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IMPORTANT DATES	
Board of Education Meeting	
Thursday, May 10 & 24, 2018 7 p.m. Administration Building 1220 Howard St. For more information, call (269) 337-1572	
May 2	High School Conferences 4-7 p.m.
May 3	High School Conferences 5-8 p.m.
Middle School Conferences TBA	
May 25: No PEEP	
May 28: Memorial Day No School	
Graduations	
May 21	Adult Education 7 p.m. @ Chenery Auditorium
May 29	KAMSC Senior Recognition 7:30 p.m. @ Chenery Auditorium
June 5	Phoenix 7 p.m. @ Chenery Auditorium
June 6	Loy Norrix 7 p.m. @ Wings Event Center
June 7	Kalamazoo Central 7 p.m. @ Wings Event Center

Remember to Vote May 8 (see page 10)

Pantries: Creating Hunger-Free Kid Zones

For Jennifer Johnson, director of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, putting food pantries in Kalamazoo Public Schools buildings makes perfect sense. “We have this thing called the Kalamazoo Promise, but we have kids who are struggling,” Johnson said. “They know the end goal. They want to get there, but there are things that hold them back. Food is often one of them. Food is so essential to everything. If you don’t have key basic needs fulfilled, you’re going to have the toughest time fulfilling your potential.”

For more than 11 years, the Loaves & Fishes food bank has offered

a backpack program throughout Kalamazoo County. The program is available at some elementary schools and several summer sites. It provides children with a backpack of food to sustain them over the weekends. Usually, they include enough food for about two and a half meals.

It’s an expensive way to provide food, costing about \$3.70 for those meals. And, sometimes the food makes it home, sometimes it doesn’t. Some kids eat it in the hallway at school or on the bus. When they get it home, that food may be shared with an entire household.

(continued on page 4)



Deb Yarborough, CIS of Kalamazoo senior site coordinator at Kalamazoo Central High School, shows off the refrigerated items in the school’s new full pantry.

Sandra Shaw Named MI Orchestra Teacher of the Year

Sandra Shaw didn’t plan on being an orchestra teacher, but somewhere along the way she became one. A very good one.

Shaw, who teaches at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts and Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high schools, has been named the 2018 Teacher of the Year by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

Shaw grew up in the Saginaw area and came to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University. After

(continued on page 5)



Sandra Shaw, second from the left, poses with the Loy Norrix High School 2017-2018 orchestra.

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Talented Arts Staff Help Talented Students Hone Skills

On Feb. 21, dozens of KPS student artists displayed their creations at Bronson Methodist Hospital, as part of the 16th annual Promising Artists exhibition at Bronson. This exhibition, which annually lasts for more than a month, is a partnership among the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Bronson Health Foundation, and Kalamazoo Public Schools.

With works of art from elementary through high school students, the exhibit is one of a number of opportunities for KPS students to show off their tremendous artistic talents, including Art Hops and Kalamazoo Institute of Arts exhibits.

On March 20, four weeks later, the Kalamazoo Public Schools Music Department Showcase Concert at Chenery Auditorium featured a few hundred KPS student musicians in orchestra, choir, and band. This concert,

like concerts at schools throughout KPS, gives our gifted young people the opportunity to shine and to display their significant musical talents.

Our students, as talented as they are, require talented teachers and regular lessons to hone their skills. At the districtwide concert, coordinated by the district's music lead teacher **Carrie Cook**, the following teachers directed our students:

Sandra Shaw, 2018 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Orchestra Teacher of the Year
Denis Shebukov
Theresa Williams-Johnson

KPS music teachers across the district help develop children musically. In addition to the



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

“Our students, as talented as they are, require talented teachers and regular lessons to hone their skills.”

teachers listed above, they are:
Jennifer Boyer
Jeanna Cervantes-Hickman
Ondina Cooper
Julie Davis
Nathaniel Forrister
Norma-Jean Forshey
Taryn Fooy
Mary Foster
Chelsea Funk-Paschall
Ben Gudbrandson
Ashley Hall
Yvonne Hoffman
Ken Jones
Karen Kempe
Roger A. Lynch

Jeremy McIntyre
Stephanie Measzros
Aaron Mirakovits
Jeff Mom
Julie Pelligrino
Elizabeth Perkins
Scott Robbins
Sandra Shaw
Jessica Wallace
Cindy Zerban

The Bronson exhibit, coordinated by the district's art lead teacher **Mandy Clearwaters**, displayed works of art of our KPS students, taught by the following district art teachers:

Amber Beeman
Lindsey Borsvold
Rebecca Carter
Mandy Clearwaters
Errin Corstange
Gayle Crittenden
Kellen Deau
Jacqueline Denaway
Misty DeNoon
Matthew Douglas
Danelle Drake
Douglas Duncan

Rana Findling
Christine Folke
Nicole Kirby
Julie LaBudda
Ian McKinney
Jamie McKinney
Todd Patrick
Kyle Pfeuffer
Abigail Ruffer
Marlena Smith
Gregory Stevens
Harry Sykora
Cambray TrapHagan
Cindy Van Lieu

In an era in which districts across the country, underfunded and burdened by state budget cuts, have eliminated or reduced their art and music programs, it is good to reflect upon our talented students and the talented staff that develop their musical and artistic gifts. It's also good to reflect upon the programs that we continue to support and promote on behalf of our children. In this era, we defenders of public education can take nothing for granted.

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School Food Pantries: Aiming to Create Hunger-Free Kid Zones *(continued from page 1)*

Loaves & Fishes was aware that the backpacks were not as effective as desired in terms of helping fill the food gaps for children.

