



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to remember:

- June 11 – KHS graduation
- June 15 – Last day of school
- June 16 & 17 – Teacher workshop days
- Sept. 1 – First day of 2010-2011 school year

KHS North Campus to receive an Eddie!

The NH Dept. of Education is recognizing the new North Campus building as one of three new school buildings in the state as a high performance school at a ceremony on June 12th. A number of energy saving features was designed into the building.

KHS

- June 9 – Senior Scholarship Awards Night at 7 p.m. in the auditorium
- June 10 – Salmagundi Assembly, 9 a.m., auditorium/Distribution of yearbooks
- June 11 – Graduation at 6 p.m. Alumni field weather permitting otherwise the Purbeck Gymnasium/Project Graduation starting at 9:30 p.m. at KHS
- Two KHS teachers, Suzanne Charles who teaches Spanish, and Cliff Lerner, who teaches biology, were selected to participate in the annual reading and scoring of the College Board's Advanced Placement examinations. Ms. Charles will be traveling to Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mr. Lerner to Kansas City, Missouri. "It's the first time in years KHS has had AP readers selected," said Ms. Charles. Trevor Packer, VP of the AP Programs said, "The reading draws upon the talents of some of the finest teachers and professors that the world has to offer. It fosters professionalism, allows for the exchange of ideas, and strengthens the commitment to students and to teaching. We are grateful for the contributions of talented educators like Suzanne Charles and Cliff Lerner."
- The KHS Envirothon team did it again by winning the state competition for the 14th time in 18 years. The team includes seniors Kristy Blackwood, Ben Cook, Anna Dorman, Hunter Hicks and junior John Szot.

KHS 2nd team placed 3rd and included junior Patrick Day, and sophomores Cameron Goller, Christopher Penny, Shelby Redfield, and Ashley Yarus.

There were 21 teams that competed in this year's NH state Envirothon. The team will now move on to the North American Envirothon competition in Fresno, California Aug. 1-6. Congratulations to the teams and to club adviser, KHS science teacher Marshall Davenson.

- Senior Krista Sullivan has been awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Jostens Renaissance program. She competed against 30 other applicants from across the U.S. and abroad. In addition, she will receive an ibook and other supporting computer equipment.

KMS

- June 9 – Cluster F Rocket Forum, cafeteria
- June 10 – Public forum on KMS curriculum, 6:30 p.m., cafeteria
- June 11 – Yearbook dedication and awards assembly
- Ashley Pickford won Antioch's Earth Day art contest, which included a \$20 gift certificate to Prime Roast.
- June 14 – Talent Show/Grade 8 dance, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
- June 15, 12 Noon, KMS Achievement Day at KHS auditorium
- A WordMaster Challenge (a national language arts competition) team of Grade 7 students from Keene Middle School placed 9th in the nation in the year-end cumulative standings among 289 school teams competing at this grade level and in this division. Approximately 220,000 students participate annually in WordMasters, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year. William Welsh earned a perfect score in the final meet - which was accomplished by only 33 seventh grade students

nationwide. Other students who achieved outstanding results in the final meet include: Sadie Borden, Meghan Morris, and Gregory Ganio. Thanks go to the Grade 7 English teachers, Patrice Campbell and John McMahon, for bringing WordMasters to their classrooms. The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that encourages students to become familiar with a set of words, (considerably harder than grade level), and challenges students to complete analogies expressing various kinds of relationships. The WordMasters Challenge is sponsored through the KMS Extensions Program monitored by co-coordinator, Mary Lou Alther.

- Grade 8 Social Studies Teachers Sarah McMurphy and Caroline Hume will be writing a curriculum for the Gr. 8 Horizon's program that parallels the regular Gr. 8 curriculum.
- Gr. 8 math teacher Erika Greenwald will be participating in math curriculum work this summer.

Keene Summer Pops Elementary Band Program will run from June 21-July 14. Culminating concert of June 14 at 6:30 p.m. location TBA.

Daniels

- June 10 - Full Chorus/LD Showdown – 1:45 p.m./Music Showcase- Grades 3, 4, & 5 – 3:30-4:30 p.m./Keene Public Library Visits Grade 5
- June 11 - All School Field Day
- June 12 - JD Garden Club will be constructing the new "Peace Garden." Engraved cobblestones will be placed in a special area in front of the school.
- June 14 - Rain Date For All School Field Day/Grade 5 Recognition Program
- June 15 - Last Day of School/Awards Program – AM/Step-Up – AM/Early Dismissal – 12:30 p.m.

