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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, May 12 and
Wednesday, May 25; 7 p.m.
Administration Building

For more information call
(269) 337-1572.

CLASS OF 2016
GRADUATION DATES

Adult Education

7 p.m., Monday, May 16, at
Chenery Auditorium

Kalamazoo Area Math and
Science Center Senior
Recognition Ceremony

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 31, at
Chenery Auditorium

Phoenix High School

7 p.m., Tuesday, June 7, at
Chenery Auditorium

Kalamazoo Central High School

7 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, at
Wings Event Center

Loy Norrix High School

7 p.m., Thursday, June 9, at
Wings Event Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

KPS Job Fair

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Secondary Art Show

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Mobile Health Clinic

Page 11

Dr. Rice: Graduation and Dropout Rates Continue to Improve

(please see page 2)

K-Central Mock Trial Team Dominates at
State Tourney – Heads to National Contest

For the 18th time in the last 30 years, Kalamazoo Central High School will send a mock trial team to compete in the National High School Mock Trial Championship. The school’s varsity team won the opportunity to represent Michigan at the national competition May 11-15 in Boise, Idaho, after winning the State Finals Tournament on March 19 in Lansing.

This year, for the first time, Kalamazoo Central fielded two teams. The JV team, which *(continued on page 7)*



Kalamazoo Central’s Mock Trial teams won first and second place at the regional level, and varsity team members took first place at the state level and will represent Michigan in the national competition. Varsity and JV team members pictured are: front row (L to R) Julia Kemple-Johnson, Nathan Scholten, Olivia Burrell, Rochelle Sims, Zach Cook, Alec To, Zjaly Carter, and Andrew Cichy; and, back row, Donovan Williams, Benjamin Keller, Nicholas Sosulski, Jeremiah Johnson, and Rosemary Sidwell. Not pictured: Josephine Anderson, Sydney Woodcock.

Students Have Eye-Opening Job Experiences at MICareerQuest Open House

Looking for a future career can be overwhelming — especially if you’re only 13- or 14-years-old.

But the future came into clearer focus for nearly 2,000 Kalamazoo Public Schools’ eighth- and ninth-grade students, who experienced hands-on career exploration through the MICareerQuest Southwest career fair at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center.

The event was sponsored by KRESA’s Education for



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

Employment program as well as Education for the Arts and the Early/Middle College programs.

At a breakfast to thank organizers, corporate sponsors, and businesses who participated in the event, 13 KPS students shared their thoughts about the career fair.

(continued on page 3)

FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL May 7

The next First Saturday @ KPL event
will be held at the
Kalamazoo Public Library, downtown,
on May 7, 2016, from 2-3:30 p.m.

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District Continues to Improve Graduation and Dropout Rates

Six years after President Obama spoke at Kalamazoo Central's graduation as the prize in his first annual Race to the Top Commencement Challenge, Kalamazoo Central continues to improve its graduation rate. Announced in March, KC's four-year graduation rate in 2015 was 85.0%, 7.6 percentage points higher than the 77.4% that it was when President Obama came in 2010.

The four-year rate was the school's highest since states across the country implemented the new federal graduation rate formula in 2008. KC's four-year rate has been higher in every year in the last four years (2012-2015) than in the preceding three years (2009-2011).

Central's five-year rate — 91.1% — was also the highest in the school's history under the new formula. Its five-year rate was 5.7 percentage points

higher than in 2010. States calculate four-year and five-year rates, since many students need the additional year to earn their diplomas.

Loy Norrix also had good news. Its four-year graduation rate in 2015 was 78.3%, a very significant 13.3 percentage points higher than in 2010, when it was 65.0%. Norrix also recorded its highest four-year graduation rate since the beginning of the new federal graduation rate formula in 2008.

Norrix's five-year rate — 81.3% — was its second highest in the school's history under the new federal formula.

KPS also recorded the highest district four-year



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

graduation rate — 71.0% — since the advent of the new federal formula in 2008. KPS's four-year graduation rate has risen 7.9 percentage points since 2010, more than twice the state's increase of 3.8 percentage points from 76.0% to 79.8% during the same period.

KPS recorded its second highest five-year graduation rate — 73.3% — since the beginning of the new federal formula.

Compared to KPS's 71.0% four-year graduation rate, here are some of the rates of our urban peers: Flint, 59.4%; Grand Rapids, 56.2%; Lansing, 61.7%; and Saginaw, 74.1%. The state, with a much lower free/reduced-price lunch percentage than KPS or any of our urban peers, has a 79.8% rate.

In every year from 2012 to 2015, the district four-year graduation rates were higher

than in every year from 2008 to 2011.

Another piece of good news: Mark Hill, Phoenix High School principal, expects a large graduation class this year, possibly a record-setting one. Phoenix and the district restructured the school two years ago, and last year was the first year of the reforms.

While graduation rates have increased, dropout rates have declined, even more impressively. The district four-year dropout rate was 12.7 percent, the lowest since the new federal formulas in 2008. By comparison, Flint was at 21.7%, Grand Rapids, 18.4%; Lansing, 24.1%; Saginaw, 13.5%; and the state, 9.1%.