Beginning in 2010, the food bank, which serves all of Kalamazoo County, was looking for a way to provide children with more food in a more cost-effective way. That's when it opened its first school-based food pantry at El Sol Elementary school. Since then, it has opened full pantries in four other schools: Kalamazoo Central High School, Maple Street Middle School, and Northeastern and Woodward elementaries. There are partial pantries at Loy Norrix High School and Linden Grove, Hillside and Milwood Magnet middle schools. The pantries are operated by Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo and school staff.

"We're trying to provide more kinds of food and to feed kids longer," Johnson said. "You could be getting this on a Tuesday night versus the backpacks, which are just for the weekend."

The ultimate plan, she said, is to get the whole family to join

in picking up the food to ensure the entire household is fed.

"Loaves & Fishes has been a terrific KPS and community partner for many years," said KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. "Our students and families benefit significantly from the pantries recently placed in our schools."

Hunger in Kalamazoo County

An estimated 40,000 residents are food insecure in Kalamazoo County, Johnson said. Loaves & Fishes expects to fill about 165,000 four-day food orders this year. That number is up from the previous year, which was up from the year before that, and the year before that. Johnson doesn't expect the number to decline any time soon.

Hunger in Kalamazoo County has changed from situational to chronic, she said.

"Families that were hit hardest by the recession, they're still struggling," she said. "They had the least to lose and they lost the most."

Despite improving unemployment numbers, the food bank sees families where the



Jen DeWaele, CIS site coordinator, said their full food pantry provides better access to food for families and allows the school to build better relationships with families.

household members are dependent on multiple part-time jobs with no benefits, Johnson said.

"One little thing can completely ruin their world," she said. "If someone's car breaks

down, all of their resources go to fixing the car, because they need it for work. There's nothing left for food. There's a lot of shifting done. It can become a desperate situation for some."

wanted to find a way to deepen the connection between the school and families and to better meet the needs of the families so their children can succeed, DeWaele said. The pantry is a great way to motivate parents to visit the school so staff can talk about academic performance, tutoring, mentoring, and other community services available through the school.

Deb Yarborough, the senior site coordinator for CIS at Kalamazoo Central, has only been running the program since December, but said it has already had an impact on students.

Before the full pantry was implemented, CIS staff fed children from one cabinet. Now, there are two refrigerators and half a dozen cabinets, which staff have used to serve 157 individual students with fresh fruits and vegetables and a range of meats and snacks. It provides students with reliable, easy access to food.

"We had one young lady who was acting out," Yarborough said. "They brought her in here and she was angry. She had no place to live. She was couch-surfing and not eating well. I said, 'Let me take you to our pantry.' It's just consistent and the kids know that it's here."

Feeding children is important, said Johnson. Everyone from the American Psychological Association to the American Pediatric Society agrees on that. "Good food, the right food, grows strong brains," she said.

"The sooner we know that a child is food insecure, the sooner we can make sure there are not food gaps in their lives," she said. "The access point for us is Headstart, preschool and kindergarten. We can be there alongside other school nutritional programs, leveraging everything that is out there in terms of federal programs to create a hunger-free kid zone."

"Imagine what our community could be if hunger wasn't an issue? And, if we start with kids, it's like we're writing a different story."

Food pantries in schools

Putting food pantries in the schools helps target children in need, but also makes a lot of sense in terms of being able to reach entire families. It's an additional access point for those who will be at the schools anyway, Johnson said.

"That's a win-win for everyone," she said.

Woodward School for Technology and Research has seen definite benefits from having the pantry at the school, said Jen DeWaele, the Woodward site coordinator for Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo. It was a huge project to undertake, but the benefits have been worth the effort.

The pantry serves about 15 families a week. "They love it. They kind of can't believe they can come into the school to get their food," she said.

Principal Frank Rocco

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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

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MI School Band and Orchestra Association Names Sandy Shaw 2018 Teacher of the Year (cont. from page 1)

beginning her teaching career as a band teacher for seven years at Lawrence Public Schools, she became an orchestra teacher at Kalamazoo Public Schools, where she has taught for 23 years. She also leads a jazz band as an extracurricular activity at K-Central.

Shaw said she wasn't initially trained as an orchestra teacher, but she attended workshops and master classes, took classes while she was earning her master's degree at Ohio State University, and worked with string professionals through the Education for the Arts program. And, then, there were the students themselves.

"I learned so much about strings from my students," Shaw said. "They have graciously helped me along the way when I didn't get things correct."

She said everyone in her musical sphere has contributed to her growth as teacher.

"It's not that I figured all of these things out by myself," Shaw said. "As music teachers we borrow from people and share ideas. Everyone has credit to my improving as a teacher. It's thanks to everybody else that I am the teacher that I am."

As the Teacher of the Year, Shaw will have the opportunity to conduct the State High School Solo and Ensemble students at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, which is held at Western Michigan University. Shaw will lead them in a performance of Elgar's "Nimrod (from Enigma Variations)" at Miller Auditorium on May 12.

"This is a well-deserved honor for someone who has spent so much of her career going above and beyond in service to KPS families," said Carrie Cook, music lead teacher for KPS.



Sandra Shaw teaches at Maple Street, Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central.

formances, student pre-interns, and professional string coaching. She also designed and implemented new ensemble, music theory and composition courses at Maple Street, and piloted a beginning instrumental program at an elementary school.

The switch from band to orchestra was challenging, but much of the core of making music is similar. She's had to learn new instruments and devotes a large amount of time to studying the music and thinking about how to help the students understand the music from her position on the podium.

