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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings
Thursday, March 10 & 24, 2016
7 p.m.
Administration Building

No School
Friday, March 11, 2016

For more information call
(269) 337-1572.

Upcoming Events

Loy Norrix and K-Central
play performances
See page 6

Attend the K-Central
alumni banquet
See page 7

Literacy Night
Grades Pre-K-5
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Grades 6-8
Thursday, March 3, 2016
See pages 8 and 9

Opportunities

School bus drivers needed
See page 3

Apply for PEEP
Pre-Kindergarten Now
for Next Year!
Applications are also available
at Kindergarten Orientation.
Call (269) 337-0095
for more information about
the PEEP program
See page 6

Still time to sign up for
Loy Norrix childcare
See page 11

Community Responds with Water for Flint

The Kalamazoo community responded with tremendous generosity to Kalamazoo Public Schools' Water for Flint project on Jan. 30.

The school district collected more than 1,200 cases of water for the residents of Flint, who are struggling with a water crisis, in which a corrosive water supply and an aging water infrastructure have resulted in high lead levels among many Flint children.

Gabreon "G.K." Wells-Lindsay, a Loy Norrix High School



Student volunteers help organize donations at the Water for Flint water drive held Jan. 30. The community donated more than 1,200 cases of water to the effort.

senior, was impressed with the turnout at the water drive.

"One thing you can say about the Kalamazoo community is when someone is in need, we come together really well," he said.

More than 100 students, school faculty and administrators, *(continued on page 3)*

Districtwide Kindergarten Orientation Set for March 16

Kalamazoo Public Schools will hold districtwide kindergarten orientation activities in all of its elementary schools on Wednesday, March 16. All children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2016, are eligible for kindergarten this fall.

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

Parents should bring the incoming child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of

hearing and vision screening (if available) and two proofs of residency (for example: a utility bill, a lease agreement, or a mortgage agreement).

Families that need immunizations for their children can visit Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services (KCHCS) before orientation. KCHCS provides immunizations 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Thursday. On the first Tuesday of each month, the clinic opens at 1 p.m. Guardians should bring children's immunization records, as well as proof of income and insurance records, to the clinic. The immunization clinic is located at 3299 Gull Road.



Noah Bautista likes the new yellow T-shirt he received at Kindergarten Orientation. This picture was taken last year when Noah signed up for kindergarten at El Sol Elementary.

children also will find applications for the Pre-kindergarten Early Education Program (PEEP) at kindergarten orientation. PEEP is open to students who will be 4 years old by Dec. 1, 2016. Participants must meet state eligibility requirements.

The times of the events for each elementary school are listed on page 3. The schedule is also available at kalamazoopublicschools.com. You may contact your school for more details.

(continued on page 11)

FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL March 5

The next First Saturday @ KPL event will be held at the Kalamazoo Public Library, downtown, on March 5, 2016, from 2-3:30 p.m.

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What Would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Have Thought about 2016?

In January each year, we celebrate the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In February, we celebrate African American History Month. Below are themes that I shared with the hundreds of KPS students who attended the King Celebration at Western Michigan University on Jan. 16.

Many of you know Dr. King as a civil rights activist, a man who fought for the legal rights of ALL citizens to vote, eat where they choose, live where they choose, sit and stand and assemble and speak where and how they choose, seek entertainment where they choose, and educate their children where they choose. Much of this may appear unremarkable to you. We take a lot for granted today, but when Dr. King was growing up and

through much of his adult life, blacks were not accorded the same rights as whites. The civil rights struggles that he and others led were revolutionary ones at the time.

Dr. King was not only a civil rights activist; he was a human rights activist as well. He was not simply interested in the legal rights of citizens; he was also deeply interested in the rights that human beings should be accorded as a function of their humanity. As such, Dr. King strongly opposed the Vietnam War beginning in early 1967, in spite of strong reservations among his circle of fellow civil rights advocates and supporters. At the time of his death, he was



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

“Dr. King was not simply a civil rights activist; he was a human rights activist as well.”

planning a Poor People’s March on Washington, poverty and the living conditions of fellow humans increasingly occupying his thinking.

So what would Dr. King have to say about our country in 2016? From a civil rights perspective, he would appreciate the gains that we had made since Montgomery in 1955, Greensboro in 1961, Birmingham in 1963, Selma in 1965, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Yet, he would acknowledge

the civil rights issues of our time: Black Lives Matter, gay marriage, and immigration reform, among many others.

From a human rights perspective, he would lament the absence of progress that we have made as a nation and as a planet on issues of peace and poverty. And he would surely

note that, if Black Lives Matter when white police officers take the lives of innocent black men, surely they matter in the case of black-on-black homicide. While the former is a matter of civil rights, the latter is a matter of human rights, and King would have been saddened by both.

As we mourn the loss of young men taken before their time in our community, we reflect on Dr. King’s legacy, his thinking about the world, and the ways in which we can improve our country—and our world—through his teachings and example.

Talia Edmonds, who received an honorable mention for her work on Kalamazoo Central’s volleyball team, was incorrectly identified in the Fall Sports Honorees—All Conference article in the February edition of the *Excelsior*. We apologize for the mistake.



First Saturday @ KPL



Saturday, March 5 2 - 3:30 pm • CEN

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

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

Dr. Rice Honored at State and National Conferences

On Jan. 28, at its Mid-Winter Conference in Detroit, the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) honored Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice as the Michigan Superintendent of the Year for 2016.

Dr. Rice addressed the several hundred attendees and noted, "This is a team honor, and I appreciate enormously the full team: teachers, support

staff, administrators, the board of education, and community. The team has improved every major student academic indicator over the last several years in the district. That's the result of a lot of hard work, attention, dedication, and focus. Congratulations to all team members."

Rice focused a significant portion of his remarks on the need of superintendents to ad-

vocate for children, particularly those who have few if any advocates, in the face of legislative and political opposition.

