



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- May 11 – **Elementary Ad Hoc Forum #7 – 5 schools? 4 schools? 3 schools?** 6:30 p.m., KHS Auditorium, Marinace Architects reports on possible reconfigurations of our elementary schools.
- May 30 – **Memorial Day** – KHS Marching Band, KMS Marching Band to parade downtown Keene 10 a.m.

KHS

- **Senior Laura Damato** won a **Timken \$5,000 scholarship** and an iPod. She's the first KHS student to win one in 15 years. Only 20 scholarships awarded worldwide.
- Senior John Szot was awarded a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship as a result of his high score in the PSAT test and his laudatory scholar

GRADUATION EVENTS

- May 21 – **Prom** at the Zorn Dining Commons, KSC, 8 – midnight
 - May 26 – **Alternative Diploma Class Graduation**, 7 p.m., KHS auditorium
 - June 8 – **CCC Awards Night**, 7 p.m., auditorium
 - June 9 – **KHS special Recognition Night**, 7 p.m., auditorium
 - June 11 – **KHS retirement night** – Papagallos, 5:30 p.m.
 - June 12 – **Baccalaureate**, 4 p.m. First Baptist Church
 - June 15 – **Senior Scholarship Awards Night**, 7 p.m. auditorium
 - June 17 – **Graduation**, 6 p.m. alumni field weather permitting, Purbeck Gymnasium if inclement weather, KHS Band performs May 12 – French 3 to Clark Art Museum in Williamstown, mass.
 - May 12 – **Annual Blood Drive** sponsored by the Health Science Technology program, 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., LGIA
 - May 15 – **March of Dimes Walk**
 - May 17 – **NECAP testing/National Honor Society Induction**, 6 p.m., auditorium/**Envirothon** competition at Great Bay Discovery Center
 - May 18 – **NECAP testing** continues
 - May 19 – Peer Mediation meeting, 11:10 main guidance conf. room
 - May 23 – **National Art Honor Society Induction**, Robin Hood park 6 – 8 p.m. seniors: Mina Hibino, Hannah Wiley, and Sarah Scott Kathryn Stockwell. Juniors: Olivia Gourley, Caroline Womack. Sophomores: Katie Marinoff, Katelyn McStravick, and Lauren Russell. Freshman: Joey diBiccari
 - May 25 – Safe School Ambassador meeting block 4
 - May 27 – **LIFE program** to NE Aquarium,
 - May 31 – **Spring Choral Concert**, 7:30 p.m., auditorium
 - June 1 – **Travis Roy** "The First 11 Seconds" presentation in the auditorium at 7 p.m.
 - June 3 – **Spring Jazz Concert**, 7:30 p.m., auditorium
 - June 4 – Band trip to **Boston Pops**
 - June 6 – **Water Safety & Drowning Prevention**: assembly presented by Kassy Helie, mother of Davis Hemingway, a KHS student who drowned
 - June 9 – **English Department Awards**, 2:30 p.m., LGIA
 - KHS Key Club and KSC Circle K Club hosted a **TASTY TUNES** on April 29 featuring local music and desserts. Proceeds benefit Camp Sunshine in Maine, which provides respite, support, joy and hope to children with life-threatening illnesses.
- ## CCC
- May 24 – **Job Fest** at KSC for KHS and CCC seniors hosted by Monadnock Center for Successful Transition Approximately 40 local employers will be at the event to offer jobs and job skill workshops.
 - **Nine CCC students took the National Financial Challenge in April** – **William Bemis-Starkey, Nicholas Fenuccio, Julia Lagace, Cole Ledwith, Karl Parrott, Jacob Strong, Kayla Yoerger, Brandon Hudson, and Chandri Patel**. Six students finished in the top 10% of the 84,000 taking the test nationwide. This awards program is designed to increase financial knowledge and capability of high school student. Teacher administering the test were Tracey Jellison, Cheryl Lamoureaux, and Linda Merrill.
 - **FBLA students** participated in the **spring leadership conference** – **Jacob Strong, Lucas LaScala, Tyler Deyo, Sam Ebbinghausen, Forest Hall, Ben Meola, Wes Meyers, Mike Selema, Nate Russell, Kody Frye and Stu Ferguson**. Lucas LaScala was elected a NH state officer and came in 1st in public speaking qualifying him for

