Kalamazoo Public Schools

EXCELSIOR

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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, April 13 & 27, 2017
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

No School
Spring Break
April 3–7

Grade 10 PSAT & Grade 11 SAT
April 11
12:45 p.m. report time
for grades 9 and 12

Grade 9 PSAT
April 12
Grade 11 WorkKeys & MStep
12:45 p.m. report time
for grades 10 and 12

Grades 6–8 attend a.m. only
April 28

INSIDE

Lift Up Through Literacy
Spring Session Begins
Nine Sites in Kalamazoo
April 11
page 10 and 11

Remember to Vote May 2!
page 8

KPS Job Fair
4–6 p.m. Friday, May 19
West Main Professional
Development Center
1627 W. Main St.
page 11

New Reports Give KPS Schools Solid Marks for Achievement

Of 141 high schools statewide with more than 55 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central placed first and fouth, respectively, for achievement according to a recent study by *Bridge Magazine*.

"The success of our high schools reflects not simply the great work of our high school educators, but of the educators and support staff at all levels in the district — elementary, middle school, and high school," said Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice.

The rankings used evaluation systems that factored in student socioeconomic status as measured by free or reduced-lunch eligibility, which greatly affects student achievement, according to decades of research.

For this year's rankings of 620 high schools, *Bridge*

(continued on page 5)

Families Celebrate the Joy of Reading at Literacy Night

Families came out to celebrate the joy of reading when Kalamazoo Public Schools elementary buildings held their annual literacy night events on March 1. Some events included special guests such as author Sonya Bernard-Hollins reading from her children's book at The Woodward School for Technology and Research, and the district's Chef Shaun Robinson whipping up fruit smoothies at Washington Writers' Academy.

But mostly, literacy night was an opportunity for families to participate in hands-on activities, and learn how literacy interacts with the arts, impacts career choices, and helps you learn about the world around you.

Schools offered entertainment, books, and dinner. Kalamazoo Public Library had representatives at each school to help people sign up for library cards.

Literacy night traditionally marks the anniversary of the birth of children's book author Dr. Seuss, who was born March 2.



String teacher Ben Gudbrandson plays keyboards for a fifth-grade quartet of (L to R) Liam Rutherford, Malik Guy, Jackie Barnes, and Chase Dorko at the Milwood Elementary. Art teacher Abigail Ruffer used a grant to combine art and literacy on literacy night.



MiJana Canda, 8, copies down facts about Australia, while her sister, Calaya Gordon, 3, watches during the Edison Environmental Science Academy literacy night.



Damari Lawler, left, and Dajuan Davis, second from right, examine pelts from the Kalamazoo Nature Center with curator Benjamin Chee at Washington.



Laura Parsons attended the Washington Writers' Academy literacy night career fair, where she sampled a fruit smoothie.

See more photos, page 4

FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL April 1
The next First Saturday @ KPL event will be held at the Kalamazoo Public Library, downtown, on April 1, 2017, from 2–3:30 p.m.

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KPS School Rankings and an Update on Washington and Woodward Schools

A page 1 article discusses a recent *Bridge Magazine* study that ranks high schools in the state in terms of college readiness, college enrollment, and college completion. The study rated Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high schools first and fourth, respectively, among the 141 high schools in the state with 55 percent or greater free or reduced-price lunch eligibility. The two KPS comprehensive high schools were among 54 named *Bridge Magazine's* 2017 Academic State Champs.

In a separate study last year that looked at student achievement of high schools and factored in free and reduced-price lunch eligibility, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy rated Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central first and fifth, respectively, in the county and 113th and 198th of 620 high schools in the state.

Finally, in a 2015 study of elementary- and middle-school student achievement that factored in free and reduced-price lunch eligibility, the Mackinac Center found that most KPS schools ranked at or above average, only one school ranked in the bottom 10 percent, and no school ranked in the bottom 5 percent.



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

These results are consistent with the following. First, poverty matters, and high concentrations of poverty particularly matter. Schools that get roughly the same resources but that educate children from vastly different backgrounds are not comparable.

Second, children who have less at home need more at school, not the same, and the state needs to provide additional resources for the education of poor children.

Third, KPS has improved in a wide range of ways, for many reasons. Since the advent of the Kalamazoo Promise, 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. Our staff deserves huge praise for the improved results.

