



SCHOOL TALK

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

Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 22 – Keene Pumpkin Festival
- Oct. 25 - Special Board meeting, 7 p.m. KHS LGIA, to hear administration recommendation of which elementary school to close
- Oct. 31 – Halloween
- Nov. 8 – Election Day
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day/No School
- Nov. 30 - Board Forum, 7 p.m. KHS auditorium, to gather public input on admin. recommendation of which elementary school to close

KHS

- Oct. 11 – 15 – **Spirit Week** leading up to Homecoming; bonfire Thursday night, Wall of Honor induction at noon, staff tailgate starting at 4:30 p.m., parade at 5 p.m. and game at 7 p.m. on Friday, and dance at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- Oct. 11 – 15 – Canned food collection in advisories
- Oct. 11 – Student of the Month lunch, 11:30 – 12:30 Cheshire Room
- Oct. 11 - **The World Language Department** at Keene High School inducted twenty-eight students into its **honor society** at a ceremony October 11, 2011.

French: Anna Bradshaw, Meghan Desilets, Julianna Fedrizzi, Allison Gardner, Cameron Goller, Jordan Hastings, Emily Hildrey, Lucas LaScala, Kelly Reardon, Lily Russ, and Catherine Wissell. **Spanish:** Hilary Baker, Joshua Bettinger, Gretchen Cloutier, Annie Haas, Elizabeth Hadden, Alexandra Houghton, Quincey Johnson, William Johnson, Megan McGrath, Margaret Rice, Kendall Sebastian, and Megan Steely. **Latin:** Taylor Carley, Joshua Dutilley, Alison Hill, Emily Klaski, Mariah Mitchell, and Heather Paight

- Oct. 12 – Senior Workshop: using the common application
- Oct. 15 – Senior Workshop: Career-planning program
- Oct. 18, 19 & 20 – NECAP testing for juniors
- Oct. 18 – St. Paul's School Advanced Studies Program information night, 6:30 p.m., auditorium
- Oct. 19 – Senior Workshop: Post secondary planning
- Oct. 24 – 28 – Tibetan Sacred Arts Tour
- Oct. 24 – Senior Workshop: Tips and tricks writing the college essay
- Oct. 26 – Senior Workshop: Undecided? Need a plan?
- Oct. 27 – Senior Workshop: Tips and tricks for writing the college essay, Undecided? Need a plan?
- Oct. 28 - Senior Workshop: Using the common application
- Nov. 3, 4 & 5 – Drama Club fall Musical "Godspell" at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Student tickets \$7, adults \$10.
- Nov. 8 – **College Costs and Funding**, guidance dept night for parents and students, 6:30 p.m., auditorium
- Nov. 10 – AP Art students to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and the Institute of Contemporary Art
- During the week of Nov. 14th, a teaching artist from **The Acting Company in NYC** will be visiting with two classes--the Shakespeare class and the drama class--to work with the kids. • Nov. 15 – Fall Jazz Concert, 7 p.m. auditorium

• **KHS National Art Honor Society** is making ceramic bowls for the **Community Kitchen's Empty Bowls fundraiser** set for Saturday Nov. 5, 2011. Students participating include: Caroline Womack, Heather Madden, Joey diBiccari, Julia Guerriero, Katelyn McStravick, Terrenae Bryant, Reyna Joyce, Emma Fournier, Olivia Gourley, Sam Elliot, Sarah Fields, and Emma Kipp.

• On Wednesday, September 28, the vocal students of the **Jazz** class, under the direction of KHS Choral Director Thomas R. Martin, performed at the **Colonial Theatre** at an open house for educators as part of the Colonial's outreach program. The singers - Maxwell Carmel, Sarah Flower, Jordan Hastings, Peter Hiebert, Guyon Kukalis, Hannah Mansson, Sophia Olsen, Margaret Rice, Kiara Sampson, and Miles Walter, performed selections from the class vocal jazz repertoire as an ensemble and all performed jazz standards or selections from American musical theatre individually in the course of the performance. Audience members included faculty from the Keene public schools and educators from public and private schools in southwestern NH and southeastern Vermont. Be sure to catch these students and the instrumentalists from the Jazz class

under the direction of Eric E. Anderson in concert on Tuesday, November 15 at the KHS auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