the national competition in Orlando in July. Jacob Strong came in 3rd in interview competition and won a \$500 scholarship to Plymouth State Univ., **Sam Ebbinghausen took 3rd in business communications and Kody Frye took 3rd for Intro to business.** **KMS**

• Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 participated in the final round of **the WordMasters Challenge** competition - a national language arts competition. Peter Bowles (Grade 6), Cecelia Miceli (Grade 7) achieved perfect scores. Many other students achieved commendable scores as well including: in **grade 6 - Olivia Guerriero, Kyle Scholz, Diego Betancourt, Aidan Bradley, Alex Stroshine, Dan Willis, Anika Frederiksen, Samantha DiPetro, John Allard**; in **grade 7 - Christy Blair, Ella MacDonald, Emma Hoffman, Briana Uvena, Erin Hickey, Reilly Sullivan, Zosha Silverstein-Beldon, Pearl Allen, Catherine Sullivan**; and in **grade 8 - Casey Osborne, Jake Cohen, Melie Vandenburg, Sarah Dintino, Samantha Cohen, Celia Baybutt, Sadie Borden, Cooper Jorden, Lilia Curtis, Trae Tullar**. Students and staff are waiting for the final results from all three rounds from WordMasters. Thanks goes to the following teachers for bringing WordMasters to their classrooms: **Ms. Joanna Schinler, Mr. Eric Stinebring, Mrs. Patrice Campbell, Mr. John McMahon, Mrs. Leanna Hamlin and Mr. Dominic DiBenedetto**. 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.

Cluster News:

A- Homeroom 116, facilitated by advisor Ms. Sullivan, is collecting items for the **Humane Society** from Monday, May 2 to Friday the 13th.

E: Homeroom 272, facilitated by Mr. Fay, held two bake sales to benefit the Monadnock Humane Society. Students raised \$126.

• June 1 - **KMS Chorus, Strings and Showchoir assemblies**. Grade 7 - 8:15 a.m.; Grade 6 - 9:35 a.m.; Grade 8 – 1 p.m.

• June 2 - **KMS Chorus and Showchoir evening concert**. 6 p.m., KMS auditorium

• June 3 - **African Children's Choir** song exchange with KMS Showchoir (KMS students only), 12:30 p.m.

Daniels

• May 11 - Grade 1 to Stonewall Farm/after school Critters Club

• May 12 - Grade 5 Spring Picture Day

• May 13 - JDA Mom & Son Night

• May 16 - Grade 3 after school Fishing Club

• May 17 - KMS Jazz Band performance/Grade 4 after school Fishing Club

• May 18 - After school Critters Club

• May 21 - JDA CIRCESTA – 10:00 – 2:00 PM (Parade at 9:30 a.m.)

• May 23 - Grade 5 after school Fishing Club

• May 24 - Grade 5 after school Fishing Club

• May 25 - After school Critters Club

• May 27 - Grade 3 to Keene Comes Alive

• May 31 - Grade 5 leaves for Ecology Camp/Grade 3 & 4 after school Fishing Club

• June 1 - After school Critters Club/Grade 3 & 4 After school Fishing Club

• June 3 - Grade 5 returns from Ecology Camp

• June 6 - Band Assembly, JDA meeting 6:15 PM

• June 8 - After school Critters Club

• June 10 - Grade 4 Field Trip Franklin

Franklin

• May 11 - School Nurse Day/PTC meeting

• May 12 - All School Assembly

• May 13 - Gr. 2 to Hannaford/Friday Activity walk

• May 14 - Franklin Flea Market

• May 16 - Gr. 3 Junior Achievement

• May 17 - Student Council/KMS Jazz Concert/Running Club (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

