



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 23 – 25 – Thanksgiving Vacation/no school
- Nov. 30 – Keene Board of Education Community Forum to gather input on proposal to close JD and reconfigure grade spans at the four remaining elementary schools, 7 p.m., KHS auditorium
- Dec. 9 – Staff Workshop Day/no school

KHS

• During the week of Nov. 14th, a teaching artist from *The Acting Company* in NYC will be visiting two classes--Shakespeare and drama. The Shakespeare class will study the script the company will use in March when they come to Keene to perform *The Comedy of Errors*. Students in the Shakespeare class will be attending the performance at the Colonial in March along with other students who study Shakespearean comedy. The drama class will have a more generalized workshop. These workshops, presented free of charge as part of The Acting Company's education and outreach program, "Learning Through Theatre", were arranged through The Colonial Theatre and The Redfern Arts Center at Keene State College. KHS is very fortunate to have this company visit.

- Nov. 21 – New England Band Festival at PSU
- Dec. 6 – Holiday Band Concert at 7:30 p.m., auditorium
- Dec. 7 – Senior Citizen Holiday Dance, 5 p.m., cafeteria
- Dec. 12 – Financial Aid Night presentation by guidance department, 6:30 p.m., auditorium
- STRINGS COMING TO KHS – the KSD strings program will start at KHS next fall. (The strings program started in 3rd grade in 2006. Those students are now in 8th grade. Each year the program has expanded by one grade and is now in place in grades 3-8 in Keene.) In preparation for the move to KHS, the KHS Fine and Performing Arts Department is organizing a String Ensemble Club in January for interested KHS students who already play a string instrument. KMS strings teacher Kaley Corriveau will be the club's advisor. If interested in the club or joining the class next fall, please contact Shannon Perry, KHS art teacher and chair of the department: saperry@sau29.org
- The National Art Honor Society, led by art teachers Peg Barnes, Mary C. Hamilton, and Melanie White, made bowls for the Keene Community Kitchen Empty Bowls fundraiser. Students participating included: Terrenae Bryant, Joey deBicari, Sarah Fields, Julia Guerriero, Emma Kipp, Heather Madden, Katelyn McStravick, Allie Pro, and Caroline Womack.

KMS

- On November 3rd archaeologist Robert Goodby visited KMS to present his findings of archaeological artifacts at a site behind the new middle school. He also demonstrated how to throw an Indian spear.
- Students in Miranda Nelken's 6th grade art classes completed an art lesson featuring the animals of Mount Monadnock with inspiration from contemporary wildlife conservation artist Stuart Arnett. The lesson combined observational animal drawings of Mount Monadnock on topographical maps of the region, symbolically connecting animals to their geographical location. The historic work of Abbott Thayer, another great artist who worked toward conservation of Mount Monadnock, was also highlighted in the lesson through slide shows and discussions. Mr. Arnett has featured 4 student artists on his wildlife art and conservation web site: http://www.stuartarnett.com/SA_Gallery_Artistic_Cartography_Definition_of_Style.html. You can also go through his Gallery to Maps to link. <http://www.stuartarnett.com/>
- On Oct. 27th, KMS once again hosted Rachel's Challenge for students during the day and parents/interested community members at night. Rachel Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999. In her memory, Rachel's Challenge demonstrates that if you treat others with kindness and compassion you could prevent such atrocities in the future.

JD

- Nov. 16 - Grade 2 Field Trip to Stonewall Farm/Critter Club Grades 3 & 4
- Nov. 17 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov. 18 - Games Club/Project Eye to Eye/JDA Movie Night 6 p.m.
- Nov. 21 - JDA Meeting 6:15 p.m.
- Nov. 22 - NHHEAF visits 5th Grade
- Nov. 30 - Critter Club Grades 3 & 4
- Dec. 1 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Dec. 2 - Games Club/Project Eye to Eye
- Dec. 3 - JDA Holiday Craft Fair/Elementary Adv. Band Concert, KHS, 2 p.m.
- Dec 4 - Adv. Band Concert Snow Date
- Dec. 7 - Critter Club
- Dec 8 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Dec. 12 - JDA Meeting 6:15 p.m./Acting Out 2 -2:45 p.m.
- Dec.14 - Critter Club Grades 3 & 4
- Dec 16 - Games Club