Shaw maintains her own performing life as a jazz musician. She plays with the Gull Lake Jazz Orchestra and the Kalamazoo Big Band, which perform at The Union Cabaret & Grille and the Elkhart Jazz Festival. She also performs with the Park Street Saxophone Quartet and the Kalamazoo Philharmonic Orchestra.

"I keep pretty busy. I'm always practicing something," Shaw said. "I think for me, playing is key."

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Bowler Takes State Honors



Loy Norrix High School senior Trevor Morgan finished third at the Division 1 state bowling finals in February.

In six preliminary games, he averaged 224 and was seeded No. 1 going into the single elimination head to head. He made a miraculous comeback in the round of 16 hitting nine strikes in a row to win by 5 pins. He won by 97 pins in the quarterfinal. He lost in the semifinals (a two-game series) 413-405. A wobbly 10 pin in the 10th frame wouldn't fall, which would have given him the win. "He represented Kalamazoo Public Schools very well with his positive attitude and demeanor," said Loy Norrix Athletic Director Andrew Laboe. "The environment at the bowling state finals is second to none. The pressure is truly intense and several kids buckled under it. He just keeps playing. With the Promise, he has a full ride to Aquinas College to bowl if he wants it."

Kalamazoo Central Celebrates National Signing Day with Four Student Athletes

Kalamazoo Central's Darius Pruitt, Ryan Halloran, Jacob Seager, and Craig King signed letters of intent to play college sports on National Signing Day. This fall, from left, Pruitt will play football at Ferris State University,

Halloran will play soccer at University of Detroit Mercy, Seager will play football at Hope College, and King will play football at Western Michigan University.

"These athletes have worked tirelessly to perfect their craft

and perform at the highest level in high school sports. Because of their hard work and dedication, they have earned the opportunity to take their talents to the next level," said KC Athletic Director Dylan Patterson.



From left, Darius Pruitt, Ryan Halloran, Jacob Seager, and Craig King hold flags from the schools with which they've signed.



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Remember: Holocaust Survivor Asks Students to Share His Story

For an hour, Irving Roth told students how he went from an average boy living in an average town — to being a pariah banned from the city park, to being told he was not allowed to visit his girlfriend, and to being a boy who watched his grandparents walk toward the gas chambers in Auschwitz.

When he was done speaking, he asked the students at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts for two things. One of which was, “Tell your children and grandchildren about me.”

At 88, Roth, a survivor of the Holocaust, asked them to remember the story of his persecution to help ensure it does not happen to others.

His visit became more poignant in light of a recent study that showed that more than one-fifth of millennials haven't heard of — or are not sure if they've heard of — the Holocaust, and one-third of all respondents did not know that 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust.

Roth, who has documented his story in the book “Bondi's Brother,” was born in 1929 in what was once Czechoslovakia. The area was surrounded by mountains and forests. Roth had friends who were Catholics, Jews, Protestants.

“That was my life. It probably was not much different than your life,” he said. “Even though there were people from different religious groups, we lived together.”

By 1939 that had begun to change as Germany began building its military and moved east. It pressed Czechoslovakia for land, and the Czech government, still recovering from World War I and not wanting to fight, gave land to Germany.

“It's a little like a bully, who says, ‘I want half your roast beef sandwich,’” Roth said. “You say, ‘OK, but I want to keep the rest.’ But can you really trust a bully?”

He was banned from the city park where he had played soccer.



Irving Roth, a Holocaust survivor, was surrounded by Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts students after his speech in February.

He was no longer welcome on the beach, even though his parents had bought him a pass. The girl he liked told him she couldn't study with him any more because her father forbade it.

“Here we believe all people are created equal. It's in the Constitution,” he said. “But Germany did not believe that. They said if you're pure German, you're the best. You're the smartest, the best looking, you're perfect.”

“If you're black, you're altogether useless. If you're a Jew, you're worse than useless. You're bad.”

And the only answer for Jews was to “get rid of them,” Roth said.

The first step in that was to segregate the Jews.

“I had to be identified on the street. I had to wear a yellow star. Suddenly, they saw me not as Irving Roth, but as just a Jew. That is called prejudice. When you speak of prejudice and hatred, it's very personal.”

Jews soon found themselves without work, needing permits to travel between cities, prohibited from being out after dark. And during that time, Germany continued to advance through Europe, with attacks on the Netherlands, Belgium, and France.

In January of 1942, the

Nazis began rounding up Jews; they were loaded into cattle cars and “they disappeared,” he said. His grandparents were arrested, and after the family paid for their release the family fled across the border into Hungary, hoping to find a safer environment where they could outwait the Germans.

But in 1944, the family's luck ran out.

“This time I'm not so lucky,” Roth said. “I'm one of those in the cattle car with my cousins, my grandparents and my brother. When they are told to get off the train, they said, ‘Get out. Take nothing with you.’”

As they filed past a man, in what he now knows was the Auschwitz concentration camp, he and his brother were told to move to the left, while his cousin, his grandparents and his aunt are told to move to the right.

“I ask people, ‘What is happening to the people moving to the right?’ They say, ‘See those chimneys? See the flames? That's them.’”

In January 1945, as the Russians neared the camp, the soldiers rounded up Roth and the other prisoners and forced them on a “death march” west to another camp, Buchenwald.

“I was hungry, tired, and cold, but I kept marching,” he said. “My brother (Andre) was

next to me. He kept encouraging me.”

