



# SCHOOL TALK

This is your staff newsletter. Please send news items to Chris Weeks | [cweeks@sau29.org](mailto:cweeks@sau29.org)

## Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 17 – Keene Pumpkin Festival
- Oct. 31 – Halloween
- Nov. 1 – Daylight Savings Ends. Turn clocks back one hour
- Nov. 3 – Election Day – Fuller, Symonds and Wheelock are all polling places
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day – no school

## KHS

- Oct. 14 – World Language Honor Society induction, 6:30 p.m. LGIA
- Oct. 17 – Tibetan Arts Tour arrives and will be at KHS until the dismantling ceremony on Oct. 26/PSATs
- Oct. 19 – Youth forum: “A Conversation about Underage and Binge Drinking” from 6 – 7:30 p.m. in the LGIA for parents, students and interested community members. Sponsored by the Monadnock Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coalition and the KHS Guidance Department.
- Oct. 22 – St. Paul’s School information night at 6:30 p.m., auditorium
- Oct. 23 – National Honor Society (NHS) officers - Kristy Blackwood, Rachel Cassar, Tara Morrison, and Dustin Beardsley, along with club advisers Suzanne Charles and Amy Chapman will attend the state NHS convention in Manchester where they will attend workshops and interact with NHS officers from across NH.
- Oct. 30 – First Quarter ends
- Nov. 5 – 7 – Drama Club’s fall musical *Grease*, 7 p.m. curtain, in the auditorium. Tickets are \$10. Adviser Scot Tolman says, “It promises to be a super show!”
- Nov. 6 – World Language teachers Ginny Knapp, Chip McMaster and Suzanne Charles will present a round table discussion and info session at Keene State College’s “From Global to Local” symposium to discuss KHS’s innovative programs that bring the world into schools and then brings students to the world. They will present ideas and guidelines to help high school language teachers develop successful exchange programs.
- KHS A Cappella Choir, directed by Tom Martin, will participate with 10 other schools, in a musical arrangement by seacoast composer/arranger Tim Jarvis for NH Public TV in Durham on Nov. 17. The show will air in January.
- The A Cappella Choir’s annual holiday concert will feature the complete *Missa Brevis* in D by W.A. Mozart with a local string orchestra.
- On Saturday, October 24, 28 KHS musicians, instrumentalists and vocalists will audition for the NH Music Educators Jazz All State Music Festival, which will be held in February.
- The KHS music program’s fall Jazz Concert will be on Tuesday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium featuring big band, combos, instrumentals, and vocals.

## KMS

- Oct. 16 – Pumpkin carving
- Oct. 20 – Parent Group lunch meeting
- Oct. 22 – Parent Group meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 29 – Grades close for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter
- Oct. 30 – 1<sup>st</sup> installment payment for Washington, D.C. trip due
- From Counselor George Piers: On September 17, Senator Molly Kelly, visited the middle school to be presented with the schools “Chain Of Commitment”, which was created by the students during RED RIBBON WEEK 2008. Each link expresses a single student’s reason why they have decided to remain drug-free. Following the presentation, Senator Kelly extended an invitation for a group of middle school representatives to visit the Senate. On October 28, those middle school representatives will open the Senate session by presenting their Red Ribbon links. Red Ribbon week takes place each year during the last week of October.
- KMS Test Preparation for NECAP - Students participate in wellness

activities every morning prior to taking the NECAP tests. These activities are designed to wake up their minds and bodies in preparation for testing. Morning’s start off with a light snack and then a variety of indoor and outdoor physical activities, such as walking, Zumba dancing, traditional childhood games such as hopscotch, relay races and dancing to oldies music. Wellness activities are part of the school’s improvement plan to improve the test-taking environment. Mounting evidence indicates that physical activity helps children be more attentive, boosts learning skills, improves memory and attention span, as well as, reducing stress.

