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IMPORTANT DATES

**Board of Education Meetings**

Thursday, Oct.. 12 & 26, 2017  
7 p.m.  
Administration Building  
1220 Howard St.

For more information, call  
(269) 337-1572

**Oct. 13**  
Grades 6–8 a.m. only  
with p.m. schedule

**Oct. 18**  
Grades 9–12 a.m. only  
with a.m. schedule

Grades 9–12 conferences,  
schedule to be announced

**Oct. 19**  
Grades 6–8 p.m., a.m. only  
with a.m. schedule

Grades 6–8 conferences,  
schedule to be announced

**Oct. 27**  
Grades PreK–5, no school.  
Records day

**Nov 3**  
Grades 6–12, no school.  
End of nine-week  
marking period

**Lift Up Through Literacy  
Program**

Schedule and Locations  
page 11

KPS Graduation Rates, Achievement Improve (see page 2)

School Libraries Help Students  
Reduce Summer Slide

Kalamazoo Public Schools tackled the challenge of bolstering student summertime reading with a simple idea: give children more access to books.

The district opened the libraries in five elementary schools to provide children with more access to books and access to a larger variety of books.

The summer library program was piloted once a week at Arcadia Elementary School, Lincoln International Studies School, Washington Writers’ Academy, Edison Environmental Science Academy, and



Woodward School for Technology and Research. All KPS elementary school children were able to visit the libraries between June 19 and Aug. 17.

“This is to beat back summer slide,” KPS Superintendent Michael Rice said. “One of the things we learned at a Reading Now Network symposium is that much of the gap in reading between middle-class and working-class poor children is associated with what happens in the summer.

(continued on page 8)

Erica Barrett reads to children during the summer library program.

First Day Shoe Fund Helps Students Start the Year Off on the Right Foot

There’s something special about a brand new pair of shoes for the start of the school year, and thousands of children had the chance to experience that thrill thanks to the First Day Shoe Fund.

The organization distributed new pairs of socks and athletic shoes to elementary school children during the summer. The shoes were given away for free

(continued on page 4)



Nashyla Graham tries on a pair of shoes at the First Day Shoe Fund community event. “I like pink,” she said.



Oliver Black thought his new shoes felt “awesome.”

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

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

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# Graduation, Reading, and Math Numbers Continue to Rise

Good news! As we begin a new school year, we are proud to announce that the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) graduated more students this year than any year in the Promise era: 648 students. In addition to very large graduating classes at Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix—292 and 274 students, respectively—we also graduated the second largest graduating class in Phoenix history: 68 students. Finally, our new, small, hybrid high school—the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program—graduated 14 students, with dozens more earning high school credits.

While the state has yet to announce high school graduation rates for 2017—typically, the state releases the rates in the winter, after extensive review—we are optimistic that our rates will continue to rise when the state announces them this winter.

The good news, though, is

not limited to high school graduates. It extends to improvement on the state's M - S T E P reading and math tests, given last spring, whose results the state released on Aug. 29.

M-STEP is a challenging series of tests, one that came out of a national movement to create greater rigor in curriculum across the country. In fact, statewide, in only one grade in only one subject (grade 5 English language arts) did the state's students exceed 50 percent at or above proficiency. In all other grades in both English language arts and math, the state's percentage of students at or above proficiency was between 34 and 44 percent.

That said, progress is



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

progress. Comparing spring 2016 and spring 2017 M-STEP English language arts (reading) results, KPS raised its performance in 5 of 6 grades tested: in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. Performance declined in only one grade: grade 7. By contrast, the state had lower performance in 5 of 6 grades: all but grade 5.

When measured by free and reduced-price lunch percentage, KPS is approximately 50 percent poorer than the state as a whole. Test results—particularly standardized or state test results—are often highly correlated with socioeconomic status. All else being equal, schools with higher concentrations of middle-class students tend to outperform schools with higher concentrations of working-class and poor students.

While the state's results on M-STEP exceed the district's, the gap between the state and KPS

***“M-STEP is a challenging series of tests, one that came out of a national movement to create greater rigor in curriculum across the country.”***

has begun to narrow. Indeed, in all but grade 7, KPS narrowed the gap with the state. KPS narrowed the gap by 3 percentage points (30 percent) in grade 3, 3 percentage points (33 percent) in grade 4, 6 percentage points (50 percent) in grade 5, 1 percentage point (8 percent) in grade 6, and 5 percentage points (36 percent) in grade 8.