But, when they arrived at Buchenwald, his brother was taken away. Later, Roth would learn that his brother died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, the same camp where author Anne Frank died.

On April 10, 1945, the Americans were bombing all around the camp. When the bombing stopped, the prisoners realized the guards had fled — abandoning the camp and the prisoners. Later in the afternoon, Roth remembers two soldiers, one white and one black walking into their barracks.

“These two men looked at us and broke down, tears running down their faces,” he said. Roth was 15.

His parents also miraculously survived the war. When Roth and his other relatives were being rounded up and placed on cattle cars, his parents had been in Budapest working. Roth's father became very ill and fell into a coma. Roth's mother despaired, but a Christian woman told her not to give up hope, that it was possible his father would come out of the coma.

He did. After that they were still in danger, because the Nazis were still hunting for Jews in the city, but this same woman came to their aid and offered them a place to hide in the tiny apartment she shared with her daughter. She had built a hidden compartment in her linen closet, which Roth's parents squeezed into any-time soldiers searched for Jews or neighbors dropped by.

And here in his story, Roth made his second request of the students.

“My parents survived because someone was willing to help,” he said. “There was a bully and someone helped them, because that was the right thing to do. Promise me that if you see a bully, you will stand up to them, you will help.”



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Dozens of KPS Students Chosen for State Honors Choir

Kalamazoo Public Schools sent dozens of students to the State Honors Choir held in Grand Rapids in January. Participation in all honors choirs is by audition only.

For the Michigan School Vocal Music Association 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir, students who gained entry into the choir rehearsed several Saturdays at schools throughout Michigan. Students performed Jan. 26 at DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids.

High School State Honors Choir students auditioned and were accepted into the MSVMA Regional Honors Choir. They performed with the regional

ensemble, then auditioned and were accepted into the MSVMA State Honors Choir. Students performed Jan. 27, at DeVos Performance Hall.

All State Jazz Honors students auditioned and earned two of 20 openings in the choir. They performed Jan. 26, at the J. W. Marriott Ballroom.

The All-State Honors Choir is made up of 120 students from the State Honors Choir who audition to participate in this next level of performance. They rehearse in May and will perform at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Honors Concert on May 12 at Western Michigan University's Miller Auditorium.

6-7-8-9 HONORS CHOIR Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts

Celia Baublis
Jillian Davis
Isabela Woods
Braeden Davis
Charles James
David Dominick Fooy
Emmett Rademacher
Ellen Terzino
Alason Murphy
Ruby Berg
Isaac Hemmer
Annabel Hemmer
Lauren Kelley
James Hauke
Danica Harper
Hailey Yoder
Alayna Boucher
Georgia Hutton

Linden Grove Middle School

Antoinette Parker
Davion Hubbard
Andre McKenzie-Carr
Marijane Watts

Kalamazoo Central High School

Elaine Pollard
Eliza Geer
Abigail Baker

Margaret Lekan
Natalia March
Kimion Curtis

HIGH SCHOOL STATE HONORS CHOIR

Kalamazoo Central

Sean Davis
Zachary Gillish
Kristen Kuhtic
Ashton Watkins

Loy Norrix High School

Joseph Michael

ALL-STATE JAZZ HONORS CHOIR

Kalamazoo Central

Tyanna Brodhagen
Olivia Ampey

ALL-STATE HONORS CHOIR Kalamazoo Central

Ashton Watkins

Loy Norrix

Joseph Michaels

Directors:

Julie Davis (Maple Street)
Julie Pelligrino (Loy Norrix)
Theresa Williams-Johnson
(Hillside and Kalamazoo Central)
Cindy Zerban (Linden Grove)

Guns and Schools Don't Mix, KPS Superintendent Tells Crowd at MLK Day Talk

Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education and administration are unequivocally opposed to guns in schools.

The district has a clear weapons policy that prohibits guns in schools, KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice told those attending the 2018 MLK Day Teach-In

at Western Michigan University on Jan. 15.

"You should know that neither the Board of Education nor I are anti-gun, we simply don't believe that guns and children and for that matter, staff members, belong in the same space. They don't. Guns kill," Rice said.

"We believe it's our job not only to keep them out of schools but to advocate for keeping them out of schools, to the extent we are able."

Rice spoke on the panel "Responding to Gun Violence," which included Assistant Chief David Boysen with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and Rick Omilian, from the group Moms Demand Action. He is the stepfather of Maggie Wardle, the Kalamazoo College student who was shot to death by her ex-boyfriend at Kalamazoo College in 1999.

Rice said it was important for the school board and administration to keep advocating to ban guns from schools, especially in light of pending state legislation that that would allow concealed pistol license holders with extended training carry in pistol-free zones such as schools, day care centers, stadiums, churches and college residence halls.

"We are nonetheless important voices and we are making our voices hear, much to the consternation, I might add, of locally elected state legislators who have different opinions and who need to be told that we do not believe that guns and schools mix or mix well," Rice said.

Boysen discussed the department's work with the Group Violence Initiative, a holistic community approach toward reduc-



KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice spoke on the panel "Responding to Gun Violence," at the Western Michigan University Teach-In on MLK Day 2018. The panel included Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Assistant Chief David Boysen and Rick Omilian, from the group Moms Demand Action.

ing gun violence and homicides. Only about 5 percent of the city's population is involved in group violence, but they are responsible for 60-70 percent of shootings.

GVI is an initiative that involves, among other things, social service efforts, mental health support, and community leaders. The goal is to create a moral imperative and to provide help such as educational services and job training to give people a way out of a gang lifestyle, he said.

