



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- Apr. 13 – Elementary Band Concert, 6:45 p.m., KHS auditorium
- April 18 – 22 – Spring Vacation/No School
- April 18 - 26 – Passover

KHS

- Apr. 14 & 15 – **Earth Day celebrations**
- Apr. 14 – **Biology field trip to Belize**
- Apr. 15 – **Report cards** distributed
- Apr. 19 – 29 – **French exchange** students at KHS
- Apr. 25 – **Digital photography classes visits Raffelt Studio**
- Apr. 27 – **Digital media class to visit Bulldog Design**
- May 4 – 7 – **Social Skills and Life Skills classes to Disney World**
- May 5 – 7 – **2011 Nostalgia**, 7:30 p.m. in the KHS auditorium
- May 6 – **Wildlife Conservation Club trip to Ashuelot River**
- May 25 & 26 - **2011 State Art Festival** - The NHAAF is an educational program for talented high school juniors to be held at the NH Institute of Art in Manchester. The KHS Fine and Performing Arts Department nominated three students this year and all three were selected to participate: **Allison Gardner, Mariah Mitchell, and Luke Thurmond!**

• **12 KHS students taking Chinese language classes will be traveling to China this summer.** They are holding a **fundraiser at Hannaford Plaza Friendly's restaurant** through Friday April 15. E-mail Chinese language teacher **Zhou Ling** to get a voucher (lzhou@sau29.org). The group earns 20% of the bill toward their trip.

CCC

- Mar. 31 & Apr 1 - Early Childhood Education students attended the **Family, Career, Community Leaders of America** spring conference: **Sadie Elliott, Elizabeth Mooers, Molly Ferron, Larissa Patnode, Abby Thompson, Paige Conroy, Emily Filimonov, Naketa Adams, Amber Hagar, and Emily Solomonides.** Abby and Emily won a gold medal for their Healthy Snacks power point. They will **compete at the National Conference in Anaheim California in July.** Paige Conroy and Emily Filimonov won a silver medal for their State Display Getting the Word Out About FCCLA. Amber Hagar and Naketa Adams won a bronze medal for their project Focus on Children, an indoor soccer program. Our outgoing state officers Sadie Elliott and Elizabeth Mooers completed National Written Programs on our community service projects. They received a second and third in the state for these projects. The club received a traveling plaque for growth in membership. This is the first time the center's FCCLA club has gotten the award in its 30 year history. **Advisors** to the group are **Jane Graves** and **Tracey Jillson.**

- Apr. 14 – **Preschool Family dinner**
- Apr. 30 – May 4 – **DECA conference in Orlando, Florida**
- May 6 – **Culinary Arts class field trip to UNH**
- April 26 – the **NH Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health** will present to career center students on the basic tools to use to recognize unsafe working conditions to protect themselves.

KMS

- Apr. 14 – 8th graders leave on their **Washington, D.C. class trip**
- Apr. 26 – 29 – **Book Fair** in Room 110
- Apr. 28 – **Community Service Fair** from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the cafeteria
- May 5 – **Parent Group** meeting, 7-8 p.m., new middle school and building progress update
- May 6 – the **KMS jazz improv class** will hold an open concert/jam session at 3 p.m. in the band room. Open to all.
- Twenty nine KMS 7th and 8th graders were inducted into the newly formed **National Junior Honor Society** selected because of their dedication to scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship at a ceremony on March 23: 7th graders: **Holly Bendel, Jake Borden, Grace Cahill, Theresa Derry, Erin Hickey, Beatrice Hoffman, Emma Hoffman, Olivia Houston, Audrey Kintisch, Kaeleigh Lord, McKenzie Leach, Ella MacDonald, Kirsten Nichols, Catherine Sullivan, Reilly Sullivan, and Michael Varno.** 8th graders: **Abby Bond, Jacob Cohen, Samantha Cohen, Emma Kinitisch, Jessica LaVallee, Meghan Morris, Casey Osborne, Kris Olson, Natasha Riccio, Olivia Schrantz, Emelie Vandenberg, Tyrrell Vizcaino, and Will Welsh.** **Dominic DiBenedetto is the society**

adviser.

- **KMS Showchoir** will tour the Keene elementary schools all day on Thursday, April 28 and half day on Wednesday, May 4.
- Keene Middle School **Evolution Dance Team** will perform with the Keene High School Velocity Dance Team on May 6 at KMS. The event is facilitated by Mrs. Wendi Campbell at KMS, and by Traci Johnston at KHS. There will be two shows, one at 6 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. Dancers will have free tickets to distribute to interested persons. If anyone wants to attend but does not get a ticket from a dancer, he/she will need to request a (free) ticket from Wendi Campbell the final week of April.

