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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

Dec. 1
Grades 6-12, no school,
end of first trimester

Dec. 25-Jan. 5
Winter Break, schools closed

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to teach calm
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Winchell Elementary School
artists share their creations
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KSO Stage Dec. 16
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Eureka Math: New Curriculum Launches in K-3 Classes

When you listen to the math lesson of Kelsea Putman's kindergarten class, you can hear the varied approaches kids are taking to studying the number 10 with Kalamazoo Public School's new Eureka Math program.

She shows them 10 dots and they have to write the numeral 10. Someone calls out 10 and another child says they have to do 10 jumping jacks. She has them look at papers with 10 dots arranged in rows or columns – depending on how you turn the page. They place beads on the dots and talk about two sets of 5 being “hidden partners” in the number 10. They take the 10 beads and string them on pipe cleaners to make bracelets,



Milwood Elementary teacher Kelsea Putman works with her students on math, from left, Etoia Clark, Virginia Snyder, Desiree Owens, Kamya Witherspoon, and Matthew Bach work next to their teacher.

then they divide the beads into groups of other hidden partners in the number 10. They wind up the lesson by drawing the number 10 in the air and then practicing writing it on paper.

Whew.

“It’s definitely a different approach to math. It’s not the traditional way we learned math. It’s definitely approaching math with an emphasis on understanding math and not just memorizing,”

(continued on page 3)

25 Years of Breakfast with Up and Coming Champions

Show up on time. Look people in the eye. Take pride in your appearance. You can’t control your circumstances, but you can control your attitude.

For 25 years, these have been some of the lessons Jim Hess has shared with boys during his monthly “Breakfast of Champions,” program at King-Westwood Elementary School. He has high expectations for the boys, because they are, after all, “champions.”

“I tell them when people put



King-Westwood Elementary School students Tro Fellings and Joey Spader participate in the monthly Breakfast of Champions organized by former King-Westwood parent Jim Hess.

more expectations on you, that means they think more highly of you,” Hess said.

The group is always a diverse group of 12 boys, chosen to represent their school economically, racially, culturally and socially. They meet monthly for breakfast at Kalamazoo

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Appreciating The Promise at PromiseNet 2017

On Nov. 7, Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice gave opening remarks at the national PromiseNet Conference, a gathering of groups hoping to emulate the Kalamazoo Promise. Below is his speech, adapted for print:

I recognize that I'm in a precarious position here... between you and lunch. Actually, that position has helped me select which of four presidents I'm going to try to emulate today.

President Franklin Roosevelt once said of public speaking, "Be sincere, be brief, be seated."

More extremely, a person once said to President Coolidge, "I bet someone I could get you to say more than three words at dinner." Coolidge responded, "You lose," and said nothing more that night.

On the other extreme, at the 1988 Democratic Convention, four and a half years before he became president, the great-

est applause line of Bill Clinton's very long speech was, "In conclusion."

And then there's our current president, but then again, I don't tweet.

I'm shooting for Roosevelt today: sincerity, brevity, levity — and my seat.

Around this time of year, each year, I begin to take special notice of the gifts that are Kalamazoo.

Oh yes, we have our profound challenges in Kalamazoo, most significantly poverty that rivals that of other challenged urban areas in Michigan and all the attendant struggles that come of this poverty.

And yet, we have so many gifts in Kalamazoo. I appreciate



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

the generous, visionary donors of the Kalamazoo Promise. The Promise has changed so many of the conversations that we have had with our older students, our parents, grandparents, and community members around the possibilities for our young people. Quite simply, the Promise is a life changer for many of our young men and women, and I appreciate it deeply.

I appreciate our rising student achievement, in every major academic indicator over the last several years, and the teachers and administrators and support staff and community members that have worked with our children to make that rising student achievement possible.

I appreciate the almost doubling of early childhood slots in the district and the quintupling of full-day kindergarten.

I appreciate our more than doubling of the number of stu-

dents taking Advanced Placement courses, the tripling of the number of AP courses that they take, and five years in a row of higher percentages of students getting college credit for their AP test results. I appreciate that our African American, Latino, and economically disadvantaged students — historically underrepresented in these courses nationally — have increased their percentages taking these courses in KPS to an even greater extent.

I appreciate our rising district graduation rates and the fact that we graduated more students in 2017 than in any year in the district in decades.

I appreciate Western Michigan University welcoming all 1,000 of our sixth graders year after year on campus as part of Bronco Buds, an effort to share with all of our sixth graders the fact that we believe that all of our young people can be successful,

can graduate from college, and can go on to postsecondary education of some sort.

I appreciate the Boys & Girls Club, which has expanded to serve young people on the north side and the east side as well as the south side of Kalamazoo. KPS is proud to have partnered with the Boys & Girls Club for more than a half century on Lake Street, on KPS property.

