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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

Winter Recess
No School

Continues through
Friday, Jan. 6, 2017

For more information,
call (269) 337-1572

No School / Conferences

January 20
Grades K-12
attend in a.m. only

January 25
Grades 6-8
attend in a.m. only,
conferences in p.m.

January 26
Grades 9-12
attend in a.m. only,
conferences in p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES

Lift Up Through Literacy
offers hands-on
eight-week programs
Pages 8 & 9

Lift Up Through Literacy Builds Skills and Community with Fun, Family Focus

Parents who have participated in Kalamazoo Public Schools' Lift Up Through Literacy programs, say they have seen their children's vocabulary and reading skills improve.

They love that.

But there are lots of other things they love about the programs as well. They love the sense of community. They love the activities. They love the chance to talk to other parents and to see other children. They love spending time together.

Lift Up Through Literacy launched in 2011 with 35 families. About 2,000 families have benefited from Lift Up since it began six years ago. About 550 families regu-



Montrell Porter Sr. and his wife Roshona Porter have been bringing their son Montrell Porter Jr. to Lift Up Through Literacy classes since he was an infant.

larly participate in the programs at nine sites in the community: Boys & Girls Club, Stones/Christian Life Center Church, First United Baptist Church, Fresh Fire AME Church, Interfaith Homes, Mount Zion Baptist, New Life Fellowship COGIC, Skyridge Church, and The Church of God Pentecostal.

Lift Up consists of three distinct programs: Parents of Newborns, which focuses on parenting skills; Parents of Preschoolers, for families with children ages 3 to 5; and Family Literacy, which builds reading and math literacy skills through fun interactive activities for families with children in kindergarten through high school.

(continued on page 7)

Kindergarten Promise Signing Days Encourage Youngest Scholars and Their Families

It's never too early to start talking about college — with kids or parents.

Kalamazoo Public Schools and the Kalamazoo Promise celebrated that fact this fall with a series of Kindergarten Promise Signing Days held at KPS elementary schools. The celebrations were modeled after college signing days, when athletes sign their letters of intent to attend selected schools.

Kindergarteners and their

parents and guardians were invited to the schools and signed "certificates of intent," in which the families, the school district, and the Promise office acknowledged their roles in creating a college-going community.

Some schools gave the certificates to families at parent-

(continued on page 5)

Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice congratulates Edison student Jay'Veon Whitfield III at the Kindergarten Promise Signing Day.



FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL January 7

The next First Saturday @ KPL event
will be held at the
Kalamazoo Public Library, downtown,
on Jan. 7, 2017, from 2-3:30 p.m.

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Taking Stock at the End of 2016

I take stock twice a year: at the end of the calendar year and at the end of the school year.

2016 was certainly full of highs and lows. I was sad that we tragically lost seven students: three in January, three as school was beginning in September, and one recently. They had names, faces, families, friends, futures, moods, attitudes, and humor. DeShontae, Temetrion, Malik, DQ, Marsavious, Jaela, and Finn. I was proud to see our students and staff, especially our counselors, psychologists, and social workers, wrap their arms around those in need and help our community try to work through these very difficult losses.

Similarly, I was saddened by the deaths of those killed at the hands of the Uber driver and the deaths of the bicyclists. Members of our regional community came together to support one another during these tragedies as well.

Long-time teacher Marla Ferguson passed away last month. In her long battle with cancer, Marla taught many of us lessons about life and love, courage and death.

It has been sobering to see dozens of refugee students — some unaccompanied by family members — come to our school community this year, but heartening to know that they were here instead of elsewhere because Kalamazoo is a welcoming community, a caring community, a progressive community.

It was sad to hear and see the lamentable and divisive language and behavior during the presidential campaign. To see students and staff unnerved and



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

“...we have the opportunity to teach, better understand, and employ our constitutional freedoms to improve our country and world...”

made anxious by this language and behavior has been particularly difficult. Yet we have the opportunity to teach, better understand, and employ our constitutional freedoms to improve our country and world ... and I have no doubt that we will do so in the coming years. It was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” It does so because we as humans bend it, perhaps more slowly than we should, but certainly, steadily, and knowingly.

I’m happy that we had a great year of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Kalamazoo Promise, with the highest district,

Kalamazoo Central, and Loy Norrix graduation rates in 2015 — announced in early 2016 — since the new federal graduation rate formula was introduced in 2008.

I’m proud of a restructured Phoenix High School having its largest graduating class in history. I’m also pleased that we began the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP), another alternative for our young people to graduate from high school, and that we have 60 students in the first year of KILP.

I appreciate the partially new, partially extensively renovated Milwood Elementary School.

I’m glad for our victories and

even more so for our life lessons in mock trial, Latin, FCCLA, speech and debate, videography, band, choir, orchestra, theater, art, soccer, basketball, tennis, football, baseball, and dozens of other activities.

I’m glad that our Advanced Placement success rate has increased, that we have added Chinese at Central and Norrix and a pilot Advanced Placement French course at Norrix. I appreciate our school board’s leadership in these efforts, as well as in so many others, including the approval of our new early childhood materials.

And I appreciate the many awards won by staff this year.

