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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

November 23 - 27
No School for Students -
Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, November 24

A Message from the Principal . . .

by Jim Perry

We've seen some historic economic challenges in Michigan this year with a national recession acting more like a depression in our state. You've all heard the bad news about unemployment, layoffs, and a state budget deficit that is out of control. Families in our school community have experienced job losses and we all know families who are being hit hard in this economy, many even leaving Michigan.

This economic crisis has dramatically reduced the tax revenues collected by our state government. Almost all of the money we get to operate KWHS comes directly from the state and those allocations have now been drastically reduced.

The legislature did not finish its deliberations on the state budget until late October, and when they did, they had cut deeper. Even with federal stimulus funds, this year we will be receiving \$165 less per student. Just a few days after the new state budget was signed, the Governor issued an executive order cutting an additional \$127 per student for an additional cut in our budget. There have been warnings from the state that additional cuts may be required mid year. Nearly all Livingston County schools are experiencing a drop in enrollment this year which compounds this funding issue.

I am looking hard to find places I can cut to make up this shortfall without affecting programming for students and cutting teachers. As I approach this problem, I will first be looking at where expenses in supplies, materials and other non personnel costs can be reduced. Secondly, I will look to support and administrative cuts. Next, I will consider cuts in the benefits and salaries of staff, and only as a last resort would reducing programs or laying off teachers be considered.

I met with the staff on Monday to review some necessary cuts

Last day to order Varsity Jackets from Kensington Valley Varsity for Christmas delivery (see article below)

Sunday, November 29

KWoods/Barnes and Noble Book Fair at Green Oaks Village

Sunday, November 30

Citizen's Scholarship Deadline

**Monday November 31-
Wednesday, December 2, 3pm**

Auditions for Barefoot in the Park

Tuesday, December 1

Last day to turn in wreath fundraiser orders

**Tuesday, December 1,
5:30pm**

Informational meeting for Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior families about Explore, Plan and practice ACT scores

Wednesday, December 8, 6pm

Varsity Jacket Tryon Night in the Big Room, RSVP to jpratt@kwoods.org by December 2

Friday, December 18

Senior Portraits and Yearbook Ad orders due

**Explore, Plan and ACT Test
Informational Meeting**

At 5:30 on Tuesday, December 1, parents of Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors are invited to an informational meeting about their child's Explore, PLAN or practice ACT score. In addition to receiving the copy of the scores, we will review how to interpret the scores, provide suggestions for what students can do to improve

that will affect all of us in the form of eliminating the 401k contribution, raising our healthcare deductibles and cutting staff salaries. In addition, I had to lay-off Cristi Dikeou, our FlexTrac director. Cristi's lay-off comes with sadness and regret. She has worked hard over the past few years in cooperation with all of us to build the FlexTrac program into a popular alternative for students needing a more flexible pathway to a high school diploma. Her presence in the school and her work with our FlexTrac students will be greatly missed. Unfortunately with the school's budget shortfalls this year we can not afford this additional administrative position.

I have assembled a group from our staff as well as a lead teacher to extend their responsibilities to provide administrative leadership to FlexTrac. I will be directly in charge of the day to day running of FlexTrac and I am considered the main administrative contact for the program. Cristi has offered her availability to me to answer questions and help problem solve in this time of transition which is a true representation of her professionalism and commitment to the FlexTrac program.

While these cuts present an extra challenge for all of us I hope you will also recognize our commitment to providing a quality education to your children that will prepare them well for their college and life endeavors while delivering all programs and operating our school on a balanced budget. We have an obligation to not only provide a first class educational program to our students, but also to do that within our financial means.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel welcome to contact me.

Best regards,

Jim Perry

their scores, describe how colleges and universities use the ACT score as part of their admissions process, and explain how Kensington Woods uses this data to inform instruction.

Please plan to join us at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Room for about an hour. If you have questions, please contact Laura Moellering at lmoellering@kwoods.org.



PARENTS AND TEACHERS GROUP

Word from the President

by Debbie Uhley

Wreath Fundraiser

Hopefully you've gotten word of our wreath fundraiser by now. Fliers have been available in the classrooms and office for the past couple weeks,

and although your student might not have picked one up or it got lost in the backpack jungle, just a reminder that the sale ends on November 30th. Be sure to sell a few while visiting with your family for turkey dinner! We will receive the wreaths on December 11th. If you need a copy of the form, please visit the mainpage of the website, www.kwoods.org to download a copy.