On Feb. 11, at its annual conference in Phoenix, the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) honored Dr. Rice and the other 49 state superintendents of the year for 2016. There are more than 14,000 school districts and superinten-

dents in the country, with approximately 540 in Michigan.

"It is an honor to represent Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Public Schools at the state level, and to represent Kalamazoo, KPS, and Michigan nationally," Rice said.

KPS Board President Patti Sholler-Barber said the AASA conference was an amazing opportunity to network with others who are striving for equity among schools and who value public education in America.

"The conference provided wonderful insight into the world



KPS Superintendent Michael Rice and KPS Board President Patti Sholler-Barber attended the American Association of School Administrators conference in Phoenix in February.



KPS Superintendent Michael F. Rice received the 2016 Michigan Superintendent of the Year award during the Michigan Association of School Administrators 2016 Midwinter Conference in January in Detroit. Rice is pictured with, from left, Jennie Hill, KPS Board of Trustees secretary; Bea Cunningham, executive assistant; TiAnna Harrison, board trustee; Patti Sholler-Barber, board president; Carol McGlenn, board vice president; Sheila Dorsey, KPS assistant superintendent for human resources; and Cindy Green, KPS assistant superintendent for student services.

Community Responds With Water for Flint *(continued from page 1)*

and school board members came out to help with the drive, which was held at the Kalamazoo Public Schools Administration Building.

Jake Link, a senior on the Loy Norrix basketball team, said he learned about the water crisis in Flint from watching the news.

"Safe drinking water is something you don't think about when you wake up in the morning," Link said. "It's nice that people have come out to help."

Kalamazoo Central sophomore Anaia Hawkins echoed his sentiments saying, "It's scary to see something like this in Michigan. It's good everyone wanted to help out."

Several groups made large donations to the effort. Loy Norrix's Link Crew donated \$400 worth of water, and the Peace Jam club donated \$200 from a fundraiser held at Smoothie King. Arcadia Elementary School bilingual paraprofessional Mohammed Mohammed worked with the Iraqi Student Union at Western Michigan University to organize a donation of 100 cases of water.

KSS Enterprises, which



Kalamazoo Central High School junior Al-Nisa Vaughn was one of more than 100 volunteers who helped collect water to send to Flint.

provides cleaning supplies for the school district, donated a truck and staff to help collect the water. KSS drivers delivered the water to one of the state-designated drop-off points in Flint the following week.

Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Michael Rice praised volunteers and donors for their support of Flint kids and families. "This is one more

example of the generosity of the Kalamazoo community," he said.

KPS Board of Trustees President Patti Sholler-Barber, a native of Flint, added, "There's no way that any family or child should question water quality in this country. This is a nightmare. It's absolutely incredible how the KPS community has come together to address this horrific situation in Flint."



Supt. Michael Rice reads to children in Bronson Park as part of the Kalamazoo Public Library's Party in the Park, which promotes reading for young children.

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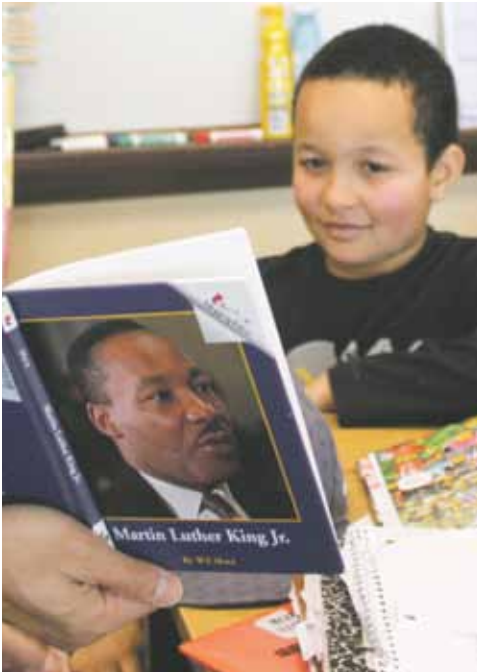
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1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

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2016 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration

READING TO HONOR MLK

Many events took place around the Kalamazoo community when the birthday of Dr. Martin L. King Jr. was celebrated in January. On Jan. 18, groups of volunteers visited KPS schools to read with students about the life of Dr. King and his contribution to civil rights.



Ayden Abbott at El Sol Elementary School enjoyed learning more about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the holiday remembering the civil rights leader.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK BOWL

Dozens of Kalamazoo Public Schools students shared their knowledge of the civil rights movement and social justice during the Social Justice Book Bowl, which was part of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations in January.

The students read books on the theme of social justice and then competed in a quiz competition, answering questions based on the books. Preliminary rounds were held at Linden Grove Middle School, while the finals took place at Western Michigan University.

This year's books were: "Stella by Starlight," by Sharon M. Draper, and "Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom," by Lynda Blackmon Lowery, for the sixth graders; "Breaker Boys," by Michael Burgan, and "Threads and Flames," by Esther Friesner, for the seventh and eighth graders; "Cy in Chains," by David L. Dudley, and "Free At Last," by Sara Bullard, for the ninth and 10th graders; and "The Pearl That Broke Its Shell," by Nadia Hashimi, and "Up For Sale: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery," by Alison Marie Behnke, for those in 11th and 12th grades.

The 2016 Social Justice Book Bowl winners were:



KPS high school and middle school students took part in the WMU/KPS Social Justice Book Bowl. These Loy Norrix students are (clockwise starting at left) Amyah Walker, Zhi Nee Wee, Elizabeth Gbog, Ferren Olmsted-Meade, Quincy Page, Simeon Smith, Tihnae Bennett, Mey Wong, Felicie Jones, and Zhi Tian Wee.

