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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m.
Administration Building

For more information call
(269) 337-1572.

No School

Nov. 4 – End of marking period
Nov. 10 and 11 – Grades K-5
attend a.m. only
Nov. 21 – Grades 9-12 attend
a.m. only
Nov. 22 – Grades 6-12 no
school, end of first trimester
Nov. 23 – Schools closed
Nov. 24-25 – Schools closed
for Thanksgiving recess

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A Wealth of Languages Equals a Wealth of Cultural Experiences in KPS

It might not be all that surprising to hear that Kalamazoo Public Schools serves children who speak Spanish, Chinese or Vietnamese. Or, to learn that the district also serves students whose first language is Arabic, Japanese or Swahili.

But the diversity of languages spoken in KPS goes far beyond those languages. The number of students coming into the district who speak another language is growing at a surprising pace.

In total, almost 1,459 students in the district speak one of 54 different languages, some of which may be familiar: Bulgarian, Danish, Dutch, Persian, French, and

Korean; and some of which you may never have heard of before, including Cebuano, Ga, and Igbo.

“KPS has a number of strong suits,” said KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. “Our diversity is among our greatest strengths. We value the tremendous range of experiences and backgrounds — ethnic, socioeconomic, religious, linguistic, and others — from which our children come.”

Ramona Fletcher, coordinator of bilingual, English as a Second Language, and world languages, said the diversity of languages in the district represents a unique learning experience for all students.

(continued on page 5)



Dawit and Helder (L to R) work on a translation exercise in Ryan LaBudda’s English as a Second Language class at Kalamazoo Central High School.

Milwood Elementary Re-Opens After Yearlong Construction and Remodeling Project

Joy Triumph couldn’t hide her enthusiasm for Milwood Elementary School’s new look.

The fourth-grader attended the community open house held in September to celebrate the school’s grand re-opening this fall.

“I think the new school is very cool and nice,” she gushed. “This is my first year and I am really excited!”

Everyone, from students to teachers to community members, is enjoying the new

look for Milwood.

The north wing of Milwood was built in the 1920s, and comprised almost half of the old structure. The north wing was demolished in 2015 as part of the building project. The south wing was built in 1949. In 2015 and 2016, the school district rebuilt the north wing and renovated the south wing at a cost of about \$5.5 million.

(continued on page 6)

The remodeled Milwood Elementary School includes a new library.



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

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KPS Enrollment Highest Since 1980

With more than 13,000 pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students, KPS is educating its largest number of students since 1980.

For the ninth time in 11 years, KPS has increased its kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment, this time by an expected 75 students, from 12,697 students last year to 12,772 students this year. KPS has grown by 2,455 students, or 24 percent, in grades K-12 in the last 11 years.

Including the 414 students in pre-kindergarten, we have more students than at any time in the last 36 years.

The tremendous growth of the last 11 years began with the Kalamazoo Promise. Introduced in November 2005, the Kalamazoo Promise generated the first increase in enrollment in the district since the early 1970s, an increase of 1,008 students in

2006. Enrollment grew by 150 students in 2007. In the last nine years, enrollment has grown by 1,297 students.

In the last several years, KPS has almost doubled its pre-kindergarten slots; quintupled the number of students receiving full-day kindergarten; increased student achievement in reading, writing, and math; more than doubled the number of students taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses; almost tripled the number of AP courses that students take; increased high school graduation rates; and raised college-going and college graduation rates as well.

Continued growth in KPS enrollment is consistent with



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

our continued improvement as a district. Every year, our staff and community improve our support for and education of children in the district. Every year, we continue to implement reforms and look forward to partnering with our community to progress additionally for kids.

In the last 11 years, KPS, now a leader in enrollment growth, has moved from the 24th largest to the 12th largest district in the state. Increases in KPS enrollment come at a time of declining birthrates, decreasing enrollment, and increased school choice and charters across the state, factors which make the increases all the more remarkable. Kalamazoo is one of the few urban districts in the state to have experienced net growth in the last decade.

KPS is a leader in another way as well. A recent MLive story noted that statewide, 23 percent

of students are enrolled in and educated outside of their home public school district, either in a neighboring public school district or in a charter school. For KPS, it is approximately half as much, only 12 percent.

Let's compare KPS to urban districts across the state in this area. Thirty percent of Muskegon students are educated outside their district, and 34 percent of Saginaw students are educated outside theirs. Here is a more complete list:

KPS	12 percent
Muskegon	30 percent
Saginaw	34 percent
Lansing	36 percent
Jackson	38 percent
Grand Rapids	39 percent
Battle Creek	47 percent
Detroit	60 percent
Benton Harbor	62 percent
Pontiac	64 percent
Flint	65 percent

A second MLive story on the same subject indicated that Kalamazoo County also had a very low percentage of students educated outside of their home public school districts relative to other counties in the state.

There are many reasons for this phenomenon. First, we have a number of countywide collaborations among the nine local school districts and the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency (KRESA). Among the many partnerships are Education for Employment (EFE), Education for the Arts (EFA), the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center (KAMSC), Early Middle College (EMC), YOU, dual enrollment, and MICareerQuest.