The district's dropout rate was lower in each of the last four years (2012-2015) than it was in each of the preceding four years (2008-2011).

Our progress in the district is a function of the hard work of teachers, support staff, administrators, community members and organizations, parents, grandparents, and our students themselves.

The progress is all the more noteworthy in the face of two strong headwinds. First, we made \$11 million in cuts from 2011 to 2015.

Second, during this time of improved graduation rates, the district implemented the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), which introduced markedly tougher graduation standards for students beginning in 2011.

And yet, in spite of the progress that we have made, we know that we have a long way to go before we have arrived. Our four-year graduation rate for African-American females
(continued on page 10)



First Saturday @ KPL

Saturday, May 7 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 May, Kalamazoo Literacy Council will host.

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

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SW Michigan AEYC
Western Michigan University Reading Clinic



Students Experience Jobs at MICareerQuest *(cont. from page 1)*

Tyanna Heffernan, a ninth grader at Loy Norrix High School, said the event helped her envision careers outside of sports. She appreciated learning about ways to expand her learning opportunities while still in high school.

“That day, I realized that there are so many opportunities out there for me as well as other people,” Tyanna said. “MICareerQuest made me realize there are more opportunities for EFE classes. It made me want to take a digital imaging class. I am proud to say I applied and I got in.”

In total, more than 6,000 students from across the county attended the event, which provided access to about 50 employers and hands-on activities in four areas: arts and communication; business, technology and human services; engineering and manufacturing; and health and natural sciences.

Students had the opportunity to meet EFE and EFA instructors, to talk to industry experts, to experience workplace tools and technology, to discover expanded art opportunities, and to learn about Early/Middle Col-



After the MICareerQuest Southwest career day, an event was held to thank the business professionals who helped make it a success. Thirteen students spoke at the event. They were, back row (L to R), Heather Vanderbilt, Jameer Emory, Trynity Wafford, Christian Richardson, Vanessa Pueblo, Lauren Voight, Makenna Lopez, Emmanuel Marfo (standing behind Makenna), Lillia Bistrek, Tyanna Heffernan, Luis Gutierrez, Grace Will, and, kneeling in the front row, J'viohn Sirrine. KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice, front center, posed with the students for a photo.

lege, which enables high school students to earn associate's degrees and community college certificates for free while attending a fifth year of high school.

“We got to the Expo Center and I was drawn in by the various activities. The coolest part of the trip was exploring the different areas and jobs that I didn't know,” said Makenna Lopez, eighth grader from Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts.

Grace Will, an eighth grader at Linden Grove Middle

School, said, “Choosing a career path is not easy. Many students don't have the resources to be exposed to the innumerable jobs they could pursue.”

Lillia Bistrek, a freshman at Loy Norrix, said, “I would just like to thank you all for taking the time out to show children of the Kalamazoo area that there are so many careers that the world has to offer. I just believe that this was a chance for children to set goals for themselves and to see what careers are out there.”

KC Wrestling Invitational Takes Down Cancer

Kalamazoo Central High School held its annual KC Wrestling Invitational. Kalamazoo Central and eight other West Michigan high schools attended this event and teamed up for a cancer awareness effort called “Take Down Cancer!”

Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth, the West Michigan Cancer Center's director of development, opened the event by sharing some key points about cancer in West Michigan.

The West Michigan Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society provided

informational brochures and give aways. Wrestlers and KC students created personal signs and messages to inform the community about the importance of early detection and prevention of cancer. The event raised about \$450 and all profits were donated to the West Michigan Cancer Center. The funds will be used to support cancer patients in Southwest Michigan. The money helps provide cancer patients with transportation, education, and social services. Funds also will be used to educate the community on cancer screening and prevention.



Kalamazoo Central High School held its annual KC Wrestling Invitational. Kalamazoo Central and eight other schools attended the event and teamed up for a cancer awareness effort called “Take Down Cancer!”

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Literacy Night Fun Made Families, Students Smile

Literacy Night 2016 was pushed back a week because of the weather, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of Kalamazoo Public Schools readers and their families, who turned out in huge numbers to make the event a success.

The elementary school literacy night guests enjoyed everything from superhero activities at Woodward School for Technology and Research to international displays and food samples at Lincoln International Studies School and healthy fun

at the Kalamazoo Public Library, where El Sol Elementary partnered with Bronson Children's Hospital to focus on healthy living. Literacy Night also provided a chance for families to sign up for their Kalamazoo Public

Library cards. Library cards can be obtained at any KPL branch. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with a photo ID. Branches and their locations are:
• Central Library, 315 S. Rose St.

• Eastwood Branch Library, 1112 Gayle Ave.
• Oshtemo Branch Library, 7265 W. Main St.
• Washington Square Branch Library, 1244 Portage St.
The library website is kpl.gov



A trio of caped super kindergarteners (L to R) Lydia Hensley, Ashtynn Blackwell and Olive Spoelstra, enjoy literacy night at Woodward School for Technology and Research.



El Sol third graders Leslie Tellez, left, and Mabely Ojeda-Carrillo, take a look at a student book, written in English and Spanish, during El Sol's literacy night celebration, held at Kalamazoo Public Library in conjunction with Bronson Children's Hospital.



