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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Tuesday, February 16 and
Thursday, February 25, 2016
7 p.m.
Administration Building

For more information call
(269) 337-1572.

Upcoming Events

District-wide Kindergarten
Orientation will be held on
Wednesday, March 16. Contact
your school for more details.

EFA/EFE/EMC
Annual Open House for Students
in Grades 6 through 11
See page 4

Send a Singing Valentine
See page 7

Literacy Night Coming in March
See page 8

Lift Up Through Literacy
See page 8

Cover College Costs
Beyond Tuition
See page 9

Opportunities

Substitute Teachers Needed
See page 4

Quality Education and Child Care
Program for Preschoolers
See page 6

Seeking School Bus Drivers
See page 6

Enrichment Classes
See page 8

Get the Power of PEEP
Pre-Kindergarten
See page 10

KPS Choir Students Sing in State Honors Choir

KPS vocal students were chosen to perform in the State Honors Choir at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids in January. The students had auditioned and were selected for the honor when they attended the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Honors Choir Regionals.

The student vocalists are:

Aiyanna Berry, Treyvon Cobb, Eliza Geer, Ellie Pollard, and Rachel Richman - Hillside Middle School.

Olivia Ampey, Reanna



The Hillside honors choir students are (L to R) Rachel Richman, Eliza Geer, Ellie Pollard, Aiyanna Berry and Treyvon Cobb.

Doonan, Ogheneyiole Evovo, Alexis Sommers, Michael Swift Jr., and Ashton Watkins - Kalamazoo Central High School;

Ruth Castaneda, Abigail Hauke, and Hannah Lee - Loy Norrix High School;

Ms. Julie Pelligrino is very pleased with the results of the tryouts and realizes the talents of her students. "Three of my choir students auditioned and were selected for State Honors Choir," Ms. Pelligrino said. "The three of them worked very hard to learn and memorize the very difficult audition music. It is a huge honor to be selected for the State Honors Choir. I am very excited for them to rehearse and perform with talented students from across the state."

Kalamazoo Central and
(continued on page 5)

Give Away Is Huge for KPS Students

Before December, members of Radiant Church in Richland had been visiting Woodward School for Technology and Research to take measure of the sizes of every student. On Dec. 4, when staff and students entered school for the morning, they found it transformed into a winter wonderland. The halls were decorated with lit up trees, with hedgehogs and cardinals peeking out. There was a glittering polar bear in the garden, and every classroom was decorated.

The magic grew throughout the day, as students and teachers discovered everything Radiant

had planned for them with its Big Give. Each classroom had cookie decorating, a movie, a craft time (where they made beautiful fleece pillows), and game time. During lunch, they were offered hot chocolate and pizza and were serenaded by a live band, who sang all their favorites. Teachers and students were able to enjoy this time together, singing and eating.

One of the biggest highlights of the day was the students' visit to the gym. It had been changed into a department store, full of brand new hats, coats, mittens, and boots. Each student had a volunteer to escort



Aniyah Rolland shows the new boots and coat that she picked out.

them through the process, everything home, complete mirrors to try on the new gear, with name labels. Radiant and personalized bags to send

(continued on page 5)

FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL February 6

The next First Saturday @ KPL event will be held at the Kalamazoo Public Library, downtown, on Feb. 6, 2016, from 2-3:30 p.m.

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State Legislature Limits Information to Voters from School Districts and Other Governmental Units

On Dec. 16, in the last few hours before the end of legislative activity in 2015, the state legislature approved a bill that, among other things, prohibited school districts, libraries, cities, counties, and other governmental units from using their tax-funded budgets to share valuable and expected factual information about their millages and other voter questions within 60 days of an election by radio, television, robocalls, or mailings. Introduced months earlier, the bill—Senate Bill 571—had been a noncontroversial piece of legislation with bipartisan support until a last-minute substitution in which a 53-page bill with the prohibition against this sharing of information had replaced the original 12-page bill.

This larger bill was then quickly voted on by both the state house and the state senate without public review or debate, without legislative hearings or debate. Senate Bill 571 was ap-

proved so quickly and relatively thoughtlessly that a number of state legislators, including three locally elected state legislators from Kalamazoo County, have subsequently gotten “voter’s remorse”: they have publicly regretted their votes in favor of Senate Bill 571. These three state legislators were Sen. Margaret O’Brien, Rep. Brandt Iden, and Rep. Dave Maturen. Rep. Jon Hoadley voted against the bill on Dec. 16.

On Dec. 17, one day after the legislature passed the bill, the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education passed a resolution in opposition to Senate Bill 571 and urged the governor to veto the bill. Unfortunately, however, in spite of the opposition from our board and governmental



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

units across the state, in spite of our local legislators rethinking their votes and acknowledging that Senate Bill 571’s process and product were flawed, the governor signed the bill into law on Jan. 6.

