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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 6 and 20

7 p.m.

Administration Building

For more information call

(269) 337-1572.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The middle school parent/

guardian and teacher

conferences will be held on

Wednesday, Oct. 19.

Hillside

12:30-3:30 p.m.; 5-8 p.m.

Linden Grove

1-4 p.m.; 5-8 p.m.

Maple Street

12:30-3:30 p.m.; 5-8 p.m.

Milwood Magnet

1-7 p.m.

ALP

1-4 p.m.; 5-8 p.m.

The high school conferences

will be held on

Thursday, Oct. 20.

Kalamazoo Central

12-30-3:30 p.m.

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Loy Norrix

12:30-3:30 p.m.; 5-8 p.m.

Phoenix

12-3 p.m.; 3:30-6:30 p.m.

KAMSC

5:30-8:30 p.m. Nov. 16

5:30-8:30 p.m. Nov. 17

7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Nov. 28

KPS Expands Mentoring Program to Include Community Organizations

Four churches have volunteered to help Kalamazoo Public Schools expand the successful mentoring program it created last year to help boost the engagement and achievement of students.

New Life Fellowship Church of God in Christ and the Tabernacle Church of God in Christ volunteers will work with students at Spring Valley Center for Exploration. Trenches Community Church is expanding its volunteer efforts to include mentoring at Northeastern Elementary School, and Stones Church will launch its mentoring efforts at Woodward School for Technology and Research.



Phoenix High School principal Mark Hill, center, worked with students Reynardo Dixon, left, and Travonte Brown as part of the Kalamazoo Public School male mentoring program last year.

Pastor Jesse T. Herron of New Life said that two years ago he helped start a mentoring program at Spring Valley, and he was happy to have the opportunity to enlist some of his church members in this new effort.

“Many of our young men do not have role models at home,” Herron said. “Without role models, they might not be able to see the career they desire, and if they do not know about it they’ll never pursue it. Without vision, people perish. You have to give them options for different careers, and put different people in front of individuals. If they can see it, they can be it.”

(continued on page 3)

Sports Stars Derek Jeter, Nancy Lieberman Dedicate DreamCourt at Northeastern Elementary

A new basketball court on Kalamazoo’s Eastside is not just a place for kids to play ball but for them to build dreams and remember the dreams of others.

New York Yankees star and Kalamazoo Central alum Derek Jeter and Basketball Hall of Famer and two-time Olympian Nancy Lieberman were in Kalamazoo on Sept. 1 for the dedication of a new basketball court at Northeastern Elementary School.

The basketball court was built with the support of the Nancy Lieberman Foundation and Jeter’s Turn 2 Foundation.

The multi-use, outdoor basketball court will serve the entire community, especially those in programs run by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo.

At the dedication ceremony, Lieberman talked about her childhood: growing up poor, discovering her love of sports, and

(continued on page 4)

New York Yankees star and Kalamazoo Central graduate Derek Jeter spent several days in Kalamazoo in September for his Turn 2 Foundation activities, including the dedication of a new basketball court at Northeastern Elementary School.



FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL October 1

The next First Saturday @ KPL event

will be held at the

Kalamazoo Public Library, downtown,

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The Anniversary of 9/11 Helps Us Remember the Best of America

On 9/11, Dr. Rice gave the keynote address at the 15th annual memorial ceremony for 9/11 in Bronson Park. His remarks appear below.

Good afternoon. I want to thank the committee and its chair, Lorence Wenke, for their work on this important event. I particularly want to thank our first responders 15 years ago: our firefighters, our emergency medical technicians, our police officers. Fifteen years ago, they did a great job that day and in the ensuing days and weeks. We appreciated their work, commitment, and heroism then; we appreciate them today as well.

Every generation has its signature moments. For my parents and many of their generation, the signature moment of tragedy was President Kennedy's assassination. Ask people from their generation where they were when

Kennedy was killed, and they will likely recount vividly the details. For those in the next generation — our generation — the signature moment of tragedy was 9/11.

The cry "Never again" appears so simple in its meaning and yet resonates so differently for people around the world. To ensure "Never again," in whatever context, we need to remember.

And we remember through our unique lenses.

I remember as someone, who was born in New York City.

Who grew up in the Midwest — dare I say in Ohio? — but as someone who visited the city — The City — and my uncle who lived there many times when I was a boy and young man.



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Whose wife grew up for much of her childhood in the city.

Who, along with my wife, went to graduate school in the city.

Who returns to New York every year to see my mother-in-law and friends.

I remember as someone who was living almost 700 miles away from New York City — in Lansing — when 9/11 hit.

I remember a Lansing School District administrative meeting turned vigil when we received the first news.

I remember that we called every friend and family member in New York City over the next few days.

I remember the stories of those who, like my friends, saw the plane hit the second tower.

I remember the story of the person who saw, incredulously, the plane hit the first tower.

I remember the stories of

people walking home, from lower Manhattan, to Brooklyn, and the Bronx, and New Jersey.

I remember the stories of some who stayed in New York City that day.

I remember the stories of those who were never found.

I remember that my wife and I watched night after night of telecasts, in disbelief and profound sadness.

I remember her reaction the first time she saw the New York City skyline without the towers that had been there since her youth.

I remember thinking that the Empire State Building looked lonely and old, by itself as it were, in the skyline.

And I remember driving into the area of the bombing, eight months later, late at night, an unintended detour when we were back in the city and reliving in some sense the horror, literally a war scene still

in lower Manhattan.

I remember 2002, one year after 9/11, in patriotic Clifton, New Jersey, where I had become superintendent of schools.