I appreciate the Douglass Community Association, which continues to be an anchor institution serving children and parents on the north side of Kalamazoo.

I appreciate the YMCA, which partners with eight schools to provide services — before school, after school, and in the summer — for children from all across the district.

I appreciate Big Brothers Big Sisters, an organization that

(continued on page 3)

15TH
ANNUAL

Teen
Filmmaker Festival

Saturday, March 17

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CAMPAIGN PICTURES

Kalamazoo Public Library

Promise

(continued from page 2)

I first served at 19 years old as a college sophomore. (I'm still in touch with — and proud of — my “little brother,” who is 47 years old and, at 6'4”, no longer a “little brother” but still my brother.) Big Brothers Big Sisters provides important mentoring relationships for hundreds of KPS students each year.

I appreciate the First Day Shoe Fund, which provides thousands of pairs of shoes annually to our young people to help them get off to a positive start to the school year.

I appreciate Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, which provides food to many KPS children and families and which has begun to establish food pantries in our highest poverty schools.

I appreciate the 421 staff and community members who mentored 1,696 students last year in 6,830 weekly mentoring sessions. And I appreciate the many churches and community organizations that have begun or have pledged to begin to mentor this school year.

I appreciate Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, which helps to coordinate a wide range of services during and after school in 20 of our district's buildings.

And I appreciate approximately 200 other organizations as well, with whom we partner and/or that serve our children in one of myriad ways throughout the year.

Oh yes, we continue to have much work to do in Kalamazoo: in the city, in the school district, in the county, in the region. But we have made significant strides post-Promise, significant strides in the last 12 years, and we are poised to make many more in the coming years.

I wish all of you well in your communities' quests to provide for the upper and lower case promises of your children. In the month of Thanksgiving, it is important to reflect not only on how far each of our communities has to go to fully serve children, but from how far each community has come.

Eureka Math: New Curriculum Launches in K-3 Classes *(continued from page 1)*

said Putman, a kindergarten teacher at Milwood Elementary School.

Matthew Johnson, the district's science and math curriculum coordinator, said Eureka was selected as the district's elementary math series after a 14-month review of numerous resources and was the overwhelming choice of a majority of teachers and administrators. Kindergarten through third grade classes are implementing Eureka this school year, while fourth and fifth grade classes will begin implementing it in the 2018-2019 school year. Teachers are receiving training and coaching support to aid in the implementation of the new curriculum, Johnson said.

The district made the switch to bring the math program in line with state standards and to ensure the needs of all students are being met, Johnson said. Eureka is being used by a majority of districts in the county and is the most widely used elementary math program in the country, he said.

Eureka appealed to the staff for a number of reasons, including the way it creates a balance between knowing math facts and understanding how math works, he said.

“Eureka emphasizes students making their thinking visible,” Johnson said. “At



Etoia Clark drew five dots and then wrote the numeral 5 in Eureka Math at Milwood Elementary.



Rowan Griffin, Kendrick Padula, and Davon Capetillo-Henton share their work. Kendrick was asked to draw a five-brick wall. He double checked his work on his own by adding five dots and the numeral 5.

the early grades, students use objects and simple drawings for more complex strategies in the later grades.”

Even watching Putman with her kindergarteners, one

can see the groundwork being laid first for addition and then multiplication as students look at the number 10 as two sets of five — or five sets of two. Their little bead bracelets let them push beads around and see 10 represented by various “hidden partners” of numbers.

During the lesson, one can eavesdrop on conversations between students explaining to friends how they came up with their answers.

“Eureka develops students' long-term understanding of the math concepts by following the ‘build it, draw it, write it’ learning progression,” Johnson said. The program uses objects and drawings to help students understand mathematical concepts. They then learn written strategies that lead to the traditional way of solving math problems.

“Real-life problems are used throughout the program, so students can use each of their building, drawing, and writing strategies as they develop a deeper understanding of the concepts,” he said.

The new program includes parent resources. Parents can sign up for an account at greatminds.org to access the curriculum and other helpful resources. Johnson also encouraged parents to visit the mathematics page on the KPS website, www.kalamazoopublicschools.com, to find homework videos for each lesson and parent tip sheets for each module.

Putman said her students are enjoying the new math lessons, which rely less on drills and more on relatable lessons.

“We want the kids to add that personal experience to what the math means. It's all about the conversations and it gives kids the opportunity to redirect their peers,” she said. “The students learn mathematics in layers. It's very intentional. We do things in anticipation of where they're going next.”



Dennis “Trey” Dowdell works on Eureka Math at Milwood Elementary School.



Virginia Snyder practices writing 10 at Milwood Elementary.