Franklin

- Nov. 19 - Apple pie sale in front of Your Kitchen Store, Main Street from 9 – 1 p.m.
- Nov. 21 - Grade 2 harvest sharing in classroom – parents welcome at 2 p.m.
- Nov. 30 - Kindergarten, grades 1 & 2 field trip to Colonial Theatre, 8:45 a.m.
- Dec. 1 - Holiday shopping night 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Dec. 3 - Holiday breakfast 8 - 10 a.m./ Elementary band dress rehearsal, KHS auditorium, 12:30 p.m. (snow date 12/4)/ Elementary band concert, KHS auditorium, 2 p.m. (snow date 12/4)
- Dec. 6 - Acting Out 5-2-1-0 assembly 2:10 p.m.
- Dec. 13 - Student Council popcorn and pencil sale

Fuller

- Nov 14 - Granite Gorge Ski Club Mtg.
- Nov 15 - Running/Walking Club
- Nov 17 - FoodPlay Assembly
- Nov 18 - 3rd grade to Plimoth Plantation
- Nov. 21 – Congressman Charlie Bass will be visiting 5th grade students as a culmination of their study of federal and local governments and their participation in the Constitution Essay Contest sponsored by *The Keene Sentinel*. Students wrote essays regarding the legality of schools banning cell phones use by students during the school day.
- Nov 22 - School Wide Assembly
- Nov 30 - 1st Grade to Colonial Theatre/Public Forum on Elementary Schools
- Dec 2 - Jump Rope for Heart
- Dec 3 - Advanced Band Concert/Wreath Sale
- Dec 6 - Picture Retakes
- Dec 7 - FSA Meeting
- Dec 9 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Dec 13 - Holiday Store/School Board Vote on Elementary Schools

Symonds

- Nov. 16 - PTA Meeting at 6:45 p.m. - Superintendent Wayne Woolridge will speak to school reorganization issues and answer questions parents may have.
- Nov. 17 - Afterschool Stamp Club
- Nov.18 - Third graders to Plimoth Plantation
- Nov. 21 - Mrs. Kennedy's class presents *Stone Soup*
- Nov. 22 - Math Beyond the Dots/Harlem Superstars visit
- Nov. 28 - Day One 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

(School Talk continued from previous page)

- Nov. 29 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov. 30 - First graders to Colonial Theatre/Public Hearing, 7 p.m., KHS Auditorium regarding school reorganization
- Dec. 1 - After school Stamp Club/End of First Trimester
- Dec. 2 - Spirit Day: Fancy Friday
- Dec. 3 - Advanced Band Concert, KHS Auditorium, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 4 - Snow Date for Advanced Band Concert
- Dec. 5-16 - Student Council Hat and Mitten Drive
- Dec. 6 - Day One Assembly/Math Beyond the Dots/After school Chess Club
- Dec. 7-9 - Book Fair in Library
- Dec. 8 - After school Stamp Club
- Dec. 14 - PTA Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
- Dec. 15 - Day One Assembly/After school Stamp Club
- The PTA is currently holding a winter clothing drive to help Symonds families with winter outerwear needs. They are accepting donations of gently used jackets, snow pants, hats, mittens and boots. They are also collecting gently used children's books and art supplies to provide to families in need.
- Symonds School Peacemakers are leading the school in a penny fundraiser "Ride the Peace Train." Funds collected will be donated to the Rochester School in Rochester, Vermont which was severely damaged by the recent Hurricane Irene.

Wheelock

- Nov. 16 - MBtD's (Math Beyond the Dots); BBBS (Big Brothers/Big Sisters); PTA Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the 5th Grade Nature's Classroom trip. Tickets are \$5. Call the school for more info.
- Nov. 18 - Picture Retakes
- Nov. 21 - Bullyproof in 2nd grade; Art Club
- Nov. 22 - BBBS
- Nov. 28 - Bullyproof in 2nd grade; Art Club
- Nov. 29 - BBBS
- Nov. 30 - MBtD's; K & 1st Grade to The Colonial to see Knuffle Bunny; Superintendent monthly visit; BBBS
- Dec. 3 - Advanced Band Rehearsal and Concert and KHS (snow date 12/4)
- Dec. 5 - Bullyproof in 2nd grade; Art Club
- Dec. 6 - BBBS
- Dec. 7 - MBtD's; BBBS; PTA Meeting
- Dec. 12 - Bullyproof in 2nd grade; Art Club
- Dec. 13 - BBBS
- Army Staff Sgt. Adam Symonds, son of first grade teacher Dawn Loughery-Symonds, recently returned from Germany having completed his tour of duty. Adam had been stationed in both Iraq and Afghanistan before his final assignment in Germany. Adam requested to come to an assembly at Wheelock School to thank the students and staff for their support during his years away. Staff and students had participated in letter and card writing, raising funds for 'A cup of joe for a Joe', and in donations of personal supplies to be shipped to soldiers stationed overseas. The assembly was a sea of students and staff dressed in red, white and blue to welcome Adam home and thank him for his service to our country.

