

Like us on

facebook

IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, March 9 & 23, 2017
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

March 1
Elementary School
Literacy Night

March 2
Middle School
Literacy Night

March 15
Kindergarten Orientation

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

INSIDE

Fun Family Activities Planned
for Literacy Night
Pages 6 & 7

Board Bans Guns in Schools
Page 8

Maple Street Presents
"Shrek the Musical, Jr."
Page 8

State Testing Coming Up
Page 9

K-Central Sets
Stuff the Bus Record
Page 10

Dr. Rice Discusses Washington & Woodward Schools

(please see page 2)

Kindergarten Orientation Scheduled for March 15

Here Is What You Need to Know

The very first day of school is almost here for 2017's kindergarteners.

Parents can bring their children for Kalamazoo Public Schools' kindergarten orientation on Wednesday, March 15, at all elementary school buildings.

Children who will be 5 by Sept. 1, 2017, are eligible for kindergarten this fall. Students who start kindergarten in Kalamazoo Public Schools, and who continue their education through 12th grade at KPS will

(continued on page 4)



Khiley Ridgell shows off her kindergarten orientation T-shirt at Indian Prairie Elementary School in 2016.



Connor Deal showed off master building skills at kindergarten orientation at Indian Prairie in 2016.



Daniel Hwang enjoys a snack at kindergarten orientation at Indian Prairie in 2016.

Loy Norrix Students Win Lewis Walker Social Justice Awards as Part of MLK Day Activities

Two Loy Norrix High School students received the Dr. Lewis Walker Social Justice Youth Award as part of Kalamazoo's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

Loy Norrix senior Taylor Brown and sophomore Isaac Moss received their awards on Jan. 17 at the Kalamazoo City Commission meeting.

The Dr. Lewis Walker Social Justice Youth Award is given to Kalamazoo students between the



Taylor Brown is pictured with Ron Foor, community president of Fifth Third Bank, sponsor of her award.

ages of 12 and 19 in honor of Walker, an activist who has worked for racial equity in Kalamazoo.

The winners must have demonstrated leadership in the area of racial and social justice through community service and volunteerism. Along with a plaque, the winners received \$200. The winners were

(continued on page 4)

FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL March 4

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

NonProfit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit 709

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

** ECRWS **

SRO Threatens Washington, Woodward, Other Schools Across the State, and Local Control

Editor's Note: This column was current as of Thursday, Feb. 16, when the issue went to press. Given the dynamic nature of these events, however, it is possible that other events have taken place between the time the issue went to press and the time it was delivered to homes in the school district.

On Jan. 20, the State School Reform Office (SRO) published a list of 38 high-poverty schools across the state — including Washington Writers' Academy and Woodward School for Technology and Research — that had been in the lowest 5 percent of schools in the state on state tests in each of the last three years. The SRO indicated that it was considering closure of these schools and would make its decision on closures in the next 30 to 45 days.

What is the SRO, and does it have the authority to close local schools? If it does have this

authority, who or what created the SRO, and should it have this authority?

In 2010, the Michigan State Legis-

lature passed a law to create the SRO. When a school has state test results in the lowest 5 percent, that school becomes a so-called priority school and must submit a school reform plan to the SRO for review, approval, and oversight. The SRO has the responsibility to release schools from its oversight that improve their state test performance. It may increase oversight for schools that do not improve state test scores. To exit SRO oversight, no other aspects of the school are considered other than state test results.

In March 2015, Governor



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Snyder announced that he was removing the SRO from the Michigan Department of Education, an independent state agency, and placing it under the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, an agency under his control. In August 2016, Natasha Baker, the state school reform officer, noted that the SRO would be considering school closures for many schools across the state, based on state test results, effective at the end of the school year.

Before the Jan. 20 announcement, the SRO had not visited Washington or Woodward. It had not spoken to students, parents, grandparents, and community members of these schools. It had not spoken to or provided professional development to teaching staff. Before the Jan. 20 announcement, the SRO's only assessment of our schools was to

review quarterly reports and data on the schools' performance. It is no wonder that many parents expressed surprise, anger, and upset when they received the SRO's letter suggesting that they consider other KPS schools and schools outside of KPS instead of their children's current schools.

On Jan. 30, the SRO scheduled its first and only site visits to date at Woodward and Washington for Feb. 7 and 8, respectively. It stayed at each school for four hours to observe a few classrooms and to meet with a few students, teachers, parents, community members, and the principal.

Here's what the Board of Education and I believe. While it's important to track student progress and to check for student understanding, schools are more than just their state test results. All schools need to improve, including all KPS schools. Washington and Woodward

have improved in the last few years. Both have considerable improvement still to make and are working hard to make that improvement.

Here's what we don't believe. We don't believe that closing a school is good for students. We don't believe that you can measure a school solely by state test results. We don't believe that you can fully appreciate a school without ever stepping into it. We don't believe that you know better at the state level what's right for a local community than the local community itself does.

To close a local school at the state level is a blatant attempt to seize local control. It is ironic to that some of the same people that support local control support a state agency trying to take over and/or to close local schools.

Similarly, it is ironic that some of the same people that support parent choice favor

First Saturday @ KPL Saturday, March 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 March, we will collaborate with our host, Kalamazoo Public Schools!**



Kalamazoo Public Schools

PARTNERS

Boys and Girls Club of Kalamazoo
Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo
Despierta Kalamazoo
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan
Great Start Collaborative
Great Start Collaborative Parent Coalition
Healthy Babies Healthy Start Kalamazoo
Hispanic American Council
Kalamazoo in Bloom
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
Kalamazoo County Ready 4s
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
Kalamazoo Literacy Council
Kalamazoo Public Schools
Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra
Kalamazoo Valley Museum
KRESA
The Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo
NAACP
Northside Ministerial Alliance
Parents for Public Schools of Greater Kalamazoo
SW Michigan AEYC
WMU Haenicke Institute for Global Education
Western Michigan University Reading Clinic



Kalamazoo
Public Library

SRO Threatens Washington, Woodward, Other Schools

(continued from page 2)

parent choice except when it is choice with which they disagree.

