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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, April 14 & 28, 2016
7 p.m.
Administration Building

No School

Friday, April 1, 2016
Monday-Friday, April 4-8, 2016

For more information call
(269) 337-1572.

Upcoming Events

"Hairspray Jr." at
Maple St. Magnet School
See page 4

Mobile Health Clinic
See page 7

"Bye Bye Birdie" at
Loy Norrix High School
See page 9

KPS All City Concert
See page 11

Empty Bowls Event

Dinner, handmade ceramic bowls, music, silent auction to raise funds for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes food bank.

5:30-7:30 p.m. April 29
\$5 per family
Prairie Ridge Elementary School, 2294 S. Ninth St.

For more information, visit the Prairie Ridge Elementary PTO on Facebook.

Trenches Community Church Embraces Northeastern Elementary as Neighbors

There is a simple reason why Trenches Community Church has worked so diligently to support the children and staff of Northeastern Elementary School.

The reason is found in the 5-year-old church's name: community.

"We want to be part of the community," said Pastor James Harris. "We just see ourselves as residents and neighbors helping to better the Eastside community. We don't want to be



Trenches Community Church has become a big booster of Northeastern Elementary School, helping with tutoring and the school carnival. This winter the church hosted the first Northeastern Holiday Dinner for more than 400 guests.

an introverted church. We want to be very extroverted and help people with their missions and visions."

Principal Mitch Hawkins said that over the past two years, Trenches' efforts have included
(continued on page 3)

Winchell Helps WMU Collect Donations for Broncos for Heroes

Katherine Morris looked at the tables piled high with granola bars and candy, shampoo and toothbrushes and as she handed empty boxes to the Winchell Elementary School students, told them to think about "shopping for someone you don't know."

Morris was there with other members of Western Michigan University's Broncos for Heroes program, and the students were filling the boxes with items that families donated to send to soldiers serving overseas.

"I thought it was neat to do," said fourth-grader Jackson Atkins Woodard. "It's good to



help people who are helping us overseas."

The 75 boxes the students

filled were sent to U.S. Army Capt. Charles Solaita, a WMU assistant professor of military

James Fleckenstein, Ethan Hall and Jeydon White pack care boxes for the Western Michigan University Broncos for Heroes program, which sends care packages to soldiers overseas.

science and ROTC advisor who is stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Kids lined up in pairs, looked over the treats, and chose the goodies for the soldiers. Some of the boxes were filled with cookies and candy. Some included playing cards and toothpaste and toothbrushes. All of the boxes were filled with enthusiasm and good wishes for our soldiers.

Morris is a freshman at WMU. She said she's part of the
(continued on page 5)

FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL April 2

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

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Students Need, Get Additional Thoughts and Options with Early Middle College Programs and Career Expo

Our children in Kalamazoo Public Schools and across the state and country have wide-ranging interests.

With this recognition, the nine local school districts in the county recently partnered with the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) and Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) to create early middle college programs for students in Kalamazoo County.

Like dual enrollment, in which high school students in the county have participated for many years, early middle college programs permit students to earn high school and college credit at the same time by taking college courses. Unlike dual enrollment, however, early middle college programs are sets of courses,

rather than individual courses as in dual enrollment. These sets of courses in early middle college programs lead to a professional certificate or a degree, with which the student can often go immediately into the world of work and begin to earn a living.

Current KPS ninth and 10th graders are eligible to apply now for acceptance into an early middle college program through their high school guidance counselor. KPS is offering the following early middle college programs, with the degree or certificate indicated at the



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

beginning of each list and the number of college credits required to achieve the degree or certificate in parentheses.

Associate of Arts (AA) Degree

Accounting (63 credits)

Administrative Assistant (64 credits)

Culinary Arts and Sustainable Food Systems (62 credits)

Graphic Design (63 credits)

Information Technology (IT) Support Technician (62 credits)

Machine Tool Technology (62 credits)

Certificate

Graphic Design (30 credits)

Machinist (32 credits)

Certificate of Achievement

Auto Brakes (16 credits)

Personal Computer (PC) Support Technician (18 credits)

Welding (10 credits)

As with dual enrollment, tuition and fees are paid for by KPS. Students may delay high school graduation for a year to complete their early middle college program, and participation in an early middle college program does not hurt a student's ability to obtain a Kalamazoo Promise scholarship upon graduation from high school.

Early middle college programs are not the only way that KPS is exposing students to more career opportunities. On Feb. 10 and 11, KPS participated with the eight other districts in the county in a career expo, called MICareerQuest Southwest, at the county fairgrounds. Eighth and ninth graders had the opportunity to hear from individuals representing dozens of different professions and industries. Participat-

ing companies and organizations are listed at the end of this article.