(School Talk continued from other side)

- May 19 - Student Council Bake Sale
- May 20 - Sealant Day/Friday Activity Walk
- May 23 - Gr. 3 Junior Achievement
- May 24 - Student Council/Gr. 3 to Wyman tavern/Running Club
- May 26 - Gr. 3 Junior Achievement/Memorial Day Assembly
- May 27 - Keene Comes Alive/Friday Activity walk
- May 31 - Student Council/Gr. 1 to East Hill Farm/Running Club
- June 3 - Keene Comes Alive (rain date)/Gr. 4 Harris Center/Friday Activity
- June 6 - Gr. 4 Harris Center
- June 7 - Student Council/Gr. 4 Harris Center/Running Club
- June 8 - Gr. 4 Harris Center/PTC Family Picnic
- June 9 - All School Assembly/Gr. 4 Harris Center
- June 10 - Gr. 4 Harris Center/Friday Activity walk/K-3 Dancing with Allison & Hunt
- June 13 - Gr. 4 to the State House
- June 14 - Popcorn/Pencil Sale/Gr. 2 to Billings Farm/Running Club

Fuller

- May 11 - Drama Club
- May 12 - 5th Grade Harris Center Walking Trip/1B to Drummer Hill
- May 13 - FSA Candy Bingo Nigh
- May 16 - 1B to Stonewall Farm/Staff Appreciation Luncheon/5210 Fitness Club
- May 17 - KMS Jazz Band Tour/Drama Club
- May 20 - Health Assembly
- May 23 - 1C & 1H to Stonewall Farm/5210 Fitness Club/Strings Step Up Concert
- May 25 - Drama Club
- May 26 - 5th Grade to NE Aquarium
- May 27 - Keene Comes Alive
- May 31 - Drama Club
- June 3 - Student Council "Lets Move"/5210 Fitness Club
- June 7 - Drama Club/Chorus Concert
- June 8 - Band Assembly/ Club
- June 9 - 4th Grade to Boston Museum of Science
- June 10 - Funesta
- June 13 Drama Show
- June 14 Money Mammals Puppet Show

Symonds

- May 18 - From music teacher Peter Siegel: "**The Big Night**", a musical pageant to be held outdoors at 6:30 p.m. Symonds playground, **follows the adventures of Salamanders' journey across the road to their vernal pools.** Bread and Puppet helped build giant paper Mache' puppets (one is 51 feet from end to end) and Paula Aarons of MoCo led a dance residency as part of a celebration of peace and diversity in the world with an original script, songs, dances and an enormous parade.
- May 11 - After school Drama Club/After school Garden Club/Elementary Ad Hoc Committee meeting, KHS auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- May 12 - Mrs. Bohannon to visit KHS Preschool
- May 13 - Kindergarten to visit French Farm
- May 16 - After school Drama Club/After school Garden Club
- May 17 - After school Bike Club
- May 18 - Day One Assembly/After school Garden Club/All School Drama Performance of The Big Night, 6p.m.
- May 19 - KMS Jazz Band performance & third grade instrument demonstration
- May 20 - Fourth grade to visit Langdon Place
- May 23 - After school Garden Club/Strings Concert, 7 p.m., KHS
- May 24 - After school Bike Club
- May 25 - First grade to visit Stonewall Farm/Third grade to tour City of Keene/After school Garden Club/Reception for retiring teacher Patricia Lecuyer 4 -6 p.m. in the Symonds School Library
- May 26 - Day One Assembly
- May 27 - Fourth grade to visit Montshire Museum/Third graders to participate in Keene Comes Alive
- May 31 - After school Bike Club
- June 1 - PTA meeting, 7 p.m.
- June 6 - Day One Assembly
- June 7 - Third grade to visit Seacoast Science Museum/Bike Club
- June 10 - Symonds Circus
- June 14 - Day One Assembly

