent

supporting school staff as they implement strategies that create a positive school climate and support academic and behavioral expectations.

This year Shannon Parlato, who has worked for the school district for 16 years as an elementary school educator and teacher mentor, was hired as a Tier 2/3 Interventionist. When one looks at the interventions a school can offer students, the Tier 1 basic interventions address the needs of about 80 to 90 percent of the children in the district.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions are needed for about 10 to 15 percent of the children. The goal of Parlato's position is to help schools develop support plans to help students succeed. Parlato works not just with supports in the school, but she can help create an integrated service plan for the student that involves the parents, school and community resources.

“The needs of our students are greater than ever ...”

The third Student Services position added to the district was that of restorative re-entry coach. Katelyn Root brings a background in juvenile and social justice, youth programming, mindfulness in schools, mental health, and family therapy to this role. She is examining barriers that keep students and families from having a strong, positive attendance record.

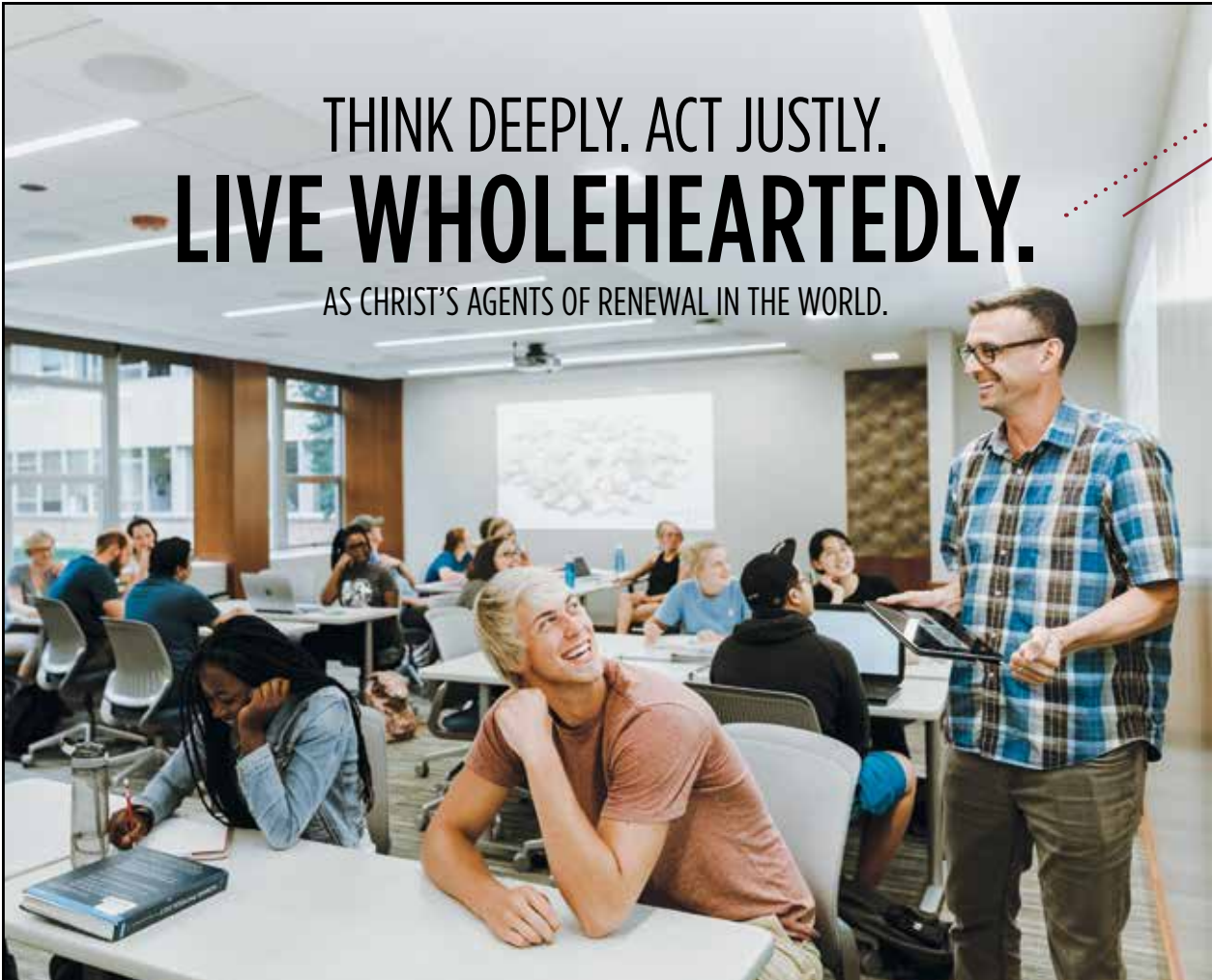
These staff members join an expanded team of four clinical social workers who have been added over the past two years. They, too, are focused on helping students and families

find the school and community resources they need to be successful in KPS.

According to the website for the Learning Policy Institute, millions of children every year are affected by adversity, ranging from violence to food insecurity. These adverse life conditions can result in stress, attention deficits and behavior issues.

That reality requires schools to infuse their teaching with social and emotional learning and supports that help children learn to deal with trauma, manage stress, and to express their frustrations and fears in positive and productive ways.

We know that it is important for students to learn to read and write and calculate. In today's world, it is also essential that we provide our schools, students and families with the socio-emotional support they need, so our children are prepared to tackle those academic challenges.



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KPS Alumni Helping Teachers of Color Prepare for the Classroom *(continued from page 1)*

diversity and community outreach initiatives in the College of Education and Human Development.

The Harvard Graduate School of Education magazine says that according to the U.S. Department of Education, about 50 percent of the public school student population is nonwhite, while 80 percent of public school teachers are white.

While there has been some growth in the numbers of non-white teachers, much of that growth is attributed to the rise in Hispanics and Asians among the ranks of teachers. The pattern of racial and ethnic diversity among principals mirrors that of teachers, with nonwhites making up about 20 percent of U.S. public school principals.

A Center for American Progress study titled “America’s Leaky Pipeline for Teachers of Color” said that has an impact on minority students, because teachers of color “have higher expectations of minority students, provide culturally relevant teaching, develop trusting relationships with students, confront issues of racism through teaching, and become advocates and cultural brokers.”

KPS has its own efforts to support future teachers of color. This year, the district launched the Young Educators Society, a high school club reminiscent of the old-fashioned Future Teachers of America clubs. Sheila Dorsey-Smith, assistant superintendent for human resources, said the plan is to expand the clubs to middle school and elementary school in future years.

The district has also increased efforts to grow teachers from current employees, such as paraprofessionals, Dorsey-Smith said on the WUOM-FM radio program “Stateside.” KPS is working with the Michigan Education Association to create associate’s programs and has approached Western Michigan University about helping those students then segue into bachelor’s programs at the university.