Districtwide improvements have included the implementation of full-day pre-kindergarten at our highest poverty schools, full-day kindergarten, a new English language arts series, reconfigured secondary school schedules, strategic and advanced courses at the middle school level in language arts and math, Advanced Placement expansion and improvement, and many others. Our community partners have upped their game as well.

So with all that has improved in the district, how is it that Washington Writers' Academy and Woodward School for Technology and Research are among 38 schools that have been in the lowest 5 percent in state test results in the last three years and, as such, find themselves potential targets for closure?

First, schools do not improve at the same pace, and no school — either within KPS or outside — has arrived or has finished with its improvement.

Second, Washington and Woodward are among the most socioeconomically challenged schools in the state. Washington has averaged 95 percent free or reduced-price lunch eligibility in the last 10 years, during which time it has never gone below 90 percent eligibility. Woodward has averaged 89 percent free or reduced-price lunch eligibility over the last eight years.

That said, Washington and Woodward need to continue to improve. Our educators at the two schools are up to the task and have received and will continue to receive needed support. Both schools have multi-year federal school improvement grants that will continue next year. Both schools have benefited — along with four other socioeconomically challenged schools — from full-day pre-kindergarten. Both have access to the district's Lift Up Through Literacy parent education and family literacy programs in the community. Both benefit from outstanding and meaningful partnerships with Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo.

This year at Woodward, 24 men from Stones Church are mentoring 65 young men in third, fourth, and fifth grades. At Washington, the Western Michigan University counseling center is a strong base of support for our young people.

(continued on page 4)

First Saturday @KPL

Saturday, April 1
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 April, we will collaborate with our host, *Great Start Collaborative Parents Coalition*!



Kalamazoo Public Schools

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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

Community Shows Support for Washington, Woodward Elementary Schools

Kalamazoo Public Schools has launched a multi-faceted fight for the future of Washington Writers' Academy and The Woodward School for Technology and Research in the face of potential closure by the state.

And the Kalamazoo community has rallied around the district's efforts to maintain the neighborhood schools.

The Kalamazoo County Commission, the City of Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, state legislators and community groups, such as the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP, have voiced their opposition to the potential closure of the schools by the Michigan School Reform Office (SRO). The schools were included on a list of 38 schools slated for possible closure for low performance on state tests.

Kalamazoo Public Schools and nine Kalamazoo parents, along with Saginaw Public Schools and four of its parents, filed a law suit against the state in the Michigan Court of Claims on Feb. 22.

The suit says, among other things, that the state acted illegally in threatening to close the schools because the SRO — which is not part of the Michigan Department of Education — does not have authority over school closures, the threat to close the schools caused "irreparable injury" to the school districts, and the SRO does not provide fair notice of the criteria used to determine school performance.

> ***...the [SRO] system appears to be "deeply flawed" and in need of "complete overhaul."***
>
> ***— State Senator Phil Pavlov***

The situation remains in flux. In addition to the Kalamazoo lawsuit, several other school districts have opposed the proposed school closures, and Detroit's school district has just authorized a lawsuit.



Members of the public attend a forum on the proposed closing of Washington Writers' Academy and The Woodward School For Technology and Research.

Gov. Rick Snyder said on Feb. 23 that he would delay — until May — the decision on whether to close the schools.

On March 3, Michigan School Superintendent Brian Whiston said the Michigan Department of Education, which he oversees, would delay decisions on closures for 18 months — if the affected schools agreed to partner with MDE to work on improvements.

That partnership, said KPS Superintendent Michael Rice, would have districts work with the state to create goals for the schools. If the schools make progress on the goals, state monitoring would diminish and ultimately cease. If they did not, monitoring would increase and could include other consequences. The first partnership meeting was scheduled to take place in late March.

Meanwhile, state Sen. Phil Pavlov, who chairs the Senate Education Committee, has introduced legislation to repeal the law that created the SRO, and has said that the system appears to be "deeply flawed" and in need of "complete overhaul."