I remember Valley Road, Clifton, from which you can see the New York City skyline, and from which residents saw the burning towers, 20 minutes from Midtown Manhattan.

I remember the Clifton firefighters, brothers, who responded with heroism at the scene....and who tragically died.

I remember the memorial service that first anniversary, and the rabbi, now dead, who eulogized the Clifton first responders who gave their lives in an effort to help others.

I remember thinking that we needed greater security in our schools there and was surprised when no one disagreed when we installed buzzer/intercom/ camera systems at

(continued on page 3)

First Saturday @KPL Saturday, October 1 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 October, we will collaborate with our host, WMU's McGinnis Reading Center!**



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The Anniversary of 9/11 Helps Us Remember the Best of America *(cont. from page 2)*

school entrances, locked school doors, and required people to be buzzed into the schools.

I remember increasing our police presence there.

Five years later, in 2007, I remember moving back to Michigan, to Kalamazoo....and thinking that, though 700 miles away from New York City, we needed to beef up our security here as well.

I remember the cameras that we installed, first in our high schools and on our buses in 2008, then in our middle schools in 2009 and 2010.

I remember the reaction of a few of our elementary school principals: were we really going to install buzzer/intercom/camera systems at the entrances of THEIR schools in THEIR neighborhoods? And yet, just a few weeks after Newtown in 2012, all of our schools had either had these systems put into place, or had their entrances physically re-routed through their offices.

I remember more and more schools and school districts taking similar measures, as new ultimately became normal.

Fifteen years after 9/11, we still have a very different routine at airports, again a new normal. I don't mind. My mom does, though. She laments the new normal; I concede it.

And yet.....

As profoundly tragic as 9/11 was, the events of that day and their aftermath have taught us certain lessons, lessons that we would never have wished to have learned but which we learned nonetheless, sadly, and which have been important to us as individuals and as a country in these turbulent times.

First, as a nation, we are stronger than any act or acts of terrorism. No event or events will so shake our country that we will give up those aspects of America that make our country the greatest nation on earth: the combination of freedom of speech, freedom of religion,

“As profoundly tragic as 9/11 was, the events of that day and their aftermath have taught us certain lessons ... which have been important to us as individuals and as a country in these turbulent times.”

freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom of petition, our First Amendment freedoms.

Second, 9/11 brought us together, in sadness but also in resoluteness, like nothing else in my lifetime has. World War I did it for our grandparents. World War II did it for our parents. Ironically, in our sorrow, 9/11 brought us together for several months as well. An outgroup threat, and particularly one so significant, can do that.

Third, no act of terrorism is great enough to make us give up the charity and the diversity, the brotherhood and the sisterhood, that make this country so special. We will not let 9/11, or any other act or acts of terror, drive us into insularity or isolationism or xenophobia. We are better than that. We are bigger than that. We are the greatest country in the world not in spite of our diversity, but in large measure because of it. And we will rise and respond, as a nation, to our better angels. As a country, we are better, bigger, wiser than that. And no, we will never forget, not simply 9/11, but the spirit of heroism.... and tolerance that make this country great.

KPS Expands Mentoring Program to Include Community Organizations *(cont. from page 1)*

The district-wide mentoring program began last year. Male employees within the district were asked to meet with groups of five students once a week during lunch, said Johnny Edwards, director of secondary education. Over the school year 141 male staff members met with 629 students during 2,822 weekly sessions.

Although the program last year was open to any male student, the district's efforts targeted African-American males, because they continue to lag behind all other student groups in the district in terms of graduation rates.

“There are a lot of needs across ethnic groups but the greatest need is among our African-American male students,” said KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. “This is a program to address those who have the greatest needs. To whom much is needed, much needs to be given. It's a riff off of Luke from the Bible.”

The district's overall graduation rate in 2015 was 71 percent. The rate for African-American females is at 77 percent, but the graduation rate for African-American males is only 52 percent.

“The trend we have in Kalamazoo is not unique,” Edwards said. “You'll find similar trends across the country and, by extension, across the state. Their graduation rate is substantially lower than their peers or any other cohort, namely African-American females and both caucasian males and females.”

While the focus was on academics and setting career goals, the mentoring sessions were mostly about building relationships that help the boys feel a connection to their schools and their communities, Edwards said.

Pastor Herron said that sometimes mentees come in a little suspect of the adults. “They wonder are you real? Do you really care? You have to work through those kinds of issues,” he said. “They do want to try you because they want to know if you really care and really want to listen. It takes time. It's not going to happen overnight.”

“It is an organic process as students feel more connected to their schools and begin to identify another person in the building with whom they have a relationship and can lean on for advice and help,” Edwards said.

“Just having another person who can be some version of an advocate for them in school makes a huge difference.”

With the success of the program, Rice developed a plan to expand the mentoring by reaching out to community members, including presentations to the Northside Ministerial Alliance and the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP. In addition to the new community mentors, the program will grow this year to include groups for female students. The district hopes the support of the churches is just the beginning of community involvement in the mentoring program.

“Ultimately we want the mentoring to focus on the students' goals, career aspirations, and the like. We want to try to help them see any career goal or job they want to have in the future all begins with education and ultimately a high school diploma,” Edwards said. “We want to connect their career goals and dreams to doing your best in school today.”

If your community organization is interested in joining the mentoring program, please contact Secondary Education at (269) 337-0168.