Sixth Grade

Hillside Challengers,
Hillside Middle School
Maya Alkema
Otto Gustafson
Simon Hunsinger

Seventh and Eighth Grade

#Team Positivity, Maple
Street Magnet School

Maggie Grabemeyer
Makenna Lopez
Rebeca Sierra-Torres
Garrick Hohm

Ninth and 10th Grade

Eloquent Readers, Loy
Norrix High School
Tihnae Bennett
Ferren Olmsted-Meade

Naomi Verne
11th and 12th Grade
Social Justice Reading
League, Loy Norrix
High School
Elizabeth Gbog
Quincy Page
Amyah Walker

(continued on page 5)

Kinship Care Program:
Relatives Raising Relative Children

Support Group Meets:
3rd Thursday
6-8:30 pm

First United Methodist Church
212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo

Child Care Provided

BUILD peer support
EXCHANGE ideas and information
PARTICIPATE in a safe, non-judgmental environment
DISCOVER local information and resources

Counseling at Home
1410 S. Willis Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 (269) 327-7472

Join The Chorus!
2016-17 Season Auditions
April 23 & 30, 2016

info@kalamazoochildrenschorus.org
269-547-7183

2016 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration *(continued from page 4)*

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:

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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WMU AND KPS COLLABORATE FOR "EQUITY IN ACTION"

Middle school and high school students from Kalamazoo Public Schools honored the memory of civil rights legend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in "Equity in Action — Uniting Community: the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration 2016."

Almost 300 KPS students attended the Public School Students' Visitation events at Western Michigan University on Jan. 16.

Middle school students participated in hands-on activities focused on career exploration, said Johnny Edwards, director of secondary education. Students had the opportunity to explore everything from robotics to music therapy. High school students spent the day in break-out sessions organized around academic and social skills necessary for college success.

Middle school and high school students also had the opportunity to participate in the Social Justice Book Bowl and

The Courage to Create poetry competition.

The Courage to Create poetry competition and reading was hosted by poet and author Buddy Hannah. The event was sponsored by the WMU Center for the Humanities, WMU Office for the Vice President for Research, the WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the WMU Lee Honors College, and the WMU Center for the Study of Ethics in Society

The Social Justice Book Bowl finals were held at WMU, while the preliminary rounds were held at Linden Grove Middle School. The participants read several books related to the theme of social justice and then competed in a quiz competition answering questions based on the books.

The success of the campus visit was due in large part to the faculty and staff who chaperoned the event. Those identified as coaches served as the Social Justice Book Bowl coaches for their schools. The chaperones and the buildings they represented were:

ALP:

Tamica Frison

Hillside:

Dana Heyl
Carina Hilbert - coach
Atiba McKissack
Evelyn Phillips - coach

Linden Grove:

Julie Ermatinger - coach
Craig McCane
Shannon Sheets - coach

Maple Street:

Dr. Jeffery Boggan
David Fooy
Debra McKee - coach

Milwood:

Gloria Foster-Wimbley
Craig LeSuer
Marla Rogers - coach

Kalamazoo Central:

Angelita Aguilar
Valerie Boggan
Wendy Bridges
Cynthia Comrack
Ajamian Gardner
James Hudson
Nick Grabemeyer
Cheryl McKenzie
Brandon McNab - coach
Dylan Patterson
Elaine Sayre - coach

Loy Norrix:

Chris Aguinaga
Ryan Allen
Patrick Greeley
Kelly Hinga
John Kreider
Sveri May
Erin Middleton - coach
Rod Prewitt

Phoenix:

Carlos Clay
Deon Daniel
Xavier Guyton
Mark Hill
William Kelly

Arthur Norman
Stephanie Tomkowiak
William Turner - coach
Rumeal Washpun

WMU:

Lisa Brennan
Bill Craft
Tony Dennis
Dr. John Dunn
Carmelita Foster
Lindsey Palar
Dr. Kathy Purnell
Bradley Rangel
Carolyn Smith
Dr. Martha Warfield
Tiffany White

Central Office:

Sheila Dorsey-Smith
Johnny Edwards
Cindy Green
Scott Hunsinger
Dr. Michael Rice
Gary Start

KPS Librarians:

Ann Kaskinen
Laura Warren-Gross



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
1 - 4 PM | FREE!

Enjoy the parade in the morning, then continue the party at the Museum in the afternoon! Holiday crafts, costumes, games, and more!

Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum
kalamazoomuseum.org
269.373.7990

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



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Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Spaghetti Pie with a Twist

Happy March, Kalamazoo! Please enjoy this hearty dish that will warm up springtime blues. Quick and easy to prepare for families on the go. As always, enjoy with friends and family. Bon appetit. Chef Shaun



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

This hearty Italian dish makes a simple spaghetti dinner without meat. Use homemade marinara sauce or a good bottled kind for an easy dinner. Add some garlic bread and a salad, and you're all set.

Ingredients

- 1/2 pound spaghetti
- 2 large eggs
- 1 (15-ounce) container part-skim ricotta cheese
- 3/4 cups fresh Parmesan
- 1/4 cup fresh basil — chopped
- 1 cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1 1/2 cups portabella mushrooms sliced
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella

Directions

- Cook spaghetti according to package directions; drain.
- Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350° F.
- Grease a 9-inch glass pie plate.
- Sprinkle Italian bread crumbs onto the bottom of the pie plate.
- Sauté mushrooms in 2 tablespoons of olive oil, and season with sea salt, granulated garlic and fresh ground black pepper to taste. Layer on top of breadcrumbs.
- In a large bowl beat eggs with a fork.
- Stir in ricotta and 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese until blended.
- Add spaghetti to ricotta mixture and stir until well-coated.
- Transfer spaghetti mixture to prepared pie plate; top with marinara sauce.
- Sprinkle with mozzarella and remaining Parmesan cheese.
- Bake pie 25 minutes.
- Check after 15 minutes. Rotate pan to ensure even cooking.
- Remove from oven and let stand 10 minutes for easier serving.
- Cut into wedges to serve. Top with fresh chopped basil.
- For a hearty but lean protein, grill a fresh chicken breast and thinly slice for a great topping.

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

Loy Norrix to Perform "Bye Bye Birdie" in April

Mark your calendar for the Loy Norrix Spring Musical "Bye Bye Birdie" to be presented at 7:30 p.m. April 15-16, 21-23. A Sunday matinee will be performed at 2:30 p.m. April 17.

