



SCHOOL TALK

Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 17 (at sundown) & 18 – Yom Kippur
- Oct. 2 – KHS Homecoming Day
- Oct. 11 – Teacher Workshop Day/No School
- Oct. 16 – Keene Pumpkin Festival
- Oct. 31 – Halloween

KHS

- Sept. 16 – Fall Open House at 6:30 p.m. - Parents are encouraged to come meet their child's teachers and find out what material will be covered first semester.
- Sept. 17 – Senior Class photo 9 a.m. Alumni Field
- Sept. 30 – Bon fire to kick off Homecoming weekend/Granite State Challenge – KHS v. Merrimack HS Channel 11.
- Oct. 1 – 1st quarter progress report marks close
- Oct. 2 – Homecoming Parade at 11 a.m. (theme cartoons)/football game v. Spaulding at 1:30 p.m./Homecoming Dance at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Oct. 5 – KHS guidance department's annual college planning night for seniors and their parents, 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium/Parent Advisory Committee to meet at 7 p.m. in principal's conference room.
- Oct. 8 – 1st quarter progress report distributed to students
- Oct. 12 – World Language Honor Society Induction, 6:30, LGIA
- Oct. 12 – 14 – NECAP testing for juniors
- KHS Spanish teacher, Suzanne Charles, has been named as the NH World Language teacher of the year by the NH Association of World Language Teachers. She will be honored at its conference, which will be held in Manchester on October 29 & 30. Congratulations!
- KHS Art – From Dept. Chair **Shannon Perry**: "Congratulations to the following students whose artwork was chosen and displayed at this year's Art in the Park exhibition: **Linnea Bartlett, Tiffany Berkman, Crystal Card, Elisha Carpenter, Candice Cooper, Laura Damato, Nate Faulkner, Mina Hibino, Danielle LaPointe, Rachel Luiz, Rachael Muise, Zoe Schwartz, Emily Seymour, Carly Shaw, Rainna Sonderegger, Loreal Symington, Luke Thurmond, and Jordan Tolman.**

Thank you to **Jacob Carignan, Laura Damato, and Sarah Scott** for volunteering their time and helping the KHS Fine Arts faculty hang and take down the artwork for this exhibit:

Art in the Park was held on September 4th and 5th this year. The weather was beautiful, and the event had an excellent turnout. **Jordan Tolman**, a senior, received an honorable mention ribbon for a digital photography project she completed last spring in Mrs. Barnes' class. **Laura Damato**, also a senior, won first prize for the second year in a row. First prize is a fifty-dollar gift certificate to Creative Encounters. Laura had three art works on display this year: a colored pencil drawing, and two acrylic paintings. Laura completed these projects in her AP Art Studies class with Mrs. Perry last year.

Thank you to the Keene Art Association for allowing the Fine Arts Department to participate in Art in the Park, and for honoring our students each year. Art in the Park is always a positive community event and experience for Keene High School students to participate in."

• KHS **National Art Honor Society** officers for this school year are **Hannah Wiley**, president; **Mina Hibino**, VP; **Olivia Gourley**, Secretary; and **Sarah Scott**, Treasurer. All eligible students are welcome to join the group, which meets every Monday after school in room 3. To be considered for membership, students must take a minimum of one art course each year earning a grade of B and have 95% participation in National Art Honor service project. This fall, the society will be making bowls for the Community Kitchen's Empty Bowls project and selling tulips as part of its theme 'making greener spaces' in September and October to raise money for a senior art scholarship.

CCC

• KHS seniors **Sadie Elliott** and **Elizabeth Mooers** were voted in last spring as officers for the NH chapter of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) organization. In July, they attended the national leadership conference in Chicago, Illinois with their adviser, CCC Early Childhood Education teacher **Jane Graves**. Both are students in the early childhood education classes at the Cheshire Career Center at KHS. FCCLA's outreach program this year is to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network, a non-profit organization that raises funds for children's hospitals dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children. This year's poster child, who has cancer, and his parents presented at the national conference.