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Mobile Health Clinic Schedule for October

The Family Health Center has a mobile health clinic to serve Kalamazoo Public Schools students and their families. It provides physicals, immunizations, well-child visits, and other services. The clinic takes insurance and offers a sliding fee scale. Below is the clinic's schedule for October. For more information, go to fleckzoo.com. Appointments are available by calling (269) 349-2641 or by contacting the CIS coordinator at your school.

10/3 - Edison	10/6 - El Sol
10/4 - Milwood Elementary	10/7 - Parkwood-Upjohn
10/5 - Arcadia	10/10 - Prairie Ridge
	10/11 - Northglade
	10/12 - King-Westwood
	10/13 - Kalamazoo Central
	10/14 - Loy Norrix
	10/17 - Milwood Magnet
	10/18 - Hillside
	10/19 - Linden Grove
	10/20 - Maple Street
	10/21 - Lincoln
	10/24 - Northeastern
	10/25 - Washington
	10/26 - Woodward
	10/27 - Woods Lake
	10/28 - Spring Valley
	10/31 - Edison



Sports Stars Derek Jeter, Nancy Lieberman Dedicate DreamCourt at Northeastern Elementary *(cont. from page 1)*

honing her skills at Rucker Park in Harlem. She held fast to her dreams and encouraged the audience to do the same.

"I had nothing but I had everything," she said. "I had these guys who looked different from me but who believed in me. This dream, this DreamCourt with my partners, WorldVentures Foundation, is real meaningful to me. You can read on this piece of paper all the really nice things that have happened to me in my life. I'm just blessed to be a kid, a girl from New York that something special happened to and God blessed. Lift when you rise. When good things happen to you, take other people with you."

Her abilities eventually turned into a career as a college player at Old Dominion University, a two-time Olympian, a commentator for ESPN and Fox Sports, and now an assistant coach for the Sacramento Kings. Lieberman's foundation has been creating DreamCourts in socioeconomically challenged communities since 2010. The Kalamazoo location is her foun-



Basketball star and coach Nancy Lieberman spoke at the dedication of the DreamCourt at Northeastern.

ation's 30th basketball court.

"This DreamCourt is a tremendous thing for our foundation and a good moment for the community," Jeter said. "This is a place where not only the kids can come play ball but they can learn and grow, and they can develop friendships and they can achieve their goals."

Robert Ezelle, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club,

said "When you have something like this in the neighborhood and people have generously contributed to the betterment of a neighborhood, it only goes to build that neighborhood and the strengths of that neighborhood."

Ezelle will be retiring at the end of the year, and the Lieberman Foundation made a \$10,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Club in honor of his career.

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

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

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
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(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :
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Loy Norrix PeaceJam Students Have 'Life-Changing' Experiences in South Africa

This summer was an unforgettable experience for 16 Loy Norrix High School PeaceJam students, who traveled to South Africa for two weeks of volunteering and cultural exchange.

The students and advisor Sveri Stromstra May met Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, volunteered, and learned about South Africa's history of apartheid with trips to Soweto and Robben Island, where former South African President Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for his work to end apartheid.

"This whole experience during our visit in South Africa was totally awesome, but what impacted me the most was making connections and relationships with the Peacejammers all the way across the world. Seeing how they live and making connections with them is truly a life-changing experience that I will remember and value throughout my life," said senior Ella Cavey.

May said, "They really connected as Peacejammers when sharing the common goal of coming together to make our world a better, safer and more peaceful world."

PeaceJam is a community service organization that emphasizes peace building on a school, community, state, national and world level. May helped start the Great Lakes PeaceJam with funding from the Fetzer Institute and the Kellogg Foundation almost 15 years ago.

In addition to organizing about 35 service projects each year, the group has traveled to international PeaceJam meetings, and the group has hosted PeaceJam conferences in Kalamazoo.

The trip to South Africa came about after May made contact with Earl Mentor, the PeaceJam advisor in Cape Town earlier this year.

The Loy Norrix and South



Loy Norrix PeaceJam students and advisor Sveri Stromstra May met with Archbishop Desmond Tutu during their trip to South Africa.

African groups bonded over songs, games and activities in the community, which included volunteering at two preschools, cleaning up the beach and streets of Oceanview, and holding a community meeting for more than 100 township children.

Sophomores Ella Klute and Mia May said that volunteering at the preschools was a highlight of the visit. The children were filled with joy and that helped inspire the Norrix students to want to do more for the children in South Africa.

"These kids were the happiest I've seen when we returned, and you'd never expect

to see joy come from someone that almost has nothing," May said. "I'd like to help make their whole lives like that."

The students learned about South Africa's history of apartheid, and had the chance to meet with Lionel Davis, who was a prisoner on Robben Island at the same time as Nelson Mandela. The highlight of the trip for May was attending a church service led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu at St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town. At his request, the students had the opportunity to meet with the Nobel Prize winner and to have their picture taken with him.

"This trip has really opened

my eyes to the world around us and made real the struggles people face in South Africa and at home," said senior Maria Egloff.

Senior Lauren Cole added that the trip, "showed me that there are young people all over the world that just want to make a positive impact on their community and the world."

Mentor, the PeaceJam advisor in Cape Town, said, "Meeting the Loy Norrix group was an amazing experience. I have learned to share my innermost feelings with a group I have come to trust."

He praised the Loy Norrix program as extremely powerful, especially the beach clean-up project. He said he hopes to collaborate with the students in the future — perhaps even traveling to Michigan one day. May said she also hopes to continue the connection between the two groups, and she'd love to host her new South African friends.

"The two days with the Loy Norrix High School were the best days of my life," Mentor said. "I came to learn that we are all one and the same — human beings with the same dreams and aspirations in life. Thank you LNHS for a life-changing experience."



