



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. holiday/all schools and offices closed
- 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 students 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.
- Jan. 25 – Teachers' Workshop Day – No school
- Feb. 6 – **First Session** of the annual Keene School District annual meeting starting at 9 a.m. in the KHS auditorium. It is at this meeting that voters can amend warrant articles to determine what is placed on the ballot in March.

H1N1 FREE Clinic - Jan. 17

A free H1N1 clinic will be held at the Keene Recreation Center, 312 Washington Street, Keene on Jan. 17 from 2 – 4 p.m. This clinic is free and open to any NH resident age 6 months and older. In case of bad weather, please call 354-5454 Ext. 3030 for updated information.

Strings Orchestras to Perform

- Jan. 13, 7 p.m., KMS auditorium - The middle school 6th grade strings orchestra will hold its first concert. It's free and open to the public. This is the 4th year of the strings program, which started in grade 3 in 2006. Next year it will move to grade 7 and eventually all the way to grade 12 at KHS.
- Jan. 14, 7 p.m., KHS auditorium – The elementary strings concert will feature more than 100 3rd, 4th and 5th grade string players.

KHS

- Jan. 12 - **English Department Awards** were distributed at a ceremony on January 12th. Each semester, the department chooses students whose excellent performance sets them apart from others in their class. The following students were selected for the fall semester: Jenna Carpenter, William Johnson, Celeste Marie Thibault, Shayla Gonzalez, Miles Walter, Mandi Gamanche, Stephanie Morse, Cooper Tewksbury, Tonya Robinson, James Rokes, Kelsey Hirtzel-Jennings, Natalie Clark, Lindsay Roderick, Gabrielle Phinney, Evan Sands, Logan Paquette, Brittany Wing, Nicolas Pare, Ethan Bettinger, Gabriella Thomas, Ashley Walker, Brandon Rainey, Jacob Blake
- Jan. 15 – Integrated Science class field trip to the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium
- Jan. 16 & 23 – Monadnock Valley Music Festival at Stevens High School
- Jan. 19 – 8th grade parent night at 6:30 in the auditorium
- Jan. 20 – 22 – 1st semester final exams
- Jan. 27 – Math Meet at Manchester Central High School
- Feb. 4 – 6 – NH Jazz Allstate Music Festival
- Feb. 6 – Sadie Hawkins Dance from 7 – 11 in the cafeteria.

CCC

- Jan. 23 – FBLA in-door yard sale

KMS

- Jan. 13 – Strings concert at 7 p.m. in the auditorium
- Jan. 15 – 2nd semester grades close
- Jan. 19 – Parent Group meeting at 1 p.m. in the conference room. Topic is the philosophy of grading.
- Jan. 19 – 29 - Grade 8 MAPS testing
- Jan. 21 – Spelling Bee at 8 a.m./Parent Group meeting at 7 p.m. in the conference room. (Grading philosophy)
- Jan. 27 – Jazz Band assembly
- Jan. 28 – Jazz Band Concert at 7 p.m. in the auditorium

National Geographic Bee results are in! Social Studies teacher and bee coordinator, Sarah McMurphy, reports that the winner of the KMS National Geographic Bee was Peter Murphy - Gr. 8, Cluster F; second place winner was Kyle Keating - Gr. 6, Cluster B; and third place finisher was Masaki Carty - Gr. 8, Cluster F. The remaining 7 finalists were: Gr. 6, Cluster A - Catherine Sullivan; Gr. 7 Cluster C - Abigail Shepherd and Celia Baybutt, Cluster D - Greg Ganio and Kelly Choate; Gr. 8 Cluster E - Alex Erez and Maya Swope.

- The KMS **Showchoir**, under Kate Butterfield's direction, will perform on Sunday, Jan. 24 as a part of the **MLK/Jonathan Daniels program "The Struggle for Freedom: Poetry, Music and Dance"**. Shows are 2 and 3:30 p.m. at Keene High School. There is no admission charge but donations will be accepted.