Second, the county has historically had few charter schools, in part because Western Michigan University's president (continued on page 3)

First Saturday @ KPL Saturday, November 5 2-3:30 pm, CEN

Take your family to the library the first Saturday of each month! Get your library card or pick out some books to check out. Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes. *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 November, we will collaborate with our host, WMU's Haenicke Institute for Global Education!**



Kalamazoo Public Schools

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- NAACP
- Northside Ministerial Alliance
- Parents for Public Schools of Greater Kalamazoo
- SW Michigan AEYC
- WMU Haenicke Institute for Global Education
- Western Michigan University Reading Clinic



Kalamazoo
Public Library

KPS Enrollment Highest Since 1980
(cont. from page 2)

at the time charter schools began in the state, Dr. Diether Haenicke, did not support the chartering of schools by Western, which he viewed — rightly — as a form of competition with local public schools. Subsequent Western presidents, including President Dr. John Dunn, have maintained a similar position.

Third, the Kalamazoo Promise helped to stabilize the largest and most diverse district in the county and one of the largest and most diverse in the state, KPS. Frequently in the state, the greater the diversity living in a district, the greater the percentage of students educated outside the district. This is less the case within KPS and Kalamazoo County than almost anywhere else in the state.

Fourth, KPS continues to improve each year. KRESA Superintendent Dave Campbell

told MLive, “If you look at the core data of most urban districts and Kalamazoo, you’ll see that graduation rates are going up and test scores are going up.”

With the hard, dedicated work of our educators and support staff and critical partnerships with organizations such as Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo Center for Youth and Community (Eastside Youth Strong), ISAAC, many faith-based organizations, and many other partner organizations, we improve what we do for children every year in Kalamazoo. Here’s to continued improvement on behalf of our children.

Mobile Health Clinic
Schedule for November

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 November. For more information, go to flickr-zoo.com. Appointments are available by calling (269) 349-2641 or by contacting the CIS coordinator at your school.

- 11/1 Arcadia
- 11/2 Woods Lake
- 11/3 Parkwood-Upjohn
- 11/7 King-Westwood
- 11/8 El Sol
- 11/9 Northglade
- 11/10 Kalamazoo Central
- 11/11 Loy Norrix
- 11/14 Greenwood
- 11/15 Hillside
- 11/16 Linden Grove
- 11/17 Maple Street
- 11/18 Milwood Magnet
- 11/21 Spring Valley
- 11/22 Lincoln
- 11/28 Woodward
- 11/29 Spring Valley
- 11/30 Arcadia



Promise Pathway to Success Looking
for Middle School Participants

The Kalamazoo Junior Girls Organization is looking for middle school girls for The Promise Pathway to Success program, which aims to prepare students to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise by develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed.

Pamela Roland, executive director of the Kalamazoo Junior Girls, said about 600 girls in sixth- through eighth-grade have participated in the program since it launched in 2011. This year she hopes to have another 100 girls attend the seven-week program.

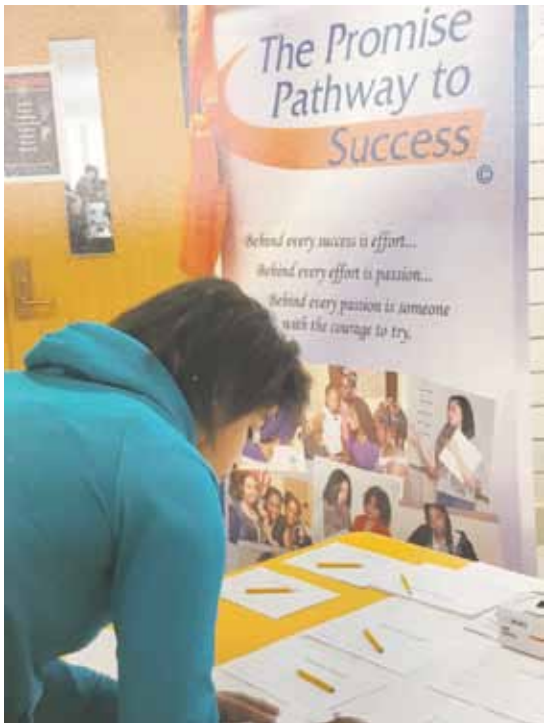
Twenty-five girls at each middle school, Hillside, Maple Street, Milwood Magnet and Linden Grove, will be accepted in the free program, which will run at two schools in the fall and two in the spring. The final schedule has yet to be set.

The girls meet in two-hour sessions once a week to discuss topics such as confidence, health awareness, dealing with bullying, mentoring, business and mapping an educational pathway.

“We’re teaching them all about character development,” Roland said. “We want them to make wise life decisions and to continue their education, so we want to prepare them to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise.”

Roland said they take a wide array of students, including girls who have been recommended by school personnel as well as those who sign up themselves. The program draws students with perfect grade point averages and those who are struggling.

“There is a lot of peer-to-peer influence,” Roland said. “They are holding in so much, they sometimes don’t realize their potential or what



Female middle school students can sign up for The Promise Pathway to Success at their schools through early November.

they can bring forth to make a difference in their lives.”

The Promise Pathway will hold an onsite registration at the middle schools. Girls can sign up during lunch, and then the program will mail applications to the homes. The program is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call the Kalamazoo Junior Girls at (269) 344-2330, or call the school office for applications. Applications are due by Nov. 7.