(Above) Loy Norrix senior Maria Egloff traveled with PeaceJam in South Africa. Here she volunteers with preschoolers.

(left) Joanna Yiu, Loy Norrix Class of 2016, worked with preschoolers on a PeaceJam trip to South Africa.

KPS Welcomes Three New Administrators to the District

Three new administrators have joined Kalamazoo Public Schools, and another seven administrators have moved to new positions within the district. Below, meet the new administrators and see who has changed roles in the district.

Linda Howard
Principal, Lincoln International Studies School

Howard said she decided to go into education because of her experience as a substitute teacher.

“When I began my career as a substitute teacher, I immediately became passionate about helping students to be successful, she said.”

That experience prompted her to go back to school to further her education and to obtain special certifications. It also gave her the drive to try to help build capacity among teachers.

“One of my favorite encounters with a student was helping that child to read. This



Linda Howard

particular student was not able to read and lacked confidence,” she said. “As I incorporated various strategies and worked closely with the parents, the student began to read. One day as I was walking to my car, one of the parents jumped out the car and ran up to me and gave me a hug thanking me for helping their child to read.”

Howard earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Wayne State University, and master’s degrees in education in special education, secondary education and education administration from Grand Canyon University. She has been in education for 12 years, and her experiences include working as a substitute teacher, special education teacher, literacy coach, technology and infrastructure grant coach, and adjunct instructor with Marygrove College.

As she starts her first year at Lincoln, some of her goals include promoting a positive school culture and climate, increasing student achievement and test scores, improving attendance, and decreasing behavior referrals.



Elizabeth Spaner

Elizabeth Spaner
Coordinator of Early Childhood Education

Spaner knew she was going to be a teacher from an early age.

“I decided to be a teacher when I was in seventh grade and nothing could change my mind,” she said. “Teaching preschool was one of my greatest experiences. I learned so much about the importance of building relationships with children and families. I kept in touch with several of my former students and even watched some of them shake President Obama’s hand when he delivered the 2010 commencement address at Kalamazoo Central High School.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in child development, she taught for Head Start. But, as much as she loved being in the classroom, she said she saw a need for change and had a desire to support teachers. She moved from teacher to education coordinator, supporting 11 classrooms. She earned a master’s degree in early childhood education, and she became director of Head Start in Kalamazoo County in 2012. She



Ramona Fletcher

joined the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency in 2013 and left her job there as early child specialist in July.

“One of my goals for this new school year is to get to know the amazing staff who teach in our PEEP classrooms and provide instructional support and leadership to all our classrooms, children, and families,” Spaner said. “I am humbled and honored to be a member of the powerhouse that is Kalamazoo Public Schools.”

Ramona Fletcher
Coordinator for Bilingual Education, ESL, and World Languages

Languages have always been a big part of Ramona Fletcher’s life.

“I remember sitting with my father at the kitchen table, while he was speaking and teaching me Croatian and Slovak, along with my grandmother teaching me poems and songs in French. I knew then that being a language teacher would be the natural career for me to pursue,” Fletcher said.

“What I have enjoyed the

most about being an educator are the students and families I have met and come to know along the way,” she said. “Each student I meet, every family I work with, helps me gain a new perspective and appreciation for cultural, linguistic and personal diversity.”

She earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education, with majors in French and Spanish, and a master’s degree in counseling and student personnel services administration.

She began her education career at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She also lived in Puerto Rico for 10 years, where she taught at a bilingual school and then joined the Department of Defense Schools. For the majority of her educational career she was a school counselor and guidance director with Osceola County Schools in Central Florida, working with students pre-K through 12. She eventually became a Spanish teacher at Parchment High School, her alma mater.

“I always knew I wanted to be a teacher,” she said. “I loved school and was amazed at the knowledge, kindness and patience of my teachers. I loved reading and was always excited to help others read as well.

Her goals for the new year include being of service to KPS families and to explore new ways to increase academic achievement.

“I will also, along with our amazing world language staff, be looking for ways to inspire even more students to explore the fascinating world of other languages, to include French, Spanish, Latin and new this year, Chinese.”



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Administrators who have taken new positions within the district:



Cindy Green
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning



Reuquiyah Saunders
Director of Special Education (Interim)



Nkenge Bergan
Director of Student Services (Interim)



Barry Smith
Administrator of Student Services



Janine VanStee
Coordinator of Special Education



Dylan Patterson
Kalamazoo Central Athletic Director



Greg Straka
Kalamazoo Central Assistant Principal

Linden Grove Eighth Graders Mentor Sixth Graders — And Both Benefit

When Linden Grove Middle School launched its student-to-student mentoring program, Where Everyone Belongs (WEB), the goal was to help ease the transition into middle school for sixth graders.

The program has indeed accomplished that. When sixth graders come into Linden Grove they are matched with eighth-grade students who can help them with everything from making friends to organizing their binders.

The school has seen decreases in the number of behavior referrals and improved academic achievement—not just among the sixth graders, but more significantly, among the eighth graders as well, said Courtney Eisler-Ward, a Spanish teacher who coordinates the WEB program at Linden Grove.

“The year we launched the program we expected to see significant changes, not just in academics but in office discipline referrals for sixth graders. We saw that, but what surprised us is that the program had more of an impact on eighth graders than sixth graders,” she said. “No other program gives you this bang for your buck in terms of keeping eighth graders in class, having kids be connected to school and making sure their grades are where they



WEB mentor Sierra Ward chooses students to participate in a getting-to-know-you activity at sixth-grade orientation at Linden Grove.

need to be as they move on to high school.”