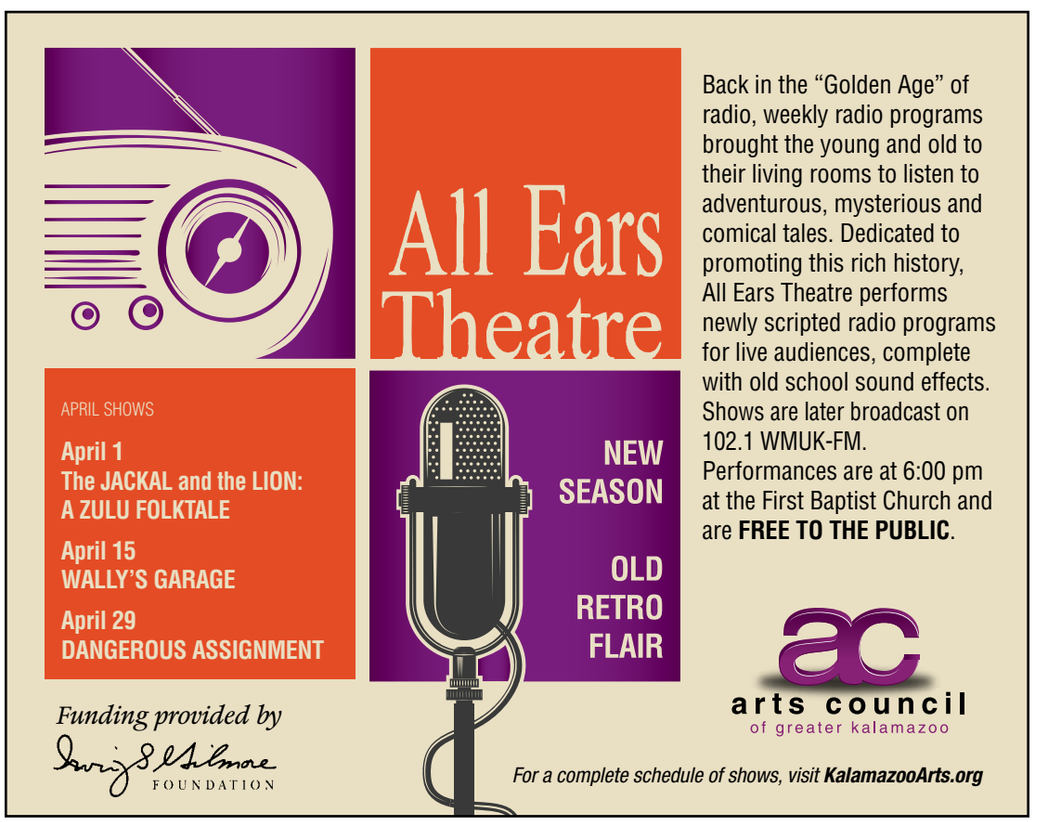
Rice addressed the Senate Education Committee on March 7 where he talked about the best way to help low-income schools and the potential benefits of the proposed partnership plan.

The SRO proposal to close the schools was met with much opposition from the community. Washington parents James and Daria Seaman launched a petition asking that the schools remain open. The petition had almost 2,300 signatures in early February.

Governmental groups voiced their opposition to the school closures with several resolutions.

State Representatives Jon Hoadley, Brandt Iden and Dave Maturen, along with State Sen. Margaret O'Brien, all signed a letter expressing their opposition to the proposed closures. Rep. Hoadley helped shape and spoke at the district's school closing forums on Jan. 30 and Feb. 1.

In its opposition, the city's resolution stated, "The Kalamazoo City Commission values public education, appreciates the critical role of our public school system for our youth and our community, and respects the taxpayer investment that has already been made to improve these schools in our community." City commissioners also argued the school closures would create hardships for families and threatened their ability to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise, if it forced some students to enroll in other school districts.



Literacy Night Celebrates the Joy of Reading *(continued from page 1)*



Washington Writers' Academy first-grade teacher William Young brought his daughter Journey, left, and his son Cade to Washington's literacy night, which focused on careers.



Third grader Evelyn Ramirez-Hernandez paints a panel on the Milwood Elementary participatory art project at Literacy Night, while her father Gaudencio Ramirez looks on.



First grader Janiah Dixon listens to musician Mike Grammes as he talks about playing the flute during the Milwood Elementary literacy night celebration.

KPS School Rankings and an Update on Washington and Woodward Schools

(continued from page 2)

These kinds of efforts, along with the school staffs' dedication to creating social contracts for behavior, have helped to improve the school climate in each building. In the last three years, Washington's daily office referrals have declined 57 percent and Woodward's have declined 37 percent.

Each school also has demonstrated improvements in their academic achievements.

Washington's improvements include:

- From spring 2015 to spring 2016, Washington increased the percentage of students scoring at or above grade level on the Northwest Evaluation Assessment/Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA/MAP) reading assessment from 12 percent to 22 percent.
- From spring 2015 to spring 2016, it increased the percentage of students scoring at or above grade level on the NWEA math assessment from 11 percent to 20 percent.