- Service projects for January:

Ms. Lavatori's 8th grade homeroom, with the help of Mr. Lasher in the Vistas program, wrote hand-made holiday cards, which included gum for troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

JD

- Jan. 14 – All Elementary Strings Concert, KHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 18 – No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 21 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Jan. 24 – Martin Luther King, Jr./Jonathan Daniels event at KHS at 2 & 3:30 p.m.
- Jan. 25 – Guiding Good Choices at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 28 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Feb. 1 – Pennies For Patients Drive begins/E.L.F. Training – White Tailed Deer & Woods and Field/Guiding Good Choices at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 4 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Feb. 8 – JDA Meeting at 6:15 p.m./Guiding Good Choices at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 9 – Pennies For Patients Drive ends

Franklin

- Jan. 12 - Popcorn/pencil sale
- Jan. 13 - Gr 3 Bully proof program/Student Council
- Jan. 14 - Assembly
- Jan. 15 - K1-Junior Achievement
- Jan. 20 - Lend an Ear program/Student Council
- Jan. 24 - Martin Luther King program at KHS
- Jan. 27 - Student Council
- Jan. 28 - Assembly
- Jan. 29 - K1-Junior Achievement
- Feb. 1-5 – Gr. 5 to Nature's Classroom
- Feb. 3 - Student Council
- Feb. 5 - K1-Junior Achievement
- Feb. 8 - Assembly
- Feb. 12 - K1-Junior Achievement

Fuller

- Jan. 18 - Civil Rights Day - No school
- Jan. 25 - Teachers' Workshop - No school
- Feb. 1 - Grades 4 & 5 to the Colonial Theatre to see "**Mad Science: CSI Live**". According to 5th grade teacher Linda O'Connor, "Audience members become part of the CSI team on stage, recreating and analyzing the crime scene and evidence to solve the case. Whether it's smashing a watermelon with a baseball bat, launching paint onto a pristine white wall, or firing a laser beam across a room, everyone will have to be on their toes to help solve the crime, and if they're not careful, they just might learn something before it's done."
- Feb. 3 - FSA Meeting

(School Talk continued on next page)



BOARD NOTES

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

(School Talk continued from previous page)

- Feb. 12 - Valentine's Day Parties

Symonds

- Jan. 14 – 7 p.m. Strings Concert at KHS
- Jan. 18 - Martin Luther King Day - No School
- Jan. 19 - Afterschool Chess Club
- Jan. 20 - PTA meeting 7 p.m.
- Jan. 21 - Day One Assembly
- Jan. 25 - Teachers' Workshop Day
- Jan. 26 - Grade 5 to Keene Middle School
- Feb. 1 - Day One Assembly/Grade 5 to Colonial Theater
- Feb. 2 - After school Chess Club

Wheelock

Pennies for peace is ongoing

- Jan. 13 - Knitting Club meets after school with Mrs. Harvey/ PTA meeting in the library at 6:15 p.m. with liaison Carl Panza from the Keene Board of Education.
- Jan. 19 – BB/BS meets after school/Staff Yoga with Josephine Russell after school.
- Jan. 20 - Math Beyond the Dots meets before school/BB/BS meets after school.
- Jan. 26 – BB/BS meets after school/Staff Yoga with Josephine Russell after school
- Jan. 27 - Math Beyond the Dots/Local author and illustrator Lita Judge presents “Pennies for Elephants – Connecting students to local news by becoming a part of it” in the library/BB/BS meets after school.
- Feb. 1 – 5 - Mr. Gillard's 5th grade class, along with Franklin School's 5th graders will travel to Nature's Classroom.
- Feb. 2 – 3rd and 4th grade to the Colonial Theatre to see Mad Science/CSI/BB/BS meets after school/Staff Yoga with Josephine Russell after school.
- Feb. 3 - Math Beyond the Dots meets before school/BB/BS meets after school/Knitting Club meets after school with Mrs. Harvey: PTA meeting in the library at 6:15 p.m.
- Feb. 9 - BB/BS meets after school/Staff Yoga with Josephine Russell after school.

This is a summary of the regular monthly meeting of the Keene Board of Education, Tuesday, January 12, 2010 in the LGIA at KHS and the Public Hearing held in the KHS auditorium to consider the proposed 2010-2011 budget and two collective bargaining agreements which will be presented to the voters in March.

The Keene Board of Education whipped through a light agenda at last night's regular monthly meeting recessing shortly before 7 p.m. to conduct a public hearing on the 2010/11 school warrant which includes a main budget article and two collective bargaining agreements. When the board reconvened after the hearing, no motions were made to amend the warrant. The board then voted to accept all articles as presented and moved the warrant to the First Session of the Annual Keene School District Meeting scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6 at 9 a.m. in the KHS auditorium.