Future Teachers of Color at Western Michigan University is a group for education students. It was started by Kalamazoo Public Schools graduates Sarah Giramia, light blue shirt; Hailey Timmerman, second from right, and William Wright, right. Other WMU students pictured are Marcus Moore, DeShaun Cornelius and Jarae McCoy.

Timmerman, Wright, Giramia and several other students formed Future Teachers of Color this fall. The club has about two dozen members — although they are hoping to eventually involve the approximately 50 students of color in the education program. The group is emphasizing career preparation and peer support.

“I love the fact that I am with people in education who look like me. It gives us a sense of community to talk about things that matter to us and things we don’t typically hear,” Giramia said. “We just wanted to make sure we could create a support system for each other.”

Wright said that because there are few students of color — and they are spread across different years and programs — he’s hoping that the club will give students a chance to network outside of class and allow for upperclassmen to mentor younger WMU students.

Now in his junior year at WMU, Wright has long been interested in teaching as a career. As a high school student he participated in Education For Employment’s teaching program, in which he gained hands-on experience working with students in elementary schools. He likes

can go into,” he said. “Just having one of two teachers of color, could have a huge impact on the students that see us in the classroom.”

Being in the classroom means not just that he is in front of them as a visual role model, but that he has a chance to be a strong voice for academic excellence.

“A lot of students I’ve worked with have seen me before in high school sports, but they need to see that it all starts in the classroom,” Wright said. “That’s the main thing I’ve tried to inspire in them — that education is your passport. You need to be a student before anything else.”

Giramia, who was born in Uganda and came to the United States when she was 6, was inspired to teach by her mother, who taught orphaned children. “I was able to see what education does for people who come from little and how it can elevate them,” she said. “What you learn is your education is one thing that no one can take from you.”

The students say they are hopeful that the dialogue around education, teaching, and teach-

ers — all teachers, not just teachers of color — is changing.

Timmerman became interested in teaching after a high school job teaching students about drug and violence prevention with Prevention Works. There she learned to love working with students.

“I hadn’t thought about education as a career before,” she said. “People say the pay is bad. You’re disrespected. Don’t do it. But when it’s in my heart and I feel if this is my purpose on earth, then no one is going to tell me not to do it.”

“People are always saying, if you want to make money, don’t go into education,” Giramia said. “But, I feel like the whole conversation around education is becoming more transparent about what is important.”

“I think having more teachers like us going into the community and telling students that ‘I’m going into education’ and this is what it is can spark something in them. I think there’s self-efficacy and confirmation of their identity that comes from who teaches them.”



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PeaceJam Travels to Vietnam for Eye-Opening Education, Volunteer Experiences

Loy Norrix PeaceJam students traveled to Vietnam this summer to learn about the Vietnam War and to see first hand the effects of communism on its people.

PeaceJam International trips always include an emphasis on community service, and this trip was no different. Students helped build a concrete play yard at Tien Thuy Elementary School in the Mekong Delta, south of Ho Chi Minh City. Students lived

with Vietnamese families during the project. The students and adult chaperones worked three days transforming a muddy area into a playground. The PeaceJam group also used a \$500 donation to purchase books that celebrated childhood for the school library.

Loy Norrix sophomore Alexander King and Loy Norrix graduate (and Western Michigan University freshman) Emma Knutson said seeing the reaction

of the children was rewarding. “I was amazed how this effort impacted the kids,” King said. “It was 100 percent worth the hard work.”

“Cementing the play yard was so rewarding, despite the hard work, heat and humidity,” said Loy Norrix senior Carter Miller. “We worked alongside a local former South Vietnamese soldier, who only had one arm, and another who was mute and deaf. They were inspiring.”

Senior Matthew Nelson said, “This service was humbling. It made me feel that I should do more for my own community, and it also left me feeling proud of my work.”

The group completed several other service projects while in Vietnam. Students worked with the World Wide Orphan Organization (WWO) to provide music and movement classes for orphans living in a Buddhist temple. PeaceJam donated \$150 to help KOTO (Know One Teach One), a restaurant in Hanoi that teaches culinary skills to youth and gets them off the streets.

The trip included visits to the War Remembrance Museum in Ho Chi Minh City, the CuChi Tunnels in the Mekong Delta, and the Ha Loa Prison (Hanoi Hilton). The trip helped further the students’ knowledge of the Vietnam War.

“It was really difficult to believe that the places we visited

were so rich with history and yet so hard,” said Loy Norrix junior Shelby Richardson.

Nelson said the trip made him interested in reading more about Vietnam, “The culture was very different. The trip made me appreciate what I have, because the people have very little but are still happy and friendly. We learned the value of family when we discovered that the younger generation supports their aging family members.”

PeaceJam is an international organization in which young students help foster positive change in their communities. Once a year a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate comes to the Great Lakes PeaceJam and provides insight into how they earned their Peace Prize. Loy Norrix PeaceJam students perform community service projects at their school, in their community, state, and nation.



Loy Norrix PeaceJam students and chaperones visited the Temple of Literature on their trip to Vietnam this summer. Front row, from left, Matthew Harding, Lisa Hunt, Carter Miller, Sveri Stromsta May, Matthew Nelson, and Rubion Watkins. Back row, from left, Emma Knutson, Holly Hawke-Jordan, Veronica Moran, Breyon Richards, Shadiah McMahon, Tracy Hawke-Dingman, Alexandria King, Brianna Moran, Shelby Richardson, and Justin Shuster.



Loy Norrix seniors Carter Miller and Matthew Nelson, center, learn about rice growing on the way to Hanoi during the PeaceJam trip to Vietnam in 2019.



Carter Miller, right, works on a playground that Loy Norrix PeaceJam students built in Vietnam this summer.

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2019 Kalamazoo Public Schools Retirees

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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:

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 :
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Gary Start

Kalamazoo Public Schools celebrated the accomplishments and service of 38 employees at the annual Employee Retirement Celebration on May 3 at the Cityscape Center. This year's employees represented more than 895 years of collective service to KPS children. As former Superintendent Dr. Michael

Rice wrote in the annual program: "In so many ways, your legacy has been and will continue to be the success that our children achieve when they

leave us for college, career, and adulthood." Thank you to this year's retirees.

