



SCHOOL TALK

This is your staff newsletter. Please send news items to Chris Weeks | cweeks@sau29.org

Dates to Remember:

- April 19 – 23 – Spring Vacation/No School
- May 9 – Mother's Day
- June 11 – KHS Graduation, 6 p.m. Alumni Field
- June 15 – Last day of school (tentative, pending freakish NE weather!)

KHS

Apr. 1 – 27 End of Winter Art show featuring KHS student work on the 2nd floor of the Colony Mill Marketplace

- Apr. 14 – Third quarter report card mailed out/Freshman English classes to the Colonial Theatre's Romeo and Juliet
- April 14 –24 - Student exchange trip to France
- Apr. 14 – 23 - Student trip to London and Paris
- Apr. 15 & 16 – Earth Day celebration
- Apr. 15 – 24 – Student trip to Greece
- Apr. 15 – 24 – Student biology trip to Belize
- Apr. 17 – May 1 - AP Art Show at The Starving Artist – opening reception from 3 – 5 p.m. on the 17th.
- May 6 – 8 – 2010 Nostalgia 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium
- May 7 – Staff appreciation breakfast
- May 13 – 14 – NH Allstate Art Festival, Manchester, NH – Juniors Laura Damato and Carly Shaw were accepted and will participate
- June 4 – 13 – Art Walk downtown Keene, KHS student art will be displayed

Senior Activities

- Apr. 16 – Art Scholarship applications due.
- May 22 – Prom at KSC Zorn Dining Commons from 8 – 12 midnight
- June 2 – Cheshire Career Center Awards Night
- June 3 – Special Recognition Night
- June 6 - Baccalaureate
- June 8 – Senior picnic
- June 9 – Senior Awards Night
- June 10 – Salmagundi Yearbook Assembly
- June 11 Graduation at 6 p.m., Alumni Field weather permitting (Purbeck Gym alternate site)
- June 11 – Project Graduation 9 p.m. – 6 a.m. June 12

CCC

- Apr. 16 – **CCC Preschoolers participate in March of Dimes Wonder Walk** from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the KHS track. "Every year my Early Childhood Education students are actively involved with the March of Dimes Monadnock March. We have been the top fundraising team for three years, we are the largest team of walkers and we all volunteer countless hours to help make the day of the walk a success. (The March of Dimes Mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.) This year in addition to our team participating in the Monadnock March we are also hosting the Wonder Walk for our preschoolers," said preschool teacher Jen Antosiewicz.
- May 10 – Culinary Arts students field trip to Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI
- On March 13, horticulture students hosted an **FFA Arbor Challenge** consisting of knot tying demonstrations, equipment identification, installation of climbing systems, and the calculation of weight loads.
- The **First Robotics** Club participated in the Granite State Regional FIRST competition March 3 - 5 at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester. Nine students were on the team and they placed 38th with a 5-4-1 record.

KMS

- 8th grade English Language Arts teacher **Dominic DiBenedetto** received the **NELMS** (New England League of Middle Schools) "**Promising Practitioner**" Award last week at the NELMS annual conference in Providence, Rhode Island. "Mentioned in the

presentation were my efforts to work with students to make class engaging, fun and meaningful," DiBenedetto said. He was nominated by two fellow teachers Jen Wilson-Tucker and Marianne Lavatori as well as a prior student and parent. The award is given to teachers with three years or less of experience who enjoy teaching middle school students, who make a positive difference in their school, seek professional development and implement the ideas contained in those experiences, foster community connections and strive to meet the needs of individual students using effective middle level practices.

- Apr. 14 – Drama Club to Colonial Theatre to see the Acting Company's Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare's tragic play of two star-crossed lovers.
- April 15 – 19 – 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.
- Apr. 26 – Guiding Good Choices workshop from 6 – 8 p.m.
- April 27 – KMS Parent Group meets at 1 p.m. in conference room
- Apr. 29 – KMS Parent Group meets at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room
- The 7th grade art club raised \$40 for Angelboy Art
- Homeroom 207 held a bake sale on April 8 and 9 to raise money to sponsor walkers in the Community Kitchen's Walk to Fight Hunger.
- Cluster A will participate in Read to Feed during the month of May to benefit Heifer International. Students will be sponsored for reading books. All money raised will be sent to Heifer for the purchase of an animal to be sent to a developing country.