On behalf of the almost 2,000 participating KPS eighth and ninth graders and their families and school communities, KPS thanks these organizations, as well as the organizers and sponsors of the event. The leadership team consisted of: Michigan Works Southwest, United 4 Change, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Education for Employment, Southwest Michigan First and Education for the Arts. The sponsors were: Accu-Mold, Consort Display Group, the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, The Learning Network, Bronson Healthcare, DENSO Manufacturing Michigan Inc., Eaton, Flowserve, Humphrey

(continued on page 3)



First Saturday @ KPL

Saturday, April 2 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 April, Great Start Parent Coalition 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



Trenches Community Church Embraces Northeastern Elementary as Neighbors *(cont. from page 1)*

everything from helping at the school carnival to donating more than 100 food and gift baskets at the holidays, to helping renovate the teacher’s lounge with furniture and appliances. The church also hosted the first Northeastern Holiday Dinner for more than 400 community members.

The church also serves as a site for Kalamazoo Public Schools’ Lift Up Through Literacy program, which helps parents

work with their children in areas of reading and writing. Church members also mentor students.

Every year the church hosts a back-to-school extravaganza that attracts 600 to 800 people. Many of the children and families who attend the event are from Northeastern, he said.

“We thought, ‘Let’s connect with Northeastern, so we can connect with the families on a more consistent basis,’” said Harris, who

leads the nondenominational congregation of about 200, located at 1003 Gayle Ave.

Harris said the partnership with the school and the school district has been great for church members.

“We’ve been inspired by the work of KPS and (Superintendent) Dr. Rice,” he said. “We’re happy to be a part of a group of people who have a heart for our kids and a desire to see our community be the best that it can be.”

Early Middle College Programs and Career Expo *(cont. from page 2)*

Products, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Schupan & Sons Inc., Southwest Michigan First/Chase, Western Michigan

Accu-Mold LLC
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Gull Lake Animal Hospital
Hampton Inn
Home Builders Association of Western Michigan
Humphrey Products
Image-Stream
JcrOffroad
Junior Achievement
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
Kalamazoo College
Kalamazoo County Animal Services and Enforcement
Kalamazoo Dept of Public Safety
Kalamazoo Electrical JATC
Kalamazoo Nature Center
Kalamazoo RESA
Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Trades Council.

For a number of our students, the career expo will be a pivotal moment in their lives.

LKF Marketing
Life EMS Michigan State Police
Newmind Group
Operating Engineers 324
Paws Fur Learning
Plante & Moran
Plumbers and Pipefitters 357
PNC Bank
Public Media Network
Schupan & Sons Inc.
Southwest Michigan First
Stryker
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Ultra
Western Michigan University
WMUK – Public Radio
WSI



About 2,000 KPS eighth and ninth graders attended MICareerQuest Southwest, a hands-on career exploration event in February.

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Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Italian Breakfast Sandwich

Hello Kalamazoo, spring is here and new life means a fresh start on the day. Try this light and tasty breakfast sandwich to get going on all the incredible events in our community. Kalamazoo strong!

Best regards, Chef Shaun

Ingredients

1 whole wheat English muffin
3 tablespoons finely chopped red pepper
2 thin slices of Roma or heirloom tomatoes
1 thin slice of fresh Mozzarella
1 large egg, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon basil pesto
Balsamic vinegar to taste
Fresh ground black pepper and sea salt to taste (optional)
1 basil leaf

Directions

• Toast muffin, spread with basil pesto, and top with half a slice of cheese.



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

- Combine peppers and egg in ramekin, cover and microwave for 1 minute or until egg sets.
- Place egg on cheese. Season if desired.
- Top egg with basil, tomatoes and a few drops of vinegar, if desired.
- Top with other muffin half and enjoy.

“Hairspray” More Than a Musical Romp for Maple St. Students

“Hairpray” is a high-energy, dance-filled musical, but it’s also a show that touches on the civil rights movement and the racial tensions of the 1960s.

To help her young performers prepare for the upcoming Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts production of “Hairspray Jr.,” drama teacher Taryn Fooy started the rehearsal process by having the students speak with Maple Street teacher Stephanie Hampton, who is a diversity specialist for Kalamazoo Public Schools.

“I wanted to do something to pull everyone out of their comfort zone,” Fooy said. “We asked the kids how they identify themselves and to think about stereotypes people have about them.”

Gabriel Flores, who is a sixth grader, will be playing dad Wilbur Turnblad. He said the students talked about stereotypes and how people think about others. “I think this play was meant to teach people that racism was

a big deal but now schools are integrated,” he said.