In his statement in signing the bill into law, the governor indicated that there were “misperceptions” associated with Senate Bill 571 and that the legislature needed to “clarify” what it had passed. With respect, the state legislature needs to repeal this undemocratic provision.

Given our responsibility for public education, the board of education and I, along with boards of education, superintendents, city and county commissions, library boards, mayors, commissioners, library leaders, and others across the state, strongly urge our elected leaders to correct their flawed votes and work toward and ultimately achieve repeal of this part of the new law. Governmental units

have not only the right but the responsibility to provide information to voters about ballot initiatives. Our elected officials should work tirelessly until they have addressed their undermining of this responsibility.

Below in italics is a statement I made at a press conference of state associations and government officials in Lansing on Jan. 5, just a day before the governor signed the bill into law.

*Statement of Superintendent
Michael Rice
January 5 Press Conference
Offices of the Michigan
Municipal League*

Good morning. I agree with my colleagues before me. At best, Senate Bill 571 is a solution in search of a problem. At worst, the legislation is akin to taking a cannon to a mosquito: you may kill the mosquito, but you’re going to do a lot of collateral damage with the cannon.

In 2005, Kalamazoo County

was the first county in the state to pass a so-called enhancement millage to support its schools. Made possible under Proposal A, enhancement millages were virtually unheard of in 2005. Imagine if we hadn’t informed our voters of this ballot initiative in the 60 days before the election. While we passed renewals overwhelmingly in 2008, 2011, and 2014, citizens required information from the nine local school districts in the county in 2005 to decide how they wanted to vote.

In 2006, several months after the advent of the Kalamazoo Promise, the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) Board of Education voted to put a bond millage before the voters. We had grown by 1,000 students in the first year of the Promise, and needed to build a new elementary school and a new middle school. Imagine if we hadn’t informed our voters of this ballot initiative in the 60 days before the election. Were we

(continued on page 3)



First Saturday @ KPL

Saturday 2-3:30 pm
February 6
Central Library

Take your family to the library the first Saturday of each month! Get your library card or pick out some books to check out! Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes. In February, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra will host! First Saturday is a partnership program for KPL and Kalamazoo Public Schools. Each monthly event is co-hosted with an organization serving children and families in Kalamazoo.

Partners
Boys and Girls Club of Kalamazoo
Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan
Great Start Collaborative
Great Start Collaborative Parent Coalition
Hispanic American Council
Kalamazoo in Bloom
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
Kalamazoo County Ready 4s

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
Kalamazoo Literacy Council
Kalamazoo Public Schools
Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra
Kalamazoo Valley Museum
KRESA
NAACP
Northside Ministerial Alliance
Parents for Public Schools of Greater Kalamazoo
SW Michigan AEYC
Western Michigan University Reading Clinic



K-Central Senior Performs with the All-State Jazz Band

Otto Kailing, Kalamazoo Central and KAMSC senior, was chosen by audition from among state high school jazz pianists to perform with the All-State Jazz Band at the annual Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids in January.

Otto has been taking lessons for over 10 years, studying jazz for about three. He has also won academic awards including the Medallion Award at KAMSC his freshman year.

He attributes his musical success to being able to take lessons at WMU School of Music. "I thank my teachers, Dr. Silvia Roederer and Prof. Jeremy Siskind, and my parents for their support."

He twice attended Western's SEMINAR summer music camp for classical piano and highly recommends it to any high school student interested in pursuing music as a vocation or avocation. He acknowledges the Irving S. Gilmore Student Arts Scholarships, which help students complete summer arts activities, for its financial support

with some of his tuition costs to the music camp.

Otto has played the alto saxophone in the school band since 7th grade, and has been in the Kalamazoo Central marching band. He is also in the Kalamazoo Central jazz band, where he plays piano. This year, when the Kalamazoo College jazz band couldn't find a pianist, Otto stepped up to fill the vacancy and will continue his involvement through the end of the year.

Otto has other musically talented family members. "My

little sister plays both piano and cello," he said. "She is currently in Linden Grove Middle School's orchestra." Otto also has a cousin in Saline, Mich. who plays violin in the orchestra, solo and ensemble, and the famous Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic.

"In terms of school/career," Otto said, "I am most likely going to double major in music and some other field. I am considering several schools, but thanks to the Promise, I am considering the University of Michigan as one of these options."



Otto Kailing

State Legislature Limits Information to Voters (cont. from page 2)

supposed to telepathically inform our voters not only about our growth, but about the fact that we hadn't built a new school in the district in a third of a century?

