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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, Nov. 8 & 29, 2018
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.
For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

Nov. 2
Grades 6-12
No School

Nov. 5-8
Grades K-5 conferences
Check w/ school
for schedule

Nov. 8-9
Grades K-5
Half Day

Nov. 8-9
No PEEP

Nov. 21-23
Thanksgiving Recess
No School

Nov. 27
Grades 9-12 Exams
Full Day

Nov. 28-29
Grades 9-12 Exams
Half Day

Nov. 30
Grades 6-12
No School

Windows and Mirrors: Giving Books to Help Children Understand Themselves, the World

Books provide children with windows into new worlds and experiences, but they also can be mirrors – reflections of them and their lives. Sometimes, however, books and libraries do not do a good job of reflecting the faces and circumstances of young readers. Research from the Cooperative Children’s Book Center says picture book readers are more likely to see books with trucks or animals as the main characters rather than children like themselves – if they are Native American, Latino, Asian Pacific or African American.



Kamille Briggs, left, and Olivia Witteveen huddle in a reading nook in Dayon Brook’s classroom at Winchell Elementary School.

Kalamazoo Public Schools has launched an effort to create culturally diverse classroom li-

braries in its schools. Last year, the district spearheaded the “Mirrors of Me: Children Seeing Themselves in Their Literature” conference in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Education, Kalamazoo RESA, Michigan Association of School Boards, Middle Cities Education Association, Reading Now Network, Michigan Association of School Administrators, and Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals. As an extension of that event, the district is working to evaluate books and add new diverse reading choices to book collections in classrooms. “We know our students come from diverse backgrounds,”
(continued on page 4)

KPS / KPL OneCard is Here!

Kalamazoo Public Schools and the Kalamazoo Public Library have unveiled the new OneCard, a combined student ID and library card, which will provide all KPS students with access to the public library’s resources, such as books, audiobooks, computers, and online programs. Middle school and high school students can now use their student IDs as library cards. Elementary school students have been given printed OneCards. As an added bonus, the library will



waive all existing fees and fines for student library card holders on a one-time basis when they enroll in the OneCard program. For more information on the OneCard, visit www.kpl.gov/onecard/. “Your dreams, the dreams you have for your lives are all
(continued on page 5)



Sophia Slate, left, and Mariah Blanks talked about reading and using the library at the unveiling of the OneCard at Washington Writers’ Academy.

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

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

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Six Happy Facts at the Beginning of the School Year

Happy news! Several weeks into the new school year, here are some happy Kalamazoo Public Schools facts.

(1) 13,250 students...and counting. KPS enrollment rose this fall for the 11th time in the last 13 years since the beginning of the Kalamazoo Promise in November 2005. With approximately 13,250 students in pre-K-12, KPS enrollment is at its highest level since the early 1980s. We have grown by more than 25 percent in our enrollment in the last 13 years. Thanks to our teachers, support staff, administrators, board of education, and community partners for their efforts to improve our schools on behalf of children.

(2) 692 graduates...and counting. In June 2005, five months before the Kalamazoo Promise was announced, 454 students graduated from KPS high schools. This summer, 692 students graduated, an increase of more than 50 percent. Again,

thanks to our teachers, support staff, administrators, board of education, and community partners for their efforts in this area.

(3) 413 mentors, 1,168 mentees...and counting. Three years ago, KPS began small-group mentoring for KPS students. Last year, 413 staff and community mentors mentored 1,168 students in 9,572 weekly mentoring sessions! Thanks to the staff members and mentors that have supported our children through mentoring in the last few years. Thanks to the following mentoring partners: Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Kids Hope, Stones Church, Centerpoint Church, Elizabeth Upjohn Community Healing Center, Galilee Baptist



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Church, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Kiwanis Club, Milwood Community Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, New Life Fellowship Church of God in Christ, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Rotary Club of Kalamazoo, Trenches Community Church, Voyage Church, and Western Michigan University.

If your organization would like to explore mentoring KPS students, please contact Jesse Herron at herronjt@kalamazoopublicschools.net.