K-Central to Perform "Wiley and the Hairy Man"

The Kalamazoo Central High School Theatre Department will present "Wiley and the Hairy Man," by Susan Zeder. The production runs 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Feb. 26-March 5 and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 6 in the Kalamazoo Central auditorium.

This drama is a spine-tingling tale about a boy who must overcome his worst fears in the swamp. Set deep within the mysterious Tombigbee Swamp, "Wiley and the Hairy Man" centers around a young fatherless boy, his conjure-woman mother, his faithful dog, and the Hairy Man who haunts Wiley's days and dreams.



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by Dec. 1, 2016.

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Maple Street Singers Chosen for State Honors Choir

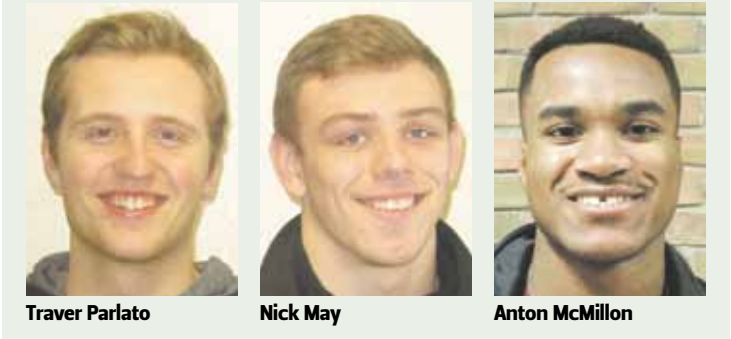
Eight Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts students were selected for the Michigan School Music Association State Honors Choir, which performed at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids in January. The students auditioned for the choir in the fall and spent several months preparing the music, which they performed at DeVos Place on Jan. 21. The students study with choir teacher Julie Davis at Maple Street. The students and their grades are:



The Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts students who attended the Michigan School Music Association State Honors Choir are: back row, from left, Natalie Olinger, Zoe Shanahan, Lina Moghrabi, Brooklyn Moore, Ella Ledbetter–Newton, and front row, from left, Myah Walker, Kamryn Kimbrough, and Celia Baublis.

Schupan Award Winners

Three KPS seniors have been awarded the Nelson L. Schupan Scholarship. The students are Anton McMillon at Kalamazoo Central and Traver Parlato and Nick May at Loy Norrix. The scholarship recognizes football players who are of high character and excel in academics as well as athletics.



Traver Parlato Nick May Anton McMillon

Kalamazoo Central High School 2016 Award Banquet to Honor Distinguished Alumni and Supporters

5:30 p.m. • Saturday, March 19 • WMU Bernhard Center

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME Greg Jennings – Class of 2001
Jerome Harrison – Class of 2001
Scott Rehberg – Class of 1992
Deanna Dustin–Coles – Class of 1964

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI James McDivitt – Class of 1947
Abbey Lincoln (Anne Marie Wooldridge) – Class of 1949

KC SUPPORTER Joe Mitchell – Voice of the Giants

Tickets will be available for the general public in late February after inductees, family and previous Hall of Fame inductees’ tickets have been purchased.
For tickets (\$35 per person) and information, contact Bob Harrelson at (269) 370-5893.

Sponsored by the KC Maroon Foundation

Young Student Peer Mediators Use Peaceful Solutions

Northeastern Elementary School students Christian Glenn, Chaise Gould, Whitney Griffin, Devin Haskell, and Sienna Wallace were trained by Molly Mechtenberg of Gryphon Place to be peer mediators.

Peer mediation is a conflict resolution process. The program trains students to work with peers to solve problems using communication, not violence, to come to a solution.

At the end of Day Two of afterschool training, the five students understood about para-

Northeastern peer mediators: (L to R) Christian Glenn, Sienna Wallace, Chaise Gould, Whitney Griffin and Devin Haskell.

phrasing, being good listeners, empathy and confidentiality. Now they will put their new skills into practice every Wednesday assisting Northeastern students with peaceful problem solving.



Warm Kids Project Provides Wonderful Winter Clothing to KPS Children

It sure is hard to get up and go to school in cold, snowy weather. If you have a cozy coat and sturdy, dry boots, the day seems brighter. Warm Kids Project’s goal is to have every child properly dressed and on their way to school, ready to learn.

Warm Kids Project is a local nonprofit, which provides new coats, hats, boots and gloves to children in the PEEP classrooms, Head Start and all 17 KPS elementary schools. In November 2015, Kalamazoo students received approximately 545 new coats and 445 pairs of boots.

Warm Kids Project would like to thank KPS for providing storage space and for helping deliver the clothing to each KPS elementary school. Many thanks to the volunteers at each school who ordered, sorted and delivered the clothing to the many happy children. Warm Kids also thanks the Parent-Teacher Organizations for their financial support. For more information, go towarmkids.org or to “Warm Kids Project” on Facebook.

Schools Share Love of Reading with Literacy Night Activities

Literacy night will be celebrated in all Kalamazoo Public Schools elementary and middle school buildings in March. Elementary schools will celebrate literacy night on Wednesday, March 2, while the middle schools will share their activities on Thursday, March 3. Literacy night promotes reading and literacy development in schools and communities. It is usually held on the anniversary of the birthday of children's book author Dr. Seuss.

Arcadia Elementary School

5:30–7 p.m.

In honor of the 10th anniversary of The Kalamazoo Promise, Arcadia is celebrating literacy night with goal setting and the creation of coupon books. "I Promise" books will be made for parents, guardians, teachers and others. Information about The Kalamazoo Promise will be available. In addition, Arcadia will give back to the community with an "Empty Bowls" event, which benefits Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes. Families can enjoy a meal, pick up a student-created bowl, and listen and learn with music.

Edison Environmental Science Academy

5:30–7 p.m.

Theme: "Oh, the Places You'll Go: Reading, Dreaming, Catching Our Future!"