In 2012, the KPS Board of Education placed its non-homestead millage on the ballot. A part of Proposal A, a non-homestead millage is the local contribution in the state funding formula and must be approved by voters of a school district at least every 20 years. Having never seen a non-homestead millage, let alone voted on one, imagine if we hadn't informed our voters of this ballot initiative in the 60 days before the election. Would voters have even known that the non-homestead millage wasn't even levied on the homes in which they lived?

In 2015, the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency (KRESA) Board of

Education placed a special education millage increase on the ballot. For years, the federal and state-mandated costs of special education had exceeded the revenue associated with special education, not simply in Kalamazoo County, but across the state and country. In spite of the presence on the same ballot of the most unpopular ballot initiative in the state in the last half century, the county millage request was approved by the voters. Imagine if we hadn't informed our voters of this ballot initiative in the 60 days before the election. Would voters have distinguished this ballot initiative from the roads referendum?

When the school boards of Ypsilanti and Willow Run were considering a merger, they voted to place the proposal on the ballot. After all, there are property ramifications to a merger.

Imagine if they hadn't informed their voters of this ballot initiative in the 60 days before the election. How would voters have voted?

If the school boards of Albion and Marshall want to completely merge their districts, they will likewise have to vote to place the proposal on the ballot. Imagine if they don't inform their voters of this ballot initiative in the 60 days before the election. How will their uninformed voters vote?

School districts and other governmental units not only have the right under the current law to inform their citizenries; they have the responsibility. The state legislature needs to support this responsibility, not undermine it.

In his wisdom, the governor needs to veto this legislation. The legislature would then do well to arrange for a proper burial for this rushed, thoughtless, anti-democratic bill. Thank you.

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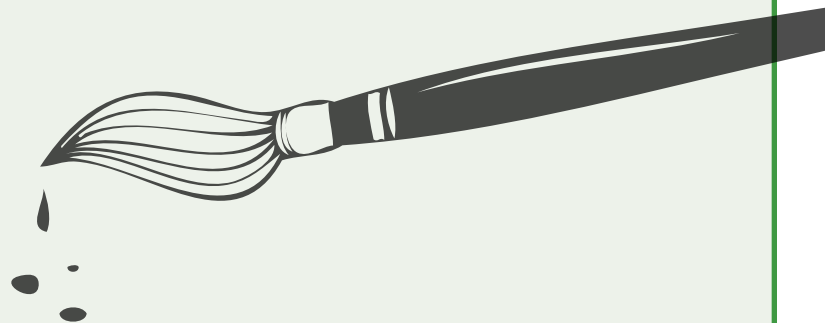


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Artists' Corner

The *Excelsior* is proud to feature this month the talents of the students of Woodward School for Technology and Research. The artwork was created under the direction of art teacher Todd Patrick.



Jayden Vazquez, 2nd grade. Reflective self-portrait, created with watercolor.



Trinity Washington, 5th grade. Profile self-portraits, created with markers.



Benjamin Borowicz, kindergarten. Self-portrait, created in watercolor.



Jaylen Cobb, 5th grade. Profile self-portrait, created in marker.

You Are Invited to the EFA/EFE/EMC Annual Open House

Education for the Arts, Education for Employment and Early/Middle College (EFA/EFE/EMC) annual open house will be held on **Feb. 11, 2016**, from **5-8 p.m.**, at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center. The event is oriented toward middle and high school students and their parents.

Don't miss this great opportunity to help students

connect the dots from EFA and EFE to EMC and on to great careers. Over 80 industry representatives will be on site to showcase over 40 different careers.

Students and parents will be able to:

- Talk with experts in a variety of fields
- Touch, feel and work with actual workplace tools, equipment and technology

- Connect EFA/EFE classroom learning to the real world
- Discover opportunities for art enrichment
- Explore Early/Middle College options.

For more information, visit kresa.org. This event is sponsored in part by MiCareer Quest Southwest; Michigan Works!; EFA, EFE, EMC; YOU; Southwest Michigan First; and United 4 Change.

Kalamazoo Public Schools Needs Substitute Teachers

EDUStaff who provides substitutes to KPS is hiring qualified candidates.

Interested or want more information?

Go to [www.EDU Staff.org/post](http://www.EDUStaff.org/post)

Questions: Call (877) 974-6338

An assistant will direct former and new substitute teachers through the application process.

EDUStaff training dates can be found online at their website.

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

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

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

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

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

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

District Directory at :
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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KPS Choir Students Sing in State Honors Choir *(continued from page 1)*

Hillside choir director, Ms. Thesesa Williams-Johnson, likewise understands the hard

work of the young vocalists who received the remarkable results. "These students auditioned in

October and December and were selected to sing in the Michigan School Music Association State

Honors Choirs. They mastered very difficult music, and I am very proud of them."