Second grader Ja'Mare Davis and his little brother Kashmere Davis play with the Egyptian hieroglyphics at Lincoln International Studies School's international-themed literacy night.



We Are Hiring!

Expected vacancies for fall of 2016-17 include:

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 - 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

Three KPS Seniors Named National Merit Scholarship Finalists

Loy Norrix High School's Koichi Anderson and Kalamazoo Central High School's Sydnie Bodzianowski and Otto Kailing have advanced to the finalist level of the National Merit Scholarship Program, which honors academically talented high school seniors. To move from the semifinalist to the finalist level, students must demonstrate an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school

official, write an essay and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. About 14,400 finalists are named from the original 16,000 semifinalists that were announced in the fall. Approximately 7,400 National Merit Scholarship winners will be named later this spring. The program awards three types of scholarships: The National Merit Scholarship, \$2,500, applied toward the

student's freshman year of college. The college-sponsored Merit Scholarships are four-year, renewable awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 a year if the student attends the college sponsoring the award. The corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships are four-year, renewable awards ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 a year, or single-payment awards of \$2,500 to \$5,000. The qualifications are set by the company making the award.



Koichi Anderson



Sydnie Bodzianowski



Otto Kailing

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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Middle Schools Promote Literacy and Self Expression with Spoken Word Poetry Event

About 30 students took the stage at Chenery Auditorium to share their original poems in the inaugural Spoken Word Middle School Poetry Event in March.

Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice welcomed students and guests and said the program was developed over the past year as a way to help promote literacy.

Oral language development reinforces other areas of literacy, he said. And the event helped students express themselves through, "their reading, their writing, their self exploration." Their poems he said, allow the audience to get "a sense of who they are and how they are going to have an impact on their world."

Students shared poems that tackled serious themes such as negative body image, suicide and despair, but also shared thoughts of strength, victory and family meals. Each student was introduced by a staff

member from his or her school.

Johnny Edwards, director of secondary education for KPS, noted the event was not a "competition." He said all of the students deserved praise for having the courage to perform their original poetry in front of a large audience.

"Our purpose tonight is to give our young people, our middle school students, a voice," he said. "This is an opportunity to hear from them in an artful way."

The following Hillside Middle School students participated: Amaya Artley, Denika Dunning, Imani Ethridge, Daryl Johnson,

Brandon Mosley, Trinity Peoples, Abigail Sokolowski, Marijane Watts, and Ivana Williams.

Linden Grove Middle School participants were: Abigail Doonan, Harmony Holt, Leah Nuyen, Felix Owinga, and Zariana Tyler.

The participants from Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts were: Virginia Abbott, Emma Hilgart-Griff, Megan Hybels, Kamryn Kimbrough, Raili Nelson, Steven Olson, and Layla Roberts.

Milwood Magnet School was represented by: Ariana Reece, J'vionn Sirrine, and Quinyanna Woodruff.

The following teachers led the spoken word project in the schools: Janelle Gibson, Alternative Learning Program; Stephanie Hampton, Maple Street Magnet; Carina Hilbert and Evelyn Phillips, Hillside Middle; Connolly Jenkins, Milwood Magnet; and Elizabeth McDermott, Linden Grove.



Denika Dunning from Hillside Middle School reads her poem, in front of an audience at Chenery Auditorium, including administrators and teachers on stage, (L to R) Johnny Edwards, director of secondary education; KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice; Dr. Jeffrey Boggan, principal of Maple Street Magnet; and teachers Evelyn Phillips, Hillside Middle; Elizabeth McDermott, Linden Grove; and Connolly Jenkins, Milwood Magnet.





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KPS Sixth-Graders Experience Life at WMU Through Annual Bronco BUDS Program

It is one thing to talk about going to college, it is another to visit an actual college campus, sit in the classrooms, and eat lunch in the dining halls.

More than 1,000 Kalamazoo Public Schools sixth-graders experienced a taste of college life during Western Michigan University's seventh annual Bronco BUDS (Building Unique Dynamic Students), a program that encourages middle school students to begin thinking about attending college and using the Kalamazoo Promise tuition scholarship program. This year the program ran through March and April.

The collaboration between WMU and KPS includes a tour of a dorm room, a visit to the student recreation center, and lunch in a dining hall, where kids experience the thrill of all-you-can-eat ice cream.

They also visit with and hear from WMU staff members, some of whom happen to be KPS



Hillside Middle School students Kiarra White, Tyra Jackson, and Emerald Elliot listen to speakers in Sangren Hall before leaving for a campus tour of Western Michigan University as part of Bronco BUDS.

graduates.

Hillside Middle School student Khaniya Greene-Little said she enjoyed lunch and visiting the dorms. "Our WMU visit was a good experience," she said. "I am going to college and plan to be a lawyer."

Artazijah Julian, a fellow Hillside student, said, "I liked being able to speak with the college students about what they were going to be. We took a quiz

about the Kalamazoo Promise and our college options. I want to go to University of Michigan and be a doctor."