NOT PICTURED

Lorraine Bechek Student Services	Frances Mills ALP
Patrice Buchholz Parkwood-Upjohn	Pamela Phillips Milwood Elementary
Michael Champion Transportation	Randy Rochester Winchell
Nancy Curry Lincoln	Laura Rothwell Transportation
Debra Gaugier Linden Grove	Diane Russo Parkwood-Upjohn
Elizabeth Jarzambek Milwood Elementary	Kathy Slocum Spring Valley
Mary Kretovics Woods Lake	George Slomp Transportation
Lori LaBelle Arcadia	Pamela Stohrer Washington
Amy Lehr Parkwood-Upjohn	Eloise Swinehart Human Resources
Mary Martin Milwood Magnet	JoAnn Tree Arcadia
Elaine May Linden Grove	Joann Verberg Student Services
	James Wright Kalamazoo Central



Martha Bielby
Northeastern



Tamara Elliott
Loy Norrix



Linda Husen
MLK-Westwood



William Logan
Loy Norrix



Sandra Lundquist
MLK-Westwood



Roger Lynch
Milwood Magnet



Matthew Martin Jr.
Transportation



Donna Ross
Student Services



Randy Rowe
Loy Norrix



Joyce Ryskamp
Kalamazoo Central



Gregory Socha
Arcadia



Karen Strobel
Winchell



Nancy Vader
MLK-Westwood



Michael Watson
Linden Grove



Carol Willson
Winchell

BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 15-18, 2019

Celebrate the Air Zoo's 40th birthday with us!

NOVEMBER 15-18 Copilot Pass Promotion Receive a free Copilot Pass with any membership purchased this weekend, so you can bring a friend with you every time you visit!	SAT, NOVEMBER 16 Birthday Bash Let's P-A-R-T-Y! Come celebrate with music, food, rides, fun educational activities, and a cash bar. Get your tickets today!	SUN, NOVEMBER 17 Rise and Shine Breakfast Wake the Air Zoo up in style with this members-only delicious breakfast. Enjoy a special hour of rides and attractions.	MON, NOVEMBER 18 FREE Entry & Cake Chat It's our birthday, and that means free admission for you all day! Reminisce about the past 40 years at our Cake Chat from 4-6PM.
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LEARN MORE airzoo.org/birthday-bash

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Autumn Harvest Salad

Hi Kalamazoo! As the cold November winds close in, please take time to lift up your spirits with this flavor-packed salad. Creamy roasted squash, tart apples, and salty feta make a flavor trifecta. As always, take time to share with friends and family. Stay warm Kalamazoo! Best regards and enjoy, Chef Shaun

Ingredients

Salad

2 1/2 lb butternut squash
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
1/2 cup uncooked bulgur
2 Fuji apples (about 1 pound)
1/2 bunch flat leaf parsley
2 oz. feta, crumbled

Dressing

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tablespoon honey
1/4 teaspoon salt
Fresh cracked black pepper to taste

1/16 teaspoon garlic powder
Pumpkin seeds
Dried figs

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400°. Cut ends off the butternut squash. Peel the squash using a vegetable peeler. Slice it in half lengthwise. Scoop out the seeds with a spoon, then cut the remaining squash into 1/2-inch cubes.
2. Toss the squash with 1 table-spoon olive oil, salt, and pepper. Spread the seasoned cubes on a baking sheet and roast in the oven for 45 minutes, or until soft and golden. Allow the squash to cool.
3. While the squash is cooking, cook the bulgur according to the package directions (mix 1/2 cup bulgur with 1 cup water, boil for 15-20 minutes or until tender). Fluff the cooked bulgur with a fork and allow it to cool in the refrigerator.
4. Make the dressing by whisking together the olive oil, lemon



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

juice, honey, salt, garlic powder, and freshly cracked pepper.

5. Core the apples and cut into 1/2-inch cubes. Pull the parsley leaves from the stems and give them a rough chop.
6. Add the parsley, apples, cooled squash, bulgur, and crumbled feta to a large bowl. Pour the dressing over top and toss until everything is evenly combined and coated in dressing. Garnish with toasted pumpkin seeds and sliced figs.

Serves: 4

KC FCCLA Team Brings Home Six Medals from National Contest

For the eighth consecutive year, Kalamazoo Central FCCLA team members qualified for the national Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America competition in Anaheim, California. The team brought home six medals. This year's winning team members were, from left: senior Jay'Kree Jackson, gold medal, Sports Nutrition, senior category; junior Kavia Couvillion, gold medal, Sports Nutrition, se-

nior category; sophomore Diedra Smith, silver medal, Nutrition & Wellness, junior category; 2019 graduate Lauren Zach, silver medal, Chapter Service Project Portfolio, senior category; 2019 graduate Gabrielle Wark, silver medal, Chapter Service Project Portfolio, senior category; and sophomore Yasmine Diaz, bronze medal, Nutrition & Wellness, junior category. The team is advised by teacher Lisa Boulding.



THIS SEASON AT THE KIA



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Friday, November 22, 5-8 / Saturday, November 23, 9a-5p

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WINTER ART CLASSES

Registration opens November 18, classes start in January

FREE ART HOP Fridays, Nov. 1 & Dec. 6, 5-8 pm

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Saturdays, Nov. 9 + Dec. 14, 10:30 am-12 pm for kids 4-8 w/adult

FILM AT THE KIA Thursdays, Dec. 12 & Jan. 23, 6:30 pm

\$5, \$2 for students, free through age 12

SEASONAL WORKSHOPS IN THE ART SCHOOL

Sat 11/9 Parent+child Glass Ornaments, 1-4 pm Fri 11/15 Printmaking Greeting Cards, 6-9 pm
Sat 11/9 Printmaking Wrapping Paper, 10 am-4 pm Mon 11/25 Holiday Wreath Design, 6-8 pm

Register online at kiarts.org. Join the KIA for shop & class discounts and to enjoy member night at the Holiday Sale on Thursday, November 21.

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Frequently Asked Questions About the Kalamazoo RESA CTE Proposal

The Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency has a request for a 1-mill property tax increase on the Nov. 5 ballot to fund career and technical education. Here are some frequently asked questions about the millage.

When is the vote?

Registered voters can head to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5. You can check on your voter registration, polling location and absentee voter status at the Michigan Voter Information Center website, michigan.gov/vote.

What is being proposed?

Kalamazoo RESA has proposed a 1-mill property tax increase to be levied for 20 years. If approved, the millage would generate approximately \$8.3 million in revenue from local property taxes annually to help fund a systemic redesign of K-12+ Career and Technical Education (CTE).

What is Career and Technical Education (CTE) and why is it important?

CTE provides students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. CTE prepares these learners for the world of work by introducing them to workplace competencies and makes academic content accessible to students by providing hands-on context. In fact, the high school graduation rate for CTE students in Kalamazoo County is 97 percent — 17 percent higher than the state average.

What would the community get if the proposal is approved?