(4) OneCard...and reading. KPS and the Kalamazoo Public Library launched OneCard, a partnership that permits all KPS students to have access to the public library and to have any outstanding fines waived on a one-time basis. Thousands of KPS elementary school students will receive KPL library cards in October and November. Thousands of KPS middle and high school students have received KPL access with their

Thanks to the staff members and community organizations and mentors that have supported our children through mentoring in the last few years.

student IDs this fall. Thanks to Ryan Wieber, Susan Warner, Kevin King, and the entire KPL team!

(5) Six...and singing. Congratulations to KPS graduates Chelsea Chavez, Reynardo Dixon, Curt Johnson, Jalen McPherson, and Brooklyn Washington and Kalamazoo Central student Phillip Marion, all of whom were among the more than 100 people who auditioned in the WOTV Idol contest and who were among the 20 selected for the finals on Oct. 3 and 4. Curt Johnson and Jalen McPherson advanced to

the Final 5 in the competition, which serves as a screener for American Idol TV show. Congratulations to them all... and thanks to our music teachers who have helped nurture and develop their talent!

(6) 5,200 students...and counting. Wow! More than 5,200 KPS graduates have benefitted from Kalamazoo Promise scholarships since 2005. On behalf of thousands of Kalamazoo families, great thanks to the Kalamazoo Promise donors for their visionary and generous philanthropy!

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Reading and Riding Club Puts Students on the Road to Achievement

Kids like bikes, and Northeastern Elementary School parent liaison O’Neal Ollie is using that fact to encourage students to read more and to explore math concepts.

For the third year, Ollie has organized the school’s Reading and Riding Book Club. Students work on bikes, go for trail rides, and read books about bikes and bike safety. They learn math skills by mapping routes and calculating distances.

“It’s simple, kids read more about things they’re interested in,” Ollie said. “And it doesn’t take a doctor to know kids need more exercise. From the health standpoint, all kids should be out riding their bikes.”

The program is popular enough to draw returning club members, such as fifth-grader Anthony Kelley and fourth-grader Armon Coy.

“It’s fun to learn about bikes and how they work,” Anthony said. “And I get to ride my bike.”

Armon said, “I think it’s pretty fun, and I like helping



Armon Coy, left, checks out a tire, while Open Roads Program Manager Dave Brown talks with Naequan Woody-Atkins.

the little kids. I can encourage them.” Armon said the club helped him replace the brakes, inner tubes and seat on his bike.

Each session of the club kicks off with a bike repair workshop with Open Roads, a Kalamazoo youth development nonprofit that teaches social skills through bike mechanics.

This year Open Roads program manager Dave Brown, mechanic and social skills instructor Aaron Kosobucki, mechanic Lily Lewis, and junior

instructor Drew Shanafelt, who is a Kalamazoo Central student, worked with students during the club’s first meeting of the year.

Open Roads is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. It’s known in the community for its Earn-A-Bike program, in which children can refurbish and earn bikes that have been donated by the community. The program also holds Fixapaloozas, community gatherings at which participants can learn about bike maintenance and tune-up their



An empty classroom is turned into a bike repair shop for Northeastern Elementary School’s Reading and Riding Book Club. In the foreground, Jaida Davis works with Drew Shanafelt, an Open Roads junior instructor. Shanafelt is a student at Kalamazoo Central.



Open Roads Program Manager Dave Brown works on a bike with Rajhane Reese-Compton at the Northeastern Elementary School Reading and Riding Program.

bikes with free bike parts. Their volunteer work at Northeastern is a variation on the Fixapalooza.

“We’re teaching basic bike mechanics to prepare them for their future,” Brown said.

November Mobile Health and Dental Clinic Schedules

The Family Health Center Mobile Health Clinic and Mobile Dental Clinic serve Kalamazoo Public Schools students and their families. The medical clinic provides physicals, immunizations, and well-child visits, among other services, while the dental clinic can clean teeth and provide sealants. The clinics take insurance and offer a sliding scale fee. Below are the November schedules for the clinics. Schedules are subject to change. For more information, visit www.fhckzoo.com/mobile-units, call (269) 349-2641, or contact the Community in

Schools of Kalamazoo office at your school.