Eighth grader Alexandria Courtney plays the musical’s “bad guy” Velma Van Tussle, who refuses to integrate her TV dance show. “We talked about stereotypes and how they affect us,” she said.

She also pointed out that she’s nothing like her character, and Fooy said that was another reason to talk about prejudice before the show got started – to ensure students could draw lines between the characters

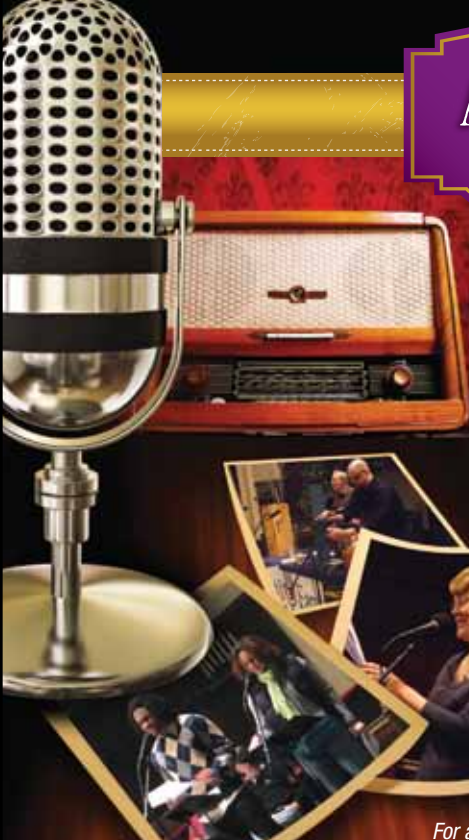
and the performers portraying them.

Adreanna Morris, an eighth grader who is dancing in the chorus, said the show talks about a lot of important topics, but it’s also a fun show that the audience will enjoy. “We just did the first read-through, and I thought it was amazing.”

The show has a huge cast, 60 students, with double casting for the lead roles, Fooy said. The show runs 7 p.m. April 28-30 and 3 p.m. May 1. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.



Maple Street students, from left, Samantha Shaffer, Annika Flores, and Abigail Augustine were all smiles after their first rehearsal for “Hairspray Jr.”





Free Upcoming Shows

APR 2 - All Ears Variety Review

APR 16 - The Legend of Rip Van Winkle

APR 30 - The Name of the Tree

MAY 14 - The Murders in the Rue Morgue

MAY 28 - Escape from Christiana

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

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For a complete schedule of shows, visit KalamazooArts.org

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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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Winchell Helps WMU Collect Donations for Broncos for Heroes *(continued from page 1)*

KPS Morris family of five girls. Her two youngest sisters, Lucy and Eva, are a kindergartener and third-grader at Winchell. Anna is a seventh grader at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. Abbie is a junior at Loy Norrix High School.

When she started working with Broncos for Heroes, Katherine Morris said she immediately thought of Winchell, her old elementary school, and knew it would be perfect for the project.

"The school is so generous," Morris said. "The students got behind it whole-heartedly."

Jayden Kwei and Bridgette Bol, fourth graders who helped fill the packages, said they thought the project was fun and liked the idea of letting soldiers know that they were thinking of them.

"They're there with nothing, and it's probably not a lot of fun," Bridgette said.

Lauren Martin, a WMU junior and member of Broncos for Heroes, said the project was started in 2013 by WMU

students David Reed and Mike Bearup, who were in WMU's ROTC program. The group has now held five package

drives and has sent about 525 packages overseas. Those in the community who would like to participate by collecting items

for packages or nominating soldiers to receive the packages, can visit broncosforheroes.org/ about for more information.



Olivia Brooks and Abbi Cowgill work together to fill a box with treats for the Broncos for Heroes program.



Caleb Meskin and Jackson Atkins Woodard consider adding gum to their care package for soldiers.

Project Find Is Looking for Special Needs Individuals

If you suspect your child:

- Has a disability;
- Is in need of special attention; or
- Is a student who has received special-education

services and has dropped out of school and would like to return, call Kalamazoo Public Schools' Project Find Coordinator Cindy Green at (269) 337-0161.

Project Find helps locate

individuals ages birth to 26 years old with special needs, and works with families to provide appropriate education services. Multiple services are available.

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Gilmore Keyboard Festival Expands Popular Piano Lab Program to Serve Older Students

The Gilmore International Keyboard Festival recently expanded its Piano Lab program, opening the way for middle school students and adults to study piano in a low-cost, group setting.