If approved by voters, the quality of K-12+ CTE programming would be enhanced by developing a centrally located career center for most programs, which will substantially improve equitable access for stu-



dents and create economies of scale. The KRESA CTE millage would be used for operational purposes, with a portion of it devoted to facilities and updating equipment. In addition, public/private partnership opportunities are being cultivated to assist with additional capital needs. The approval of the CTE millage would mean:

- More students exposed to career options at earlier ages with more career readiness coaches
- Equitable access, economies of scale, and enhanced quality through a centrally located career center with a few strategic satellite locations
- Equitable access to CTE classes through efficient transportation, resulting in less time on buses and more time learning
- State-of-the-art technology and equipment to prepare students for high-demand, high-skill, high-wage careers
- At-risk students and those with disabilities supported through instructional support staff
- Additional training and support for students and families, particularly families in poverty
- Increased career planning and work-based learning experiences to assist students with career decision-making
- Increased number of students earning industry-recognized

credentials/certificates that meet the needs of employers, particularly in areas with massive labor shortages such as health care, manufacturing, information technology, construction trades, and education

- Expanded opportunities for work-based learning, apprenticeships and credentials
- More students ready for the 21st Century job market who possess in-demand skills of critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity and character
- Expanded and strengthened partnerships with area employers and colleges to help prepare students for high-demand, high-skill, high-wage careers of the future
- More young people equipped with the skills needed to earn a good living, allowing them to raise families in the area

If approved, are there plans to establish a career center?

Yes. If approved by voters, the CTE Millage would enhance the quality of CTE programming by developing a centrally located Career Center with smaller satellite locations to improve student access, eliminate participation barriers and create economies of scale. Funds generated by the CTE Millage would support operational objectives such as staff to work with K-12+ students on career awareness

and development, CTE teachers, student transportation, state-of-the-art technology and more, with a portion of it devoted to facilities and equipment updates. We are also working on a public/private partnership to assist with additional capital needs, including the establishment of a centrally located Career Center which would host the majority of CTE courses. In the event that a public/partnership does not work out, a portion of the CTE Millage would be used to create a centrally located career center, which may include renovating an existing building. Regardless, if approved, we will not be asking voters for a separate bond issue to construct a CTE career center.

Why here?

With nine local school districts serving 35,000 students, we have the numbers to support offering a system of K-12+ career readiness, including a wide variety of CTE programs and work-based learning. As marked by the growth of our local business communities, this economy has great potential, but lacks trained talent in critical areas. A commitment to creating opportunities for all students could make the difference moving ahead. Even students on a current trajectory toward success need to ensure that their talents are meeting the demands of the 21st Century. Learn more about the need for a systemic redesign of CTE in Kalamazoo County at kresaCTE.org/facts.

Who will be able to vote on the Kalamazoo RESA CTE Millage?

Registered voters who reside within the following school districts: Climax-Scotts Community Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, Gull Lake Community Schools, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Parchment School District, Portage Public

Schools, Schoolcraft Community Schools, and Vicksburg Community Schools.

If approved, how much would the proposal cost?

A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$50,000 (approx. market value of \$100,000) would pay \$4.17/month.

A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approx. market value of \$150,000) would pay \$6.25/month.

A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 (approx. market value of \$200,000) would pay \$8.34/month.

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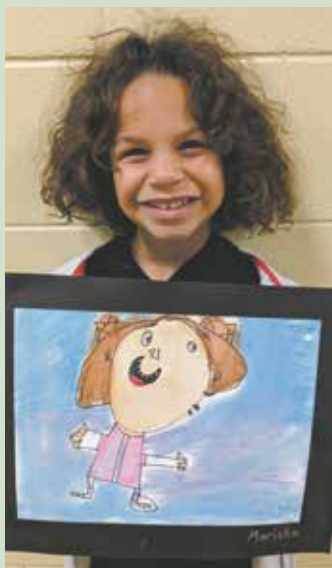
Washington Writers' Academy first graders had to carefully study their own facial features and all of the qualities that make them unique to create these self portraits. After drawing their images, the students used markers and oil pastels to turn their images into colorful creations. The students worked with art teacher Todd Patrick.



Denzaria Branson (1st Grade) Title: The Favorite Artist



Ashari Tedford (1st Grade) Title: Ashari's Amazing Art



Mariska Brown (1st Grade) Title: The Blue in the Background

Edison, Maple Street Take Home Math-A-Lon/STEAM Honors

Edison Environmental Science Academy took home the trophy in the 2019 Math-A-Lon, while Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts won the CIS Middle School STEAM Fair earlier this year.

Both events, organized by the Kalamazoo Public Schools math department, celebrate math and science skills through a series of creative challenges.

The CIS Middle School STEAM Fair took place at Milwood Elementary School. Teams were from Maple Street, Hillside Middle School, and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for

Math, Science and Technology, and consisting of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, participated in a two-part competition.

In the Math-A-Lon portion, students demonstrated problem solving, spatial reasoning, and solved problems involving rates, ratios and percentages. The teams then tackled the engineering challenge in which they modified a remote-controlled car to perform a variety of tasks such as picking up paper clips, carrying wooden blocks, and pushing balls through a goal.

Edison won the elementary school Math-A-Lon, which

tested teams of third through fifth graders in a variety of math events. Students worked as a team to solve a series of math calculations, individually solved math calculations in a relay race format, located numbers on a 100s chart using a set of math clues, calculated the area and perimeter of a series of two-dimensional figures, and constructed a structure from colored blocks based on a series of logic clues.

Teams were formed from students in the Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo 21st Century afterschool programs, with CIS staff serving as team coaches.



Edison Elementary from left to right, back Coach Brandon Jean, Jamarion Carr, Marciel Bennett, Andrea Villegas, Kyaira Jones-Williams, Dillon Purnell, Coach Sheldon Turner, Coach Steve Brewer. Second row, Ma'Kiya Reynolds, Chelsia Edmonson, Emma Rogers. Sitting Shamar Reynolds, Sharod Reynolds.



The Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts STEAM Fair winners were: front row, from the left, Jazmin Reyes-Armijo, JaVon Wilson, Layla Hemphill, Taisia Thomas, CIS Coordinator Phil Hegwood; middle row, Cruz Claveria-Armijo, Daniel Banks, Zion Bush, Izaiah Markel; back row, Josiah Thrash.

Vote

Jeanne Hess



For Kalamazoo City Commission

Young Writers Encouraged to Find 'Courage to Create'

Middle school and high school writers are encouraged to explore themes of social justice in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Courage to Create Poetry Competition. The event is held in conjunction with the MLK Day Celebration at Western Michigan University.

King said, "Our lives begin to end when we become silent about things that matter."

Poems may be written in any style and should incorporate themes of social justice. Past winners have written about racial equity, socio-economic challenges, gender stereotypes, and other topics.

Winning poets will be invited to public reading of their poems and awards ceremony on Feb. 19 at Western Michigan University. The poets will read along with invited, local celebrity poets and a keynote speaker. The project is a collaboration between Kalamazoo Public Schools, Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo, the WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Friends of Poetry.

The poets may be interviewed and their poetry may be used in a promotional capacity and featured in local media outlets and in programming by Public Media Network.