In June, Dr. Charles C. Warfield, friend and mentor to many, teacher to many more, died. His physical departure has forced me to confront what my wife and I have discussed for

(continued on page 3)

First Saturday @KPL Saturday, January 7 2–3:30 pm, CEN

Take your family to the library the first Saturday of each month! Get your library card or pick out some books to check out. Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes. *First Saturday* is a partnership program for KPL and Kalamazoo Public Schools. Each monthly event is co-hosted with an organization serving children and families in Kalamazoo. In January, we will collaborate with our host, The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra!



Kalamazoo Public Schools

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Western Michigan University Reading Clinic



Kalamazoo
Public Library

Taking Stock at the End of 2016

(cont. from page 2)

the last few years: the sadness associated with the passing of our teachers and mentors. But it has also reminded me how important it is to pour into individuals and especially our students in our day to day, and how little time we have to do so.

For this reason, I'm proud of the 141 male staff members that mentored 629 young men last year in 2,822 weekly mentoring sessions. I'm proud that 269 female staff members are joining the 141 male staff members this year in mentoring our students. In all, more than 400 staff members will mentor approximately 2,000 students this year. I'm appreciative of the staff members who are extending themselves in additional ways through mentoring. I'm likewise appreciative of the churches and other organizations in our community that have begun to answer our call for weekly mentoring as well.

I remember every one of my elementary classroom teachers: Felton, Hazlett, Doddridge, Tope, Miller, and Dedrick. I can still tell

you lessons that they shared with me when I was 5-11 years old. There's a reason that I remember my middle school teachers and lessons of theirs as well: Robinson, Butz, Giovanazzo, Kent, Randolph, and Switzer. There's a reason that I remember my high school teachers and their lessons: Melnick, Mukergi, Wilson, Krahling, Romeo, Cleary, Hughes, Cummings, Ferraro, Sampson, and Heuser.

More than anything this year, I'm thankful for how we as a community pour into our young people. For all the challenges that our young people face, for all that there is to still accomplish on their behalf, they are lucky to have this community of teachers, administrators, support staff, and community members that care and pour into them daily. And as my teachers were a major part of my life when I was growing up, so, too, am I fortunate to be a small part of the lives of our children as they grow up.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season and new year!

K-Central Senior Finds Success with Summer Robotics Program at Ohio State

Kalamazoo Central Senior Patrick Fulton won first place in The Ohio State University Engineering Summer Experience 2016 robotics competition.

Fulton won the competition with Chagrin Falls (Ohio) High School student Trevor Gravely, who used to attend Kalamazoo Public Schools.

The two friends were among the 36 students who were selected for the program from among 90 applicants.

Students were asked to create a robot that could detect colors, follow lines, travel known distances, and to detect, pick-up and deliver objects.

Although he does not have any engineering or design experience, Fulton said he did do some programming as a student at the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center.

"When we got there, there were five or six teaching assistants. The first couple of days,

they helped us figure things out and get going," he said. And, when he and Trevor hit a wall in terms of programming the robot, the instructors told them, "You can't give up. You're almost there."

The program also included an introduction to computer-aided design, laser cutting and motor design, and the students toured an area Honda plant and the OSU High Voltage Laboratory.



Trevor Gravely, left, and Kalamazoo Central senior Patrick Fulton pose with Paul Clingan, co-director of The Ohio State University Engineering Summer Experience.



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Poet and Author Naomi Shihab Nye Enchants Students at Washington, Arcadia

You can use anything you're living through to fuel your writing.

Award-winning poet and author Naomi Shihab Nye told fourth- and fifth-grade students at Washington Writers' Academy and Arcadia Elementary School that their lives are full of interesting details and story ideas. But, she said, she felt like they already know that given their discussion about journals, writing prompts and editing.

"You can use everything you're living through," Nye said. "I have a notebook and I love to write a lot of stuff down. I go back in a few weeks and I find things I probably would have forgotten."

"You are always learning little bits and pieces of experience or details that could help you. To write it down can help your life feel a little better."

Nye was in Kalamazoo to serve as the keynote speaker at the 2016 Mary Calleto Rife Youth Literature Seminar and for a community lecture at the Kalamazoo Public Library in November. Nye's honors include awards



Author Naomi Shihab Nye talks to the students at Arcadia Elementary School in November.

from the International Poetry Forum, four Pushcart Prizes, and a Guggenheim fellowship.

Her collection of poems for young adults entitled "Honeybee" won the 2008 Arab American Book Award in the Children's/Young Adult category. Her novel for children, "The Turtle of Oman," was

chosen a Best Book of 2014 by The Horn Book and a 2015 Notable Children's Book by the American Library Association. It was also awarded the 2015 Middle East Book Award for Youth Literature.

Susan Warner, with Kalamazoo Public Library, said this is Nye's second visit to Kalamazoo. She spoke to the

seminar in 2002. The library invited her back because of her ability to connect with audiences.

"She genuinely likes people," Warner said. "She genuinely believes we all have something creative inside of us and we can all be writers. We don't have to be published to be writers. It's something all of us can do. She was so affirming to the kids at the schools."

Nye's books of poetry include "19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East," "A Maze Me: Poems for Girls," "Red Suitcase," "Words under the Words," and "You & Yours."

