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KWHS Mission

*To prepare each student for success in college, career and life through an engaging, challenging and innovative educational program that is student centered and promotes character and values.*

Upcoming Events

**Thursday, October 29**

Last day to donate food for TOTS-EAT with Drama Club

**Friday, October 30**

No School for students

*A Message from the Principal . . .*

*Helping Students Navigate the Path to College*

A well-educated workforce is critical for maintaining the economic competitiveness of the United States. The strength of our economy hinges on the ability of our education system to meet the demand for highly educated workers.

Does this statement sound familiar? From our local political leaders and school administrators, through college and university leaders to our State government and all the way up to our federal administration we are hearing that in order to compete in our new global economy and move forward in repairing our own damaged economy we must have a more highly educated and skilled workforce which includes obtaining a college degree. At KWHS we believe it should be every student's goal to prepare for college entry and success beyond.

A new body of research by the Institute of Education Sciences and published by the U.S. Department of Education give us 5 recommendations on what high schools can do to help students navigate the path to college. I list these 5 recommendations below with some remarks about how you see these recommendations at work at KWHS. It is important that our parents are aware of these intentional practices here are share in our partnership to get our students ready for success in college.

**Recommendation 1.** *Offer courses and curricula that prepare students for college level work, and ensure that students understand what constitutes a college-ready curriculum by 9th grade.*

We understand that students must be academically prepared for college by 12th grade. The opportunities to academically prepare for college narrow as students progress through high school. If students do not start taking college preparation courses in the 9th

**Saturday, October 31**

Cross Country Regionals at  
Springfield Oaks County Park

**November 13, 14 & 15th**

KWoods Drama Club Presents  
*Prelude to a Kiss*

**Wednesday, Nov. 18th,  
12:15 to 3 PM**

H1N1 Influenza Vaccinations

**Saturday, November 29**

KWoods/Barnes and Noble  
Book Fair at Green Oaks  
Village

**Friday, December 18**

Senior Portraits and Yearbook  
Ad orders due

## H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Update

The Livingston County Health Department is scheduled to administer free H1N1 influenza vaccinations here at school on Wednesday, November 18th, from 12:15 to 3 PM in the Big Room.

Information packages will be distributed to students during Advisory on Monday, October 26th. Please review the information and send the completed consent form back in to school ASAP if you would like your student to receive the vaccination.

grade, they will be less likely to enroll in college. We developed Freshman Seminar as a rigorous academic program that combines Social Studies with English to tackle relevant and engaging material that requires students to use their minds well. There are direct links between the introductory work freshman do in Seminar with the impressive and comprehensive Senior Exhibition class that showcases our soon to be graduate's readiness for college work.

*Recommendation 2. Utilize assessment measures throughout high school so that students are aware of how prepared they are for college, and assist them in overcoming deficiencies as they are identified.*

We use the ACT EPAS testing system which gives us a snap shot at how our freshman and sophomores would perform on the ACT if they took that test in their respective year. We share comprehensive score reports with the students as well as their parents to show areas of strength and areas that need improvement. We adjust classroom instruction and use targeted Advisory time to focus on skill building. These tests during freshman and sophomore year together with two practice ACT tests as juniors function as essential indicators of the skills students most need to master during their time at KWHS as they prepare for success in college.

*Recommendation 3. Surround students with adults and peers who build and support their college-going aspirations.*

We have a lot of conversations with our students about their college plans as well as formal individual advisory meetings to help guide their college planning. We also rely heavily on a partnership with our parents that they are supported and encouraged outside of school to plan for college and careers beyond.

*Recommendation 4. Engage and assist students in completing critical steps for college entry.*

Last year KWHS created a college counselor position to function in cooperation with our guidance counselor to make sure our students were getting critical information regarding choosing and applying for college. Through the office of college counselor, our students have already visited many college campuses around the state. We have college and university representatives frequently come into our school to offer informational sessions regarding their programs and we have a college planning process timeline to help our students stay on track of all the necessary components of completing college application. With college acceptance a graduation requirement, all of our graduates will have successfully applied to at least on college.