Closing schools is not a reform strategy. It doesn't improve neighborhoods or communities or families or children's lives. It simply disperses children without any assurance of improved results.

Washington has averaged 95 percent free or reduced-price lunch eligibility in the last 10 years, the highest rate in the district. Woodward has averaged 89 percent in the last eight years, the fourth most socioeconomically challenged school in the district. Poverty matters. Anyone who has grown up in it, or currently lives in it, or works in it, knows this to be true.

A number of months ago, State Superintendent Brian Whiston released a series of guiding principles to help Michigan become a Top 10 state in education nationally in the next 10 years. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Michigan ranks 41st among states in fourth-grade reading and 42nd in fourth-grade math.

Among the Top 10 in 10 guiding principles is one that stands out: Poverty matters. The fourth strategic goal of the Top 10 in 10 is to "reduce the impact of high-risk factors, including poverty, and provide equitable resources to meet the needs of all students to ensure that they have access to quality educational opportunities." To address the goal, the Top 10 in 10 report suggests that the state "develop and promote models to address the differential costs of providing high quality education to students and target resources accordingly," including determining the costs of kids who need more supports and pre-kindergarten services, an increase in at-risk funding and the investigation of a "tiered distribution formula that prioritizes higher concentrations of poverty."

Translation? Kids that cost

more should generate more funding for their education from the state, and poor children, especially high concentrations of poor children, require more money for their education. Kids who have less at home require more at school, and it is the responsibility of the state to provide this additional

"We don't believe that closing a school is good for students. We don't believe that you can measure a school solely by state test results. We don't believe that you can fully appreciate a school without ever stepping into it."

funding, because school funding is largely a state responsibility in Michigan.

Since 2008, every major academic indicator in the district has risen: reading, writing, and math achievement; Advanced Placement participation and success; high school graduation rates; and college-going, college completion, and college graduation rates.

We've also managed to work

four other schools out of SRO oversight in the last four years: Maple Street, Milwood Magnet, Hillside, and Woods Lake. In fact, the SRO has congratulated the district on this work.

Yet at our highest poverty schools, we continue to have our share of challenges.

At Washington and Woodward, we have added full-day pre-kindergarten, as we have at four other profoundly socioeconomically challenged schools, and full-day kindergarten; adopted a new English language arts series; and developed and promoted Lift Up Through Literacy parent education and family literacy programs across the community. These last three improvements benefit children across the district. Additionally, Washington and Woodward have won competitive school improvement grants from the Michigan Department of Education, which are in their third years. These grants have provided funds for additional teacher development, technology, and staff support.

We have improved and will continue to improve.

But we will also continue to fight — by all means available to us — against state closure of local schools. Indeed, on Feb. 15, our board approved the filing of a lawsuit against the SRO in this regard.

The issue of what the SRO authority is — and should be — is currently being debated in a number of forums and communities. Recently, state Senator Phil Pavlov, the chair of the Senate Education Committee, introduced Senate Bill 27 (SB 27) to eliminate the SRO. Others have questioned whether the SRO should continue to exist and, if so, with what authority.

We'll keep you updated on this important issue. We appreciate the ENORMOUS support that you have shown in forums, petitions, letters, e-mails, and resolutions. Keep on keepin' on!

Artists' Corner

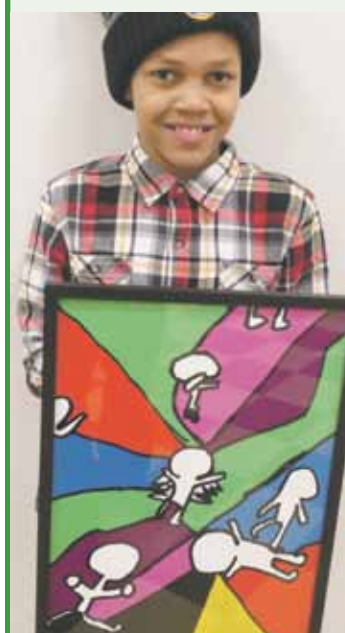
Fifth graders at Woodward School for Technology and Research have been studying the work of Keith Haring and how he used line and repetition to create his compositions. They created their own Haring-inspired works on paper and added color and effects using the computer with the help of teacher Todd Patrick.



Nyzeria Tedford shows off her Keith Haring-inspired painting.



Stuart Bade poses with his Keith Haring inspired pop art.



Malik Bloodworth studies art with Todd Patrick at Woodward Elementary.



Jayden Gashaw studies art with Todd Patrick at Woodward Elementary.

Lewis Walker Social Justice Awards (continued from page 1)

were nominated by adults, who worked with the students in volunteer capacities.

Brown was nominated by Sveri Stromstra May, a Loy Norrix teacher and advisor for the social activism group PeaceJam.

“Taylor is a unique individual when working on a PeaceJam project or a collaborative group project at school. She wants to help the others around her to be the best they can be while making sure the project is done in a meaningful, organized and worthwhile way,” May said in her nomination.

May praised Brown’s collaborative leadership style saying, “She listens and listens very attentively to those she is working with. She incorporates their ideas into the work to be done and in the end makes sure that the final project is to the high standards it needs to be.”