Nye encouraged the students to use writing to not only capture ideas but to explore language and to take care of themselves emotionally.

"Do you require a perfect, happy mood to write?" she asked. "No. I think you can write in any mood. Sometimes the writing will make you feel better."

Sometimes she said, she just falls in love with a word. She explores words' meanings and sounds through her writing, which allows her to feel closer to

the language — even languages that she does not know all that well.

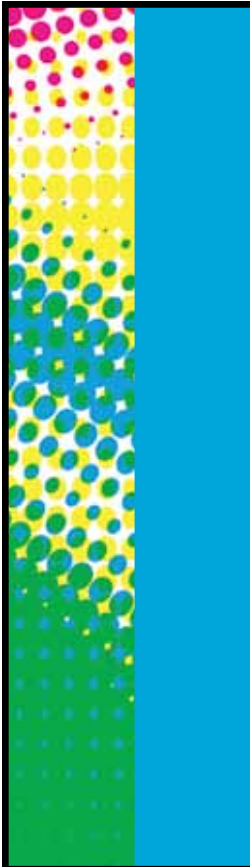
Nye also told the students about the process behind writing her book "The Turtle of Oman," a popular children's novel about a boy who must move from Oman to Ann Arbor, where his parents will attend graduate school. With the help of his beloved grandfather, he confronts his fear and grief.

Originally, the book started as a story about a talking pillow, which her editor nixed. Then it became a story about a conversation between two houses, which her editor also nixed.

"My editor said, 'You need to think about this book and what it is really about. And, where are your people? You love people.'"

Eventually, Nye went through 11 more revisions.

"I'm telling you that in case, some day, a teacher, someone older than you are says, 'Let's do another draft. Let's develop this. Add a conversation. Add more details. Let's build a more beautiful building of words.'"



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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:

Assistant Superintendent 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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Kindergarten Promise Signing Days Encourage Youngest Scholars and Their Families

(continued from page 1)

teacher conferences, and other schools, such as Edison Environmental Science Academy, held special ceremonies. Edison's event included a visit by KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice and Robert Jorth, executive director of the Kalamazoo Promise.

Jorth signed under the Promise section of the certificate, to provide free tuition and fees to participating Michigan colleges and universities to any student who graduates from the school district, according to the rules of the program, which can be found at www.kalamazoopromise.com.

Rice signed under the school district's promise to provide a high-quality education, to offer college-readiness programs for children of all ages, and to welcome parents and families to participate in the education of their children.

At the Edison event, Rice told the kindergarteners that the Promise and an education "are how you get to be what you want to be when you grow up."

He told parents and guardians the school district needs their support to ensure all children are prepared to take advantage of the Promise.

"We can't get it done without our parents and grandparents," Rice said. "We need our parents and grandparents reading to kids every night, working with them on their homework every night, working with them on math every night."

"What you pour into your children every day, positive, affirming energy, pays off every day."

Tasha Simmons, attended the event with her son Messiah, who is in kindergarten at Edison, and her daughter Melody, who is a PEEP student. "I went to Kalamazoo Public Schools and we didn't have the Promise when I graduated. I think the Promise is great for Kalamazoo. Free tuition is a good thing."



Tasha Simmons attended the Kindergarten Promise Signing Day with her son Messiah, who is in kindergarten, and his little sister Melody, who is in PEEP.



Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice shakes hands with Peter "P.J." Duncan at the Kindergarten Promise Signing Day ceremony at Edison Elementary. Peter's mom Ashlee Duncan looks on.



Trinity Thrash attended the Edison Kindergarten Signing Day ceremony with her father Tyrone Thrash.



Kindergartener Lesley Hill Jr. posed for a photo with his baby sister, Lyric Branson, at the Edison Kindergarten Promise Signing Day.



Parker Johnson's dad Jeffery Johnson signs Parker's Kindergarten Promise Signing Day certificate at Edison.

STORYTELLING

-2017-

FESTIVAL

Our 5th Annual Storytelling Festival:
Searching for Peace! brings storytellers from across the U.S. together to explore unity, equality, diversity, and inclusion for audiences of all ages!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
5 PM - 8 PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
10 AM - 5 PM

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

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Loy Norrix NHS Helped at Milwood 'Bookaneers' Book Fair

Members of Loy Norrix's National Honor Society volunteered their time and talents in November to help Milwood Elementary's pirate-themed "Bookaneer" Book Fair.

Kevin Mitchell, Julia Townley, Sophia Boismier, Bailey Handley, and Hana Lee

helped set up the fair, including making a creative photo backdrop where families could take pictures of their young "Bookaneers." Sophie Nielsen and Brittany Day worked during the fair itself, helping young students select books that they would be sure to treasure.

C.J. Gilbert, the book fair coordinator, described the help from the NHS Knights as incredibly valuable. "We were able to do more to promote the book fair and to celebrate our school's love of reading because they generously gave us some extra hands."



Loy Norrix High School National Honor Society members Kevin Mitchell, Julia Townley, Sophia Boismier, Bailey Handley (L to R) and Hana Lee (not pictured) helped set up the Milwood Elementary "Bookaneer" Book Fair in November. They also set up the photo booth for families attending the book fair.



