



KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

November 2019

Our commitment to excellence and equity for all, transforms lives and prepares all students for success.

Kentwood STEM Events Strengthen Learning

KPS students are exploring how science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are present in almost everything we do! Throughout the year, community and employee partners have brought unique experiences into the classroom to teach students about various careers in STEM.



In September, the fifth-grade students at Southwood, Townline, and Bowen gathered together to engage in STEM activities. Several local companies shared stories and information about careers in math, science and technology. Each elementary school in Kentwood is scheduled for a STEM activity day.

STEM events provide opportunities for students to think critically and collaboratively in a unique environment.

The topics were exciting both to the presenters and to the participants. KPS students learned about DNA extraction, forensic investigations, wind tunnels, recycling, and autonomous vehicles. In addition, there were special discussions around the computer coding that occurs with robots, drones, spherical robots, reptiles and birds!

Thanks to our community partners who gave of their time and resources, as students engaged with the GVSU Engineering Department, Kent County Recycling Center, Kent ISD, a GRCC biology professor and her students, Gordon Food Service, Kentwood Reptile Club/Class, Jim Swoboda, and Kent District Library.



"It's inspiring to see our students exploring the many ways STEM is present in our world," said Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff.

"By engaging STEM skills early, learning is increased and students are better prepared for future careers," said Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff.

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Tennis Team Qualifies for State Tournament for First Time in Ten Years

EKHS Varsity Boys' Tennis team beat the odds this year, making it to the state finals for the first time since 2009. After winning four invitational events, placing fourth in their conference, and tying for second at regionals, the team rose to the top and competed at state finals.

In addition to going to state, head coach Duy Tran, was named Regional Coach of the Year.

"It's great to see us all come together to accomplish what we've been working for this year."

- Aidan Lutz

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Excellence and Equity in Education

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

Phone: 616 455-4400 Fax: 616 455-4476

In October, the fifth graders at Glenwood and Discovery had the opportunity to learn from similar presenters as well as Children’s Hospital of Michigan (Emily McKenzie) and Elzinga & Volker.

Community partners will visit both Challenger and Endeavor Elementary later this fall for their own STEM events. Special thanks to Nancy McKenzie for organizing each of these events.

During STEM events students experience real world learning opportunities and solve problems that require hands-on involvement.



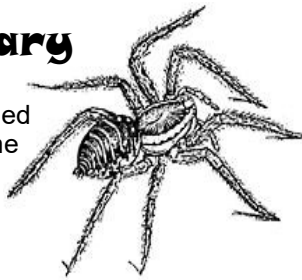
Giving students unique opportunities outside the regular classroom setting, expands their minds to a range of possibilities for their futures. Students become exposed to careers they may not learn about until much later.

KPS is committed to providing students with an education of excellence by

creating interactive real-world learning experiences. With the help of a supportive community and staff, KPS continues to see students shine through their talents and achievements.

Spider Week in Discovery’s Library

The read-alouds were spider-themed and then some real tarantulas came to visit. If you see Carl Warfield, thank him for lending us his friends.



Discovery Zone Garden

Discovery students were delighted to find a garden in the Discovery Zone behind the school. The Discovery Zone was created by Discovery staff and parents who planted various trees and plants that are native to Michigan. The garden is a new addition made possible by Discovery’s custodian Mike Mahon. The planters were made by a former Discovery student Spencer Cahill, who created them as part of his Eagle Scout project.



“Many of the players on the team are seniors, and have played varsity tennis for four consecutive years. They've put in the hours, and their hard work is finally paying off,” said JV Coach Nate LaBelle.



Senior Buck Baillie mentioned they have risen all the way from “finishing dead last in the conference three years ago.”

Senior Nathan Murray, talked about how life-changing the season has been. “To see where we started and where we are now is nothing but surreal.”

The Division 1 Boys Tennis State Finals took place October 18-19 in Midland. EKHS finished 13th of 24 teams and was the highest placing Division 1 school from West Michigan.