Mobile Health Schedule

Nov. 6-7 Northeastern
Nov. 8 Adult Education
Nov. 12-13 Northglade
Nov. 26-27 Prairie Ridge
Nov. 28-29 Linden Grove

Mobile Dental Schedule

Oct. 29-30 Lincoln
Oct. 31, Nov. 2 King-Westwood
Nov. 5-6 Spring Valley
Nov. 7-8 Milwood Magnet
Nov. 9 Loy Norrix
Nov. 12-13 Woodward
Nov. 14-16 Linden Grove
Nov. 28-29 Northeastern

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(continued from page 1)

A photograph of four students sitting on a wooden bench in a library. In the foreground, two girls are reading books. The girl on the left is wearing a red and blue plaid shirt and glasses, pointing at a book. The girl next to her is wearing a grey shirt with a cat graphic. In the background, two boys are also reading books. The boy on the left is wearing a grey t-shirt and shorts, and the boy on the right is wearing a red t-shirt and black pants. They are surrounded by colorful pillows and bookshelves filled with books.

“You want children to feel like they are part of this world and they can make a difference,” Justice said. “Your circumstances don’t define who you are. You ultimately define who you are and who you will become.”



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Kalamazoo Public Schools welcomes all students and staff of any religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability.

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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KPS / KPL OneCard is Here! (continued from page 1)

wrapped up in how well you do in school, and how well you do in school depends upon how well you read. That's why we're here today," KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice told students at Washington Writers' Academy, which hosted a kickoff event for the OneCard. "The OneCard program, which is a partnership between KPS and the Kalamazoo Public Library, is an opportunity for you to get all the books that you want out of the Kalamazoo Public Library.

"The OneCard program will give you a library card, and it will give you the opportunity to get all of the books that you want out of that library and to become smarter and smarter and smarter. You're already smart, the job for you is to become smarter — and you become smarter by reading, and reading a lot."

KPL Director Ryan Wieber said our culture is facing a growing crisis, with fewer and fewer people choosing to read books.

"With every passing year, fewer children know what it means to pick up a book, turn



Kalamazoo Public Library Director Ryan Wieber tells Washington Writers' Academy students about the OneCard, a combined student ID and public library card.

the page, and read it from start to finish," Wieber said at the Washington event. "It's so important to be able to pick up a book and have that patience and ability to turn every page and to enjoy the story that way.

"We can choose to passively be satisfied with this discouraging and destructive trend, or we can choose to think outside the box to work together as a community and do something. The schools, KPS, and this library are

choosing to do something about it. The OneCard is only part of the solution."

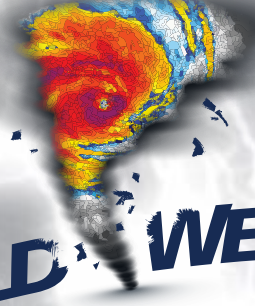
The library board approved a memorandum of agreement on March 26. The KPS Board of Education approved the agreement on April 12.

The joint effort will enrich school instruction by providing children with access to supplemental resources, reducing barriers to registering for library cards, promoting usage of the

public library, and building an appreciation for reading.

The Kalamazoo Public Library and Kalamazoo Public Schools have a long-standing partnership to promote literacy and reading. All KPS first graders visit a public library branch three times during the school year to learn how to check out books. The library-school district partnership also includes the First Saturday program, a monthly family literacy celebration; promotion of the library summer reading program; and KPS participation in the KPL Party in the Park, an annual event promoting early childhood reading.

"The OneCard will provide accessibility to library books and resources to those who may have difficulties or barriers," Wieber said. "Its goals are simple: to encourage visits to the library, to inspire joy of reading, to motivate in kids the desire to get lost in a book and wrapped in a story, to learn about different worlds and, yes, to even improve lives. Reading opens doors today and provides opportunities tomorrow."



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Making Promises for the Future at Promise Signing Days

Kalamazoo Public Schools kindergarteners and their parents pledged to work hard to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise at the Promise Signing Days this fall.

The now-annual celebrations, Promise Signing Days encourage families to acknowledge the work and commitment that it takes to prepare a student — starting in kindergarten — to graduate from high school.