Comparing spring 2016 and spring 2017 M-STEP math results, KPS again raised its performance in 5 of 6 grades, as did the state.

However, KPS narrowed the gap with the state **in all six grades tested**. KPS reduced the gap by 4 percentage points (33 percent) in grade 3, 2 percentage points (18 percent) in grade 4, 1 percentage point (11 percent) in grade 5, 2 percentage points (17 percent) in grade 6, 1 percentage point (7 percent) in grade 7, and 1 percentage point (8 percent) in grade 8.

We certainly have more work to do as a district and as individual schools, but so too does the state as a whole. Importantly, though, we are making progress, not simply on M-STEP, but on other measures, including graduation rates, as well. The greater rigor is a challenge for teachers and students, administrators and support staff, parents and others in the community, but collectively we are rising to the greater challenge. It's a positive way to begin 2017-18.

## ONE 2017

### The Mary Calletto Rife Youth Literature Seminar

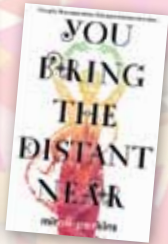
The 40th Annual Mary Calletto Rife Youth Literature Seminar welcomes internationally recognized children's author **Mitali Perkins**, award-winning author **Gary Schmidt**, award-winning illustrator **Javaka Steptoe**, and award-winning children's book author and illustrator **Matt Faulkner**. All four guest authors will share their stories at a public reception. Books available for sale and signing by **Bookbug**. All ages. **Doors open at 6 pm, space is limited.**

**Thursday, November 16, 6:30 PM**  
**Central Library, FREE EVENT**

### Meet the authors!



**Mitali Perkins**  
*You Bring the Distant Near*



**Gary Schmidt**  
*Orbiting Jupiter*



**Matt Faulkner**  
*What's the Big Deal About — Freedom*



**Javaka Steptoe**  
*Radiant Child*



**Bookbug**  
an independent bookstore for all ages

 **Kalamazoo Public Library**  
kpl.gov

# Milwood Middle School Welcomes New Principal Mark Tobolski

Mark Tobolski's goal is simple: prepare students for the future.

And, of course, as the new principal of Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology, preparing them academically is his main focus. But, Tobolski also wants to prepare the students emotionally and socially.

"I think the challenge in middle school is getting the students ready for high school. They have to understand that graduation is built on what you're doing here," he said.

"On top of managing the biological and psychological changes kids go through at this age, and that in itself is kind of different, the main challenge is just preparing them for the next level."

Tobolski said he's looking forward to meeting students, families and community members as the new year gets underway.

"What is important in order for us to be successful is not just the school but the environment around the building," he said. "We have to work as a team and a family."

Tobolski moved to Kalamazoo from Indiana. A native of South Bend, he earned his bach-



Mark Tobolski hopes to build a community that supports students' academic growth and emotional care.

elor's degree in marketing education from Indiana State University and his master's degree in guidance and counseling from Indiana University South Bend. He has additional certifications and coursework in administration and superintendency.

He taught at South Bend Community Schools for nine years, before becoming assistant principal at Mishawaka High School. He then joined Elkhart Community Schools for 22 years, where he served as vice principal for five years before becoming a middle school and high school principal.

As a principal, he said that beyond providing students with academics, he strives to build a community of strong relationships.

"The staff has to be there for kids. Kids need an outlet," Tobolski said. "Sometimes they get advice from their peers, which may not be helpful. They need an adult they can go to and talk to and build those relationships. Sometimes kids won't go to their parents."

Tobolski said he is a huge advocate for extracurricular activities. Every student should be involved in some school

activity outside of their studies.

"In an extracurricular, you can't do it halfway and be successful," he said. "It's all about the commitment you make. Band, running, playing football, singing — you have to give it your all. It makes you a little humble sometimes."

"Plus, when you're doing an extracurricular, it means you're not on the street and you're not getting in trouble."

He was a student athlete, running track and cross country in high school and in college. His younger daughter Sydney, 21, who is an astrophysics student at Seminole State University, was involved in theater, while his older daughter Allyson, 25, who teaches and coaches volleyball in Elkhart, followed in his footsteps as an athlete.

"My oldest daughter even says sports taught her how to be disciplined," he said. "It teaches you more about who you are and who you can be."