St. Mark’s Lutheran is a generous partner of Hamilton ECC

Friends from St. Mark’s Lutheran Church recently presented teachers their annual gift of “Teacher Baskets.” These baskets are full of classroom supplies, snacks, wiper, cups and plates, tissues, paper towels, and much more.

Hamilton Honey Bees are so very grateful for the support of our staff and students!

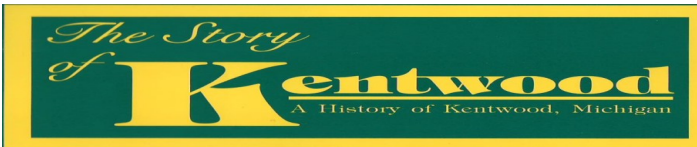


Rotary Club Gives a Book to Hamilton ECC



A representative from the Rotary Club recently donated a signed copy of the book *Polar Bear, Polar Bear* to Hamilton ECC as part of their “Special Speaker Series.”

Thank you for supporting reading at Hamilton.



The Grange in Paris Township

Shortly after the Civil War ended, an organization was started called the Patrons of Husbandry, referred to more commonly as the Grange. The Grange was formed to include people of all ages who were interested in farming. It was envisioned that every farming community in the country would have a branch of the Grange. It was to be a place where husbands, wives, and children could get together to discuss their common concerns, as well as to enjoy social and recreational events. In Paris Township (later the City of Kentwood), three Granges were initially formed in 1873. These three Granges merged to form a single organization - the Paris Grange. The Paris Grange served as a social center for many local residents through the Depression years and into the 1930s, until it was destroyed in a fire on January 7, 1938. The new Paris Grange was rebuilt at the southwest corner of Breton and 28th Street and was dedicated on September 2, 1938.



From The Story of Kentwood

Plow Painting Project



Ms. DeMilner's art class, from the Freshman Campus, painted our snow plow to be more than just a machine. It is now a work of art as you can see by the photos.



Alex Albrecht - Class of 2003 - was recently promoted to a Major in the US Marine Corps. He is now a pilot for the CH-53 helicopter.



Alex gave credit for his hard work ethic to his coaches at EK, Rick Smith and Dave Emeott. Alex has received many awards and graduated at the top of his class.

Congratulations Alex. Thank you for your service to the country and for representing KPS in such a positive manner.

Alex's proud mom is Debbie Albrecht, bus driver for KPS.

Zachary Earle Performs with the Grand Rapids Symphony!

Yes, you read that right!! Our own senior at EK, Zachary Earle was asked by the GR Symphony Orchestra to perform the Swan by Camille Saint-Saens on his cello. He did a great job and was an amazing representative for KPS.



EKHS Teacher Brings Science to Life With Pets



Students in Carl Warfield's class better get comfortable because they're studying, learning, and working among snakes, spiders, and lizards. "We do a lot of research. I've been in this class about two years, so I'm a leader here. So we take care of everything in this classroom," said EK senior Taylor.

Mr. Warfield has been teaching for 23 years. He started bringing live animals into his classroom about 20 years ago. It started with two animals; now there are dozens. "I did not envision this growing to this, but it was just a way to say, 'Hey, science is alive,'" Warfield explained. Feeding and caring for the animals falls to the students who know they have something special inside room 216. Warfield knows that hands-on learning works and the District is on board and supporting him.

Personal Curriculum Notice

The State of Michigan and Kentwood Public Schools have identified specific high school courses and credit requirements that students must complete before the school district can award a Michigan high school diploma. However, we recognize that high school students come from a variety of backgrounds and have different interests. For this reason, students can be exempt from one or more of the graduation requirements through the use of a Personal Curriculum.

Parents, students, and/or teachers can request a Personal Curriculum for individual students who meet the State's criteria. The Personal Curriculum identifies areas that can be modified to meet the unique needs and interests of the student as they progress towards earning a diploma.

