



# SCHOOL TALK

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

## Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 24 - New KMS Open for Community Walk Through from 9 a.m. - Noon (Formal Open House will be set once the auditorium is completed, now not expected until Nov./Dec.)
- Sept. 28, 29 & 30 Rosh Hashanah
- Oct. 7 & 8 - Yom Kippur
- Oct. 10 - Teacher Workshop Day/No School

## KHS

- Sept. 15 - First Semester Open House from 6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Sept. 23 - Senior Class photo at Alumni Field at 9 a.m.
- Oct. 4 - Post Secondary Planning Night sponsored by the guidance department, 6:30 p.m., auditorium/Parent Advisory Committee meeting, 7p.m., KHS Principal's Conference Room.
- Oct. 11 - World Language Honor Society Induction, 6:30 p.m. auditorium
- Oct. 14 - Homecoming - parade, football game v. Dover and dance at night.

## KMS

- Sept. 14 - Grade 8 magazine mtg./Showchoir Vocal auditions
- Sept. 15 - Showchoir dance auditions
- September 19, 6:30 p.m., the Keene Middle School music department will hold an informational meeting for students and parents who are interested in finding out more about the school's jazz program. For those interested in participating in either the Monday or Wednesday night jazz bands, auditions will be held the week of September 26th after school at the middle school. For more information, please contact either Richard Clark ([rclark@sau29.org](mailto:rclark@sau29.org)) or Susan Hahs ([shahs@sau29.org](mailto:shahs@sau29.org)). Phone: 357-9020.
- Sept. 21 - Non-Athletic activity sign ups in cafeteria
- Sept. 27 - Cluster B to Harris Center/Guiding Good Choices parent workshop at 5:30 p.m.

## Elementary Strings Program

On Monday, September 26th from 3 - 7 p.m. at Jonathan Daniels School, the Elementary Strings Program will sponsor a strings rental night for interested students and parents. For more information, please contact Amanda Schwersky, strings teacher at [aschwersky@sau29.org/352-8012](mailto:aschwersky@sau29.org/352-8012).

## Daniels

- Sept. 15 - School Pictures
- Sept. 19 - ELF 9 - 11 a.m. in the art room
- Sept. 20 - Band Instrument Rental 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 22 - ELF Training 5:45-7p.m. in the library
- Sept. 23 - JDA Movie Night - 6 p.m.
- Sept. 26 - Strings Rental 3 -7 p.m.

## Franklin

• On Monday, September 12th Benjamin Franklin Elementary School and the Keene Police Officers Association teamed up to bring **Operation Identification** to Franklin School families. "Operation Identification is a burglary prevention program that marks or engraves personal property so that the item can be returned to the rightful owner in the event it is recovered after a theft," said Franklin School Principal Bill Harris. "The program has been modified to fit the needs of Franklin School students and parents," he added, noting that Keene Board of Education member and Keene Police Officer John Stewart will be engraving razor scooters and bicycles on the school playground during the school's annual

Ice Cream Social. Stewart added, "It is our hope to eventually hold Operation Identification programs at all the Keene elementary schools, noting that it is a community service initiative by the officers association.

- Sept. 14 - PTC Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 15 - All School Assembly, 8:40 a.m.
- Sept. 16 - School Pictures
- Sept. 21 - Open House, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 23 - Yankee Candle Fall Fundraiser Sheets Due
- Sept. 26 - Kindergarten to Keene Public Library

## Fuller

- Sept 14 - FSA Meeting
- Sept 16 - All School Assembly
- Sept 20 - Band Rental Night for 4th Graders/Book Fair
- Sept 21 - Open House/Book Fair
- Sept 22 - Book Fair
- Sept 23 - All School Assembly
- Oct 3 - NECAP Testing begins
- Oct 7 - Class Pictures

## Symonds

- Symonds School will soon begin its after school Mountain Bike Club and its Running and Walking Club. Students in 4th and 5th grade may join the Mountain Bike Club which will start on September 13th and run through the 25th of October. Students in grade 3, 4 and 5 may join the Running and Walking Club which will start on October 5th and run through November 8th. For more information on the Mountain Bike Club, please contact Jim Schofield at [jschofield@sau29.org/352-3405](mailto:jschofield@sau29.org/352-3405) and physical education teacher Beth Corwin at [bcorwin@sau29.org/352-3405](mailto:bcorwin@sau29.org/352-3405) for information about the Running and Walking Club.
- Sept 13 - Math Beyond the Dots at 7:45 am/After school Bike Club
- Sept 14 - Day One Assembly/PTA Fall Fundraiser Begins
- Sept 16 - School Picture Day
- Sept 20 - Math Beyond the Dots at 7:45 am/Band Instrument/Rental Night at 6:30 p.m./After school Bike Club
- Sept 21 - PTA Meeting at 6:45 p.m.
- Sept 22 - Day One Assembly
- Sept 23 - Third Grade to Magic Wings
- Sept 27 - Math Beyond the Dots at 7:45 a.m./After school Bike Club
- Sept 30 - Day One Assembly
- Oct 4 - Math Beyond the Dots at 7:45 a.m./After school Bike Club
- Oct 5 - After school Running & Walking Club/Parent Open House at 6:30 p.m.

