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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 2 & 16, 2017
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

Feb. 20–24
P.M. Half-Day Kindergarten
Attends All Day

Feb. 21
A.M. Half-day Kindergarten
Attends All Day

March 1
Elementary School
Literacy Night

March 2
Middle School
Literacy Night

For more information,
call (269) 337-1572

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Graduates Return to Share College Experiences during 2016 Alumni Day

Dozens of Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix high school graduates returned to their alma maters on Dec. 23 to share their college experiences with current students.

It was the annual Alumni Day celebration in which older students share with younger students advice for successfully completing high school and achieving success in college.

Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice welcomed alumni back for classroom visits in both schools.

“It’s a powerful experience for our young people to see you as the elders now. They look at you in a new light,”

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Joseph Richardson and Daylin McCants told teachers at Kalamazoo Central High School to be tougher on students to prepare them for college during Alumni Day 2016.

Early/Middle College Helps Create Connections Between Education and Careers

The Kalamazoo Public School Board of Trustees recently approved dramatically expanding the offerings in the Early/Middle College Program, to help expose students to more career opportunities.

In December, the board approved increasing the number of EMC programs from eight to 35. The Early/Middle College Program allows students to earn a high school diploma and college credit simultaneously. By enrolling in EMC for two or more years, students can earn a professional certificate or an associate’s degree in subjects

(continued on page 5)

Radiant Church’s ‘Big Give’ Gives Lincoln Students Big Reason to Smile

It started with backpacks.

About five years ago, Radiant Church in Richland wanted to do something for the community, so the church conducted a backpack drive. The church members responded enthusiastically, donating hundreds of backpacks and stuffed them with school supplies.

Kalamazoo Public Schools responded appreciatively, but as church members were handing out the backpacks they encountered teachers who said, “Thank



Radiant Church volunteer Deb Orosz helps kindergartener Ah'Zariah Streeter find the perfect coat as part of the Big Give held at Lincoln.

you for this. One of the things we really need is socks. A lot of kids come from homes where they don’t have a lot.”

“We were shocked,” said Pastor Lee Cummings. “Teachers were telling us they go through a lot of socks because kids’ shoes sometimes have holes, so their

(continued on page 4)

FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL February 4

The next First Saturday @ KPL event will be held at the Kalamazoo Public Library, downtown, on Feb. 4, 2017, from 2–3:30 p.m.

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Forty-Nine Years After His Death, King's Preaching Keeps on Teaching

On New Year's Day, I heard Bob Dylan singing, "The times, they are a changin'" on the radio. Few would argue with this sentiment, though there is certainly an irony to this anthem of the political left being sung at this moment in our political history, as the country leans right in its election of national political leaders to the White House, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

If Dr. King were alive today, I am certain that he would be less interested in the politics than in policies. I think that he would have questions for the incoming president and the 115th Congress:

Poverty has gotten worse in the last 50 years, since President Lyndon Johnson famously declared a war on poverty in 1965. King himself had been planning a Poor People's March on Washington at the time of his assassination. Mr. President and

Congressional leaders, what are you planning on doing about the rising number of poor children and families in our country?

President Carter famously brought Israeli President Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat together for lengthy talks and ultimately the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty, which was supposed to help bring about peace throughout the Middle East. Today, we seem further from peace in the Middle East than we did that day in 1979. Mr. President and Congressional leaders, what are you planning on doing about a chaos in the Middle East that now threatens children and families around the world?

President Reagan famously



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

I think that he would have questions for the incoming president and the 115th Congress.

urged former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to "Tear down this wall" between a Communist East Germany and a democratic West Germany. The disintegration of the Soviet Union was supposed to mean the improvement of the United States: citizens safer, children better educated, and adults with more jobs, as we focused to a greater extent on our domestic needs rather than pouring money into fighting Communism abroad. Today, we see a rising Russia that has ascended from the ashes of a seared Soviet Union, one that has aggressively intervened not simply in nations near to it but in the United States as well. Mr. President and Congressional

leaders, what are you planning on doing to ensure the safety of our children and families in the face of this rising threat?

President Clinton famously noted that one of his greatest regrets of his presidency was not intervening in the genocide in Rwanda in East Africa. Hundreds of thousands of Rwandan citizens were killed in a civil war in Rwanda. The United States did not intervene and did not pull together an international coalition to stop the genocide. Mr. President and Congressional leaders, what are your plans to confront genocide throughout the world, or should we turn a blind eye to mass murders internationally?

President Obama has been challenged by a Congress that failed to pass some form of immigration law during his presidency. He famously signed an executive order to create the Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals (DACA) program, which permitted people born in this country or who had entered as children of undocumented residents to stay legally and temporarily under certain conditions. Mr. President and Congressional leaders, what are you planning on doing with these young people, who cannot return to "their country" since the only country that they know is this one?

