



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 11 – Veterans' Day/All schools and offices closed
- Nov. 15 – Community Forum #5, Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. KHS LGIA
- Nov. Nov. 24 – 26 – Thanksgiving break/School Closed
- Dec. 1 – Dec. 9 – Chanukah
- Dec. 3 – Teacher Workshop Day/No School

KHS

- National Art Honor Society students volunteered to make and glaze pottery bowls for the Keene Community Kitchen Empty Bowls fund raising project held last Saturday, November 6: Sarah Scott, Katelyn McStravick, Katie Marinoff, Eric DeCesare, Caroline Womack, Emily Seymore, Jacob Janson, Terrenae Bryant, Lauren Russell, and Mina Hibino Hannah Wiley
- Nov. 12 – Quarter I report cards distributed
- Nov. 16 – Fall Jazz concert, 7:30 p.m., auditorium
- Nov. 17 – English classes to the Colonial Theatre for “Mayhem Poets”
- Nov. 20 – NH All-State Music Festival auditions at Manchester Memorial High School. Thirty KHS music students will be taking part hoping to be selected to participate in the Chamber Music Festival in January and the All State Music Festival in April.
- Nov. 22 & 23 – AIDS Memorial Quilt in the gym
- Nov. 22 - French AP class field trip to French Cultural Center in Boston
- All New England Band Festival at Plymouth State University - Brea Arvidson - Flute, Darcy Ray and John Szot - Clarinet, Emily Wilson - Alto Saxophone, John McStravick - Trombone, Joshua Sevigny - Tuba
- Dec. 1 & 2 – Peer Mediation training at Keene State College camp
- Dec. 4 – New England Festival
- Dec. 6 – Guidance Department's College Financial Aid presentation for parents and students, 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium
- Dec. 7 – Jodi Picoult, author of book about bullying, *Nineteen Minutes*, presents to students and staff. Bullying is a year-long theme at KHS. Excerpts from the book are being read to students during advisories.
- Dec. 7 – Holiday Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium
- Six KHS students were selected to perform at the 2011 All-Stat Jazz Festival: Jake McStravick – Trombone – Jazz Band; Max Carmel– Tenor Honors Choir; John Whippie – Bass – Honors Choir; Tamar Teitelman – Alto – Jazz Choir; Cody Hall – Tenor – Jazz Choir; Peter Hiebert – Bass – Jazz Choir

CCC

- CCC students were among over 76,000 students across the country who participated in the National Financial Capability Challenge organized by the US Departments of Treasury and Education. Three of them, Tanner Luopa, Kayla Yoerger, and Julia Lagace were recognized for scoring in the top 20% nationally of those taking the exam. Each received a \$100 award. The following teachers participated in the project: Tracey Jillson, Diane Delisle, Cheryl Lamoureaux, and Linda Merrill.
- On October 21st, 17 students from the KHS chapter of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) attended the Fall 2010 Leadership Conference at Daniel Webster College in Nashua: Derek Carty, Alex DeGrosky, Tyler Deyo, Sam Ebbighausen, Alex Erez, Stu Ferguson, Kody Frye, Forest Hall, Tom Heneghan, Nick Joslin, Lucas LaScala, Mason Mann, Ben Meola, Wes Myers, Mike Salema, Jacob Strong and Logan Corliss.
- Fourteen students from the early childhood class attended the Fall Conference for Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA): Molly Ferron, Kelly Hook, Tiffany LaCount, Paige Conroy, Courtney Cormier, Amber Hager, Nichole Seavey, Emily Solomonides, Abby Thompson, Sadie Elliott, and Eilzabeth Mooers. CCC students placed 1st in the poster contest and 2nd in the name tag contest. FCCLA advisors are Jane Graves and Tracey Jillson.
- Cheshire Career Center Future Farmers of America (FFA) students had a great showing at the fall career development events competition at the Deerfield Fair: Dairy Judging - 1st Place - Kiah Buckley, 2nd Place - Jacob Blake, 3rd Place - Jonathan Whitcomb. Dairy Showmanship - 6th Place - Melody Robar. Tractor Driving - 2nd Place - Henry Giffin & Andrew Scanlan and 3rd Place - Dan Scanlan & Rusty Wilder, Floral Design - 1st Place - Rob Crow and Morgan Monty, 5th Place - Krista Fletcher FFA Interscholastics at UNH : Dairy Judging - 4th Place – CCC Team. Dairy Showmanship - 1st Place

- Jacob Blake who became the NH State Champion for FFA Dairy Showing. He will be representing NH at the FFA National Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana next October.