KPS Superintendent Michael Rice and Kalamazoo Promise Executive Director Bob Jorth attended the Promise Signing Day at Northeastern Elementary School. The event was held in conjunction with the school open house.

“Every student who graduates from KPS has a shot at a KPS scholarship called the Kalamazoo Promise, an opportunity to extend their opportunities in life, but we need our parents and our grandparents to help us out,” KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice told Northeastern adults. “We need our parents and our



KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice, right, and Kalamazoo Promise Executive Director Bob Jorth greet kindergarteners and their parents at the Promise Signing Day at Northeastern. Waiting for their certificates are Ezra Dunnigan and his father Michael Dunnigan, and Khloe Diebold.



Princess Johnson shows off her Promise Signing Day Certificate at Northeastern Elementary School.

grandparents to pour into our children every day to help them learn how to read and write and do math.”

At the signing days, families pledged to support and encourage their students by helping with homework and reading, the school district promised to create a positive learning environment, and the Kalamazoo Promise office

promised to pay the students’ college tuition upon high school graduation.

The Kalamazoo Promise is a scholarship for Kalamazoo Public Schools’ graduates. The amount of the scholarship varies depending on how long the student has continuously attended KPS and resided in the district. For students who

attend KPS from kindergarten through 12th grade, the Promise pays all tuition and mandatory fees at all public universities and colleges and most private schools in Michigan.

Jorth told the audience that the Kalamazoo Promise has given scholarships to 13 classes of graduates. The Promise has awarded more than 5,200

scholarships totaling \$108 million to KPS graduates.

“This is a real deal for you and these kindergarteners,” Jorth said. “I am so excited to see another class starting with this future, this hope.”

For more information about the Kalamazoo Promise, visit www.kalamazoopromise.com or call (269) 337-0037.

FALL AT THE KIA



ART HOP: Friday, November 2
5-8p / FREE / Explore, enjoy, and create art

TEEN NIGHT: Friday, November 9
6-8p / \$2 / Pizza, pop, pals & art

ART DETECTIVES: Saturday, November 11
10:30a-12p / FREE / For kids 4-8 with an adult

FILM AT THE KIA: Thursday, November 9
6:30-8p / \$5 / Students \$2 / children free

SEASONAL WORKSHOPS

Sun 11/4 Glass Ornaments, 12-5p
Sun 11/11 Parent & Child Ornaments, 1-4p
Wed 11/14 Boxwood Wreath Design, 6-8p
Fri 11/16 Greeting Card Printmaking, 6-9p
Thur 12/6 Bird-Lover's Wreath Design, 6-8p
Tues 12/11 Holiday Arrangement Design, 6-8p

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Kalamazoo Promise Continues Giving, Supporting Students

The Kalamazoo Promise has spent about \$108 million on scholarships for more than 5,200 Kalamazoo Public Schools graduates — and expects to spend another \$16 million this year.

The Kalamazoo Promise is a scholarship program that provides Kalamazoo Public Schools resident graduates with funds to pay for post-secondary education tuition and fees. The scholarship covers up to 100 percent of tuition and fees at most Michigan colleges and universities, depending on a student's length of continuous residency and attendance in the KPS system.

The Promise continues to grow both in terms of the awards given, its organizational structure, and its goals, said Bob Jorth, executive director of the Kalamazoo Promise.

Jorth sat down recently with the Excelsior to talk about the latest news about the Promise.

Excelsior: How much has the Promise provided in terms of scholarships?

Jorth: More than 5,200 students have used the Kalamazoo Promise, which has spent about \$108 million. This year, the Promise projects spending another \$16 million on scholarships.

Excelsior: What do the statistics look like in terms of graduates using the Promise?

Jorth: The start rate (for college) in the state of Michigan is about 80 percent. Our start rate is close to 95 percent. Our start rate is off the charts really. Our



Caide Lawson, a kindergartener at Northeastern Elementary School, attended the Kalamazoo Promise Signing Day.

completion rates are at about 42 percent for six years, which is pretty close to the national average, but double for like school districts, which are urban, high poverty and high numbers of minorities. What we're looking at is a goal of a 60 percent graduation rate within 10 years of high school graduation — because that's what we're giving them in terms of a timeline.