Woodward's improvements include:

- From fall 2016 to winter 2017, Woodward increased the percentage of students scoring at or above grade level on the NWEA reading assessment from 21 percent to 28 percent.
- From fall 2016 to winter 2017, it increased the percentage of students scoring at or above grade level on the NWEA math assessment from 14 percent to 21 percent.

Both schools have increased the percentages of students annually gaining a year or more of growth.

Washington and Woodward, like all schools, must continue to improve. KPS remains committed to keeping our schools open; supporting staff, parents, and community members at Washington and Woodward; and helping them find the best ways to meet the needs of our students.

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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
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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New Reports Give KPS Schools Solid Marks for Achievement *(continued from page 1)*

Magazine looked at how well high schools prepare students for college or career training after they graduate. Evaluations were based on data from graduating classes of 2009, 2010 and 2011.

This year's survey examined:

College readiness, or what percentage of a school's juniors had done well enough on the ACT to be considered college ready in math, science, reading and English.

Post-high school enrollment, or the percentage of a school's graduates enrolled in college or a certificate program within a year of graduation.

Post-high school progress, which measured what percentage of a school's graduates had earned a certificate or degree or were still pursuing higher education within four years of graduation.

Schools were placed in four groups: those with fewer than 25 percent of students free and reduced-price lunch eligible, those having between 25 and 40 percent, those between 40 and 55 percent, and schools with more than 55 percent eligible.

Of all 620 high schools in the state, Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix high schools were two of 54 schools named to *Bridge Magazine's* 2017 Academic State Champs.

In past years, the award was based on performance on state assessments, when adjusted for poverty. The magazine said this year's rankings were dramatically different, because changes in the state's assessment test made it impossible for the magazine to compare multiple years of test data.

Kalamazoo Public Schools also fared well in the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's The Michigan Context and Performance (CAP) Report Card for High Schools for 2016. Last year, the center released its Elementary and Middle School Context and Performance Database for 2015.



Loy Norrix graduate Amyre Dennis visited the school recently to talk about her experiences at Western Michigan University and studying Mandarin in China.

The CAP database evaluates a school's performance by adjusting standardized test scores to account for student background — or, what it calls "the context" of a school. It pays particular attention to the socioeconomic status of students at each school, because of that factor's impact on school performance. These report cards look at two years' worth of new data.

In its 2015 report, the center says assessments that do not consider student backgrounds "can understate the performance of schools serving high-poverty students and overstate the performance of schools serving relatively affluent students."

Scores were based on an analysis that predicted how a school would perform given the socioeconomic status of the students tested — and compared to actual school performance. A score of 100 meant the school performed as predicted given the relative level of student poverty in its community, while a score greater than 100 meant the school did better than expected and a score under 100 indicated a school did worse than expected.

In the recently released 2016 Michigan Context and Performance Report Card for High Schools, both Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central received above average scores in the CAP ratings and finished first and fifth, respectively, among Kalamazoo County public high schools.

Sixteen of the district's 17 elementary schools and four comprehensive middle schools scored at or above average in the Mackinac Center's 2015 CAP report looking at student success. No school was rated in the lowest 5 percent and only one school was in the lowest 10 percent statewide.

"There are many ways to evaluate, rate, judge and rank schools," Rice said. "The exercise is a very complicated one. KPS doesn't endorse any particular method or any particular organization's way of evaluating schools.

"Nonetheless, seeing a variety of studies , especially those that factor in student socioeconomic status, helps to contextualize where the district's schools are in their development."



Parkwood-Upjohn Drum Choir Students Add to Music at Cooper's Glen Music Festival

Kids are always banging, tapping, popping.

Music teacher Jennifer Boyer noticed that almost 20 years ago, and about 16 years ago she took that nervous energy and made it part of her work with students.

Boyer, who taught at Woodward Elementary for 13 year and has been at Parkwood-Upjohn for eight years, runs a drum choir for her students.

"I'm not really a drummer," Boyer said. "You wouldn't want to hire me for a gig."

But when she was working on her master's degree, she spent a month in Africa studying drumming. She said she realized that those chronic tappers, bangers and poppers would benefit from having someplace that allowed them to make noise without fear of getting in trouble.

Her drum choir consists of 60-65 fourth and fifth graders.

There is no audition process. Children apply for the group and are chosen by lottery — and there is always a long waiting list of children who want to bang on the drums all day. They meet once a week for 20 minutes during recess — and sometimes after school if there are special performances coming up.