The lab is located in the Maple Street branch of the YMCA. Fully outfitted with digital pianos, the lab's first class last fall had 17 students and nine adults. About half of those are former students of The Gilmore's elementary piano lab, at Woods Lake and Spring Valley elementary schools. The first class ran 14 weeks and culminated with a recital in December.

The Gilmore had long wanted to expand the elementary lab program to the middle school level, said Adam Schumaker, the Gilmore's director of education. One challenge was finding the right location for the program, another was finding a way to ensure the program could be



Hillside Middle School student Xavier Gardenhire, in the foreground, works independently in the Gilmore Piano Lab at the Maple Street branch of the YMCA.

economically viable.

Locating the lab at the YMCA was the perfect solution, he said. The low-cost class fits with the YMCA's mission of serving the community, and being at the YMCA allows adult community members to take classes. Also, for middle school students who may feel uncomfortable going to another school for lessons, this provides

a neutral place to study, he said.

The elementary school piano lab program started in 1999 at Northglade Montessori, but it has operated out of Woods Lake, which is an arts magnet school, and Spring Valley since about 2002. (The Gilmore has two other piano labs in Kalamazoo. One is located in the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home and the other is run through the KRESA

West Campus and has a music therapy focus.)

The current elementary program serves about 220 students each year through school day and after school classes. The program is open to students in second through fifth grade.

Schumaker said the program works hard to supplement — not replace — private lessons. The lab classes are group-oriented and are offered on two levels — one for students

with no experience and one for graduates of the elementary labs or who have other piano playing experience. Students work on the digital pianos in a group with the teacher. And, by using headphones, the students also can work on their music individually or with a teacher while classmates are working on other pieces.

The classes meet once a week for 14 weeks. For more information, visit thegilmore.org.

Gilmore Keyboard Festival Offers Students Inexpensive Tickets to Most Concerts

The Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival runs April 29-May 14, bringing more than 200 artists to Kalamazoo for a festival that includes classical, popular and jazz artists. At least 16 artists will be making their Gilmore Festival debuts this year. Student tickets, \$6 each, are available for most Gilmore Festival concerts. For a complete line-up of artists and ticket prices, go to thegilmore.org or call (269) 342-1166.



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Mobile Health Clinic on the Move in KPS

A new mobile health clinic is rolling into Kalamazoo Public Schools to promote good health for KPS students and their families.

“Think of it as a mobile outpatient doctor’s office,” said Denise Crawford, president and CEO of the Family Health Center (FHC), which operates the mobile clinic. “It delivers comprehensive care such as physicals, immunizations, well-child visits and other services that are vital to protecting young patients from preventable diseases and poor health.”

The clinic resulted from a partnership involving FHC, The Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo, Communities In Schools – Kalamazoo (CIS), and KPS. The 40-foot-long, 300-square-foot unit was funded through a \$683,163 grant from The Learning Network.

The partnership reflects KPS’s commitment to the overall well-being of students. Studies show that many of the most vulnerable people in the Kalamazoo community – those who are in or near poverty and may not have access to quality

health care – live in the KPS district, Crawford said.

“Our community has high rates of chronic diseases like diabetes, congestive heart failure and hypertension,” Crawford said. “We know these are far more rampant within our poorest neighborhoods and among populations of color.”

The mobile clinic includes three examination rooms and a waiting area. It’s staffed by two teams of three health care professionals with expertise in pediatric and adolescent care. CIS coordinates student access to



The Family Health Center’s new mobile clinic will be serving students and families across Kalamazoo Public Schools.

these services. Students’ family members can use the clinic, too.

Services provided by the mobile clinic are covered by patients’ health insurance. If the patient is uninsured, the Family Health Center offers a sliding fee scale based on income.

For more information, go to fhckzoo.com. Appointments are available by calling (269) 349-2641 (choose option 2) or by contacting the CIS coordinator at your school.

Below is the clinic’s schedule for April.

- April 11 — Lincoln International Studies School
- April 12 — Milwood Magnet School
- April 13 — Woodward School for Technology and Research
- April 14 — Northeastern Elementary School
- April 15 — Linden Grove Middle School
- April 18 — Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts
- April 19-20 — Loy Norrix High School

- April 21 — Northeastern Elementary School
- April 22 — Hillside Middle School
- April 25 — Washington Writers’ Academy
- April 26-27 — Kalamazoo Central High School
- April 28 — Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts
- April 29 — Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts

Kalamazoo Public Schools Needs Substitute Teachers

EDUStaff, which provides substitutes to KPS, is hiring qualified candidates.

Interested or want more information?

Go to 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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Cathleen Huling, Artistic Director

Spring Concert 2016

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Featuring soloists from the Grand Rapids Ballet

Saturday, April 23
2 pm & 7 pm

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Reserved Seats
\$10 (advance) — \$14 (at the door)

Tickets available at Miller Auditorium box office (269.387.2300) or online at balletartsensemble.org.