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K-Central, Loy Norrix Use Crosstown Game to Raise Cancer Awareness

Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix high school football teams used their crosstown rivalry to help raise cancer awareness.

When the teams played each other Sept. 9. at Loy Norrix, a statement about cancer awareness was read before the national anthem, and Loy Norrix alums and pro football players T.J. and Tico Duckett spoke to the crowds at half-time.

“We are honored to have the privilege of joining other ‘ambassadors’ while amplifying cancer action with our fellow Loy Norrix Knights, during the crosstown rivalry,” said T.J. and Tico Duckett in a press statement. “Both played at Norrix and Michigan State University. T.J. Duckett played for the Atlanta Falcons, Washington Redskins, Detroit Lions, and the Seattle Seahawks. Tico Duckett was a star player for MSU holding the record for rushing yardage during his college career before going on to play for the Redskins.

We chose a time such as this

because of the anticipated large attendance and the potential for the greatest impact amongst our alma mater's community members," they said. "Our own mother, Jackie Barham, would have celebrated more birthdays if there was a cure for cancer. This is just one way that we can honor her memory,"

Barham would have celebrated her 70th birthday this year.

Loy Norrix wore teal jerseys to represent ovarian cancer, which is what Barham suffered from, while Central wore pink which represents breast cancer. The jerseys were donated by the Ducketts.

The crosstown event was organized by Terri Benton-Ollie and the KC football boosters. The evening also served to kick off a series of cancer awareness events planned at each school.

The game has special meaning for at least three members of the Kalamazoo Central team: Ontario Burnett lost his grandfather to

prostate cancer; Shannon Atkins Jr.'s grandmother died of breast cancer; and Vincent Coakley's grandmother succumbed to lung cancer. For these three seniors, the game is not just a crosstown rivalry but about raising awareness of a disease that has dramatically impacted their lives.

“My grandfather was a father figure to me,” Burnett said. “He was one of the few guys who saw something in me. He just told me to keep strong with everything. I’m surprised how many of my fellow teammates have had people who have had cancer. It makes me feel like we’re family even more because of that fight.”

Coakley said he still misses his grandmother's faith and generosity. "You never realize how much cancer touches people until you're at something like this, and Mrs. Ollie asks everyone to raise their hand if cancer has touched your family. It's crazy how we can have so many high-tech things, but we still can't find a way to get rid of cancer."



The seniors on the Kalamazoo Central varsity football team pose with the pink jerseys they wore to raise cancer awareness during their Sept. 9 game versus Loy Norrix. Norrix wore teal in honor of ovarian cancer patients.

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Kalamazoo Public Schools welcomes all students and staff of any religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability.

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

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

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

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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A Wealth of Languages Equals a Wealth of Cultural Experiences in KPS (cont. from page 1)

“It is an opportunity for all of our students to be able to make friends with students from so many countries in the world of which they may have had no prior knowledge regarding geography, language, or culture. It assists our staff as well as our students in raising cultural awareness and respect.”

Recently, the district has seen a spike in students who speak other languages, Fletcher said. That is because the district has seen an influx of refugees, some of whom arrive with their families and some who have come as unaccompanied minors. Most of those individuals and families are sponsored by agencies such as Bethany Christian Services, she said.

Fifty students have joined the district since this summer. The district is working to ensure the students are attending the appropriate ESL centers, she said.

Perhaps nowhere is the influx of students more obvious than in Ryan LaBudda’s English as a Second Language class at Kalamazoo Central High School. Typically, he said, he sees classes with small numbers of English learners. This year, his first hour has 21 students.

That is the most he has seen since 2001.

“English learners are so interesting to work with,” LaBudda said. “They are so eager to learn. They really want to be successful and to perform well for all of their classroom teachers.”

On a recent October morning, LaBudda was explaining the concept of “commands,” and running the students through short sentences such as, “Please, raise your hand,” “Please raise your binder,” “Please point to the teacher.”

The students also practiced reading a bit of dialogue in small groups and then got up to speak in front of the class.

LaBudda is teaching the basics of language: grammar,



Students Habtom and Cantenuma (L to R) work on an assignment in Ryan LaBudda’s English as a Second Language class at Kalamazoo Central High School.

spelling, punctuation, and literacy, and he is also helping students to acculturate. He is modeling behavior and social skills with which they may not be familiar. These skills are not only necessary for them to

master as high school students but as potential workers, college students and responsible community members.

Labudda said he has tremendous respect for the students and some of the intense

challenges they’ve experienced, experiences that many American citizens may have difficulty imagining. For some of his students, they are coming to a community where, for the first time, they have hope, he said.

“I feel honored to be a part of their lives and their educational experience,” LaBudda said.

Their journeys have not been easy, Fletcher said. Many of the refugee children have lived in multiple refugee camps, in other countries. One Pakistani student, for instance, came to Kalamazoo from a camp in Malaysia. Some have never known life outside of the camps, she said. Refugee children are coming from Syria, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Kenya, Eritrea, and Congo, among other countries.

In LaBudda’s class, students bring a wide range of experiences.

Cantenuma, 16, came to Kalamazoo after the rest of his family had already moved here. They are originally from Guinea-Bissau in West Africa. He’s been here only a month, but understands enough English to say his original languages are Portuguese and Creole.

