



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 20 – 28 – Chanukah
- Dec. 26 – Jan. 2 – Holiday Vacation/No School
- Jan. 7 & 14 - All Day Budget Review Sessions, Finance Committee of the Keene Board of Education, KHS LGIA, 8 a.m. on 1/7 & 8:30 a.m. on 1/14
- Jan. 16 – Martin Luther King Holiday/No School
- Jan. 17 – KSD Public Hearing on the Budget and other Warrant articles 7 p.m., KHS auditorium, Keene Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. It will break for the public hearing and then resumes its deliberations in the LGIA.
- Jan. 23 – Teacher Workshop Day/No School
- Feb. 11 – First Session of the Annual Keene School District Meeting, 9 a.m., KHS auditorium. Only registered Keene voters may attend. It is at this meeting that voters can amend, up or down, articles on the warrant including the proposed 2012 – 2013 budget and any labor agreements.
- March 13 – Second Session vote at the polls.

KHS

- Dec. 20 – Holiday Choral Concert, 7:30 p.m., auditorium
- Dec. 20 - The A Cappella Choir performs for the Keene Rotary Club at noon
- Dec. 22 & 23 – The A Cappella Choir carols in the schools
- Jan. 5 & 14 - Monadnock Valley Music Festival at Milford HS, 3 – 9 p.m.
- Jan. 5 & 6 - Justin Patchin, co-director of Cyberbullying Research Center and author of the book *Bullying Beyond the School Yard: Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying* and the book *Cyberbullying Prevention and Response: Expert Perspectives*, will be at Keene High on January 5 and 6. Mr. Patchin will speak to parents on January 5 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the KHS auditorium. He has spoken at the White House and the FBI Academy and has appeared on CNN, NPR, and in the New York Times. Mr. Patchin discusses issues related to teens' use and misuse of technology. He focuses on cyberbullying and educating teens and parents on cybersafety, particularly when using social networks. This presentation is free, and all parents in the SAU 29 district are encouraged to attend.
- Jan. 7 – NH Music Educators Association's Chamber Music Festival

CCC

- Community Kitchen Telethon hosted live on Cheshire TV by the Cheshire Career Center's Television studio crew held last Wednesday, December 7th from 4 – 8 p. m. raised \$2,400. Former CCC student Jared Goodell was the emcee.
- Thanksgiving dinner at Keene's Community Kitchen included a little more tradition and homemade baked goods this year thanks to a group of students from Keene High School. Students in Deba Robarge's Seasonal Foods class baked 35 loaves of pumpkin bread as a community service project. With the help of Evan Sands and Kayla Abello, the fresh baked bread was delivered to the Community Kitchen. This project enabled students to help others and understand some of the needs of the community, while at the same time working on their culinary skills. The Seasonal Foods class is part of the Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum at the high school and teaches students about proper nutrition, sanitation, food science and how to put together appealing and well-balanced foods.
- From the ECE- FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) re: club activities for November/December: On November 15 we raised \$455 for the March of Dimes Bowl for Babies. Many ECE (early childhood) students, preschool and former preschool families attended. The ECE-FCCLA filled 3 Thanksgiving baskets for Symonds School families. We made 80 hats at our hat-a-thon for area children, 15 stockings and 45 gift bags with personal care items for the homeless shelter. We will be shopping for area children of need in December.

KMS

- Dec. 15 – The KMS 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands will present an evening of music at 7 p.m. in the KMS gymnasium. The concert will close with the 7th and 8th grade bands playing Sleigh Ride. Free and open to the public.
- The Keene Middle School Jazz Improv class will meet weekly starting Friday Jan. 13 from 2:45 – 4 p.m. in the KMS band room. They will work with local professional jazz musicians Scott Mullet, Rich Clark and Susan Hahs. Open to all KMS jazz band students.
- Cluster/Homeroom activities:
 - Homeroom 2302 is putting together care packages to send to the troops in Afghanistan including postcards, pictures, and messages of thanks and support. Ms. VanDeusen's advisory is sending out care packages this week to support the troops in Afghanistan.
 - Cluster E - Mrs. Alther's advisory sold beaded bracelets. Proceeds were donated to the Toys for Tots program.
 - Cluster F students in Ms. Lavatori's 8th grade homeroom stayed after school to make more than 100 chocolate covered pretzels. They sold them and raised \$80 which they donated to the Community Kitchen. Thanks to Mrs. Robbins for allowing them to use your beautiful kitchens.

Elementary School Strings Concerts

- Dec. 20 - Keene Elementary Strings Holiday Performance at Cedarcrest from 6 - 6:45 p.m.
- Jan. 11 - Keene Elementary Strings Winter Concert at KHS, 7 p.m.