KMS

- Cheshire Smiles screened 83 8th graders at KMS on October 29th. Students who qualify will be recommended for sealants in March.
- Nov. 10 – Cluster F field trip to Lowell
- Nov. 15 – Guiding Good Choices, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – Cluster C & D to the Colonial Theatre
- Nov. 18 – Sports Awards Assembly
- Dec. 9 – KMS Band Concert at KHS at 7 p.m.
- Cluster A: Sponsored by sixth grade Cluster A and facilitated by math teacher Mrs. McCrae, the fifth annual food drive is happening from Oct. 25-Nov. 5.
- Clusters C and D: Seventh grade students from Clusters C and D will be attending the “Mayhem Poets” interactive poetry presentation at the Colonial Theatre on Wednesday, November 17th. This young poetry troupe, based out of New Jersey, has a high-energy performance style that is not only entertaining, but also completely engaging and inspirational for middle school students. Following the performance, students will deepen their understanding of and engagement in literature, history, world cultures and the performing arts through an individual artist-led workshop and lecture demonstration.

JD

- Nov. 12 – Fall Fundraiser Delivery
- Nov. 15 – Grade 2 Field Trip To Stonewall Farm/Grade 4 after school Ultimate-ball/Pinball
- Nov. 16 - Grade 5 after school Ultimate-ball/Pinball
- Nov. 18 – Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov. 19 - JDA movie night
- Nov. 29 - Grade 4 after school Ultimate-ball/Pinball
- Nov. 30 - Grade 5 after school Ultimate-ball/Pinball
- Dec. 01 – First trimester ends
- Dec. 02 – Math Beyond the Dots
- Dec. 03 – NO SCHOOL – Parent Conferences
- Dec. 04 - JDA Craft Fair 8:30-2 p.m.
- Dec. 06 – NH Historical Society visits Grade 4
- Dec. 13 – JDA meeting at 6:15 p.m.

The 23rd Annual JDA Holiday Craft Fair will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 4th. There will be many vendors with tables of fine handcrafts, gifts, and holiday trimmings. Lunch, desserts, and snacks will be available for purchase. There will be many opportunities to win great items in the wonderful annual raffle.

Franklin

- Nov. 9 – Popcorn & pencil sale/Student Council/Running Club
- Nov. 10 - Veteran's Day Assembly/Math Beyond the Dots/Monadnock Music/Gr 2 Morris tobacco prevention program/Gr 4 - Tobacco Prevention program/Gr 5P tobacco prevention program
- Nov. 12 - Tiger Assembly/Gr 5B tobacco prevention program/Gr 2K tobacco prevention program/Kindergarten to the fire station
- Nov. 16 - Student Council/Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov. 30 - Intramurals
- Dec. 3 - No school - parent/teacher conferences
- Dec. 4 - Holiday breakfast

Fuller

- Nov 8 - Grades K-2 dance performance
- Nov 9 - Grades 3-5 dance performance
- Nov 10 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov 12 - Movie night/Kindergarten to Hannafords
- Nov 17 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov 19 - 3rd Grade to Plimouth Plantation/Kindergarten to Hannafords
- Nov 22 - Food Drive
- November 23 - 3rd grade is having a Harvest Festival and a Native American is coming to speak. This is in conjunction with their Plimouth Plantation trip.
- Nov 23 - Food drive assembly

(School Talk continued on next page)

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 previous page)

- Dec 1 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Dec 2 - Movie night
- Dec 4 - Wreath sales this month
- Dec 5 - Holiday store
- Dec 8 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Dec 10 - Jump Rope for Heart

Symonds

- Nov. 10 - Veterans Day assembly/After school Running Club/PTA sponsored pizza/movie night
- Nov. 16 - Annual Turkey Trot and canned goods drive
- Nov. 17 - PTA meeting at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 19 - 3rd Grade to Plimoth Plantation/Day One Assembly
- Nov. 29 - Picture retake day
- Dec. 1 - Annual Book Fair begins/End 1st trimester
- Dec. 2 - Day One Assembly
- Dec. 3 - Teacher Workshop - No school
- Dec. 7 - 2nd grade to Colonial Theatre
- Dec. 13 - Day One Assembly
- Symonds Peacemakers Pennies for Peace program has raised more than \$900.

Wheelock

- Nov. 10- Math Beyond the Dots (MBtDs/Wednesday Assembly/BBBS (Big Brothers/Big sisters) meets after school/ Dawn Loughery-Symonds will be attending a workshop at the NH Dept of Ed focusing on Supporting Students in Military Families
- Nov. 15 - The Community Preschool Team is presenting a parent workshop on "Successful Transitions from Preschool to Kindergarten" for families of students in the Wheelock Preschool. An additional parent workshop will be held for students in local community preschools.
- Nov. 16 - Beginner Ensemble meets before school/Advanced Ensemble meets after school/BBBS meets after school
- Nov. 17 - MBtDs/Wednesday Assembly/BBBS meets after school
- Nov. 19 - Picture Retakes
- Nov. 23 - Beginner Ensemble meets before school/Advanced Ensemble meets after school/BBBS meets after school
- Nov. 30 - Beginner Ensemble meets before school/Advanced Ensemble meets after school/BBBS meets after school
- Dec. 1 - MBtDs/Wednesday Assembly/BBBS meets after school/PTA Meeting at 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 3 - Parent/Teacher conferences
- Dec. 7 - Beginner Ensemble meets before school/Advanced Ensemble meets after school/BBBS meets after school
- Dec. 8 - MBtDs/Wednesday Assembly/BBBS meets after school
- Nelson School Principal, Sheila Vara, will spend the day with 1st grade teacher Dawn Loughery-Symonds to watch the use of interactive white boards in the classroom, organization and storage of curriculum content.
- Wheelock School and its PTA is holding its annual holiday food drive.

