



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 11 – 19 - Chanukah
- Dec. 24 – Jan. 3 – Holiday vacation/no school
- Dec. 25 – Christmas
- Jan. 1 – New Year's Day
- Jan. 2 & 9 – Finance Committee of the Keene Bd. of Ed. holds **all day budget sessions** in the LGIA at KHS. Jan. 2nd at 8 a.m., Jan. 9th at 8:30 a.m.
- Jan. 12 – **Public hearing** on the budget at 7 p.m. in the KHS auditorium followed by Keene Bd. of Ed. meeting for final vote on proposed budget.
- Jan. 24 - In celebration of **Martin Luther King Day**, Keene's MLK- Jonathan Daniels Committee is producing "**The Struggle for Freedom: A Program of Poetry, Dance and Music**" featuring Keene elementary school choruses, the KMS Show Choir, KHS student readers and MOCO Arts. There will be two performances in the KHS auditorium – 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

KHS

- Dec. 9 - The KHS **National Honor Society (NHS)** will co-host the annual **RISE for Babies and Children Holiday Party**. Members of the Honor Society will work alongside members of the United Church of Christ to host a full holiday meal with all the trimmings as well as a visit from Santa for the families and young clients of RISE. NHS members will serve the meal, decorate, clean up and bake gingerbread men for Santa to distribute. This has been a holiday tradition for the last 15+ years.
- Dec. 10 – Concert Chorus **Singing in the Schools** tour visits Chesterfield, Westmoreland, and Winchester
- Dec. 11 - **Holiday Band Concert** at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium featuring the premier performance of Andrew Boysen's composition *Heirloom* commissioned specifically for the KHS band with funding provided by the Irwin Fund.
- Dec. 11 – **Quarter 2 progress report marks close**, reports to be distributed Dec. 18.
- Dec. 14 – The A Cappella Choir performs for the **Rotary Club** at its luncheon meeting at the Keene Country Club.
- Dec. 18 - **Holiday Choral Concert** - The KHS A Cappella Choir will be performing the complete *Missa Brevis* in D by W. A. Mozart with a string orchestra of local musicians.
- Dec. 22 & 23 – The choral program's **Singing in the Schools** tour visits Keene elementary schools and Marlborough School.
- Jan. 7 – **Monadnock Valley Music Festival** at Stevens High School in Claremont, NH.
- Jan. 9 – **NH Chamber Music Festival** at Timberlane High School.
- Congratulations to the following KHS students participating in 2010 NH All-State Honors Ensembles:

Orchestra: Cello: **William Appleton**; Clarinet: **Aleshia Alther**; Trombone: **John McStravick**

Band: Clarinet: **Rachel Cassar, Ashley McCormick, Darcy Ray,** and **John Szot**; Trumpet: **Dustin Beardsley** and **Timothy Hueber**; Alto Saxophone: **Emily Wilson**; Tuba: **Joshua Sevigny**

Women's Chorus: Alto Voice: **Maggie Rice** and **Sydney Skinner**; Soprano Voice: **Caitlyn Schillemat**

Mixed Chorus: Bass Voice: **Colby Baker**; Tenor Voice: **Maxwell Carmell**; Alto Voice: **Tamar Teitelman**; Soprano Voice: **Eliza Dumais** and **Leila Teitelman**

- The **KHS Renaissance** group has started what they call the HAT club. HAT stands for homework, attendance, and tardy. On randomly selected days and during randomly selected blocks, several students will put on some crazy hats and push a cart of home baked treats around the school. They will select a classroom to go in and ask the teacher if everyone did their homework, if everyone was present, and if anyone was tardy. If all criteria are met the entire class can select a treat, if not the group is encouraged to be ready next time. This is a

totally volunteer project, and the kids involved believe it is just a way to say, "Hey you did a good job today".

Cheshire Career Center

- Nov. 19 - Fourteen CCC students and club advisers Dawn Lagace and Gayla Tardie attended the Skills USA NH Chapter leadership conference in Lincoln. Students participated in team building activities, listened to a guest speaker talk about building a career. CCC students will compete at the state's spring competition in March. Winner will go on to nationals next summer.