Loy Norrix National Honor Society members Brittany Day and Sophie Nielsen helped Milwood Elementary School students choose books during Milwood's "Bookaneer" Book Fair in November.

Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Kale-slaw

Happy New Year, Kalamazoo! Take time to enjoy this healthy slaw as a side — or with your favorite protein, this could be an entree. Kale is versatile, flavorful, and packed with vitamins. Start off your new year in a healthy fashion and share this dish with someone special in your life. All the best, Chef Shaun.



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

Ingredients

4 cups kale, shredded
1/4 cup carrots, peeled, shredded
1/2 cup pine nuts, toasted
1 strip turkey bacon, crisply cooked, finely chopped
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
1 tablespoon honey
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon cayenne
1/3 teaspoon curry powder

1/3 teaspoon sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon fresh cracked pepper
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions

1. Combine the kale, carrots, turkey bacon and pine nuts.
2. Whisk together the mayonnaise, vinegar, honey, sugar, and spices.
3. Toss dressing with kale mix. Cover. Chill 1 hour.

Yield: 4-6 servings

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Lift Up Through Literacy Builds Skills and Community with Fun, Family Focus *(continued from page 1)*

The next eight-week session for all three groups begins Jan. 31 and runs through March 23. The 90-minute classes include a free dinner, books for children, and family learning activities. There are field trips, weekly door prizes, and an incentive for those completing the entire class.

Montrell Porter Sr. is a first-time father with an active — and verbal — toddler, Montrell Porter Jr. 3. Porter and his wife Roshona have been attending the classes with their son since he was an infant, with classes first at Mount Zion Baptist Church and now at Stones/Christian Life Center.

“We were first-time parents, and we wanted to learn about parenting and tips for raising a healthy child and helping with literacy,” Porter said. They knew about the program because Roshona Porter is a former educator, who worked with Lift Up Through Literacy.

They both knew about the importance of literacy from an early age, but participating in the program helped emphasize how literacy skills can develop even in infancy. Porter said he had always thought about reading as a bedtime activity, but his wife and the class helped him see reading and building literacy skills as activities that happen throughout the day.

Montrell Jr. attends day care, and the daycare staff have repeatedly told his parents how he far exceeds developmental expectations for vocabulary, in terms of understanding and using words.

Tonyeaka Williams said she can definitely see how Lift Up Through Literacy has benefitted her family.

She started attending the classes to provide support for her son Travion Williams, who was struggling with reading starting in about the fourth grade. “I was definitely interested in learning ways to make it easier for me to teach him how read and and to make it easier for him to read.”

She often encouraged him to read, but Lift Up instructors encouraged her to be an active participant in Travion’s reading, with



Elizabeth Dana and her son, Jaden Nichols, 8, look at some of the books available at the Lift Up Through Literacy program at Fresh Fire AME Church.



Robiyakhon Rustamova, a second grader at Arcadia Elementary School, looks over the books at Lift Up Through Literacy.

things like reading novels together — even as he got older.

While her son saw reading as a chore, Williams’ daughter Coriah Williams, 5, has benefited from experiencing reading as a fun activity through Lift Up. “It really has had an impact. She enjoys reading,” Williams said.

At Lift Up Through Literacy, the activities can range from listening to the story “Green Eggs and Ham” and making a breakfast plate collage to doing jumping jacks to some revved up nursery rhymes.

Lift Up makes literacy so fun, said Elizabeth Dana, that even on those nights she’s tired from work and thinks about skipping a session, her son Jaden Nichols, a third grader at El Sol Elementary, will say, “But mommy, ‘I want to go.’ He likes the kids. Everyone plays peacefully and fair. He enjoys picking out the books.”

It’s fun on a number of levels, parents said. Not only do the children enjoy the activities with other children, but they have the



Kalamazoo Central volunteer Zion Burton holds Montrell Porter Jr. during a Lift Up Through Literacy class.

chance to enjoy reading as a family activity with their parents and guardians.

“I like having this time when we can come together as a family and learn together, grow together and even play together,” Porter said.

And, parents have a chance to



Tonyeaka Williams and her daughter, Coriah Williams, attend the Lift Up Through Literacy program at Skyridge Church. Williams brings her older children, Travion Williams, Eymah Warren and Robert Warren, to sessions for older children.



Roman Grayson, 4, works on filling a plate with green eggs after reading the Dr. Seuss book “Green Eggs and Ham.” He attended the Lift Up Through Literacy program with his mom Brittany Grayson.

form new friendships.

“I really enjoy engaging with the other parents,” Dana said. “Sometimes it’s nice to meet people and see if they share the same values that I share. You can ask others how do you do this, how do you do that and get ideas for parenting.”

Williams agreed with the importance of the parent-to-parent contact.

“I think the parenting sessions really help,” she said. “They can be a real help for parents who might need a little guidance or a support system.”

Williams said the infant and preschool classes place a heavy emphasis on building general parenting skills, such as nutritious meal planning and discipline. The family literacy classes puts a heavier emphasis on supporting the students’ own literacy skills.

The instructors are great resources and always have new ideas for parents to try with their children — whether it be in reading or general parenting, Porter said. They also do a good job of soliciting feedback from parents for suggestions on how to improve the program.