This is a summary of the Keene Board of Education's monthly meeting held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 in the LGIA at KHS.

Implementation of KHS Block Scheduling Questioned

Several teachers and the KHS student representatives to the Board had a number of questions and concerns about the proposed implementation of modified block scheduling for next school year, 2012-2013. KEA rep Maureen Meyer had several questions – will there be forums to discuss the proposal, what are its educational benefits and what flaws in the present schedule will it fix? Suzanne Sharon, KHS special

education teacher, noted that when block scheduling was introduced 13 years ago there was substantial work done beforehand to prepare staff, students and teachers and that is lacking so far this year. KHS English teacher Jon Perry said he has had questions from students about the new schedule that he can't answer. He said it is important for staff to be educated about the proposal. Student reps Hannah Mansson and Jordan Hastings said that they are afraid they will not be able to take the courses they need to fulfill graduation requirements. They said there are a lot of rumors flying around the school that are creating a lot of anxiety among students and that they would appreciate it if KHS Principal Alan Chmiel could meet with students to answer their questions and tell them what the new schedule will look like and how it will affect graduation requirements, AP and honors courses.

KHS Principal/Administration Set Out Meeting Schedule Re: Proposed Block Scheduling

Nov. 29 – Keene Board of Education's Education Committee, 5:30 p.m., Cheshire Career Center conference room – KHS administration to present proposal

- December 6 - Parent Advisory Committee meeting at 7 p.m. in the principal's conference room at KHS
- 2nd week of Dec. (tentative, date to be set) - Student meetings

KHS internal meetings:

- 11/1 - Instruct. Council met to discuss new schedule.
- 11/2 - Dept. chairs met with their administrators to discuss schedule.
- 11/3 - Department members met with their administrator to introduce new schedule.
- 12/1 - Department meetings to work out scheduling changes.
- 12/8 - Department meetings to finalize schedule changes.

More information to be posted on KHS web site keene.k12.nh.us

Tuition Rates Set for 2012-2013 School Year

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the board unanimously approved tuition rates for next school year as follows:

KHS

AREA General	\$11,594	AREA Spec. Ed	\$22,496
Non-AREA Gen.	\$13,087	Non-AREA Spec. Ed.	\$25,132

KMS

AREA General	\$12,677	AREA Spec. Ed.	\$31,779
Non-AREA Gen.	\$13,828	Non-AREA Spec. Ed.	\$39,712

Elementary (All)

General	\$11,739	Spec. Ed.	\$39,172
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Elementary School Reorganization

Wayne Woolridge reported that since the special Board meeting on Oct. 25th, he has met with parent groups at JD, Wheelock, Fuller and Franklin. He has also met with Daniels staff, elementary principals, and PTO presidents on multiple occasions and will continue to do so throughout this process. He said he and the board have received a number of questions that will be addressed at the community forum on Nov. 30th at 7 p.m. in the KHS auditorium.

In other action:

- The Board approved extending the listing agreement with H.G. Johnson Real Estate on 34 West Street for another six months to May 12, 2012. This action came after the interested buyer backed out after the city denied a bid to put a bank drive through at the back of the building. Mr. Remillard estimates it will cost \$4,000 a month to heat the building and provide minimal maintenance until it is sold.
- Mr. Donegan reported that MacMillin is way behind schedule in completing the auditorium at the new KMS. He said it won't be completed until early February and it will then take another month to install and test the sophisticated technical equipment. Mr. Gurney reported that the district has extended the contract with the clerk of the works and the commissioning agent until April 1 due to the delays in construction. The project will be 7 months overdue in February.
- Ed. Chair Mark Nugent reported that the district has not yet found a qualified person to head up the Gifted and Talented program. He hopes one will emerge early next year during the normal hiring season.

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