Parkwood-Upjohn Readers Tackled Summer Reading Program with Gusto

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School students gathered at the beginning of the school year to celebrate their participation in this year's Kalamazoo Public Library Summer Reading Challenge. Students who read at least 20 minutes a day for 60 days over the summer won books and a Build a Better World T-shirt. This year's summer readers were:

Tommy Andrie	Jaxon Grubaugh	Jayden Ruelas
Ruby Brent	Kaitlyn Hamilton	Lucca Russell
Elijah Cachero	Conrad Hansen	Sara Rutgers
Zoe Cachero	Jalayah Harris	Amanda Schultz
Masha Canfield	Tessa Hawthorne	Mia Stroven
Eleanor Cook	Robin Jennings	Adelyn Thompson
Lucienne Cook	Avery Kidd	Miya Timmer
Grace D'Arcangelis	Brayden Kidd	Sadie Triemstra
Henry Deutsch	Nolan Kiplinger	Jada Troxler
Dylan Duguay	Colleen Marlowe	Carter Tuthill
Spencer Duguay	Malia Meibeyer-Folkema	Alexander Velo
Merrick Ewing	Amelia Murphy	Noah Watkins
Grant Ferraro	Tor Nelson	Audrina Wellington
Sam Fletcher	Mara Nicolaescu	Benjamin Wright
Izabelle Foreman	Bailey Nelson-Ort	Sam Wright
Eli Frazier	Adelaide Richards	Ava Yarworth
Caleb Gonzalez	Viola Riley-Spreitzer	Camden Zeigler
Avery Greer	Beatrice Richter	
Avner Grubaugh		



Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary students who participated in the Kalamazoo Public Schools Summer Reading Program show off their prize shirts for reading during the summer.



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Strong Mountains, Powerful Trees, Peaceful Minds: Teachers Use Yoga to Help Students Relax, Focus

Every other week, Jessica Taylor's first-grade students at Indian Prairie Elementary School go on a hike.

They hike up a mountain, take a few deep breaths of fresh air, pet the dog they brought along with them, hop into a boat to cross the lake and stand as still as trees.

This is their yoga session.

Yoga practitioners will recognize the trip in terms of popular poses: mountain, downward dog, boat, and tree.

Taylor's students recognize the yoga breaks as a time to move and to be still as each session ends with a relaxation exercise in which the students practice taking calming breaths and letting tension release from their bodies.

Taylor is one of a handful of teachers who have completed training through Yoga Ed to integrate yoga and mindfulness exercises into her daily lessons. Training was paid for through a Kalamazoo Community Foundation grant.

"I practice yoga frequently," Taylor said. "I experienced positive results from practicing yoga on a weekly basis. I started reading articles about the power of yoga with children and the developing brain. Then, one day, I received information from WMU about a workshop to become yoga certified through the yogaed.com program."

Her students have responded enthusiastically to the activity.

"The students love yoga," she said. "There are squeals of excitement when they read yoga on the daily schedule. Many begin jumping up and down stating that they can't wait for yoga time."

Candis Ogilvie, a Grand Rapids-based trainer for Yoga Ed, said yoga can be used in regular classrooms as well as in physical education classes. Teachers have the option of training for chair yoga or mat yoga through Yoga Ed. Training includes an introduction to yoga games, relaxation techniques, mindfulness, self awareness and self management. The yoga training helps teachers supplement their traditional methods of classroom management, with a practice that students enjoy.

"A lot of schools are starting to implement yoga education, noting that kids have better self regulation skills," Ogilvie said. "The goals for student is to help them make the right choices.. This is about self reflection and letting them know that when they're feeling angry or just out of control, now they have tools to bring themselves back in control."

Ogilvie said that according to brain research conducted at the University of California at Los Angeles, breathing exercises have been shown to help calm the brain. Research conducted

at Harvard University suggests yoga and mindfulness can help children with issues of inattentiveness, hyperactivity, and impulsivity.

Taylor said parents have been supportive and have reported their children doing yoga at home.

She said she'd encourage other teachers to explore the possibilities of using yoga in their classrooms. She said she's lucky to incorporate a yoga lesson into her schedule every other week, but she thinks the basic strategies such as calming breaths and some simple yoga stretches done at the classroom desks could be used during short classroom breaks.

While she doesn't have empirical data on how yoga has affected her classroom environment, Taylor said she does know one thing for sure: her students like yoga and it is unlike most of the rest of their school day.

"Honestly, they like it all," she said. They really like the yoga story (about going for a hike), the game and the partner activities. It gives students time to use their imagination and take part in an activity that is not graded.

"Academics and sports tend to be very competitive. Yoga is very unique in the fact that it's not competitive in the least bit. In fact, yoga stresses the fact that students do the poses and the breaths which feels right to them. It is truly a nonjudgmental zone."