He encouraged other parents to check out Lift Up Through Literacy. It is a simple but worthwhile investment in your family, Porter said. The only thing it requires is a commitment to attending the weekly classes. “Nothing replaces presence,” he said. “You have to be there. You have to be engaged.”

“I think this program is awesome. I wish more families would partake, so they can reap the rewards. I think it’s actually one of the hidden jewels of Kalamazoo.”

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Lift Up Through Literacy Program

We Need You...Parents, Grandparents, & Caregivers!

The Lift Up Through Literacy Program offers fun hands-on literacy opportunities for family members once a week for 1 ½ hours. We provide free books, a meal, child care, door prizes, field trips and an end-of-session incentive. Join us and learn more!!!

Winter 2017

January 31 – March 23, 2017

	Boys & Girls Club on Lake Street	Stones/Christian Life Center	First United Baptist Church	Fresh Fire AME Church	Interfaith Homes	Mount Zion Baptist Church	New Life Fellowship C.O.G.I.C.	Skyridge Church	The Church of God Pentecostal
FAMILY LITERACY Ages K - Adult	Tuesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Tuesday 6:00-7:30 P.M.	Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Thursday 5:00-6:30 P.M.	Wednesday 5:00-6:30 P.M.	Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Tuesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Wednesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.
PARENTS OF NEWBORNS Up to 36 Months	Tuesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Tuesday 6:00-7:30 P.M.	Please join another NB site	Please join another NB site	Thursday 2:00-3:30 P.M.	Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Tuesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Wednesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.
PARENTS OF PRE-SCHOOLERS Ages 3 - 5	Tuesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Tuesday 6:00-7:30 P.M.	Please join another PS site	Please join another PS site.	Thursday 2:00-3:30 P.M.	Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Tuesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Wednesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.

Community Site	Address	Phone Number
Boys & Girls Club	915 Lake St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001	(269) 349-4485
Stones/Christian Life Center	1225 W. Paterson Kalamazoo, MI 49007	(269) 343-7023
First United Baptist Church	821 S. Burdick St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001	(269) 381-3996
Fresh Fire AME Church	2508 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	(269) 381-8050
Interfaith Homes	1037 Interfaith Blvd. Kalamazoo, MI 49007	(269) 382-5771
Mount Zion Baptist Church	120 Roberson St. Kalamazoo, MI 49007	(269) 388-3111
New Life Fellowship C.O.G.I.C.	1912 Birch Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49004	(269) 381-1913
Skyridge Church	394 S. Drake Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	(269) 375-3939
The Church of God Pentecostal	2929 East Main Kalamazoo, MI 49048	(269) 349-8181

*A light dinner will be served at evening sessions.
For more information please call (269) 337-0833*

Enrollment Open for Loy Norrix Child Care for 2016–2017

Registration for the 2016–2017 school year has begun at the Loy Norrix Child Care Center (LNCCC). LNCCC is a five-star-rated Kalamazoo County Ready 4s program that provides a great start for your preschooler. Great learning and care are happening daily 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



The Loy Norrix Child Care Center is place for learning and fun.

The center offers reasonable full-time, part-time, and daily rates.

Openings for the current school year for 3- and 4-year-olds are still available. There is no school district residency required for the program, which is open to the public. For enrollment information and tuition costs, call (269) 337-0264 or email hentschlearlym@kalamazoopublicschools.net.

Kalamazoo Public Schools Needs Substitute Teachers

EDUStaff who provides substitutes to KPS is hiring qualified candidates.

Interested or want more information?

Go to www.EDUStaff.org/post

Questions: Call (877) 974-6338

An assistant will direct former and new substitute teachers through the application process.

EDUStaff training dates can be found online at their website.

Sobresalir Por Medio De La Educación

¡Los Necesitamos...Padres, Abuelos, & Encargados!

El programa Sobresalir Por Medio de la Educación ofrece oportunidades divertidas e interactivas acerca del alfabetismo para miembros de familias una vez a la semana por hora y media. Proveemos libros, comida, guardería, premios, y paseos gratis, además de un incentivo al fin de las sesiones. ¡Únase con nosotros para aprender mas!!!

Invierno 2017									
31 de enero – 23 de marzo del 2017									
	Boys & Girls Club on Lake Street	Stones/Christian Life Center	First United Baptist Church	Fresh Fire AME Church	Interfaith Homes	Mount Zion Baptist Church	New Life Fellowship	Skyridge Church	The Church of God Pentecostal
Educación Familiar Edades: K – Adulto	Martes 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Martes 6:00-7:30 P.M.	Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Jueves 5:00-6:30 P.M.	Miércoles 5:00-6:30 P.M.	Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Martes 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Miércoles 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.
Los Padres De Los Recién Nacidos Hasta los 36 Meses	Martes 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Martes 6:00-7:30 P.M.	Por favor seleccione otro sitio	Por favor seleccione otro sitio	Jueves 2:00-3:30 P.M.	Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Martes 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Miércoles 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.
Los Padres Con Niños En Edad Preescolar Edades: 3-5	Martes 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Martes 6:00-7:30 P.M.	Por favor seleccione otro sitio	Por favor seleccione otro sitio	Jueves 2:00-3:30 P.M.	Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Martes 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Miércoles 5:30-7:00 P.M.	Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.