Students will participate in a fun family night where they can learn about career choices after college, as well as engage in reading and writing activities. Activities include career presentations by community members, a family "Read to Succeed Station," reading and writing activities, and a "Future Graduates" station. Families will have the opportunity to win a basket of school supplies, books, and career-related items.

El Sol Elementary School

5:30–7 p.m. at Kalamazoo Public Library (315 S. Rose St.)

Theme: "Reading is Good for the Heart" Young Author's Night

El Sol students will publish books related to the theme "Reading is Good for the Heart." Books will be on display at the Kalamazoo Public Library. El Sol will partner with Bronson Methodist Hospital and Michigan State University's "Show Me Nutrition" program. Nutrition specialists and medical professionals will educate families and provide fun activities on ways to maintain a healthy heart.

Greenwood Elementary

5:30–7 p.m.

Families will come to Greenwood to participate in science experiments around the building. They will use literacy skills in reading and writing to complete the experiments. Some experiments will tie into the content area of math. Greenwood students who attend the event will receive a free book.

Indian Prairie Elementary School

5:30–7 p.m.

Theme: "Heroes: Past and Present"

Each grade level will feature a different literacy-related activity in the school's common areas. Activities will focus on different types of heroes, including "Heroes in History," "Community Heroes," "Personal Heroes," and even "Super Heroes." The school will provide a healthy snack station, an art activity, a reading station, a word-building activity, and visits from community heroes.

King-Westwood Elementary School

5:30–7 p.m.

Theme: "Hats Off to Reading"

Staff and students can wear hats to school during the day and to literacy night. Literacy night

activities will be centered around the hat theme and will include book making, a book walk, a community service project, and other fun opportunities for families. Additionally, the school will hold activities throughout the month of March to support literacy.

Lincoln International Studies School

5:30–7 p.m.

Literacy Night will have an international theme. Each grade is studying a different country and will display informational writing on that country. Student artwork and projects will be displayed, and each grade level will make a traditional food from its country to share. A book fair will be held in the library, and a used book exchange will take place for the

second year. Students can bring books from home and exchange them for other books. CIS and The YMCA will offer additional literacy activities.

Milwood Elementary School

5–6:30 p.m.

From 5–5:45 p.m., students and their families can visit classrooms to play math games and solve word problems to earn bracelets. From 5:45–6:30 p.m., the school will hold a "Super Reader Show" with Super Joel, who brings seven super books to life using magic, stunts, and audience participation. Dinner will be served all night, and all Milwood students will take home Math Panther Packs, with grade-level appropriate math manipulatives, games, and family and community resources.

Northeastern Elementary School
5–6:30 p.m.

Theme: "Superheroes of Literacy"

Each grade level will choose superheroes who reflect good character traits and who would be champions for literacy. Each team will develop a literacy-based activity and students and their families will stop by each activity to collect a literacy hero ticket. At the end of the evening, students will turn in their tickets to collect literacy prizes and books.

Northglade Montessori School

5:30–7 p.m.

Theme: "Literacy in Science"

Families will work together on hands-on science and engineering activities and write about what they learn in their

(continued on page 9)

Families Can Sign Up for Kalamazoo Public Library Cards at Literacy Night

Take the first step in helping your children become great readers and sign them up for library cards at the Kalamazoo Public Schools literacy nights on March 2 for elementary schools and at the middle schools on March 3.

Kalamazoo Public Library staff members will be available to issue library cards — at no charge — for all Kalamazoo Public Schools students. A parent or guardian with a photo ID must accompany their children to the sign-up table at the literacy night events.

Then visit the Kalamazoo Public Library branch nearest you often.

The books and other resources available at each of the Kalamazoo Public Library branches are extensive, interesting and informative. Kalamazoo community members are fortunate to have such wonderful resources for learning and enjoyment right at their fingertips.

Reading every day is essential for children's learning. The library can be an important partner in helping children develop as readers and in fostering an understanding of



research, reading for enjoyment and learning.

Children are naturally curious. Curious people often become avid readers. Regular visits to the Kalamazoo Public Library and checking out books can build on children's interest in learning about their world.

The gift of books can be accessed for free at the public library. The gift of taking students to the library will deepen the message that literacy is important.

Library cards also can be obtained at any Kalamazoo Public Library branch. Branches and their locations are:

- Central Library, 315 S. Rose St.
- Eastwood Branch Library, 1112 Gayle Ave.
- Oshtemo Branch Library, 7265 W. Main St.
- Alma Powell Branch Library, 1000 W. Paterson St.
- Washington Square Branch Library, 1244 Portage St.

For more information, contact the KPS Elementary Education Office, (269) 337-0190, or the KPS Secondary Education Office, (269) 337-0168. The library website is found at kpl.gov.

Schools Share Love of Reading with Literacy Night Activities *(continued from page 8)*

science journals. They will have the opportunity to explore communication through LEGOS, design boats, and record observations about magnets. At every station, families can read books to learn more about science. A writing project with the theme, "Science is important because..." will be written by all students.

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.

This year the school will have workstations set up in each grade for math and reading. At each workstation, parents will experience what students do during the school day. The school also will have a presentation on the Compass Odyssey Math Program. Parents will be asked to complete a school survey during Literacy Night.

Prairie Ridge Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.

Prairie Ridge will host "March Into Science." All grades will share a science experiment or activity. Every student will choose a free book with a science-related theme. Parents can learn how to access Compass Learning with teacher support. A free dinner will be served. The school will also hold a Books for Bikes raffle and a book fair.

Spring Valley Elementary School

5:30-7 p.m.

Theme: "Reading is a Healthy Habit"

Spring Valley believes reading is a fundamental habit for families, as essential to life as food, shelter, and water. Literacy night will include a meal of sandwiches, fruit, and baked chips. Events will draw connections between literacy and health. Games will be designed within grade-level teams and will include activities such as reading a recipe, grocery shopping on a budget (math connec-

tion), supermarket sweep, and book giveaways.

Washington Writers' Academy

5:30-7 p.m.