## JD

- Oct. 14 – Family Pumpkin Carving Night 6-7:30 p.m./School Running Club
- Oct. 15 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Oct. 16 – After school Running Club
- Oct. 17 – Keene Pumpkin Festival
- Oct. 19 – After school Ultimate Ball
- Oct. 20 – After school Ultimate Ball
- Oct. 21 – After school Running Club
- Oct. 22 – Math Beyond the Dots
- Oct. 23 – After school Running Club/JDA Movie Night 6 p.m.
- Oct. 26 – After school Ultimate Ball
- Oct. 27 – After school Ultimate Ball
- Oct. 28 – After school Running Club
- Oct. 29 – Math Beyond The Dots/ School picture retakes/ Grade 5 field trip to Clark Art Museum
- Oct. 30 – Classroom Halloween Parties/After school Running Club
- Nov. 4 – After school Running Club
- Nov. 5 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Nov. 6 – After school Running Club
- Nov. 8 – JDA meeting at 6:15 p.m.
- Nov. 10 – Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day

## Franklin

- Oct. 14 - Math Beyond the Dots/Gr. 4 - cemetery walk (rain date)/K, Gr. 1 & 2 to The Colonial Theatre/Gr. 3 pumpkin carving/Gr. 5 NECAP testing
- Oct. 15 – Gr. 2, 4 & 5 pumpkin carving/Gr. 5 NECAP testing
- Oct. 16 – Gr. 4 & 5 cemetery walk
- Oct. 20 – Gr. 5 to the Thorne
- Oct. 21 - Popcorn/Pencil sale
- Oct. 22 - All School Assembly
- Oct. 23 – Gr. 4 to the Thorne/K to the Fire Station/Gr. 4 & 5 cemetery walk
- Oct. 27 – Gr. 5 Harris Center
- Oct. 28 - Picture retakes
- Oct. 29 – Gr. 5 Harris Center/Gr. 2 to The Thorne
- Oct. 30 – Gr. 4 & 5 cemetery walk/Halloween parade/parties
- Nov. 4 - Gr. 5 Harris Center
- Nov. 5 - Gr. 2 Beech Hill
- Nov. 6 - Gr. 5 Harris Center
- Nov. 7 - Empty Bowls
- Nov. 10 - Veteran’s Day Assembly

## Fuller

- Oct. 14 - 2nd Grade to Maple Lane Farm/1st Grade Night

**(School Talk continued on other side)**



# BOARD NOTES

Informational Bulletin from the Superintendent's Office | [cweeks@sau29.org](mailto:cweeks@sau29.org)

## **(School Talk continued from other side)**

- Oct. 28 - 1st Grade to Stonewall Farm
- Oct. 29 - Picture Retakes/Kindergarten to Hannafords
- Oct. 30 - Halloween Parade and Party
- Nov. 4 - FSA Meeting
- Nov. 5 - Kindergarten to Hannafords

## **Symonds**

- Oct. 14 - 1st & 2nd Grades to Colonial Theater/Afternoon Pumpkin Carving in Classrooms/Afterschool Running/Walking Club
- Oct. 19 - Day One Assembly
- Oct. 20 - 5th Grade to Roger Williams Zoo/After school Mountain Biking Club
- Oct. 21 - After school Running/Walking Club/PTA meeting at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 22 - NECAP TESTING COMPLETE!
- Oct. 27 - Day One Assembly/2nd Grade to KSC Thorne Art Gallery/After school Mountain Biking Club
- Oct. 28 - After school Running/Walking Club
- Oct. 29 - Picture Retake Day
- Oct. 31 - Happy Halloween
- Nov. 4 - Day One Assembly/After school Running/Walking Club
- Nov. 6 - Rotary Club to distribute dictionaries to 3rd Graders
- Nov. 10 - PTA sponsored Pizza Party/Game Night

## **Wheelock**

- Oct. 14 - Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) meets after school/Math Beyond the Dots
- Oct. 15 - Pumpkin Carving!
- Oct. 20 - BBBS meets after school/Staff Yoga class
- Oct. 21 - Wednesday assembly/BBBS meets after school/Math Beyond the Dots
- Oct. 27 - BBBS meets after school/Staff Yoga class
- Oct. 28 - Preschool picture day/Wednesday assembly/BBBS meets after school/Math Beyond the Dots
- Oct. 29 - K-5 Picture Day/Circus Smirkus workshop
- Oct. 30 - Costume Display/Holiday classroom celebrations
- Nov. 3 - Municipal Elections/BBBS meets after school/Staff Yoga class
- Nov. 4 - Wednesday Assembly/BBBS meets after school/PTA meets 6:15 p.m. in the library/Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov. 10 - BBBS meets after school/Staff Yoga class