President Bush the second famously spoke under a "Mission Accomplished" banner several months after 9/11, when "major combat operations in Iraq" were presumably over, but long before those that had planned 9/11 had been killed or brought to justice, long before the war in Iraq had died down. We have fought in Iraq or Afghanistan for more than a decade and a half. Mr. President and Congressional leaders, what are you planning on doing to help work toward

(continued on page 3)

First Saturday @ KPL Saturday, February 4 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 February, we will collaborate with our host, Healthy Babies Healthy Start Kalamazoo!**



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Spring Valley Breakfast a Chance to Build Community, Gather Information

Spring Valley Center for Exploration brought its school community together for an early Thanksgiving breakfast in November.

It's an annual tradition that drew more than 130 people. Family members shared a hot breakfast catered by Kalamazoo Public Schools' own Chef Shaun Robinson. The event gave them a chance to discuss what they were thankful for and to complete the annual Title I Parent Survey.

Spring Valley Principal Lisa Dewey said she inherited the tradition from past principals, and she's continued the practice as a good way to get families into the building.

"In years past it was open to just first and second graders, and some years they did formal speakers," said Dewey, who is in her second year at Spring Valley. "This year was really about our busy working families and letting them have some time in the middle of a work week, where they can sit together as a family and talk about all of



Spring Valley Center for Exploration student Amir Tarver attended the family breakfast with his grandmother, Jeanette Tarver.

the things they're thankful for."

Not only did the families talk about what they appreciated, they wrote down their thanks on paper leaves, which were turned into a community art project in the main school hallway. What were some of the things students were grateful for? Family, teachers, pets, school, and bacon!

Dewey said the breakfast is a great way to get families in the building and to increase parent involvement, especially with important issues such as the Title I survey.

Title I provides federal

funding for additional academic services within the building. One of the things the school did last year was to ask the parents how they wanted Title I funds spent, she said. Overwhelmingly they asked for tutors to provide additional support for their children, and that resulted in a significant change in how the school allocated funds, Dewey said.

"That was our response to their needs and how we're working to meet the needs of their kids," she said.



Spring Valley Center for Exploration student Savion Kelly poses with his mother Antaneshia Patterson at the school's family breakfast.



Sophia Baldwin was joined by family friend Terry Stewart at the Spring Valley Center for Exploration family breakfast.

Project Find Is Looking for Special Needs Individuals

If you suspect your child:

- Has a disability;
- Is in need of special attention; or
- Is a student who has received special-education services and has dropped out of school and would like to return, call Kalamazoo

Public Schools' Project Find Coordinator Rikki Saunders at (269) 337-0161.

Project Find helps locate individuals from birth to 26 years old with special needs, and works with families to provide appropriate education services. Multiple services are available.

King's Preaching Keeps on Teaching

(continued from page 2)

peace in this famously fractious corner of the world?

In thinking about 2017, Dr. King might harken back to his "Mountaintop Speech," the last speech of his life, given on April 3, 1968, a speech he didn't plan to give, a speech he hadn't expected to give. Indeed, he had already said that day that he wasn't going to speak that evening, that he wasn't feeling well or well rested, and that he wanted to rest up for the next day. But his best friend, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, called him and urged him to come speak to those assembled at the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ on a snowy night in Memphis.

So King agreed and gave a 43-minute speech that many consider one of his best, a rhetorical tour of the high points of the civil rights movement to date. Poignantly in his speech, King denounced those that operated outside the law in this country and defended our Constitution and its First Amendment freedoms. In discussing an effort on the part of the city of Memphis to block a protest rally of sanitation workers and their supporters with an injunction forbidding the march, Dr. King exhorted:

"If I lived in China or even Russia, or any totalitarian country, maybe I could understand some of these illegal injunctions. Maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic First Amendment privileges, because they hadn't committed themselves to that over there. But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. And so just as I say we aren't going to let any dogs or water hoses turn us around, we aren't going to let any injunction turn us around. We are going on."

Mr. President and Congressional leaders, how are you planning to handle Constitutionally

protected protest, particularly if it is inconsistent with your own words, feelings, and philosophies of life, living, and leadership? How are you planning to address protest that is deeply rooted in the American experience, not since the writing of the Constitution, but indeed as a forerunner to the Constitution, as the precursor to and an integral part of the Revolutionary War?

"The greatness of America is the right to protest for right." Within the constraints of law—and there are broad constraints—we as Americans have the right to protest for what we think is correct. It's easy to defend First Amendment rights when out of political power. Mr. President and Congressional leaders, how will you defend these rights from the vantage point of political power?

We, the people, are watching and waiting for a response to a question that Dr. King most certainly would have posed. You are making history as we speak. For what will you be remembered?

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Radiant Church's 'Big Give' Gives Lincoln Students Big Reason to Smile *(continued from page 1)*

socks get wet. So we went to the store and bought every pair of socks they had to make an addition to the backpacks.

"We came back a little heart-broken about that."

But from the heartbreak came a focused effort to help at least one school each year, now known as The Big Give. This December, the church's Big Give benefitted Lincoln International Studies School, where every student received a new winter coat, hat, gloves and boots from the church. An addition, the church made the give extra celebratory with a concert, free pizza, crafts and carnival games.