Rules:

1. Poems may be submitted in any style.
2. Poems should reflect on social justice in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy.
3. The contest is open to students in grades 6-12.
4. Poems will not be returned. Writers should not submit their only copy.
5. Poets may submit more than one poem. Each poem should be submitted on a separate page. The author's full name should be placed at the top of the page, along with his or her grade, school, and email address



Kalamazoo Central student Leasia Posey performed at the Courage to Create poetry reading in 2019.

Photo courtesy of Tony Dennis

or phone number.

6. All poems will be reviewed anonymously by a group of distinguished community poets.

7. All poems must be submitted to the online submission portal at <http://www.wmich.edu/mlk/c2csubmission>

8. Deadline for submissions is Jan. 21, 2020.

For more information, contact William Craft, director of information technology, WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, (269) 387-6328 or william.r.craft@wmich.edu.



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(2 ADULTS AND UP TO 3 KIDS)

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KPS Graduates in Action

Joriah Kwame: On Stage and On the Move

About seven months ago Joriah Kwame saw a post on the theater industry website Playbill.com seeking new songs for a recording project called “Write Out Loud.”

Now, Kwame has a video of his song “Little Miss Perfect,” being sung by the Tony-nominated actress Taylor Louderman, posted on Playbill.com.

Kwame, who may be better known to Kalamazoo audiences as Joriah Fleming, is preparing to move to Washington, D.C., for the role of Slightly Soiled, one of the Lost Boys in the Shakespeare Theater Company’s new production of “Peter Pan,” and then plans to make the move to New York City to further his acting and writing career.

Kwame, 22, graduated from Loy Norrix in 2015. His mother Rocann Fleming teaches at Edison Environmental Science Academy. His older sister Teriah Fleming is a Loy Norrix alum, and his younger sister Zakiya Fleming is a freshman at Norrix.

Kwame has been studying musical theater at Western Michigan University. He’s still a few general education credits short of his degree, but the timing seems right for the move, he says.

He was a regular in theater productions at Loy Norrix and Maple Street Middle School for the Arts. At WMU, he’s played characters as diverse as the Tin Man in “The Wiz,” Judas in “Jesus Christ Superstar,” and Fenn-



Loy Norrix alum Joriah Kwame with actress Taylor Louderman, of Broadway’s “Mean Girls.”

yman in “Shakespeare in Love.” This summer he appeared in Farmers Alley Theatre’s production of “Avenue Q.”

But in addition to performing, he has been composing music since he was 11. He’s written several musicals, “Underdog the Musical,” “Dream: A New Musical,” “Sophia,” and “Our Beloved.” His most recent work is “TAPES: A Song Cycle,” which he created to raise awareness about suicide prevention after a friend died by suicide last year.

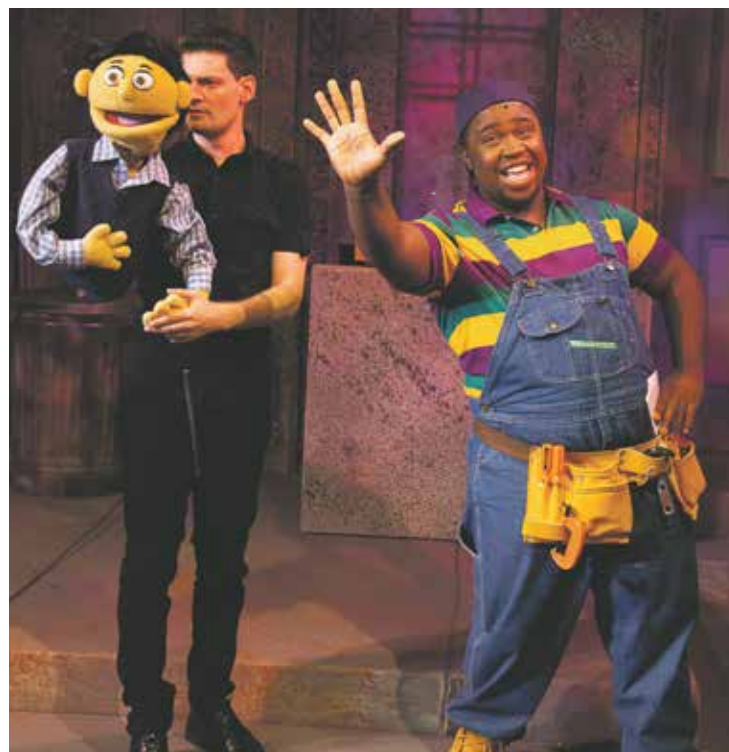
“Little Miss Perfect” comes from “TAPES,” and was one of about a dozen songs that he

submitted to “Write Out Loud.” “Write Out Loud” was organized by Louderman, who is starring in the Broadway show “Mean Girls,” as a way to support original music.

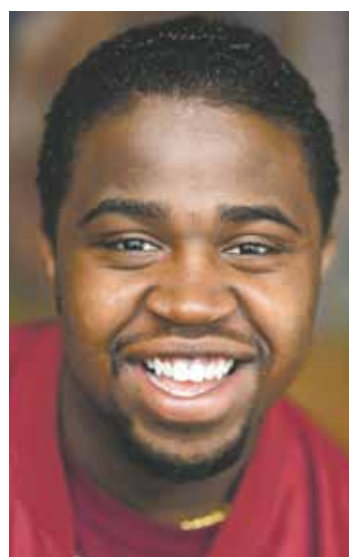
“I didn’t even know what the song would be used for,” Kwame said. “As time went on, I learned she was creating an album to support new writers.”

Louderman received more than 600 submissions, and chose three winners who had the opportunity to have their songs recorded and distributed through Ghostlight Records.

“I got to fly over to New



Harrison Bryan and Joriah Kwame in Farmers Alley Theatre’s production of “Avenue Q.”



Joriah Kwame, 2015 Loy Norrix graduate.

the winners. Their songs were performed at the cabaret Feinstein’s/54 Below.

Kwame said Louderman was drawn to “Little Miss Perfect,” in part for its story, which is about a closeted young lesbian woman.

“The character is afraid people will find out and that she’ll be rejected by her friends and family. There’s one line where she says, ‘I can’t risk falling off my throne.’ She’s really afraid her life is going to fall apart if she comes out,” he said. “Taylor knows a lot of her fans are younger and she wanted to have good messages in the songs she releases.”

Kwame said he’s amazed at the opportunities he’s received in the last few months.

“I’m just anxious to start working in the field and to start producing things,” he said. “I’m thankful for all of the opportunities I got to hone my craft.”

To see the video of Taylor Louderman performing “Little Miss Perfect,” or to read more about “TAPES: A Song Cycle” and to contribute to suicide prevention, visit joriahkwame.com.