In addition to Tobolski, Kalamazoo Department of Public

Safety Assistant Chief **Donald Webster** joined KPS as the district chief of security. (Look for a story on Webster in the November *Excelsior*.) Several staff members moved into new administrative jobs. They are:

**Craig LeSuer**, the former Milwood Middle School principal, is now the principal at Milwood Elementary School.

**Joletha Drake**, the former principal at Greenwood Elementary, is now principal at Prairie Ridge Elementary School.

**Pam Salak**, a Loy Norrix High School teacher, is the new dean of students at Kalamazoo Central High School.

**Sylvia Washington**, a Reading Recovery teacher, is taking over as principal at Greenwood Elementary School.

**Dr. Natalie Wilson**, a Woods Lake Elementary School teacher, is the principal at El Sol Elementary School.

**Chad Brady**, a Kalamazoo Central teacher, has been named interim Loy Norrix High School assistant principal.

## Enroll in The Loy Norrix Child Care Center for Fall 2017

Is your child ready for preschool? The Loy Norrix Child Care Center, a five-star rated Kalamazoo County Ready 4s program, is accepting applications for childcare and preschool for fall 2017.

The center is located inside Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road. Open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., LNCCC offers full-day and half-day enrollment, as well as a daily rate. Tuition is \$155 a week for full-time care, \$100 a week for half-day care, and \$42 a day. Two snacks and lunch are provided for full-time students.

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

For more information, call Mary Hentschl-Early at (269) 337-0264, or email [hentschl\\_earlym@kalamazoopublicschools.net](mailto:hentschl_earlym@kalamazoopublicschools.net).



LNCCC is open to any child, regardless of residency.



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

**Get better grades ● Are more likely to attend college**

**Get great jobs ● Live successfully**

**Apply now for the 2017-2018 school year if your child will turn 4 years old by Dec. 1, 2017.**

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

# Loy Norrix Knight Life Wins Most Awards in School History from MI Interscholastic Press Association

By *Nora Hilgart-Griff, Editor-in-Chief, 2016-17 print edition of Knight Life*

The Loy Norrix Knight Life student paper staff took home 27 individual awards as well as honors for general excellence at the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association awards in Lansing in April.

The staff won individual awards for writing, layout, graphics, and photography; the paper's website received a silver; and the print edition a bronze. This is the most MIPA awards received in Knight Life's history.

Frankie Stevens, business manager, won second and third place in the category of advertising layout for advertisements that she designed for J Gumbo restaurant and Dan Heintzelman photography.

"I spent a lot of time and energy on those ads, so it is very nice to be able to reap the benefits. Communication with the business isn't always the easiest

thing, and it takes a lot of focus and commitment," Stevens said.

Head copy editor Griffin Conley won third place for his front page layout.

"It was really gratifying to see that all the work we put into the front page got recognized," Conley said. "Layout was originally a struggle for me and I had to learn it by myself. Throughout the year, I was able to move from less important pages to the front page and get recognized for it."

Knight Life underwent a significant redesign of both the website and print editions, solving many of the issues raised by MIPA judges in 2016, including the need for better and more prominent photography, more graphic involvement, and less text-dense layout. These improvements were reflected in the breadth of graphic, layout, and photography awards Knight Life received.

Knight Life staff members also saw wins for their writing,



The 2017 Knight Life staff posed for a photo while attending the MIPA awards in Lansing this spring.

from coverage of local events to Pro/Con editorial columns. Grace Marshall, web editor-in-chief, won second place in news writing.

"I tried to take a more standard topic and help everyone relate to it through who I quoted, and that makes any article more interesting to your readers," Marshall said.

DJ Pierce and Nick Loken, both Knight Life contributors, won first place in comic strip and news photography, respectively.

"It was a good feeling because I wasn't really expecting to win," Loken said. "When I

received the award, I felt like I accomplished something big."