*This is a summary of the regular monthly meeting of the Keene Board of Education held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 in the LGIA at KHS.*

## **Board Adopts Budget Guideline**

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Keene Board of Education unanimously adopted a budget guideline of a .8% increase in next year's operating budget over this year's. To develop a \$60,210,549 budget, the administration will have to cut more than \$1.8 million to make room for salary and benefit increases for five bargaining groups that have already been approved, KEA, speech pathologists/school psychologists, paraprofessionals, custodians and secretaries; a \$109,000 increase in the district's contribution to the NH retirement system; a \$40,000 increase in transportation costs, \$526,507 increase in special education funding which includes \$250,000 in increased out-of-district placement expenses, \$125,000 to cover the cost of two teachers who have been funded under a grant and will now be included in regular special education funding, and \$100,000 in increased transportation costs. The budget will also include the Keene School District share of the first payment, \$720,000, on the new Keene Middle School bond. Co-Superintendent Bill Gurney will be working with principals and other administrators over the next twelve weeks to prepare a budget to present to the Finance Committee at two all day hearings on January 2 and 9.

## **Board approves \$10,000 to hire a consultant to work with KMS on Gifted and Talented/Differentiated Instruction**

The board voted to hire a consultant to take a look at how the middle school can offer a gifted and talented program starting in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The board is concerned that these students' needs are not being met.

## **Monthly Agenda Items Report:**

Board Chair Kathleen O'Donnell ran through the monthly agenda items, which the board is following and asked for updates.

- **Tutor Plan** – Spec. Ed. Dir. Cathy Reeves said she would be giving a full report at the Education Committee meeting in November.
- **Gifted and Talented KMS** – Mr. Gurney requested a \$10,000 transfer to fund a study of what's needed.
- **Principal Utilization** – Mr. Woolridge reported that the committee looking at this issue is in a fact-finding mode and will be prepared to make recommendations prior to the finalization of the administration's budget.
- **KMS Marketing Committee** – Mr. Donegan reported that the committee is still entertaining proposal from the public at large until Nov. 11 when it will hire a commercial real estate broker to market the property.
- **New KMS construction** – Mr. Donegan reported that everything is on schedule. The committee has decided to hire a general contractor to oversee construction and that decision will be made in November.
- **Current Middle School** – Mr. Gurney reported that the district is working with the Keene Fire Department to gain approval for limited use of the auditorium for KMS activities.
- **34 West Street** – Mr. Donegan reported that the committee is working on a new lease between Keene and the SAU towns.
- **30 Royal Ave.** – Mr. Gurney reported that both programs – LIFE and TNT – have moved into their new homes and that all is going well.
- **KAPS negotiations** – Mr. Donegan reported that negotiations are moving along.
- **Tutor negotiations** – Mr. Coates reported that the team is awaiting a response from the tutor team.

## **Official Enrollments**

Mr. Gurney reported that the official enrollment figures show that the Keene School District has 120 fewer students this year than last. KHS has 1,654 students (-59); CCC 65 (-6); TNT 42 (+7); KMS 653 (-55); JD 181 (-15); Franklin 210 (+20); Fuller 283 (-25), Symonds 329 (+2); Wheelock 169 (+3); Wheelock Preschool 81 (+8). He reported that the towns saw a decrease as well from 830 students to 789 (-41) this year. The total SAU enrollment is 4,456 (-161).

## **Federal Stimulus Money Target in three areas**

Mr. Woolridge reported that the approximately \$1 million in federal stimulus monies will be used for:

- Aligning English and math curriculum to state frameworks
- Tiered intervention process to catch students likely to fall through the cracks
- Data analysis of the NWEA, NECAP and other common assessments.

## **Senator Molly Kelly Reports on State Building Aid**

At the invitation of Chair O'Donnell, NH Sen. Molly Kelly reported that while a legislative committee is looking at how to sustain state building aid to school districts, the aid for the new middle school is guaranteed.

*The next regular meeting of the Keene Board of Education will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2009.*