The tour included visits from WMU President Dr. John Dunn and KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice.

Dr. Rice encouraged the students to stay focused on their goals, noting that more and more KPS students are graduating from high school



Brandon Early, right, a Western Michigan University student ambassador, leads a group of Hillside Middle School students on a campus tour during the Bronco BUDS program. The students (L to R) are Kevin Barbosa-Camacho, Aydon Bannister, Jackson Brown, Dairrion Phillips, and Isaac Haller.

and moving on to college.

"If you tend to your business and are able to graduate from high school, you are able to go onto college and you are able to use the Kalamazoo Promise scholarship," he said. "But, the reality is, it depends on you. The Promise is free to your parents and grandparents. They're the ones who don't have to pay tuition. For you, you have to work it."

Part of that work is taking

advantage of the Bronco BUDS program, Dr. Dunn said. He told the sixth-graders to be curious and to ask questions of the faculty and staff that they met during their visit.

"You are welcome here on this campus at any time, not only today but any time," Dr. Dunn said. "We want you to maximize every opportunity to grow and learn. The Promise means the door is wide open for you."

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K-Central Mock Trial Team Dominates at State Tourney — Heads to National Contest *(cont. from page 1)*



Nicholas Sosulski makes his opening argument as one of the defense attorneys on Kalamazoo Central's Mock Trial varsity team.



Olivia Burrell testifies as a witness during a practice run for the mock trial team. Kalamazoo County Probate Judge Tiffany Ankley presides over the practice.

consisted of team members who had never competed before, won third place at the state event. The two teams actually faced each other in the semifinals in the state contest.

Members of K-Central's varsity mock trial team are:

Zjalyn Carter (senior)

Julia Kemple-Johnson (sophomore)

Benjamin Keller (timekeeper, junior)

Rosemary Sidwell (junior)

Nicholas Sosulski (junior)

Alec To (senior)

Donovan Williams (team captain, senior)

Sydney Woodcock (alternate, junior)

Members of K-Central's JV mock trial team are:

Josephine Anderson (senior)

Olivia Burrell (junior)

Andrew Cichy (freshman)

Zachary Cook (freshman)

Jeremiah Johnson (sophomore)

Nathan Scholten (junior)

Rochelle Sims (team captain, sophomore)

"All our students performed magnificently and we have every reason to be extremely proud of each of them," said coach Francis Bilancio.

Donovan Williams, the varsity team captain, joined the team as a sophomore and all of his older teammates that year had experienced winning at the state level and going to the national

competition.

"When we didn't make it out of regionals in 2014 and 2015, it really crushed the team's confidence in our abilities," he said. "None of us who went through those years was able to let go of that pain, and I'm glad we didn't, because there came a certain point within this season that we decided to turn the pain into something useful. We turned it into the driving force that pushed us to perfect our craft."

Kalamazoo Central High School's mock trial teams took first and second place in the Western Regional High School Mock Trial Competition held March 5 at the Kent County Courthouse in Grand Rapids. Both teams advanced to the state finals in Lansing on March 19.

The Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament is organized and conducted by the Michigan Center for Civic Education. The program recreates what might take place in a trial court. High school students take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses and compete against other schools, arguing cases, in real courtrooms in front of real judges and lawyers, who act as jurors. There is no set script. As in a debate, participants respond to the strategies used by their opponents.

This year's case involved a student who was accused

of leaving a bomb at her high school as a response to supposed bullying, but the defense argued that the reported target of the device actually has a history of bullying and of framing other students for misdeeds around the school campus.

Long before the students work on their live presentations and oral performance skills, they spend months writing and editing their speeches and arguments. They also study the Federal Rules of Evidence, which govern if and when evidence can be presented in trial.

"I think the biggest lesson they learn is how to look at any fact and look at the different faces it has and how to argue where it benefits one side or the other side and how to flip ideas and facts around," Bilancio said. "They are able to construct the facts into realities that can be litigated even when they're not immediately visible. They learn analysis and synthesis of the facts."

Bilancio has been aided this year by attorney coaches: Cody Crane, Tibble Law Office, P.C.; Reh Starks, Liggett & Ripley, P.L.C.; Keith N. Grafos, Vlachos & Vlachos, P.C.; Nicholas J. Spigel, Kreis Enderle; Joshua C. Hilgart; Salina L. Choice; and Becket J. Jones, Hills at Law, P.C. Amanda Sidwell is the coach assistant. Mikell Thurston Griffith is the coach emerita.



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Loy Norrix Students Work with Nobel Prize Winner at PeaceJam Conference

Thirty-one Loy Norrix High School students attended the 2016 Great Lakes PeaceJam Leadership Conference held in late March at Western Michigan University's Sangren Hall.

PeaceJam is an organization in which Nobel Peace Prize laureates work with young people to foster positive change in their communities.

More than 200 PeaceJam members from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan attended the event, which featured sessions with 1997 Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams, who received a

Nobel Prize for her work with more than 100 countries to ban the use of landmines.

"I got to see what other people and schools do to help the world be a better place, which was pretty cool," Loy Norrix senior Zhi Nee Wee said. "It was fun to hear a Nobel Laureate speak right in front of us."