During a recent sixth-grade orientation, parents headed to the library to meet with Principal Craig McCane, Eisler-Ward and other staff. The sixth graders went to the cafeteria where they participated in songs, getting-to-know-you games and small group sessions lead by art teacher Mandy Clearwaters, other staff, and the eighth-grade mentors.

There were relay races to pop balloons, which segued into a discussion about discovering

your own style, whether that may be in the way you pop balloons or how you act in school. There also were questions about whether a student would take \$10 right now or \$50 in 12 weeks? And then there were comparisons of those choices to one-time offers to join a sports team, and long-term goals such as getting good grades on a report card, which require a commitment of time and energy.

During the activities, the older students intermingled among the younger ones, sometimes cheering and singing, and

sometimes leading small-group discussions about how to handle middle school.

More than 175 students applied to be WEB mentors. From that group 80 were selected for the program, which includes several days of training in the summer. If you’re looking for a common denominator between the student mentors, it is this: They are kind, said Eisler-Ward.

“The only criteria is they have to be kind to kids and to grown-ups,” she said. Other than that the group includes mu-



Humberto Zamora, Linden Grove WEB mentor



Harmony Holt, Linden Grove WEB mentor

sicians, writers, athletes, video game players, and kids who just want to help. The mentors will keep an eye on the students, and they will respond to requests from teachers to help students they identify as needing support.

Two of this year’s mentors are Harmony Holt and Humberto Zamora.

Harmony said she always did well in school, so she didn’t need to take advantage of her student mentor, but she said she will be keeping her eye out for kids who might need help with organization and keeping up with their homework.

Humberto said he’s just looking forward to helping sixth graders with the transition to middle school. Sometimes it can be difficult, he said, to get used to multiple teachers and making new friends in a new school.

The transition can be tricky, but it can be managed, Eisler-Ward said. Kids can be easily overwhelmed by the larger school and getting used to multiple teachers, who are responsible for large groups of children. But through the WEB program, sixth graders and eighth graders alike can gain a degree of independence and self-esteem.

The goal for all of the students is simply this, she said: “We have to help them take ownership for their studentship.”

Kalamazoo Central’s Kiera Parkman Wins \$4,000 Scholarship from The Links

Kalamazoo Central graduate Kiera Parkman has been named the recipient of the 2016 Gloria R. Smith, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship. Parkman will use the \$4,000 scholarship at Oakland University in Rochester, where she will be studying accounting and finance.

Parkman is a 2016 K-Central honors graduate and a member of the National Honor Society. She won the Dr. Lewis Walker Award for Community Service and volunteered with

in the Black Arts Festival, New Year’s Fest, walks for the homeless and several other community and school service activities. She was president of her class for four years, publicity chair of the student leadership council, senior captain of the varsity basketball team, a member of the volleyball team, and homecoming queen.

She is the daughter of Sheila and Eric Parkman.

The scholarship is sponsored by the Kalamazoo Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Scholar.



Kiera Parkman, winner of the 2016 Gloria R. Smith, Ph.D., Memorial Scholarship from the Kalamazoo Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

VOTE NOV. 8

ELECT
LAUREN FREEDMAN



FOR TRUSTEE, KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

“As an educator of 42 years, I am running for Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education to work with parents, families, students, teachers, administrators, fellow board members and the wider Kalamazoo community to establish policies that make the KPS motto, “Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Time” a reality.”



Endorsed by:
-Kalamazoo County Democratic Party
-Marcy Peake, Former KPS School Board Trustee
-Don Cooney, City Commissioner
-Lisa Minnick, AAUP President
-Ron Crowell, retired WMU professor
-Heather LeDuc and April Zapata, Teachers
-Deanna Roland, WMU McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic
-Katrina Goodall, Coordinator of Pre-Internships, WMU.

website: lauren-freedman.ruck.us
email: lauren.freedman@wmich.edu



Celebrity Greeters Add Element of Fun and Excitement to the First Day of School

More than 100 community volunteers showed up at Kalamazoo Public Schools' 17 elementary schools to celebrate the start of the school year and to greet returning students.

For the 19th year, celebrity greeters clapped and sang and high-fived their way through the morning, making the first day of school festive and welcoming for students. The celebrity greeters included community volunteers and leaders who donated a few hours on the first day of school to provide students with a memorable start to the school year.

Thank you to the 2016 Celebrity Greeters:

Amanda Miller	Kathy Edlefsen	Patti Huiskamp
James Ritsema	Larry Schlack	Joann Yochim
Denise Posie	Linda Thompson	Paul Babladelis
John Brandon	TiAnna Harrison	Adrian Vazquez
Judge Alexander Lipsey	Mary Oudsema	Mary Balkema
Dr. Ming Li	Ramona Fletcher	Bill Caskey



Kalamazoo Township Supervisor Ronald Reid welcomes Lars Lagoni to Indian Prairie Elementary on the first day of school.