Brown’s volunteer activities include: serving meals to the homeless at First Presbyterian Church and the Dream Center, helping with children’s activities at the Society for Creative Anachronism, serving as president of Greenschool at Loy Norrix to work on environmental issues, belonging to the National Honor Society, working as a Link Crew leader, and being a member of the 2017 Loy Norrix Senior Class Executive Board.



Isaac Moss is pictured with John Pinkster, director of South Operations for Life EMS, which sponsored his award.

As a member of PeaceJam, Brown connects students with Nobel Peace laureates, has helped organize a Pumpkin Painting Party to provide decorations to non-profit agencies, and helps younger students with the Loy Norrix/Edison Literacy Project.

Moss was nominated for his honor by Jennifer Heymoss, program director with Jeter’s Leaders.

“Although Isaac is only a sophomore in high school, he has already shown his commitment to bettering the community through his deep commitment to the Jeter’s Leaders program,” Heymoss wrote in her nomination. “He is very busy with school and extracurricular activities, but he still comes to every volunteer event on time and even signs up for extra events when he can.”

Moss completed nearly 70

hours of community service last year.

Moss served on the planning committee for the 2016 Youth Summit on Racism, attending nearly every planning session. When members of the committee said a discussion about police brutality needed to happen between youth and the police, he took it upon himself to contact Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and to set up a session.

“Isaac is aware of social justice issues and actively seeks to learn and understand multiple perspectives,” Heymoss wrote.

In addition to his work with Jeter’s Leaders and on the Youth Summit on Racism Planning Committee, Moss volunteers at the Peace House as a school-year mentor and summer program worker.

Kindergarten Orientation March 15 (continued from page 1)

be the 2029 Kalamazoo Promise scholars, eligible for free college tuition and fees at most Michigan colleges and universities.

The elementary schools will be open for families to register incoming kindergarten students, meet teachers, visit classrooms, and learn more about the many programs KPS offers. Parents can help prepare their children for a successful kindergarten experience by visiting school during kindergarten orientation and registering their students.

Parents should bring the incoming child’s birth certificate, immunization record, proof of hearing and vision screening (if available), and two proofs of residency (for example: a utility bill, a lease agreement, or a mortgage agreement).

Families that need immunizations for their children can visit Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services (KCHCS) before

orientation. KCHCS provides immunizations 8–11 a.m. and 1–3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10 a.m.–noon and 2–5 p.m. on Thursday. Guardians should bring children’s immunization records, as well as proof of income and insurance records, to the clinic. The immunization clinic is located at 3299 Gull Road.

Please call (269) 373-5203 for more information.

Families with younger children also will find applications for the Pre-kindergarten Early Education Program (PEEP) at kindergarten orientation. PEEP is open to students who will be 4 years old by Dec. 1, 2017. Participants must meet state eligibility requirements.

The times for kindergarten orientation for each school are listed below. The schedule is also available at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com. You may contact your school for more details.

2017 KPS Kindergarten Orientation Schedule

Arcadia Elementary School (269) 337-0530 932 Boswell Lane 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Lincoln International Studies School (269) 337-0640 912 N. Burdick St. 9–10:30 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Spring Valley Center for Exploration (269) 337-0750 3530 Mt. Olivet Road 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.
Edison Environmental Science Academy (269) 337-0550 924 Russell St. 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Milwood Elementary School (269) 337-0660 3400 Lovers Lane 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Washington Writers’ Academy (269) 337-0770 1919 Portage St. 9–10:30 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.
El Sol Elementary School (269) 337-0230 604 W. Vine St. 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Northeastern Elementary School (269) 337-0690 2433 Gertrude St. 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Winchell Elementary School (269) 337-0780 2316 Winchell Ave. 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.
Greenwood Elementary School (269) 337-0560 3501 Moreland Ave. 10–11:30 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Northglade Montessori Magnet School (269) 337-0700 1914 Cobb Ave. 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Woods Lake: A Magnet Center for the Arts (269) 337-0790 3215 Oakland Drive 9–10:30 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.
Indian Prairie Elementary School (269) 337-0590 3546 Grand Prairie Ave. 10–11:30 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Parkwood–Upjohn Elementary School (269) 337-0720 2321 S. Park St. 1–3 p.m. & 5:30–7 p.m.	Woodward School for Technology and Research (269) 337-0810 606 Stuart Ave. 9–10:30 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.
King–Westwood Elementary School (269) 337-0610 1100 Nichols Road 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	Prairie Ridge Elementary School (269) 337-0630 2294 S. Ninth St. 9:30–11 a.m. 5:30–7 p.m.	

Is Your Teen Interested In Storytelling?

Education For Employment & Public Media Network offer:
Radio Production
Digital Video Production

Talk to your HS Counselor to sign up for Fall 2017



NOTICE

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

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

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

Director of Student Services

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

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

District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President

Patti Sholler-Barber

Vice President

Carol McGlenn

Secretary

Jennie Hill

Treasurer

Ken Greschak

Trustee

TiAnna Harrison

Trustee

Craig Herschleb

Trustee

Dr. Lauren Freedman

SUPERINTENDENT

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.

Advertise in:

EXCELSIOR

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mailed to Every Household in Kalamazoo

383-4433

Put Your Marketing Dollars to Work!

Students Honored During First WMU Social Justice Art Competition

More than 53 students participated in the first Western Michigan University Social Justice Art Competition held this year as part of WMU's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

In previous years, the event had been a poster contest, but it was expanded this year to encourage more participation.

"It turned out to be a really wonderful show," said Sarah Cheek-Toomey, the art coordinator for Kalamazoo Public Schools. "The work was really well received by all of the administrators and families who attended."

The Top 5 winners (pictured here) received Kindle Fires. All participants received a certificate of recognition from former KPS Board of Education Trustee Dr. Martha Warfield and the WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, as well as an art book from Kazoo Books.