KMS

- Sixteen KMS staff members participated in the week long training this summer for Developmental Designs, which is the continuation of the Responsive Classroom at the middle school level: **Amber Connary, Dominic DiBenedetto, Leanna Hamlin, Mary Grove, Winnie Perroton, Sarah McMurphy, John Fay, Mary Lou Alther, Sue Perry, Jazz Breda, Jan Snowling, Meredith Pancake, Laura Feeter, Doug Jenkins, Eddie Singer, Jen Main**
- Fifteen Instructional Leadership Team teachers attended a one day retreat this summer to work on coordinating these school-wide programs at KMS: Collins Writing, Landmark Study Skills, Data Decision-Making, and Key 3 Vocabulary and Comprehension Strategies. Those participating included: **Tracey Lynch-Clason, Michelle McRae, Tracy Shalit, Elizabeth Sylvia, Marianne Lavatori, Mary Lou Alther, Sue Perry, Andrew Vernon, Carol Menck, Winnie Perroton, Sarah McMurphy, Eric Stinebring, Dominic DiBenedetto, Leanna Hamlin, and Jen Wilson-Tucker**
- Sept. 15 – Non-athletic sign ups and Showchoir dance auditions after school
- Sept. 16 – Showchoir vocal auditions after school
- Sept. 20 – 23 – Drama Club auditions
- Sept. 28 – Rachel's Challenge assemblies and evening event
- Sept. 28 – Oct. 1 – Book Fair
- Sept. 30 – Open house for all grades
- Oct. 7 - KMS Parent Group meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the principal's conference room.

Daniels

- Sept. 16 - Strings instruments rental night, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 20 - MAPS testing begins
- Sept. 24 - JDA movie night, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 29 - Open House – 6:00-7:00 p.m./Book Fair – 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 1 - NECAP testing begins
- Oct. 2 - JDA yard sale, 8 a.m. -12 noon

Franklin

- Sept. 14 - Popcorn/pencil sale
- Sept. 16 - Strings rental night at JD
- Sept. 17 - Fall fundraiser is due/Gr 1 to Green Mountain Orchard/Friday activity walk/Gr 2 walk
- Sept. 20 – 22 - NWEA testing/Gr 3 to Magic Wings
- Sept. 22 - Open House
- Sept. 24 - Evacuation Drill/Friday activity walk/Gr 2 walk
- Sept. 28 - Student Council/MacDonald's Night
- Sept. 29 - Health Night in gym
- Oct. 1 - Kindergarten to the library
- Oct. 5 - Student Council
- Oct. 12 - Popcorn/pencil sale/Student Council

(School Talk continued on other side)



BOARD NOTES

Informational Bulletin from the Superintendent's Office | cweeks@sau29.org

(School Talk continued from other side)

Fuller

- Sept. 10 - Innisbrook Assembly
- Sept. 16 - Instrument Rental Night at JD
- Sept. 17 - Constitution Day Assembly
- Sept. 20 - NHDI Meeting
- Sept. 21 – 23 - Book Fair
- Sept. 22 - Open House/Book Fair
- Sept. 28 - Class Picture Day
- Oct. 1 - Assembly

Symonds

- Sept. 13 - PTA sponsored Family Picnic at 5:30 pm
- Sept. 15 - PTA Meeting at 7:00 pm
- Sept. 16 - Instrument Rental Night at JD at 6:30 pm
- Sept. 20 - Day One Assembly
- Sept. 21 - Afterschool Bike Club
- Sept. 28 - Day One Assembly with the Ned Show/Afterschool Bike Club
- Sept. 29 - School Picture Day/Parent Open House at 7:00 pm
- Oct. 1 - Third Grade to Magic Wings Butterfly Museum
- Oct. 5 - Afterschool Bike Club
- Oct. 6 - Day One Assembly