Zaniah Fifolt, in the front, and other students work on their tree pose during a yoga lesson with their first-grade teacher Jessica Taylor at Indian Prairie Elementary School. The students do the poses while imagining being on a mountain hike.

NOTICE

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

Director of Student Services

Kalamazoo Public Schools
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Kalamazoo, MI 49008
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All other inquiries should be directed to:

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25 Years of Breakfast with Up and Coming Champions *(cont. from page 1)*

College, where a slew of guest speakers talk to them about life, work, choices, and a focus on one's goals.

Hess said he's kept the group intentionally small over the years.

"Sometimes something becomes so big, it loses focus and the meaning can get lost," Hess said. "And, I understand I can't save the world, but I can make a difference in my part of the world."

Hess was coaching a baseball team at King-Westwood Elementary when during one game, a boy on another team started bullying kids on Hess' team. He waited for another adult to confront the boy, and when that didn't happen, "I went up and said stop doing that," Hess said as he talked with then principal Patricia Coles-Chalmers about the need to teach children how to behave, he hit upon the idea of "The Breakfast of Champions."

Through the years, guests have included everyone from Dr. John Dunn and Dr. Jorge Gonzalez, the former president of Western Michigan University and the current president of Kalamazoo College, respectively; Jim Heath, retired president of Stryker Instruments; and Brady Hoke, football coach for the University of Michigan. In November, the guest speakers were spoken word poets Kirk Latimer and Gabriel Giron of Kinetic Affect, who spoke about



Adam Ghonimy, Gurmat Rai, Elijah Thurston, Michael Scott, and Bode Brill are in the Breakfast of Champions.



Bryce Colvin, Henry Pollard, Tony Denham, and Connor Annis smile before the program begins.

their struggles with bullying and cancer and the power of finding something they loved to do in their work as poets.

Kalamazoo Gazette reporter Al Jones said the breakfast meeting is a wonderful opportunity for the young men who attend, but it's equally important for the event's speakers.

"If you had the chance to tell a dozen young boys something that would really help them — something that will hopefully stick with them for years to come — what would it be?" Jones said. "Finding those words, that phrase, that story, that piece of wisdom, is, in effect, the opportunity that Breakfast of Champions has provided to a series of speakers during each of the last 25 years. Speakers include coaches, educators, business people, professionals and others. They are people who are already influential in one way or another, Hess will tell you.

"But the one-to-12 ratio between any of them and the

group of fifth graders, and the impressions they can make on such young minds, gives them the potential to have more influence at breakfast that day than they may have at any podium they face all year."

The boys are expected to keep their eyes on whoever is speaking during breakfast, whether it's Hess, or a guest speaker, or another boy — as a sign of respect for who is talking and what they are saying. They wear ties to the breakfast meetings, carry business cards with them, and have notebooks so they can take notes on each speaker. ("Because, what if you heard something that could change your life forever, but you weren't listening," Hess tells the boys.)

People are impressed. The students at Kalamazoo College will compliment them as they enter. Brady Hoke told Hess he only had a few minutes for the group the first year, but when he saw the boys in their ties, he spoke to them for 40 minutes and then took them on the field at the Big House in Ann Arbor.

"Some kids never get to leave their little circle," Hess said. "I want the boys to see that life can be so much greater than what you thought, to see the possibilities that life has."

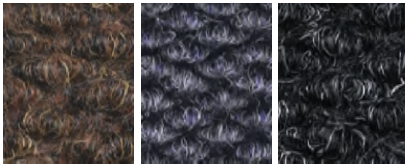
Hess, a Realtor, and his wife Jeanne Hess, the volleyball coach at Kalamazoo College, raised their boys in Kalamazoo. Sons Kevan and Andrew attended King-Westwood, where they participated in the Breakfast of Champions, and graduated from Kalamazoo Central.

Hess tells the boys in Breakfast of Champions that he believes they have potential. In the future, one of them might be his doctor or his lawyer or the teacher guiding his grandchildren. But, he expects them to demonstrate the skills needed to be a champion: commitment, kindness, consideration, proper behavior. It's their choice.

"When I coached, there was a saying, 'Limited expectations, limited results,'" Hess said. He hopes the boys will remember that they always have a choice about how they behave. "Never give up that power."



Jim Hess talks to students before the guest speakers' presentation to the Breakfast of Champions, a mentoring program he began at King-Westwood 25 years ago.





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Students Share Art, Ideas at Portfolio Day

Do I have what it takes?
Area high school students wondering if art might be a part of their future had the opportunity to meet with artists and art schools at the annual Portfolio Day at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts in October.

Art students from Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high schools participated in the event, which featured representatives from about a dozen art programs.

“I just want to go with the flow and see where I’m at with it,” said Loy Norrix sophomore Cam Greene. “It’s a good way to track your progress. I’m looking for that validation. I’m an art student, and I’m looking for someone to tell me if I’ve committed enough.”