"The community needs to work with us and say shootings and killing people is wrong," Boysen said. "It needs to stop and we as a community will not tolerate it anymore."

"It's about getting ahead of this. It's not about arrests. We can't arrest everybody with a gun and put them in prison and think

that's going to reduce shootings. We have to identify who these people are that are doing shootings and intervene, and that will drive the numbers down."

Omilian told the crowd about Moms Demand Action and its efforts to reduce gun violence. He too encouraged audience members to contact their legislators to talk about their concerns.

He expressed concerns for proposed federal legislation that would provide concealed carry reciprocity across state lines and noted that Rep. Fred Upton had supported the measure even though law enforcement is overwhelmingly opposed to the bill.

"We have waited 20 years for action on gun legislation," Omilian said. "If you don't like what officials are doing, join us and vote them out."

May Mobile Health and Dental Clinic Schedules

The Family Health Center Mobile Health Clinic serves Kalamazoo Public Schools students and their families. It provides physicals, immunizations, well-child visits, and other services. The clinic takes insurance and offers a sliding scale fee. Below are the May schedules for the health clinic and the Kalamazoo County mobile dental clinic. Schedules are subject to change. For more information, visit fhck-zoo.com. Appointments can be made by calling (269) 349-2641 or contacting Community in Schools of Kalamazoo at your school.

Mobile Health

May 1 - Kalamazoo Central
May 2 - Loy Norrix
May 3 - Phoenix and ALP
May 7 - Spring Valley

May 8 - Arcadia
May 9 - Edison
May 10 - El Sol
May 14 - King-Westwood
May 15 - Lincoln
May 16 - Milwood Elementary
May 17 - Northeastern
May 21 - Northglade
May 22 - Parkwood-Upjohn
May 23 - Prairie Ridge
May 24 - Washington
May 29 - Woods Lake
May 30 - Woodward
May 31 - Milwood Magnet

Dental

May 2 and 4 - Arcadia
May 7 - Maple Street
May 8 - Milwood Elementary
May 14 - Kalamazoo Central
May 15-16 - Washington
May 21 - Kalamazoo Central
May 22 - Washington
May 23-24, 29 - Edison
May 30 - Prairie Ridge

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Blueberry Crumble

Hello, Kalamazoo. It's time to gear up for the summer, and here is a great way to kick it off with one of my favorite superfoods — blueberries! Low in calories and high in nutrients, blueberries can do no wrong. Ranging from high antioxidant yield to helping memory and anti-aging, the positive qualities of this berry seem to be endless. Please enjoy this treat with friends and family. Best regards, Chef Shaun



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

Ingredients

¾ cup sugar
3 Tbs flour
6 cups fresh blueberries
Juice from one lemon
¾ cup flour
¾ cup brown sugar
½ cup (1 stick) cold unsalted butter, cubed in ½-inch squares
1½ cups rolled oats
½ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon salt
Vanilla ice cream

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish with nonstick spray.
3. In a large bowl, mix the sugar and 3 tablespoons of flour. Add the blueberries and lemon juice

and gently toss. Transfer the blueberries to the prepared baking dish.

4. In a food processor, add the ¾ cup flour, brown sugar, and butter and pulse the ingredients until it resembles coarse meal. If you don't have a food processor, work the mixture with your fingers by rubbing the butter into the dry ingredients using your thumb and fingers.
5. Place the mixture in a large sealable plastic bag. Add the oats, cinnamon, and salt. Seal the bag, and mix the ingredients by shaking the bag for a few seconds.
6. Sprinkle the mixture evenly over the berries.
7. Bake for 45 minutes or until the topping is slightly brown. Serve the crisp hot or cold with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Servings: 12

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Facts for the May 8, 2018 Bond Election

Kalamazoo Public Schools

On Tuesday, May 8, 2018, voters in Kalamazoo Public Schools will be asked to vote on a bond issue to update the district's buildings and equipment.

Q: What is on the ballot?

A: Kalamazoo Public Schools is asking the public to support a \$96.7 million bond issue. This bond issue provides funds to:

- Replace outdated facilities and equipment such as roofs, boilers, parking lots, lighting, windows, and buses (46% of the total bond);
- Improve/replace technology (10%);
- Replace Edison Environmental Science Academy (27%);
- Improve security in schools by modifying entrances and adding/replacing cameras (4%);
- Construct an addition to Phoenix High School (7%);
- Construct a districtwide kitchen (5%); and
- Fund mandatory costs related to the issuance of bonds (1%).

Q: Was the community surveyed to assess support for this proposal?

A: Yes. EPIC-MRA, an independent consulting firm, surveyed likely May voters. When respondents were asked how likely they would be to support a bond proposal of \$117 million with a tax increase of 1.5 mills, 71 percent were supportive. Seventy-six percent were supportive of a proposal of \$87 million with a tax increase of 1.0 mill, while 79 percent were supportive of a proposal of \$68 million with a tax increase of 0.5 mills.

Q: How much would this millage cost taxpayers?

A: If approved, this proposal would increase tax rates by 1.25 mills compared with 2017-18, which would cost the owner of a \$100,000 house \$62.50 per year.

Q: Why replace outdated facilities and equipment?

A: The facilities and equipment used by Kalamazoo Public Schools are public property. The district has a duty to upgrade and replace items on a timely basis. If not addressed, serious issues could develop that would negatively affect the learning environment and/or create safety issues. Delaying certain replacements, such as roofs, could result in significantly greater costs to taxpayers.

Q: Why improve and replace technology?