## MIPA AWARDS DIVISION 2

### First Place

- DJ Pierce, Comic Strip
- Nick Loken, News Photography
- Nora Hilgart-Griff, Arts and Illustration

### Second Place

- Frankie Stevens, News Design and Info Graphics
- Grace Marshall, News Writing

### Third Place

- Frankie Stevens, News Design and Info Graphics

- Hannah Pittman, News Photography
- Maggie Lager, News Writing
- Isaac Rubin, News Writing
- Rachel Zook, News Writing
- Sidney Richardson, News Photography

## Honorable Mentions

- Bailey Handley, News Design and Info Graphics
- Shane Harrelson, News Design and Info Graphics
- Bill Bowser, News Photography
- Griffin Conley, News Design and Info Graphics
- Isaiah Patterson, Art and Illustration
- Josh Wild, Special Coverage
- Sidney Richardson, Special Coverage
- Maggie Lager, News Writing
- Maggie Lager, News Writing
- Maggie Lager, News Design
- Max Link, News Writing
- Morgan McCue, News Photography
- Rachel Zook, News Design and Info Graphics
- Sidney Richardson, News Writing
- Sidney Richardson, News Writing
- Sidney Richardson, News Photography

## October Mobile Health, Dental Clinic Schedules

The Family Health Center Mobile Health Clinic 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 October. Also check, the schedule for the mobile dental clinic. For more information, visit [fhk-zoo.com](http://fhk-zoo.com). Appointments can be made by calling (269) 349-2641

or contacting Community In Schools at your school.

### Mobile Health Clinic

- Oct. 2-4 — Arcadia
- Oct. 5-6 — Lincoln
- Oct. 9-12 — King-Westwood
- Oct. 16-18 — Spring Valley
- Oct. 19-20 — Milwood Elementary
- Oct. 23-25 — Woodward
- Oct. 26-31 — Linden Grove

### Mobile Dental Clinic

- Oct. 16-31 — Loy Norrix



## First Day Shoe Fund (continued from page 1)

during summer school programs and a community shoe distribution night held in August at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. The community night also included a community resource fair.

"We receive feedback from families and school personnel every year that a new pair of shoes is a self-esteem boost to the kids who receive them," said John Curran, executive director of the First Day Shoe Fund. "Having a brand new pair of shoes that fits properly and is all yours is a big deal to a kid, especially if you haven't had that chance very often."

"There are so many great organizations in Kalamazoo working to do their part for the kids in the community. We are



Daniel and Joel Gakodi received new shoes at the First Day Shoe Fund community event in August.

thrilled to do our part to help every child start school on equal footing."

About 4,500 pairs of shoes were distributed to children in preschool through fifth grade. The shoes and socks are free to children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Roughly 70 percent of Kalamazoo Public Schools' students qualify for

free or reduced lunch. The fund also provides shoes for students from three other school districts.

Shoes are collected from community donations and purchased through donated funds.

At the shoe giveaway events, volunteers measure students' feet and try to provide them with several options, from which the children can

choose their favorite pair. "I love getting new shoes. I just like finding shoes that are a good size and I can grow into them," said Trinity Nabors.

Those interested in volunteering, hosting a new shoe drive, or supporting the program with a donation can find more information at [www.first-dayshoefund.org](http://www.first-dayshoefund.org).

## 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](http://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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# Cool Treats Were the Hot Ticket at Elementary School Ice Cream Socials

Prairie Ridge Elementary School and Lincoln International Studies School were two of the elementary schools that held ice cream socials to kick-off the 2017-2018 school year. Parents, teachers, and volunteers enjoyed treats and had the opportunity to mingle in anticipation of the new year. The Prairie Ridge event included a backpack giveaway sponsored by Costco.



Lincoln International Studies School families enjoyed a beautiful day for the school's annual ice cream social.



Lincoln International Studies School principal Linda Howard greets a student at the school's ice cream social.



Lea Harrison sits with her mom, Bessie Turner, while little sister Ella Harrison photo bombs them at the Prairie Ridge Elementary School ice cream social. Lea is a third grader, and Ella is a second grader.



Chocolate was the flavor of the day for Nick Rustenholtz, who will be at kindergartener at Prairie Ridge Elementary School.



Riley Buddenmeier enjoyed the ice cream social at Prairie Ridge Elementary. She will be a fourth grader.

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

## CHEMISTRY DAY

OCTOBER 14 | 12 – 4 PM

## MAKE AN EERIE SOUND!

OCTOBER 28 | 12 – 4 PM

## SHARE THE LOVE

NOVEMBER 11 | 12 – 4 PM

## FREE ADMISSION

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](http://hospiceswmi.org)  
269.345.0273

# Old National Bank Donation Helps Woodward Provide Students with Summer Books

Students at Woodward School for Technology and Research went home in the summer with backpacks that were filled with six to 10 books, thanks to the generosity of Old National Bank.