Seniors Joanna Yiu and Brooke Washington said they enjoyed meeting students with the same passion for social change and discussing ideas in a judgment-free environment.

Advisers Lisa Jensen, Melanie

Claudio and Sveri Stromsta May said PeaceJam students have a unique opportunity to learn about fostering positive change in the world. The conference is a supportive environment where students have the opportunity learn from and grow with activists from around the world.

Loy Norrix senior Joseph Fette said, "I really enjoyed the energy and interesting people and having multiple foreign countries represented. I gained new insight into current global issues through the exchange of worldly ideas."



Loy Norrix students were among 200 who attended the 2016 Great Lakes PeaceJam Leadership Conference held in late March at Western Michigan University's Sangren Hall.

Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Lime-Chipotle Carnitas Tostadas

Hello Kalamazoo, it's time for some Cinco De Mayo fun. Try out this easy slow cooker recipe and enjoy a festive meal with family and friends. Please take time to get out and support your local business when shopping for ingredients. Adios!!

Best regards, Chef Shaun



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

Ingredients

1/2 cup chicken broth
4 teaspoons ground chipotle pepper
4 teaspoons ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground sea salt
4 pounds of sirloin tip beef, cut into large chunks
1 large onion, peeled and halved
8 garlic cloves, peeled
1 to 2 limes, halved
16 tostada shells

Optional toppings: Warmed refried beans, salsa, sour cream, shredded lettuce, chopped avocado, crumbled queso fresco, minced fresh cilantro, and lime wedges

Directions

1. Add broth to a 5-quart slow cooker. Mix seasonings and

massage into the meat. Place beef in slow cooker, and add onion and garlic cloves. Cook, covered, on high for 8 hours or until meat is tender.

2. Remove beef; cool slightly. Strain cooking juices. Reserve garlic cloves and discard onion. Skim fat from cooking juices. Mash garlic with a fork. Shred beef with two forks or chop up with a chef's knife.

3. Return cooking juices, garlic and beef to slow cooker. Squeeze lime halves over beef; heat through, stirring to combine. Layer tostada shells with beef mixture and toppings as desired. Serve with lime wedges.

Yield: 16 servings

2016 Camp for Young Writers June 20 - July1, 2016



Ages 8-10: Diary of a Poetic Kid: "Ode" School
Ages 11-14: Spinning Shakespearean Sonnets
Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 12pm
Fee: \$150

For more information:
www.wmich.edu/english; Tel: 269-387-2572



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.

Several Area Art Exhibitions Will Showcase KPS Students' Talents in May

The Kalamazoo Public Schools Secondary Art Show will be on display at the KPS Administration Building beginning with an Art Hop reception 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, May 6.

The exhibition will showcase two-dimensional and three-dimensional works by middle-school and high-school students from Kalamazoo Central, Loy Norrix, and Phoenix high schools, as well as Linden Grove, Maple Street, Milwood, Hillside, and the Alternative Learning Program middle schools. After the reception, the works will remain available for viewing through June 1. The show can be seen during the administration building's regular business hours, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

For fans of the visual arts, works by KPS elementary and middle school students also will be on display in the countywide Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Young Artists Show, which runs May 14-June 5, with an opening reception planned 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at the KIA, 314 S. Park St.

And the Bronson Hospital "Promising Artists" exhibition, featuring works by KPS students, remains on display at Bronson Methodist Hospital, 601 John St., through May 20. The show is a partnership between Kalamazoo Public Schools, the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, and



Self portrait in charcoal, Brooks Eisenbise, senior, Loy Norrix High School

Bronson Health Foundation.

Recently, the following students received honors and awards at the KIA's High School Area Show, which runs through May 4:

- **Natalie Nelson**, Loy Norrix High School, Juror's Awards, \$100 cash, and the Gwen Frostic School of Art (Western Michigan University)scholarship.

- **Sierra Waddle**, Loy Norrix, Kendall College of Art and Design (Ferris State University) Portfolio Camp scholarships, \$1,000.

- **Luis Morales**, Loy Norrix, Kendall College of Art and Design (Ferris State University) scholarship.

- **Josephine Anderson**, Kalamazoo Central, Kirk Newman Art School (Kalamazoo Institute of Arts) summer class scholarship.



Necklace in wire, clay, marker and beads, Shelby Parthun, junior, Kalamazoo Central High School

KSO Instrument Petting Zoo Shares Orchestra Sounds with Parkwood-Upjohn

Lions and tigers and bears? Oh, no. This "zoo" has violins, trombones and batons.

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Instrument Petting Zoo stopped by Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary March 4 for an interactive, hands-on experience that allowed students to

touch, play, and explore the wild sounds of the orchestra.

Trained docents worked with students as they moved from station to station playing cellos, violins, trombones, a French horn, and percussion instruments. They also had the chance to hold a baton and tackle the job of the conductor.



Maia Dowd, third grade, put some puff power behind the French horn.



Osdy Orta, third grade, found the trombone took more effort than he expected.



Students listen to docents talk about the different sections of the orchestra before trying the instruments in the KSO Instrument Petting Zoo.