Excelsior: How do you get there?

Jorth: There are a lot of things we need to do. One of our biggest subgroups is students who start college and who haven't finished anything. Depending when you count and how you count there's somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000 of those students. So, if we can reduce that population, we can increase the completion rate.

We think the best opportunity to increase that rate isn't so much with bachelor degrees, al-

though we can definitely improve that. It's the other credentials that are being underutilized. We don't have a lot of students who get certificates, and certificates can lead to great jobs such as in welding, medical technology, and wind energy.

We've added three positions to help with completion. Angelita Aguilar is the director of credential completion. Sarah Klerk is the director of business collaborations. Cykeia Lee is the director of community collaboration; she's really looking at the whole birth to 12 continuum. We're going to be adding Promise Pathway Coaches, who will work primarily with high school students to get them ready to access the Promise and work with students into the first year of college to help them make that transition.

Excelsior: What barriers do students face in completing college?

Jorth: The research nationally, and it's supported with our own results, is that students who wait more than a year to start college are not very successful with completing. We know it's important to get them engaged sooner. There are students that realistically aren't ready to start. We need to deal with that in a more effective way.

Excelsior: What are some new ways to support those students?

Jorth: Four or five years ago, the Promise agreed to pay an additional fee at KVCC for every student that is there, so they could add specific personnel to support Promise students. There are nearly two full-time staff at KVCC to assist students. They developed a similar position at Western Michigan University two years ago. We require all students that attend those two schools to attend an initial meeting before we start the award process for them. What we're trying to do is concentrate on students who are having academic problems after the first year.

KVCC is launching KVAAP, the Kalamazoo Valley Accelerated Associate Program. It's based on a model out of New York that's almost doubled the completion rate for community college students. It involves support services,

transportation, and rewards for signing up for support sessions. Students sign a contract with the goal of completing an associate's degree within three years.

Excelsior: What's next for the Promise?

Jorth: The donors are very happy with their investment. That's our understanding. So they just announced the new building that we're moving into. They've also agreed to this increase in staff to help us get a little more engaged and a little more hands on. They're a little more willing to invest more money to support students to improve the results. That's actually a compliment that we're glad to take.

Excelsior: Is there anything else you'd like families to know?

Jorth: There are only two forms to sign to receive the Promise. We try to get the applications in, in the fall, and we started distributing them at high school registration. The second form can't be submitted until you've made a decision about where you're going to attend, have applied, and been accepted. It is a legal release that allows us to talk to the college about the student. If people have questions, they should call our office at (269) 337-0037.

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Artists' Corner

Students in Rebecca Carter's Drawing Studio class at Kalamazoo Central High School were inspired by street artist Banksy to create their own stencils. Students began the process by finding selfies to transform into stencils. Using the computer, students converted the selfies into a high-contrast photos. Students then created contour line drawings of their photos using the grid method. When the drawings were complete, students "cut out the black" creating stencils, which they used to create the final images with spray paint.



Brian White, ninth grade



Jerica Bradford, ninth grade



Jenna McLean, 11th grade



Marlon McRae, 10th grade

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Cranberry Ricotta Pancakes

Happy autumn, Kalamazoo! During these cold November mornings, a nice warm pancake can start off the morning right. Please try this cranberry-flavored pancake with friends and family. Best regards, Chef Shaun

Ingredients

2 cups ricotta cheese
1 cup dried cranberries
2 cups flour
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 cups whole milk
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
6 eggs (separate egg whites from yolks and set aside)

Directions

1. Separate eggs. Set aside the whites for use in the recipe and



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

save the yolks for another use.
2. Mix all ingredients except the egg whites in a mixing bowl.
3. Beat the egg whites until they form stiff peaks, and fold them into the mixture.
4. Using a ladle, pour batter onto a buttered griddle and cook until golden brown on both sides. The batter can also be cooked in a greased waffle iron.

Servings: 4-6

Enroll in The Loy Norrix Child Care Center for 2018-19

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 2018-19.

The center is located inside Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road. Open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., LNCCC offers full-day and half-day enrollment, as well as a daily rate. Tuition

is \$160 a week for full-time care, \$105 a week for half-day care, and \$43 a day. Two snacks and lunch are provided for full-time students.

