



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- 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 labor agreements.
- Feb. 20 – 24 – Winter School Vacation
- Mar. 13 – **Second Session** of the Annual Keene School District Meeting. Vote at the polls. Wards 1, 2 & 3 vote at the Keene Recreation Center, 312 Washington Street, Keene. Wards 4 & 5 vote at the first Baptist Church, 105 Maple Avenue. Polls are open from 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

KHS

- Jan. 19 – Celebrate the **Chinese New Year** at KHS from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Eat, dragon dance, watch an authentic tea ceremony, calligraphy and dumpling making. All for \$8 per person - family of five for the price of 4. All proceeds benefit the Chinese Club and upcoming student exchange.
- Jan. 21 – **Students for a Free Tibet Walk-a-Thon** in the halls at KHS from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Jan. 24 – 8th grade parent night, 6:30 p.m., auditorium
- Jan. 28 – FBLA indoor yard sale
- Jan. 31 – Feb. 17 – online registration for next year's KHS courses
- Feb. 2- 4 – NH Jazz All State Music Festival
- Feb. 7 – PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) meets from 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8 – Math Meet at Pembroke Academy
- Feb. 11 – Sadie Hawkins Dance from 7 – 11 p.m. in the cafeteria

KMS

- Three band students from Keene Middle School were selected to participate in the New Hampshire Honor Band Festival in Concord: Audrey Kintisch - Trumpet, Mackenzie Posner - Trumpet, and Olivia Guerriero – Trombone.
- Jan. 19 - The Keene Middle School Jazz Bands and String Ensembles will be performing an evening concert at 7 p.m. in the KMS Gymnasium. The concert is free and open to the public
- Jan. 27 – Spelling Bee in the cafeteria
- Feb. 2 – Parent Group meeting from 7 – 8 p.m. in the cafeteria. KMS department coordinators and team leaders will discuss the curriculum and how the needs of all students are addressed.
- Feb. 10 – Student Council Dressy Dance from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Cluster activities:

B: Grade six Cluster B students created handmade beaded candy cane ornaments during the month of December. They sold the ornaments at lunches to students and staff. The Cluster donated the \$100 profit from the sale to the Community Kitchen.

C: Advisory 2105 facilitated by Mrs. Petersen held a bake sale to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Students were responsible for organizing the event, which included deciding where they would like to donate their profits and contributing baked goods.

F: Keene Middle School Grade 8 Cluster F students held a two-day Holiday bake sale, which raised a total of \$240.00. These proceeds were donated to the One Hundred Nights Shelter in Keene and the Ocean Conservancy Organization based in Washington, DC.

• **WordMasters** - The first round of the WordMasters competition went very well. Two students recently achieved high honors. Sixth grade student, Angelina Snegach and seventh grade student, Jenna Goodwin both earned perfect scores in the year's first meet. In the entire country only 120 sixth graders and 57 seventh graders achieved perfect scores. Other students at KMS achieving outstanding results included sixth grade students Maddy Phaneuf, Luke Ruel, Emma Charles, Cullen Costa, Tim Greenwood, Andre Nolan, Matt Renner, Jackie Richter, and Bailey Rokes; seventh grade students Kyle Scholz and Megan Scholz; and eighth grade students Dan Long and Catherine Sullivan.

The Wordmasters challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that encourages students to become familiar with words (considerably more difficult than grade level) and challenges students to use them to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. WordMasters is a national language arts competition entered by approximately 220,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year. KMS is currently preparing for the second round - which will take place in February.

Special thanks go to Grade 6 teachers Mr. David Painchaud and Mrs. Joanna Schinler; Grade 7 teachers Mr. John McMahon and Mr. Christopher Barry; and Grade 8 teachers Mrs. Winifred Perrotton and Mrs. Jennifer Wilson-Tucker. WordMasters is offered and monitored through the Extensions Program at KMS.

Daniels

- Jan. 18 - Critter Club Grades 3 & 4
- Jan. 19 - Math Beyond the Dots/Ski Club 3:30p.m.
- Jan. 20 - Games Club/Project Eye to Eye
- Jan. 23 - No School – Teacher Workshop
- Jan. 24 - Guiding Good Choices 5th grade, 5:45-8:30 p.m.
- Jan 25 - Critter Club Grades 3 & 4
- Jan 26 - Math Beyond the Dots/Ski Club at 3:30 p.m./ KMS visits 5th grade
- Jan. 27 - Project Eye to Eye
- Jan. 28 - JDA Activity: Morning Ice Skating at Cheshire Ice Arena
- Jan. 31 - Guiding Good Choices, 5th grade, 6:15-8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 1 - Critter Club
- Feb 2 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Feb. 3 - Project Eye to Eye/Games Club
- Feb. 6 - ELF Training 9:00-11 a.m.
- Feb. 7 - Guiding Good Choices, 5th grade, 6:15-8:30p.m.
- Feb. 8 - Critter Club Grades 3 & 4
- Feb. 9 - Math Beyond the Dots/ELF Training 5:45-7 p.m./Ski Club – 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 10 - Project Eye to Eye/JDA Event – Father/Daughter Dance
- Feb. 13 - JDA Meeting, 6:15p.m.
- Feb. 14 - Classroom Valentine Parties/Guiding Good Choices – grade 5, 6:15-8:30 p.m.