*Recommendation 5. Increase families' financial awareness, and*

## Drama Club Supports the Community

By Jason Pratt

This year, the Kensington Woods Drama Club is participating in the Trick-or-Treat So Kids Can Eat (TOTS-EAT) program. We will be collecting non-perishables and canned goods throughout the month of October to donate to Gleaners Food Bank.

Please take the time to stop in and help fill up our donation boxes which will be in the Big Room. Your generous donations will go to help the more than 12 million hungry children in the United States, many of whom live right here in Livingston County.

If you have any questions or would like to assist us in our campaign to fight hunger, contact Jason Pratt at [dramaclub@kwoods.org](mailto:dramaclub@kwoods.org).  
Happy Halloween!

*help students apply for financial aid.*

One of the greatest misconceptions we find in our students' "college awareness" is that they cannot afford it. This misconception must be corrected early on in order for students to understand that all of the other college prep work they will do at KWHS is relevant for their future plans. We bring a college representative in each year to meet with our students to discuss financial aid opportunities as well as the overall process of paying for college.

**KWHS**

presents the

# Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

Sunday, November 29

An all-day event

At Green Oak Village

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## College Night and More!

When ~ Monday, November 2nd from 6:30-8:00 pm

Where ~ Brighton High School Fieldhouse

Over 70 college representatives will be available to speak with parents and students. This is a great opportunity for Juniors & Seniors and their parents to get college questions answered. Everyone welcome!

## Campus Tour

November 5th at Michigan State University

On Thursday, November 5th, Mrs. Pollman and Mrs. Moellering will be taking a group of KWHS Juniors and Seniors on a campus tour of Michigan State University. MSU will provide an admission presentation for prospective freshmen followed by a walking tour of campus. Topics covered will include the admission process, academic programs, student life, university housing, and study abroad. There will also be time for questions. Students will leave KWHS at 11:00 am. The first stop on the campus tour will be lunch in the MSU Union. The presentation begins at 1 pm followed by the walking tour at 2 pm which will last approximately an hour. We will return to KWHS at approximately 4 pm. Students should see Mrs. Pollman for a permission slip if they are interested in this opportunity!

## College Presentation at KWHS in the "Big Room"

November 9th- 11:05-11:30 (Advisory)- Lawrence Technological University

## KWHS Seniors~ It's ScholarshipTime!

NOW is the time for seniors to search for scholarship opportunities! There is a wealth of information about scholarships on the web. The sites below can help students get started in applying for scholarships:

- [http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\\_ss/welcome.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp)
- <http://www.collegeanswer.com/index.jsp>
- A Local Scholarship Opportunity~ Citizens Insurance Scholarship Program!  
To recognize and reward students who exhibit academic achievement, demonstrate leadership and possess a commitment to community service, Citizens Insurance Company of America is pleased to make a community scholarship program available to public school students in the Livingston County area (i.e., Brighton, Fowlerville, Hartland, Howell and Pinckney).

Citizens Insurance will provide six non-renewable scholarships ranging in value from \$1,000 - \$1,500 to high school seniors attending public schools in the Livingston County area. The application deadline is November 30, 2009.

For more information, check out the website listed below.

<http://www.citizensinsurance.com/scholarships/>

## New Sports Come to Kensington Woods, and We Need Your Help!

by Jessie MacGonigal Pratt

Currently, K Woods runs two MHSAA (Michigan High School Athletic Association) sponsored Varsity sports, Cross Country and Baseball. Due to student interest, we are looking into adding two more: Basketball and Girls Soccer. We are also planning on adding Indoor Track meets to our Running Club.

However, to help these new sports begin, and continuing sports continue, we need help from you. We are looking for the help with the following things:

- **Coaches.** If you know anybody who may be able to volunteer to coach/assistant coach Basketball or Soccer, please let Mrs. Pratt know.
- **Equipment/Sponsors:** To start these sports, we need equipment and funds. If you know of anybody who may be willing to donate equipment or be a sponsor, contact to Mrs. Pratt
- **Facilities.** If you have any thoughts on locations where we can practice or have games (for example, your church has a gym they rent out that is nearby), please contact to Mrs. Pratt. We are looking for Basketball, Baseball and Soccer facilities.