While students get feedback on their portfolios, the school representatives have a chance to meet the students and share the highlights of their programs.

Stephanie Slaughter, a faculty member with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, said, “We’re looking for work



Katie Shantz talks to Tom Post of the Kendall College of Art and Design during Portfolio Day.

students have created on their own, where they take the technical skills they learned in the classroom and they create their own art.”

David Baker, a representative from Ferris State University, said he was looking for students with passion and who were interested in working

in art right after they graduate from college. The school was highlighting their illustration and computer design classes.

“We want students with strong basics and skills who have developed creative habits,” Baker said. “That’s why I like seeing sketchbooks. They show that they’ve learned how



Adrienne Evans talks to David Baker at Ferris State University about her art work and possibly studying digital media.

to be creative. We’ll teach you the technical stuff if you come in with the creative skills.”

Katie Schantz, a Loy Norrix junior, said she’s wanted to be an artist ever since she was a child. While she was thinking about fashion design or interior design, Tom Post of the Kendall College of Art and Design was impressed with the quality of her work and said she might think about moving into illustration.

“I just want feedback on my work. I don’t want them to sugarcoat it,” she said. She said she wasn’t nervous about critiques. “I’m more excited than anything.”

Adrienne Evans, a Loy Norrix senior, was attending Portfolio Day for the second time. Just walking in the door, she was more excited about her second trip through the process.

“The last time, it felt like it was more a lot of colleges that

were not what I was looking for. I’m more of an illustrator and graphic designer,” she said. “I felt kind of out of place in a room of fine artists.”

“Then, I come this year and the first thing I see is digital design and game animation at Ferris. I know a lot of people who say game design is not art. Here’s proof. They gave them a place here. It is art.”

In addition to stopping by the Ferris table, she talked with Patti Spencer, a regional recruiter for the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. Spencer gave Evans positive feedback about her drawing and experimentation, as well as her subject matter. Spencer suggested Evans add more of the observational sketches from her sketchbook into her portfolio.

“There’s a lot of potential here,” Spencer said. “I really think you’re on the right track.”



Cam Greene talks with Stephanie Slaughter from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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KV

Loy Norrix PeaceJam Helped Bridge Culture Gap Between United States, Cuba

The Loy Norrix PeaceJam trip to Cuba may have turned out to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the nine people who traveled to the communist country this summer.

New travel restrictions and a powerful hurricane have changed the geopolitical climate and the literal landscape of the island nation since the PeaceJam trip in June. While President Barack Obama opened travel to the island nation, new restrictions were put in place by the Trump administration in late June. Cuba was hit by Hurricane Irma, a category five storm, in September.

"There were nine of us that went to Cuba — five students and four adults," said PeaceJam advisor Sveri Stromstra-May, who has also led trips to Peru and South Africa. "Now that we can't go to Cuba I wish more had gone with us. And, after Hurricane Irma, I worry about the people we met and worked with."

Prior to the trip, the group met for several potluck dinners to watch documentaries about Cuba, such as "The Buena Vista Social Club," to read articles and to discuss the culture. It gives travelers some perspective on

what they see on their trip and helps build empathy for the people they work next to during their service projects, May said. The group's first activity after landing in Cuba was to meet with a professor from the University of Havana, who told them about U.S.-Cuba relations in the past and present, and what his expectations were for the future.

The group visited the cities of Havana, Santa Clara, Trinidad, and Cienfuegos.

"What I remember most about my time in Cuba were the people. Everyone welcomed us like we were friends instead of strangers. When they asked questions, they genuinely wanted to know the answers. They took time to talk to us," said senior Delany Eller.

Each student had their favorite memories. Senior Lilly Gulliver felt the trip to a textbook factory to work on notebooks for students and to learn about old printing presses was worthwhile, while sophomore Matthew Nelson liked meeting with senior citizens who offered dance lessons and stories about the past. Sophomore Carter Miller said he enjoyed giving

soccer balls to young Cubans and playing soccer with them.

Other activities included working in an organoponics garden, an organic, urban farming method developed in Cuba, and visiting memorials to the Marxist leaders Che Guevara and Fidel Castro.

"The Che memorial showed us how important the people view their leaders," Eller said. "It reminded me of a memorial we would give in the United States to some of our fallen leaders."

May said the trip was eye-opening for the way it shattered stereotypes. "Americans expect to see cigars and old American cars, and Cubans think of Americans as cowboys with horses. People-to-people interactions help to foster change in old stereotypes between our two countries."