Kalamazoo Central honors choir students are (L to R) Olivia Ampey, Alexis Sommers, Michael Swift Jr., Ashton Watkins, Ogheneyiole Evovo, and Reanna Doonan.



Loy Norrix honors choir students who sang with the State Honors Choir are (L to R) Ruth Castaneda, Abigail Hauke, and Hannah Lee.

Give Away Is Huge for KPS Students *(continued from page 1)*

even thought of the teachers and support staff, providing a volunteer to assist Woodward's janitor with all the cleanup, and giving generous gift cards for local restaurants to each staff member.

Reflecting on this faith-based partner with Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, Site Coordinator Jen DeWaele said, "The generosity of spirit was overwhelming. One of the best things was seeing how committed Radiant's volunteers

were to the students. The energy and attention they brought to each classroom were heartfelt."

The school family was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support. As Principal Frank Rocco put it, "This was a great gift to teachers, students and support staff alike, to have a day of fun with their students and to meet their basic needs as well. It goes a long way towards building a learning community."

Thank you, Radiant Church. Your kindness is appreciated.



Isabella Anthony tries on one of the many hats at the Big Give. Kelli Morin, a Radiant Church volunteer, assists Isabella to find just the right winter-clothing items.

Our way of saying "Thank You"!

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Miles Ahead

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Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Conchiglie al Forna With Mushrooms and Radicchio

Hello Kalamazoo, its Fabulous February! Try out this rich, delicious pasta dish during the chilly month for a Valentine's Day delight. Add some fresh grilled chicken breast, shrimp or salmon to accent a tasty experience. As always, share with the special people in your life. Best Regards, Chef Shaun

Ingredients

6 ounces shiitake mushrooms, wiped clean
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
1 teaspoon kosher salt
2 cups (1 medium head) radicchio, finely shredded
2 1/2 cups heavy cream
1/2 cup (1 1/2 ounces) parmigiano-reggiano, freshly grated
1/2 cup (1 1/2 ounces) fontina, coarsely shredded
1/2 cup (3 ounces) gorgonzola, crumbled
2 teaspoons ricotta
6 leaves fresh sage, chopped
1 pound pasta shells

Directions

- 1 Preheat the oven to 400°F.
- 2 Bring 5 quarts of salted water to a boil in a stockpot.
- 3 Remove the stems from the mushrooms and reserve for another use. Slice the mushroom caps about 1/4-inch thick. Heat 6 tablespoons of butter in a large skillet; add the mushrooms and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Sauté over medium heat, stirring frequently, until they are cooked through, 3 to 5 minutes.
- 4 In a large mixing bowl, combine the mushrooms,



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

radicchio, cream, cheeses, sage, and remaining salt.
5 Parboil the pasta shells for 4 minutes; drain and add to the ingredients in the mixing bowl. Toss to combine.
6 Pour the entire mixture into a 9-by-13-inch casserole dish. Dot with the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter, and bake until the radicchio has wilted and the shells are lightly browned in spots, about 25 to 30 minutes.

Chef Shaun's recipes are available online at kalamazoopublicschools.com/chefshaun

Quality Education and Child Care Program Has Opening for Your Preschooler

Loy Norrix Child Care Center (LNCCC) was recently re-validated at a 5-Star rating by the Michigan Great Start to Quality rating system. The program offers quality education and care for your preschooler. Great learning and care are happening daily between the hours of 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration for the LNCCC is open to the public.

The reasonable tuition rate

— full-time of \$145 per week; part-time (5 hours or less per day) of \$95; and daily rate of \$39 per day — is an added bonus.

Openings for the current school year for 3- and 4-year-olds are still available. There is no school district residency required. For enrollment information call (269) 337-0264 or email hentschlearlym@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us.



LNCCC student Axl Kimbrough has fun trying out the pottery wheel. With him is LNCCC father Wyatt Lane who brought the pottery equipment to the preschool for the children to enjoy and learn about.

goose bumps!
the science of fear

FEB 6 - MAY 8

Why do our hearts race, our knees shake, and our bodies sweat when we are scared? Through fun, interactive challenges, visitors can experience and learn about fear in a safe environment. **FREE**

Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear is developed by the California Science Center and supported by National Science Foundation.

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Graduates Return for Loy Norrix Alumni Day

Approximately 40 students from Loy Norrix graduating classes of 2011 to 2015 took part in the Loy Norrix Alumni Day festivities. They returned to their alma mater to share post-secondary experiences with current students.

The returning students attend colleges and universities of Michigan State, University of Michigan, Western Michigan, Grand Valley, KVCC, Oakland University, Northern Michigan, Ferris State, Kendall, Lemonyne-Owen, SW Michigan, and Eastern. Sentrelle Kelley, Class of 2015, attends Marine Corp training.



Czoey Hohler, Class of 2015, enjoys her visit with Ms. Samantha Maxwell's class. Czoey is studying kinesiology at Michigan State University.



