



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- June 17 – KHS Graduation, 6 p.m., Alumni Field weather permitting/ Purbeck Gymnasium if inclement weather
- June 21 – Last day of school for students
- June 22, 23 & 24 – Teacher workshop days
- Aug. 31 – New Staff Orientation
- Sept. 1 – Teacher Workshop Day/KHS Freshmen Orientation Day
- Sept. 6 – First day of school

KHS

- June 15 – **Senior Scholarship Awards Night**, 7 p.m., auditorium
- June 16 – **Salmagundi Assembly**, auditorium/ North Campus graduation, 4 p.m.
- June 17 - **KHS Graduation**, 6 p.m., Alumni Field (weather permitting/ Purbeck Gymnasium if inclement weather)/Project Graduation, check in from 9:30 - 11 p.m. KHS
- June 20 – Underclassmen final exams
- **National Art Honor Society Induction** was held on May 23rd in Robin Hood Park. Those inducted include Joey diBiccari, Olivia Gourley, Mina Hibino, Katie Marinoff, Katelyn McStravick, Lauren Russell, Sarah Scott, Kathryn Stockwell, and Hannah Wiley. and Caroline Womack.
- Eleven juniors were selected to participate in the **St. Paul's School**

Advanced Studies Program this summer:

- Marisa Bond** – Changing the World
- Meaghan Desilets** – Ancient Greece
- Cameron Goller** – World Religions
- Alston Hill** – Biomedical Ethics
- Emily Klaski** – Molecular Biology
- John McStravick** – Forbidden Fiction
- John Meehan** – Shakespeare for Performance
- Christopher Penny** – Mass Media
- Shelby Redfield** – Advanced Mathematics
- Catherine Wisell** – Forbidden Fiction
- Ashley Yarus** – Chinese
- KHS student win **TAMY** awards – **Max Carmel** won for best actor and **Peter Hiebert** won for “Not your average chorus member” in Evita.

KMS

- June 20 – 8th Grade Dance from 6:30 – 9 p.m.
 - June 21 – 8th Grade Achievement Day
- Service Projects:
- Cluster B
- Mr. Stinebring's Focused Study Groups conducted research and made presentations on Memorial Day. The students focused on the history of Memorial Day, also known as Decoration Day, and ways to celebrate the contributions made by our brave service members who gave their lives for our country. Students also had the opportunity to decorate the graves of veterans in the Washington and Woodlawn Cemeteries. A school-wide presentation was made on WCAN (Keene Middle School's TV studio) to remember six of our most recent casualties of war.
- Cluster E
- Mrs. Grove's eighth grade advisory had a bake sale to raise money for One Hundred Nights, a homeless shelter in Keene.
- Cluster F
- Over the course of two weeks, Ms. Lavatori and Mr. Painchaud's homerooms collected and donated four bags of lightly worn clothing to the St. James Thrift Shop in Keene.
- From adviser Mary Lou Alther: Results from the third meet of WordMasters are in! Keene Middle School students did an outstanding job!
 - Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the Challenge, the school's seventh graders tied for eighth in the nation among 291 school teams competing at this grade level in this division. At the same time, the school's eighth graders tied for sixth place in the nation among 301 competing teams.
 - One of the school's students won highest honors for individual

achievement as well. Seventh grader Cecelia Miceli earned a perfect score in the meet, while in the entire country only 25 seventh graders did so.

- Others who achieved outstanding results in the meet included sixth graders Olivia Guerriero, Diego Betancourt, Aidan Bradley, Samantha DiPetro, Anika Frederiksen, Kyle Scholz, Alex Stroshine, and Dan Willis; seventh graders: Christie Blair, Erin Hickey, Emma Hoffman, Ella MacDonald, Brianna Uvena, Pearl Allen, Jake Borden, Schyler Grant, Zosha Silverstein, Catherine Sullivan, and Reilly Sullivan; and eighth graders: Casey Osborne, Jake Cohen, Sarah Dintino, and Emilie Vandenburg. WordMasters is an exercise in critical thinking, which encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting words and challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Teachers Mrs. Schinler, Mr. Stinebring, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. McMahon, Mrs. Hamlin and Mr. DiBenedetto coach WordMasters.

Keene Summer Music Program – June 20 – July 13 – Elementary Strings Ensembles, Band and middle and high school ensembles are offered Monday-Wednesday for 4 weeks. Final concert on July 13, 6:30 p.m., KHS. Contact Sue Hahs at KMS for more info.

Daniels

- June 15 - Money Matters Program for Grades K, 1, 2, & 3/Critters Club
- June 16 - All School Field Day
- June 17 - All School Field Day Rain Date
- June 20 - Grade 5 Recognition Program
- June 21 - Last Day of School/All School Awards Program/Step-Up/12:30 p.m. early dismissal

Franklin

- June 14 - Popcorn/pencil sale/Gr 2 to Billings Farm/K-3 Savings Assembly/Running Club
- June 16 - K - inside field day
- June 17- K - outside field day/Friday activity walk Kindergarten ceremony
- June 20- K - Friendly Farm/Gr 5 dinner

Fuller

- June 13 - Drama Club show
- June 14 - Money Mammals Puppet Show/America Reads celebration
- June 15 - 3rd grade walking tour of Keene/Recorder Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- June 16 - 3rd grade book presentation
- June 17 - Kindergarten celebration, 9:30 a.m./Field Day
- June 20 - 5th grade graduation. 6:30 p.m.
- June 21 - 75th Anniversary Dedication Ceremony, assembly at 9:30 a.m. will start with the ringing of the school bell 5 times. During the assembly the bell will ring at intervals totaling 75. Students will speak about the history of the school and what Fuller means to them. Each grade will present a box containing items they have selected to principal Paul Huggins to be opened at Fuller's 100th/Last day of School, dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
- Sept 6 - 1st day of school for grades 1-12/Kindergarten screening
- Sept 9 - Kindergarten orientation
- Sept 12 - 1st day of school for Kindergarten students