The bank has been a supporter of the school for several years, funding activities such as field trips for students. This year the school decided it “wanted to get more books into the hands of the kids over the summer,” and turned to Old National for assistance, said Frank Rocco, principal of Woodward. Donations were so generous, the school will most likely be able to repeat the giveaway at the end of the 2017–2018 school year.

The bank donated \$750, which the staff used to buy books. Other area businesses such as Newell Co., Kalamazoo Barre and Bookbug donated books to the project.

With more than 3,000 books purchased and collected over the last two months of the school year, each

kindergartener and first grader was able to choose 10 books, while the second– through fifth–grade students chose six to eight books each.

“They choose their own books. It’s like shopping,” said Ashley McDonald, Woodward’s instructional coach. She coordinated the project with Valarie Bader, the parent–

community liaison for the school. “For our kids who don’t have access to books, this is huge.”

Joe Kiser, community relations manager for Old National said, “Anything we can do to build up families, that’s our job. We want to be low–key but impactful. This is perfect. We are going to continue to do this in the future.”



Woodward third grader Jeana Medearis chooses some books to enjoy over the summer.



Isaiah Hubbard shows off one of the books he selected at Woodward School for Technology & Research.

## Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

# Toffee Apple Crisp

Hello Kalamazoo, welcome to October, one of the most colorful months in Michigan. Apple Crunch Day is Oct. 12. We use delicious Michigan apples for Kalamazoo Public Schools. Please enjoy this tasty recipe with our fantastic local harvest. As always, please share with friends and family.

Best regards,  
Chef Shaun



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

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup chilled butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 3/4 cup dark brown sugar, firmly packed (divided usage)
- 1 1/4 cups all–purpose flour (divided usage)
- 1 1/2 tsp. apple pie spice (divided usage)
- 1/2 cup walnuts, finely chopped
- 8 Michigan apples\*, peeled and cored
- 3/4 cup dates, chopped

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9 x 13–inch baking dish with non–stick cooking spray.
- Make streusel mixture. Combine butter, 3/4 cup of brown sugar, 1 cup of the flour and 1/2

tsp. of the apple pie spice in a bowl. Work together with fingertips or pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal; add walnuts, blending well. Reserve. 3. Slice each apple into 8 wedges. Place into a large mixing bowl. Combine remaining 1 cup brown sugar, remaining 1/4 cup flour, and remaining teaspoon of apple pie spice; sprinkle over the apples, tossing thoroughly to blend. Add chopped dates, distributing evenly, and place mixture into prepared baking dish. 4. Sprinkle streusel mixture evenly over apples. Bake in pre–heated oven for about 45 minutes, or until apples are tender and the dish is bubbly and golden brown.

### Servings: 8

\*Suggested varieties: Golden Delicious, Rome, Ida Red



# COLLEGE NIGHT 2017

MONDAY  
**OCTOBER 9**  
6:00–7:30 PM  
[www.kvcc.edu/collegenight](http://www.kvcc.edu/collegenight)

Speak with more than 90 college and university representatives

LOCATED AT  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Texas Township Campus



## An Apple a Day



Tree fruits are part of the fruit food group. Children need between 1 and 2 cups of fruit daily. The total amount depends on age, gender, and activity level. Tree fruits are an easy way to eat enough fruit!

# Students Bring Big Ideas to Life at Parkwood-Upjohn

Fourth-grade students brought their big ideas to life with Parkwood-Upjohn art teacher Jamie McKinney's project "Big Ideas: Art & Writing Workshop" last spring.

McKinney received a \$1,500 Kalamazoo Public Schools Innovation Grant and used the funds to collaborate with Read And Write Kalamazoo (RAWK), a nonprofit writing program, to create an art and writing workshop for her students.

Students traveled to RAWK for a writing workshop that was designed "to help them see their ideas are big and amazing," McKinney said.

At RAWK, writing mentors helped the students create graphic stories and written narratives about inventions. Students thought about problems in their lives or communities and then created inventions or machines that



**Corbin Reed at Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary paints his big pencil as part of the "Big Idea" project by art teacher Jamie McKinney.**



**These colorful pencils were created by Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School art teacher Jamie McKinney's students as part of her "Big Idea" project.**



**Isabella Morris and Lilyanna Hostiguin work on their stories at Read And Write Kalamazoo.**



**Rishard Westervelt and Nolan Kiplinger take a break from writing their illustrated stories at RAWK.**

would help solve their problems.