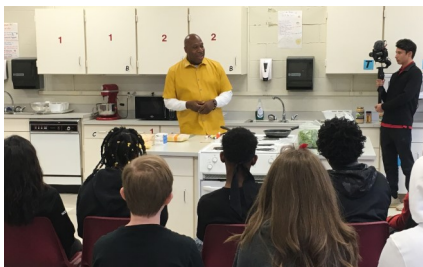
If you would like to know more about Personal Curriculum options, please contact one of our high school guidance counselors.



Private Chef Chefdeey Visits EK

EKHS had a special visitor from the class of 1979. Chris Daniel, also known as Chefdeey, is a celebrity chef and nutritionist who has cooked for many celebrities including NBA stars Chauncy Billups and Carmello Anthony.

Chefdeey is currently the private chef for Robert F. Smith, the billionaire who was recently in the news for his \$34 million gift to pay off student loans at HBCA Morehouse College.



Chefdeey shared his story of how growing up in Kentwood helped him create a growth mindset and fueled his determination to never give up on his dream. Chefdeey spoke to the diversity in KPS and shared with the students that diversity is the key to creating experiences that will serve them well later in life. Chefdeey talked with students in Ms. Nicole Dykstra's Foods 1 classes while preparing a meal for them.

Dana Viernes - Class of 1989

EK grad Dana Viernes is working on some new initiatives in Seattle, WA. The company is called Haiku, and they make women's bags out of recycled plastic bottles.

If you would like to know more about this exciting endeavor, check out the website at https://haikubags.com/pro_purchase.



KENTWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE 2019 - 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

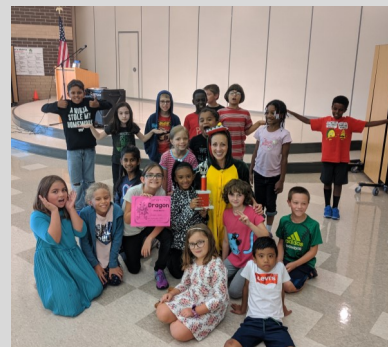
The meetings of the Kentwood Board of Education will be held at **6:30 p.m.** in the Board Room at the Administration Offices, 5820 Eastern Avenue, S.E. on the following dates:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Mon, November 18, 2019 | Mon, December 9, 2019 |
| Mon, January 13, 2020 | Mon, January 27, 2020 |
| Mon, February 10, 2020 | Mon, February 24, 2020 |
| Mon, March 9, 2020 | Mon, March 23, 2020 |
| Mon, April 20, 2020 | Mon, May 11, 2020 |
| Mon, June 11, 2020 | Mon, June 22, 2020 |

Note: Official minutes of the Board of Education meetings are available no later than five business days following Board approval and available during business hours at the Administration Office.

Discovery Dragons Celebrate the Start of School

Discovery students celebrated an excellent start to the new school year with a fun-filled assembly held on Friday,



September 13. The format was impressive, the excitement was high, the energy flowing, and the vibe smooth. A lot of laughter, clapping, and praising each other occurred.

“Pre-Game” began with a staff and student dance-party entrance as kids were seated. This was followed by a brief introduction from Mr. Westra with a review of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) expectations, including students answering questions on what it looks like to ROAR at Discovery.

“Game-On” included a rowdy and entertaining minute-to-win-it game for some staff and a student from each classroom. “Post-Game” brought the group back together for a sing-along of the school song. Then students exited with another dance-party.

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One Pencil Program

Hamilton ECC is grateful to Lake Michigan Credit Union.

They provided bags of classroom supplies to the staff. LMCU is committed to helping local teachers empower the next generation of leaders. They value and appreciate the time and energy the teachers invest into students, classrooms, and lessons.