The school accepts 3- and 4-year-olds. Students must be toilet-trained. School district residency is not required for the program, which is open to the public.

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

LNCCC is open to any child, regardless of residency.



KC, KAMSC Senior Named National Merit Semifinalist

Congratulations to senior Rachel Mei Lanting for being named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

Lanting attends Kalamazoo Central High School and the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

She is a member of the KC National Honor Society and is a board member for the organization Students for Gun Legislation.

Lanting is also an accomplished pianist and oboist. She won third place at the 2018 IPFW Gene Marcus Piano Competition and was a state semifinalist in the Michigan Music Teachers Association competition in 2016, 2017, and 2018. She was also a finalist for the Bravo! Music competition in 2018. She performed with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra and the KJSO Ensemble Program from 2015 to 2018.

The National Merit Scholarship Competition honors academically talented high school students, who are named to the semifinalist ranks when they earn a PSAT score in the top 1.25 percent of all test results.

Her parents are Steven and Ashley Lanting.



Rachel Mei Lanting

KalamazooVALLEY Museum

ART HOP FRIDAYS

NOVEMBER 2 | 5 - 8PM

Connecting Chords Music Festival

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 10 | 12 - 4PM

Recycled Gifts

SUNDAY SERIES

NOVEMBER 11 | 1:30PM

Drones w/ Jeff Cachero

SENSORY SATURDAYS

NOVEMBER 17 | 11AM

Explaining the Diagnosis to My Friends and Family

PLANETARIUM & MUSIC LIGHT SHOWS

THRU NOVEMBER

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THRU DECEMBER 9

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THRU JANUARY 6

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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 Central Graduates Win Three Medals at National Leadership Conference

Kalamazoo Central High School FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) students won three medals at the annual FCCLA National Leadership Conference (NLC) held in Atlanta this summer.

Xavion Murphy-Gill competed in the Entrepreneurship event and earned a gold medal, and the team of Delores Shackelford and Assia Watson competed in the event of Life Event Planning earning silver medals. All three are 2018 graduates of Kalamazoo Central.

They earned the right to compete at the national event by winning their categories at the state level. The KC team is coached by teacher Lisa Boulding.

More than 7,500 FCCLA student leaders, members, and advisers attended the national competition held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, June 28 – July 2.

The conference provided Kalamazoo Central High School students opportunities to come together to listen to inspiring speakers, expand their leadership skills, sharpen their talents, and explore career pathways. The theme of this year's conference



Kalamazoo Central High School FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) alumni won three medals at the annual FCCLA National Leadership Conference (NLC) held in Atlanta this summer. They are, from the top, Delores Shackelford, Assia Watson, and Xavion Murphy-Gill.

was “Inspired by FCCLA,” which inspired attendees to make the right choices and commit themselves to making a positive impact within their families, schools, FCCLA, and communities.

Students participated in one of 30 Family and Consumer Sciences-related competitive

events offered at NLC, including STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events. These events support foundational, leadership, and workplace skills in areas such as advocacy, entrepreneurship, nutrition and wellness, and sports nutrition.

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members, and it's the only career and technical in-school student organization with a central focus on family.

"Mamma Mia!" Takes the Stage at Loy Norrix

Loy Norrix High School presents the sounds of the '70s with the jukebox musical, “Mamma Mia!” featuring the music of the Swedish pop group ABBA.

The fall musical runs 7 p.m. Nov. 9-10 and 15-17 and 3 p.m. Nov. 11. Tickets are \$12, or \$10 for seniors and students.

As Sophie prepares for her wedding, the one thing she wants is for her father to attend the celebration. The only problem is, her mother Donna doesn't know which of three past lovers is Sophie's father. Sophie rifles through her mother's diary and comes up with three likely candidates – and invites all of them to the wedding, much to her mother's dismay.

ABBA rose to fame after winning the Eurovision singing competition in 1974, eventually selling an estimated 400 million albums. The band members were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2010. Some of their hit songs featured in “Mamma Mia!” include: “Thank You for the Music,” “Dancing Queen,” “Super Trouper,” “S.O.S.,” “Does Your Mother Know,” and “Knowing Me, Knowing You.”