Lincoln Principal Linda Howard said, "I am grateful for Radiant Church. The church uplifted the spirits of students and staff. Also, there was a sense of peace and unity throughout the school. The event was miraculous, remarkable, and captivating. It is great knowing that every child at Lincoln has winter gear. Radiant Church exemplified an intense level of compassion for every single person at Lincoln, and its members are truly appreciated."

The Big Give was set up as a shopping extravaganza for the children. Thousands of pieces of winter gear — coats, boots, hats, and mittens — were set up like a huge department store display, and children explored the offerings with volunteers who helped them make their selections.



Kindergartener Quenton Murphy tries on a pair of gloves with the help of a Radiant Church volunteer.



Kindergartener Jared Tule looks for a new pair of boots with a volunteer at the Big Give.



First grader Chaveah Savage models her new coat with Big Give volunteer Warren VanMiddlesworth.



Lincoln kindergartener Sophia Roberts tries on some gloves with a Radiant Church volunteer.

It was a celebration that radiated with good cheer and excitement.

The church makes sure it is a colorful event with a variety of styles and colors so the children do not just receive new winter clothing — but they get to choose what they want.

"We asked, 'What if we bless these kids like crazy?'" said Chelsea Kneibel, event coordinator for the church.

"Let's just love these kids for a day."

Five years ago, after the backpack project and learning about some of the basic needs of the children, the church debriefed and thought about the needs in the community, especially among children in school, Cummings said.

The problems of the community can look overwhelming, Cummings said.

"We thought, 'What would it look like if we could find one problem in our city that relates to our kids, one that we could just solve given the size of our church and the resources we have?'" he said.

"The issue of winter clothing came up. And, we thought, 'What if we went into a school and solved that problem for an entire school each year?'"

So far, the church has

organized Big Gives for Edison Environmental Science Academy, Washington Writers' Academy, and Woodward School for Technology and Research.

The program has grown each year, Kneibel said. The 3,000-member, non-denominational church holds a special collection in November. This year the church collected about \$150,000, which was divided between the Big Give and an international project in Myanmar. As one can imagine, setting up the party and giving away all of those coats and boots requires tremendous effort, and this year about 300 church member volunteered for the event.

The Big Give is about giving more than coats. It's also about delivering joy and dignity, Cummings said.

"I know what it's like to have more need than you have resources to put food on the table," said Cummings, who was raised by a single mother in Pontiac.

So the entire day is designed not just as a giveaway but as a memorable experience that makes children feel the richness of being surrounded by a community that lifts them up.

"We are meeting a need, but it's actually fun for them. We feel Christmas should be the most joyful time of the year. So we want to create an environment they will remember and the experience itself will be a gift."

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The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs or services.

Inquiries by students and/or their parents/guardians should be directed to:

Director of Student Services
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
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District Directory at :
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Early/Middle College Helps Create Connections Between Education and Careers *(continued from page 1)*

ranging from welding to culinary arts to biology.

All classes are held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

EMC allows students to explore careers, receive high school and college credits, and prepare for careers. It also gives students real-world learning and earning opportunities, that may appeal to some students and help keep them on a path toward a high school diploma and a more advanced degree. Johnny Edwards, director of secondary education, and Cindy Green, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning services for KPS, said during the board presentation on EMC.

"The board and I hope these opportunities and partnerships with KVCC will inspire children to explore a wide range of career possibilities," said Dr. Michael Rice, superintendent of Kalamazoo Public Schools. "We want to provide real-world connections and to show children the relationship between what they study and what they are able to do as a career."

The EMC program supports the new board goal to "improve career awareness, exploration and development in the middle years of development."

The KPS partnership with KVCC in EMC launched during the 2015-2016 school year with four courses: an associate's degree of applied science in machine tool technology, a machinist certificate, a personal computer support technician certificate of achievement, and a welding technologies certificate of achievement.

For the 2016-2017 school year, the board approved four additional programs: a certificate of graphic design, an associate's in graphic design, an associate's in liberal arts, and an auto brakes certificate of achievement.

With the 2017-2018 expansion of the program, students will be able to take advantage of 35 EMC opportunities.

The broad-based Associate of Arts degree will be replaced by

specific degree programs in art, business administration, computer information systems, computer science, criminal justice, elementary education, secondary education, and social work. In addition, the program will offer Associate of Science degrees in biology, engineering, and fisheries/natural resources.

These degrees require a minimum of 62 credit hours, and some transfer to a four-year college or university.

There are four new programs under the Associate of Applied

Science degree, which are occupational in orientation and designed to prepare students for immediate employment in the areas of accounting, administrative assistant, culinary arts and sustainable food systems, and information technology support. These courses require 62 credit hours.

There are two new certificate categories, each requiring 30 credit hours, in administrative support and office management.

Next year, the EMC program also will offer 11 additional cer-

tificate of achievement programs. These require fewer courses than regular certificate programs. These programs are in auto suspension/steering, auto computer-assisted design, computer numeric control, dietary manager, help desk, inventor, machine tool operator, network manager, office support specialist, software support specialist, and word processing specialist.

The district plans to hold parent and student information sessions on Early/Middle College in the spring.