JD

- Jonathan Daniels is collecting food items and making holiday baskets for families in the school who may need a little extra this holiday season. Each basket will contain food items as well as gift cards, outerwear items and a grocery store certificate. The school is also conducting a coat drive of gently worn winter apparel, which will be donated to local organizations. The 4th grade art classes are selling beautiful clay wishing stars they made to benefit the Vermont Food Bank Hurricane Irene victims.
- Dec 14 - Critter Club
- Dec 16 - Games Club
- Dec. 21 - Critter Club
- Dec 22 - Holiday Parties/ KHS Choir visits
- Jan 6 - Games Club
- Jan 9 - ELF Training 9 - 11 a.m./ JDA meeting 6:15pm
- Jan 11 - Strings Concert, 7p.m.
- Jan 12 - ELF Training, 5:45 – 7 p.m.
- Jan 17 – Guiding Good Choices

Franklin

- Dec. 14 - Chorus holiday sing-a-long 7:00 PM
- Dec. 16 – 5B to Prospect Park at 8:40 a.m./Holiday movie night 6:00 PM
- Dec. 21 - All school assembly 8:40 AM
- Jan. 10 - Student Council popcorn and pencil sale
- Lisa LaRocque's 4th grade class set a "goal" of bringing in 80 items for the food drive this year. They created a graph where the kids colored in a square as they brought in an item. The graph had our goal listed, and also went all the way to 100. Each day, we got more and more excited as the line grew, and it reinforced our support and kindness towards others (the Franklin School theme for November.)

(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

Fuller

- 4th and 5th grade chorus members will perform for residents at Bentley Commons Dec 19th and Cedarcrest on Dec 21st.
- Dec 12 - Holiday Show for Grades K-1
- Dec 14 - Holiday Show for Grades 2-3
- Dec 15 - Holiday Show for Grades 4-5
- Dec 22 - KHS Chorus Assembly
- Dec 23 - All School Holiday Assembly
- Jan 10 – NH Primary Voting
- Jan 13 - Sockball

Symonds

- Dec. 14 - PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 15 - Day One Assembly/After school Stamp Club
- Dec. 20 - Second Graders to Bentley Commons/After school Chess Club
- Dec.22 - KHS Choir Assembly at 1 p.m./After school Stamp Club
- Dec. 23 - Day One Assembly
- Jan. 3 - After school Chess Club
- Jan. 9 - Day One Assembly
- Jan.10 - Presidential Primary Voting
- Jan. 14 - PTA sponsored skating party at Cheshire Ice Arena
- Jan. 17 - Day One Assembly/Math Beyond the Dots/Afterschool Chess Club
- The Student Council is holding a hat and mitten drive. Second graders are going to Bentley Commons to sing holiday songs to the elderly. Students in need of assistance have been referred to the Elks Holiday and Rotary Clothing Programs. Individual staff members are purchasing holiday gifts for several needy families. The PTA is donating Hannaford cards for several needy families. Gently worn/outgrown boots, jackets and ski pants have been collected and distributed to many children who did not have warm winter outerwear.

Wheelock

- Students from grades 4 and 5 are participating in an after school program this month to make gifts and greeting cards with Zentangle designs. Zentangle is a black and white art form, which allows participants to create beautiful images from repetitive patterns. Zentangle was introduced to upper grade students last year by staff member Sally Houghton who became inspired by the art and approached the staff about undertaking a group project. Grade 4 students collaborated with staff and came up with the idea of creating a large turtle, the Wheelock School mascot. The turtle's shell was cut into sections and distributed to Grade 3 and 4 students, who tangled the sections. Staff re-constructed the turtle, which now decorates the second floor hallway at Wheelock.
- Dec. 19 - Bullyproof in 2nd grade/Art Club meets after school/ Zentangle class meets after school
- Dec. 23 - KMS Showchoir Assembly
- Jan. 3 - Keene Elementary Band Registration at KMS, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 4 - PTA meets in the library at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 5 - Ski Club at Granite Gorge
- Jan. 10 – Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Jan. 11 - Big Brothers Big Sisters/Strings Winter Concert at KHS 7 p.m.
- Jan. 17 - Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Students are once again collecting food items for holiday food baskets to be distributed to Wheelock families. The baskets will include a variety of food items and a Hannaford gift card donated by the Wheelock PTA.

Board Votes to Close Daniels /Study Grade Span Options

The Keene Board of Education voted 8 – 1 last night to close Jonathan Daniels School by 2014. It further directed that three different grade span options be considered at the four remaining schools –a kindergarten and grade 1 (Franklin and Wheelock) paired with grades 2-5 (Fuller and Symonds); kindergarten through grade 3 (Fuller and Symonds) paired with grades 4 & 5, and the third option K-5 (The Wheelock preschool will also be considered in this review). The next step will be for the Board in January to form a steering committee which will be charged to oversee the work necessary to move from five to four schools: Subcommittees may include:

- Curriculum
- Enrollment
- Facilities
- Re-purposing Daniels School to accommodate other Keene School District needs
- Special Education
- Transitions
- Transportation and Redistricting

Board Sets Tentative Special Meeting

The board has scheduled a special meeting next Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2011 after the Education Committee completes it's meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Cheshire Career Center conference room. "If there is any action deemed advisable or necessary from the full Board as a result of the Education Committee meeting, it should be addressed. If there is no action deemed advisable or necessary from the full Board as a result of the Education Committee meeting, it will be the Chair's intention to move to adjourn," states the meeting notice. There will be no public input and no other items on the agenda.

In Other Action:

- The board voted to transfer \$65,000 from tutor salary accounts to the special education teacher account to hire one special education teacher to provide services to students and Franklin and Wheelock
- The board voted to approve a paid second semester sabbatical for Miranda Nelken to complete the Keene Middle School Outdoor Classroom and Trail project.
- Voted to accept a \$5,000 grant from the Putnam Foundation to fund the Symonds School "Seasons of Peace" project.