Loy Norrix alumni relax in the lounge and get reacquainted after speaking to the current students. They are (L to R) Danika Essix (LN 2014, attending KVCC, majoring in criminal justice), Darvious Wallace (LN 2015, attending Eastern Michigan, majoring in biology/chemistry), Naomi Sarelis (LN 2015, attending Oakland University, majoring in biology/secondary education), Andrew Blinkiewicz (LN 2015, attending Michigan State, majoring in economics), James Greene (LN 2012, attending KVCC and majoring in accounting), and Dounghagai Leo (LN 2014 attending WMU, majoring in biomedical sciences).

Woods Lake Students Take an Active Part in Their Library

Maria (Janie) Varnesdeed, assistant librarian at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts, has been allowing her students to scan their own ID cards and their library books for years. "This is something that they love to do," she said.

Ms. Varnesdeed services 567 students every week at Woods Lake.



Kadyn Williams, 2nd grader in Ms. Byrd's class, concentrates as she scans a book to borrow from the Woods Lake library.

Send a Singing Valentine to Your Special Someone

The Loy Norrix Choral Department will take orders for singing Valentines during its annual Valentine's Day fundraiser. Please mail in the following information, and

please print clearly:

- Recipient's name
- Recipient's phone number (include area code for long-distance numbers)
- Best time to call between 9 a.m. –

2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12, 2016

- Type of song: romantic, friendship, or cute/funny
- Your name and a brief message to include.

E-mail requests with this information to choral director Julie Pelligrino at pelligrinoJE@kalamazoopublicschools.net. Please put "Singing Valentines" as the subject of your e-mail. You may also fill out an online form at loynorrixchoirs.weebly.com/singing-valentines.html.

Payment of \$3 per singing valentine or \$4 for each long-distance number can be made payable to the Loy Norrix Music Department and sent to Julie Pelligrino, LNHS, 606 East Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. All orders must be received by 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb., 2016, to be included on the schedule for Feb. 12.



Loy Norrix choir students Maggie Swafford (left) and Hannah Lee are ready to sing from their hearts for your special someone.

Annual and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Reports

The KPS P.A. 25 Annual Report and NCLB Report Card can be found at www.kalamazooPublicSchools.com. Click on Explore KPS, and then click Annual Reports. Go to school year and then school of your choice.

All Ears Theatre

Free Upcoming Shows

FEB 6 - Faith's Nuggets
FEB 20 - Sorry Wrong Number
MAR 5 - Sherlock Holmes and A Case of Identity
MAR 19 - Ozma of Oz (2 part presentation)

Back in the 'Golden Age' of radio, weekly radio programs brought the young and old to their living rooms to listen to adventurous, mysterious and comical tales. Dedicated to promoting this rich history, All Ears Theatre performs newly scripted radio programs for live audiences, complete with old school sound effects, from January through May. Shows are later broadcast on 102.1 WMUK-FM. Performances are at 6:00 pm at the First Baptist Church and are FREE to the public.

Funding provided by

FOUNDATION

arts council
of greater kalamazoo

For a complete schedule of shows, visit KalamazooArts.org

KPS Students Spread Musical Joy

KPS students celebrated the holiday season in December with musical performances and concerts. Families came to the schools to listen to the beautiful sounds of voices and instruments in standing-room-only gymnasiums and auditoriums.



Arcadia’s Amarie Harper dons a special headgear in celebration of the season.



The students at Arcadia perform a joyous holiday concert for a family-packed gymnasium. The vocalists are (L to R) Tymia Johnson, Kaylin Conroy, Isaac Byler, Alivia Carlisle, and Victoria Smith.



Loy Norrix High School Master Singers, under the direction of Julie Pelligrino, strolled the halls of their school and visited classrooms singing holiday songs. The vocalists are Ruth Castaneda, Julien Burdick, Adrianna Mielke, Ariana Robertson, and Ryan Tipton.

Literacy Night to Happen in March

Kalamazoo Public Schools holds Literacy Night at all elementary and middle schools each year during March. The reading month event will be held in elementary schools on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, for Pre-K–5th graders and at all middle schools on Thursday, March 3, 2016, for grades 6–8.

Literacy Night is held in conjunction with national events such as Read Across America in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday. Communities across the nation honor Dr. Seuss’s efforts to support beginning literacy and also promote continued literacy development in their local schools and communities.

Each school will provide a variety of activities and events surrounding the literacy theme, such as book fairs, visiting authors, storytelling and other fun experiences for the entire family.

Please check your school’s newsletter for the time and a description of its specific events.