This is a summary of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Keene Board of Education on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010 in the LGIA at KHS.

Parents Object to KHS One Book, One Read

About 35 parents showed up at the Keene Board of Education meeting last night to object to the choice of Jodi Picoult's book *Nineteen Minutes* which is being used this year as a One Book, One Read at Keene High School to focus the school's effort on bullying. Excerpts from the book are being read aloud during student advisories this fall, and used as a basis for discussion. Liz Nelson from Spofford spoke first and said the choice of the book failed on every level because it did not offer conflict resolution, did not offer any role models and ways to improve a school's climate. She said she is against bullying and supports efforts to prevent such behavior but felt the book was not the best one to use. She said a better choice would have been *Bobby's Story*, which has been used by another school district. She then read excerpts from the book that she said were "offensive, violent, and graphic." She felt those passages detracted from the message. She said that parents should have had the option to have their children opt out of advisory when the excerpts are read. Six other parents spoke and echoed Ms. Nelson's objections.

The District Wrestles with Unpaid School Meal Accounts

Food Service Director Maureen Wells gave a very emotional presentation

last night on the problem of how to deal with families that owe money for their child/children's school breakfast and lunch meals. She said that as the result of a state audit, the KSD must collect or pay for any outstanding balance at the end of the fiscal year. This past year that amounted to \$13,000. She said that the way a proposed policy is now written, food service personnel would have to refuse a child a meal if that child has an outstanding balance. She said she would not do that, nor would she expect her employees to do that. She asked, and the board completely agreed, to look at the policy and figure out how to deal with unpaid accounts. She said there is a fund called "Take A Friend to Lunch" that accepts donations that are then used to pay for meals for children whose parents can't afford the cost. If any employee is interested in contributing to the fund, please send a check made out to Keene Food Services with a notation that it is for the "Take A Friend to Lunch" and send it to Mrs. Wells via inter office mail to the food service program, 77 Arch Street, Keene. The policy was referred to the Ad Hoc Policy Committee for revision. Mr. Roberts also said how important it is to sign up families that qualify for free and reduced lunch because it determines the amount of federal aid. Mrs. Wells added that if a school qualifies by having a certain number of free and reduced lunch families, it can receive free fruits and vegetables several times a week. Both Franklin and Wheelock now qualify and she said it is a wonderful program. All children benefit.

Board Approves Tuition Rates for 2011-2012

The board approved, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the following tuition rates for the 2011-2012 school year:

	General	Special Ed.
Elementary	\$10,900	\$35,397
Middle School		
AREA	\$12,979	\$28,405
Non- AREA	\$14,111	\$31,792
High School		
AREA	\$11,022	\$21,358
Non-AREA	\$11,793	\$22,847

Board Approves Hiring Marinace Architects to Carry Out Detail Study of Elementary Schools

Upon recommendation of the Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee the board approved hiring Marinace Architects to carry out a detailed study of the elementary school from a number of perspectives that will aid the committee in its effort to determine the most cost effective way to deliver education to our preschool through grade 5 population. Kristin Blais who heads up that committee reminded the board that the group's next community forum is Monday, November 15th from 6:30 - 8:30 in the LGIA at KHS. Mr. Marinace will be at that meeting to outline the work his firm will do.

In other Action:

- **KMS Marketing Committee** - Has one offer on the table and a back up one as well. Hoping to have a proposal to sell the building for the district warrant in January and the voters in March.
- **New KMS**- Mr. Donegan noted that the project is three weeks behind schedule. Mr. Coates noted that the delay could be made up as we move closer to a completion date of July 25, 2011. Both said that the work that is being done is of high quality.
- **Community Bullying Forum** - Chair O'Donnell and Co-Supt. Gurney are trying to nail down a date for a forum on bullying for parents to become educated to state law, district and school policy, and to have a chance to ask questions they may have.
- **State Aid to Education** - There was a great deal of discussion about how difficult it will be this year to determine how much less state aid the district can expect to receive with the looming state deficit and the newly elected Republican majorities in both the state house and senate. The state budget won't be set until months after the district's budget. Local property taxpayers will make up any shortfall.
- **34 West Street** - the board chose H.G. Johnson Real Estate to be the broker for the sale of the building.