James Burnett and volunteer Musette El-Mohammed played around with the percussion section.



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District Continues to Improve Graduation and Dropout Rates (cont. from page 2)

is 77.1%, 5.1 percentage points higher than two years earlier and higher than the overall district graduation rate, as well as the state graduation rate for African-American females. At the same time, however, our four-year graduation rate for African-American males is at 51.8%, also up by 5.1 percentage points over the last two years but below the overall district graduation rate and the state graduation rate for African-American males.

The graduation rate of African-American males is much bigger than Kalamazoo and is indeed a national issue. Just within Michigan, for example, the following are four-year graduation rates for African-American males: Flint, 58.1%; Grand Rapids, 48.2%; Lansing, 52.5%; Saginaw, 65.9%; and the state, 60.7%.

Another challenge facing KPS and districts across the country is the relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and graduation rates. Our four-year graduation rate

for children eligible for free/reduced-price lunch is 60.3%. The following are comparable four-year graduation rates for children eligible for free/reduced-price lunch: Flint, 60.5%; Grand Rapids, 55.1%; Lansing, 57.0%; Saginaw, 70.5%; and the state, 67.5%.

We have begun a number of important pipeline initiatives that have yet to affect our graduation rate but should in the future. For example, in 2021, the first students to experience what amounts to almost universal KPS full-day kindergarten (in 2008) will graduate from the district.

In 2026, the first kindergarten students to experience the district's new, richer K-5 English language arts series (Pearson Reading Street in 2013) will graduate from the district.

In 2028, the first students to experience a profound increase in our PEEP early childhood education (in 2014) will graduate from the district.

All of our children are

capable of graduating from high school. All of our children are capable of some form of college or career work after high school. As we have increased our student achievement in the last few years, we need to continue to do so in future years as well.

The pipeline initiatives will help in this regard, but we need to redouble our efforts with our African-American male students and our working class and poor students and to remain vigilant for other opportunities, like our male mentoring initiative, as well. In the first year of our male mentoring initiative, more than 140 male staff members have mentored more than 600 male students, most of whom are African-American. I will be sharing this spring more details on this important initiative and the efforts of our staff to mentor our young men.

I look forward to our work together to continue to improve our district and community in its support of KPS children.

Opera Singer Shares Talents with Maple Street Students

Opera singer and motivational speaker William Clarence Marshall spent several days at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts to share his multiple talents and to help students hone theirs.

Marshall, who lives in Cleveland, has sung on stages across the world, including at Carnegie Hall, the Aspen Music Festival, and Kennedy Center. He worked with the Maple Street students at the request of principal Dr. Jeff Boggan.

Marshall said he was impressed with Maple students who demonstrated they have not just complaints about society — but solutions and suggestions for ways to deal with some of the problems facing their generation.

Marshall's presentation covered a host of topics ranging from the narration in the "Lincoln Portrait" to



Opera singer William Clarence Marshall.

references to Tamir Rice, the Cleveland boy who was killed by police when he brandished an Airsoft-type gun.

Marshall encouraged students to take advantage of all of the opportunities at school and to use their "knowledge responsibly."

"You are the next generation. You are the best generation," he said.

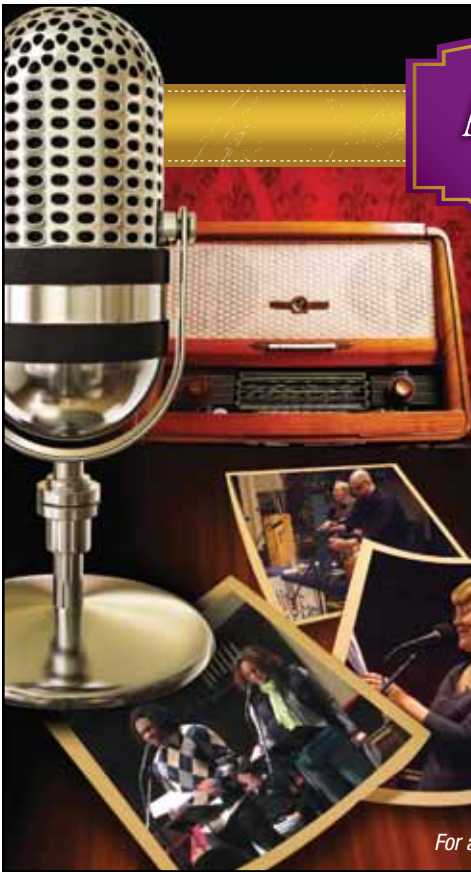
Enrollment Open for Loy Norrix Child Care for 2016-2017

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.



Bill Caskey of Kalamazoo Public Library entertains the kids at the Loy Norrix Child Care Center during a visit.



All Ears Theatre

Free Upcoming Shows

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
Irving S. Silberman
FOUNDATION

ac
arts council
of greater kalamazoo

For a complete schedule of shows, visit KalamazooArts.org

Cesar Chavez Speakers Urge Students to Collaborate to Strengthen Education, Build Community

Expand your vocabulary through reading and prepare yourself for success no matter what your background might be, was the message delivered to about 800 students attending the Cesar Chavez March on March 31.