You Still Have Time to Sign Up for Lift Up Through Literacy

There is still a spot for you and your children in the Lift Up Through Literacy’s winter session that begins on Feb. 2. The program offers parents, grandparents and caregivers of newborns, preschoolers, and school-age students an opportunity to learn and grow together. The sessions will be held at nine different locations throughout Kalamazoo. Call (269) 337-0833 for more information and to sign up.

STORYTELLING

– 2016 –

FESTIVAL

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KV

Kalamazoo Community Education

“HAPPENINGS”

CLASS SCHEDULE

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www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Click: Online Payments Revtrak (to register)

Select from a variety of enrichment class offerings:

• Genealogy “Online”

• Hatha Yoga

• Power Hour

• Open Volleyball

• Kalamazoo United Swimming Club

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Don't miss this chance. It only takes 30 to 60 minutes. Trained volunteers will be available to help you fill out FAFSA at all of these events:

Feb. 11, 2 - 4 p.m.

Phoenix High School
1411 Oakland Drive
Contact: Mark Hill
(269) 337-0760

Feb. 14, 2 - 4 p.m.

MI College Goal Sunday
WMU Schneider Hall
Contact: Carol Mountjoy
(269) 387-6019

Feb. 16, 5 - 7 p.m.

Loy Norrix High School

606 East Kilgore Rd.
Contact: Rodney Prewitt
(269) 337-0220

Feb. 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

Kalamazoo Central High School
2432 North Drake Rd.
Contact: Valerie Boggan
(269) 337-0330

Feb. 25, 4 - 7 p.m.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited
422 E. South Street
Contact: Lisa Smith
(269) 349-9676

For more information, visit College and Career Action Network online at cacanonline.org, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @kazoocan, or call (269) 250-9313.

"More Than a Pink Out"

Kalamazoo Central's varsity football players and cheerleaders did more than just wear pink at a Friday game versus Gull Lake in order to raise cancer awareness. For the Pink Out, players and cheerleaders created signs to honor people important to them who are either battling cancer, have beaten cancer, or have succumbed to cancer.

These signs were posted along the walkway of Thomas Stadium. Additionally, announcements were made all night that gave facts about

cancer and information on how to get a free mammogram. Kalamazoo Central's Football Boosters supported the Pink Out by providing the signs and pink socks for players.

Senior Keayr Griffin played for his grandfather who raised him and loved the sport of football to the fullest. In Keayr's words, "...this is the only way I know I make him proud...I will take nothing less than a W home." What a beautiful tribute to all of the friends and families of our Maroon Giant student-athletes.

Loy Norrix Teacher Earns Outstanding Alumni Award

Ms. Valerie A. Long, biology teacher at Loy Norrix High School, has been chosen to receive the 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Mallinson Institute for Science Education, College of Arts and Sciences, Western Michigan University (WMU). Ms. Long received a bachelor's degree in 1989 and a master's degree in 2004.

In a release from WMU, it states the following:

"Over the last 17 years as a highly qualified, certified science teacher, Valerie Long has mentored numerous teaching interns, many through the W. K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship program and WMU's ExpeRTS and Way2Go science programs.

"In 2004, Long earned a Master of Science Education degree from WMU. Coursework in science literacy prepared her for her

role on the WMU Literacy Studies Council. Her training in cutting-edge instructional techniques aids her work with the curriculum planning team for the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

"Long's experiences within management at Fortune 500 companies honed her ability to communicate goals and create team unity. She acts as a liaison between teachers and administrators by serving as a



Outstanding Alumni Award recipient Ms. Valerie A. Long with her students (L to R) Hunter Brown, Long, Stephanie Hoogerheide and Camren Wyatt.

team leader, science coordinator and curriculum writer.

"Long has been awarded various grants and awards supporting science inquiry and science literacy, and her committed efforts have realized a 20 percent gain in student achievement. Beyond her professional activities, Long enjoys helping at KPS public events. She is an avid choir member and volunteers at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Taste of Heaven, a local children's ministry, the Girl Scout Camp Merrie-Woode and the Cedine Bible Camp in Tenn.

"Asked to recall fond memories, Long says, 'It is very rewarding when young people say thank you for challenging them to learn and critically evaluate the world around them.'

"Long is admired and highly respected by her colleagues, friends and associates as she certainly is here at the Mallinson Institute for Science Education. So, it is with considerable pleasure and pride that the faculty name Valerie Long as its 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award recipient."

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Holiday Giving From the Heart

Kalamazoo is a generous community, and during the cold weather, the need is even greater to help those who find it difficult to feed their families and to provide them with warm winter wear. KPS saw the need, and staff and students went right to work to do their part. Schools helped underprivileged families in their own buildings and provided large quantities of food for charitable organizations.

At Loy Norrix, students from Peacejam, National Honor Society, Link Crew, current events, and the swim team filled 100 boxes with food for LN disadvantaged families. The students collected 6,323 items.