Enrollment Open for Loy Norrix Child Care for 2017

Registration for the 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 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.



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

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Loy Norrix High School Prepares for Renovations

Loy Norrix High School is preparing for renovations that will seek to retain the building's distinctive look, while updating the school with new colors and energy-efficient modifications. The \$5.5 million project, which is already out to bid, is slated to be completed over the summer of 2017 and 2018, although some preliminary work may begin as early as this spring.

Jim Ross, a project manager, and Shawn Parshall, architectural designer, with architectural and engineering firm Tower Pinkster, met with Karen Jackson, executive assistant in facilities management for Kalamazoo Public Schools, school principal Rodney Prewitt and members of the Loy Norrix Knight Life school newspaper recently to discuss the upcoming work.

The work is the last Loy Norrix project from the bond issue passed in 2013.

Last year, staff, students, and community members were surveyed about the color scheme of the school's exterior. About 450 people responded, with 71 percent asking to see a darker blue on the building's exterior versus the turquoise, which is currently in place, or another color.

The new blue will be most visible in the school's glass tower, where the blue will be used throughout along with a new framework of anodized aluminum.

"We're trying to bring that forward, and we thought we could use a blue glass there and really help to offset that entry way," Parshall said. "Architecturally, it's already a focus but through the use of the glass and

different materials we can help differentiate it even further. We see the tower as a signature element of the building."

Another signature element of the structure is its extensive use of glass throughout the rest of the building. The remodeling will retain as much glass as possible, Ross said.

"We know that taking daylight out of spaces creates a negative environment for students," he said. "We know test scores are better when kids live in daylight."

Ross said he lived through a period when schools blocked much of their windows in an attempt to improve energy efficiency, which left rooms with tiny windows. Later, schools realized that was a mistake and opened those windows again.

"It just changed the whole environment," Ross said. "I think your mindset is like night and day with natural light. We really didn't talk about taking away any windows in this project. The hallways still have a lot of glass. The interior courtyards and the senior courtyard will still be ceiling-to-floor glass."

Some of the glass will be replaced with brick or fiberglass panels, especially in high traffic areas that are prone to damage, such as the ramp corridor, but largely the glass will be retained — although replacing it with thicker glass that has a coating to make it more energy efficient.

The new glass will consist of two quarter-inch thick glass panels sandwiching a half inch of air space.

"There are no estimates on the energy savings yet, but we know it will improve it significantly," Ross said. In addition to the improved efficiency of the glass, some of the old porcelain-coated steel panels seen along the bottom of some walls will be replaced by more efficient and better insulated masonry.



The idea was to upgrade the envelope of the building, while retaining its character — and to pull the building out of the 1960s, he said.

All of the building's 92 exterior doors will be replaced by doors made of the same clear, anodized steel that will be used for the tower frame.

The Loy Norrix work will be just one of the five building projects the district undertakes in the summer,

Jackson said. Other work slated for completion will be new windows, exterior doors and bathrooms at Phoenix High School; new lockers at Milwood Magnet School; new lockers and a marquee at Hillside Middle School; and new doors, technology, and a marquee at Woods Lake Elementary.

"We are very fortunate that we live in a community that is extremely supportive of our schools," Jackson said.

February Mobile Health Clinic Schedule

The Family Health Center has a mobile health clinic, which 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 is the clinic's schedule for February. For more information, visit fhckzoo.com. Appointments can be made by calling (269) 349-2641 or by contacting the Community in Schools coordinator at your school.

Feb. 1 — Prairie Ridge
Feb. 2 — Edison

Feb. 3 — Woods Lake
Feb. 6 — Washington
Feb. 7 — Hillside
Feb. 8 — Linden Grove
Feb. 9 — Maple Street
Feb. 10 — Milwood Middle
Feb. 13 — ALP
Feb. 14 — Arcadia
Feb. 15 — Edison
Feb. 16 — El Sol
Feb. 17 — King-Westwood
Feb. 20 — Lincoln
Feb. 21 — Linden Grove
Feb. 22 — Milwood Middle
Feb. 23 — Northeastern
Feb. 24 — Northglade
Feb. 27 — Parkwood Upjohn
Feb. 28 — Prairie Ridge



Words for Third Graders: Kiwanis Continues Tradition of Giving Dictionaries to KPS

For the 10th year, The Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo donated 1,200 new dictionaries to every third grader in Kalamazoo Public Schools.

"A dictionary is perhaps the first and most powerful reference tool a child should own," said Neil Sikora, chairman of the Dictionary Project for the Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo. "It's usefulness goes beyond the spellings, pronunciations, and definitions it lists. It is a companion for solving problems that arise as a child develops his or

her reading, writing, and creative thinking abilities."

Sikora and fellow Kiwanis member Tom Richardson delivered dictionaries to Kairi Hokenmaier's third-grade class at Greenwood Elementary in November. After handing out the books, the men stayed to show the students some of the dictionary's features, such as the list of presidents and the longest English word.