Sitio	Dirección	Teléfono
Boys & Girls Club	915 Lake St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001	(269) 349-4485
Stones/Christian Life Center	1225 W. Paterson Kalamazoo, MI 49007	(269) 343-7023
First United Baptist Church	821 S. Burdick St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001	(269) 381-3996
Fresh Fire AME Church	2508 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	(269) 381-8050
Interfaith Homes	1037 Interfaith Blvd. Kalamazoo, MI 49007	(269) 382-5771
Mount Zion Baptist Church	120 Roberson St. Kalamazoo, MI 49007	(269) 388-3111
New Life Fellowship C.O.G.I.C.	1912 Birch Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49004	(269) 381-1913
Skyridge Church	394 S. Drake Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	(269) 375-3939
The Church of God Pentecostal	2929 East Main Kalamazoo, MI 49048	(269) 349-8181

Se servirá una cena pequeña en las sesiones de las noches.
 Por mas información, por favor llame al (269) 337-0833

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS SEEKING

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

We offer paid training, flexible hours, competitive wages, medical benefits, retirement package and uniforms.
 Applicants must have a safe driving record, pass a criminal background check and have a physical examination.

APPLY TODAY AT:

Kalamazoo Public Schools
 1220 Howard Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49008
 (269) 337-0177

Kalamazoo Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Kalamazoo Public Schools

We Are Hiring!

Support Staff needed now, including:

- Special Education Paraprofessionals
- Secretaries
- Food Service Employees
- Activity Helpers
- Substitute Teachers, Substitute Secretaries, and Substitute Paraprofessionals

Apply online today!

For job details and more information, visit
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Education for the Arts Scholarships Available for KPS Students

Education for the Arts is now accepting applications for student scholarships to help pay for private lessons, tuition for art classes or summer art camps, instruments, and other arts-related experiences and equipment.

Kalamazoo Public Schools students (and those from the other eight local school districts served by Kalamazoo RESA), who are in kindergarten through 11th grade this year can apply for the Irving S. Gilmore Student Arts Scholarships. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Jan. 26.

The fund is designed to help K-12 students to expand their artistic experiences. Appropriate projects for student scholarship grants are artistic study, practice, or performance. Scholarships

may be applied to activities such as tuition fees, materials and texts, transportation and lodging, and entrance fees to arts events. Funds are awarded to eligible students for projects



that scholarship reviewers believe will improve students' appreciation, understanding and practice of the arts.

Applications are also being accepted for the Irving S. Gilmore Student Artistic Equipment Scholarship.

Applications for that scholarship are due by 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 23.

Equipment scholarships are open to advanced-level sixth- through 11th-grade students, who attend school in one of the school districts within the Kalamazoo RESA service area. The goal of the scholarship is to provide access to equipment that is either not available through rental programs or is prohibitively expensive to purchase. All applicants must upload a work sample to be reviewed by grant panelists.

Information on the grants, PDFs of grant applications, and an online application form can be found at <http://www.kresa.org/efa>. For more information, call the EFA office at 269-250-9244.

KPS Students Perform Well at State Contests

Several KPS students were selected for Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Honors Choirs. The students will perform at 6 p.m. Jan. 19 at DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids. For the audition process, students prepared a song with a partner or small group (one student per voice part), then performed that song in front of a judge on audition day. After all groups from across the state have auditioned, they then rehearse together and perform in the Regional Honors Choir that day, singing both their audition song and another song they've all prepared (their clinic song). About one-third of students who audition for State Honors Choir are accepted into the group.

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts: Julia Davis, teacher
MSVMA State Honors Choir – SSA

Celia Baublis, 7th grade
Josratu Bangura, 7th grade
Danica Harper, 7th grade
Annabel Hemmer, 7th grade
Kamryn Kimbrough, 7th grade
Natalie Olinger, 8th grade
Isabela Woods, 7th grade

MSVMA State Honors Choir – TTB

Sean Flanagan, 8th grade
James Hauke, 7th grade
MSVMA State Honors Choir – SA
Alayna Boucher, 6th grade
Zaniyah Carpenter-Webb, 6th grade
Luna Drumm-Walsh, 7th grade
Kyleigh Ferguson, 6th grade
Valerie Humiston, 7th grade
Georgia Hutton, 6th grade
Sean Lane, 6th grade
McKenzie Ott, 8th grade

Hillside Middle School: Theresa Williams-Johnson, teacher

State Honors Choir – TTB

Treyvon Cobb
Hugo Perez Onate
Andre' McKenzie-Carr

Kalamazoo Central High School:

Theresa Williams-Johnson, teacher

MSVMA High School Regional Honors Choir

Cassandra Corey
Ashton Watkins
Dayanna Price
DeLawren Bradshaw
Michael Swift
Sean Davis
Justin Addison
Zachary Gillish

Loy Norrix High School: Julie Pelligrino, teacher

MSVMA High School Regional Honors Choir

Jordan Beebe
Abigail Hauke
Ruth Castaneda

Hillside Middle School: Dan Stout, teacher

MSBOA Honor Band

The following eight students auditioned for and were accepted into the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 11 Middle School Honor Band. They spent Nov. 8 rehearsing with the 110-member group and performed a concert at the end of the event.