Symonds

- June 15 - Afterschool Garden Club
- June 16 - Mrs. Lecuyer's class presents their annual play. This year's performance is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Two performances at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- June 20 - 5th Grade Fun Day at KSC/5th Grade Graduation at 7 pm
- June 21 -Final Assembly/Last Day of School, dismissal at 12:20 p.m.
- September 6 - First day of school/Day One Assembly
- September 9 - Kindergarten orientation

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

September 12 –Kindergarten begins
September 14 - Fall fundraiser begins
September 16 - School picture day

• Chess Club news: Owen Fauth, a fourth grader in Mrs. Grover's class, won the overall Symonds School championship. Peter Walter, a fifth grader in Mrs. Hastings' class took second. In the third grade tournament, Stephen Shin, a third grader in Mrs. Hoefler's classroom, took first place. The tournament took place over the months of March and April at the regular chess club meetings. The final class celebrated with a cake designed to look like a chessboard, with 32 chess pieces made out of white and dark chocolate. The cake was courtesy of Dawn Zaluki, the mother of one of our fifth grade players.

Wheelock

- June 14 - Kindergarten to Friendly Farm
- June 15 - Wheelock Day/PTA Barbeque/Preschool end of year celebrations
- June 16- Assembly with Swamp Bats players
- June 17 - Preschool end of year celebrations
- June 20 – Kindergarten end of year celebration/5th Grade Recognition Night
- June 21-Last Day Assembly-Dismissal at 12:20
- July 5-29 - Preschool Extended School Year Tuesday thru Friday
- September - 9 Kindergarten Orientation
- September - 12 Kindergarten begins

This is a summary of the proceedings of the Keene Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, June 14, 2011 in the LGIA at KHS.

Board Accepts Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Final Report

The Keene Board of Education formally accepted the final report of the Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and thanked Chair Kristin Blais and the rest of the committee for their hard work. The 18-member committee met 18 times, held 8 community forums, created a web site containing an incredible amount of research and information. The committee was charged with tackling the topic of how to maintain quality education in our elementary schools while finding cost saving measures. The committee in its final report recommends that the district close one elementary school and reconfigure the remaining four schools into narrow grade spans – pre K – 1 at one school, K-1 at a second and two grades 2 – 5 schools. The board discussed what the next steps should be and agreed to wait until the final Marinace Architect report is received and then vote at its August 9 meeting whether to accept the recommendation of the ad hoc committee.

Board Approves Hiring Back 39 Pink Slipped Teachers

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the full board voted to offer jobs to 39 of the pink slipped teachers and “to fill vacancies as deemed necessary and to provide the board with a list of approximately \$450,000 of potential offsetting budget reductions.” Those potential cuts include 5 positions at KHS, a freeze on professional development, KMS staffing and elementary playground expenditures until the state aid picture is finalized.

Board Honors Ten Exceptional Teachers

As each teacher's name was read, the Board and audience leapt to their feet to give each honoree a standing ovation. It is the first year the board has given out awards to honor exceptional teachers. Board Chair Kathleen O'Donnell said it is a tradition that will continue and grow. Those honored include:

John Bass – Art - Symonds School

Andrea Dube – 5th grade – Franklin School

Melanie Everard – Music – Franklin School

Erika Greenwald – 8th grade math – Keene Middle School

John Kersey – English – Keene High School

Pam Merrow – 3rd grade – Fuller School

John Ohlson – Automotive Technology – Cheshire Career Center

Kate Skinner – 2nd grade – Jonathan Daniels School

Jeremy VanDerKern – English – Keene High School

Barbara Ware – Math – Keene High School

Each will receive a \$500 cash award.

Board Honored as the NH School Board of the Year

Senator Molly Kelly and Ted Comstock, executive director of the NH School Board Association (NHSBA), read proclamations honoring the Board for being selected as the 2011 NH School Board of the Year by the NHSBA.

KHS World Language Teacher Suzanne Charles Honored

Board Chair O'Donnell recognized and presented a bouquet of flowers to Suzanne Charles, head of the World Language Dept. at KHS who was named the 2010-11 NH World Language Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Charles along with the board were honored at the EDies award ceremony earlier this month.

Board Honors and Thanks KHS Student Reps

Board Chair O'Donnell presented a bouquet of flowers to Jennifer Wiemers '11 and Maria Ganio '12 and thanked them for their service as representatives to the Board this past year. Maria introduced next year's representatives, Hannah Mansson '13 and Jordan Hastings '13.

Legislative Round Up

Co-superintendent Wayne Woolridge reported that the Senate and House are in conference ironing out differences between their two state budgets. When that work is done, the district will have a clear idea of what state aid will look like for the next two years starting July 1, 2011. He said it looks like the final version will include a reinstatement of building aid, transportation and vocational aid, drop out assistance, catastrophic aid, and level funding of adequacy aid. The likely budget will call on school employees to contribute an additional 2% to the state retirement system. It looks like the drop out age will remain at 18 years of age, and that cyber bullying will remain in the bullying legislation approved last year.

In other action:

- Education Committee Chair Mark Nugent urged all those interested in the final report of the consultant hired to look at a gifted and talented curriculum K-8 to attend its meeting next Tuesday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Cheshire Career Center conference room.
- No one spoke at the public hearing on the sale of 34 West Street. That proposed sale for \$525,000 will proceed.
- The board took another step toward implementing a yearly performance review of all staff by requesting the committee studying performance appraisals to make a recommendation for a software system at the August 9th Personnel Committee meeting.

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2011.