Cluster B - Mrs. Lynch-Clason's sixth grade homeroom sponsored a bake sale in March. The group raised over \$90 for Fast Friends, a local greyhound rescue.

Cluster D students joined forces with the greater Keene Middle School community to raise more than \$800 towards the American Red Cross's Relief Fund for Japan. Students gathered to host bake sales, and went to homerooms every day for a week to collect donations from students and staff members. Everyone made a generous outpouring of support to help our friends in Japan. Our hearts go out to all Japanese families in the difficult days ahead.

Cluster E - Eighth grade Homeroom advisory 274, facilitated by Mrs. Perrotton, had a successful trail mix sale. The homeroom earned \$60, which will be donated to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. This camp is for children fighting cancer and other serious illnesses. The camp is located in Connecticut, but serves children from all over New England.

- Students of all grade levels are participating in creating fan brooches to benefit earthquake victims in Japan. The miniature works of art have brooch backings and can be worn on clothing. The fans are being sold by art club students to students and staff and will also be available in some stores downtown. We hope you can purchase one and show your support for the cause. Mrs. Nelken, Mrs. Meddaugh, Mrs. Perrotton, and Ms. Gallugi are facilitating this effort.

Daniels

- Apr. 13 - Keene Elementary Band Concert – KHS Auditorium – 6:45 p.m.
- Apr. 14 - Math Beyond The Dots
- Apr. 15 - Grades K thru 3 Board Games Club/Last Project Eye-To-Eye
- Apr. 18 - Spring Vacation Week Begins
- Apr. 22 - Earth Day
- Apr. 26 - Grade 2 Field Trip To Mariposa Museum
- Apr. 28 - KMS Show Choir Performance/Last Math Beyond The Dots Program
- Apr. 29 - Ribby Bookmarks Due/JDA Spring Fling
- May 4 - Ecology Camp Presentation/Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- May 6 - Grades K thru 3 Board Games Club
- May 8 - All-City Elementary Chorus Concert, Colonial Theatre, 4 p.m.
- May 9 - Grade 4 NECAP science testing/JDA Mtg., 6:15 p.m.

Franklin

- Franklin School 3rd grade students were featured in a **NPR** (National Public Radio) report on the **Amundsen-Scott Research Station at the South Pole.** The children in **Gail Woolridge's class** were reading about Shackleton's Antarctic adventure in their Houghton Mifflin reading series. Some of the students were able to listen to a report from NPR/PRI's *The World* program via an iPad stream about the work of a researcher at the station. Several of the students, **Roman Snegach, Julia Sapeta and Yuliya Subotskaya,** who work with English Language Lerner teacher **Morris Kimura** during a reading focused learning group, sent questions to **(School Talk 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

(School Talk continued from other side)

Freija Descamps, one of the of the arctic researchers. Lo and behold the school got a call from NPR asking if they could record and broadcast the students question on the radio. The broadcast was carried on NPR Mar. 30th.

- Apr. 13 - Gr 5 Harris Center/Elementary Band concert/PTC meeting/Math Beyond the Dots
- Apr. 14 - All School assembly with Ribby/Gr 2 to CCC
- Apr. 15 - Grade 4 Water Fair/Friday Activity Walk
- Apr. 26- Student Council
- Apr. 27 - Lend an Ear
- Apr. 28 - KMS Show Choir
- Apr. 29 - Friday Activity Walk
- May 3 - Student Council/Retired Teachers read
- May 5 - Plant Sale
- May 6 - Plant Sale
- May 8 - Strings Concert at the Colonial Theatre
- May 9 - PSNH visits Grade 3
- May 10 - Popcorn/Pencil sale

Fuller

- Apr. 12 - Grades 3-5 to Mathemagic at the Colonial Theater/Drama Club/Guiding Good Choices
- Apr. 13 - Math Beyond the Dots/Bus Evacuation
- Apr. 15 - Assembly
- Apr. 19 - Drama Club
- Apr. 30 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Apr. 26 - Drama Club/Guiding Good Choices
- Apr. 27 - Math Beyond the Dots/4th Grade to Concord State House
- Apr. 28 - KMS Choir Tour
- Apr 29 - Spring Pictures
- May 3 - Drama Club/Guiding Good Choices
- May 4 - Math Beyond the Dots
- May 6 - Walk/Jog/Run Fuller Event/3rd Grade Music Tour Assembly
- May 8 - Strings Concert at the Colonial Theatre
- May 10 - Drama Club/Guiding Good Choices
- May 11 - Math Beyond the Dots
- May 13 - FSA Candy Bingo Night