The Dictionary Project began when the club was

trying to decide on a project "to help kids be successful," Sikora said. "Students benefit from an increased self-reliance and resourcefulness inspired by the maxim 'look it up.' Teachers benefit by knowing that their students have consistent access to a tool for homework and in-class exploration."

He added, "Children deserve the best teachers and resources. If we set our sights on anything less, we will be disappointed in the results."



Ella Simpson, third grade, listens to volunteers talk about the new dictionaries she and her classmates were given as part of a Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo service project.



Maci Gast helps her desk partner Jared Wright find a page in the new dictionaries they've just been given by the Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo. The club has given new dictionaries to all Kalamazoo Public Schools third graders for 10 years.



Third grader Billy Woods III and Greenwood Elementary Principal Joletta Drake look at the new dictionary he received from the Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo.



Third grade teacher Kairi Hokenmaier, left, laughs as Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo members Tom Richardson, center, and Neil Sikora, right, make dictionary jokes. The Kiwanis Club has given new, free dictionaries to Kalamazoo Public Schools third graders for 10 years.



Greenwood Elementary third grader Maci Gast takes a peek at the longest word in the English language in her new dictionary, which is a gift from the Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo.

Literacy Night Celebrates Reading with a Host of Hands-On Activities

Kalamazoo Public Schools elementary and middle schools will celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of beloved children's book author Dr. Seuss in their annual Literacy Night celebrations.

Elementary schools will celebrate on March 1, while the middle schools will celebrate March 2.

Check with your school for exact times of Literacy

Night at your building.

Literacy night promotes reading and literacy development in schools and communities. Each school will choose a different theme and offer a variety of hands-on activities for the entire family.

Families can sign up for Kalamazoo Public Library cards during Literacy Night. A parent or guardian with a photo ID must accompany their children to the sign-up table.



A trio of caped super kindergarteners (L to R) Lydia Hensley, Ashytynn Blackwell and Olive Spoelstra, enjoyed Literacy Night 2016 at Woodward School for Technology and Research.



El Sol third graders Leslie Tellez, left, and Mabely Ojeda-Carrillo, take a look at a student book written in English and Spanish, during El Sol's 2016 Literacy Night celebration, which was held at Kalamazoo Public Library in conjunction with Bronson Healthcare.

Graduates Return to Share College Experiences during 2016 Alumni Day *(continued from page 1)*

Rice said. “They view you – older sisters and brothers, cousins, and friends – as elders worth listening to. You are important to their maturation.”

He encouraged the older students to talk not just about college life but also about high school success, because they’ve already conquered that challenge and can talk with expertise.

“As we poured into you, please pour into them and help them use their promise,” Rice said.

Some of the alumni advice is below:

Take advantage of high school to prepare for college. Joseph Richardson, who is attending Western Michigan University, and Daylin McCants, who is a student at Grand Valley State University, urged their former teachers at Kalamazoo Central to “be mean,” and to challenge high school students to work harder. Andrew Kaylor told students that KC can more than prepare them for college – if they work hard and take advantage of programs such as Advanced Placement classes,



Loy Norrix teacher Matt Porco, left, listens to graduates Alana Whitehead, center, and Breana Ortiz talk about how to succeed in college during Alumni Day.

Education For the Arts and Education For Employment. “I didn’t feel any less prepared than students who went to Cranbrook or Detroit Country Day,” said the Kalamazoo College chemistry senior.

Read the course syllabus. “Your syllabus is the key to your success. Definitely pay attention to it,” Taylor Washington told Kalamazoo Central students. She attends Michigan State University and hopes to study business. Professors hand out

a syllabus, which provides an outline of the course, reading lists, assignments, test and quiz schedules, and grading policies.

Study early and often. Washington said, once you have that syllabus in hand, start studying. “It’s very, very key to being ahead of the game. If you see something is due, stay on track,” she said. “Pay attention. Professors don’t accept late work.” Getting used to studying on your own without constant guidance, is one of the



Andrew Kaylor, a senior at Kalamazoo College, visited his alma mater Kalamazoo Central for the 2016 Alumni Day.

biggest challenges, the alumni told students. The grading can be much tougher in college, WMU student Alana Whitehead told Loy Norrix students. “It’s frustrating because your entire grade can be based on three assignments,” she said.

Get up, get going, work hard. A number of alumni said that one of the biggest challenges was finding the self-motivation to get up and get to class. Breana Ortiz has two small children, and time management has been key to her college success. She often has to study after her children are in bed. “Sometimes you just have to go with it and get things done,” said Ortiz, who attends WMU, where she’s also managed to find time for two internships. Emily Olivares, who graduated from KC in 2012 and from WMU in 2016, said she’d suggest the high schools actually start talking about the mechanics of college, and review topics such as time management, paying attention to the syllabus, and the importance of attending office hours.



Michigan State University student Taylor Washington told students to stay on top of their homework in college.

students that they need to reach out to college professors, who are often busy with research and writing. Schedule a meeting during office hours or send an email to discuss questions that can’t be answered in class. Remember that instructors are not interested in students who don’t show that they are committed and interested.