Dawit is an 18-year-old unaccompanied youth from Eritrea, where he lived with his grandparents and brother. He’s been in the United States for one year, spending nine months in Lawrence before moving to a group home in Kalamazoo. He said he likes his friends in school, soccer and basketball, and, someday, he’d like to go to college.

“Although these students may have difficulty in expressing themselves due to the language barriers they are working to overcome, they add a global richness and diversity to their classrooms and schools,” Fletcher said.

Rice added, “We are working to prepare our children for life in a global society and exposure to all forms of diversity helps our children in this regard.”

World Languages Spoken by Kalamazoo Public Schools Students

Akan, 3	Hindi, 4	Portuguese, 5
Amharic, 2	Hungarian, 4	Punjabi, 11
Arabic, 178	Igbo, 1	Rohingya, Rohinja, 1
Bamanakan, Banbara, 1	Indonesian, 4	Russian, 7
Bengali, 2	Italian, 1	Singhalese (Sinhala)
Bulgarian, 2	Japanese, 2	Spanish, 1,054
Burmese, 4	Khmer/Cambodian, 4	Swahili, 11
Cebuano, 1	Kinyarwanda, 12	Tagalog, 15
Chinese, 18	Kirundi (Rundi), 4	Tajiki, 4
Creole (English bases), 5	Korean, 1	Trgrigna, Beta Israel,
Czech, 2	Krio, 2	Tigray, Tigrinya, 2
Danish, 2	Lao, 6	Urdu, 6
Dutch, 4	Latvian, 2	Vietnamese, 9
Farsi/Persian, 3	Malay, 5	Wolof, 3
Finnish, 1	Ndebele (Zimbabwe), 3	Yoruba, 3
French, 15	Nepali, 5	
Ga, 1	Ngemba, 1	Total number of
German, 8	Norwegian, 1	students: 1,459
Gujarati, 4	Persian, 6	
Hebrew, 1	Polish, 1	54 languages

Milwood Elementary Re-opens After Yearlong Construction and Remodeling Project *(cont. from page 2)*

The school held a re-opening ceremony and community open house Sept. 12. At the open house, KPS Superintendent Michael F. Rice said, “I’d like to thank our community for its support of our children and our schools and in particular for the financial support that made possible the building of this new school.”

Principal Sara Glendenning said the new addition holds several popular features including a computer lab, music room, art room, and a new cafetorium with a stage. One highlight in the new wing is the new library and multimedia center, which has two-story windows that flood the space with light, and computers at the back of the room.

Students are also excited about the new lockers in the south wing.

The teachers are especially pleased with new furniture throughout the building, as well as new technology, such as interactive whiteboards, computers and classroom sound systems, Glendenning said.

“The kids just think the building is beautiful and they have a great school,” Glendenning said.



Four special ladies stopped by the grand re-opening of the remodeled Milwood Elementary on Monday. Friends (L to R) Char (Fessenden) Manion, Carolyn (Polderdyke) Overloop, JoAnn (Banker) Vrobel, and Carol (Buist) Butler attended Milwood from 1938 to 1948, kindergarten through ninth grade.

Four special guests attended the re-opening. Char (Fessenden) Manion, Carolyn (Polderdyke) Overloop, JoAnn (Banker) Vrobel, and Carol (Buist) Butler attended Milwood from 1938 to 1948, kindergarten through ninth grade. Overloop said the friends visited the school before the remodeling began to see their old haunt one more time.

They had a hard time sensing the old building in the new school, but that’s fine, they say, because they think the new building is

great for the students.

“It’s very nice, clean, airy and open,” Vrobel said. “I hope the kids have a good time here.”

Butler said she loved the new technology and the library. “It’s amazing,” she said. “This really didn’t resemble anything we knew.”

Milwood was a great place to go to school, Vrobel said, because of the friendly neighborhood feel. “We just all grew up together and stayed friends for years and years afterwards.”



Fourth-grader Joy Triumph is very excited about attending the remodeled Milwood Elementary School.



The new Milwood Elementary library has tall glass windows and lots of sun.

Parkwood-Upjohn Students Celebrate Summer Reading Accomplishments

Who likes to read? Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary students do!

Parkwood students who participated in the Kalamazoo Public Library Summer Reading program celebrated Sept. 16 by wearing their cool KPL prize T-shirts to school. Library assistant Amy Lehr organized the celebration. Below are the names of the children in the photo:

- Dylan Duguay
- She’Ron Wilborn
- Samuel Oberlee
- Adelaide Richards
- Teagan McCormick
- Maria Canfield

- Mara Nicolaescu
- Sydney Bennett
- Henry Deutsch
- Rashad Wilborn-Burkes
- Beatrice Richter
- Grace D’Arcangelis
- Tor Nelson
- Conrad Hansen
- Sara Rutgers
- Avery Kidd
- Owen Rayner
- Josephine Velo
- Carter Tuthill
- Max Sytsma
- Hailey Lowry
- Penelope Richter
- Jaydah Greer
- Samuel Fletcher
- David Grubaugh



More than 60 students at Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School successfully completed the Kalamazoo Public Library’s Summer Reading Program. They celebrated by wearing their reading program T-shirts and posing with the school “robot.”