Special Education and Child Find Process



Child Find activities are provided by Kentwood Public Schools to assure we meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). IDEA requires identification and evaluation of all children (0-25) residing

in the State of Michigan who are suspected of having a disability that may affect their educational performance and who are in need of special education and/or related services. This includes children with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the State, and children with disabilities attending private schools regardless of the severity of their disability. If you feel your child may have a disability that prohibits him/her from succeeding educationally, please contact your child's building administrator or the Special Education Office at 616 554-3980.

Class Reunion - Class of 1969

July 20, 2019 proved to be a night to remember for Kentwood High School's class of 1969. Class members celebrated their 50th reunion in style at the elegant, newly renovated Tassel Ranch. This ranch was the former childhood home of classmate David Bottrall and is now known as Venue 3 two.

Approximately 140 classmates from thirteen states gathered to make the night a resounding success. Kentwood's Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff kicked off the evening with an inspiring video presentation, recounting the story of Kentwood's evolution to the place of unparalleled diversity and academic excellence that it is today. Fifty years later, we feel even more proud to be Kentwood Falcon alumni!!

Challenger Elementary Recognized by the Michigan Department of Education

Challenger Elementary was recently recognized in the Michigan Department of Education newsletter for "Professional and Ethical Test Administration Practices."

Each year, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) observes assessment administrations to help ensure the security and integrity of the State's assessments. After their audit and visit to Challenger last spring, the OEAA recognized the staff for displaying professional and ethical test administration practices during their WIDA assessment.

Thank you Challenger staff and the Student Services Department for representing KPS in such a positive manner.



Check out the Athletic Department's new website
EKSports.org

People won't have time for you, if you are always angry or complaining.

- Stephen Hawking



Walk This Way—Pedestrian Safety

A pedestrian is injured every eight minutes, and 12 pedestrians are killed every day.

Avoid being a pedestrian statistic by following these tips:

Be Visible

Wear bright colors during daytime hours.
Wear light-colored or reflective clothing at night.

Stay Alert—Avoid Distractions

Devices down, head up.
Listen; take your earbuds out.
Look right, left and right again, and continue looking across the street.
Make eye contact with the driver.

Follow the Rules

Cross at intersections.
Follow signs and signals.

Walk in Safe Places

Use the sidewalk.
If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic, as far away from vehicles as possible.
Stay in well-lit areas.
Watch out for cars backing up in driveways and parking lots.

Questions about injury prevention? Please contact us at 616.391.7233 or injuryprevention@helendevoschildrens.org

EK Senior Pride with Mayor Kepley

Kentwood's Mayor Kepley joined the annual Homecoming Powder Puff football game. It was a great day to be an East Kentwood Falcon. For those who are interested ... the senior girls won the battle.



School Closing / Delay Information



Whenever conditions warrant the closing of school, parents are asked to monitor the local television and radio stations beginning at 6:00 am. Every attempt is made to have the information broadcast no later than 6:30 am.

**If school is cancelled, all practices and rehearsals are also cancelled. A decision will be made by 1:00 pm regarding sporting events and evening programs.

**There is no transportation to other districts.

**Childcare is provided for already participating families in the Early Childhood Programs.

**Parents should listen to local radio and television stations: B93.7, WGRD AM & FM, WGUW, WKLQ, WLAV AM & FM, WOOD TV-8, WXMI TV-17, WWMT TV-3, and WZZM TV-13.

**We also post the closing information on the Kentwood Public Schools Facebook page and the Kentwoodps.org web site.

In the event of a two-hour delay:

** Busses will pick up students two hours after their normal time.

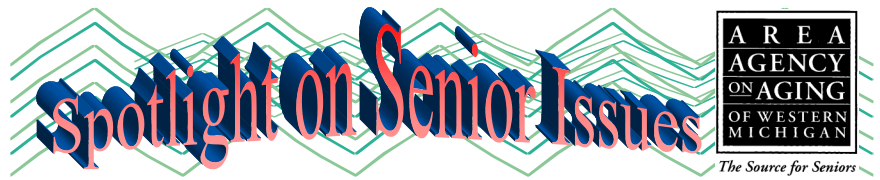
** Breakfast will be served two hours after the normal time.