CCC

- Students from the **Horticulture** Program at Cheshire Career Center recently participated in **Career Development Events** at the **Deerfield Fair**. These events are activity-based competitions with other vocational centers from around the state of New Hampshire.
- Division: **Horticulture Novice:** 1st place - Erin Curtis, 2nd place - Nakata Adams, 4th place - Elisha Carpenter, 6th place - Tynesha Vizcaino
- Division: **Tractor Driving:** 2nd place - Henry Giffin & Dan Scanlan, 3rd place - Rusty Wilder & Dillon Hakala
- Division: **Forestry:** Wood splitting: 3rd place - Edwin Severance. Pulp Toss: 7th place - Tyler Willor & Matt Patenaude. Crosscut two-man saw: 9th place - Jeff Guyette, Tyler Willor, Matt Patenaude & Thomas Elliot
- Division: **Dairy Showing:** 1st place - Melody Robar
- Division: **Dairy Judging Novice:** 4th place - Elisha Carpenter, Jewel Greenstone, Maranda Dix & Nicole Neff

KMS

- A select chorus from Keene Middle School to perform at the Kristallnacht Remembrance Ceremony, Colonial Theatre, Wed. Nov. 9, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 11 – 13 – NECAP testing
- Oct. 18 & 25 – Guiding Good Choices parent workshop from 5:30 – 8 p.m.
- Oct. 27 – Rachel's Challenge assemblies and evening presentation at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

JD

- Oct. 13 – Math Beyond the Dots
- Oct 14 – Project Eye to Eye
- Oct. 17 - JDA meeting, 6:15 p.m.
- Oct 20 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Oct 21 - Project Eye to Eye 3-4pm
- Oct 21 – Games Club K-3rd Grade
- Oct 27 – Math Beyond the Dots
- Oct. 28 - JDA movie night, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct 28 - Project Eye to Eye 3-4pm
- Oct. 31 –Classroom Halloween Parties
- Nov. 3 – Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov. 4 - Grade 3 field trip to Magic Wings
- Nov 4 - Project Eye to Eye 3-4pm
- Nov 4 - Games Club K-3rd Grade
- Nov. 7 - Picture re-takes
- Nov. 10 – Math Beyond the Dots
- Nov. 14 - JDA meeting, 6:15 p.m.

Franklin

- Oct. 12 – 14 - NECAP testing grades 3 – 5
- Oct. 12 - Grade 5 Nature's Classroom parent meeting
- Oct. 12 - PTC meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17 – 21 - NECAP testing make-up grades 3 – 5
- Oct. 17 - Mrs. Morris field trip to Hannafords 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 18 - Grade 3 pumpkin carving 6 p.m.
- Oct. 20 - Grade 4 pumpkin carving 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 21 - All school assembly 8:40 a.m./Kindergarten field trip to Keene Fire Dept. 1:20 p.m.
- Oct. 25 - Title I annual meeting, 7:45 a.m.
- Oct. 27 - TIGER assembly 2:10 p.m.
- Oct. 28 - Mrs. Monacelli field trip to Hannafords 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 29 - Franklinstein Fun Run/Walk 9 a.m.
- Oct. 31 - Halloween parade/party time TBD
- Nov. 3 – Grade 5 walks to Community Kitchen to deliver bowls they've made for the kitchen's Empty Bowls fundraiser on Saturday Nov. 5 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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

Nov. 9 - Picture retake day
Nov. 9 - PTC meeting 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 15 - All school assembly 8:40 a.m.

Fuller

- NECAP testing taking place until October 19th
- Oct 7 - Class Pictures
- Oct 14 - FSA kickball at 6 p.m.
- Oct 21 - Assembly at 10:10 a.m.
- Oct 28 - Title 1 Breakfast
- Nov 8 - General Elections held in Multi Purpose Room
- Nov 11 - Playground Game Night , Multi Purpose Room
- Nov 17 - Food Play School Wide Assembly