Study abroad. Did you know that the Kalamazoo Promise will help cover the costs of study abroad? Amyre Dennis, who is a student at Western Michigan University, has gone to China twice, she told Loy Norrix students. It’s been key to helping her master Chinese. But more than that, she said, “Study abroad made me a better person, more well-rounded, aware of different cultures and different types of people. Each and every one of you should get out there and push yourself.”

Don’t quit. Alex Hoyle encouraged Kalamazoo Central students to never give up. He is not currently attending college, but he hopes to enroll in KVCC and to build his grade point average. He admitted that when he graduated, his grades were not what they should have been. “But you can get a second chance,” with hard work and effort, he said.

Reach out to your professors. “Be real. College is not a piece of cake,” said Faruq Schieber, who is attending Kalamazoo College. Schieber and Christopher Tyson, who attends Michigan State University, told K-Central



All Ears Theatre

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.**

ac
arts council
of greater kalamazoo

For a complete schedule of shows, visit KalamazooArts.org

FEBRUARY SHOWS

Feb 4
The MYSTERY of the SILVER CUTLASS

Feb 18
CHASE MARLOW: U.S. MARSHAL

Funding provided by
Irving S. Gilmore
FOUNDATION

Maple Street Librarian Honored for Collaboration, Work with New Media

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts librarian Laura Warren-Gross recently was awarded the School Librarian/Teacher Collaboration Award from the Michigan Association for Media in Education.

The award recognizes exemplary collaboration between school librarians and teachers in implementing effective instruction. She was nominated by Patsy Richardson, Kalamazoo Public Schools acquisitions and cataloging librarian, for her work with Maple Street sixth-grade English teacher Stephanie Hampton.

The award recognizes a collaboration to create a curriculum-related program or event that incorporates the school library resources, the research process, reading advocacy, literacy support and technology integration.

Richardson nominated Warren-Gross for her yearlong work with Hampton to help a class of struggling and resistant-to-reading group of students. The goal of their efforts was to make reading positive, to help the students find material they wanted to read, to increase the students' reading stamina, and, ultimately, to improve their literacy.

Warren-Gross noted that



Maple Street librarian Laura Warren-Gross

some students were struggling with their library visits.

"I noticed that the students had very little direction and seemed to be struggling to make any decisions at all," she wrote in her library blog, librariesinthemiddle.blogspot.com. "Then, after they had books in their hands, most were reluctant to settle in and read."

Warren-Gross and Hampton borrowed ideas from Donalyn Miller's book "The Book Whisperer" to create a program for the Maple students.

They changed the class library visits from every other week to every week, which provided more consistent time

for students to explore books. The change emphasized the importance of reading.

Next, they surveyed students to get to know them better, to help tailor activities for them, and to create recommended reading lists. Knowing what students wanted to read was key to helping Warren-Gross and Hampton achieve another of their goals: increasing student reading stamina, which is key to students doing well on tests. Have texts that engaged the students helped as the adults pushed them to read for longer periods of time.

At first students balked at

the extended reading periods, but Hampton and Warren-Gross countered with enthusiasm.

"Yes, you're right! This is going to be hard at first! But we know you can do it," Warren-Gross told the students. By the end of November students who had earlier been restless after a few minutes, were able to focus for almost 25 minutes of sustained reading.

Students also sketched the covers of their books and used cameras and microphones to record their reactions to the books and to share their reading with classmates.

Later in the year the two instructors also used the expanded library sessions to acclimate the students to the new Chromebooks that would be used for standardized testing, and they introduced them to Google Apps for Education, which would be used for writing assignments.

"It was fun to listen to the students compliment one another on their sketches and comment that they were interested in one another's books," Warren-Gross said. "We are building a community of readers with this group."

MOM TO MOM SALE

Portage Northern HS

February 18th from 8am-4pm

\$4 admission, strollers welcome

VENDORS WANTED

Spaces are \$20 for a single or \$35 for a double and include a table.

Email athorpe@portageps.org or call 269-323-5430 for more information.



HELP YOUR TEEN SEE THEIR CREATIVE FUTURE

Education For Employment & Public Media Network offer:

Digital Video Production
Radio Production



Talk to your HS Counselor to sign up for Fall 2017



Be a PEEP Superhero and Soar with the Power of The Kalamazoo Promise

Children who attend a high-quality pre-kindergarten program do better in school and in life. They:

- Get better grades ● Are more likely to attend college
- Get great jobs ● Live successfully

Apply now for the 2016-2017 school year if your child will turn 4 years old by Dec. 1, 2016.

Call the PEEP Pre-Kindergarten office at (269) 337-0095.

Parents Can Help Protect Children Online Through Regular Discussions

The best way to protect your kids online is to take an active role in teaching them how to be safe.

“Have regular discussions, make online rules or a family media contract, and monitor children’s activity by limiting screen time and moving devices to common areas of your home,” says Dr. Sarah Brown, pediatrician at Bronson Children’s Hospital. “Don’t forget to include all de-

vices – computers, laptops, tablets, and phones are more obvious, but gaming devices, internet TV and music players also connect to the internet.”