They followed the writing assignments with an art project at Parkwood-Upjohn, where McKinney helped the students create giant papier-mache pencils, which were brightly painted, decorated with tooled

foil and emblazoned with inspirational quotes.

"The pencils are physical manifestations of how big our ideas can be," she said.

The students displayed their work at RAWK for the May Art Hop.

## Leading People Home



### Landlords

#### Help Us Lead People Home!

HRI partners with over 200 local landlords annually to provide safe, affordable and stable housing for families experiencing a housing crisis in Kalamazoo County.

**HRI seeks landlords with quality, affordable rental units\* in Kalamazoo County to join our team.**

Benefits to landlords

- Timely rent payments, ongoing communication and a rapid response to any landlord concerns.
- Case coordination including home visits for tenants enrolled.

\* Rental units must meet required local code, certifications and inspection criteria.

### Families

#### Let Us Lead You Home!

HRI is seeking families with school aged children, grades K-12 in Kalamazoo County who are

- Homeless — in a shelter, motel or residing in unsafe or unsustainable living situation.
- Income — must be 60% or below area median income (example: up to \$37,860 for a family of 4).
- Must be able to pay a portion of rent and utilities.

Eligible families will receive temporary, rental assistance for up to 1 year and support services to make a success plan.

**Interested? Call Housing Resources, Inc at 269-488-0923 for more information.**



The Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage (LHAF) Program is a Kalamazoo Public Housing Commission program funded through a millage approved by voters in November 2015. Its goal is to increase housing stability among families with school-aged children by providing temporary housing assistance and support services.

# School Libraries Help Students Reduce Summer Slide *(continued from page 1)*

“Middle-class kids are more likely to continue reading and experience flat to increasing reading levels. Poor kids who are not reading experience flat to declining reading levels. The gap widens as the effects of those summers continue.”

Angela Justice, district coordinator of English language arts, social studies and library services, said children were allowed to check out up to two books a week.

“We recognized that some students may not have an active library card for some reason,” Justice said. “This pilot provided a way for them to keep up with their reading.”

She said staff heard from some students that they liked having the libraries open, because it gave kids some place different to go during the summer.

Justice said 797 students checked out 1,477 books.

The program was staffed by four district librarians, who rotated among the different sites. Literacy coaches also visited the sites to hold storytimes for the children.



Children from the Boys & Girls Club of Kalamazoo used the library at Edison during the summer. Librarian Deb Yerden-Ferguson checks out books for the children.

Justice said the sites with the highest participation rates were those that had other programs either in the school buildings or nearby. For example, the YMCA ran a summer program in Lincoln; Arcadia was home to the Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo summer program; and Edison is next door to the Boys & Girls Club of Kalamazoo, which has extensive summer programming.

“We’re definitely interested

in more opportunities to connect with other summer programs,” she said. “And we want to make sure we advertise a little earlier to help people understand that we’re open and that we want parents to participate.”

The library program supplemented other district literacy efforts held over the summer.

The district expanded its summer books program, which was piloted in 2008. This year the program gave eight books to each child entering third through sixth grade in the fall. An estimated 4,000 children received books, which included seven books that they selected and one book that is the grade-level read for the year. The books were a mix of fiction and nonfiction and were mailed



Librarian Betty Allemang helps a student choose a book at Edison Environmental Science Academy over the summer.

to the childrens’ homes about once every 10 days.

“What we hope to see is more engaged kids who are reading to a greater extent, reading not only these books but reading at the Kalamazoo Public Library as well,” Rice said. “We’re priming the pump. We don’t expect this to be the end-all and be-all of reading. We expect this to be the beginning.”

“We want to get them to get excited about a few books and start going out into the wider world of books.”

As the children read the books, they are asked to mail in a postcard with their thoughts on the books. Teachers respond to the postcards with words of encouragement.

The district also co-sponsored a reading conference. “Mirrors of Me: Children Seeing Themselves in Their Literature,” was held Aug. 1 at the Western Michigan University Bernhard Center. The event looked at the role of multicultural literature in the development of grade-level reading skills.

Kalamazoo Public Schools

We Are Hiring!