A: Technology is critical to the learning process. Students need up-to-date technology to gain the educational experiences required to prepare for a 21st century world and job market.

Q: Why is Edison Environmental Science Academy recommended for replacement?

A: TowerPinkster, a local architectural and engineering firm, assessed the district's facilities and found that Edison was in the greatest need of replacement of all district facilities.

Q: Why do we need to improve security?

A: Keeping students safe is a critical issue for schools. In a number of cases, school security can be improved by relocating main entrances, so visitors enter directly into offices rather than student-occupied areas. Security cameras need to be replaced and added where appropriate.

Q: Why is the addition to Phoenix High School needed?

A: Space is limited at Phoenix High School. This project includes the addition of four classrooms. It also includes construction of a gymnasium and locker rooms, which do not presently exist in the facility and are needed in a high school.

Q: Why construct a districtwide kitchen?

A: A districtwide kitchen would increase the opportunity for scratch cooking and create a more efficient operation. As a result, food quality would improve.

Q: What would be the impact to Kalamazoo Public Schools if this bond question does not pass?

A: Most of the projects funded by this bond are basic needs. Without the bond, these projects would still need to be addressed and would be paid through the general budget, which would require cutting educational programs and services for students.

Q: When is the last day to register to vote?

A: The last day to register to vote in this election is April 9, 2018.

Q: How can I find out where I vote?

A: You can find where to vote at the Secretary of State website (www.mich.gov/vote). Voting locations are also available from the clerk's office in the city or township in which you reside. These offices can be reached at: City of Kalamazoo, (269) 337-8793; Oshtemo Township, (269) 216-5224; Kalamazoo Township, (269) 381-8080; and Texas Township, (269) 978-0710.

Q: Can I vote by absentee ballot?

A: Absentee ballots may be requested from the city or township clerk where you reside.

Please vote in this election. The polls will be open from

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

Milwood Magnet School Launches Mid-day Tutoring, Homework Lab

There are a lot of after-school tutoring programs, but Milwood Magnet School is now offering homework help and drop-in tutoring during the day for students.

The program began in October and is coordinated by Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo.

“We talked to parents and teachers about what students are really having trouble with and it was homework,” said Missy Best, the senior CIS site coordinator at Milwood. “The students say they can’t remember how to do it or they don’t have the supplies to do the work.”

Best said she modeled the program after drop-in tutoring labs at the college level.

One January afternoon, students had stopped by the tutoring and homework lab to work on everything from an essay on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to reading to math homework.

The tutoring runs during the lunch hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. It had been offered just two days a week, but students asked CIS to expand the program to three days. It is run by CIS staff such as Shannon Jones, a former math teacher, and volunteers like Dr. Jim Zhu, a Western Michigan University mathematics professor. They work with the students one-on-one or in small groups.

Zhu, who is a WMU liaison to the schools, said he was interested in volunteering in the schools because he wanted to help students and to see what was happening in the educational “pipelines.”

Zhu said he’s happy to help the students work through problems, because from his own experience as a parent, he knows the power of practice when it comes to math.

“It’s not enough to teach concepts. Students have to practice,” Zhu said. “It makes a huge difference. What makes learning

math work is the practice.”

Student Arrianna Jentink-Briston, a seventh grader, said she often comes for math help, but she also appreciates the space because it’s a nice quiet

place to work. She’s used it to finishing missing homework or to work on poems.

“There are different tutors. They actually help and explain things,” she said.



Western Michigan University professor Dr. Jim Zhu works with Annabelle Moran in the Milwood Magnet School lunch-time tutoring lab.



Shannon Jones, the CIS afterschool coordinator, works with Alexandria Caldwell during the lunch lab.



Arianna Jentink-Briston works on a poem during the tutoring and homework lab.

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Students Honor Parkland Victims on March 14

Here are words and images taken from around Kalamazoo Public Schools on March 14, when students participated in events to remember the victims of the Parkland, Fla., shooting. The day included high school students gathering outside of their buildings and holding 17-minute ceremonies that included speakers and symbolic memorials for the students and staff shot to death by a student at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland on Feb. 14.

Elementary school students engaged in a number of activities to mark the day. Among the activities held at the elementary schools:

- Holding a moment of silence;
- Reciting poetry;
- Performing peace songs;
- Writing inspirational messages on the school sidewalks or tracks;
- Sharing anti-bullying messages; and
- Participating in random acts of kindness and sharing



Washington Writers' Academy on March 14.



Arcadia Elementary School students decorated a tree with messages of kindness and streamers on March 14.



Students with their mouths taped represent the silenced voices of the Parkland shooting victims. They also lit candles during the National School Walkout.

kind words.

“The high school events are profoundly different than the middle school events, which are profoundly different than the elementary school events,” said Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. “This is a very different experience at the elementary level.”

Below are some of the words students and staff shared on March 14:

Kalamazoo Central

Student speakers addressed the crowd and one student performed a song. Students wore orange and released balloons with the names of the victims.

“We’re tired of being told that nothing can be done about the thousands of lives being lost. I’m here to tell the world that we are done being silenced, done being told now is not the time to talk about guns. We are

joining with our fellow students across the country to say never again and enough is enough. ...

“Gun violence isn’t only an issue in schools. It can happen anywhere. There are thousands of people who have been lost due to gun violence and we will not let them be forgotten.”

— KC Senior Jenna Bowker

“Our voices have power, and our power will inspire this country. Even if this change

that we inspire doesn’t come at the snap of our fingers, with persistence, with our work ethic, and with our voice we will make change to make America better, safer and overall great.”