At the annual Kalamazoo Parade, the students collected non-perishable foods and change that amounted to \$1,060 for Loaves and Fishes. The community service group rang the bell for the Salvation Army

and raised \$886.

Peacejam members collected clothes from classrooms and sorted them by gender and size before dropping them off to Community In Schools, the Gospel Mission, and Deacon Conference. They collected 2,239 items for Loy Norrix families and local people.

Kalamazoo Central collected over 15,000 pounds of food items during Stuff the Bus in November. The food was delivered to Loaves and Fishes and the Salvation Army. Also \$500 was donated and given to the two organizations.

Students at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts volunteered to ring bells at Crossroads Mall for the Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign. Team Synergy's honor roll students for the 1st and 2nd marking periods combined their honor roll celebration with community service



Maple Street Magnet's Red Kettle Campaign Bucket was brought to the mall and won 1st place. The bucket was decorated by Gayle Crittenden, art teacher.



Arcadia Elementary students Faris Bukhader (left) and Saleh Bu Khader have more food to add to the filled containers in support of Loaves and Fishes.

Loy Norrix students Joanna Yiu and Jonathan Lo were part of the team that stayed after school to organize food boxes for Loy Norrix families in need.



Maple Street honor roll students sing their joyous songs of the season for shoppers while participating in the Red Kettle campaign. The students are (L to R) In front: Jeanie Gould-McElhone, Mikayla Ide, Alex Courtney, Mikayla England, and Alexis Weeden. In back: Kim Chheu, Avery Snow, Vivian Segovia-Perez, Celeste Moss, and Bella Lager.



learning. At the end of the kettle drive, the students were honored with a trophy and recognition from the Salvation Army for col-

lecting the most donations.

The staff at the administration building raised \$313.65, enough for 153 meals at the Gos-

pel Mission. They also provided a holiday dinner, clothes, toys and other needed items for a KPS family of eight.

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Nick May, LN football



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Tyler Lyle, KC football



Daniel Henry, KC tennis



Faruq Schieber, KC cross country



Taylor Washington, KC volleyball



Kegan Miller, KC football

ALL-STATE HONORABLE MENTION



Rogdree Stein, KC football

All-League Team

Daniel Henry,
KC tennis
Faruq Schieber,
KC cross country

OTHER HONOREES (Not pictured)

All Division 1st Team

Alexa Davis, LN cross
country
DQ Kizer, LN soccer
Addison Krueger,
LN soccer
Alex Vonhof, LN soccer

All Division 2nd-Team

Masio Willhite,
KC football

Honorable Mention

Donovan Williams, KC soccer
Keagan Kirshman, KC soccer
Ryan Halloran, KC soccer
Logan Mejeur, KC soccer
Lance Post, KC soccer
Talia Edwards, KC volleyball
Mackenzie Wichtman,
KC volleyball
Shamari Browning,
KC volleyball

Javier Caswell-Vargas,
KC football
Jed Gunnett, KC football
Vincent Coakley,
KC football
Reynaldo Archer,
KC football
Bass Ollie, KC football
Tony Dennis, LN soccer
Saevon Ivy, LN soccer
Sebastian Rodriguez,
soccer

Jennings's Foundation Seeks Video Submissions

Through the BE GREAT School Challenge – YouTube Video Submission, The Greg Jennings Foundation recognizes and celebrates GREAT youth at winning GREAT schools with a special visit to the school or classroom from Super Bowl Champion, Greg Jennings. In addition, up to three

winning schools or classrooms are awarded up to \$1,000 in funds to purchase additional classroom supplies or equipment. During the school or classroom visit, Greg Jennings will address the importance of education, making good decisions, being a leader, as well as being GREAT! The goal of the BE GREAT School Challenge – YouTube

Video Submission is to *influence, inspire* and *impact* the youth in our community where they begin to recognize GREATness in themselves and continue to make good choices in order to achieve their lifelong desires and aspirations, with a strong emphasis on education. All elementary, middle, and high schools, classrooms

or school groups located in the Greater Kalamazoo communities are invited to submit YouTube proposals to The Greg Jennings Foundation at GJF@GJenningsFound.org through Feb. 26, 2016. Go to www.GJenningsFound.org to register and receive additional information, or call (269) 343-6990 for details.



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FEBRUARY @ the library

FIRST SATURDAY

- Saturday, February 6 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Come to the library for First Saturday activities and fun!