PeaceJam will travel to Dehli, India, in the summer of 2018. The trip will include visits to Mother Teresa's Missionary of Charity, the Taj Mahal, an elephant rescue center, and sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi. To learn more, email questions to mayss@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



Students and adults on the Loy Norrix PeaceJam trip to Cuba visited an organoponics garden, an organic, urban farming method developed in Cuba.

KPS Board Resolution Supports Immigrant "Dreamers"

The Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education on Oct. 12 unanimously passed a resolution supporting immigrant "dreamers" and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program.

In September, President Donald Trump announced he was ending DACA effective March 6, 2018, and that the approximately 800,000 young adults brought to the United States illegally as children who are in the program will become eligible for deportation. The five-year-old policy has let them remain in the United States without fear of deportation and given them the right to work legally.

Board Trustee Dr. Lauren Freedman said, "This is such an important resolution for us as a board to pass. I think the Dreamers have been here and worked hard and done well, and we need them as a part of our community."

The resolution said the district is fortunate to have students from many countries and that Trump's actions were "alarming." It urged Congress "to pass comprehensive immigration legislation to permit Dreamers to remain in the country without threat of deportation or other profound disruption to their lives."

KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice said the resolution, "is consistent with our support for the broadest range of diverse children and families."

Board President Patti Sholler-Barber echoed those sentiments saying, "A huge goal, I think, of this board is to care for all children and to nurture, and to respect, and to keep safe all of our students. This is another extension of that."

The resolution reads:

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) is the largest school district in Southwest Michigan and the second largest in West Michigan;

WHEREAS, KPS is one of the most ethnically, socioeconomically, and linguistically diverse districts in the state;

WHEREAS; KPS is fortunate to have students from many countries in the district;

WHEREAS, KPS views its diversity as richness, not stigma, and as a major point of pride in the district;

WHEREAS, the president, on September 5, 2017, the first day of school in many school districts in Michigan and across the country, ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, effective March 6, 2018, and encouraged Congress to pass legislation to address national immigration policy;

WHEREAS, the action of the president on September 5, 2017 was alarming to many in the KPS community, particularly to those whose family members could be personally adversely harmed by the end of DACA;

WHEREAS, the end of DACA, without congressional action on immigration policy, would serve to harm many financially in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education stands in solidarity with the Dreamers and encourages Congress to pass comprehensive immigration legislation to permit Dreamers to remain in the country without threat of deportation or other profound disruption to their lives.

Artists' Corner

Mandy Clearwaters, shared these photos from the Winchell Elementary School art room saying, "Lower elementary students have been exploring a range of mediums, which include oil pastel, watercolor, and paper collage. They have been utilizing Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) in the art room to discover and discuss various artwork from our past. The artists pictured have been inspired by artwork from Vincent Van Gogh, Amedeo Modigliani, and Claude Monet. Through the study of these master artists, students are able to build foundational skills

to then further apply when they branch out into individually inspired artwork later in the year."

Second graders
Lucy Morris
and Ta'mia
Underwood



Second graders
Jaxen Durham
and Riley Tegan



First graders
Cal Kidman
and Jack Miller



Chef Shaun • KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Oven Roasted Root Vegetables

Happy Holidays Kalamazoo! Please try this user-friendly and delicious recipe for the holiday season. Root vegetables are a great resource for your kitchen during these lean winter months. As always, enjoy with friends and family. Sharing is the best part.
Best regards, Chef Shaun



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

Ingredients

2 lbs root vegetables, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces (use a combination of potatoes, carrots, parsnips, turnips, rutabagas, beets)
1 medium onion, peeled and cut into 1/3 inch wedges
1 Tbs olive oil
salt
1 head garlic, separated into cloves and peeled
Gruyere cheese, fresh grated
Chopped fresh herbs, such as rosemary
Balsamic vinegar

Directions

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Place the root vegetables and onion in a roasting pan. Toss

the vegetables with the olive oil and salt to taste. Do not crowd the vegetables.

3. Roast the mixture for a total of 45-50 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes.

4. After 30 minutes, scatter the garlic cloves in with the vegetables. Continue stirring every 15 minutes until the vegetables are tender and evenly browned.

5. Sprinkle fresh grated Gruyere cheese over the veggies and toss lightly.

6. Before serving, add a sprinkling of fresh chopped herbs or balsamic vinegar, if you like, for additional flavor.

Servings: 5

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FIBER-FULL

A 1/2 cup of root vegetables has lots of fiber, which is good for your stomach and insides, and helps fill you up. Root vegetables also have healthy complex carbohydrates which give your body energy, especially for the brain and nervous system.



Math Night Adds Up to Fun for 10th Year at Greenwood Elementary School

What began as a simple way to help boost math scores, has become a decade-long tradition at Greenwood Elementary School.

Greenwood's Math Night, a family-friendly celebration of numbers, turned 10 this year.