- Emma Lowry
- Avalon Yarworth
- Ruby Brent
- Adelyn Thompson
- Avner Grubaugh
- Nia Yarworth
- Emerson Agnello
- Claudia Hansen
- Isabella Ring
- Jesse Ruelas
- Nolan Kiplinger
- Rishard Westervelt
- Charlotte Agnello
- Lucy Bennett
- Avey Cook
- Bjorn Nelson
- Alexander Estey
- Daisy Brady
- Spencer Duguay
- Eli Frazier
- Etta Poer
- Jayden Ruelas
- Asher Kimbrough
- Emory Kool
- Amanda Schultz
- Miles Lipsey
- Thomas Andrie
- Amelia Murphy
- Brayden Kidd
- Brandon Strom
- Lillian Wolhuis
- Tessa Hawthorne
- Avery Greer
- John Locke
- Emma Rayner
- Not pictured:
Bailey Nelson-Ort

Pinwheels for Peace Encourage the Community to Give Peace a Whirl

Peace was whirling around Linden Grove Middle School in a show of support for world peace on Sept. 21. That’s when students put up more than 800 handmade Pinwheels for Peace in honor of the International Day of Peace.

Pinwheels for Peace is a nonpolitical art installation project started in 2005 by art teachers Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan, of Coconut Creek, Fla., to help students express their feelings about what peace means in the world and in their lives.

Groups in more than 1,325 locations planted about 500,000 pinwheels in the first year. In 2015, on the 10th anniversary of the project, more than 4.5 million pinwheels were installed in 3,500 locations around the world, including the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Middle East, Africa and South America.

At Linden, the effort was organized for the second year by art teacher Mandy Clearwaters, who collaborated with the



Maxwell Chase and Marquis Brown work on making their pinwheels in Mandy Clearwaters’ art class.

school’s National Junior Honor Society advisors Gina Mahannah, James Spybrook and Julia Perry, and several other teachers, to create the colorful display. Clearwaters said it was a cross-curricular event including everyone from the Spanish teacher who had students use Spanish words on their pinwheels to the science teacher with an interest in wind turbines.



Connor Anspach and Madison Anspach have piles of pinwheels for Linden Grove’s Pinwheels for Peace.



Sarah Mughazy plants her Pinwheels for Peace outside of Linden Grove Middle School.

“I really enjoy working with the kids on this,” Clearwaters said. “They get excited to brainstorm about the connections that are being made with peace and how it relates to them personally, their families, the community and globally.”

“Also they simply love just creating and making the final product. It’s fun to see their faces when they’re flying them around the classroom and testing them out. And, they really like making

a difference.” The students decorated squares of paper with words and symbols of peace and then cut and folded them into the pinwheel shape that was attached to straw stems. The students stuck skewers into the ground and slid the straws over the skewers to plant them around the school grounds on International Day of Peace.

“The project looks really nice,” said Sierra Ward, an eighth

grader, who is a member of the NJHS. “I can see it’s bringing a lot of attention to our school. I just hope we’re going to celebrate peace and love today.”

Sixth-grader Andre Soisson said he thought the project was a nice way to get all of the students — and the community — focused on peace. “It gets people to have the same feelings. I think every school should do this because it’s pretty awesome.”

Other International Peace Day Activities

- At Northglade Montessori Magnet School, author Janet Heller visited the school to read and discuss her book, “How the Moon Regained Her Shape.” The story is based on Heller’s own experiences with bullies when she was growing up. She visited all of the classes at Northglade, and in addition to talking about her book, she worked with students on understanding and writing poetry.
- The Loy Norrix PeaceJam,

Link Crew, National Honor Society, and Feminist Club, joined the Kalamazoo Central Link Crew and National Honor Society, and the Phoenix High School Student Leaders for a Day of Peace program.

Students watched the documentary, “Children of the Light,” about the life of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his work to help end Apartheid and to get civil rights leader Nelson Mandela released from prison.



Attendance Matters

Did You Know? ... missing even two days per month puts students at significant increased risk of academic failure and eventual dropout? This includes excused and unexcused absences, and it is true for students across all grade levels, from K up to 12th grade. We need to work together—schools, families, and community members—to make sure all our children attend school and get there on time every day.

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

“HOME” MADE GIFTS

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Follow the Holiday Parade to the Museum to create gifts made from materials found in homes. Design from nature, building structures, and a wide variety of raw materials to create gifts for your loved ones. Celebrate and prepare for the holidays at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum!



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

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Four KPS Seniors Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Four Kalamazoo Public Schools students have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

The semifinalists from Loy Norrix High School are Samuel Ratliff, Ava Wood and Lachlan Woods. The semifinalist from Kalamazoo Central is Daniel Whitcomb.

Approximately 16,000 semifinalists were named in the 62nd annual competition and will have the opportunity to compete for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million. Juniors are entered into the program based on their scores on the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

About 90 percent of the semifinalists become finalists. To become a finalist, students or their schools must submit an application, in which they provide information about his or her academic record, participation in school



Samuel Ratliff

and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. Students must have an outstanding academic record, receive recommendations from a school official, write an essay and score well on the SAT.

About half of the finalists win National Merit Scholarships, which include National Merit



Lachlan Woods

Scholarships, corporate-sponsored scholarships and college-sponsored scholarships. Below are brief biographies of this year's KPS semifinalists:

Sam Ratliff, a senior at KAMSC and Loy Norrix, is a member of the National Honor Society as well as marching and jazz bands where he plays alto saxophone.