Theme: "Promising Futures Career Fair"

Washington is hosting its second annual career fair to expose students and families to potential careers and local colleges. The connection between careers and literacy will be highlighted. Career-focused activities for both parents and students will be offered. From interviewing etiquette to dressing for success, there is sure to be learning and fun for all. Children will take home a career-themed book, as well as goodies from the career specialists.

Winchell Elementary

5-6:30 pm

Winchell families will learn about the history of the written word. Activities will focus on some unique methods to convey information through writing. These activities will include cave drawings, exploring the Arabic alphabet, Rebus writing, hieroglyphs, and texting.

Woods Lake Elementary

6-7:30 pm

The Woods Lake family will explore math, science and literacy through activities inspired by the magical world of Dr. Seuss books, from "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" to "Green Eggs and Ham" to "Oh, the Places You'll Go." Students and families will work with "the Lorax" to save the trees, and count "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish."

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book."

— Dr. Seuss

Woodward School for Technology and Research

5:30-7 p.m.

Woodward will have a superhero-themed literacy night.

There will be make-it and take-its for families and a photo booth. The school will have literacy activities throughout the technology rooms, sharing Compass Odyssey, Tumblebooks, Pearson Realize, and other websites. There will be superhero-themed storytelling as well.

Middle School Literacy Nights

Hillside Middle School

6-7:30 p.m.

Theme: "Compassion, Empathy, Perseverance, Empowerment"

Students and their families will gather in the cafeteria for pizza, drinks and entertainment. During literacy night, students and parents/guardians will visit stations including bookmark making, a book walk, book fair, vocabulary squares, banner signing, and a family photo shoot. Families can sign up for library cards and students can have a special "report card" stamped as they complete the different stations.

Linden Grove Middle School

5-6:30 p.m.

Theme: "International Literacy"

Students will receive a "Passport to Literature around the World" and will explore regions of the world while applying literacy strategies. Some of the activities will include letter writing to Malala, reading and interpreting "How to..." directions for using chopsticks, researching flags, and writing folktales. Included in the night's events will be the Scholastic Book Fair, parent volunteers teaching students to write their name in different languages, and a sampling of international treats.

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts

6-7:30 p.m.

Maple Street's literacy night will be a celebration of all the ways literacy is incorporated across the curriculum. Displays located throughout the school will include samples of student work that exemplifies excellence in literacy. The Maple Street choir

will demonstrate music literacy through sight reading and students will hold a poetry slam.

Milwood Magnet School

5:30-7 p.m.

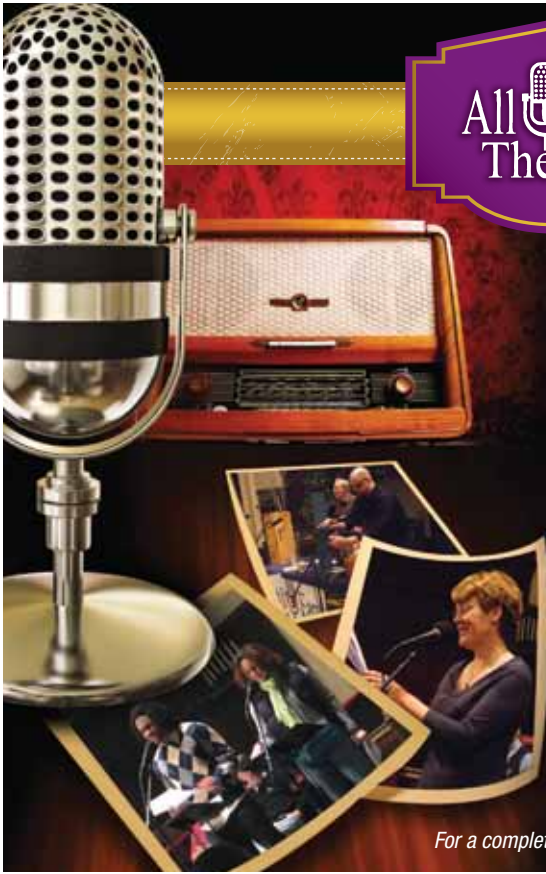
Milwood's literacy night activities will center around themes from the book "Touching Spirit Bear," by Ben Mikaelson. Events will include a quiz bowl, Cole's Tutor and Homework Table, a science demonstration, Circle Justice, and a chance to meet Spirit Bear. The traditional and popular obstacle course will be set up in the gym.

ALP

5-6:30 p.m. (Note: The ALP literacy night will be March 1)

Theme: "A Celebration of Poetry and Student Achievement"

Students will showcase their original poetry and offer their oral interpretations of other poets' works. A display of social studies projects and a sampling of the activities students will be completing throughout literacy week will offer a glimpse into student achievements in ALP.



All Ears Theatre

Free Upcoming Shows

MAR 5 - Sherlock Holmes and A Case of Identity

MAR 19 - Ozma of Oz (2 part presentation)

APR 2 - All Ears Variety Review

APR 16 - The Legend of Rip Van Winkle

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
Iwings & Silmar
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arts council
of greater kalamazoo

For a complete schedule of shows, visit KalamazooArts.org

Partnership with Kalamazoo College Contributing to College-Going Culture at Woodward School

What if you were a child in the school system that has the famous Kalamazoo Promise Scholarship and you saw college students in your school building everyday? For the students of Woodward School for Technology and Research this is a part of their daily experience.

Each week over 35 Kalamazoo College (K) students walk the three blocks from K's campus to Woodward, where you will find them working wherever learning takes place from the classroom to the garden and lunchroom.

The longevity of this robust partnership coordinated by the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) at Kalamazoo College reflects the strong commitment that has existed between the CCE and Woodward School since 1998. Three years ago the partnership was further enhanced when Woodward became a Communities In School (CIS) site. Site coordinator and K alum, Jen DeWaele, following the CIS model of targeting students in the strategic range, is able to deepen the impact the K students have on the Woodward students' learning. DeWaele works closely with the CCE Associate Director Teresa Denton and four Kalamazoo College student leaders to place and support K students who work 5 to 15 hours per week on a co-curricular basis as well as

over 100 K students involved in projects each year through service-learning courses.