The drum choir performed Feb. 4 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel as part of the Cooper's Glen Music Festival, which is sponsored by the Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association (GLAMA).

"We had a big group last year, many kids from the drum choir plus many parents and grandparents in attendance," said Mark Sahlgren, with GLAMA. "We were thrilled at how well it was received, and it was one more beautiful experience for those wonderful children and all who attended."

The drum choir performed carnival music from Guinea West Africa, pop music from the British rock band Queen, and traditional American folk music by Woody Guthrie. The choir was joined by Cori Beth Somers, executive director of the Kalamazoo Bach Festival and a violinist with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and the band The Red Sea Pedestrians, and singer/songwriter Steve Barber.

In addition to the drum choir, Parkwood-Upjohn was represented by the school orchestra under the direction of teacher Benjamin Gudbrandson.



Peyton Mitchell takes a break during drum choir rehearsal at Parkwood-Upjohn.



Jona Vaughan-Hughes and Mis Shipman practice for the Parkwood-Upjohn drum choir.



Samuel Schnell, left, and Sayani Jones are members of the Parkwood-Upjohn drum choir.



K-Central's Rog Stein Chosen for MHSFCA East-West All Star Game

Kalamazoo Central Senior Rog Stein has been selected to the West team for the 35th MHSFCA East-West All Star Game, which will be June 24 at Saginaw Valley State University. Many of the greatest football players in the state's history have played in this game, including NFL players such as Jerome Bettis, Braylon Edwards, and Jake Long. Rog Stein, No. 7, is pictured with, from left, Jalen Jones, Jalin Long, Vincent Coakle. The four were co-captains when the team played at the University of Michigan to kick off the football season last fall.



Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell Offers Advice to Arcadia Students: READ

Cherise Ward's first-grade class was studying about leaders, so she invited one of Kalamazoo best known leaders to stop by Arcadia Elementary to talk about his work.

Mayor Bobby Hopewell, who graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School, visited Ward's class in December to answer questions from students, such as Ella Denaway, who wanted to know how long Hopewell had been mayor — 10 years — and Tony Boyd, who wanted to know what the mayor does at work.

"I meet people, sign papers, make laws, learn from other mayors," Hopewell said.

Brooklyn Klok wanted to know, "Do you have a boss at your job?"

"I have about 74,000 bosses, those are the people who placed me in this job by voting," Hopewell said. "I'm responsible to all 74,000 people that live in Kalamazoo. They all have different opinions."

Other questions included who helps him at his job, where does he work, and "Do people come to your office to ask questions?"

Marcus Mills asked the mayor, "What do you like to do for fun?"

Hopewell said he likes to eat, ride his bike, go to movies, and read comic books. And, he said, "I have some of the best friends in the universe and I love spending time with them and my family."

As he wrapped up his visit, Hopewell took a few minutes to encourage students to do their best in school — and to especially do their best at reading.

"If you can't read or if you don't work hard to read, you can't be mayor. You can't fly a plane. You won't be able to be a doctor or a lawyer if you can't read," he said. "It doesn't mean you can't achieve, but it makes it harder if you can't read.

"Dive into this stuff. Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't. I believe in you and you need to believe in yourself."



Carmello Nichols smiles as Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell answers his question during a visit to Cherise Ward's first-grade classroom at Arcadia Elementary School.



Muhammad Razzaq, Nicholas Boyd, Miles Manley, Genevieve Carroll, and Elija Rodriguez (L to R) listen to Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell address their class at Arcadia.

Choirs Represent Kalamazoo at MI Music Conference

Two Kalamazoo choir groups performed at the Michigan Music Conference (MMC) in Grand Rapids in January.

The Kalamazoo Central High School Hawthorne Singers, under the direction of Theresa Williams-Johnson performed at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Conducting Symposium at the MMC on Jan. 19.

MSVMA chose the Hawthorne Singers, based on the group's reputation for excellence, music preparation, and ability to work with guest conductors. The singers were praised for their ability to work with different conducting styles and to provide mature feedback.

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts teacher Julie Davis brought more than 40 students to the conference for her presentation "Beyond Glee: Using Pop a Cappella in Middle and High School Choir," on Jan. 20. Davis shared concrete steps with other teachers for building an a cappella ensemble at the secondary school level.

Students performed a "Star Wars" medley, the pop songs "Brave" and "Good to Be Alive" as well as Kalamazoo singer-songwriter Megan Dooley's song "Nothing But Trouble." Davis worked on the program with Jacob Berglin, a former Milwood Magnet School choir teacher who is working on his doctorate at Northwestern University.