— KC freshman Olivia Jackson

Loy Norrix High School

At Loy Norrix, students filed out of the school holding posters. Seventeen students stood in the middle of the foot-

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Students Honor Parkland Victims on March 14 (continued from page 12)



Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center students hold a moment of silence on March 14.



Lincoln International Studies School students created a giant peace symbol on the school grounds as part of National School Walkout events.

ball stadium, with their mouths taped shut and marked with #enough, to represent the silenced voices of those who were killed in Florida.

“We go to school on a daily basis expecting it to be just another normal day of learning, counting down the minutes until the bell rings and quickly doing the homework you didn’t do the night before. That’s what the students and faculty thought at Marjory Stoneman

Douglas High School on Feb. 14. They thought it was just another day, but instead they were targeted by gun violence. Seventeen people lost their lives that day. Seventeen people were killed because a person decided to buy a gun, and with no real obstacles, he brought it into his school to commit a mass murder.

“Because of that senseless act of violence, 17 families will never be the same, and the sur-

vivors of this tragedy will never be able to go to school without the utter fear that this may happen again. Truth be told, it could happen to any school at any time. That is why we are here today. We are standing up for those 17 victims. We are standing up for our safety. We are standing up and saying we will take no more, because these are our families, our friends, and our own lives at stake.”

— LN senior Alina Offerman

Chenery Auditorium

Students from several elementary schools from the region were at the auditorium to attend a performance by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. Judy D’Arcangelis, KPS director of elementary education, addressed the students before the concert began.

“Today, we join thousands of students and staff members across the United States and other countries, to think about peace within ourselves, our families, our schools, and our communities.”

— Judy D’Arcangelis, KPS director of elementary education.

She invited students to stand if able and to observe a moment of silence. D’Arcangelis was joined on stage by students who said, “We stand for peace in our lives, in our schools and in our community. We stand for kindness toward others and toward ourselves. We stand to acknowledge the importance of caring for one another and helping each other to be safe and happy. We stand for a peaceful world.”

Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts

Principal Micole Dyson talked to the children about promoting “peace and kindness today and forever.” Art teacher Cambray TrapHagan read the poem “Peace Is Kind,” from AnitaPoems.com.

*Since the day of your birth,
We have hoped for peace on earth.
You can help, by doing your part,
We know you can, because you’re smart.
For peace to happen, we cannot fight,
Help each other, and be polite.
When there’s a problem, let’s just talk,
Sometimes peace just needs a walk.
All you need to spread the word,
Get some help from your dog or bird.
Peace is something you will find,
Start with yourself, and be very kind.*



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BRONSON Sports Medicine

Art Competition and Book Bowl Take on Social Justice Themes in January

Linden Grove Middle School and Loy Norrix High School students swept the Western Michigan University 2018 Martin Luther King Jr Celebration Social Justice Book Bowl.

The preliminary round of the event was held at Linden Grove, and the finals took place at Western Michigan University on Jan. 13. The Social Justice Book Bowl encourages literacy and exposes students to titles focused on social justice, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

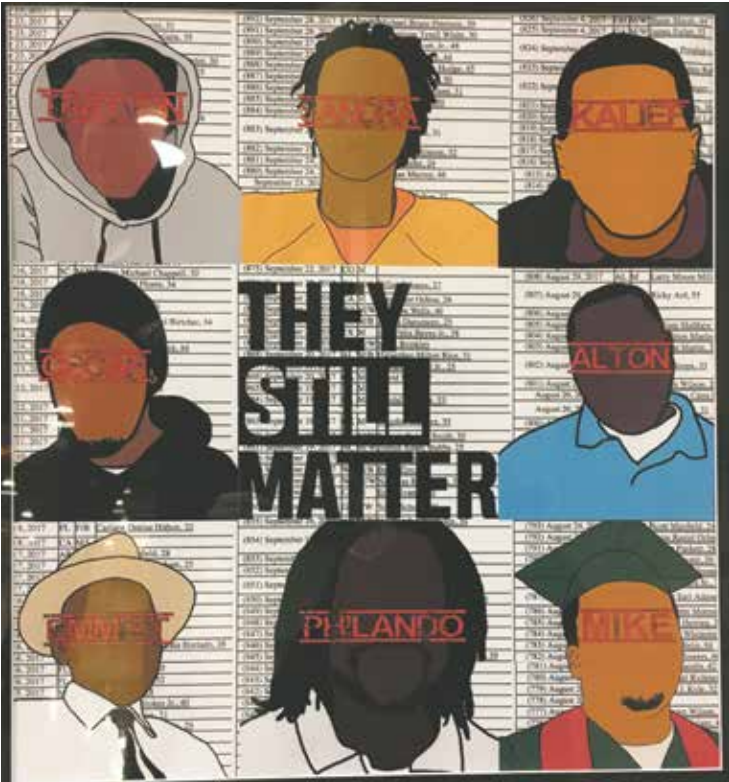
Linden Grove teams won both middle school Social Justice Book Bowl competitions. The Red Grounds and No White Flag team of Isaiah Hawkes, Wallace Tatara, Ingrid Gardner and Emilee Rudlaff won the

sixth grade contest. The Light on Liberty team won the seventh and eighth grade competition. Team members are: Olive Tatara, Mollie McDonald, Claire Beougher, and Rebekah He.

The teams were coached by Lori Burrell and Shannon Sheets.