Barnes and Noble Fundraiser

Please invite your friends, family and E-mail network to Barnes & Noble in Green Oak on Sunday, November 29th (open from 10 to 9) and stop by the K Woods table before making a purchase. In this way, we can make up to 25% off the purchased item. We also could use a whole bunch of friendly parents and students to man the table and say wonderful things about our school. Please either contact Mr. Muennix or me to let us know you can help.

Staff and Student Luncheon

We're trying to schedule a luncheon before December break for the staff and students. We will need lots of donations of food for this event. Please contact me if you're willing to provide anything, including paper products and drinks. The price to attend this will be a canned good or a gift card or money that we're collecting for a needy family in our area.

Meetings

There will be no December board meeting. Our January meeting may be held on the same night we're trying to arrange a presentation for parents on the topic of substance abuse.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Debbie Uhley

bumd@chartermi.net

810-231-2662

COLLEGE NEWS

Scholarship Deadline Approaching!

by Shawn Pollman

Citizens Insurance Scholarship Program Application deadline- November 30, 2009

- 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.
- For more information, check out the website listed below.
<http://www.citizensinsurance.com/scholarships/>

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Quality Work

by Laura Moellering

In the last enews, Mr. Perry described the Habits of Mind that we integrate into our lessons and into the tasks we ask students to do. Students can be uncomfortable when they are asked to do something that they haven't done before, or something they don't believe they are good at doing. We know that the best learning takes place when we struggle through a difficult task and feel proudest of the accomplishments that were a challenge to complete. With this in mind, teachers are careful to keep the level of work that students must complete of an adequate rigor so that when students leave us they have the skills to compete in a remarkably complex and changing world.

Kensington Woods has always valued the concept of quality work; it is why we don't accept work below 70 percent accuracy or competency. Who would knowingly visit a doctor who was less than 70 percent accurate or hire a carpenter who was about 65 percent competent at building their deck? Of course, no one would, but we must view schoolwork the same way, which is why we offer students so many opportunities to improve. We know that when students enter the "real world" they will be called on to demonstrate quick and flexible thinking, to decode complicated texts and concepts, and to present themselves as the best possible candidates for work, for scholarships, for whatever opportunities may come their way. With that in mind, we present students with challenging work and push them to try, but always with the sincere belief that students can accomplish the task and will be personally rewarded by having persisted to achieve success.

At KWHS we actively work to make the tasks meaningful and applicable to real life, and avoid worksheets that keep students busy but not engaged and that encourage short term learning. When students are uncomfortable with their own belief in themselves to do complex, quality work they like to push us and ask, "When am I ever going to need this?" The reply, unlike that to a worksheet, is "always."

SAVE
THE DATE

Kensington Woods High School

Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

Sunday, 11/29

10am – 9pm

**Barnes & Noble
Green Oak Village Place**

- Listen to Story Time with Mr. Perry @ 11am
- Create Geometric Christmas ornaments with Mrs. Pollman @ 1pm
- Take a picture with Santa Gluth @ 3pm
- Do a KWOODS art project with Mrs. Pratt @ 5pm

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases
will benefit our school / organization.



ATHLETICS

Varsity Jackets are Coming!

by Jessie Pratt

Recently, I have been working with Kensington Valley Varsity in Brighton to design unique Varsity jackets for students who earn their Varsity letters in various Kensington Woods extracurricular activities. Students currently can earn letters in:

- Cross Country
- Baseball
- Drama
- Robotics

Students will soon be able to earn Varsity letters in:

- Girls Soccer
- Academics

Students who have already earned their Varsity Letter will receive their letters in early December.

If you would like to give a Varsity Jacket for Christmas, you must place orders with Kensington Valley Varsity by Tuesday, November 24!

We will be having a Varsity Jacket Tryon Night on Wednesday, December 9 at 6pm in the Big Room. You will be able to see an example of the jacket, try on jackets to find your perfect size and order jackets. If you plan on attending Tryon Night, please RSVP to Jessie Pratt by Wednesday, December 2 at jpratt@kwoods.org.

You can contact Kensington Valley Varsity at:
Kensington Valley Varsity
415 Mill Pond Lane
Brighton, MI 48116
Phone 810.227.6800
<http://www.kensingtonvalleyvarsity.com/>

Ski Club Anyone?

by Jessie Pratt

There has been a lot of student interest in starting a Ski Club at K Woods. Ski Club would meet once a week at Mt. Brighton and students and families would be able to ski at a discounted rate. However, we would like to find a Parent sponsor to help out! If you are interested, please contact me at jpratt@kwoods.org or 517.545.0828 x233.