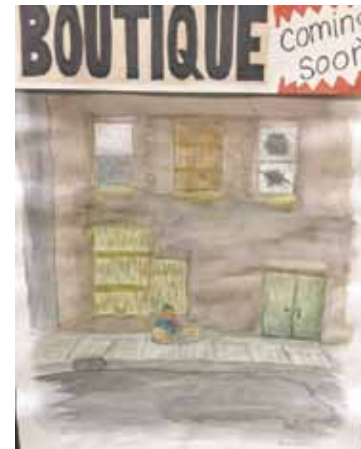
The works were displayed in the WMU Bernhard Center Lobby during the MLK Day celebration and at the Radisson Plaza Hotel during the Kalamazoo Community Day of Action.



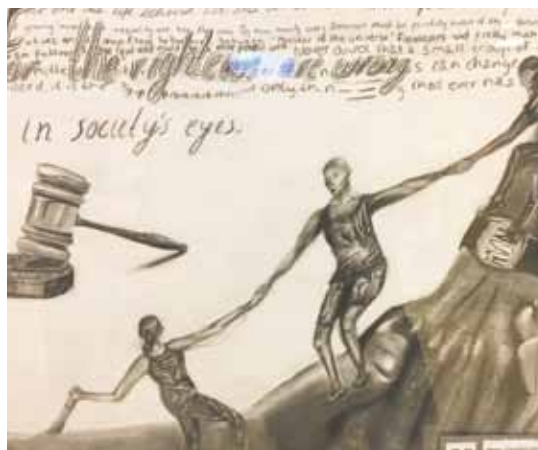
Jaree Leonard, 10th grade, Loy Norrix High School, "We Are One"



Vanesa Fernandez, eighth grade, Linden Grove Middle School, "A Fight for Equal Rights"



Sophia Schwartz, 12th grade, Portage Central High School, "Help". She takes EFA at K-Central.



Alexandria Courtney, ninth grade, Loy Norrix High School, "Untitled"



Haniya Frayer, seventh grade, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, "Stages of Unity"

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

FAMILY PORTRAITS

MARCH 18 | 1 - 4 PM | FREE

Create a variety of family portraits and picture frames using collage, drawings, and sculpture. Discover what makes your family unique.

SPRING BREAK: HEROES AND VILLAINS

APRIL 3 - 7 | FREE

Create, assemble and design images and objects from classic heroes and villains.



Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum

269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370
kalamazoomuseum.org



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

do you know a grieving child?

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



hospiceswmi.org
269.345.0273

Literacy Night Celebrates Reading with Fun Family Activities

Elementary and middle schools will celebrate the anniversary of the birth of beloved children's book author Dr. Seuss with their annual literacy nights. Elementary schools will celebrate on Wednesday, March 1, while the middle schools hold their events on Thursday, March 2. The evenings will include family games that often include hands-on activities and free books for students. For more information, contact your schools.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Arcadia Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.
Arcadia will be "Exploring the Real World" through nonfiction writing and reading. Children will receive nonfiction books. Families can visit classrooms to read, research, and explore through books, the internet, and nonfiction publications. Join the fun at Arcadia.

Edison Environmental Science Academy • 5:30-7 p.m.

To honor refugee students and the school's diverse student body, Edison will be taking a "Journey

to the Seven Continents." After a storytelling event, each grade will be the experts of one continent, and families will rotate through the grades to participate in activities.

El Sol Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m., Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St.
The students and staff at El Sol invite families to learn about "Writing About Science." Each student will share a published piece of informational writing about a science topic. Discover new information about earth science, physical science, life science, and more.

Escribiendo sobre Ciencias

Los estudiantes y el personal de El Sol, invitan a las familias a que vengan a aprender sobre ciencias. Los alumnos estarán presentando un trabajo escrito en el cual muestran lo que han estado aprendiendo en la escuela acerca de ciencias. Acompáñenos para descubrir nueva información acerca de las Ciencias de la Tierra, Ciencias Biológicas, Ciencias Naturales, y mucho más.

Greenwood Elementary

5:30-7 p.m.

Greenwood will host "Super Literacy Night," when superheroes and super sleuths use reading strategies to engage in games, stories, snacks, and activities. Students will leave with a book and resources on grade-level strategies for reinforcing reading at home.

Indian Prairie Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.
"Literacy Around the World" is the theme as each grade features an activity based on a book or author from a different country. Families can prepare snacks, complete a word-building activity, and make art. Completed "passports" can be turned in for a special incentive.

King-Westwood Elementary School • 5:30-7 p.m.

With "Game On!," students can play book bingo, do the book walk, and participate in a book exchange. Students will make bookmarks, participate in Dr. Seuss and Eric Carle activities, and show off their computer skills. Everyone leaves with goodies. Pizza will be provided.



CIS health intern Lydia Simpson painted kindergartener Makenna Brown's face during Lincoln's literacy night in 2016.

Lincoln International Studies School • 4:30-6 p.m.

Each classroom will have a take-home literacy activity. The evening also includes a scavenger hunt with a book exchange, reading to a therapy dog, a raffle, and free books. When a student completes a scavenger hunt punch card, they turn the cards in for dinner.

Milwood Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.
Literacy night will be a collaboration between art and literacy. The hallways will showcase visual art along with instrumental student ensembles, which will allow students to talk about their artistic talents with their families and community. Working artists will help students create, perform, observe, and respond to art. Milwood received a grant from the Jack Hamilton Memorial Fund to support the activities.

Northeastern Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.
Dr. Seuss' "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" will help families celebrate the milestones of education and the Kalamazoo Promise through literacy-based activities. "You're off to Great Places! You're off and away! You can reach all your goals! By reading a book each day!"

Northglade Montessori School

5:30-7 p.m.