Sixth graders read the nonfiction book “Uprooted: the Japanese American Experience,” by Albert Martin and the novel “Red Berries, White Clouds,” by Sandra Dallas. Seventh and eighth graders read the nonfiction book “In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents and Five Black Lives,” by Kenneth C. Davis and the novel “Crossing Ebenezer Creek,” by Tonya Bolden.

Loy Norrix won the high



“They Still Matter,” by Kiara Ford

school contest. The Loy Norrix Freedom Readers — Maya Goggans, Elijah Anderson, Alexis Weeden, and Samantha Shaffer — won the ninth and 10th grade contest. The Knight Readers — Tihnae Bennett, Ferren Olmstead, Ava Stoops, and Naomi Verne — won the 11th and 12th grade contest.

The Loy Norrix teams were coached by Sveri Stromstra-May and Erin Middleton.

The ninth and 10th graders read the nonfiction books “March,” (Books 1, 2, and 3) by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin and the novel “Loving vs. Virginia,” by Patricia Hruby Powell and Shadra Strickland. Eleventh and 12th graders read the nonfiction book “Every Falling Star,” by Sunju Lee and Susan Elizabeth McClelland, and the novel “Everything I Never Told You,” by Celeste Ng.

The Second Annual Western Michigan University Social Justice Art Competition was held in conjunction with the Book Bowl. Dozens of students entered, with 24 being named finalists, and grand prizes going to:

- Kalamazoo Central senior Kiara Ford for her digital image, “They Still Matter;”
- Loy Norrix sophomore Anthony Chupp for his graphite on paper, titled “Resilience;” and

- Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts seventh grader Aanje Greymountain, for “War Bonnet,” a piece using watercolor, colored pencil and gel pens.

The grand prize winners received artist portfolios and pencil cases. The students were honored at the WMU MLK Day festivities, with their teachers Julie LaBudda, Gayle Crittenden, and Kellen Deau in attendance.

Enroll in The Loy Norrix Child Care Center for 2017-18

Is your child ready for pre-school? The Loy Norrix Child Care Center, a five-star rated Kalamazoo County Ready 4s program, is accepting applications for childcare and pre-school for 2017-18.

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 \$155 a week for full-time care,

\$100 a week for half-day care, and \$42 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 Mary Hentschl-Early at (269) 337-0264, or email hentschl_earlym@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



LNCCC is open to any child, regardless of residency.

Michigan STARTALK Chinese Academy

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More information: moimooi.lew@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3465.



Sunny Days: Therapy Dog's Visits Add a Layer of Calm to Classrooms

Sometimes what a child needs most is unconditional acceptance, and at Northeastern Elementary School there is someone who can provide that.

Sunny.
The 18-month-old Golden Retriever has been visiting with classrooms at Northeastern Elementary School for the past few months as comfort dog. Along with his owner, Dr. Angela Moe, Sunny is in the school as a calming and encouraging influence on children.

"Thank you Sunny for coming," fifth grader Jasmine Cole wrote in a thank you note to Moe and Sunny. "Sunny is the best ever."

To earn those accolades, he had to do nothing more than lay in the hallway, while his hordes of fans wave and hope that he'll look their way. Everyone wants to be near him. And, he's fine with that.

Actually, that calm is the hallmark of a good therapy dog, said Moe, who is a professor of sociology at Western Michigan University. Working with Sunny, she said, is a culmination of her work in holistic health, child welfare, and trauma.

Sunny became a certified therapy dog in August through Pet Partners. He's worked at Northeastern as well as

Mattawan Consolidated Schools and the Children's Advocacy Center.

Therapy dogs like Sunny are exposed to as many people and situations as possible as puppies to help them acclimate to their roles. They begin official obedience training at four months. Ultimately, what programs and trainers are looking for are dogs that are unlikely to startle easily.

"They want a dog that goes with the flow," Moe said.

At Northeastern, Sunny does just that. He waits patiently through all the pats and sitting quietly as children walk by and occasionally reach out to give him a pat with Moe's permission. He can sit respectfully while Moe reads a storybook, and he'll take to the leash for a stroll around a classroom.

His calm, and the calm of any therapy dog, is contagious. Children who work with therapy dogs show slowed heart rates and experience feelings of well being, Moe said.

"Dogs just provide unconditional support for children who may not always get the support they deserve," Moe said. "Children just want to interact with someone. This makes them feel like they have a connection."



William Walker offers Sunny a treat while his owner Dr. Angela Moe looks on.

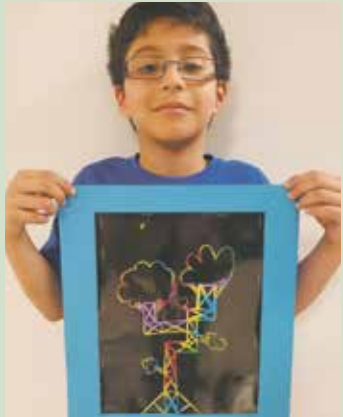
Artists' Corner

Cambray TrapHagan, art teacher at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts, shared four images this month, showing the range of works her students are producing. Third grader Dennis Allen-Wormack's "Lizard in the

Rainforest," is an example of mixed-media collage. Fourth grader Axel Cervantes-Amates shares his etching of a stylized tree. Second grader Elijah Dixon created a still life with markers and paint. Kindergartener Cecelia Wassink displays a colorful clown drawing.



Dennis Allen-Wormack



Axel Cervantes-Amates



Elijah Dixon



Cecelia Wassink

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Sky Kids Club Astronauts - May 12th



What do you need to take with you into space? Kids can make their own spacesuits, learn about space food, and practice fixing their spaceship during a fun "spacewalk" activity!

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