The event memorializes the life of Chavez, a Latino civil rights leader best known for unionizing farm workers.

Sociology professor and motivational speaker Dr. Samuel Betances told students from Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high schools and other schools from around the region that he was abused and abandoned as a child, dropped out of high school and had been rejected by the U.S. Air Force when he found himself working at a hospital for 75 cents an hour.

One day an administrator told him to go back to high school and to graduate from college, but warned she didn't think he'd do very well. He took offense, "Why? Am I stupid or something?"

She told him, "You don't have enough words."

He argued with her, saying



Dr. Samuel Betances was the keynote speaker at the Cesar Chavez event held at Western Michigan University's Miller Auditorium March 31.

"I'm talking to you."

She replied, "You don't have enough middle-class words. Noises that are pregnant with meaning."

If he was going to succeed, he needed to know more than the words from the streets. He need-

ed to understand the words he would read in his textbooks. He needed to understand the words his teachers said in class. He needed to understand the words his better-educated classmates were going to be using when hunting for jobs.

And, then, she bought him a dictionary and gave him an assignment: Read 30 pages a day — and look up every word he didn't understand.

Betances taught sociology at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago for 25 years. He and his wife Dr. Laura M. Souder provide leadership and diversity training through their company, Souder, Betances & Associates Inc.

He was the keynote speaker at the event. The march to kick off the celebration of the Latino civil rights leader's life was rained out, but students still gathered at Miller Auditorium for a celebration that included musician Rene Meave and spoken word artist Michael Reyes.

Reyes said they were there to celebrate Chavez not just as a Chicano and Mexican but

as someone who helped his people through solidarity with others. He urged students to think of ways they connect as a people, not only through dance and music, but also through organizing and fighting systems of oppression.

Betances also urged students to find strength through collaboration. He encouraged them to form study groups, tutor others, and form extracurricular groups in the summer to

promote learning even when school is not in session.

He also told the students to embrace and celebrate their culture as a strength that makes them unique and America stronger.

"An accent means you know more, not less. Don't ever apologize for knowing more," he said. "The beauty of the United States is the number of people of different backgrounds who contribute to this country."

Mobile Health Clinic Schedule for May

The Family Health Center has a mobile health clinic to serve Kalamazoo Public Schools students and their families. It can provide physicals, immunizations, well-child visits, and other services. The clinic takes insurance and

offers a sliding fee scale. Listed below is the clinic's schedule for May. 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.

- May 2 — Lincoln International Studies School
- May 3 — Milwood Magnet School
- May 4 — Woodward School for Technology and Research
- May 5 — Northeastern Elementary School
- May 6 — Linden Grove Middle School
- May 9 — Washington Writers' Academy
- May 10-11 — Loy Norrix High School
- May 12 — Spring Valley Center for Exploration
- May 13 — Hillside Middle School
- May 16 — Lincoln International Studies School
- May 17-18 — Kalamazoo Central High School
- May 19 — Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts
- May 20 — Washington Writers' Academy
- May 23 — Woods Lake Elementary
- May 24 — Milwood Magnet School
- May 25 — Woodward School for Technology and Research
- May 26 — Northeastern Elementary School
- May 27 — Linden Grove Middle School
- May 31 — Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts

Loy Norrix Student Attains Rank of Eagle Scout

Joseph Lucking, Loy Norrix freshman, was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Joseph is a member of Troop 234, Parkwood-Upjohn. He progressed to the rank of Eagle under the expert guidance of Scoutmaster Peter Aranda. Mr. Aranda is a social studies teacher at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts.

Joseph's Eagle project was the installation of a "gaga pit" at Peace House in Kalamazoo. "Gaga" is a form of dodgeball played in a fenced-in, octagonal area. He is Troop 234's Leave No Trace Trainer and lead campfire storyteller. In 2014 Joseph

was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, a service society that honors scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Promise.

Joseph has earned 34 merit badges, including citizenship in the nation, lifesaving, environmental science, camping, first aid, personal management, and personal fitness.

Joseph is a member of the Loy Norrix Swim Team under the guidance of Loy Norrix swim coach Paul Mahar. In the off-season, he swims for the KPS Kalamazoo United Swim Club. Joseph is the son of Thomas and Grace Tiffany Lucking.



Eagle Scout Joseph Lucking poses with his Scout Master Peter Aranda.

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FIRST SATURDAY

■ Saturday, May 7 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Come to the library for First Saturday activities and fun!

FAMILY PLACE WORKSHOP

■ **1, 2, 3 Play with Me: A Parent Child Workshop** / Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25 / 10:30 am / CEN / Play and learn with child development specialists during this 5-week workshop (continued from April). For ages 1-3 with parents or caregivers. **R**

STORYTIMES

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

■ **Baby Lapsit** / Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 / 9:30 am / CEN / Songs, bounces, and rhymes for babies from birth to walking with their caregivers.

■ **Baby Steps** / Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 / 10:30 am / CEN / Rhymes, songs, and books for little ones from walking to 24 months and their caregivers.