York to rehearse with her and make sure everything was done the way I wanted,” he said. “After that she took me backstage to see ‘Mean Girls.’ I’m just so thankful to her and the entire team for creating a competition that supports new artists.”

The album was released on iTunes, Spotify, Google Play, Amazon and other outlets. Kwame was able to travel to New York for a concert honoring

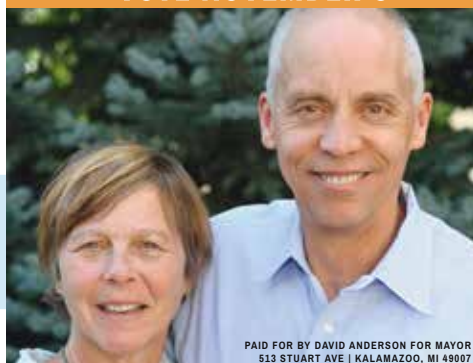
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FOR MAYOR

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2019 KPS Job Readiness Workshop Exposes Seniors to Career Options

Kalamazoo Public Schools seniors had a great opportunity to learn about educational and career options available in their community while other students were participating in the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) testing in April.

Students attended college awareness and exploration field trips at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) and Western Michigan University (WMU). Seniors also attended the KPS Career and Job Readiness Workshop that was held at the West Main Professional Development Center.

They engaged in job seeking and career awareness activities as they learned about viable and in-demand careers. Presenters shared meaningful job experiences, describing job requirements, tasks, on-the-job training, and workplace environments.

Workshop sessions included financial literacy, summer job opportunities, resume building,



Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety K-9 Officer Heath Shoemaker and police dog, Chase share information on exciting careers in law enforcement and cyber security.

preparing for the workplace, and career opportunities in energy, law enforcement and cyber security, skilled trades, and the armed forces.

Presenters were Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo; The Kalamazoo Promise; Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency; MiWorks; Youth Opportunities Unlimited; the Michigan

Regional Council of Carpenters; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 131; the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines of the U.S. Armed Forces; the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety; Consumers Credit Union; and Consumers Energy.

KPS would also like to thank the following community businesses for sharing raffle items: Kalamazoo County Parks and Expo Center, Kalamazoo Growlers Baseball, Celebration! Cinema Crossroads & IMAX, GQT Kalamazoo 10, Climb Kalamazoo, The Spirit Shoppe, WMU Office for Sustainability, Barnes & Noble, Rocket Fizz!, Clock N Lock Escape Rooms, YMCA, Nova VR Arcade, Taco Bob's, Meijer, Kalamazoo Wings Hockey, KVCC, Little Caesar's, Qdoba, Mod Pizza, Firehouse Subs, Biggby Coffee, WMU Career Student Employment Services, Target, Jet's Pizza, The Big Burrito, Cottage Inn Pizza, Olga's Kitchen, Nisker's, and Buster's Bookstore.



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Free rides throughout downtown on the Holly Jolly Trolley that stops just steps away from the museum.

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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

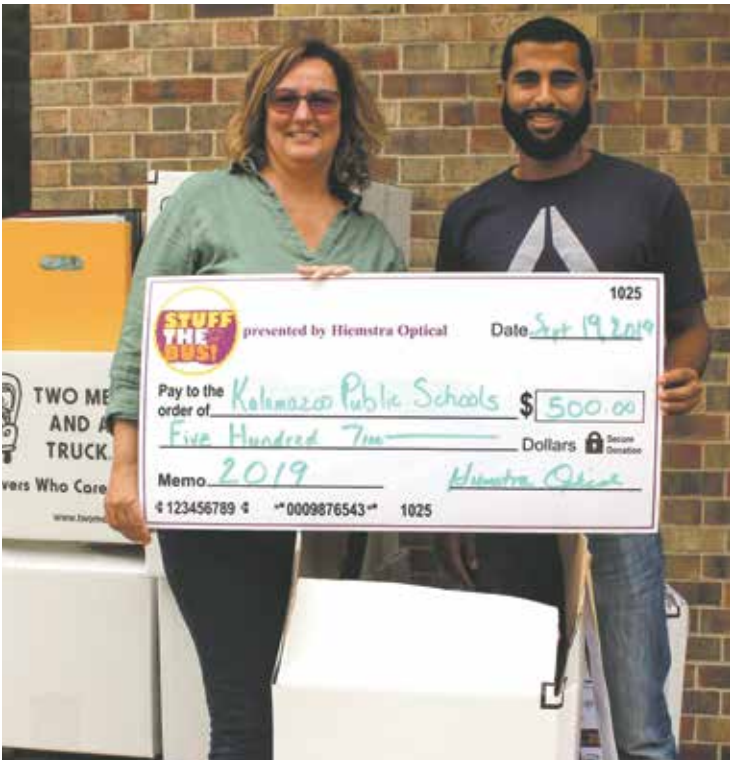
Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum
269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370
kalamazoomuseum.org

Parkwood-Upjohn Readers



Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School honored all of its students who participated in the Kalamazoo Public Library summer reading program. The students are: Ben Wright, Luca Mesch-Carinci, Etta Poer, Asher Kimbrough, Natalie Reilly, Violet Birchmeier, Camden Zeigler, Brady Charles, Avery Wilson-Ort, Petra Mesch-Carinci, Ivan Birchmeier, Adela Marsh-Prelesnik, Adelyn Thompson, Izayah Davis, Axl Kimbrough, Elspeth Ryan, Mia Medina, Alorna Goode, Akaiah Goode, Sam Wright, Sandra Murphy, Maceo Aguilar, Madison Charles, Louis Martin, Thomas Martin, Lucy Sytsma, Conrad Hansen, Max Sytsma, Alexa Charles, Lyn'Nae Fuller, Charles Suozzo, Kellan Carpenter, Lucca Russell.

Local Businesses Make Generous Donations



Sandra Dee and Steven Totzke of Heimstra Optical delivered several boxes of school supplies and a \$500 check for special projects in September. Heimstra has organized a school supplies drive for 17 years. In August, the company also participated in the Beyond the Backpack event in Bronson Park, and brought the VSP Bus. The mobile eye exam unit conducted 30 eye exams, identified 27 students that needed glasses, and was able to make and dispense 24 pairs of glasses that day.



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2019

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Thanks to Lake Michigan Credit Union's One Pencil program for providing teacher supply bags for all of the teachers at Greenwood Elementary School — and several other buildings — at the start of the school year.

Second-Grade Classroom Celebrates Writing Project with New Bike Helmets

Second graders in Aimee Burgardt's classroom at King-Westwood Elementary School were asked to write persuasive essays arguing whether or not they believe children should be required to wear helmets when riding bikes.

School volunteers gave the students a very good reason to wear bike helmets—a gift of free helmets.