**School will begin two hours after the normal start of school.

** First session of KCTC classes will be cancelled. Second session will begin at the normal time.

** Childcare is provided for already participating families in the Early Childhood Programs.

** A decision will be made by 1:00 pm regarding after school events.



Holding Steady- Steps You Can Take to Prevent Falls

By Emily Armstrong

As we get older, the chance of suffering a fall increases, in fact according to the National Council on Aging (NCOA) 1 in 4 Americans aged 65+, falls each year. Relying on your body to catch you and keep you steady and then losing this ability, can be a serious downfall to your mobility and morale. Sometimes the fear of falling can be such an all-consuming worry that you may start retreating from doing the things you used to love. However, just because you are noticing a drop in your confidence, movement levels, and strength, does not mean that you can't improve upon these things and live a fulfilling life. The key to fall prevention is knowing *which* factors contribute to falls and how you can work to prevent them.

Find a good balance and exercise program. This is vital because building up your body's flexibility, strength, and balance enables you to avoid falling in the first place and if you do happen to fall, you'll have the ability to get up safely. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan offers a variety of evidence-based fall prevention classes. Check out their website <https://www.aaawm.org/ha> or call (616) 588-2580 for more information.

Talk to your health care provider. It is helpful to go over your medical history and if you've experienced falls in the past, your provider has the ability to assess your risk level for a future fall and what can be addressed to lower this risk.

Regularly review your medications. Some medication's side effects can increase your risk of falling. You should take medications only as they are prescribed by your doctor.

Get your vision and hearing checked annually. Proper sight can help you avoid trip hazards and obstacles. Abnormalities in your inner ear can also negatively impact your balance.

Keep your home safe by removing hazards that are commonly overlooked, but easy to fix. A few things to look for: Do you have a clear pathway through your rooms? Look for rugs, cords and wires, and bulky furniture that may be in your way. Assess your stairs; if steps are uneven or broken this can cause you to fall, and make sure that your stairway is well-lit and has a handrail. In the kitchen, it is best if items are not kept on high shelves and that your step stool is sturdy if you must use it. In your bedroom, you should have a light close to the bed within easy reach, as well as a well-lit path to the bathroom. Lastly, your bathroom should have some sort of support for you to rely on when using the toilet and bathtub. If you have a slippery shower floor, add a non-slip rubber mat. All helpful things to keep your home safe!

Enlist the help of your family and friends. Let them know that you are worried about falling and would appreciate their help in making your home a safe space. Having their help will make the process less overwhelming for you. Often those around you are eager and willing to help, you just need to ask!

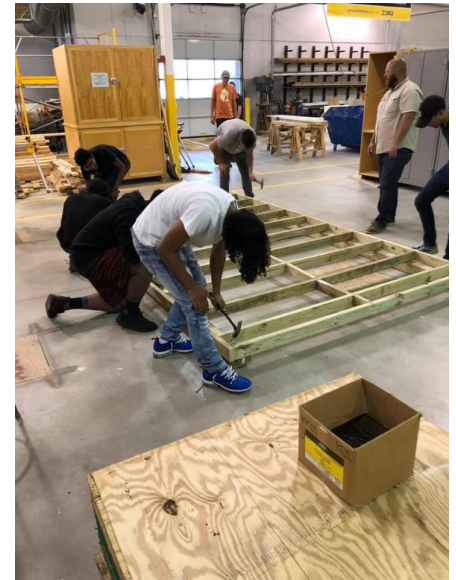
These six steps come together to help you avoid falls, so you can continue to do the things that you love. Getting older doesn't mean a loss of independence; it simply means adapting your environment to best fit your needs so that you can flourish. Be sure to use the resources around you; from your doctor to a family member or friend, to help you take these preventative measures. For more information, visit the National Council on Aging's website at www.ncoa.org.