Support Staff needed now, including:

● Special Education Paraprofessionals

● Secretaries

● Food Service Employees

● Activity Helpers

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## All-Phase Helps Edison Students Launch New Year with Generous Donation

Edison Environmental Science Academy students were showered with crayons, backpacks, notebooks and other school supplies thanks to the generosity of All-Phase Electrical Supply Co., which organized a back-to-school supply drive this summer.

All-Phase felt like something was missing from their commitment to outstanding service; they had never done a community outreach program

with the sole intent of serving individuals who lived in their city, said intern Maria Egloff.

All-Phase decided to zero-in on the closest elementary school: Edison Environmental Science Academy. Employees wanted to give the children physical tools to learn and to show the students that their community deeply cares about their success, Egloff said.

The drive ran through July. Customers and employees

donated to the event. All-Phase also distributed reusable bags, which other businesses filled with supplies. Participants were: AAA Electric, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Canney’s Restaurant, Keltech, Moore Electric, Niko’s Landing, Papa’s Italian Sausage, Poor Richard’s Cafe, RW Mercer, Sweetwater’s Donut Mill, Tom Shuster, and Western Michigan University Facilities Management.

# Kalamazoo Public Schools 2017 Retirees



Raymond Ampey, Student Services



Ann Campbell, Parkwood Upjohn



Julie Davis, Arcadia



Rita DeRyke, Food Services



Bella Kamber, Bilingual Department

**NOT PICTURED**

Keith Baas, CEC/Chenery

Marcella Bacchus, Maple Street

Dennis Brooks, Kalamazoo Central

Candace Brown, Kalamazoo Central

Melanie Bryer, Winchell

Susan Chicvara, Prairie Ridge

Belendria Cunningham, Superintendent's Office

Bette Dastoli, Kalamazoo Central

Sara Glendening, Milwood Elementary

Guenetta Harris-Gordon, Northeastern

Sally Hubbard, Adult Education

Deborah Jackson, Maple Street

Kelly Killen, MLK-Westwood

Alton Laupp, Kalamazoo Central

Laura McCoy, MLK-Westwood

Randy Morrison, Washington/Arcadia

Donna Needham, Arcadia

Wesley Peake, Arcadia

Patti Petersen, Kalamazoo Central

Robert Pincus, Loy Norrix

DeeAnn Prince, Business

Shirley Schostarez, Arcadia

Jack Sewell, Loy Norrix

Mary Spradling, Arcadia

David Staiger, Phoenix



Julie Kinner-Aardema, Arcadia



Jennifer Ko, Loy Norrix



Christine Komar, Loy Norrix



Christine Langsam, MLK-Westwood



Suzanne Mills, Kalamazoo Central



Cynthia Moore, Kalamazoo Central



Marilyn Pulley, Spring Valley



Melissa Shapow, Milwood Elementary



Ruby Sledge, Student Services



Karen Spencer, Prairie Ridge



Theresa VanderSchie, Arcadia



Murel Wallace, Kalamazoo Central



Charles Willis, Transportation



Tracy Wilson, Prairie Ridge

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# Hello and Thank You to the 2017-2018 Celebrity Greeters

The opening of the 2017-2018 school year was made more festive thanks to the more than 200 cheering, clapping, and smiling volunteers who served as celebrity greeters to welcome children on the first day of school.

Community members were at all of the Kalamazoo Public Schools elementary schools on Tuesday, Sept. 5. They greeted children, helped families with the check-in process, and introduced them to their teachers.

Two large groups welcomed children. Members of Stones Church, which helps mentor students, greeted the children at Woodward School for Technology and Research, while the Mothers of Hope helped organize a “100 Men” welcome committee at Edison Environmental Science Academy.

Thank you to all of our celebrity greeters:

Dr. Larry Schlack  
Linda Thompson  
John Oliver  
Cindy Green  
Kitty Mitchell  
Dr. Ming Li  
Bob Miller  
Judge Tiffany Ankley  
Rev. Morris Brooks  
Dr. Terina Harvey  
Judge Curtis Bell  
Dave Campbell  
David Anderson  
Felicia Cole  
Jennie Hill  
Alice Kemerling  
Dr. Martha Warfield