A KAMSC Computer Programing Code Warrior, American Chemical Society Scholarship finalist, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition contestant, and American Computer Science League Honoree, he's also worked as a KAMSC Summer Program Teaching Assistant.

Sam studies Uechi-Ryu at Kalamazoo's Okinawan Karate Academy and holds the rank of 2nd-degree black belt. Sam enjoys the complexities of progressive rock and jazz music (Rush, Yes, ELP, Coleman Hawkins, Snarky Puppy) and is a member of the Kalamazoo Academy of Rock as a saxophonist, vocalist and keyboardist.

He's enjoyed teachers at KPS and KAMSC who promote engaged classrooms and challenging ideas. He plans to study engineering, math or physics in college along with music.

Lachlan Woods is a senior at Loy Norrix High School and



Ava Wood

KAMSC. He is also currently dual enrolled at WMU. He participated in the Academically Talented Youth Program English program at Western Michigan University for three years and has completed seven AP classes to date.

He has played varsity tennis for four years and was the captain for the past two years. Lachlan joined the Norrix dive team last year earning a JV letter. He participated in forensics during his freshman year.

He is in the final stage of earning his Eagle Scout awaiting the board of review process.

He hopes to double major in college in a science and humanities as he is undecided on his career path.

Ava Wood is a senior at Loy Norrix High School and KAMSC. She has attained Code Warrior status as a member of the KAMSC Computer Science team. As part of the team, she represented KAMSC at the 2016 All-Star International Invitational and won first place at the 2016 Saginaw Valley ACM High School Programming Contest. She is a three-time KAMSC academic medallion winner.

This summer she completed a weeklong aeronautic engineering program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and she is a past scholarship winner for the Michigan Tech Women in



Daniel Whitcomb

Engineering camp.

She is a member of the Loy Norrix women's varsity soccer and golf teams, and the National Honor Society, and she is the teen advisory board president for Open Roads, a program which promotes social and educational skills through a bike building curriculum. She is a violinist and chamber music musician and a past member of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra. In her spare time, she has a YouTube channel that explores conspiracy theories.

Daniel Whitcomb is a third generation Maroon Giant. He has taken 10 AP classes, and is taking three more this year. He has also taken classes through WMU's Academically Talented Youth Program for five years. In his sophomore year, Daniel won first prize in the Kalamazoo Chapter of the American Chemical Society's Competitive Exam for high schoolers.

While at Kalamazoo Central, Daniel has participated in marching band, cross country, National Honor Society, forensics, and drama, playing Mr. Gilmer in KC's 2015 production of "To Kill A Mockingbird." He has also been involved in Boy Scouts of America, and has helped with many different ministries at Westwood United Methodist Church, including four work trips with the Appalachia Service Project.

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.



The Loy Norrix Child Care Center is place for learning and fun.

Extra-Credit Assignment Turns into a Thank You for a Favorite Teacher

Every year, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts social studies teacher Noah Coston allows his advanced sixth-grade world geography students to create their own extra-credit projects.

"Students often present on different countries they have visited, different cultural experiences they have had and/or different customs in their own families," Coston said. Students have presented on world cultures such as Latvia and Brazil, shared language lessons and introduced fellow students to activities such as cooking and capoeira, a Brazilian martial art.

Last school year, Abigayle Smith, who is now a seventh grader at Maple, asked if she could tell the class about her family's tradition of quilting.

"My grandma, (Marilyn Smith), she taught my dad how to quilt. All my aunts know how to quilt. My dad taught my mom (Laurie Smith)," Abigayle said. "Since my dad's sewing room has like everything, I used to go down there and help him do some quilts. He gave me a little sewing machine to practice on when I was younger."

Gary Smith said the tradition started with his mother about 35 years ago, and he picked up the art about 10 years after her.

"I learned how to sew back in high school but only took up quilting to produce a better bed cover that would be beautiful and last much longer than any bed topper you could buy in a store. Next thing I knew was I found quilting was fun and very relaxing," he said.

For her project, Abigayle and her father brought several quilts that they've made, told about the family tradition and shared the process of quilt-making with her classmates.

"I told them what quilting is and the different things you can do with a quilt and how

you start a quilt," Abigayle said. "After that, my dad and I went to the office so he could sign me out and we brought the quilts with us.

"The ladies in the office said it would be so cool if you made us a quilt. I thought about it for a few days, and I decided I wanted to make one for Mr. Coston. He's is one of my favorite teachers and he's a really great teacher."

Abigayle and Gary Smith returned to the class with plain white squares and invited students to use Sharpies to decorate the material with their names and drawings of things that help identify them, like soccer balls, musical notes or baseball bats. Then they gathered the squares and took them home, where they pieced the squares together over the summer, added a colorful border and quilted the wall hanging.

"My favorite part of

quilting is putting the quilt together, picking out the fabrics and seeing what goes together," she said. "It's all in your eyes and about what you think makes two colors or patterns go together.

"I like that when you quilt you can do anything you want. If you like something, you can put it into the quilt, so the quilt has meaning to it."

The Smiths spent about 50 hours on the quilt and presented Coston with the finished work in September. Coston said a number of his students have returned to the class to see the finished product. He plans to invite students back for a small celebration of the quilt.