2010/11 Keene School District Warrant

BUDGET PRESENTATION

With fewer than 10 residents in attendance, the board presented its proposed \$60,384,266 operating budget to the public. The meeting was carried live on Cheshire TV, Channel 8. The proposed budget reflects a 2.35% increase in spending over last year's budget. If, however, you deduct the state's share of building aid (\$798,874), which the district will receive to help fund the KMS/SAU bond, the year-to-year spending increase is 1%, which meets the guideline set by the Board's Finance Committee last fall. To reach that guideline, the administration had to cut \$2.8 million from this year's operating budget, which resulted in a cut of 20 staff positions (\$957,630) covering administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, and tutors with the rest of the cuts coming from a variety of non-staff accounts.

If the voters approve the budget in March, it will require an increase of \$51.66 in yearly property taxes on a \$100,000 house if its assessment

remains the same from 2009 to 2010.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were several inquiries from those in attendance with most voicing concern about eliminating one elementary principal. Co-Superintendent Bill Gurney said that he and the elementary principals would be meeting over the next several months to develop a plan by next fall that will meet the educational needs of students. One other citizen questioned the special education cuts, expressing concern that the elimination of the job coach will adversely affect special education students including his son, who is a senior at KHS. Catherine Reeves, Director of Special Education for SAU 29, said that while the position is being cut, other staff members would fulfill that function.

KAPS (Keene Association of Principals and Supervisors – representing 22 people in management positions in the district) Board member, Neil Donegan, who chaired the KAPS negotiating team for the board, presented the 2-year KAPS contract, which calls for no increase in salary in 2010-2011. The agreement calls for an average salary increase of 1.59% in 2011-2012 (a salary increase of 2% offset by increased employee health contributions and salary range caps). Two lower cost health plans were added – HMO 2 and C2500. The most expensive plans, JYMC and JWMC will not be open to new enrollees. (A summary of the KAPS and the Tutor agreements will be posted on line.) If voters approve this agreement there will be no impact on property taxes the first year. The second year of the agreement will cost an additional \$35,694.

TUTOR CONTRACT (Representing 134 Tutors district wide)

Board member Chris Coates, who chaired the Tutor negotiating team for the board, presented this article, which calls for salary and benefits increase in the first year of 2.16%. This will result in an average \$287 annual salary increase and a 26¢ per hour increase. The average Tutor salary is \$14,341. The second year of the contract calls for a 2.2% salary and benefit increase that translates into an average \$291 per person annual salary increase of 27¢ per hour. The average tutor salary in 2011-2012 will be \$14,632. If voters approve the agreement, the impact on a \$100,000 house, if its assessment remains the same, would be \$2.30 in 2010-2011. The second year of the contract calls for a \$42,381 increase in funds to pay for the terms of this agreement.

OTHER WARRANT ARTICLES

There are three additional warrant articles:

- **Article 6** - to set up an “expendable trust” which will enable the district to put up to \$100,000 of unexpended expense funds into a special account to pay for school building maintenance.
- **Article 7** – when researching information for Article 6, our district lawyer discovered that there was a “capital reserve fund” dating back to 1957 that had \$2,300 in it, which hasn't had any activity for many years. This article would discontinue this fund and transfer the remaining money into the general fund.
- **Article 8** – Has been on the warrant for many years and gives the Board the authority to enter into negotiations for the purchase of land next to or near existing school buildings. This item is only funded with \$1 in the budget. The board said it has no plans to purchase any property at this time and that if a parcel came on the market that it was interested in, it would hold a public hearing before considering its purchase.

FIRST SESSION, FEBRUARY 6

The next step in the budget process will be the First Session meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 6, at 9 a.m. in the KHS auditorium. Only registered Keene voters can attend and vote. **There is no same day voter registration.** To register, you must go to the City Clerk's office at City Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, up until 10 days before the session. (The city clerk closes the registration period to give her office time to finalize the voting rosters.) It is at the First Session meeting than the budget and other article, save labor agreements, can be amended. s

VOTE AT POLLS, MARCH 9

The final step in the process will be at the polls on March 9. Wards 1, 2 & 3 will vote at the Keene Recreation Center, 312 Washington Street and Wards 4 & 5 will vote at the First Baptist Church, 105 Maple Avenue. Polls will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 7 p.m.