Special ticket rates for groups of 20 or more are available.

Fresh Rose Souquets by Schaefer's Flowers available at the door while supplies last.

Super Bowl Champ Greg Jennings Plans Eighth Annual Football, Cheer Camp

NFL Pro Bowl wide receiver and Super Bowl Champion Greg Jennings has announced registration for the Eighth Annual 2016 Greg Jennings Football & Cheer Camp for youth 8 – 18 years old. This no-cost, high-engagement camp for 500 boys and girls will be 8 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at Kalamazoo Central High School.

Jennings, a Kalamazoo native and Kalamazoo Central alumni, began his camp in 2009 as a way to impart life lessons to campers as well as fundamental football skills and instructions. The camp is run with assistance from coach volunteers, including his wife, Nicole Jennings, who leads the cheer camp with instructors from Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA).

Athletic and education leaders join forces at the camp, which is designed to empower youth, to build leadership skills, and to encourage students to

follow the right path to success.

The camp is free to all participants, but enrollment is limited. Online registration continues until the camp is full. Early registration is

recommended. To register go to gjenningsfound.org/camp/. For additional information, please contact The Greg Jennings Foundation at (269) 343-6990 or visit gjenningsfound.org.



Superbowl champion and Kalamazoo Central graduate Greg Jennings works with students at one of his football and cheer camps.

Linden Grove NJHS Students Deliver Special Valentines

Members of the Linden Grove National Junior Honor Society brought valentines smiles to Borgess Gardens, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility, by delivering homemade cards to the residents in early February.

“It was a delightful and heartwarming experience for both the residents and students,” said Gina Mahannah, one of the honor society advisers. “You could see the sparkle in the residents’ eyes when they chose a special valentine. They were filled with smiles and gratitude.”

The students created more than 100 valentines in the weeks leading up to Valentine’s Day.

Some of the residents were former teachers and wanted to hear stories about what life is like at Linden Grove Middle School.

“I’m very happy I got the experience of being a part of the valentines project. Seeing the smiles on their faces made me feel very happy,” said Harsimran Sohi, a seventh-grade NJHS member.

The Linden Grove NJHS students have been involved in several other service projects

this year including Pinwheels for Peace, Movember, a holiday food drive and Pennies for Pasta.

The students say that they enjoy being involved in positive school and community projects and activities, Mahannah said. And, with their excellence in academics and leadership skills, members of the Linden Grove NJHS are looked upon as positive role models at Linden Grove, she said.

This year’s officers are Tasia Parsons, president; Abigail Doonan, vice president; Jordan Smith, secretary, and Ashley Diget, treasurer. The NJHS advisers are Gina Mahannah, student services secretary; and counselors Stephanie Perry and Steve Spybrook.

The Linden Grove National Junior Honor Society delivered more than 100 valentines to the residents of Borgess Gardens for the holiday. Pictured are, back row, (L to R), Connor Anspach, Miles Lekan, Grace Will, Harsimran Sohi, Yumi Yuag, Anthony Paivarinta, Korryn DeGrote; middle row, Lamees Alikhwan and Izzy Stroud; and front row, Borgess activity assistant Tonya Dumas and Samantha Dykstra.



HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS SPRING BREAK

April 4-8 | 1 – 4 p.m. Daily

The Creative Spirit

A celebration of the artistic talents of Leo Lionni. Find the creative spirit in you through exploring the arts! Free arts and crafts each day inspired by books by Leo Lionni.

Monday, April 4, Visual: *Matthew’s Dream* by Leo Lionni
Design with colors, shapes, textures, and different materials.

Tuesday, April 5, Musical: *Geraldine, the Music Mouse* by Leo Lionni
Feel the beat while decorating and creating instruments.

Wednesday, April 6, Dance: *Cornelius* by Leo Lionni
Move and celebrate dance with flags and so much more.

Thursday, April 7, Written: *The Alphabet Tree* by Leo Lionni
Be inspired to write and design with words.

Friday, April 8, Theater: *The Greentail Mouse* by Leo Lionni
Create different characters and costumes for the theater.

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



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Loy Norrix Presents “Bye Bye Birdie”

“Bye Bye Birdie” brings together the world’s biggest rock star, a starry-eyed teen, her protective parents and his overworked manager for a feel-good musical filled with memorable tunes.

Loy Norrix High School will perform “Bye Bye Birdie,” April 15-17 and 21-23.