Northglade's Golden Rules: "I can respect myself. I can respect others. I can respect my environment." A writing project with the theme, "What it Means to Show Kindness" will be written by students. Art and music will be part of the evening.

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School • 5:30-7 p.m.

Parents will experience what students do at math and reading workstations for each grade. There will be presentations on the Compass Odyssey Math Program and the online MSTEP practice test. Parents are also requested to complete a school survey.

Prairie Ridge Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.
"Reading Is Our Super Power" is the theme for the night, which includes a "books for bikes" giveaway, a superhero photo booth, book giveaways, a book fair, a free dinner provided by Loaves & Fishes, and student-made ceramic bowls available for donations.

Spring Valley Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.
"Literacy Alive" will showcase activities, games, and performances to make the curriculum come alive for students. Events may include: "historical figures" reciting quotes, a spelling bee, skits, a poetry slam, visual displays and games. Pizza and salad will be provided.

(continued on page 7)

Jazmyn C. GENERAL STUDIES

Attend COLLEGE FOR FREE

Motivated college-bound high school students can earn free college credit through the Early College program at Kalamazoo Valley.

To find out more, contact your high school counselor and visit www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege.

Kalamazoo VALLEY
community college

Literacy Night Celebrates Reading with Fun Family Activities *(continued from page 6)*

Washington Writers' Academy

5:30-7 p.m.

Washington will host its second annual Promising Futures Career Fair on literacy night. The career fair will expose Promise students and their families to potential careers, colleges, tech programs, and businesses that can help them realize their dreams.

Winchell Elementary

5:30-7 p.m.

Students and families can apply literacy skills to hands-on science activities. Students will learn why literacy is critical in science as they read and write about science concepts and experiment outcomes. Families can also visit the Winchell Science Fair in the gymnasium.

Woods Lake Elementary

5-6:30 pm

"It's a bird! It's a plane! No! It's Super Readers!" Students will use their super powers to participate in activities that energize their superhero reading skills. They will explore other cultures as they learn every hero has a story. The evening concludes with a free book and snack. Shazam!



Second grader Jamare Davis and his little brother Kashmere Davis played with the Egyptian hieroglyphics at Lincoln International Studies' international-themed literacy night.



Winchell Elementary School teachers helped families explore ancient forms of writing by donning the costumes of ancient Egyptians. The teachers are (L to R) Amy Richmond, Melanie Bryer, Trudy Johnson and Pamela Ide.

Woodward School for Technology and Research

5:30-7 p.m.

Woodward's theme will be African American authors and literature. Kalamazoo author (and Woodward alum) Sonya Bernard-Hollins will read her book "Benjamin Losford and his Handy Dandy Clippers." There will be literacy activities that focus on reading and tech.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Hillside Middle School

6-7:30 p.m.

Hillside will be joined by the nonprofit Fathers Do Read, as they celebrate the all-school read David Lubar's "Hidden Talents," about a 13-year-old misfit who discovers he has special powers. The evening will include a book fair, poetry reading, and photo booth.

Linden Grove Middle School

5-6:30 p.m.

"A Night at the Movies" will feature books made into films. Families will receive "tickets" with titles such as "Hidden Figures," "The Giver," and "Divergent." Participants will complete tasks at "movie stations" to earn free books, admission to entertainment, and the book walk.

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts • 6-7:30 p.m.

Literacy night will kick-off the all-school read, RJ Palacio's "Wonder," which tells the story of Auggie, who has a facial deformity and an enormous spirit. Games will be held in Maple's 600 hallway. The main hall activities include Arabic culture activities, "Wonder" art and numeracy games.

Milwood Magnet School

5:30-7 p.m.

M.E. Castle's book "Popular Clone" will be the focus of literacy night. Activities, musical performances, an obstacle course, and a "Popular Clone"-themed meal are planned for the evening.

Alternative Learning Program

2:30-4 p.m. (extended school day)

Poetry will be the focus of the event. English students have been working on writing poetry, and each group in the school will create posters about poets who write for young readers. Students are encouraged to dress as poets while they visit poetry stations. Youth United Way volunteers will attend and share their own poetry.



Ballet Arts Ensemble
Cathleen Huling, Artistic Director

Spring Concert 2017
Celebrating 35 Years

A mixed-repertory concert featuring
Rodeo (excerpts)
It's All About . . .
(based on Kirk Newman sculptures)
The Dinner Party

Saturday, March 18, 2017
2:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Chenery Auditorium
714 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo

Tickets on sale at Miller Auditorium box office (269.387.2300) or online at <balletartsensemble.org>.
Special rates for groups of 20 or more available.

This Ballet Arts Ensemble performance is co-presented with the **Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra**





All Ears Theatre

MARCH SHOWS

Mar 4
STEEPLE CHASED

Mar 18
The TIME MACHINE
(2 part presentation)

NEW SEASON
OLD RETRO FLAIR

Funding provided by

FOUNDATION

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.**



For a complete schedule of shows, visit KalamazooArts.org

KPS Board of Trustees Approves Policy Banning Weapons from District Property

The Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education approved a policy banning guns and other weapons from schools and school district property.

The policy, which was approved unanimously Feb. 2, reads: “To the extent permitted under law, the Board of Education prohibits persons, including students, staff, and visitors, from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the board, including but not limited to in property leased, owned, or contracted for by the board, at a

“This is really an effort to cast a broader net to address community that comes into our schools.”

school-sponsored event, or in a board-owned vehicle.”

For years, the student code of conduct has had language prohibiting students from bringing weapons to school, said KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice.

“This is really an effort to cast a broader net to address community that comes into our schools,” he said. “So while it certainly is associated with

students, it is first and foremost about community.”