Symonds

- Apr. 13 - 5210 Club/Drama Club/Elementary Band Concert. 6:45 p.m.
- Apr. 14 - Grade Four Science Fair/Mrs. Stavseth's Presidential/First Lady speeches
- Apr. 15 - Day One Assembly/Bus Evacuation Drills/Kindergarten to walk to KHS Woodshop
- Apr. 26 - Chess Club
- Apr. 27 - 5210 Club/Drama Club/PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 28 - KMS Chorus Assembly
- May 2 - Day One Assembly/5210 Spirit Week Begins/Safe Routes to School Workshop
- May 3 - Chess Club/Grade 3 Town Ball/Safe Routes to School Workshop
- May 4 - Walk/Bike to School Day/5210 Club/Drama Club
- May 5 - Dance Residency Begins
- May 8 - All City Chorus Concert, 4 p.m./Strings Concert, Colonial, 7pm
- May 9 - PTA Meeting, 7p.m.
- May 10 - Grade 5 to Boston Museum of Science/Day One Assembly

Wheelock

- Apr. 13 - Elementary Band concert
- Apr. 13 & 14 - Scholastic/PTA BOGO Book Fair; Elementary Band Concert
- Apr. 26 - Grade 5 to the Colonial Theatre
- May 4 - KMS Show Choir Assembly
- May 5 - Grade 5 visits KHS CCC
- Wheelock students are making paper cranes for Japan. These simple, yet powerful gestures, will trigger a \$200,000 donation from the Bezos Family Foundation - \$2 for each crane - to Architecture for Humanity's reconstruction efforts in Japan. The cranes will be woven into an art installation, a symbolic gift from youth worldwide to their Japanese peers.

This is a summary of the proceedings of the Keene Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in the LGIA at KHS.

Contracts and Pink Slips To Be Delivered today

• Mr. Gurney reported that the 40 staff receiving pink slips have been personally notified by their building principal and that the official letters will be delivered today. Contracts to certified staff will also be distributed today. He said that the district wouldn't know probably until June what state funding to the KSD would be. Maureen Meyer, KEA representative, said staff would like clarity as to what date will be used if "bumping" comes into play - the date of hire, or the start date. The administration will get back to the KEA.

Project Updates

• **Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee** - Chair Kristin Blais briefed the board on the importance of the next Community Forum scheduled for May 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Keene High School. At that time, Marinace Architects will outline various scenarios for the reconfiguration of our elementary school system:

- 5 school option, 4 school option, 3 school option

In looking at these options, Marinace will give different grade span options - K-5, K-2, 3-5, etc. Ms. Blais urged all board members and members of the public to attend this very important forum.

• **New Middle School** - Mr. Gurney reported that finish work is beginning in the classroom wings. Site work is also going on outside with sod being laid, paths laid, and final asphalt coatings applied. Mr. Donegan asked when teachers could gain access to the building and Mr. Gurney said he expects any time after July 20. He also noted that KMS teachers are now being trained to use the new PC laptops and Smartboards so they will be comfortable with those devices before the start of the next school year.

• **Old Middle School** - Mr. Harper reported that the sale continues to move forward with lawyers for the buyer and the district's lawyer working with the city to resolve title issues. He expects the sale to be finalized next October

• **34 West Street** - Mr. Harper said the district has received two offers, which he will present to the board for its consideration.

Legislative Update:

Mr. Woolridge reported that the NH House has completed its work on the proposed biennial budget and sent it on to the Senate. There's some good news and some bad news for Keene in the House proposal:

- The House budget proposal level funds adequacy aid, catastrophic aid, and building aid. But it reduces the state's contribution to the NH Retirement system by \$600,000 (as opposed to the Governor's proposal to cut by \$1 million), reduces vocational tuition and transportation aid by 40% and eliminates all dropout assistance. The senate is now considering the house proposals and has said it will complete its budget work by June 2.

Committee Reports:

• **Building Facilities** - Mr. Coates reported that Mr. Remillard is moving forward to take the initial steps in the replacement of the boilers at KHS and installation of sprinklers at Symonds School

• **Education Committee** - Linda Burdick of Warner, NH has been contracted to carry out an assessment in preparation for a proposed **gifted and talented** program for K-8 to start this fall.

- Mr. Nugent said the committee has been briefed on the **NECAP** results and that 4 of our schools are designated SINIs and our district remains a DINI. He said that Symonds has moved off the SINI list and that Daniels achieved AYP this year and that if it does again next year it will be removed from the SINI category. He noted that the schools that did not reach AYP did so because of economically disadvantaged and/or special education sub groups.

• **Personnel Committee** - Upon recommendation of committee chair Kris Roberts the board approved on a first reading revised RIF procedures for administrators, secretaries, school lunch and paraprofessionals.

• **Policy Ad Hoc** - The board approved four policies: **Staff Dress Code, High School Graduation Policy, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, and Tobacco Products Ban Use and Possession.**

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