When Conrad Birdie, the world’s most famous singer, is drafted into the army, his manager organizes one final publicity stunt — he’ll give one lucky girl his last kiss before enlisting. Chaos ensues when

Conrad heads to the chosen girl’s small Midwestern town.

Choir teacher Julie Pelligrino is serving as musical director for the show, which features memorable tunes such as “Put On a Happy Face” and “The Telephone Hour.”

“The show is a fun, high-energy show for the whole family,” Pelligrino said.

The show plays at 7:30 p.m. April 15-16 and 21-23. A matinee will be performed at 2:30 p.m. April 17. Tickets are \$12 for adults or \$10 for students and seniors.

The cast of “Bye Bye Birdie” rehearses the show. The performers include, front row, (l to r), Christian Heintzelman, Sophia Boismier, and Jaylan Shields; and back row, Grace Erway, Carsten Strand, and Madison Preussel.



We Are Hiring!

Expected vacancies for fall of 2016-17 include:

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

Pre-register for the Job Fair to be considered for interviews on May 13th. RSVP to Rhonda McGee by Friday, May 1st via email at mcgeerd@kalamazoopublicschools.net www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Attend the
KPS Job Fair!
May 13
4-6 p.m.

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

Artists' Corner

The *Excelsior* is proud to present the artwork of our students at King-Westwood Elementary. The young artists designed their creations under the direction of art teacher Misty Denoon.

Natiele Lentz, kindergarten. Medium: Cut paper trees.		Damon Willson, 5th grade. Medium: Oil pastel and tempera paint.		Melissa Lesley, 5th grade. Medium: Oil pastel and tempera paint.	
Amelia DeFulio, 1st grade. Medium: Crayon and watercolor mixed media.		Kamille Gleaves, 1st grade. Medium: Crayon and watercolor mixed media.		Justin Pinto, 1st grade. Medium: Crayon and watercolor mixed media.	

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Changes to High School State Testing

This spring, high school juniors will once again be taking the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), though the components and format will be substantially different from what we have seen in the past. As in previous years, the test will begin with the college and career readiness assessments; however, students will be taking the SAT rather than the ACT college entrance exam. On Tuesday, April 12, juniors will take the SAT plus essay. This is followed by the WorkKeys examination and the Michigan School Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) science and social studies tests on Wednesday, April 13. The SAT and WorkKeys tests are taken in the traditional paper-pencil format. The M-STEP science and social studies tests

are administered online. Additionally, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) expects that students in grades 9 and 10 will take the PSAT test this spring. Grade 10 students will test on Tuesday, April 12. Grade 9 students will test on Wednesday, April 13. The PSAT is a paper-pencil test. Students are encouraged to utilize Khan Academy online resources to prepare for these assessments. Khan Academy offers free practice tests and individualized learning activities to prepare students for the SAT and PSAT tests. Additional information on testing can be found on the MDE website, www.khanacademy.org, and www.michigan.gov/mme.

Date	Assessments	Additional Information
Tuesday, April 12, 2016	SAT Testing for Grade 11 Students (Select Grade 12 Students May be Required to Test) PSAT Testing for Grade 10 Students	No School for Grade 9 and Non-testing Grade 12 Students
Wednesday, April 13, 2016	WorkKeys and M-STEP Testing for Grade 11 Students (Select Grade 12 Students May be Required to Test) PSAT Testing for Grade 9 Students	No School for Grade 9 and Non-testing Grade 12 Students

M-STEP Testing in Grades 3 Through 8

This spring, students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 will take part in the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). The M-STEP is an online test and is required by the Michigan Department of Education. The table below lists the specific subjects tested and testing windows for each grade level. More detailed testing schedules will be shared by each building. Please note that although the test is untimed, most students will spend less than two hours testing on each day. When not testing, students will continue to receive instruction from their classroom teachers.

If possible, please avoid removing students from school on

the primary testing days. It is also critical that students get plenty of sleep before testing, arrive to school on-time, and eat a healthy breakfast. The M-STEP is a curriculum-based exam and the best preparation for students is to attend school regularly and complete classwork and homework to the best of their abilities. Although teachers will spend some time familiarizing students with the item types and format of the test, we believe teaching our curriculum is the primary method to ensure student success. For additional information on the M-STEP, including practice problems and resources, visit: www.michigan.gov/mstep

Grade	Tests/Subjects	Primary Testing Window	Make-Up Testing Window
5 & 8	ELA, Math, & Social Studies	April 12-21, 2016	April 22-29, 2016
4 & 7	ELA, Math, & Science	May 9-19, 2016	May 20-27, 2016
3 & 6	ELA & Math	April 25-May 5, 2016	May 6-13, 2016

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Loy Norrix, Kalamazoo Central Musicians Earn Honors at State Festival

Several students and ensembles from Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix high schools participated in the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association's District Solo & Ensemble Festival held at Schoolcraft High School.