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

Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26 / 10:30 am / EAS & OSH

Fridays, May 6, 13, 20 / 10:30 am / POW

Fridays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 / 10:30 am / CEN

■ **Toddler Talk** / Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25 / 10:15 am / OSH / Toddlers play while adults talk parenting with parent educator/facilitator. Ages 1-3

■ **Baby Talk** / Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25 / 1:30 pm / OSH / Talk about care of babies up to one year. Connie Koning, RN, facilitator.

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

Monday, May 9 / 6:30 pm / OSH

Monday, May 23 / 6:30 pm / CEN

EVENTS

■ **Reading with Tucker** / Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25 / 4:00 pm / POW / Read to Tucker the Golden Retriever. **R**

■ **Cinco de Mayo Crafternoon** / Thursday, May 5 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Create a Cinco de Mayo instrument.

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

Saturday, May 7 / 10:30 am / OSH

Monday, May 9 / 4:30 pm / POW

Thursday, May 12 / 4:30 pm / EAS



Wednesday, May 18 / 6:30 pm / WSQ

Saturday, May 21 / 10:30 am / CEN

■ **Maker Monday** / Monday, May 9 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Drop in for tinkering, creating, and more.

■ **Art Exploration: Georgia O'Keeffe** / Thursday, May 19 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Explore the art of Georgia O'Keeffe.

■ **Peter and the Wolf with the KSO Woodwind Quintet** / Saturday, May 21 / 10:30 am & 12:00 pm / CEN / Performed by the KSO Woodwind Quintet. **R**

■ **Little Scientists** / Monday, May 23 / 10:30 am / CEN / Stories and science for preschoolers. **R**

■ **Magic in May** / Saturday, May 28 / 1:00 pm / CEN / FREE magic how-to workshop. **R**

TWEEN/TEEN EVENTS

■ **Zentangle** / Monday, May 2 / 4:30 pm / POW / Create beautiful art with Carrie Dunn.

■ **May the Fourth Be With You** / Wednesday May 4 / 4:30 at OSH & POW / 6:00 at CEN / Teen Area / Star Wars themed crafts and activities.

■ **Mother's Day Gift Making** / Thursday, May 5 / 3:30 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Make a gift for a special mom.

■ **Three Book Battle** / Saturday, May 7 / CEN / Reading trivia competition.

■ **FREE Comic Book Day** / Saturday, May 7 / CEN / Teen Area / FREE comics available to take. *While supplies last.*

■ **#tab** / Monday, May 9 / 4:00 pm / tCEN / Teen Area / Join Teen Advisory Board. Grades 6-12.

■ **Hidden Oracle Party** / Wednesday, May 11 / 5:30 pm / WSQ / Celebrate Rick Riordan's *The Trials of Apollo*. Snacks, games, and chances to win copies of the new book.

■ **Pizza & Pages: WNDB Edition** / Monday, May 16 / 4:30 pm / EAS / Read *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings; A Memoir*.

■ **J-Pop Club** / Monday, May 16 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Enjoy Japanese culture and anime. *Teens only.*

■ **Chromebook Gaming** / Tuesday, May 17 / 4:30 pm / POW / Open gaming on the library's Chromebooks.

■ **Code Camp** / Thursday, May 19 / 4:00 pm / EAS / Learn how to write computer code using KPL's Chromebooks.

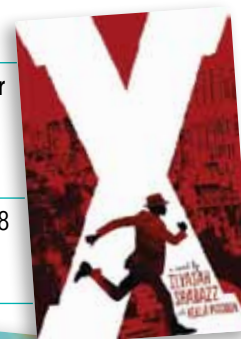
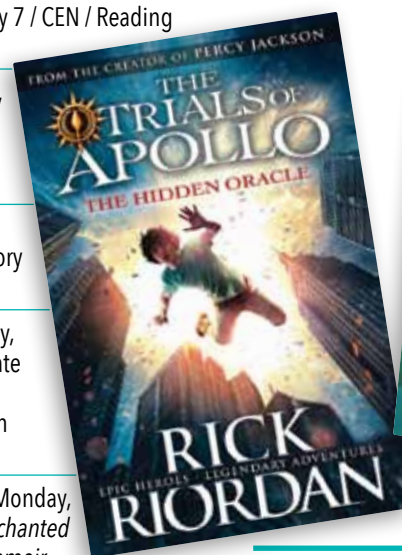
■ **Tabletop Throwdown** / Saturday, May 21 / 1:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Tabletop games provided.

■ **Maker Monday** / Monday, May 23 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Drop in for tinkering, creating, and more.

■ **Pizza & Pages: WNDB Edition** / Thursday, May 26 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Read *X: A Novel* co-written by Ilyasah Shabazz (Malcolm X's daughter) and Kekla Magoon.

■ **Draw Cool Stuff with Paul Sizer** / Thursday, May 26 / 4:30 pm / EAS / Comic creator Paul Sizer will show you how to draw.

■ **Magic in May** / Saturday, May 28 / 2:30 pm / CEN / FREE magic how-to workshop. **R**



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

kpl.gov/calendar

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

Eastwood (EAS)
1112 Gayle Ave.
553-7810

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

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

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



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