The policy was brought to the board in light of two recent, state appellate court rulings, that “affirmed school districts’ rights in Clio and in Ann Arbor to determine whether guns are permitted on campuses and in school buildings or not,” Rice said.

The district will install signage explaining the gun policy to community members

visiting district facilities.

Other points in the board-approved policy are:

“The term “weapon” means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented as capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons.

“Weapons include but are not limited to firearms; guns of any type, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded); knives; razors; clubs; electric weapons; metallic knuckles; martial arts weapons;

ammunition; explosives; and any other weapon. This prohibition applies regardless of whether the person is otherwise authorized by law to possess the weapon, including if the person holds a concealed weapons permit.”

The policy mentions several exclusions to the policy such as weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel, theatrical props and starter pistols for sporting events. The superintendent or designee may refer a person who violates this policy to law enforcement officials and may take other actions necessary to enforce this policy.



Maple Students Present ‘Shrek the Musical Jr.’

A grumpy ogre, his pet donkey and a princess with a secret are at the heart of the fractured fairy tale musical “Shrek the Musical Jr.”

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts will present this show inspired by the hit Dreamworks animated movie and the children’s story by author William Steig. Taryn Fooy directs.

The musical plays at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 23–25, and



2 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at Lincoln International Studies School, 912 N. Burdick St.

Tickets are \$6 adults and \$3 students and will be available at the door.



March 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 March. 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.

March 1 – Spring Valley
March 2 – Washington
March 3 – Woods Lake
March 6 – Milwood Middle
March 7 – Linden Grove
March 8 – Maple Street
March 9 – Milwood Elementary
March 13 – Hillside
March 14 – ALP
March 15 – Kalamazoo Central
March 16 – Loy Norrix

March 17 – Phoenix
March 20 – Edison
March 21 – Woods Lake
March 22 – Washington
March 23 – Milwood Middle
March 24 – Linden Grove
March 27 – Prairie Ridge
March 28 – Arcadia
March 29 – Northglade
March 30 – Lincoln



High School State Testing

This spring, juniors will once again be taking the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which includes a college entrance exam (SAT), a career-readiness exam (WorkKeys), and Michigan science and social studies tests (M-STEP). On Tuesday, April 11, juniors will take the SAT plus essay. This is followed by the WorkKeys examination and the M-STEP science and social studies tests on Wednesday, April 12. The SAT and WorkKeys tests are taken in the traditional paper-pencil format. The M-STEP science and social studies tests are administered online. Additionally, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) expects that students in grades 9 and 10 will take the PSAT test this spring. Grade 10 students will test on Tuesday, April 11. Grade 9 students will test on Wednesday, April 12. The PSAT is a paper-pencil test.

Testing students should report to school at the regular time on both April 11th and April 12th. Non-testing students should report at 12:45. All students will be released at the regular time.

Students are encouraged to utilize Khan Academy online resources to prepare for these assessments. Khan Academy offers free practice tests and individualized learning activities to prepare students for the SAT and PSAT tests. Additional information on testing can be found on the MDE website, www.khanacademy.org, and www.michigan.gov/mme.

Date	Assessments	Additional Information
Tuesday, April 11, 2017	SAT Testing for Grade 11 Students (Select Grade 12 Students May be Required to Test)	Non-Testing Students (Grades 9 & 12) Report at 12:45 p.m.
	PSAT Testing for Grade 10 Students	
Wednesday, April 12, 2017	WorkKeys and M-STEP Testing for Grade 11 Students (Select Grade 12 Students May be Required to Test)	Non-Testing Students (Grades 10 & 12) Report at 12:45 p.m.
	PSAT Testing for Grade 9 Students	

M-STEP Testing in Grades 3 Through 8

This spring, students in grades 3 through 8 will take part in the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). The M-STEP is an online test and is required by the Michigan Department of Education. The table below lists the specific subjects tested and testing windows for each grade level. More detailed testing schedules will be shared by each building. Please note that although the test is untimed, most students will spend no more than two hours testing on each day. When not testing, students will continue to receive instruction from their classroom teachers.

If possible, please avoid removing students from school on the primary testing days. It is also critical that students get plenty of sleep before testing, arrive to school on-time, and eat a healthy breakfast.

The M-STEP is a curriculum-based exam and the best preparation for students is to attend school regularly and complete classwork and homework to the best of their abilities. Although teachers will spend some time familiarizing students with the item types and format of the test, we believe teaching our curriculum is the primary method to ensure student success.

For additional information on the M-STEP, including practice problems and resources, visit: www.michigan.gov/mstep

Grade	Tests/Subjects	Primary Testing Window	Make-Up Testing Window
5 & 8	ELA, Math, & Social Studies	April 11-27, 2017	April 28-May 5, 2017
4 & 7	ELA, Math, & Science	May 2-18, 2017	May 19-26, 2017
3 & 6	ELA & Math	May 2-18, 2017	May 19-26, 2017

Kalamazoo Central First-Team All-Conference Fall 2016 Athletes



Kalamazoo Central is celebrating the accomplishments of its First-Team All-Conference Fall 2016 Athletes. From the left, they are: Danielle Mitchell (volleyball), Talia Edmonds (volleyball), Ryan Halloran (soccer), Paulo Alcalá (soccer), Bass Ollie (football), Kegan Miller (football), Rogdree Stein (football), Tyrese Anderson (football), and Darius Pruitt (football). Not pictured Vincent Coakley (football).

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.

Ninth Annual Greg Jennings Football & Cheer Camp Slated for June 10

Retired NFL Pro Bowl wide receiver, Super Bowl champion and Fox Sports NFL analyst, Greg Jennings announces the Ninth Annual 2016 Greg Jennings Football & Cheer Camp for boys, ages 8-18 and girls ages 8-14.