Students who earned a Division 1 rating at the district level earned the opportunity to participate in the State Solo & Ensemble Level for this region, which was held in Grandville on March 19. Students in the 10th grade and above, who perform at the state competition, must perform one of three proficiency levels based upon the musician's grade level. Each level requires a more challenging number of scales, sight reading, and solo preparation.

Demonstrated excellence at the state level qualifies a student for participation in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival (MYAF), an event that culminates an annual search for the finest artistic talent in Michigan high schools. The festival features all the arts, including dance,

creative writing, film/video, visual arts, theater, poetry and music composition as well as instrumental and vocal ensembles. It is held each May at Western Michigan University.

Kalamazoo Central High School orchestra district participants are listed below: Brigitte Landreville and Adam Bau, string duet, Madyson Hoffman and Abigail Seiler, violin duet, Madyson Hoffman, Abigail Seiler, Adam Bau, and Brigitte Landreville, string quartet

Madyson Hoffman, violin solo, Proficiency 1
Abigail Seiler, violin solo, Proficiency 1

Loy Norrix High School orchestra district participants who advanced to the state level: Rhiannon Pitcock, Lois Rustenholtz, Hannah Terrian, and Kenzie Fox, string quartet, Isabella Cowles, Alexis Terrian, Sava Velkoff, and Elizabeth Perez-Vazquez, string quartet, Kenzie Fox, cello solo

Sava Velkoff, viola solo
Alexis Terrian, violin solo
Hannah Newhouse, cello solo, state freshman solo
Bethany Dunham, Abigail Dantes, Abigail King, and Tess Cowles, string quartet
Emma Fergusson, Hannah Newhouse, Tess Cowles, Dustin Keltsch, cello quartet
Emma Fergusson, cello solo
Tess Cowles, cello solo

Kalamazoo Central band students advancing to the state: Kyra Niehus-Staab, clarinet solo
Gillian Vestal, flute solo

Loy Norrix band students who will move on to the state level:

Allegra Kistler, trombone solo
Antonia Kistler, trumpet solo
Antonia and Allegra Kistler, trumpet and trombone duet
Samuel Ratliff, saxophone solo



The Loy Norrix High School quartet, featuring Isabella Cowles, Alexis Terrian, Elizabeth Perez-Vazquez and Sava Velkoff, advanced to the State Solo & Ensemble Level.



Kalamazoo Central High School students, from left, Adam Bau, Abigail Seiler, Madyson Hoffman, and Brigitte Landreville all performed well enough to move on to the State Solo & Ensemble Level.

KPS All City Concert Will Be Held April 18 at Chenery Auditorium

The Kalamazoo Public Schools All City Concert will be held 7 p.m. Monday, April 18, at Chenery Auditorium. This year the concert will feature the following groups: Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts Sixth-Grade Orchestra, Kalamazoo Central High School Orchestra, El Sol Elementary School Chorus and Ukulele Ensemble, Prairie Ridge Elementary School Chorus, and Maple Street "Hairspray," cast. Admission is free.

Enrollment Open for Loy Norrix Child Care for 2016/2017

Registration for the 2016/2017 school year has begun at the Loy Norrix Child Care Center (LNCCC). LNCCC is a five-star rated Kalamazoo County Ready 4s program that provides a great start for your preschooler. Great learning and care are happening daily 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The center offers reasonable

full-time, part-time and daily rates.

Openings for the current school year for 3- and 4-year-olds are still available. There is no school district residency required for the program, which is open to the public. For enrollment information and tuition costs, call (269) 337-0264 or email hentschlearlym@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



Lydiana Guarino listens with enthusiasm as Kalamazoo Public Library librarian Bill Caskey shares a story with students at the Loy Norrix Child Care Center.



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Meet the Author:
JASON REYNOLDS

FIRST SATURDAY

■ Saturday, April 2 / 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** / Mondays, April 11, 18, 25 / OSH / Play & learn with child development specialists during a five-week workshop (continues in May). Ages 1-3 with parents or caregivers. **R**

STORYTIMES

For Storytimes info, visit: KPL.gov/storytimes. Adult caregiver must accompany babies and toddlers. Siblings attend as guests!