FAMILY PLACE WORKSHOP

1,2,3 Play with Me: A Parent/Child Workshop / Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 (+ March 2) / 10:30 am / CEN: Play and learn with specialists on child development during the enjoyable five week workshop. For children ages 1-3 with parents or caregivers. **R**

STORYTIMES

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

- **Baby Lapsit** / Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 / 9:30 am / CEN / Songs, bounces, and rhymes for babies from birth to walking with their caregiver.
- **Baby Steps** / Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 / 10:30 am / CEN / Rhymes, songs, and books for little ones from walking to 24 months and their caregivers.
- **Toddler Talk** / Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 / 10:15 am / OSH / Toddlers play while adults talk parenting with parent educator/facilitator. Ages 1-3
- **Baby Talk** / Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 / 1:30 pm / OSH / Talk about care of babies up to one year. Carol Call, RN, facilitator.

- **Family Storytime** / Stories and activities designed for birth-5. Siblings welcome.

Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25 / 10:30 am / EAS & OSH

Fridays, February 5, 12, 19, 26 / 10:30 am / CEN & POW

- **Musical Storytime** / Monday, February 22 / 6:30 pm / CEN / Favorite songs, stories, special guests with Mr. Bill.

EVENTS

- **Little Scientists** / Mondays, February 1, 8, 15 / 10:30 am / CEN / Stories and science for preschoolers and a caregiver. Topics posted on kpl.gov. Please register. **R**

- **Maker Monday** / Monday, February 1 / 4:00-6:00 pm / CEN / Drop in for tinkering, creating, and exploration at the library. Topics posted at kpl.gov.

- **Forecaster Phil: A Groundhog Program** / Tuesday, February 2 / 4:30 pm / EAS / Celebrate Groundhog's Day with stories, fun facts, a craft, and activities!

- **LEGO®@ the Library** / Build with other LEGO fans.

Wednesday, February 3 / 4:30 pm / POW

Saturday, February 6 / 10:30 am / OSH

Tuesday, February 16 / 2:00 pm / EAS & 6:30 pm / WSQ

Saturday, February 20 / 10:30 am / CEN

- **Chinese New Year Celebration** / Monday, February 8 / 4:30 pm / WSQ / Listen to a story, make a craft, do fun activities, and taste some fortune cookies. Ages 6-11.

- **From the Heart** / Tuesday, February 9-Thursday, February 11 / All open hours / All locations / Drop in during open hours and make one, take one. Help us make valentines for residents of local nursing homes and make an extra to give to your special someone.

- **Meet the Author: Sonya Hollins and Friends** / Tuesday, February 9 / 6:00 pm / POW / Meet author and self-publisher Sonya Hollins who, with her husband, co-wrote the brand new children's book *Benjamin Losford and His Handy Dandy Clippers*.

- **Code-a-Thon** / Saturday, February 20 / 11:00 am-12:30 pm / OSH / Complete several hours of code in one day using KPL's Chromebooks! All materials provided. Grades 1-5.

- **Bookworms** / Thursday, February 24 / 4:30 pm / CEN / A book club for kids and their grownups. In February we'll read *Abby Takes a Stand* by Patricia McKissack. Books available Feb 1.

TWEEN / TEEN EVENTS

- **Fandom February** / Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 / 3:30-5:30 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Every Wednesday in February, drop in and celebrate your favorite fandoms with crafts, movies, and fun. Grades 5-12.

- **Harry Potter Book Night** / Thursday, February 4 / 6:00 pm / CEN / Join the UK in celebrating Harry Potter Book Night with Potter-themed crafts, snacks, and fun.

- **#TAB** / Monday, February 8 / 6:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Join the new, improved Teen Advisory Board and volunteer for programs, help with events, contribute to library social media, and more! Grades 6-12.

- **J-Pop Club** / Monday, February 15 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Enjoy the latest and coolest stuff straight from Japan. Vote for your favorite anime series, and tell us what to get next. Teens only.

- **Code-a-Thon** / Saturday, February 20 / 1:00-2:30 pm / OSH / Complete several hours of code in one day using KPL's Chromebooks! All materials provided. Grades 6-12.

- **13th Annual Teen Filmmaker Festival** / Saturday, February 20 / 2:30 pm / Chenery Auditorium / Join us at the Chenery Auditorium for the 13th Annual Teen Filmmaker Festival. The finalists will be screened at this special event open to movie fans of all ages. Audience members will vote for a People's Choice award!

- **Maker Monday** / Monday February 22 / 6:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Tinker, make, try, create, and explore @ your library. Focus on the process, not the product, and learn that all of us are makers.

■ Baby / Kid ■ Tween / Teen ■ Family ■ All Ages
T Ticket Required **R** Registration Required



kpl.gov/calendar

Central Library (CEN)
315 S. Rose St.
553-7800

Eastwood (EAS)
1112 Gayle Ave.
553-7810

Oshtemo (OSH)
7265 W. Main St.
553-7980

Alma Powell (POW)
1000 W. Paterson St.
553-7960

Washington Square (WSQ)
1244 Portage St.
553-7970



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