Brown said it’s important to discuss what social media sites your child may use and come up with a plan for how you will monitor their activity. The internet can feel anonymous to kids, so talk regularly about respectful

online communication. Most experts recommend not allowing children to use chat rooms. Limit texting and IM contacts to a short “buddy list.”

Check out these tips to help keep your child safe while he/she is using the computer.

Tips for Parents

Prevent – Set up parental controls and filters on all devices that your child uses.

Don’t forget that the best “filter” is teaching your child to make good decisions about inappropriate material. Check out safetynet.aap.org for more information.

Set boundaries – Set limits for your child, including a screen time limit for all devices (except for school projects). There are time-limit apps if your child needs more reminders. Keeping your child’s devices in an open, public space can also help you watch what sites they are accessing and who they’re talking to. Make a contract about what personal information will never be shared online.

Learn – Ask your child to decode acronyms and phrases you do not understand, or look them up at a site like www.netlingo.com/acronyms.php.

Tips for Children

Protect yourself – Guard your personal information. Don’t share your full name, address, school, or phone number on any website or profile. If you’re ever prompted to create a username, avoid using your name. Also, it’s important to never give out your passwords.

Protect your computer/phone – If you receive any links or files from a stranger, don’t open it. Ask a parent before downloading programs as well. They could contain viruses that may hurt your computer.

Stay smart – Don’t meet up with anyone you’ve met online. A person may not be who they



Dr. Sarah Brown

claim to be. Tell an adult if an online friend wants to meet in person.

Be nice – Follow the golden rule: treat others online how you would want to be treated. Posting mean comments or sending unkind messages can hurt people’s feelings. When chatting with someone online, keep in mind how your words might affect them.

Report Problems – If you ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe, stop using your computer or phone and talk to an adult. You might want to report what happened to the CybertipLine at: <http://www.missingkids.com/CybertipLine> Sources: us-cert.gov, dhs.gov, onguardonline.gov and aap.org

This article is brought to you by Bronson Children’s Hospital, southwest Michigan’s only children’s hospital. For more information about children’s health, visit bronsonhealth.com/children.

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 Kalamazoo Public Schools

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online
today!**

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www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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

Kalamazoo

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Artists' Corner

Kindergarten students at King-Westwood Elementary School have been studying the elements of art, such as line, shape, value, color, texture, and form, with art teacher Misty Denoon. In each lesson, students focus on one artistic element to create a project. One example is "Line Monsters," where students discussed, charted, and painted a variety of lines. The works were inspired

by the book, "Lines that Wiggle." The students then turned their line paintings into monsters. Another lesson focused on shapes, in particular circles. Each student cut circles from a square piece of paper, then glued the circles on a background to create a collage. The following week, students learned about printing and added print elements to their collages.



Art teacher Cambray Traphagen at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts shared three different works this month to show what her

students have been working on. The students manipulated lines to create patterns and optical illusions in the example of Op Art by Hanani Ahmad Fahmin. The butterfly design

by Corey McCants explored concepts of symmetry and color balance. And, Angely Morales-Amates' jellyfish displays techniques such as color bleeding and printing.



Op Art by Hanani Ahmad Fahmin
5th Grade



Butterfly Design by Corey McCants
5th Grade



Jellyfish by Angely Morales-Amates
3rd Grade

Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Margherita Pizza

Welcome to fabulous February, Kalamazoo! In accordance with our Herbs and Spice Month, please enjoy this fresh and simple classic Margherita Pizza. Fresh basil truly makes this recipe in flavor and nutrient value. Basil is loaded with Vitamin A, and has essential oil and antioxidant components that are good for the body. Try this recipe, perhaps with an additional protein like grilled chicken, shrimp or even a few tasty cannellini beans. As always share with friend and family, stay warm, best regards, Chef Shaun.



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

Directions

1. Cut tomatoes into small chunks and lightly saute in oil with garlic and salt. Drain and set aside.
2. Brush crust with oil. Top with cheese, tomatoes, and basil. Drizzle with oil.
3. Bake in preheated 500° F oven on pizza stone for 8-10 minutes or until crust is golden brown and cheese is bubbly.
4. Remove from oven and top with Parmesan cheese.
5. Cool on a wire rack for 2-3 minutes before cutting into wedges and serving.

Serves 6 as an appetizer.

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 cups Roma tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 tsp. sea salt
- 1 13-inch uncooked pizza dough crust
- 8 oz. Mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1 tsp. fresh basil, chopped
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup fresh Parmesan cheese, shredded

SPICE OF YOUR LIFE

THERE ARE OVER ONE THOUSAND TYPES OF FRESH HERBS AND SPICES WORLDWIDE, BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO TRAVEL FAR TO ENJOY THEM! MOST HERBS, LIKE BASIL OR ROSEMARY CAN BE GROWN INDOORS ALL YEAR LONG IN AN INDOOR PLANTER.

FEBRUARY@the library

FIRST SATURDAY

■ Saturday, February 4 / 2 pm / CEN / Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes!

STORYTIMES

Adult caregiver must accompany babies and toddlers. Siblings attend as guests.