Families wandered the hallways and classrooms, visiting teachers, who volunteer their time to present math games for every grade level from pre-kindergarten through third.

The night also includes raffles and guessing games.

"I think people still fear math," said teacher Jami Skinner, the kindergarten teacher who coordinates the event for Greenwood. She's participated in every Math Night since its inception.

Math Night is a way to show students — and parents — that math can be fun and something that the whole family can share.

"It's a good way for parents to get good, hands-on activities and great learning games," Skinner said.

Activities range from shapes and counting games for the



Dad Dan Herschberger and his third grader Dennis Herschberger play Number Battle at the Greenwood Elementary School Math Night.



Mom Jennifer Herd and first grader Elijah Herd work with speech therapist Alyssa Davison on a birthday cake game at the Greenwood Math Night.



At the Greenwood Math Night, early childhood special education/preschool teacher Dez'Raii Phillips works on number patterns with, from left, Chris McKinney, a fourth grader from Milwood Elementary School; and Greenwood students Kadence Carr, third grade; Cariel McKinney, first grade; and Isaac Delgado, kindergarten.



First grader Daisy Sanchez and her sister Kimberly Sanchez, a second grader, play a game with kindergarten teacher Jami Skinner, who coordinates Math Night at Greenwood Elementary School.

youngest children to Number Battle, which is a card game like War but requires the players to flip over two cards at a time and add the values, with the highest

total winning the hand.

Each teacher chooses their own games, and after the night is over, students who attended receive a copy of the game for

their grade level to take home, so they can continue practicing the math ideas they enjoyed at the event. Also, while some children take home the raffle

prizes — every child receives some prize for attending.

"We've thought about ending Math Night, but parents beg for it every year," Skinner said.

Thank You to These Groups for Back-to-School Donations

Big thanks to these organizations, whose generosity helped make the start of the school year a little brighter for some Kalamazoo Public Schools students:

Costco donated hundreds of backpacks to students at Prairie Ridge Elementary School. Store representatives attended the school's ice cream social to distribute the backpacks to students.

The Society of Women Engineers coordinated a back to school supply drive as part of one of their monthly meetings. Donations were given to El Sol Elementary School.

The Stryker Medical Division Women's Network contributed school supplies, which went to grateful staff and students at Milwood Elementary School.



Costco employees joined in the fun at the Prairie Ridge Elementary School ice cream social and distributed free backpacks to students.

MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Announcing the availability of our
2018 online scholarship application as of January 1

Deadline for all scholarships is **March 1** (unless otherwise noted)

Visit www.kalfound.org/scholarships

Students who plan on using **The Kalamazoo Promise** can use our scholarships for additional educational expenses.

(If you don't have a computer, just let us know. You can use one of ours or we can send you a paper application. Call us at 381.4416).



December Mobile Health and 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 medical clinic's schedule for December, along with the schedule for the county's mobile dental clinic. For more information, visit fhckzoo.com. Appointments can be made by calling (269) 349-2641 or contacting Community in Schools at your school.

Mobile Medical Clinic

Dec. 4-6 — Washington
Dec. 7, 11 — Maple Street
Dec. 12-14 — Prairie Ridge
Dec. 18-19 — Northeastern

Mobile Dental Clinic

Dec. 5-8, 11-13 — Milwood
Magnet
Dec. 14-15 — Greenwood
Dec. 18-22 — King-Westwood

Loy Norrix Students Earn 23 Awards in the 2017 National Latin Exam

More than 149,000 students from across the country and 16 foreign countries participated in the 2017 National Latin Exam, including students at Loy Norrix High School.

Loy Norrix students earned 23 awards in the exam, continuing the school's tradition of Latin excellence.

The awards celebrate "continuing the tradition for excellence in Latin here at our school," said teacher Barbara Felkel.

This year students competed at Levels 1 and 2.

Latin II gold medalists were

Tess Cowles, Trent Curtis, Israel Gonzalez, Ian Hawthorne, Will Keller, Grace Marshall, Cameron Phillips, Gavin Rutherford, and Evan Wheat.

Latin II silver medalists were Lauren Hybels, Isaiah Hobson, Ellie Nagel-Bennett, Maxwell Neeley, and Emma VanHouten.

Latin I ribbons and certificates were awarded to: Maria Egloff, Isabel Fahl, Mayamiko Kadaluka, Karly Loken, Joseph Ridenour, Julius Robinson, and Christian Zehner.

Certificates were awarded to: Lily Graham and Elijah Verne.

Loy Norrix's Sava Velkoff, Alex Smith Win KSO 2017 Youth Soloist Competition, Perform at Dec. 16 Concert

Loy Norrix High School seniors Sava Velkoff and Alex Smith were selected as the winner and runner-up to the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra 2017 Youth Soloist Competition.