Rikki Saunders	Min. Morris Brooks
Alice Gordon	Gary Start
Sheriff Rick Fuller and deputies	Judy D'Arcangelis
Ronald Reid	Kevin King
Howard and Robin Robinson	Mary McCormick
Janine Van Stee	Erin Knott
Ken Greshak	Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Angela Justice	Dr. Terina Harvey
Sue Warner	Pam Kingery
Julie Rogers	Rep. Brandt Iden
Lauren Langwell	Elder Karen Moorman
Sheila Dorsey	Pastor Jesse Herron
Jim Hess	Tracie Hall
Rev. Doreen Gardner	Patty Smetana
Min. Keisha Gardner	Bob Jorth
Von Washington	Barry Smith
Bob Miller	Michael Evans
Pat Coles-Chalmers	John Dillworth
Willie Mae Pearson	Jennie Hill
Deb Newsome	Jack Urban
John Faul	Joe Barth
Patti Sholler-Barber	Rep. Jon Hoadley
Marcy Peake	Jeff Getting
Judge Curtis Bell	Pastor Ken Baker
Colleen Loc	Amy Terzino
Toni Daniels and Slappy	Dr. Martha Warfield
Sid Ellis	Carol Weber
Stephanie Moore	Belinda Tate
Dodie Raycraft	Dave Campbell
Melissa Best	Steve Springsdorf
Jeff Patton	Greg Ayers
Marc Schupan	Teresa Johnson
Rev. Bobette Hampton	Edie Trent
Cindy Green	Regina Miller
Remenyi Williams	Nkenge Bergan
Tracy Miller	Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Elyse Brey	Pam Roland
Mattie Jordan-Woods	Pastor Strick Strickland
	Mollie Peterson
	Members of Stones Church



Winchell Elementary students were greeted by Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting, A.J. Gretz of Third Christian Reformed Church, Kalamazoo Public Schools board member Dr. Martha Warfield, and State Rep. Jon Hoadley.



Fifth grader Azaria Thomas high fives members of Stones Church on the first day of the 2016 school year.



RE-ELECT
JENNIE HILL
FOR KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

**"I'm committed to helping ensure
the Promise of a bright future for all
Kalamazoo Public Schools students"**

Jennie Hill will work for continuing improvement in:

- High School graduation rates
- Early childhood literacy
- Adequate state funding
- Alternative education paths

Jennie Hill's history of community involvement:

- KPS School Board Trustee (2011-Present)
- Board member of local League of Women Voters
- Chair of LWV Voter Education Project
- Past PTO Co-president of Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School and Loy Norrix High School.

— VOTE NOVEMBER 8TH —

Paid for by Jennie Hill for KPS, 2330 Midvale Terrace, Kalamazoo MI. 49008.
Find me on Facebook or email jahill1231@yahoo.com.Treasurer, Tracy Steffler.

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Celebrity Greeters (cont. from page 8)



Zahir LaBarre accepts a pencil from Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Sgt. George Beuckelaere, who was one of the celebrity greeters at Indian Prairie Elementary School on Sept. 6. Zahir's mom Demecia LaBarre accompanied him.



Slappy from the K-Wings has a hug for Marie Carter, on the first day of school at Milwood Elementary School.



Kindergartener Elayne Seaman impressed all of the members of Stones Church with her spunk on the first day of school. Church members were celebrity greeters at Woodward School for Technology and Research.

Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Baked Apples

Hello Kalamazoo, welcome to October and National Farm to Schools Month. Please try out this recipe for family and friends. Enjoy! Best Regards, Chef Shaun



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

Ingredients

- 4 tart green apples
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Scoop out the core from the top of the apple, leaving a well. Do not cut all the way through. Stuff each apple with 2 tablespoons brown sugar and 1 tablespoon butter. Place

in a shallow baking dish and sprinkle with cinnamon.

3. Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes, until sugar begins to caramelize and apples are tender.

Yields: 4 servings

All About Tree Fruits

We've all heard of apples, pears, peaches, plums, nectarines and oranges. But did you know that pomegranates, coconut, star fruit, fig, and jackfruit are also in this category? In addition, nuts such as pistachios, pecans, and cashews are classified as tree fruits even though nutritionally they are very different.

As part of a healthy eating plan, between 1 and 2 cups of fruit are recommended every day. More active adolescents and adults should consume closer to 2 cups and younger children who don't need as many calories should consume slightly less at 1 cup. Tree fruits are naturally full of nutrients including fiber, antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals.

FALL HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

CHEMISTRY DAY

OCTOBER 8 | 12-4 PM | FREE

Area chemists come together to explore and solve mysteries through chemistry. Join us for experiments, demonstrations, hands-on activities, the chemistry of fibers and forensics, and your yearly favorites.

SAFE HALLOWEEN: HAUNTED HOUSES

OCTOBER 29 | 12-4 PM | FREE

Create a variety of items you would find in a haunted house, from cobwebs to dishes, brooms, and lanterns. Design ghosts, assemble bats and tombstones, and so much more.



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



KalamazooVALLEY
Museum
kalamazoomuseum.org
269.373.7990



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Kalamazoo Public Schools 2016 Retirees



Beth Belleville
MLK–Westwood



Madinah Edmonson
Phoenix High



Julie Ermatinger
Linden Grove



Sharon Ferrari
Parkwood–Upjohn



Denise Higginbotham
Winchell



Gertrude Johnson
Winchell



Mark Reid
Washington



Elois Renner-Lewis
Hillside



Sara Schoolmaster
Parkwood–Upjohn



Carol Stoeffler
Edison



Gail VanderWeele
Kalamazoo Central



Gary VanStrein
Facilities

Elect JESSE T. HERRON

Herron will work for you:

1. Build Early Childhood Education and Literacy
2. Continue To Improve Graduation Rates and Retention
3. Develop Pathways for Success for Students and their Families
4. Advance All Students Towards Post Secondary Education

Jesse Herron has lived in the Kalamazoo area for over 30 years; he is a community leader that has served with the Northside Ministerial Alliance for the last 14 years.