Wheelock

- Sept. 15 - PTA meets in the library at 6:15 p.m.
- Sept. 16 - Strings rental night at JD at 6 p.m.
- Sept. 22 – PTA Cherrydale fundraiser ends
- Sept. 28 – Staff Flu Shot Clinic 2:45 - 3:45 p.m.
- Sept. 29 - Picture Day #1/Open House from 6 – 7 p.m.
- Oct. 5 - Picture Day #2
- Oct. 6 - PTA meeting at 6:15 p.m./Preschool Open House (times assigned by classroom)

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This is a summary of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Keene Board of Education held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, in the LGIA at KHS. It was televised live on Cheshire TV, Channel 8.

KSD Enrollment Decline Continues

Co - Superintendent Bill Gurney reported on the preliminary enrollment figures to the board noting that Keene's overall enrollment (3,533) declined by 132 students this year. (Official enrollment figures will be released October 1.)

KHS

1581 (-65)

North Campus

42 (-4)

CCC

63 (-7)

KMS

589 (-66)

Daniels

179 (-4)

Franklin

209 (+3)

Fuller

302 (+19)

Symonds

325 (-4)

Wheelock

172 (+1)

Wheelock Preschool

71 (-5)

Update of KSD Projects

Board Chair Kathleen O'Donnell asked for updates on the

following on-going projects:

• **KMS Marketing Committee** – Mr. Donegan reported that the committee's goal is to sell the middle school. Four more potential interested parties have come forward and will be considered by the committee. He hopes to have a new offer to present to the board next month. Upon a request by Ms. O'Donnell, Buildings and Grounds Director Tom Remillard reported that if the school is not sold and stands vacant, it would cost approximately \$123,000 a year to be properly maintained.

• **Current middle school maintenance** – Mr. Remillard said that at this point just cosmetic work is being done at the school – a ceiling was replaced and two rooms were painted over the summer.

• **New middle school** – Mr. Donegan reported that work is progressing well on both the middle school and the SAU building. There is still the expectation that the school will be ready in time.

• **Sale of 34 West Street** – Mr. Harper reported that there is some interest in the building and that he hopes he will be able to bring a proposal to the board soon.

• **Tutors** – Special Education Director, Catherine Reeves, reported that there are currently 124 tutors (down from 136).

• **SERESC** – Ms. Reeves reported that a committee has been formed to review the SEREC report implementing changes that will be made in the delivery of the special education programs at the preschool and elementary level as a result of the SERESC study. She also noted that the district has contracted with SERESC to conduct a similar study of the middle school special education programs.

• **Gifted and Talented** – Mr. Gurney said that the elementary schools are looking into programs at grade levels, that the middle school continues to offer differentiated training to staff.

• **Negotiations** – Mr. Donegan reported that the negotiations with the KEA are well underway. Mr. Coates reported that Paraprofessional negotiations will formally begin September 23rd.

In other action:

• **Opening of School** – Mr. Gurney reported that the opening of school went smoothly. He noted that:
- 17 new teachers were hired from more than 1,000 applicants.

- Road and sidewalk work has been pretty much completed in front of Franklin School

- JD will dedicate its Peace Garden next Tuesday, Sept. 21.

- A number of the elementary schools have instituted new schedules to provide common planning time for staff,

- The new kindergarten screening procedure went well,

- KHS five year accreditation progress report was accepted and praised by NEASC

for school wide adoption of advisories, for institution of the parent portal and for formation of learning communities.

• **Legislative/Assessment Update** - Mr. Woolridge reported that:

- SAU districts are still waiting to hear if they will receive any of the \$41 million in the new federal job funds bill

- NH plans to apply for the 3rd round of Race to the Top funds

- NH has signed on to adopt national assessment standards

- NECAP scores for science (grades 3, 8 & 11) will be released Sept. 22

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Keene Board of Education will be held on October 12, 2010 in the LGIA at KHS.