Symonds

- Oct. 12 - Run/Walk Club/7 p.m. Guiding Good Choices
- Oct. 14- Gr. 5 to Roger Williams Zoo/PTA movie night
- Oct. 17- Pumpkin Delivery
- Oct. 18 - Math Beyond the Dots for Grade 5/3 p.m. flu shots/Chess Club/Bike Club
- Oct. 19-Pumpkin carving/Run/Walk Club/Guiding Good Choices
- Oct. 20 - Faculty meeting
- Oct. 21 - Pumpkin pick-up
- Oct. 25 - Math Beyond the Dots for Grade 5/Bike Club
- Oct. 26 - Mr. Gurney to visit Symonds/Run/Walk Club/Guiding Good Choices
- Nov. 1 - Math Beyond the Dots for Grade 5/7:45 a.m.-Title I breakfast/Chess Club
- Nov. 2 - Run/Walk Club/Guiding Good Choices
- Nov. 3 - Faculty meeting/6 p.m.-Granite Gorge information on Ski Club
- Nov. 8 - Elections in All-Purpose Room/Math Beyond the Dots for Grade 5
- Nov. 9 - Run/Walk Club/Guiding Good Choices
- Nov. 15 - Math Beyond the Dots for Grade 5/2 p.m. Turkey Trot/Chess Club

Wheelock

- Oct. 12 – Math Beyond the Dots(MBtD); Wednesday assembly/5H visits KSC Children's Literacy Gallery at Rhoades Hall/Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)
- Oct. 13 - Preschool Open House/Pajama Party 6:00-6:45/PTA Pizza Pie fund raiser (contact Wheelock for coupon)
- Oct. 18 - BBBS
- Oct. 19 - MBtDs; Wednesday Assembly/BBBS
- Oct. 20 - 3S visits the Wheelock neighborhood with the Harris Center/Pumpkin carving
- Oct. 21 - 3M Visits the neighborhood with the Harris Center
- Oct. 25 - BBBS
- Oct. 26 – MBtDs/Wednesday assembly/Mr. Gurney visits/BBBS
- Oct. 31 – Costume parties and walk
- Nov. 1 - BBBS
- Nov. 2 – MBtDs/Wednesday Assembly/BBBS/PTA meeting, 6:15 p.m.
- Nov. 8 - BBBS
- Nov. 9 - MBtDs/Wednesday Assembly/BBBS

This is a summary of the proceedings of the Keene Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, October 11, 2011 in the LGIA at KHS.

Board Sets Guideline for 2012–2013 Budget

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board approved a budget increase of .8% over this year's operating budget. Factoring in expenditures that are already locked in – salary and benefit increases for KEA members and paraprofessionals whose settlements were approved last year, an expected increase in health insurance of at least 6%, increases in NH retirement assessments, already negotiated transportation contract with First Student, and other fixed expenses, the administration will

have to cut approximately \$800,000. The administration will be working on the budget for the next few months to be presented to the Finance Committee of the Board at two Saturday budget review sessions in January.

Expected District Surplus to Defray Taxes

Business Administrator John Harper reported to the board that the District ended the fiscal year June 30, 2011 with a surplus in excess of \$3.1 million. That surplus coupled with the anticipated sale of the old middle school should result in a lowering of taxes on the school portion of Keene tax bills by \$38 on a \$100,000 home. He said the surplus was a result primarily of lower special education expenditures and a spending freeze instituted last school year.

Administration Preparing to Recommend Which Elementary School to Close

Co-Superintendent Wayne Woolridge said that the administration will make a presentation to the Board at a special meeting, Tuesday, October 25th about which school it feels should be closed and what grades should be housed at the remaining four schools. Woolridge has been working closely with Marinace Architects, the firm that carried out an extensive study of Keene's five elementary schools earlier this year, in making the determination. The board has scheduled a forum for Wednesday, November 30 at 7 p.m. in the KHS auditorium to gather input from the public on the administration's recommendation. The board will vote on the proposal at its regular board meeting December 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the LGIA at KHS.

KSD Enrollments Down

The official October enrollments are:

KHS

Grade 9 – 363 (-1)
Grade 10 – 370 (-31)
Grade 11 - 403 (+9)
Grade 12 - 405 (-15)

Total 1541 (-38)

North Campus

41 (-1)
CCC (Sending Towns)
57 (-1)

KMS

Grade 6 – 205 (+39)
Grade 7 – 184(-18)
Grade 8 - 207 (-9)
Total 596 (+12)

Elementary Schools

JD
176 (-2)
Franklin
201 (-8)
Fuller
322 (+20)
Symonds
318 (-8)
Wheelock
156 (-18)
Total Elementary (K-5)
1173 (-16)
Preschool
71 (0)
Total Keene (P-12)
3479 (-44)

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 (One week later than normal because Nov. 8 is Election Day.)