- Parent Engagement Director – Communities In Schools – Kalamazoo
- Kalamazoo Promise - Current Appeal Board Member – 3 years
- School Improvement Team Member – Washington Writers Academy KPS
- Host site for Lift Up-Through-Literacy KPS – 4 years
- BBA Degree Western Michigan University - Management
- MA Educational Leadership – Western Michigan University
- Married with four children that graduated from Kalamazoo Public Schools

For Kalamazoo Public School Board of Education

Paid for by committee to Elect Jesse T. Herron

2016 November 8th

NOT PICTURED		
Nancy Baca Milwood Elementary	Tina Garrett Prairie Ridge	Glenna Murphy Prairie Ridge
Ron Cooper Transportation	Philip Gomez Transportation	Kathie Nabors–Chenault Facilities Management
Cherri Corning Parkwood–Upjohn	Margaret Hunter Student Services	Maxine Pio Facilities Management
Richard Craig Edison, Indian Prairie, Lincoln	Theresa Jacobson Communications	Kathryn Seifert Winchell
Sheila Curry Milwood Elementary	Ann Kaskinen Kalamazoo Central	Diane Tucker Hillside
Donald Dillion III Spring Valley	Pamela Kiewiet Transportation	Pamela Ward Arcadia
John Foster Teaching and Learning Services	Dawn Moleski Food Services	

Photos courtesy of Anthony Dugal Photography

Lift Up Through Literacy offers parents of newborns through high schoolers an opportunity to learn and grow together through the use of hands-on literacy and numeracy strategies. Lift Up Through Literacy’s fall sessions begin Sept. 27 at nine locations throughout Kalamazoo. Grandparents, parents, and caregivers are encouraged to attend. Free books, a light meal, child care, and door prizes are offered each week. An end-of-session incentive is provided for parents who attend all eight weeks. Call (269) 337-0833 for locations, more information and to sign up.



Ballet Arts Ensemble

35 Years

Cathleen Huling, Artistic Director

Saturday, November 12
2 pm

Sunday, November 13
2 pm

Chenery Auditorium
Kalamazoo MI

Reserved Seats
\$12 to \$18

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.

*A Hansel and Gretel Tea
follows each performance.
Additional ticket required.*

Fresh flower bouquets by Schafer's Flowers
available at the door while supplies last.

Kalamazoo-area EFE Students Bring Home 8 Awards from UM Vehicle Design Contest

Kalamazoo-area students snagged eight awards for their efforts designing a fully-functional lightweight vehicle and a self-driving vehicle for the 2016 Innovative Vehicle Design Mobility Challenge Competition held in Ann Arbor.

The Education for Employment Drafting and Design Technology students competed in the Full Scale Innovative Design competition, taking first place in the Figure 8 event at 4.19 miles, presentation, and the Square One Award for overall excellence, and second place for engineering and craftsmanship. The EFE Electronics and Robotics class took first place in presentation, vehicle performance, and Brose Mechatronics for their work on a self-driving vehicle. They received second prize in design and innovation.

Both classes are housed at Kalamazoo Central High School.

The Drafting and Design students had to design, engineer and build a fully functional one-person vehicle, while taking into consideration elements such as safety, body styling, and driver comforts. A specific challenge for this year's competition was to make the vehicle as light as

possible. The team was coached by teacher Marvin Gage.

Jeremy Frey, Loy Norrix Class of 2016, drove the vehicle during the Figure 8 portion of the challenge.

"The car was amazing," Frey said. "The stability was reassuring, the steering was precise and the brake was very responsive. I felt confident after driving the Figure 8 competition the team and I had given it our all."

Loy Norrix junior Ben Holmes said, "After finishing the competition, it felt great, like if we were the first to win the Indy 500 — except at only 25 mph. It didn't matter if we won or lost; all that mattered was the feeling that we did it together as a team and gave it our best."

The Drafting and Design team consisted of Frey, Holmes, and Holmes' fellow K-Central students: Jackson Russcher, Frederick Miller, Cody Smith, Mohammed Mohmand, Mohamed Bzizi (2016), Tristan Hunt (2016) and Brandon Howard (2016). Assisting the team with welding was Mitch Taber, a K-Central graduate who is studying welding at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The members of the Electronics and Robotics team

from Kalamazoo Central were: Christopher Nguyen (2016), Karley Reed, Mitchell Stevens (2016), Sydnie Bodzianowski (2016), and John van den Hombergh. Other students from across the county also participated on the team.

This was the first year for EFE to compete in the autonomous vehicle competition — previously they helped the drafting and design team with their electronics.

Teacher Kenneth Briggs said the students used the body of a drivable child's toy car and installed it with a programmable controller. The students then programmed the car to complete several tasks, such as parallel parking, navigating a maze, driving in a straight line, and stopping if an object passed in front of it.

The students also had to outfit the vehicle with items such as a servo motor to control the steering, a gyro sensor to detect angular movement, distance sensors to measure how close it was to other objects, and a color sensor to monitor stoplights.

"It was great to see the kids do this together and work as a team," Briggs said.



Frederick Miller prepares to take the Kalamazoo EFE Full Scale Innovative Design vehicle for a spin in Ann Arbor.



Kalamazoo Central students Karley Reed, left, and Christopher Nguyen test the sensors on the self-driving vehicle before sending it into the random obstacle course.

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OCTOBER @ the library

FIRST SATURDAY

■ Saturday, October 1 / 2 pm / CEN / Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes!

STORYTIMES

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

EVENTS

Halloween fun events can be found at: KPL.gov/kids.

■ **1-2-3 Play with Me** / Mondays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 / 10:30 am / OSH / One month workshop for child development with children 1-3 years and their caregivers. Please Register. **R**

■ **Play and Learn** / Engage and play for early learning. For children 1-5 with caregiver.