Basketball and Running Club will begin around Thanksgiving; Soccer and Baseball will begin in March. If you/your student is interested in playing, have them contact Mrs. Pratt if they have not already.

If you have any questions, or can help out, please contact Jessie Pratt at [jpratt@kwoods.org](mailto:jpratt@kwoods.org).

## Washington D.C. Trip

by Bob Gluth

We had our general meetings with the students and parents for our first ever all school trip to Washington D.C. this past Tuesday. Mr. Beebe from Travel Adventures was in and explained all of the interesting and educational events that are planned. There are a tremendous amount of activities that are planned for such an inexpensive trip.

If your student has not talked to you about the trip yet ask them for details. Registrations need to be in by November 1st. Space is limited and it is a first come first served basis. We will be planning our first fundraiser to help defray the costs very soon and we want to have everyone on board so they can take advantage of the financial help.

Parents are welcome to come along as well so if you have never been to D.C., come on board and experience your nation's capital first hand. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Gluth at the school or through email at [rgluth@kwoods.org](mailto:rgluth@kwoods.org).

## Senior Portraits and Ads

by Jessie MacGonigal Pratt

## Senior Portraits

Senior portraits for the Yearbook are due December 18. All seniors are asked to bring in a senior photo, in a close up style. Photos can be submitted to Jessie Pratt in a hard copy or digital format (preferred). Digital photos should be at least 2x3 inches at 300dpi and emailed to [jpratt@kwoods.org](mailto:jpratt@kwoods.org).

## Senior Ads

If you would also like a Senior ad, orders are due December 18. All proceeds go to support the Yearbook program at K Woods.

- **Ad Sizes**
  - Quarter pages are no charge, when Seniors submit 2 additional photos (a childhood photo and a Senior photo of their choice, different than the Senior portrait above.)
  - Half pages are \$25, and include a dedication and your choice of three photos (or more if smaller).
  - Full pages are \$40, and include a dedication and as many pictures as you want.
- If a yearbook is purchased at the same time as an ad, you save \$5 on your yearbook price (\$30 instead of \$35)
- Photos can be submitted to Jessie Pratt in a hard copy or digital format (preferred). Digital photos should be at least 2x3 inches at 300dpi and emailed to [jpratt@kwoods.org](mailto:jpratt@kwoods.org).
- When purchasing a half or full page ad, the Yearbook staff will work with you to create the layout that you like!
- Senior ads can be kept secret, just contact Jessie Pratt at [jpratt@kwoods.org](mailto:jpratt@kwoods.org) to order.

Business ads are also available for purchase, contact Jessie Pratt for more information.

## Project Green Winter

by Jessie MacGonigal Pratt

As you all may know, all Seniors at Kensington Woods High School must complete a Senior Exhibition project. The Senior Exhibition is designed to showcase student achievement through a representation of the qualities the school values: academics, character and service as well as independent thinking and personal responsibility.

One of our Seniors, Stephanie Dunivant is researching the power of gardening as a therapy device. She is planning to build a greenhouse at Kensington Woods through Project: Green Winter. Project Green Winter is a school and community wide project to create a "green"house using recyclable materials, where a school garden can be planted in.

This is where YOU come in!

For this project to happen, we need to collect 2,000 2-Liter plastic pop bottles and donations for



the cost of lumber. If you would like to donate to Project: Green Winter, please drop off your bottles in the box outside the main office or leave monetary donations with the office marked Project: Green Winter.

If you would like to find out more about Stephanie's project, contact Jessie Pratt ([jpratt@kwoods.org](mailto:jpratt@kwoods.org)) or Krissy O'Grady ([kogrady@kwoods.org](mailto:kogrady@kwoods.org)).