■ **Family Storytime** / Stories, activities and special guests. Birth-5 and their families.

Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 / 10:30 am / OSH

Fridays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 / 10:30 am / CEN

■ **Cuentos y Canciones** / Saturdays, February 4, 25 / 10:30 am / WSQ / Celebrate Hispanic heritage with bilingual stories, songs, and special guests.

■ **Toddler Storytime** / Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 / 10:30 am / CEN / Songs, Movement, and stories.

■ **Baby Lapsit** / Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 / 9:30 am / CEN / Songs and rhymes for birth to pre-walking. Siblings welcome.

■ **Baby Steps** / Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 / 10:30 am / CEN / Songs, bounces, and rhymes for beginner walkers.

■ **Musical Storytime** / Monday, February 13 / 6:30 pm / OSH / Favorite songs, stories, and special guests. Family.

■ **Musical Storytime** / Monday, February 27 / 6:30 pm / CEN / Favorite songs, stories, and special guests. Family.

EVENTS

■ **Toddler Talk** / Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 / 10:15 am / OSH / Share stories with other parents. Carolyn Call, RN, facilitator. 1-3 years.

■ **Baby Talk** / Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 / 1:30 pm / OSH / Share stories with other parents. Carolyn Call, RN, facilitator. New-to 1-year.

■ **Tumble Toddlers** / Saturday, February 4 / 10:30 am / CEN / Beginner walkers and caregivers with music and a big open space. Ages 1-2. Registration required. **R**

■ **LEGO at the Library** / Build with LEGO families. Bricks provided from Duplo to expert builder.

Saturday, February 4 / 10:30 am / OSH

Wednesday, February 8 / 4:30 pm / POW

Wednesday, February 8 / 6:30 pm / WSQ

Thursday, February 16 / 4:30 pm / EAS

Saturday, February 18 / 10:30 am / CEN

■ **La'Ron Williams** / Wednesday, February 15 / 4:30 pm / WSQ / Storytelling and audience participation. Ages 6 and up.

■ **Sweet Baby Blues** / Bluesy Suzy in concert. Ticket required. **T**

Saturday, February 11 / 10:30 am / CEN

Saturday, February 25 / 10:30 am / OSH

■ **1-2-3 Play with me** / Mondays, February 6, 13, 20, 27 / 10:30 am / OSH / One month workshop for child development with children 1-3 years and their caregivers. Please Register. **R**

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

Mondays, February 6, 13, 20, 27 / 5:30-7 pm / EAS

Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 / 10:30 am-12 pm / EAS

■ **Jumping the Broom** / Tuesday, February 14 / 6 pm / POW / Program and celebration! Family.

■ **National African American Read-In 2017** / Tuesday, February 21 / 4-6 pm / POW / Read, listen and share!

■ **Harry Potter Science by Chemical Kim** / Wednesday, February 22 / 6:30 pm / WSQ / Hands-on. Registration required. Ages 5-11. **R**

■ **Mardi Gras Mask Making** / Saturday, February 25 / 2 pm / CEN / All supplies provided. Registration required. **R**



■ **Musical Storybooks, They All Saw A Cat** / Tuesday, February 28 / 9:30 am & 10:30 am / CEN / Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's string quartet. Registration required. **R**

■ **Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher** / Tuesday, February 28 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Engage with WMU Theatre. Registration required. **R**

TWEEN / TEEN EVENTS

■ **Three Book Battle** / Coming Late February / Registration required. **R**

■ **TechGyrls** / Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15 / 4:15 pm-5:30 pm / POW / Tech Camp! Registration required. Ages 9-13. **R**

■ **Harry Potter Book Night** / Thursday, February 2 / 4:30 pm / OSH / Trivia, crafts, activities. All ages.

■ **Escape the Library!** / Saturday, February 4 / 2-4 pm / CEN / Problem-solving, prizes, and fun! Registration required. Gr. 5-12. **R**

■ **SHARE Book Club** / Monday, February 6 / 6 pm / CEN / Graphic novel series March! Gr. 5-12.

■ **Movie and Snacks** / Tuesday, February 7 / 4:30 pm / POW / Watch Selma. Rated PG-13. Gr. 7-12.

■ **Tech Tuesdays** / Tuesday, February 7 / 4:30 pm / CEN-Teen Area / Experiment with 3D Printing! Gr. 5-12

■ **#TAB, GR 6-12** / Monday, February 13 / 4:30 pm / CEN & OSH / Teen Area / Volunteer for events. Earn Perks, rewards, and opportunities! Gr. 6-12.

■ **Powell Book Club** / Tuesday, February 14 / 4:30 pm / POW / New book each month! Gr. 5-12.

■ **J-Pop Club** / Monday, February 20 / 4 pm / CEN / Drop-in if you love anime, manga and Japanese pop culture!

■ **Game Central** / Wednesday, February 22 / 4:30 pm / CEN / From the old to the new, strategy and skill games.

Wednesday, February 22 / 4:30 pm / CEN

■ **Maker Mondays** / Monday, February 27 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Tinker, create, explore with Magazine ReCraft. 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

kpl.gov/calendar



Kalamazoo
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