Mondays, October 3, 10, 13, 24, 31 / 5:30-7 pm / EAS

Thursdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27 / 10:30 am-12 pm / EAS

■ **Storybook Character Election** / Ages 3-11 are called to vote for their favorite storybook character. Create a campaign poster, supporting commercials and more. Dates and times: KPL.gov/kids.

■ **Squirrels: Watch Their Tails and hear Their Tales** / Delicious snacks provided.

Tuesday, October 4 / 4:30 pm / POW

Thursday, October 13 / 4:30 pm / EAS

■ **Day of the Dead** / El Día de los Muertos! Make papel picado, and learn about this Mexican tradition of honoring our ancestors. Ages 6-11.

Wednesday, October 5 / 6:30 pm / WSQ

Tuesday, October 25 / 6:30 pm / OSH

■ **Zumba for Kids** / Zumba for different ages.

Wednesday, October 5 / 4:30 pm / POW / Ages 6-11

Friday, October 28 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Ages 4-8

■ **Oshtemo Fall Festival** / Saturday, October 8 / 1-4 pm / OSH / Drop in for activities and storytelling with local author Frances Kozlowski.



■ **Lord of the Gourd, Family** / Drop in, watch Pat Harrison return and carve up beautiful designs.

Tuesday, October 11 / 4-7 pm / OSH

Wednesday, October 12 / 3-6 pm / POW

Thursday, October 13 / 4-7 pm / CEN

Thursday, October 27 / 4:30 pm / CEN



■ **Little Scientists** / Monday, October 12 / 10:30 am / CEN / Registration required. **R**

■ **Wee Code** / Thursday, October 13 / 10:30 am / CEN / Coding for ages 3-6. Registration required. **R**

■ **Maker Mondays** / October 17 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Tinker, create, explore. Ages 6-11.

■ **Musical Storybooks, The Maestro Plays** / Story, craft, and performance with Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's string quartet. Ages 3-6.

Tuesday, October 18 / 9:30 & 10:30 am / CEN

Wednesday, October 19 / 9:30 & 10:30 am / CEN

Thursday, October 20 / 10:30 am / EAS

■ **Bats in the Library** / Thursday, October 20 / 4 pm / WSQ / Learn the truth about bats with the experts! Free ticket required. Family.

■ **KSO Carnival of the Animals** / Saturday, October 22 / 10:30 am & 12 pm / CEN / Explore animals through music! Registration required. All ages. **R**

■ **Ramona Quimby** / Saturdays, October 22, 29 / 1 pm / CEN / Three workshops with the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. Registration required. **R**

■ **Cinema Shorts** / Saturday, October 22 / 3 pm / Sesame Street presents *A Magical Halloween Adventure*. Registration required. **R**

■ **Monster House** / October 31 / 4 pm / POW / An "exciting and hilarious thrill-ride." Family.

TWEEN/TEEN EVENTS

■ **Teen's Top 10** / Want to read pre-published books and write book reviews? Join this! KPL.gov/teen-top-10.

■ **KPL Teen Volunteer Team** / Love the Library? Need volunteer hours? Join our team today!

■ **Letters to the Next President 2.0** / August 29-November 2 / All Locations / Gr. 5-12. Drop in and write a letter to the next POTUS.

■ **Disc Golf Club** / Monday, October 3, 10, 17, 24 / 4:30 pm / OSH / No experience necessary. Registration required. Gr. 5-12. **R**

■ **Tech Tuesday** / Tuesday, October 4 / 4:30 pm / This month's project is "LittleBits". Gr. 5-12.

■ **Breakdance with Kalamacrew** / Tuesday, October 4 / 6:30 pm / CEN / Learn some sweet moves from the crew!

■ **Code Lab** / Wednesdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26 / 4 pm / Teen Area / CEN / Different coding challenges posted every week, lets work on them together! Gr. 5-12.

■ **Zumba** / Saturdays, October 8, 15, 22 / 10:30 am / OSH / Get your Zumba on, Adults too! Gr. 5-12.

■ **Teen Read Week Celebration** / October 9-15 / All Locations / For every program attended during this week, overdue fines will be eliminated on one returned item. Drop-in! Gr. 5-12.

■ **Teen Book Club** / Tuesday, October 11 / 4:30 pm / POW / Pick up a book, read it, come back for discussion. Registration required. Gr. 5-12. **R**

■ **Speak It Forward Presents: Leading through Poetry** / Tuesdays, October 11, 25 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Youth poetry workshop. No expertise necessary. Registration required. Gr. 5-12. **R**

■ **Teen Mom Night** / Tuesday, October 11 / 6 pm / POW / Bring your babies for stories and crafts. We'll do hair and nails! Registration required. Gr. 9-12. **R**

■ **Meet the Author: Gary Schmidt** / Wednesday, October 12 / 6:30 pm / CEN / Meet the author of *Orbiting Jupiter*, and *The Wednesday Wars*.

■ **Crafternoon** / Drop in and make crafts with friends. Gr. 5-12.

Wednesday, October 19 / 4:30 pm / POW

Thursday, October 20 / 4:30 pm / EAS

■ **Maker Mondays** / October 24 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Create Candy Crafts! Gr. 5-12.

■ **SHARE Book Club** / Monday, October 24 / 6 pm / CEN / Stop by and pick up the new graphic novel *The Black Panther* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Registration required. Co-sponsored by SHARE. Gr. 5-12. **R**

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

kpl.gov/calendar



Kalamazoo
Public Library

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