Daniels

- Apr. 12 - Grade 4 Water Fair/JDA meeting at 6:15 p.m.
- Apr. 13 - School Spirit Day/Stuffed Animal Day
- Apr. 14 - School Spirit Day
- Apr. 15 - Math Beyond The Dots/School Spirit Day
- Apr. 16 - School Spirit Day/JDA Sock Ball, 6 -7 p.m.
- Apr. 17 - Grade 4 Water Fair
- Apr. 30 - JDA Spring Fling, 6 -7 p.m.
- May 6 - Grade 4 field trip to the Drinking Water Festival at the Keene Recreation Center
- May 7 - Spring Fundraiser Pick Up
- May 10 - JDA meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Franklin

- Apr. 13 - Popcorn/Pencil sale/Gr. K, 1, & 2 to the Colonial Theatre/Intramurals
- Apr. 14 - Cup Stacking SHINE/Tiger anti-bullying Program/Math Beyond the Dots/Student Council/PTC
- Apr. 16 - Math Mystery Club/All City Concert
- Apr. 27 - Stamping SHINE/Intramurals
- Apr. 28 - Cup Stacking SHINE/Math Beyond the Dots/Stamping SHINE/Student Council/PTC Margaritas fundraiser
- Apr. 29 - Stamping SHINE
- Apr. 30 - Math Mystery Club
- May 4 - Intramurals
- May 5 - Cup Stacking SHINE/Gr. 2 to Cheshire Career Center/Student Council
- May 6 - K2 Junior Achievement
- May 7 - Math Mystery Club
- May 11 - Intramurals/Popcorn/Pencil sale

Fuller

- **Kristie Quail** has been named **Guidance Counselor of the Year by the Big Brothers/Big Sisters** of Western NH. "Christie has shown unwavering dedication and devotion to students and has been a tremendous help in the matching process," BB/BS said. **(Continued on other side)**

The mission of the Keene School District is to provide students with the tools to become productive and responsible citizens in an ever-changing world.



BOARD NOTES

Informational Bulletin from the Superintendent's Office | cweeks@sau29.org

(Continued from previous page)

- Apr. 8 - WMUR meteorologist Josh Judge visited 5th grade to talk about weather
- Apr. 13 - K-2 to Colonial Theatre
- Apr. 14 - Jump Rope for Heart/Drama Club
- Apr. 15 - 5th graders who are studying about the American Revolution will travel to the Boston Freedom Trail where they will visit such historic spots as the Old North Church and Paul Revere's house/4th Grade Water Fair
- Apr. 16 - The Swamp Bat's Ribby will be visiting Fuller School to reward each child who participated in the Reading with Ribby program. Participating children will also receive a free pass to a Swamp Bats baseball game.
- Apr. 28 - Drama Club
- Apr. 30 - Spring pictures/4th grade to Concord State House
- May 5 - Middle School Show Choir/Drama Club
- May 6 - 4th grade to NH State Water Fair
- May 10 - NWEA testing starts

Symonds

- Apr. 13 - 16th - Annual Book Fair
- Apr. 14 - After school Homework Club/Parent & Child Open House
- Apr. 15 - All School Assembly for FoodPlay production
- Apr. 16 - Fourth grade to Concord State House
- Apr. 26 - Day One Assembly/After school Homework Club
- Apr. 27 - After school Homework Club/After school Chess Club
- April 28 - After school Homework Club/Drama Club performance of Where the Wild Things Are at 7p.m.
- Apr. 29 - Jeff Drake presentation to fifth grade parents
- May 1 - Symonds Community Garden's annual spring cleanup and plant sale at 9 a.m.
- May 3 - 7- 5210 Healthy Spirit Week!
- May 3 - After school Homework Club
- May 4 - Day One Assembly/After school Homework Club/After school Chess Club/5210 Evening Event at 6 p.m.
- May 5 - All School Assembly for KMS Show Choir Performance/After school Homework Club
- May 6 - Fourth grade to Keene Recreation Department
- May 10 - May 27 - Grade four NECAP testing
- May 10 - After school Homework Club