The 28 students in Burgardt's classroom received helmets that were donated by Eric and Tobi Breisach. Eric Breisach is a former member of the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education. They learned about the writing project when they were visiting King-Westwood as part of the Kalamazoo Rotary "Rotary Reads" project.

ect. Kzoo Swift sold the helmets at cost to the Breisachs.

"While volunteering, we learned from teacher Aimee Burgardt that many of the students did not have proper bike helmets," Eric Breisach said. "Almost 30 years ago our oldest son took a low-speed flip over his handlebars splitting his helmet in two. The helmet likely saved his life."

"We want all kids to have access to helmets, know how to wear a bike helmet, and to wear one at all the times when they are bike riding. We worked with Ryan Barber, owner of Kzoo Swift, a downtown bike shop, whose generosity made this a reality."

Barber visited the classroom

to encourage the students to wear helmets whenever riding their bikes. He also showed them how to properly fit a helmet to ensure they're safe.

The students voiced a variety of opinions in their essays, with not everyone agreeing on the need to wear helmets. Hannah Bippley argued, "One reason I think kids should be required to wear them is that you'd probably want to pay \$20-\$30 for a bicycle helmet rather than \$500,000 or even \$1 million for brain surgery." But Liam Mwayi argued for individual freedom and the right to choose, saying, "Helmets don't prevent all concussions. They cost about \$20 and not everyone can afford a helmet. I don't like to wear my helmet. We

are a free country!"

Burgardt said the writing project is one of her favorite activities. "Keeping children safe and involved in exercise is very important to me," she said. "I also love to teach writing and this is one of my favorite projects to do with students, because they all have a lot to say and write. My second graders also have strong opinions and we engaged in some great discussions over the course of this three-week project. The kids are so proud about their writing and they are also now ready to wear their stylish helmets."

According to Safe Kids Worldwide:

- **Bike helmets reduce head injuries** by 85 percent and brain injury by 88 percent.

- In 2010, **approximately 81,101 nonfatal injuries among child cyclists** were traffic-related.

- **More children ages 5 to 14 are seen in ERs for injuries** related to biking than any other sport.

- A **25 percent reduction in childhood bike injuries and deaths** could lead to savings of over \$500 million in societal costs (health care and productivity losses.)



King-Westwood Elementary School teacher Aimee Burgardt's second-grade class last year received free bike helmets from school volunteers Tobi and Eric Breisach, who donated the helmets to their class after they wrote about bike safety.



Hannah Bippley



Ahmad Mitchell



Landon Voelker

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2019-2020 School Calendar

Kalamazoo Public Schools

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Sep 3	First Day Half-Day. No Half-Day Kdg.
Sep 4	First Day for Half-Day Kdg. & CO Prgms
Sep 9	First Day ECSE Half-Day
Sep 9-12	MS & HS Open Houses to be held
Sep 16	First day PEEP
Sep 16-19	Elem Open Houses to be held
Oct 11	Grades 6-8 Half-Day
Oct 16	Grades 9-12 Half-Day (HS conferences)
Oct 17	Grades 6-8 Half-Day (MS conferences)
Oct 25	Grades PreK-12 NO SCHOOL
Nov 1	Grades PreK-12 NO SCHOOL
Nov 4-7	Elementary School conferences
Nov 7-8	Grades K-5 Half-Day
Nov 22 & 25	Grades 9-12 Half-Day
Nov 26	Grades 6-12 No School
Nov 27-29	Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break NO SCHOOL
Jan 24	Grades PreK-8 Half-Day
Jan 29 & 30	Grades 9-12 HS conferences 4-7
Jan 30	Grades 6-8 Half-Day MS conferences
March 4	PreK-5 Literacy Night
March 5	Grades 6-8 Literacy Night
March 6	Grades PreK-5 No School
March 11	PEEP/Kdg. Orientation
March 11 & 12	Grades 9-12 Half-Day
March 13	Grades PreK-12 NO SCHOOL
March 26-27	Grades K-5 Half-Day
April 3	Grades PreK-12 NO SCHOOL
April 6-10	Spring Break NO SCHOOL
April 24	Grades 6-8 Half-Day
April 29 & 30	Grades 9-12 HS conferences
April 30	Grades 6-8 Half-Day MS conferences
May 25	Memorial Day NO SCHOOL
May 26	KAMSC senior recog. 7 p.m. Chenery
May 29	Last day for seniors Last day for PEEP
June 2	Phoenix graduation 7 p.m. Chenery
June 3	Loy Norrix graduation 7 p.m. Wings Ctr.
June 4	K-Central graduation, 7 p.m. Wings Ctr.
June 5	Last day ECSE students
June 10	Last day for A.M. kindergarten
June 11	Grades K-11 Half-Day
June 12	Grades K-11 Half-Day

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Elementary Start/End Times

Regular Times

(all schools except Edison, Lincoln, Washington and Woodward)

8:50 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Half-Day Ends 12:00 p.m.

Early Start (Edison & Lincoln only)

8:10 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

Half-Day Ends 11:20 a.m.

Middle School Start/End Times

7:33 a.m.-2:20 p.m. Half-day ends 10:35

Linden Grove 8:08-2:58 Half-day 11:08

LN & KC: 7:33 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.

LN & KC Half-day ends 10:35

Phoenix: 7:28 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Phoenix: Half-day ends 9:30 a.m.

KILP Session One: 7:30 a.m. - 12:23 p.m.

KILP Session Two: 11:30 a.m. - 4:23 p.m.

Washington & Woodward Calendar

Half Days: July 22, September 3

October 10-11, November 8, December 20

January 24, March 26-27, June 10-11

Not in Session: Aug 26-Sept 2, Sept. 27,

October 14-25, November 25-29

December 23-January 3, February 20-28

March 20, March 30-April 10, May 20-25

Washington Hours: 8:48 a.m. - 3:52 p.m.

Woodward Hours: 8:08 - 3:12 p.m.

 All Schools Closed

 Half-Days or no school (check grade levels)
No PEEP on Jan. 17 & 24, Feb. 20 and May 22

 First & Last Day of School



KSS ENTERPRISES

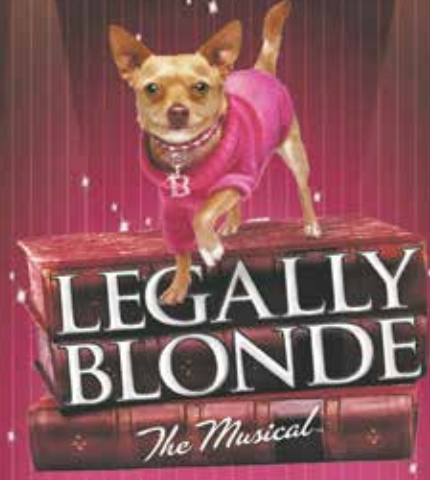
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NOVEMBER 15TH, 16TH, 22ND & 23RD AT 7:30 PM

SUNDAY
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Adults - \$12 // Students/Seniors - \$10 // Family Tickets (2 Adults Max) - \$35

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Kalamazoo Public Schools

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Priscilla Lambert

Robert Cinabro, Past City Commissioner and City Attorney

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Elizabeth Upjohn Mason

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Susie Job

Pamela O'Connor

John Hilliard

Humans of Kalamazoo

Chief Gary Hetrick, KDPS (Ret.)