Pastor Denise Posie  
Ryan Weiber  
Ramona Fletcher  
Rev. Nathan Dannison  
Mayor Bobby Hopewell  
Dr. Paul Babladelis  
Alice Gordon  
Chief Jeff Hadley  
John Curran  
Craig Vaughan  
Judy D’Arcangelis  
Dexter Mitchell  
Robyn Robinson  
Howard Robinson  
Julie Rogers  
Chief Tim Bourgeois  
Angela Justice  
Rev. Noreen Gardner  
Gary Start  
Tracie Moored  
Susan Warner  
Von Washington Jr.  
Mary Oudsema  
Patti Sholler-Barber  
Dale Shugars  
Pam Kingery  
Pastor Christopher Moore  
Ben Chee  
Dodie Raycraft  
Jennifer Strebs  
Marcy Peake  
Tracie Hall  
Dr. Sandy Standish  
Tracy Miller  
Cara Weiler  
Jenn Wright  
Judge Alexander Lipsey  
Anne Lipsey  
Dave Pawloski  
Nathan McLaughlin  
Courtney Schofield  
Jill Lansky  
Matt Johnson  
Lt. Troy Faulk and Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Deputies

Rep. Brandt Iden  
Dr. Janice Brown  
Nkenge Bergan  
Colleen Loc  
Beth McCann  
Sherry Thomas-Cloud  
John Dillworth  
Patricia Coles-Chalmers  
Patty Smetana  
Rep. Jon Hoadley

Judge Carolyn Williams  
James Liggins  
Tracy Hall  
Pastor Ken Baker  
Sid Ellis  
Mary Balkema  
Greg Ayers  
Dr. Lauren Freedman  
Jim Ritsema



The Rev. Nathan Dannison of First Congregational Church lets student Fletcher Stucky try the megaphone on the first day at El Sol Elementary School.



Kalamazoo County Commissioner Julie Rogers and radio host Robyn Robinson were guest greeters at Indian Prairie Elementary School.



Volunteers from the Mothers of Hope 100 Men greet students at Edison Environmental Science Academy on the first day of school.



Winchell Elementary School’s celebrity greeters included Pastor Ken Baker from Third Christian Reformed Church, Judge Carolyn Williams, Rep. Jon Hoadley and Kalamazoo County Commissioner Tracy Hall. They helped welcome students to school on the first day.



Edison student Milana Canda walks the gauntlet of greeters from the Mothers of Hope 100 Men project.



Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell, left, visits with Ken Barnard and his daughter Sophia on the first day at El Sol Elementary School.

## KSO Family Pack



10.8.17 | 3pm | Chenery



2.11.18 | 3pm | Chenery



5.26.18 | 3pm | Miller

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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!!!

Se servirá una cena pequeña en las sesiones de las noches.

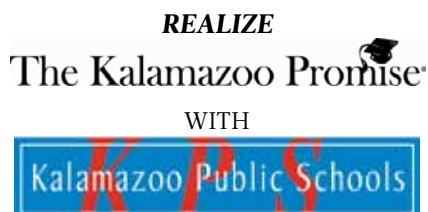
Por mas información,  
por favor llame al (269) 337-0833

el otoño 2017

26 de septiembre – 16 de noviembre 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 5:00-6:30 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 2:30-4:00 P.M.    | Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.     | Martes 5:30-7:00 P.M. | Miércoles 5:30-7:00 P.M. | Jueves 5:00-6:30 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 2:30-4:00 P.M.    | Jueves 5:30-7:00 P.M.     | Martes 5:30-7:00 P.M. | Miércoles 5:30-7:00 P.M. | Jueves 5:00-6:30 P.M.         |

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



## 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!!!

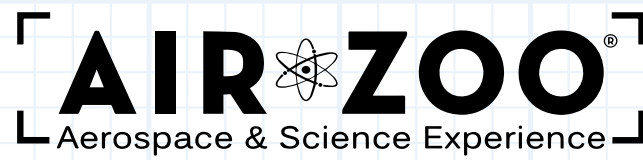
A light dinner will be served at evening sessions.  
For more information please call (269) 337-0833

Fall 2017

September 26– November 16, 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 5:00-6:30 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 2:30-4:00 P.M.  | Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.   | Tuesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.         | Wednesday 5:30-7:00 P.M. | Thursday 5:00-6:30 P.M.       |
| PARENTS OF PRE-SCHOOL ERS 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 2:30-4:00 P.M.  | Thursday 5:30-7:00 P.M.   | Tuesday 5:30-7:00 P.M.         | Wednesday 5:30-7:00 P.M. | Thursday 5:00-6:30 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 |
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| 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 |



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