The Woodward staff has always viewed the K students as an integral part of their school community. As the needs of the school have changed over the past two decades, the K community has responded. Over the years, K College students have played many roles at Woodward such as tutors in the afterschool program, classroom assistants, mentors, playground and lunchroom assistants, science mentors, and Girls on the Run Coaches, to name a few. Several K students have chosen to do senior thesis projects inspired by their connection to Woodward. For example, the afterschool program, Club Grub, which partners with Fair Food Matters, was the outgrowth of a project started by a K College senior who wished to increase children's knowledge and exposure to local, healthy, food they could help grow in the school garden.

According to Woodward Principal Frank Rocco, the partnership between his school and the college has always been a great learning resource for his students. "I have worked with K College students first as a teacher and now as a principal and can honestly say, that the K students are an integral part of our school



Woodward students gather around their K College friend, Delaney Fordell, during lunch. They are (L to R) Isabella Anthony, Mhsheri Alsaadi, Mikail Williams, Cameron Billington Jr., Danan Jacobs, Aniyah Rolland, Fordell, Xavier Coffie, and Marcus Burke Jr.



Kalamazoo College student Stephanie Finnem and Darquis Gardner Jr. solve an addition problem.

community," said Rocco.

Denton, who has worked with the partnership since its inception, believes the reason behind the strong ties is that both the K and Woodward communities honor the reciprocal nature of the partnership and decisions are collaborative and based on recognizing the strengths of each community. Denton emphasizes that while K students are providing a "service" to the community, they are also learning about the larger, systemic issues that lead

to educational inequities. Also critical to the strength of the partnership is the leadership of four Civic Engagement Scholars. These K students recruit and train their peers to work at Woodward, while also facilitating critical reflection sessions with their fellow college students to increase awareness and understanding of broader social justice issues.

"We love and appreciate all of our CIS volunteers at Woodward, but K is by far the partnership with the most depth and breadth," said

DeWaele. "Having such a large number of young adults who are in our building for several hours on a weekly basis not only supports the learning of individual students, but it has a positive impact on the school climate overall. When a college student is on hand during lunch to mediate and teach 'life lessons' it makes a difference on the Woodward students' readiness to learn when they return to their classroom after recess."

Reflecting upon the partnership between Woodward and K College, Denton expressed, "What better way to create a 'college-going' culture then to have a large, committed group of college students working throughout the building on a daily basis over several years. The collaboration of the CCE staff, CIS team, Woodward staff and K and Woodward students truly contributes to the college-going culture we are striving to create for every child in KPS."

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District-Wide Kindergarten Orientation Set for March 16 *(continued from page 1)*

Arcadia Elementary School

932 Boswell Lane
(269) 337-0530
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Edison Environmental Science Academy

924 Russell St.
(269) 337-0550
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

El Sol Elementary School

604 W. Vine St.
(269) 337-0230
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Greenwood Elementary School

3501 Moreland Ave.
(269) 337-0560
10-11:30 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Indian Prairie Elementary School

3546 Grand Prairie Road
(269) 337-0590
10-11:30 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

King-Westwood Elementary School

1100 Nichols Road
(269) 337-0610
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Lincoln International Studies School

912 N. Burdick St.
(269) 337-0640
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Milwood Elementary School

3333 S. Westnedge Ave.
(temporary location)
(269) 337-0660
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Northeastern Elementary School

2433 Gertrude Ave.
(269) 337-0690
9:15-10:45 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Northglade Montessori Magnet School

1914 Cobb Ave.
(269) 337-0700
10-11:30 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School

2321 S. Park St.
(269) 337-0720
1:30-3 p.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Prairie Ridge Elementary School

2294 S. Ninth St.
(269) 337-0630
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Spring Valley Center for Exploration

3530 Mt. Olivet Road
(269) 337-0750
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Washington Writers' Academy

1919 Portage St.
(269) 337-0770
9-10:30 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Winchell Elementary School

2316 Winchell Ave.
(269) 337-0780
9:30-11 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts

3215 Oakland Drive
(269) 337-0790
9-10:30 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Woodward School for Technology and Research

606 Stuart St.
(269) 337-0810
9-10:30 a.m.
5:30-7 p.m.

Milwood Magnet Class Learns How to Integrate Digital Art with Medical Technology

Three students in Errin Corstange's art classes at Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology had their designs chosen by several Stryker Corporation designers in a design contest. Drew Dougherty was the overall winner, and Quan'dae Patterson and Camille Bistrek took second and third place, respectively.

The students researched several art careers during the class. For this particular project, they learned about industrial design and were given an assignment to create a headboard and footboard for a hypothetical children's unit of a hospital. The students came up with ideas and sketches. When they reached a solid idea, they created designs in Adobe Illustrator.

The finished designs were sent to Stryker where several designers chose the winners. The winning designs were printed and placed on the beds in the Stryker showroom.

Ms. Corstange and the



Drew Dougherty sits on the bed that features his first-place art.

students visited Stryker, took a tour of the plant, and watched a presentation about industrial design from designer Cory Herbst. The group visited the Stryker showroom to see the winning designs. The students took photos and were shown how to operate some of the equipment in the showroom. The tour was facilitated by Stryker designers Erica Gilmore and Jillian Seguin.

Drew believes his design won because he used more detail. He feels that because of this experience, he may have potential

for a career in art. Quan'dae said he learned many things from this project such as caring for people and knowing that he completed a task successfully.

Camille said, "I learned that simplicity is key and that you have to create something that relates to multiple people. The facility and designers were amazing on so many levels. The designers talked a lot about the process and how college would be. It sounds interesting."

All three students said industrial design is now a career they might like to pursue.

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FIRST SATURDAY

■ Saturday, March 5 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Come to the library for First Saturday activities and fun!