The Kalamazoo Central High School Hawthorne Singers pose with KCHS vocal music teacher Theresa Williams-Johnson, center left, and Kimberly Dunn-Adams, Western Michigan University assistant professor of music and director of choral activities.



Female choir students from Maple Street Magnet School perform as part of Julie Davis' presentation "Beyond Glee: Using Pop a Capella in Middle and High School Choir" at The Michigan Music Conference in January.



Woods Lake Students Tap Out a New Beat in Dance Class

Debra Norton loves tap dancing — and she knew that her students would love tap dancing.

"Given the opportunity, what child wouldn't want to slip on a pair of tap shoes and make noise?!" Norton said. "It is literally drumming with your feet."

Norton launched the Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts' tap dancing troupe last year after receiving a grant from the Greg Jennings Foundation to purchase tap shoes. She has a group of 10 fourth-grade tappers in the program. They are an energetic addition to the school's performing line-up, which includes a fifth-grade dance troupe.

The tap dancers gave their first performance of the 2016-2017 school year during the school's holiday concert and received rousing applause from the audience.

Woods Lake students have a number of musical opportunities such as their regular music class, orchestra, Gilmore Piano Lab, and Kids In Tune.

"That gives our students a great music foundation," Norton said. "When that is combined with their regular dance class experience, I knew tap would be a good fit. Students learn to tap out rhythms with their feet."

The students meet only 30 minutes each week. That can make it tricky to learn new steps and choreography, but students have been so enthused, they readily practice outside of class. They've already begun learning new material since the December concert, Norton said.

The 10 students selected for the program have done "extremely well" with tapping, she said. "This program is less than a year old and they have exceeded my expectations."



The Wood Lake Elementary tap dance troupe has made great progress in just a year. Troupe members are, front row, (L to R) Jonathan Lara, Dennis Witherspoon, Brady Bond, Auni Ahmad Fahmin; and back row, (L to R) Cayden Harris, Layla Hemphill, Sahriah Casey, Ashari Palmore, Seriannu Anderson. Not pictured: Samma Yuag

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Please Remember to Vote on May 2

On Tuesday, May 2, voters in Kalamazoo Public Schools and all other districts in Kalamazoo County will be asked to vote on the renewal of a 3-year, 1.5 mill property tax to help continue to fund operations of our schools.

Q: Is this a new millage or a millage increase?

A: No. This is a renewal. Taxpayers will be paying the same millage rate for this millage that they have paid for the past three years.

Q: What would be the impact on Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) if this millage question is defeated?

A: Kalamazoo Public Schools receives $4.3 million annually from this millage. These funds are budgeted in the district's operating budget. If these funds are eliminated, budget cuts would be inevitable.

Q: How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?

A: Since it is a renewal, it would not cause an increase in tax rates. Defeat of this proposal would result in a decrease in taxes of $75 annually for the typical homeowner (with a house with a value of $100,000).

Q: This is a millage assessed across all Kalamazoo County school districts in the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA). Does KRESA keep the money?

A. No. The tax revenues are fully distributed by KRESA to the school districts in the county, including KPS, on a per student basis. Each school district receives the same per student amount.

Q: How has the school funding situation changed since 2014?

A: Local school districts are heavily reliant upon the State of Michigan for funding. In many respects, the state's funding of local school districts has not improved since 2014. In fact, when considering inflation, our buying power is less.

Q: Who can vote in this election?

A: Any registered voter that resides in a school district within the KRESA service area can vote in this election. This includes all districts in the county: Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, and Vicksburg.

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

A: The last day to register to vote in this election is April 3.

Q: How can I find out where I vote?

A: You can find out where you vote by contacting the clerk's office in the city or township in which you reside. For KPS voters, these offices are:

City of Kalamazoo
337-8793
Kalamazoo Township
381-8080
Oshtemo Township
216-5224
Texas Township
375-1591

Q: Can I vote by absentee ballot?

A: A person can vote by absentee ballot if he or she:

- Expects to be absent from the community in which he or she is registered for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day.
- Is physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- Cannot attend the polls because the tenets of his or her religion.
- Has been appointed as an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where he or she resides.
- Is 60 years of age or older.
- Is confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Absentee ballots must be requested from the city or township clerk where you reside.

Please vote in this election. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2.

April 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. Listed is the clinic's schedule for April. 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.