Wheelock

- Turtle Trotters running and walking club for boys and girls in grades 3-5 will be starting April 7th and meeting every Wednesday and Friday through May. We will be participating in the March for the Military 5K run-walk at KSC on May 1st.
- Apr. 14 - Fourth Grade Water Fair/PTA - BOGO Scholastic Book Fair 9 a.m. - 7 p.m./Turtle Trotters meets after school
- Apr. 16 - Turtle Trotters meets after school
- Apr. 27 - Mr. Gillard's fifth grade class visits the KHS Cheshire Center/BBBS and Staff yoga with Josephine Russell after school
- Apr. 28 - MBTD's meets before school/BBBS, Nature Club and Turtle Trotters meets after school
- Apr. 30 - Turtle Trotters meets after school
- May 4 - BBBS and Staff yoga with Josephine Russell after school
- May 5 - KMS Showchoir/Ms. Symonds third grade class visits Fuller school for Town Ball/BBBS, Nature Club and Turtle Trotters meets after school
- May 6 - Mrs. Sawyer's and Ms. Hannum's fourth grade classes visit the Drinking Water Festival
- May 7 - Turtle Trotters meets after school
- May 11 - BBBS and Staff yoga with Josephine Russell after school
- May 12 - BBBS, Nature Club and Turtle Trotters meets after school
- May 14 - Turtle Trotters meets after school

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This is a summary of the regular monthly meeting of the Keene Board of Education in the LGIA at KHS on Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

Overflow Crowd Weighs in on a Number of Issues

About 70 people crowded into the LGIA last night to weigh in on several controversial issues that were scheduled to come before the Board:

- restoring one elementary principal,
- adding a third section of 4th grade at Symonds School, and
- installing lights at Alumni Field.

All three proposals were overwhelmingly approved. In addition, the board restored the fifth grade world language program, funding for which had been added back into the budget by the voters at the First Session in February.

Twenty-three people took the opportunity to address the board during the first item on the agenda - public input.

A number of parents from Jonathan Daniels and Franklin Schools urged the board to restore the fifth elementary principal position so both schools would have their own principal.

Parents of third graders at Symonds spoke to the challenges posed by this year's class and said going from three to two sections would jeopardize their education due to the number of challenging students who need more individual attention.

Football coaches, parents and one student spoke in favor of putting lights at the football field so that the KHS Blackbirds could have Friday night games as do all other Class L schools. They argued that the move would improve attendance, school spirit and provide revenue from outside sporting organizations such as the Monadnock Marauders. The board approved on a 6-3 vote to expend up to \$110,000 from this year's surplus to pay for the lighting project.

Board Approves \$38.6 Million Bond for KMS

After hearing from architect Frank Marinace, who said that the middle school can be built for less than the \$40,250,000 approved by the voters in March of 2009, the board approved "a total construction budget and related bond financing" for the new middle school and SAU building of \$38.6 million. In consultation with SAU 29 Business Administrator John Harper, Marinace feels that this amount will cover all expected costs including various contingencies such as added funds to pay for needed fill should the current archaeological dig preclude using fill from that area.

Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Sets Dates for Meetings and Forums

Chair Kristin Blais reported that the first meeting of the newly formed committee had gone well and that it has set a number of future meeting and forum dates. She urged all those who have a stake in the future of the elementary school system to participate:

- April 26 - Committee to meet at 4 p.m. in the LGIA at KHS
- May 6 - First Forum "Identifying Our Educational Priorities and core Beliefs - What Are Our Highest Priorities?" 4 p.m. LGIA
- May 10 - Committee meeting, 4 p.m., place TBD
- May 19 - 2nd Forum (topic to be determined), 4 p.m. LGIA

In other action:

- The board also approved the following expenditures from this year's expected surplus of expense funds:
 - \$273,000 to reconstruct and make safety improvements to the grandstands at Alumni Field
 - \$ 57,376 for purchase of KHS textbooks
 - \$30,000 to support the Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
 - \$8,971 for KMS Mathscares and Algebra modules
 - \$5,000 to contract with UNH for a KMS survey
 - \$5,000 to replace an elementary school piano
 - \$3,779 to purchase math instructional materials

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Keene Board of Education will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 in the LGIA at KHS.

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