Riley Berlin
Nick Vallier
Maya Alkema
Jon Andrews
Robert Wheeler
Zack Scholten
Jalen Smith
Lauren DeBat

Back in the 'Golden Age' of radio, weekly radio programs brought the young and old to their living rooms to listen to adventurous, mysterious and comical tales. Dedicated to promoting this rich history, All Ears Theatre performs newly scripted radio programs for live audiences, complete with old school sound effects. Shows are later broadcast on 102.1 WMUK-FM. Performances are at 6:00 pm at the First Baptist Church and are **FREE TO THE PUBLIC**.

NEW SEASON
OLD RETRO FLAIR

JANUARY SHOWS
Jan 7
The BICKERSONS
Jan 21
ESCAPE From CHRISTIANA:
A SOULFUL COMPLICATION

Funding provided by
Irving S. Gilmore
FOUNDATION

ac
arts council
of greater kalamazoo

For a complete schedule of shows, visit KalamazooArts.org

do you know a grieving child?

Journeys is a free program where grieving children & teens Laugh, cry, share, remember, sing, belong, and heal.

HOSPICE CARE of Southwest Michigan

hospiceswmi.org
269.345.0273

KPS Continues to Generate Excitement with First Library Cards for First Graders

There was the buzz of excitement in the air. The first graders from Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts, were on a field trip to the Kalamazoo Public Library in October. Two exciting things were happening.

The first: The students were getting their own library cards. The second: They were checking out books on their cards. For five years, all of the first graders in Kalamazoo Public Schools have been taking field trips to the Kalamazoo Public Library branches, where the students receive their first library cards, learn about libraries, check out books and, hopefully, strengthen their interest in reading.

KPL Youth Services Director Susan Warner said it was at a meeting with KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice that she brought up the idea of the program, which she'd seen at other libraries. "First grade seems to be an ideal time to reach kids who might not have been library visitors as preschoolers," Warner said. "Preschool is such an important time, but we miss a lot of kids. By the time they're in school, there's the kindergarten craziness where they're still learning how to do school.

"By first grade, they know how to do school, and they are starting to read independently. It's an ideal time to grab them."

It also allows the library to work with students during that critical time between first and third grade when schools focus on helping students build a strong foundation of reading skills.



Naviah Boshaw looks at books at the Kalamazoo Public Library. She and other first graders at Woods Lake Elementary recently visited to get their library cards and to check out books.

The first-grade library program consists of three library visits. The first two are to library branches that would be considered the students' neighborhood library. On the first visit they learn how to check out books and during the second visit they learn how to return books. For the third visit, all 17 elementary schools visit the Central Library, where they have a tour of the library.

The children receive library cards, which are kept at their schools – as are the library books. At the end of the school year, the cards go home with children with a note that the cards are active through August of that year. Parents are encouraged to come in with

their children and to register for a regular card.

The effort ties into two other KPS-KPL collaborations, Warner said. The First Saturday program offers special programming, with book giveaways and family activities at the Central Library from 2 to 3:30 pm. on the first Saturday of every month.

Also, library programs sometimes serve as make-up sessions for the school district's Lift Up Through Literacy program, a free program for children, parents and caregivers which teaches parents how to help their children become better readers. The program is open to all families, with children from infants to teenagers.

Warner offers these tips for

parents who want to make the most out of their library visits:

- Get your child a library card – and then visit the library.
- Let them choose some of their own books. Letting them have a say in what they read is important. You can always choose some and sneak in the classics.
- Share the books when you get home.
- Remember the great thing about the library: If you don't like a book you don't have to read it. You can return it and never be bothered by it again.
- Ask for suggestions. Librarians enjoy telling you about books they love and they love to hear what books you've enjoyed.



Kalamazoo Public Library librarian Stewart Fritz hands out new library cards to Woods Lake Elementary students as part of a first-grade reading program.



Jacinto Lopez chose a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles book on his visit to the Kalamazoo Public Library.



Caden Perry recently visited the Kalamazoo Public Library with his first-grade class at Woods Lake Elementary to get his library card and to check out a book.



Mia Bailey is engrossed in "Sealed with a Kiss," which she chose on a trip to the Kalamazoo Public Library with her first-grade class from Woods Lake Elementary.

JANUARY @ the library

FIRST SATURDAY

■ Saturday, January 7 / 2 pm / CEN / Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes!

STORYTIMES

Adult caregiver must accompany babies and toddlers. Siblings attend as guests. Info: KPL.gov/storytimes.

EVENTS

■ **Play and Learn** / Engage and play for early learning. For children 1-5 with caregiver.

Mondays, January 9, 16, 23, 30 / 5:30-7 pm / EAS

Thursdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26 / 10:30 am-12 pm / EAS

■ **Color with Us** / Tuesday - Thursday, January 3-5 / Open Hours / All Locations / Create amazing artwork with vibrant colors. Visit the library and color together. Supplies Provided. All ages.