April 3-7 - Spring break. No clinic visits
April 10 - Milwood Elementary
April 11- Northglade
April 12 - Parkwood-Upjohn
April 13 - Prairie Ridge
April 14 - Spring Valley
April 17 - Washington
April 18 - Woods Lake
April 19 - Woodward
April 20 - Hillside
April 21 - Northeastern
April 24 - Linden Grove
April 25 - ALP
April 26 - Kalamazoo Central
April 27 - Loy Norrix
April 28 - Maple Street



Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Zucchini Chips

Hello Kalamazoo, time to enjoy some vegetables. Using our own garden veggies can be so rewarding in the summer. But you don't need to miss out during the winter months. Please take time to try out this recipe with zucchini. You won't be disappointed this spring and summer season. Zucchini chips are great with dips or served in sandwiches, wraps, or even a nice veggie lasagna. As always, share with friends and family. Best regards, Chef Shaun.



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

Ingredients

¼ cup dry bread crumbs, finely ground
¼ cup (or 1 ounce) Parmesan cheese, freshly grated
¼ tsp ground sea salt
¼ tsp granulated garlic
¼ tsp paprika
⅛ tsp freshly ground black pepper
3 Tbsp whole milk
2 ½ cups (2 small), zucchini, sliced ¼ inch thick
Cooking spray

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425˚F.
2. Combine first six ingredients in a medium bowl, stirring with a whisk.
3. Place milk in a shallow bowl.
4. Dip zucchini slices in milk, and dredge in breadcrumb mixture. Place coated slices on an ovenproof wire rack coated with cooking spray.
5. Place rack on a baking sheet. Bake slices on rack at 425˚ for 30 minutes or until browned and crisp. Serve immediately.

X-RAY VISION



Colorful fruits and vegetables provide us with beta carotene, which our bodies turn into vitamin A. Vitamin A is important for good health, especially for your eyes. People who don't get enough vitamin A can have a harder time seeing when it's dark — so eat your carrots!

Artists' Corner

Fourth graders at Prairie Ridge Elementary have been learning about the elements of still life painting by painting large flowers in a vase. They studied paintings of flowers by artists such as Vincent van Gogh and Georgia O'Keefe. The students learned to blend colors and make tints of colors while using tempera paint under the direction of their art teacher Doug Duncan.



Isaiah Lowery poses with his flower still life painting.



Camille McKee shows off her flower still life painting.



Matthew Kelly created unique patterns in his painting.



Sara Tijerina used big bold shapes while painting her still life flowers.



Lift Up Through Literacy Program

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

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

Spring 2017

April 11 – June 1, 2017

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

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

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



KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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We offer paid training, flexible hours, competitive wages, medical benefits, retirement package and uniforms.

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Sobresalir Por Medio De La Educación

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

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

Primavera *2017*

11 de abril – 1 de junio del 2017

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

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

We Are Hiring!

Kalamazoo Public Schools

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Expected vacancies for fall 2017–18 include:

- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers in Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and Foreign Language
- Special Education
  - Self-Contained Classroom Teachers
  - Inclusion / Resource Room Elementary and Secondary Teachers
  - Speech Therapists, School Psychologists, School Nurse
- Support Staff including:
  - Special Education Paraprofessionals
  - Secretaries
  - Food Service Employees
  - Activity Helpers
  - Bus Drivers
  - Substitute Teachers, Substitute Secretaries, and Substitute Paraprofessionals

Attend the KPS Job Fair! May 19 4–6 p.m.

Pre-register for the Job Fair to be considered for interviews on May 19.
RSVP to Rhonda McGee by Friday, May 1st via email at **mcgeerd@kalamazoopublicschools.net**

LOCATION:

West Main Professional Development Center
1627 West Main, Kalamazoo, MI 49006



APRIL @ the library

FIRST SATURDAY

Saturday, April 1 / 2 pm / CEN / Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes!

STORYTIMES

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

EVENTS

Avian Wonders / Monday, April 3 / 2 pm / EAS / Meet Denise Heath's feathered friends. Free ticket required. Contact Eastwood Branch for ticket information. All ages.

Western Dance Project / Monday, April 3 / 11 am / CEN / From contemporary to ballet, watch this performance. Family.