"These lessons enliven our conversations," Coston said. "I like it when the students share things from their own culture. Each one of us has a culture that draws from different parts of the world, is brought to the States, and continues here."



Maple Street social studies teacher Noah Coston poses with Abigayle Smith in front of the quilt that Abigayle and her family made for Coston's classroom.



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Paid for by the CTE Mary Balkema County Treasurer,
1131 Whites Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Artists' Corner

The *Excelsior* is pleased to feature the impressive art of two students studying with Kalamazoo Central High School art teacher Rebecca Carter.



KCHS art teacher Rebecca Carter is sharing two portraits by students Marisa Salinaz, 11th grade, and Jared Schuhardt, 12th grade. The students took selfies and turned them into high-contrast photos. The students then used the photos to create a contour line drawing. They finished their projects by creating a stencil to spray paint details on the image.

Elementary School Fall Conference Schedule

Arcadia	November 7	4:05–8:05 p.m.
	November 9	4:05–8:05 p.m.
	November 10	12:05–4:05 p.m.
Edison	November 7	3:30–7:30 p.m.
	November 9	3:30–7:30 p.m.
	November 10	11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
El Sol	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–8:00 p.m.
Greenwood	November 7	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:30–4:30 p.m.
Indian Prairie	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–8:00 p.m.
King–Westwood	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–8:00 p.m.
Lincoln	November 7	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–4:00 p.m.
Milwood	November 7	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 8	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–4:00 p.m.
Northeastern	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–8:00 p.m.
Northglade	November 8	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–8:00 p.m.
Parkwood–Upjohn	November 9	4:30–8:30 p.m.
	November 10	12:30–8:30 p.m.
Prairie Ridge	November 7	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–4:00 p.m.
Spring Valley	November 9	4:30–8:30 p.m.
	November 10	12:30–8:30 p.m.
Washington	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–8:00 p.m.
Winchell	November 7	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 9	4:00–8:00 p.m.
	November 10	12:00–4:00 p.m.
Woods Lake	November 9	4:30–8:30 p.m.
	November 10	12:30–8:30 p.m.
Woodward	November 9	3:30–7:30 p.m.
	November 10	11:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

Kalamazoo Public Schools

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Hiemstra Optical Donates School Supplies — And Eye Exams and Glasses to KPS Students

You won't see the bulk of Hiemstra Optical's Stuff the Bus donations in the boxes filled with backpacks, pencils and paper — and there are boxes and boxes of those school supplies.

But a lot of children will see more clearly thanks to Hiemstra's generosity. As part of their back to school supply drive, the eyeglass and optometry office along with several business partners, donated in-kind eye exams, frames and lenses worth about \$60,000 to Kalamazoo Public Schools students. The gift certificates for the exams and glasses are being given to Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, which will distribute them among students.

This is the third year that Hiemstra has organized a Stuff the Bus event.

"We were really just looking for a way to give back," said Sandra Dee, the project



Alex Lee, left, executive director of communications for Kalamazoo Public Schools, accepts a check for \$500 and thousands of items from the Hiemstra Optical Stuff the Bus event. Presenting the check are Sandra Dee, project coordinator, and Todd Totzke, vice president of Hiemstra Optical.

coordinator. "Every year we hold a back-to-school frame show for kids and we wanted to incorporate that in a community event. We came up with the school supply drive, and it has grown from there."

Hiemstra has five locations. They set up collection boxes at each store and at locations in the community, but Dee said that

while some people offer supplies most provide cash donations. She and several other employees take the donations, this year totalling about \$7,500, and go shopping for students in all of the communities they serve.

"We just enjoy doing it," Dee said. "We love being a partner with the community and the schools."

KPH Employee Association Members "Stuff the Office" with Supplies for KPS Students

Some people stuff the bus, but at the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital workers decided to Stuff the Office with school supplies.

Sharon Brown, Deanna

Bush, and Dori Hampton, members of the KPH Employee Association, delivered boxes of backpacks, crayons, notebooks, markers, tissues, hand sanitizer, pens, binders, glue sticks, rulers,

scissors, erasers, and other supplies to El Sol Elementary School in September.

Brown said a supervisor gave the association the use of an empty office for the activity. For two weeks employees went shopping and brought in everything from stickers to pencils for the school.

"Everyone had fun shopping," Brown said. "Most of us don't have young children any more, and it was fun to buy these things. We want to do it again, but start earlier the next time."

The KPHEA is an employee group that recently reorganized. In addition to providing support for employees, "we are starting to reach out. We want to give back to our community," says Brown.



El Sol principal Heather Grisales, left, accepts donations from Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital Employee Association members Sharon Brown, Deanna Bush, and Dori Hampton.

Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Sweet Corn Pudding

Welcome to the holidays, Kalamazoo! Please enjoy this simple and sweet dish to accompany your Thanksgiving dinner or any event during this special time. As always, share with family and friends.
Best wishes, Chef Shaun



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

Ingredients

1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup brown sugar
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons table salt
6 large eggs
2 cups heavy cream
1/2 cup butter, melted
1 tablespoon cinnamon
6 cups fresh corn kernels (frozen whole kernel corn may be substituted)
Vegetable cooking spray

powder, and salt in a small bowl.

2. Whisk eggs together in a large bowl; whisk in cream, cinnamon, and melted butter.

3. Gradually add sugar mixture, whisking until smooth. Stir in corn. Pour mixture into a 13- x 9-inch baking dish, lightly greased with cooking spray.