Cast members are: Abigail Hauke, Brooklyn Moore, Rebecca Thompson, Kendyl Kirshman,

Chris Aranda, Ben Sierra-Torres, Liam Braun, Aiden Beebe, Tyren Moore, James Hauke, Keegan Cameron, Katie Gray, Annabel Hemmer, Jillian Davis, Camille Bistrek, Ella Ledbetter-Newton, Zoe Shanahan, Kamryn Kimborough, Michaela Martin, J'Viohn Sirrine, Hannah Newhouse, Brendon Rice, Sean Flanagan, and Hollis Masterson.

Other ensemble members are: Sagan Barber, Kelsea Cameron, Kate DeYoung, Emily Edlefsen, Bella Ford, Emily Gallardo, Jessica Gray, Evalynn Hurley, Cameron Johnson, Anna Morris, Daniela Restrepo, Breyon Richards, Greta Salamun, Vivian Segovia-Perez, and Montana Thommes.

Paige Carrow is the stage director. Julie Pelligrino is the music director.



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Students Urged to Take Advantage of Right to Vote

The League of Women Voters – Kalamazoo Area visited with Kalamazoo Public high schools to register voters and present nonpartisan information about the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

Volunteers visited Loy Norrix, Kalamazoo Central and Phoenix high schools to register eligible voters and to present information about the ballot and the process one follows to vote – for instance, letting students know that the first time they vote in Michigan they are required to vote in person and cannot vote via absentee ballot.

The LWVKA was also scheduled to hold a mock election in the schools on Oct. 23, with ballots and tabulation machines, so students know what to expect when they visit their polling places.

Two of the Loy Norrix



League of Women Voters volunteer Elizabeth Amidon shows Marcos Mujica what his voter registration card will look like during a voter registration drive at Loy Norrix High School.

students who registered to vote during the LWVKA registration drivers were seniors Lillia Bistrek and Marcos Mujica.

Mujica said he stopped by the LWVKA table, because

he felt, “It’s my duty to have a voice.”

Bistrek, who had recently turned 18, said, “You want to make a difference in the world. It starts with us.”



Lillia Bistrek fills out a voter registration form at a table manned by, from left, Loy Norrix staffer Karen Tessin, and League of Women Voters volunteers Martha Cohen and Elizabeth Amidon.



Every year, Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School makes it a tradition to celebrate students who participated in the Kalamazoo Public Library Summer Reading Challenge. This year the program had an international travel theme. Students who logged 60 days of reading or a combination of reading and attendance at “international” events, received books and a T-shirt with this year’s logo. Some of this year’s participants are pictured above:

Kellen Carpenter
Joseph Richards
Anna Weller
Elijah Cachero
Natalie Reilly
Noah Watkins
Alexander Velo
Lilly Wolthuis
Elspeth Ryan
Petra Mesch–Carinci
Avery Wilson–Ort
Mabel Kastner
Alorna Goode
Ben Wright
Owen Rayner
Elspeth Ryan
Lucy Sytsma
Emersyn Yarworth
Ivan Birchmeier
Masha Canfield
Jada Troxler
Emma Rayner

Ella Skiles
Avery Kidd
Emmanuel Mbabazi
Adelyn Thompson
Luca Mesch–Carinci
Lucca Russell
Victoria Canfield
Megan Ashford
J.J. Ruelas
Zoe Cachero
Tommy Andrie
Adelaide Richards
Ava Yarworth
J.T. Makos
Amanda Schultz
Madison Charles
Ruby Brent
Dylan Duguay
Kaitlyn Hamilton
Brayden Kidd
Bailey Ort

Benjamin Reilly
Sam Wright
Henry Deutsch
Akaiah Goode
Jack Kastner
Malia Meibeyer–Folkema
Tor Nelson
Maceo Aguilar
Abigail Rutgers
Camden Zeigler
Brady Charles
Max Sytsma
Louis Weller
Violet Birchmeier
Izabelle Foreman
Lilly Wilson
Lennox Conkling
Spencer Duguay
Grant Ferraro
Kloe Scott
Conrad Hansen

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