This free, high-engagement camp for 500 boys and girls will be held 8 a.m.-4p.m. Saturday, June 10, at Kalamazoo Central High School.

Jennings, a Kalamazoo native and alumni of Kalamazoo Central High School, began the camp in 2009 as a way to impart quality life lessons to campers as well as fundamental football skills and instruction with assistance from coach volunteers.

Jenning's wife, Nicole

Jennings leads the cheer camp, joined by cheer instructors from Universal Cheerleaders Association.

The camp focuses on athletics and education as the camp seeks to empower youth with a message about the importance of leadership and the path to success.

The camp is free to all participants, however enrollment is limited. Online registration begins March 15, and early registration is recommended to ensure availability.

To register go to www.GJenningsFound.org/camp/. For additional information contact The Greg Jennings Foundation at (269) 343-6990 or visit www.GJenningsFound.org.



Retired NFL Pro Bowl wide receiver and Super Bowl champion Greg Jennings will host his ninth annual student camp at Kalamazoo Central, his alma mater.

Kalamazoo Central Holds Its Most Successful 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive Ever

Kalamazoo Central High School experienced tremendous success with its 10th annual Holiday Stuff the Bus food drive thanks to the generosity of the community.

The school goal was to collect 10,000 pounds of food, but the students received more than 13,000 pounds in food donations during the one-week collection period. It was the largest ever Stuff the Bus collection, said teacher Chad Brady, who is an advisor for the students.

More than 140 students participated in the food drive, which included gathering food during school events and community collections at the Hardings Friendly Marketplace stores on West Main Street and Stadium Drive, where yellow school buses were used to collect the food.

All donations were given to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, a local food bank that serves about 700 people a day. According to Loaves & Fishes, one in six Kalamazoo residents struggles with hunger every day. Nearly 40,000 people in Kalamazoo — including 10,500 children — are food insecure, which the USDA defines as lacking access to enough nutritious food for a



Kalamazoo Central students pose with KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice, center in blue, during their annual Stuff the Bus food drive in December 2016.



Kalamazoo Central students, (L to R) Talia Edmonds, Jake Fales, Idrees Schieber, Marshall Klein, Hunter Tanner, Owen O'Neil, Eric Rager, and Patrick Fulton, braved the elements and collected more than 8,000 pounds of food during the Stuff the Bus food drive in December 2016.

healthy lifestyle.

"The entire event was together," Brady said. "Our student-led and organized, kids made this happen!"

and we worked hard to put this



Kalamazoo Central students Kennedy Livers and Reuben Glasser organize food donations on the collection bus for the Stuff the Bus food drive.



Kalamazoo Central High School students delivered food to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. The food was collected during the annual Stuff the Bus food drive.

KSS
ENTERPRISES
FACILITY SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

Visit our Kalamazoo
Showroom today!

5053 Sports Dr
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
P: 269.349.6637
www.kssenterprises.com



Get a Head Start on
Spring Cleaning!

Supplies & equipment to help
you get the job done.

Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Spicy Thai Chicken Peanut Wrap

Hello Kalamazoo, time to “March” into the spring with a delicious wrap full of flavor and nutritious ingredients, such as cruciferous vegetables like bok choy. The Spicy Thai Peanut Chicken Wrap is completed by this cruciferous veggie which contains excellent anti-cancer and phytochemical qualities needed in your diet each day. Enjoy, and please share with family and friends. Best Regards, Chef Shaun.

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp peanut butter
- 1 Tbsp BBQ sauce
- 2 tsp Sriracha hot sauce
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1/4 tsp chipotle powder
- 3 cups chicken, cooked, chopped, chilled
- 2 large tortillas
- 3 cups bok choy, julienned
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 carrot, julienned
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- Sesame seeds or sunflower seeds



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

Directions

1. Combine first 10 ingredients in a large mixing bowl and whisk until smooth.
2. Add the chicken and toss until all of the chicken chunks are evenly coated with the sauce.
3. Place each tortilla on a separate plate. Divide the bok choy between tortillas, covering evenly.
4. Sprinkle with green onions, carrot, cilantro, and seeds. Top with the chicken mixture. All of the ingredients should be applied in an even layer for easy wrapping.
5. Once everything is divided between the wraps, roll them up, as tightly as possible. Cut them in half on the diagonal, and skewer each half to keep them from unwrapping.

Serves 2

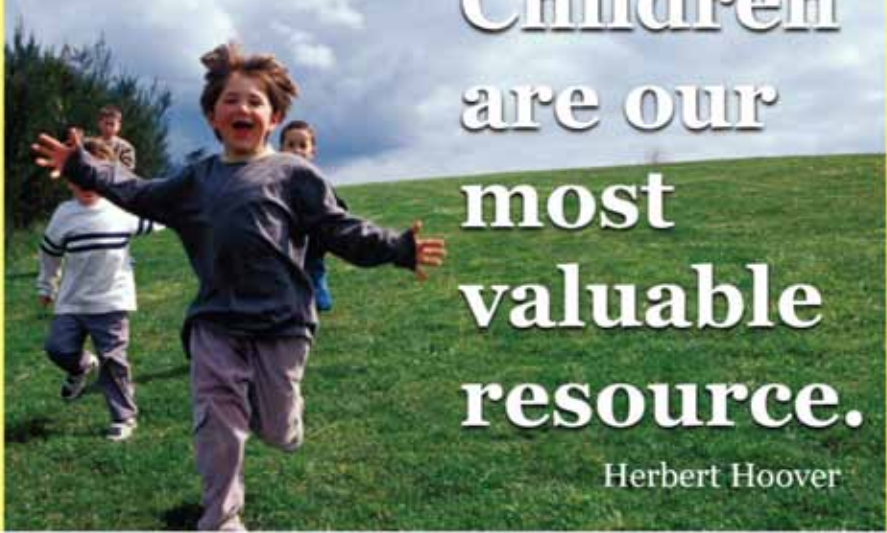
FULL OF FIGHT-O-CHEMICALS

Cruciferous vegetables are rich in fiber, vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals. Nearly all are excellent or good sources of vitamin C and some are good sources of manganese. Dark greens are high in vitamin K. The specific phytochemicals (fight-o-chemicals) found in these veggies can also prevent disease.