4. Bake at 350° for 40 to 45 minutes or until mixture is golden and set. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Stir together sugar, flour, baking

LUCKY BEANS

Many people believe eating black-eyed peas will bring them luck for the New Year. This tradition may have been created around the time of the Civil War when the Union army left behind black-eyed peas for the Southerners. They were lucky because the beans helped them survive the winter.



NOVEMBER @ the library

FIRST SATURDAY

- Saturday, November 5 / 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

- **Day of the Dead Celebration** / Tuesday, November 1 / 5:30-7:30 pm / POW / Co-Sponsored by Despierta Kalamazoo and Hispanic American Council. Family.
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid Celebration** / Tuesday, November 1 / 6 pm / OSH / Celebrate the release of Book 11. All ages.
- **1-2-3 Play with me** / Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 / 10:30 am / CEN / One month workshop for child development with children 1-3 years and their caregivers. Please Register. **R**
- **Reading with Tucker** / Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30 / 4-5:30 pm / POW / A "pawsative" reading experience for the family. Registration required. **R**
- **Ramona Quimby** / Saturday, November 5 / 1 pm / Civic Auditorium / A workshop with the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. Registration required. **R**
- **Play and Learn** / Engage and play for early learning. For children 1-5 with caregiver.
Mondays, November 7, 14, 21, 28 / 5:30-7 pm / EAS
Thursdays, November 10, 17 / 10:30 am - 12 pm / EAS
- **Dream Catcher Craft** / Monday, November 7 / 4 pm / CEN / Make your own dream catcher. Ages 6-11. Registration required. **R**
- **Bookworms** / In November, we'll read *The Turtle of Oman* by Naomi Shihab Nye. Ages 6-11. Registration required. **R**
Tuesday, November 8 / 4:30 pm / OSH
- **Kamishibai** / Saturday, November 12 / 11 am / CEN / Japanese storytelling and origami art. Registration required. **R**

- **Creating a Culture of Reading Literacy Event** / Monday, November 14 / 5:30-7:30 pm / EAS / Crafts, food, and a literacy obstacle course. Free book to take home. Family.

- **Wee Code** / Thursday, November 17 / 10:30 am / CEN / Coding for ages 3-6. Registration required. **R**

- **Meet the Author: Naomi Shihab Nye** / Thursday, November 17 / 6:30-8 pm / CEN / Free event. Family. Open to the public. Doors open at 6 pm.

- **Zumba for Kids** / Thursday, November 17 / 4:30 pm / EAS / Zumba for ages 6-11.

- **International Games Day @ KPL** / Saturday, November 19 / 11-4 pm / CEN / Read, learn, play. Join gamers from around the world!

- **Harvest Crafts** / Drop in and create some harvest themed crafts during open hours. Family.

Monday, November 21 / 10 am-8 pm / OSH

Tuesday, November 22 / 12-8 pm / OSH

- **Thanksgiving Craft** / Drop in and create some Thanksgiving themed crafts. All ages.

Monday, November 21 / 1-6 pm / EAS

Tuesday, November 22 / 1-6 pm / POW

- **Cinema Shorts** / Friday, November 25 / 3 pm / Winnie the Pooh Seasons of Giving. Registration required. **R**

TWEEN/TEEN EVENTS

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

- **Tech Tuesday** / Tuesday, November 1 / 4:30 pm / This month's project is "Ozobots". Gr. 5-12.

- **Teen Book Club** / Tuesday, November 8 / 4:30 pm / POW / Pick up a book, read it, come back for discussion. Gr. 5-12. Registration required. **R**

- **Speak It Forward Presents: Leading through Poetry** / Tuesdays, November 8, 22 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Youth poetry workshop. No expertise necessary. Gr. 5-12. Registration required. **R**

- **Pizza & Pages** / Thursday, November 10 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Habibi or 19 Varieties of Gazelle by Naomi Shihab Nye, our visiting author! Gr. 6-12.

- **Teen Advisory Board** / Monday, November 14 / 4:30 pm / CEN & OSH / Play games, test out new services for teens. Gr. 6-12. Register online. **R**

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

Wednesday, November 16 / 4:30 pm / POW

Thursday, November 17 / 4:30 pm / EAS

- **International Games Day** / Saturday, November 19 / 1-3 pm / CEN / Join gamers from around the world! Gr. 5-12.

- **J-Pop Club** / Monday, November 21 / 4:30 pm / CEN / If you love Japanese pop culture, then you'll love this.

- **Jewelry Making with Meg Tang** / Monday, November 28 / 6 pm / OSH / All materials provided. Registration required. **R**

- **Meet the Author: Naomi Shihab Nye** / Thursday, November 17 / 6:30-8 pm / CEN / Free event. Family. Open to the public. Doors open at 6 pm.

- **Game On** / From the newest favorite video games to old classics, it's an afternoon of strategy, skill, and fun. Sign-up to play! Gr. 5-12.

Monday, November 7 / 4:30-6 pm / POW

Tuesday, November 8 / 4:30-6 pm / EAS

Wednesday, November 30 / 4:30-6 pm / CEN



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

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 (WSO)
1244 Portage St.
553-7970

kpl.gov/calendar



Kalamazoo
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