STORYTIMES

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

EVENTS

■ **Reading with Tucker** / Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 / 4:00 pm / WSQ / Enjoy a "pawsitive" reading experience. Read to Tucker, the very friendly Golden Retriever. **R**

■ **LEGO®@the Library** / Build with other LEGO fans. All ages.

Sat, March 5 / 10:30 am / OSH

Wed, March 9 / 6:30 pm / WSQ

Thurs, March 10 / 4:30 pm / EAS

Sat, March 19 / 10:30 am / CEN

Mon, March 21 / 4:30 pm / POW

■ **Stuart Little with the Civic** / Learn about acting, expressive movement in storytelling and how to create good characters. To participate, plan to attend all 3 sessions. **R**

Sat, March 5 / 1:00 pm / CEN

Sat, March 12 / 1:00 pm / CEN

Sat, March 19 / 1:00 pm / Kalamazoo Civic Theatre

■ **Catch the Wind** / Come and learn about wind science with fun experiments, stories, activities, and a snack.

Mon, March 7 / 4:30 pm / POW

Thurs, March 31 / 4:30 pm / EAS

■ **Crybaby Concert with Fontana Chamber Arts** / Saturday, March 12 / 11:00 am / OSH / FREE, 45-minute concert that gives preschool children and their caregivers a musical performance in an open, flexible environment.

■ **Musical Storytime** / Favorite songs, stories, special guests.

Mon, March 14 / 6:30 pm / OSH

Mon, March 28 / 6:30 pm / CEN

■ **Maker Monday** / March 14 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Drop in for tinkering, creating, and exploration of the library. Focus on the process, not the product.

■ **St. Patrick's Day Crafternoon** / Create your own lucky charm at the make and take craft table.

Tues, March 15 / 4:30 pm / WSQ

Thurs, March 17 / 4:00 pm / CEN

■ **Gilmore Family Concerts presents Terrence Wilson** / Saturday, March 19 / 11:00 am / CEN / Experience a taste of the upcoming Gilmore International Keyboard Festival.



■ **Musical Storybooks: The Perfect Purple Feather** / Features a story, craft, and music by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's string quartet. **R**

Tues, March 22 / 9:30 & 10:30 am / CEN

Wed, March 23 / 9:30 & 10:30 am / CEN

Thurs, March 24 / 10:30 am / OSH

■ **Eggnificent Creation** / Decorate your very own holiday egg with color, glitter, jewels, and more. Eggs and decorations provided. **R**

Tues, March 22 / 4:30 pm / WSQ

Wed, March 23 / 4:30 pm / POW

Thurs, March 24 / 4:30 pm / EAS

Sat, March 26 / 10:30 am / OSH

Sat, March 26 / 2:00 pm / CEN

■ **Little Scientists** / Monday, March 28 / 10:30 am / CEN / Stories and science for preschoolers and a caregiver. **R**

■ **Bookworms** / A book club for kids and their grown ups. This month we're reading *Numbed!* By David Lubar.

Tues, March 8 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Thurs, March 24 / 4:30 pm / CEN

TWEEN/TEEN EVENTS

■ **Movie: Divergent** / Monday, March 7 / 3:30 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Drop in and watch the first movie of the series.

■ **Raspberry Pi Hands-On Demo** / Wednesday, March 9 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Come check out the amazingly powerful, but super-tiny and super-cheap, Raspberry Pi computer!

■ **Brush Bots** / Thursday, March 10 / 4:30 pm / OSH / Connect the circuit and make a tiny robot move! All supplies provided.

■ **Stop Motion Animation** / Friday, March 11 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Drop in and use the library's film production and editing equipment to create a stop motion video.

■ **Movie: Insurgent** / Monday, March 14 / 3:30 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Drop in and watch the second movie of the Divergent series.

■ **#TAB** / Monday, March 14 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Attention Teens! Are you looking for ways to give back to your library and community while having fun at the same time? Join #TAB!

■ **Allegiant Party** / Celebrate the *Divergent* series with us! Trivia, snacks, faction crafts, and prize drawings!

Tues, March 15 / 6:30 pm / OSH

Sat, March 26 / 2:00 pm / CEN

■ **Pizza & Pages** / Wednesday, March 16 / 4:30 pm / OSH / Stop by Oshtemo Branch Library to pick up your personal copy of the 2016 Reading Together choice *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. Take it home to read, and then come back and discuss the book over pizza! **R**

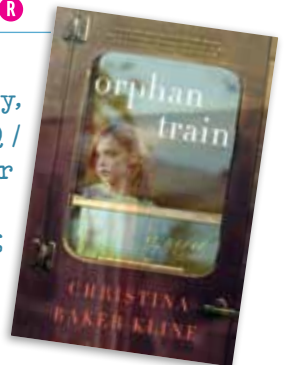
■ **Pizza & Pages** / Thursday, March 17 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Stop by Central's Teen Area to pick up your personal copy of *Allegiant* by Veronica Roth. Take it home to read, and then come back and discuss the book over pizza! **R**

■ **J-Pop Club** / Monday, March 21 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Enjoy the latest and coolest stuff straight from Japan. Drop in anytime during the event.

■ **Maker Monday** / March 28 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Tinker, make, try, create and explore at the library. Focus on the process, not the product.

■ **Pizza & Pages: WNDB Edition** / Monday, March 28 / 4:30 pm / POW / Visit Alma Powell Branch Library and pick up your copy of *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. Take it home to read, then come back and discuss the book over pizza! **R**

■ **Reading Together Celebration** / Tuesday, March 29 / 4:30 pm / WSQ / 2016's Reading Together choice, *Orphan Train*, celebrates the meaning of "family," the ones we're born with and the ones we choose for ourselves. Let's celebrate family together. Create an art project and take a FREE family photo with a professional photographer.



■ Baby/Kid ■ Tween/Teen ■ Family ■ All Ages

T Ticket Required

R Registration Required

kpl.gov/calendar

Central Library (CEN)
315 S. Rose St.
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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.
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