Jenny Hetrick

Steve & Sarah Jbara

Jim Hopfensperger

Laura Livingstone-McNelis

Matt & Carrie Hybels

Michael Tenenbaum

Kim Melvin

Depty. Chief Don Webster, KDPS (Ret.)

Katie Bloom

Joann Yochim

Nancy Anderson

Dick & Jean Schmitt

LaNae Bohr

Zadie Jackson,

Past City Commissioner

Jack Urban, Current City Commissioner

Mary Jo Pulte

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Ken Miller

Karin Larsen

Forrest Duddles

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James Yealin

Jane Bailey

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Philip & Karen Kunze

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Tammy Taylor, Edison Neighborhood

Patricia Jackson

Steve Phelps

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JP & Joan Oosterbaan

Jamie Miller

Helen & Andrew Rathbun, PhD

Thom Miller, Past Co. Commissioner & KPS School Board President

Ryan & Molly Wieber

Mark Hoffman

James Melvin

Loyal (Trey) Eldridge III

Les Tung

Norman & Barbro Jung

Gordon Miller

Sandi Doctor

Paul Scott

Lou Nisker

Susan Springgate

Carol Oudsema

Judy Sherrod

Jim & Alex Miller

Tim Surprise

Depty. Chief Ray Ampley, KDPS (Ret.)

Peggy Napier

Diana Morton-Thompson

Paul Daniels

Devin & Tiffany Bloom

Nancy Englander

Tim & Jill Sherman

Robert Humphries, DDS

Chris & Kathy Shook

Jim Heaton

Maggie Sikkema

Eric Boersma

Deb Klug

John Kreuzer

Doug Kreis

Robert Houtman,

former Chairman,
Kalamazoo Co. Board
of Commissioners

Linda Powell

Steven R. Schrier

Matt Lechel

John & Rosemary Brown

*"I am voting for Pete. His skills and experience
are needed on our Commission."*

Jack Urban, City Commissioner

Proudly Supported by:



EXPERIENCE MATTERS!

- ✓ 9 years (and counting) - Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood Association President
...I'm already working with our city, neighborhoods & businesses to solve city-wide issues!
- ✓ 39 Years - Successful business manager, consultant, and Kalamazoo city small business owner
- ✓ 21 years - Leading and volunteering for 7 local non-profit organizations

I Will Continue to - LISTEN & Use my EXPERIENCE to Lead in a COMMON-SENSE way; Putting City Issues First!

Paid for by Pete Kushner for Commissioner 490 W. South St. Kalamazoo, MI 49007

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM FINDER

There are 63 programs in the Kalamazoo area. We're here to help you find a program that meets your needs.

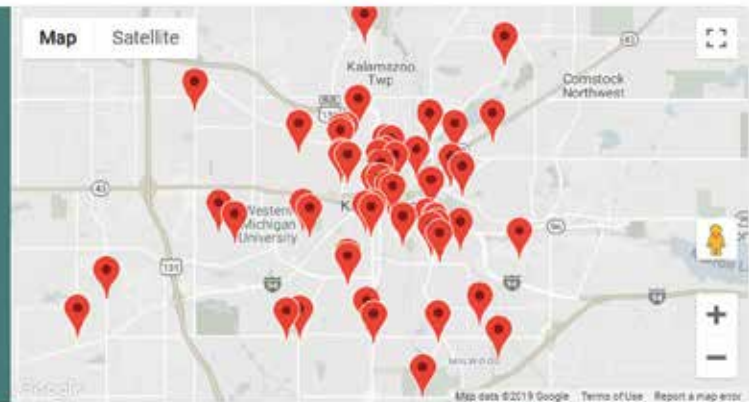
Neighborhood

Age

Months

Keywords

Result



Learning doesn't end when the bell rings.

Check out any of the 60 high quality afterschool programs in our community!

The Kalamazoo Youth Development Network can connect you to out-of-school time programs across Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties. Search for programs using our Program finder at www.kydnet.org.



Explore

Discover

Engage

Meet the Authors: Grace Lin and Jewell Parker Rhodes



Grace Lin

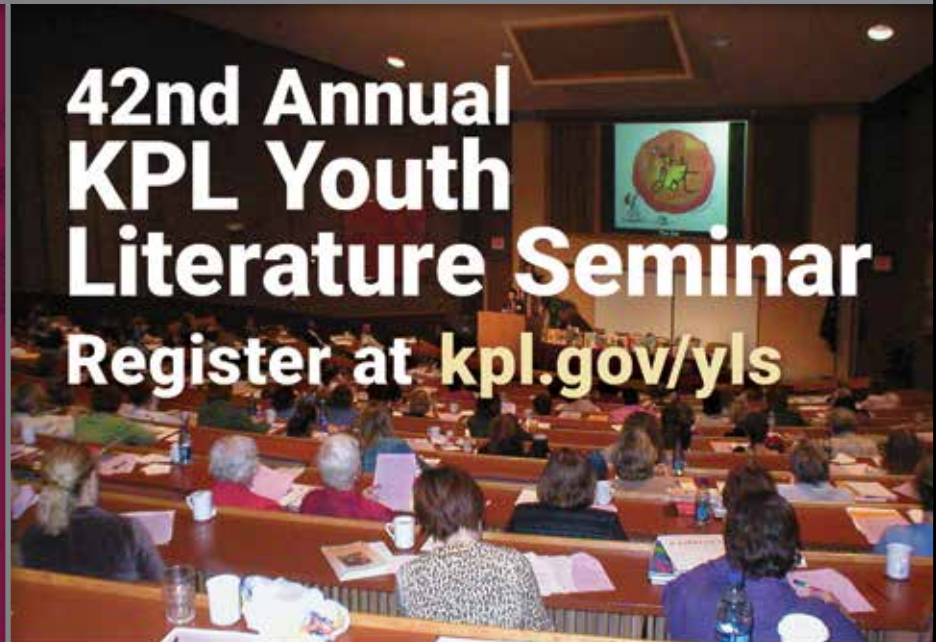


Jewell Parker Rhodes

Thursday, November 7 | 6:30–8 pm

Central Library/Van Deusen Room

42nd Annual KPL Youth Literature Seminar Register at kpl.gov/yls



Friday, November 8 | 9 am–3 pm

Fetzer Center, WMU Campus | 2251 Business Ct.

CEN • EAS • OSH • POW • WSQ



CEN • EAS • OSH • POW • WSQ