Franklin

- Jan. 18 - PTC meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 20 - All school assembly 2:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24 - Fifth grade climbing club 3:10 – 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 27 - All school activity 2:15 – 2:45 p.m.
- Jan. 28 - Ice skating at Cheshire Ice Arena 5:20 – 7:20 p.m.
- Jan. 30 – Feb. 3 - Grade 5 Nature's Classroom
- Feb. 3 - Give Kids a Smile Day/Rock n' roll cabin fever family night 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Feb. 7 - Student council popcorn/pencil sale
- Feb. 8 - PTC meeting 6:30 p.m.

Fuller

- Students in 4th grade at Fuller School came up with the idea of raising money for the Community Kitchen. With the help of 4th grade teachers and their parents, they held a bake sale, created a cookbook and raised \$350, which they proudly delivered to the kitchen right before Christmas.
- Fifth graders at Fuller will be participating in The Scripps Spelling Bee. A school winner will be decided on January 20th, and he/she will compete at the regional level.
- Jan. 20 - All School Assembly
- Feb. 17 - All School Assembly

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

Symonds

• The Student Council will be organizing participation in the Pennies for Patients program during the first two weeks of February.

- Jan. 19 - Day One Assembly
- Jan. 20 – After school Ski Club
- Jan. 24 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Jan. 27 – After school Ski Club
- Jan. 30 - Day One Assembly
- Jan. 31 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Feb. 1 – After school 5210 Club
- Feb. 2 – After school Stamp Club
- Feb. 3 – After school Ski Club
- Feb. 7 - Day One Assembly/Math Beyond the Dots/After school Chess Club
- Feb. 8 – After school 5210 Club
- Feb. 9 - After school Stamp Club
- Feb. 10th – Afterschool Ski Club
- Feb. 11th – PTA Sponsored Skating Party at Cheshire Ice Arena
- Feb. 13th – Beginning of Parents to School week where parents are invited to come and participate in different classroom activities all week long.
- Feb. 14th – Happy Valentines Day/Math Beyond the Dots/ Jump Rope for Heart activity

Wheelock

- Jan. 18 - A representative from Nature's Classroom visits Ms. Hannum's class about their upcoming trip; Big Brothers/ Big Sisters (BBBS)
- Jan. 19 - Ski Club at Granite Gorge
- Jan. 24 - BBBS
- Jan. 25 – Math Beyond the Dots (MBtD's)/Mr. Gurney's monthly visit to Wheelock/BBBS
- Jan. 26 - Ski Club at Granite Gorge
- Jan. 27 - Mrs. Symonds first grade visits Stonewall Farm
- Jan. 30-February 3 - Fifth Grade at Nature's Classroom
- Jan. 31 - BBBS
- Feb. 1 - MBtD's/BBBS/PTA Meeting 6:15 in the library
- Feb. 2 - Ski Club at Granite Gorge
- Feb. 7 - BBBS
- Feb. 8 - MBtD's/BBBS
- Feb. 9 - Ski Club at Granite Gorge
- Feb. 14 - BBBS

This is a summary of the Keene Board of Education meeting and Public Hearing on the 2012 Warrant held, Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at Keene High School.

Sparse Attendance at Public Hearing

Not counting Board members, administrators and KSD staff, there were only about a dozen citizens in attendance at last night's public hearing on the district's proposed \$61.5 million budget, 5 labor agreements and other articles on the warrant. There was very little public input. Resident Misty Martinez-Bohannon urged the Board not to cut the principal position at Franklin, elementary office aides, or the strings program when it starts to make the half million dollars in cuts that the Board approved last Saturday at its special meeting. Jim Carley of Keene urged the Board to increase the amount of money it sets aside in its capital reserve budget to pay for needed maintenance projects. The only other citizen who spoke was retired Symonds School guidance counselor, Susan Fratus, who spoke in favor of the two petition articles calling for the public to weigh in on the Board's decision to close Jonathan Daniels School and reconfigure grade spans at the four remaining elementary schools. The public was advised by district counsel, John Wrigley, that a vote by the public on these two petition articles would be advisory in nature only and not binding on the Board. For more information on the budget and labor agreements, please log on to the Keene School District section of the SAU 29 web site where a copy of the power point presentation, the Warrant, details of the labor agreements, revenues and the default budget will be posted shortly.

Public Hearing to be Re-Broadcast on Cheshire TV, Channel 8

For those who were not able to attend last night's meeting but would like to view it, the hearing will be re-broadcast on Cheshire TV, Channel 8, on Friday, January 20, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, January 21st at 1:30 p.m.

Finance Committee to meet Feb. 7th to learn from SAU Administration what the \$550,000 in cuts will be

The meeting will be held in the large conference room at the SAU building, 193 Maple Avenue, at 6:30 p.m.

In other action:

- The board approved on a second reading the following policies:
 - Foreign Exchange Students
 - Awarding High School Diplomas to Children with Disabilities
 - Student Search and Seizure
 - Concussions and Head Injuries.
- At its meeting last Saturday, the board approved the **KSD school calendar for 2012- 2013**. It is posted on the SAU 29 web site. The Board also approved the appointment of **Beth Zinn** as interim **School District Clerk** to fill that vacant position.