KMS

- Dec. 10 – Band concert at 7 p.m. in the KHS auditorium
- Dec. 15 – KMS parent group meets at 1 p.m., conference room.
- Dec. 17 – Show Choir and Choruses Concert at 6 p.m. for 6th & 7th grade and at 7:15 p.m. for grade 8 in the KHS auditorium
- Dec. 18 - KMS Health Office is hosting an **At School H1N1 Vaccine Clinic** for all students. KMS is collaborating with the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Home Health Care. Letters, information about the vaccine and mist, and permission forms have been mailed to parents. School nurse Jennifer Audet said, "I'm hopeful a lot of parents will sign up their child to participate in this clinic."
- Dec. 21- Show Choir to perform for Gr. 6 at 9:35 a.m. in KMS auditorium
- Dec. 22 – Show Choir to perform for Gr. 7 at 8:17 a.m. and for Gr. 8 at 1:58 p.m. in KMS auditorium.
- **Red Ribbon Week** - On October 28th, a group of middle school students were invited to visit the Senate chambers at the state capitol by Senator Molly Kelly. This group brought to the Senators the schools' Red Ribbon Week projects from the past two years. The schools "**Chain of Commitment**" consists of links that express students' reasons why they choose to be drug-free and their willingness to work together. Senator Kelly linked the "Chains" from the Keene Middle School and Westmoreland School. "It was quite an empowering moment," said KMS adviser George Piers.

Cluster news: Cluster E

- The following Gr. 8 students were the school winners of the **2009 VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest**: **Tanner Bearson, Seth Dube, Will Funk, Zach Gavin, Matt Gray, Emily Haley, Samantha Hayes, Taylor Kunze, Will Parshall, Helen Peterson,** and **Hunter Wilkinson**. These students move on to the Post level contest and, hopefully, the district and state level.
- **Friends of Rachel** raised \$200.00, bought needed food items for the Community Kitchen, and delivered 38 bags of groceries to the Community Kitchen on Tuesday, November 24th. The students who contributed their time were: **Krissy Abbott, Emma Doyon, Shayla Fitzpatrick, Ally Forrest, Sammie Frink, Kody Frye, Nicole Funk, Will Funk, Anna Furlone, Zach Gavin, Emily Haley, Cam Jessup, Sophie Knittle, Mikayla Ogg, Kayla Paratore, Reanna Parker, Helen Peterson, Rachel Powers, Nicole Pratt, Katie Silegy, Charlie Tousley, Matt Winchester, and Ariana Young.**
- HR/A 305 has collected 35 toys for **Toys for Tots**.

JD

- Dec. 10 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Dec. 11 – JDA Drop Off Night
- Dec. 14 – Afterschool Yoga Kids – 2nd Session/JDA Meeting – 6:15 PM
- Dec. 17 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Dec. 21 - Afterschool Yoga Kids – 2nd Session
- Dec. 22 – Classroom Holiday Parties/KHS A Cappella Choir Visits (**School Talk continued on next page**)

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

(School Talk continued from previous page)

- Jan. 4, 7 & 11 – Afterschool Yoga Kids – 2nd Session Group

Franklin

- Dec. 9 - Popcorn/pencil sale/Student Council/3 Bully Proof program/Strings SHINE
- Dec. 10 - Assembly/Student Council Trip to purchase Toys for Tots
- Dec. 15 - Climbing Wall SHINE/Gr. 3 Harris Center/Gr. 2 to Mrs. Krautmann's house
- Dec. 16 – Gr. 3 Bully Proof program/Gr. 5 to Prospect Place
- Dec. 22 - Climbing Wall SHINE/Gr. 3 Harris Center/Holiday parties
- Dec. 23 – KHS A Cappella choir/Holiday assembly
- Jan. 6 – Gr. 3 Bully Proof program
- Jan. 13 – Gr. 3 Bully Proof program/Student Council