## Wheelock

- Sept. 20 - Band rental night and parent meeting at JD 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28 - Picture Day #1
- Sept. 29 - Picture Day #2
- Oct. 4 - Elementary Advanced Band rehearsal at KHS band room 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5 - PTA meets at 6:15 p.m. in the library



# BOARD NOTES

*This is a summary of the proceedings of the Keene Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, September 13, 2011 in the LGIA at KHS.*

## **KSD Enrollments Down Slightly**

Preliminary enrollment figures for the Keene School District show that there are 6 fewer students this year than last.

### **KHS**

Grade 9 – 373 (+9)

Grade 10 – 376 (-26)

Grade 11 - 416 (+29)

Grade 12 - 419 (0)

**Total 1584 (+12)**

**North Campus** (# Included in KHS enrollment)

43 (+6)

**CCC** (Sending towns)

61 (0)

### **KMS**

Grade 6 – 202 (+34)

Grade 7 – 179(-27)

Grade 8 - 208 (-7)

**Total 589 (0)**

## **Elementary Schools**

JD

177 (-2)

Franklin

204 (-5)

Fuller

319 (+17)

Symonds

318 (-7)

Wheelock

155 (-18)

**Total Elementary (K-5)**

**1173 (-15)**

## **Preschool**

(69) -3

**Total Keene (P-12)**

**3476 (-6)**

## **Additional Special Education Teacher Approved for Fuller**

By a vote of 7-2, the Board approved adding a third Special Education teacher at Fuller School to help ease large classes in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade (26 students in one and 27 students in the other). Several parents spoke last night asking for an additional section of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, with one parent suggesting that changing the classroom make up at this date would be too disruptive. The administration (Co-Supt. Bill Gurney and Fuller Principal Paul Huggins) recommended to the Board that the best option for all Fuller students would be to add a Special Education teacher. If he had an empty classroom, Huggins said another section would be his preference, but because that is not an option, he would rather provide extra support to fifth grade teachers and keep his art and music program in the rooms they now occupy. He also said by

having a 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Ed. teacher, the school will be adopting a model recommended by the SERESC study that calls for replacing tutors with certified staff. At Fuller the new teacher will be paid for with budgeted tutor salaries.

## **KHS Principal Announces Retirement**

Alan Chmiel has notified the administration that he plans to retire at the end of this school year. Human Resources Manager, Paul Cooper, said a nationwide search would commence later this fall to find a replacement.

## **Time Line for Proposed Reorganization of Elementary Schools Set**

The Board approved a time line proposed by Wayne Woolridge, administrative point person for the board's consideration of which elementary school to close and what grade spans will be in a four-school model.

- **October 25** - 7 p.m. – LGIA/KHS – Special Board meeting. Mr. Woolridge will present the pros and cons on both issues and make a recommendation to the board about which school to close and what the grade spans should be.

- **November 22** – 7 p.m. - KHS auditorium - Community Forum to gather input from the public about the administration's recommendations.

- **Dec. 13** – 6:30 p.m. – LGIA/KHS - The Board will vote on which school to close and what grade spans at the remaining four schools will be.

If the board votes to close a school and move forward with the four-school model a task force will be formed after the first of the year. It will be responsible for developing a detailed implementation plan to come before the Board in October 2012. It is expected that a bond would be placed on the ballot in March of 2013 to pay for expected renovation/building costs associated with a move to four schools. Construction work would be done by the opening of school for the 2014-2015 school year.

## **Walk-Through of New KMS for Community Set**

KMS Principal Dotty Frazier has set Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until Noon as the first opportunity for the community to tour the new middle school (A formal open house/dedication/tour will take place once the auditorium is completed which is expected some time in November/December.)

## **In Other Action:**

- **Old KMS** - Business Administrator John Harper reported that the sale of the old middle school is set for October 5<sup>th</sup>.

- **34 West Street** – Mr. Harper reported that the sale of the building to a Bedford development company is still on track and he is hoping it will close late this year.

*The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011.*