Velkoff, a violinist, will serve as the featured soloist in the KSO's "Sounds of the Season" concert on Dec. 16 at Chenery Auditorium. She will perform Cecil Forsyth's Viola Concerto in G minor, which was the piece with which she won the soloist competition.

Smith, a baritone, will lead the Kalamazoo Children's Chorus and audience in a holiday sing-along at the concert. In the competition, he performed "Ein Madchen oder Weibchen" from Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

Velkoff is also a student

at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center. She began playing viola at age 9 as part of the KPS elementary school music program. She currently studies with Igor Fedotov at Western Michigan University. She has participated in school orchestras, WMU's SEMINAR, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, MSBOA's Solo and Ensemble Festivals, Crescendo Academy of Music's Ensemble Program, and the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra. She has performed with the Kent Philharmonic Orchestra and the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival.

Smith studies with Dr. Kenneth Prewitt at Western Michigan University, where he is a member of the WMU Chorale. His awards include first prize in the high

school men's division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Michigan Chapter Competition, honorable mention in the Hal Leonard National Vocal Competition for High School Art Song, and first prize in the high school division of the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Young Vocalist Competition. He has been coached by opera singer Meredith Arwady-Kahrl, who is a Loy Norrix graduate who has sung with the Metropolitan Opera. Smith is an accomplished cellist and performs with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra, and he has performed in numerous plays at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre.

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra "Sounds of the Season" concert will feature "Music of the Movies" with flutist Sara Andon.



Loy Norrix senior Sava Velkoff, a violinist, won the 2017 KSO Youth Soloist Competition.



Loy Norrix senior Alex Smith, a vocalist, was the runner-up in the 2017 KSO Youth Soloist Competition.

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- Small class size
- Individualized academic counseling

Enroll in The Loy Norrix Child Care Center for 2017-18

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 2017-18.

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.



LNCCC is open to any child, regardless of residency.

Students Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Phoenix High School and Arcadia Elementary School celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with special events.

Phoenix held a special dinner with Latin dance lessons, face painting, and guest speaker Adrian Vasquez, executive director of the Hispanic American Council. Vasquez shared his own background as an undocumented immigrant and how it has inspired him to work on social justice issues for other immigrants.

"What I do like about this work is that it makes a difference in someone's life," Vasquez told students and family members.

The Hispanic American Council partners with more than 50 other organizations in

the community to help provide support to members of the Latino community.

"Anyone can make a difference," Vasquez said.

At Arcadia Elementary School, teacher Cherise Ward coordinated a celebration with fellow teachers Alfredo Aleman and Debora Gant, and former Arcadia Elementary School parent Pat Garcez to present their kindergarten, first- and second-grade students with an introduction to Hispanic culture.

The students enjoyed a homemade Mexican meal with tacos and cookies, while practicing their Spanish, looking at maps, clothing and other artifacts, and talking with Garcez and Aleman about life in Mexico.



Donivan Simms, left, and Chris Martin give Audrey Clay a spin on the dance floor during the Phoenix High School Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.



Jordis Lee helps teacher Alfredo Aleman hold a poster while he talks about Mexico during the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at Arcadia Elementary School.

Kalamazoo Central, Loy Norrix Alums Needed to Share College Stories on Dec. 22

Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high schools are looking for graduates from the past five years to share their secrets to college success with current students during the 2017 Alumni Day on Dec. 22.

Alumni are asked to talk about topics such as the college environment, the difference between college and high school, how to choose a major, time management, college life, and what advice they wish

they'd received in high school.

Alumni from Loy Norrix are asked to register with Cheryl Knight at knightcm@kalamazoopublicschools.net or by calling (269) 337-0205.

At Kalamazoo Central, alumni may register with Juana Garza at garzajm@kalamazoopublicschools.net or with principal Valerie Boggan at bogganva@kalamazoopublicschools.net. KC alums can also register by calling (269) 337-

0300, ext. 548. Kalamazoo Central alums must register by Dec. 18 to participate on Dec. 22.

Returning students are asked to wear college gear representing their schools. Loy Norrix students are asked to report by noon. Classroom visits will run 12:30-2:20 p.m. At Kalamazoo Central, students can arrive by 8 a.m. for a light breakfast, with classroom presentations running 8:15-11:30 a.m.



Loy Norrix teacher Matt Porco, left, listens to graduates Alana Whitehead, center, and Breana Ortiz talk about how to succeed in college during Alumni Day 2016.



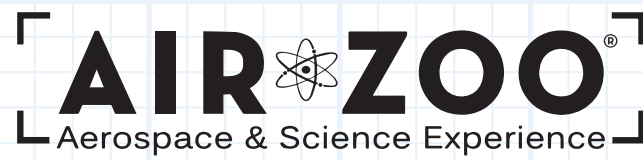
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