■ **Junior Imagineers** / Tuesday, January 3 / 2 pm / WSQ / Air Zoo, Science-on-the-Go! Registration required. 6-11 years. **R**

■ **Toddler Talk** / Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25 / 10:15 am / OSH / Share stories with other parents. Carolyn Call, RN, facilitator. 1-3 years.

■ **Calendar Making** / Drop in and create your very own 2017 Calendar. Supplies provided.

Wednesday, January 4 / 1-5 pm / POW

Thursday, January 5 / 1-5 pm / EAS

■ **Baby Talk** / Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25 / 1:30 pm / OSH / Share stories with other parents. Carolyn Call, RN, facilitator. New to 1 year.

■ **1-2-3 Play with me** / Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25 / 10:30 am / CEN / One month workshop for child development with children 1-3 years and their caregivers. Please Register. **R**

■ **Magnet Busters** / Thursday, January 5 / 2 pm / CEN / Laws of Magnetism discovered! Ages 7-9. Registration required. **R**

■ **Martial Arts** / Learn self-defense techniques with Charles Parker. Registration required. **R**

Ages 7-10 / Thursday, January 5 / 2 pm / WSQ

■ **Just Move, Dance!** / Friday, January 6 / 10:30 am / OSH / Dance and fitness for kids. Ages 6-11.

■ **Creative Dance with Joy** / Friday, January 6 / 2 pm / CEN / Ages 6-11. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes!

■ **Little Scientists** / Monday, January 9 / 10:30 am / CEN / Stories and science for preschoolers and their caregivers. Registration required. Ages 3-6. **R**

■ **Bookworms** / This month we are reading Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By Doreen Rappaport. Registration required. Family. **R**

Tuesday, January 10 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Thursday, January 26 / 4:30 pm / CEN

■ **MLK Day Celebration** / Monday, January 16 / 4:30 pm / EAS / Storytelling, a short film and more! Ages 6-11.

■ **Maker Mondays** / January 16 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Tinker, create, explore. Ages 6-11.

■ **Celebrate Michigan Statehood Day** / Wednesday, January 25 / 3:30-5 pm / CEN / Celebrate Michigan's birthday with special stories, crafts, and treats made only in Michigan. Ages 6-11.

■ **Chinese New Year Celebration** / Thursday, January 26 / Open hours / EAS & OSH / Stories, crafts and more! Ages 6-11.

TWEEN/TEEN EVENTS

■ **Virtual Reality** / Experience virtual reality gaming with VR arcade, Nova VR.

Tuesday, January 3 / 2-4 pm / CEN

Saturday, January 21 / 2-4 pm / CEN

■ **Tech Tuesday** / Tuesday, January 3 / 4:30-5:30 pm / CEN / Try out the Circuit Scribe Paper Circuits!

■ **Tech Take-Apart** / Wednesday, January 4 / 2 pm / CEN / What's inside your gadgets? All materials provided.

■ **Martial Arts** / Learn self-defense techniques with Charles Parker. Registration required. **R**

Ages 11-18 / Thursday, January 5 / 3 pm / WSQ

■ **LEGO One Scoop Challenge** / Thursday, January 5 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Create greatness from one single scoop of LEGOs! Judges and prizes.

■ **Dear Future Me** / Friday, January 6 / 2 pm / CEN / Write an encouraging letter to your future self and we'll mail it to you at a future date!

■ **Hamilton Party** / Saturday, January 7 / 2-3:30 pm / CEN / Don't throw away your shot to celebrate Hamilton: An American Musical with friends. Prizes, trivia, and fun! Adults welcome to attend with their teen.

■ **#TAB, GR 6-12** / Monday, January 9 / 4:30 pm / CEN & OSH / Teen Area / Volunteer for events. Earn Perks, rewards, and opportunities!

■ **Pizza & Pages: Powell Book Club** / Tuesday, January 10 / 4:30 pm / POW / Gr. 5-12. Please register. **R**

■ **TechGyrls** / Wednesdays, January 11, 18, 25 / 4:15-5:30 pm / POW / A six-week camp designed to increase confidence of young girls in STEM subjects. Ages 9-13. Registration required. **R**

■ **J-Pop Club, Teens Only** / Monday, January 16 / 4:30-5:30 pm / If you love anime, manga, and Japanese pop culture, drop in mfor this monthly club.

■ **14th Annual Teen Filmmaker Festival-Films are Due!** / January 20 / www.kpl.gov/teenfilmfest.

■ **Minecraft Party** / Monday, January 23 / 3-5 pm / WSQ / Play, prizes, and giveaways!

■ **Game Central** / Wednesday, January 25 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Rotating tournaments, prizes for top finishers!

■ **Maker Monday** / Monday, January 30 / 4:30-5:30 pm / CEN / Beginner Crochet. Gr. 5-12.

■ Baby / Kid ■ Tween / Teen ■ Family ■ All Ages **T** Ticket Required **R** Registration Required



Central Library (CEN)
315 S. Rose St.
553-7800

Eastwood (EAS)
1112 Gayle Ave.
553-7810

Oshtemo (OSH)
7265 W. Main St.
553-7980

Alma Powell (POW)
1000 W. Paterson St.
553-7960

Washington Square (WSQ)
1244 Portage St.
553-7970



Kalamazoo
Public Library

kpl.gov/calendar