Fuller

- This year Fuller School completed letters for soldiers through the Wounded Warrior organization
- Kindergarten students will be caroling at Langdon Place in December.
- Dec. 9 - Holiday Store for 1H, KS, 2S, KM and 5O/Jay Mankita Nutrition Performance/UNO's fundraiser night
- Dec. 10 - Holiday Store for 1C, 3N, 3M, 1B, 3S and 4J
- Dec. 11 - Kindergarten Holiday Concert/Holiday Store for 4S, 2L, 2Z, 5L, KB and 4C/Student Teachers complete their assignment
- Dec. 16 – Kindergarten students will travel to Langdon Place to sing carols for the residents.
- Dec. 22 - KHS A Cappella Choir Tour/Holiday Parties

Symonds

- Dec. 9th - PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 10th - Afterschool Stamp Club
- Dec. 15th - Day One Assembly/Afterschool Chess Club
- Dec. 17th - Afterschool Stamp Club
- Dec. 22nd - KHS A Cappella Choir Assembly at 12:50 p.m.
- Dec. 23rd - Day One Assembly
- Jan. 5th - Afterschool Chess Club
- Jan. 11th - Day One Assembly

Wheelock

- Mondays & Wednesdays - T1 Gr. 3 math group meets before school
- Tuesdays - Beginners String Ensemble meets before school/Staff Yoga with Josephine Russell after school
- Tuesdays & Wednesdays - Big Brothers Big Sisters meet after school
- Wednesdays - Math Beyond the Dots meets before school
- Thursdays & Fridays - T1 math group meets before school for grades 4 & 5

December

- Wednesdays through December - Jump Rope Club with Mrs. Tiani
- Dec. 10 - Picture Retake Day
- Dec. 15 - National Geographic Geography Bee for 4th & 5th grades
- Dec. 22 - KHS A Cappella Choir performs at 10:45 a.m.
- Dawn Symonds and Kristy Symonds presented at the Christa McAuliffe Technology conference on the use of interactive white boards in the classroom. Dawn Symonds made a similar presentation recently at Fuller School.
- Wheelock students are collecting food items for our annual donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Wheelock PTA will be complimenting the donations with holiday foods to complete the food baskets.

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This is a summary of the proceedings of the regular monthly meeting of the Keene Board of Education, Tuesday, December 8, 2009, in the LGIA at KHS.

Elementary Class Size Policy Revised

After much discussion, the Board voted to approve the class size policy guidelines as presented by the Policy Committee - "Policy IIB - Class Size" - which revises the teacher/student ratio at the elementary level from 1 teacher to 20 students in 4th and 5th grade to 1 to 25 students. Several board members said the policy allows for some flexibility and that the policy can be changed if it proves unworkable.

2010-2011 School Calendar Decision Postponed

After hearing input from a number of Cheshire Career Center teachers and its director, Jim Logan, that the proposed school calendar for next year would greatly impact student attendance from sending schools outside SAU 29, the board decided to postpone a vote on a proposed calendar which called for the elimination of the February and April school vacations in favor of a four-day weekend in February and a one-week vacation at the end of March. The board said that more legwork needs to be done to ensure that SAUs 38 and 60 are on board before such a significant change is made. CCC teachers estimate that students from Monadnock and Fall Mountain would miss 23 days or more if the new calendar were adopted. The board asked that the calendar issue be brought back in January so that one is approved in a timely fashion.

Wheelock Principal Gwen Mitchell in the Running for Principal of the Year

Board Vice Chair Neil Donegan reported that he and fellow board member, Carl Panza, were honored to be asked to speak on behalf of Wheelock Principal Gwen Mitchell who has been nominated to be NH Principal of the year. Representatives of the NH Elementary Principals Association spent the day at Wheelock recently talking to staff, parents and Board members.

In other action:

- The Board approved the inclusion of an article on the warrant to establish an "expendable trust" to enable the district to encumber funds from the current year budget up to \$100,000 to be used for school building repair and maintenance.
- Approved up to \$1,800 be expended to update an appraisal on 34 West Street in anticipation that the building will be put on the market to be sold.
- Gave the go ahead to the administration to continue talks with the city about the city taking over Carpenter Field when the middle school moves to its new home with the proviso that the land be left as open space for use as a recreation site.
- Gave the administration the green light to borrow \$8 million toward the early phase of KMS construction.

The Keene Board of Education will hold a special meeting next Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the LGIA at KHS to hear a final report and recommendation of the Administrative Structure Review Task Force.