Wheelock

- May 17 - KMS Jazz Band assembly
- May 16-18 - Cheshire Smiles classroom presentations
- May 19 - Deb Sawyer's fourth grade visits the State House, Pierce Manse and Concord

Coach Insurance Group

- May 23 - Elementary Strings Concert and awards ceremony
- May 27 - Keene Comes Alive
- May 31 - Grade 1 visits Stonewall Farm
- June 1 - PTA Meeting 6:15 in the library
- June 2 - K birdhouse building
- June 6 - Mr. Bruce's Watermelon Day
- June 7 - K birdhouse painting
- June 10 - Wheelock Elementary Band student assembly/Retirement celebration for Dan Gillard
- June 15 - Wheelock Day
- June 20 - Fifth Grade Recognition Night

This is a summary of the proceedings of the Keene Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 10, 2011 in the LGIA at KHS.

Nearly 80 Teachers Show Solidarity with KEA Request

Approximately 80 KHS teachers attended last night's Board meeting to show their support "Regarding a report sent directly to the school board" last weekend. The topic of the report was not addressed. Maureen Meyer, representing the KEA, read a statement saying in part, "We respect your wishes that this be handled as thoughtfully, judiciously, and expeditiously as possible." In concluding Ms. Meyer said, "We would ask that the board continue to work with the KEA legal representatives to establish a time within the next few weeks during which you can meet with KEA/KHS representatives to move forward with this matter."

Michelle Couture, NEA/NH UniServ director, also read a statement, "I would also like to thank the board for their (sic) commitment to work with the teachers at Keene High to move forward in investigating and finding solutions for these issues." The Board had no comment.

Board Takes No Action on "Administrative planning in response to anticipated expenditure and revenue loss"

After much discussion, the board decided not to take any action related to either reinstating pink slipped teachers or cutting programs for next year until the district gets a clearer picture of what the state is going to do vis-à-vis funding. Co-Superintendent Wayne Woolridge, who follows the state legislature closely, told the board that the senate has set a June 2 deadline to complete its budget work and it should be clearer than what the funding picture will look like. The Finance Committee will meet June 7th to consider what action to take with regard to next year's budget and whether or not to rehire some or all of the pink slipped teachers. The full board will consider the issue the following week, June 14th at its monthly meeting. Several board members expressed their frustration that the uncertainty of state funding has caused such anxiety to those affected teachers and the district as a whole.

Board Establishes Exceptional Teacher Award

The Board has set up a process whereby 10 teachers will be selected each year as Exceptional Teachers and be awarded \$500 each. In discussing this award, Board Chair Kathleen O'Donnell said, "This is a way to allow our community to thank those teachers for their exceptional work." (The nomination criteria and process will be sent to all employees shortly.)

Update on Board Issues:

- **Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee** - Chair Kristin Blais urged all board members and community members to attend tonight's Community Forum #7 at which time Marinace Architects will present different configurations of our elementary schools - 5 schools, 4 schools, 3 schools - and various grade span options. The meeting will be held tonight, Wednesday, May 11, from 6:30 - 8:30 in the KHS auditorium.
- **Gifted and Talented** - Ed. Com. Chair Mark Nugent said that a community forum "Supporting High Ability Children at Home and at School" will be held on May 19 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the LGIA at KHS. The presenter is Linda Burdick who has been hired by the district to make recommendations to set up a program for gifted and talented K-8 students by next September.
- **Old middle school** - Mr. Harper reported that the title issue has been resolved and that he expects the sale of the building to proceed smoothly.
- **New middle school** - Mr. Coates said that most of the building would be ready for students September 6th. The auditorium won't be ready until October.
- 34 West Street - Mr. Harper reported that he has some good prospects but at this point the information is for non-public discussion only.

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.