EVENTS

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

Sat, April 2 / 10:30 am / OSH

Mon, April 4 / 2:00 pm / POW

Thurs, April 7 / 2:00 pm / EAS

Wed, April 13 / 6:30 pm / WSQ

Sat, April 16 / 10:30 am / CEN

■ **Movie Matinee: Winnie the Pooh** / Monday, April 4 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Limited seating. **R**

■ **Bubbleman** / Monday, April 4 / 2:00 & 3:00 pm / OSH / The Bubbleman returns with his bubble tricks! **T**

■ **Art Exploration: Romare Bearden** / Tuesday, April 5 / 1:00 pm / CEN / Explore Bearden's art; create your own.

■ **Let's Make a Stink About Skunks!** / Tuesday, April 5 / 2:00 pm / EAS / Stories, activities & a live skunk visit! **R**

■ **Avian Wonders** / Tuesday, April 5 / 2:00 pm / WSQ / Meet Denise Heath's feathered friends. Space is limited. **T**

■ **Carnival Extravaganza** / Tuesday, April 5 / 5:30 pm / POW / Join us for festive fun with games, bounce house, face painting, and more!

APRIL @ the library

■ **Miss Lisa: Stories and Dance** / Movement and stories for kids! **R**

Wed, April 6 / 10:30 am / CEN

Thurs, April 7 / 10:30 am / EAS

Fri, April 8 / 10:30 am / WSQ

Fri, April 8 / 2:00 pm / OSH

■ **Get Groovy with Miss Lisa** / Wednesday, April 6 / 2:00 pm / POW / Learn hip hop and jazz moves.

■ **Reading with Tucker** / Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 / 4:00 pm / OSH / Read to Tucker, the Golden Retriever. **R**

■ **Around the World in 60 Minutes** / Friday, April 8 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Hands-on activities using maps.

■ **Bookworms** / A book club for kids and their grownups.

Tues, April 12 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Tues, April 28 / 4:30 pm / CEN

■ **Maker Monday** / Monday, April 11 / 4:00-6:00 pm / CEN / Topics posted at KPL.gov.

■ **Celebrate Earth Day Crafternoon** / Craft your own 3D lake habitat. **R**

Wed, April 20 / 4:30 pm / POW

Thurs, April 21 / 4:00 pm / EAS

Fri, April 22 / 4:00 pm / CEN

■ **Little Scientists** / Monday, April 25 / 10:30 am / CEN / Stories and science for preschoolers. **R**

■ **Money Smart Kids Save!** / Decorate a piggy bank. All materials provided. Ages 6-11. **R**

Mon, April 25 / 4:30 pm / POW

Tues, April 26 / 4:00 pm / CEN

Tues, April 26 / 4:30 pm / EAS

Wed, April 27 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Wed, April 27 / 6:00 pm / WSQ

■ **Money Smart Kids Read!** / A very special celebration of Money Smart Kids Read Week. Ages 3-5. **R**

Tues, April 26 / 11:00 am / CEN

Fri, April 29 / 10:30 am / OSH



TWEEN / TEEN EVENTS

■ **Poem Tree Display** / April 1-30 / CEN / Teen Area / Make & Take a poem for our "Poe-Tree" display!

■ **Game Central featuring SmashKart Tournament** / Wednesday, April 6 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Play Super Smash Bros. tournament, or Mario Kart 8. Prizes!

■ **Comic Book Crafts** / Drop in and make a set of comic book bubble glass magnets.

Thurs, April 7 / 2:00 pm / OSH

Mon, April 18 / 4:00 pm / CEN

Wed, April 20 / 6:30 pm / WSQ

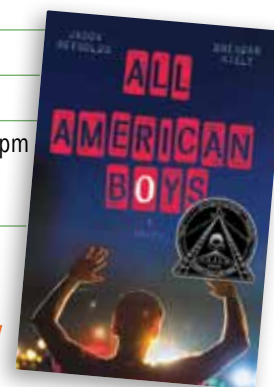
■ **Manga Workshop** / Learn to draw your own Japanese comics.

Thurs, April 7 / 3:30 pm / EAS

Sat, April 9 / 2:00 pm / CEN

■ **#tab** / Monday, April 11 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Join Teen Advisory Board! Grades 6-12.

■ **Meet the Author: JASON REYNOLDS** / Wednesday, April 13 / 6:30 pm / CEN / Meet the award-winning author of *All American Boys* and *When I Was the Greatest*. [Books for sale by Bookbug.]



■ **J-Pop Club** / Monday, April 18 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Enjoy Japanese anime and more. Japan. *Teens only*.

■ **Found Poetry** / Tuesday, April 19 / 4:00 pm / EAS / Make a beautiful poem with cut-outs.

■ **Earth Day Crafternoon** / Friday, April 22 / 3:30 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Make DIY recycled gifts.

■ **Maker Monday** / Monday April 25 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Tinker, make, try, create, and more!

■ 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



Kalamazoo
Public Library