KENSINGTON WOODS DRAMA CLUB

Auditions for *Barefoot in the Park*

Auditions for *Barefoot in the Park* by Neil Simon will be held Monday November 30, Tuesday December 1, & Wednesday December 2, at 3pm in the Big Room. Rehearsals will begin Friday December 4th at 12-3 and then will continue daily after school. Performance will be held on February 26th, 27th, & 28th, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Elissa or Jason at dramaclub@kwoods.org.

The Story

After spending their entire 6-day honeymoon in a suite at New York's Plaza Hotel, Corie and Paul Bratter move into their Greenwich Village apartment. For the optimistic Corie, the whole adventure of making a home is pure enchantment; but Paul, a conservative lawyer, is dismayed by the inconvenience and general drabness. Their upstairs neighbor, Victor Velasco, is a self-admitted rake accustomed to using their bedroom window to reach his own quarters because he has been evicted by the landlord. Corie is fascinated by Victor's continental manner, and she decides that he would be the perfect companion for her widowed mother, Ethel. Throughout the play, Corie, Paul, Victor and Ethel travel through the ups and downs of love.

Characters

Corie Bratter
Paul Bratter
Ethel Banks
Victor Velasco
Harry Pepper
Delivery Man

YEARBOOK

Feature Your Business in the K Woods Yearbook!

by Jessie MacGonigal Pratt

This year, the K Woods Yearbook will be offering the opportunity to local businesses to purchase ads in the yearbook. Yearbook ads are a great chance for you to support Kensington Woods and your business!

Advantages of purchasing a yearbook ad include:

- Large focused audience who live and work in your community
- Our ads are more affordable than other local public schools; it does not cost more for color
- Your ad will not be lost among thousands of other ads; we will make sure your ad stands out. We only sell a limited amount of ads per year.
- We will work with you to create a unique, original and personal ad that fits your needs perfectly.
- Purchasing an ad supports your school and local businesses (our printer and photographer is a local, Michigan-owned company)
- Any ad purchase or donation is tax deductible.

Prices are:

- 1/4 page: \$20 (4 1/4 inches x 5 1/2 inches)
- 1/2 page: \$30 (8 1/2 inches x 5 1/2 inches)
- Full page: \$50 (8 1/2 inches x 11 inches)
- All ads are full color

The deadline for purchasing ads is December 18. To purchase an ad, contact Jessie Pratt at jpratt@kwoods.org.

Reminder about Senior Pictures and Ads!

by Jessie MacGonigal Pratt

Senior portraits and Ad orders for the Yearbook are due December 18. You can find out about requirements by visiting the Yearbook page on the website, www.kwoods.org/campus/yearbook.html. If you have any questions, contact Jessie Pratt at jpratt@kwoods.org.

Senior Ads

If you would also like a Senior ad, orders and photographs are due December 18. All proceeds go to support the Yearbook program at K Woods. To purchase an ad, contact Jessie Pratt at jpratt@kwoods.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Stuff Going on at K Woods

Healthy Food Drive

On December 5-6 and 12-13, students from the K Woods Leadership group will be having a Healthy Snacks Food Drive for Gleaners at Meijer and WalMart in Howell. Students will be collecting healthy snacks (like Goldfish, granola bars, and other non-perishable snacks) for local students school lunches. Stay tuned to the website, www.kwoods.org for exact times and places. You can also bring in healthy snacks to school to donate. Drop them off in the box in front of the Main Office.

Project Green Winter Gets Press

Stephanie Dunivant's Senior Exhibition project, Project Green Winter was recently featured on WHMI. Project Green Winter's goal is to build a sustainable greenhouse at Kensington Woods out of recycled pop bottles. We will be collecting 2-liter pop bottles through January to build the greenhouse in spring, so please help by dropping off your extra 2-liter bottles in front of the Main Office!

Picture Retakes and Picture Orders

Picture Retakes will be on December 2. If you would like to purchase a package of photos from the first time pictures were taken, Bak Photography has set up a website for our school! Visit their site, www.bakphotography.com and click on the "View Your Images" link. Our password is K Woods.

Spirit Wear

We are now back in stock with Spirit Wear! Don't loose your chance to get the best spirit wear around; they make great Christmas gifts! To see what we have, visit <http://www.kwoods.org/campus/spiritwear.html>. To purchase Spirit Wear, contact Jessie Pratt at jpratt@kwoods.org.

Moments Photography by Carrie

For every Indoor or On Location session that is purchased, Moments Photography by Carrie will donate \$15.00 to Kensington Woods High School.

Details: For Kensington Woods High School to receive it's \$15.00 donation, this add must be mentioned at the time your portrait session is purchased.

Gift Certificates available.

*A gift of memories
to last a lifetime...*



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www.momentsphotographybycarrie.com

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