Kalamazoo Public Schools

Every child, every opportunity, every time!



Children
are our
most
valuable
resource.

Herbert Hoover

KPS Early Education Program
CEC Building, 714 S. Westnedge Ave., Room 212
Office 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Call (269) 337-0095

Full and Half day sessions are available with three highly trained staff
Early Childhood Pre-Kindergarten program in many KPS Elementary Schools

Breakfast, Lunch, and snack provided depending on your child's placement

Transportation may be available

APPLY TODAY!



These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education

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

MARCH @ the library

FIRST SATURDAY

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

STORYTIMES

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

■ **Baby Lapsit** / Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 / 10:15 am / OSH / Songs and rhymes for birth to pre-walking. Siblings welcome.

■ **Baby Steps** / Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 / 11 am / OSH / Songs, bounces, and rhymes. Walking to 24 Mo.

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

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

Fridays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 / 10:30 am / CEN

■ **Baby Talk** / Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 / 2:30 pm / OSH / Talk about baby care. Carolyn Call, RN, facilitator. Up to age 1 year.

■ **Preschool Storytime** / Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 / 10:30 am / CEN / Stories, songs, activities. Ages 3-5.

■ **Tablet Tales** / Thursdays, March 9 / 10:30 am / CEN / Tablet tech, preschoolers, and their caregivers. Registration required. **R**

■ **Musical Storytime** / Songs, stories and special guests. Family.

Monday, March 13 / 6:30 pm / OSH

Monday, March 27 / 6:30 pm / CEN

■ **Cuentos y Canciones** / Saturday, March 18 / 10:30 am / WSQ / Celebrate Hispanic heritage with bilingual stories, songs, and special guests.



EVENTS

■ **Musical Storybooks, *They All Saw A Cat*** / Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's string quartet. Ages 3-6. Groups welcome. Registration required. **R**

Wednesday, March 1 / 9:30 am & 10:30 am / CEN

Thursday, March 2 / 10:30 am / POW

■ **Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!** / Thursday, March 2 / Open Hours / OSH / Drop in and celebrate!

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

Saturday, March 4 / 10:30 am / OSH

Wednesday, March 8 / 6:30 pm / WSQ

Thursday, March 9 / 4:30 pm / EAS

Saturday, March 18 / 10:30 am / CEN

Wednesday, March 22 / 4:30 pm / POW

■ **Toddler Talk** / Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 / 10:15 am / OSH / Share stories with other parents. Carolyn Call, RN, facilitator. 1-3 years.

■ **Little Scientists** / Monday, March 6 / 10:30 am / CEN / Ages 3-6. Stories and science. Registration required. **R**

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

Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 / 10:30 am-Noon / EAS + WSQ

Fridays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 / 10:30 am-Noon / POW

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

■ **1-2-3 Play with me** / Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29 / 10:30 am / CEN / One month workshop for child development with children 1-3 years and their caregivers. Registration required. **R**

■ **Reading with Tucker** / Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 / 4-5:30 pm / OSH / Read to this friendly Golden Retriever. Call the Oshtemo Branch Library to register. **R**

■ **Tumble Toddlers** / Saturday, March 11 / 10:30 am / CEN / Beginner walkers and caregivers with music. Registration required. **R**

■ **Bookworms** / In March we are reading Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher by Bruce Coville.

Tuesday, March 14 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Thursday, March 23 / 4:30 pm / CEN

■ **St. Patrick's Day** / Thursday, March 16 / 4:30 pm / EAS / Drop in crafting, all supplies provided.

■ **Ozbots** / Tuesday, March 28 / 4:30 pm / WSQ / Programming fun with mini robots! Ages 6-11.

TWEEN/TEEN EVENTS

■ **March Book Madness** / March / Open Hours / CEN-Teen Area / Grades 5-12, only one book will be left standing!

■ **Teen Filmmaker Festival** / Saturday, March 4 / 12 pm / Chenery Auditorium, 714 S. Westnedge Ave. / Enjoy short films created by Michigan's most talented teens and be sure to cast your vote!

■ **Tech Tuesdays** / Tuesday, March 14 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Pi Day Celebration and Raspberry Pi Demo.

■ **Teen Book Club** / Thursday, March 9 / 4:30-5:30 pm / POW / Read and discuss amazing books!

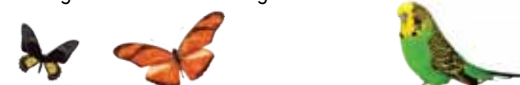
■ **#TAB, GR 6-12** / Monday, March 13 / 4:30 pm / CEN & OSH / Teen Area / Volunteer for events. Earn perks, rewards, and opportunities! Gr. 6-12.

■ **J-Pop Club** / Monday, March 20 / 4 pm / CEN / Drop-in if you love Japanese pop culture! Pocky and sushi samples, Teens Only.

■ **Lego One Scoop Challenge** / Saturday, March 25 / 2 pm / CEN / Create greatness with a single scoop!

■ **Maker Mondays** / Monday, March 27 / 4:30-5:30 pm / CEN / Soap Making!

■ **Game Central** / Wednesday, March 29 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Video game tournament for grades 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
Public Library