Crossroads Alternative High School

Work Force Fridays

Every Friday this year, Crossroads seniors have an opportunity through the GRCC Jumpstart Program and Crossroads, to earn certifications in welding, construction, and healthcare, upon their graduation. The remaining Crossroads' students will be engaged in lessons designed around Career Technical Education (CTE) standards that may lead to future career interests.

GRCC Welding Program



GRCC Construction Program

Kent County Sheriffs Department

Crossroads Alternative High School students are one of the first to get a tour of the jail at the Kent County Sheriffs Department. Crossroads Safety Officer, Ms. Yolanda, helped to arrange a behind-the-scenes tour with Sergeant Hernandez.



Students toured the main areas of the jail and were told the basic procedures of getting booked in and how inmates are placed in different classifications depending on the charge. This was a great way for students to learn about a career in the corrections field. Sgt. Hernandez also had three trustees speak with the students about how their choices affect their life and the lives of those who love them. He encouraged all the students to stay in school and to think before they act. It was a very well-rounded visit. Great job representing Crossroads!

ARCH @ Crossroads

Students started a wood working project at Crossroads. Students learned how to use an electric sander as a first step in creating a life-size set of Jenga. On future Mondays, students will stain and brand the game pieces with a Crossroads ARCH logo made by the students. Students learned how to use a miter saw, measure wood, and accurately cut lumber. At first, students were apprehensive about the intimidating blade, but by the end of the day, everyone was confidently and safely cutting wood.



Kentwood Board of Education
KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
5820 EASTERN AVENUE SE
KENTWOOD, MI 49508

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO.278

Public Skating
Admission: \$5.00
Sat. & Sun. 1:00-3:00 pm
Skate Rental: \$2.00



The Kentwood Ice Arena is proud to announce a partnership with Fox Motors Hockey. Fox Motors Hockey will serve as the Youth Hockey Association in Kentwood and the south Kent County area. Fox Motors Hockey will offer youth programs from Learn-to-Skate to travel hockey. For more information please visit our website: www.kentwoodicearena.com.

KIDS Program launch

Cost is \$5.00 for four-weeks of skating classes - including skate rental - for all elementary and middle school students.

EK hockey begins at home on Nov. 18 - Kalamazoo Blades at 8:00 pm

Crestwood ARCH Students Weave Baskets

Crestwood ARCH students were able to participate in a basket weaving experience. The Dreamweavers Guild was brought in to teach the students how to weave with bamboo. First the bamboo had to be soaked and then it was woven together to create a finished product. Students were able to create a basket and some ambitious students also made an ornament using their weaving skills.



ARCH Students Learn About Public Works and Related Jobs

Kentwood ARCH students are involved in a pilot course that involves a partnership between the after-school ARCH program, the City of Kentwood Department of Public Works, and Grand Rapids Community College. Students will spend two afternoons per week learning about public works and related jobs. By the end of the school year, they will have had 400 hours of instruction. Students will earn certifica-

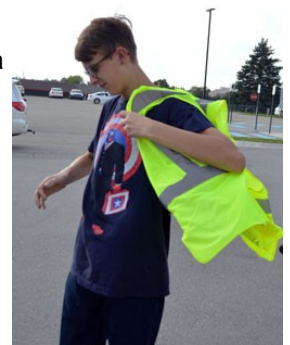


Baruti Mbilika adjusts a sign.

tions, including flagger certification, along with hands-on experience in the field.

“At the end of the year, they have a list of things they are really excited about and they are employable right away,” said Cade Wilson, ARCH coordinator.

City of Kentwood DPW Director John Gorney said the program is similar to the GRCC Public Works Academy, but geared toward high school students, which weaves in two years of public works knowledge. Having those basics, plus credentials is huge, he said.



Sophomore Reilly Hosteter tries on a safety vest.