Franklin

- June 9 - Art Walk/Gr. 2 to Billings Farm/Gr. 4 Junior Achievement
- June 10 - Assembly/Gr. 4 to Concord/Gr. 2 Art walk/Gr. 2 Field Day/K ceremony
- June 11 - Jason Purdy show/Gr. 4 Junior Achievement
- June 14 - K indoor field day/Gr. 3 Field day/Gr. 4 & 5 Field day

Fuller

- June 9 - 3rd grade walking tour of Keene/Drama Club Performance/KHS National Honor Society volunteers and their kindergarten reading buddies have a celebratory luncheon to celebrate another successful year of their collaboration.
- June 10 - 5th Grade to Worcester Ecotarium/1C to Best Western
- June 11 - Field Day
- June 14 - 5th Grade Recognition

Symonds

- A giant chess set has made its way to Symonds after nearly two years of fund raising. Adviser Alan Gross said a donation from the PTA made all the difference. "It is great fun and we are enjoying it a lot," Gross said, noting that the club stresses the learning part of chess not the competitive aspect. Twenty-six students participate in the club, which held its last meeting of the year last week.
 - June 9 - Homework Club
 - June 11 - Garden Club
 - June 14 - 5th graders to KSC for pizza and swimming/5th Grade Graduation ceremonies at 7:00 p.m.
 - June 15 - Final Assembly/School dismissed at 12:20 p.m.
 - Donna Cary will be serving on a curriculum team for Language Arts this summer.
 - Beth Corwin will be writing curriculum for physical education and health education from June 21st to June 30th
- (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

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

(School Talk continued from other side)

Wheelock

- June 9 - Preschool Promotion Celebrations/Mrs. Sawyer and Ms. Hannum's 4th grade classes to Surry Mt. Dam/Senteo Workshop/Kindergarten Meet & Greet
- June 10 - Wheelock Day (rain date 6/11) and PTA BBQ
- June 14 - Preschool Promotion Celebrations/Kindergarten Promotion Celebration/5th Grade Recognition Evening
- July 6 - 30 - Preschool Extended School Year Tuesdays thru Fridays

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This is a summary of the proceedings of the regular monthly meeting of the Keene Board of Education held at KHS, Tuesday, June 8, 2010.

Wellness Takes Center Stage

Symonds School physical education teacher, Beth Corwin, who has been on leave from her duties to work on a comprehensive wellness plan for the district, summarized her year's work to the board last night in a 10-minute power point presentation. She set the stage for a set of recommendations she will make to the Education Committee next week, by walking the board through the evolution of a wellness program from its beginnings in 2004 to the present day. She said that all schools in SAU 29 are on board to establish a comprehensive wellness program at their school, noting that there are two overarching principles:

1. School Wellness will help students to be more available for learning. Learning is the fundamental objective in school.
2. To help our students learn to be healthy adults by
 - teaching them the knowledge, skills, and motivation to make informed healthy behavior choices.
 - creating a school environment that supports health, healthy behavior development and allows for the practice of healthy choices.
 - aligning school practices (programs, activities, services, culture) with wellness related curriculum and policies.

Ms. Corwin will present her recommendations to the Education Committee at its meeting next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Cheshire Career Center conference room.

KHS Drop Out Rate Reduced

Co-Supt. Bill Gurney reported that, primarily through the efforts of Community Education and the guidance department, KHS's drop out rate continues to decline as more and more students, who in years past might have dropped out of school, find ways to earn a high school diploma. He thanked Jan Barry and Kim Baker for their work in this important effort.

New KMS on Schedule

Mr. Gurney reported that the new school construction is on schedule and that ground was just broken for the new SAU building.

34 West Street to be Sold

SAU Business administrator John Harper said that an RFP will be issued soon and ads placed in the newspaper to sell 34 West Street. The appraised value is \$875,000 which will be the minimum bid accepted.

New Interest in old KMS

Board member Neil Donegan who is co-chair of the KMS Marketing Committee reported that a new party is interested in the property and that the committee is working with them on a letter of intent.

In other action:

- Mr. Gurney thanked all those involved with *Keene Comes Alive*, which involved all third graders in a daylong dramatic presentation of

Keene's history at Robin Hood Park on May 28. He cited the work done by third grade teachers, including art, physical education, music, and library media specialists as well as Franklin School Principal Bill Harris and the Keene Lion's Club including Keene Board member, Chris Coates. Mr. Coates also thanked Lion's member Mike Forest.

- Mr. Gurney reported that there are two efforts in the **Gifted and Talented** area. One is a forum tomorrow night (Thursday, June 10) at KMS at 6:30 p. m. in the cafeteria, and, secondly, that the elementary principals have submitted reports on gifted and talented activities in their schools.

- **Pre-School Report:** Mr. Gurney said that he, Wheelock School Principal Gwen Mitchell, and several others, will soon be completing their report on the future home for the preschool program.

At this time, the Board has not scheduled a meeting for July so the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the LGIA at KHS.

Have a good summer!