4-H Bunny Hop / Tuesday, April 4 / 2 pm / WSQ / Learn about care and upkeep with live bunnies. Registration required. All ages. (R)

Rockin' Rollercoasters / Tuesday, April 4 / 2 pm / OSH / Explore speed, mass, g-force, and energy with the Air Zoo Science-on-the-Go program. Ages 8–11. Registration required. (R)

Martial Arts with Charles Parker / Tuesday, April 4 / Learn self-defense. Registration required. (R)

Ages 7–10 at 2 pm; Ages 11–18 at 3 pm / POW

Slime Works / Wednesday, April 5 / 2 pm / OSH / Combine chemicals and make ooey gooey creations! Ages 8–11. Registration is required. (R)

Binder Park Zoomobile / Wednesday, April 5 / 2 pm / POW / Live animals and amazing artifacts. Free ticket required. Contact the Alma Powell Branch for ticket information. All Ages

Chemical Kim / Thursday, April 6 / 10:30 am / EAS / A super science show for ages 6–11.

Dia de los Niños Celebration / Saturday, April 9 / Join us in celebrating "Diversity in Action" with:

Cuentos y Canciones / 10:30 am / WSQ

Small Sounds at 11 am; Dances of India at 2 pm / OSH

Small Sounds / 3 pm / CEN

Reading with Tucker / Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 / 4–5:30 pm / WSQ / Enjoy a "pawsitive" reading experience with Tucker. Call the Oshtemo Branch to register. Family.

Little Scientists / Monday, April 10 / 10:30 am / CEN / Ages 3–6. Stories and science. Registration required. (R)

Eggnificent Creation / Decorate your very own holiday egg. Registration required. (R)

Monday, April 10 / 4:30 pm / EAS

Tuesday, April 11 / 4:30 pm / POW

Wednesday, April 12 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Thursday, April 13 / 4:30 pm / CEN

Bookworms / In April we are reading *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar.

Tuesday, April 11 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Thursday, April 27 / 4:30 pm / CEN

Mommy & Me for Teen Moms /Tuesday, April 11 / 6 pm / POW / Come and engage early learning fun with songs, puppets, finger plays, bubbled and more. For ages birth–5.

Rockin' Rovers / Saturday, April 8 / 11 am / OSH / Dancing dogs from the West Michigan Canine Connection will perform a freestyle routine. Free ticket required. Contact the Oshtemo Branch for ticket information. (T)

TWEEN / TEEN EVENTS

Tech Tuesday / April 4 / 4:30–5:30 pm / CEN / Grades 5–12 for Tech-Take Apart!

Teen Talent Show / Tuesday, April 4 / 5:30–7:00 pm / POW / Come and cheer on your friends at this spring break competition!

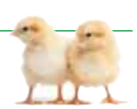
Gaming Tournaments / Compete against your friends in an afternoon of tournament game play!

Wednesday, April 5 / 2–4 pm / CEN

Thursday, April 6 / 4:30–5:30 pm / EAS

Tuesday, April 25 / 4:30–5:30 pm / WSQ





Writings on the Wall: A Teen Poetry Showcase presented by Speak It Forward / Friday, April 7 / 5 pm / CEN / A poetry showcase, will highlight the voices of the individuals participating in our after-school workshop.

Nova VR / Saturday, April 8 / 2–4 pm / CEN / Drop in and experience virtual reality.

#TAB, GR 6–12 / Monday, April 10 / 4:30 pm / CEN & OSH / Teen Area / Volunteer for events. Earn perks, rewards, and opportunities! Gr. 7–12.

Teen Book Club / Thursday, April 13 / 4:30–5:30 pm / POW / Read and discuss books written by KPL Visiting Author Nikki Grimes.

Three Book Battle / Saturday, April 15 / Noon–3 pm / CEN / Middle school battle of the books. Register online. (R)

J-Pop Club / Mondays, April 17 / 4 pm / CEN / Drop-in if you love Japanese pop culture! Pocky and sushi samples, Teens Only.

Lego One-Scoop Challenge / Saturday, April 22 / 2–3 pm / CEN / Create greatness with a single scoop of LEGOs.

Pizza & Pages / Read exclusive unreleased books then come back for pizza and a discussion! Please register.

Shadow Shaper by Daniel Jose Older / Wednesday, April 19 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Bronx Masquerade by KPL Visiting Author, Nikki Grimes / Monday, April 24 / 6 pm / EAS

Maker Monday / Monday, April 24 / 4:30–5:30 pm / CEN / Soap Making!

College Readiness / Monday, April 24 / 6–7 pm / CEN / College prep with Karen Williams from College Stride. Grades 9–12.



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