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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

**Monday & Tuesday, December 21 & 22**

Semester 1 Final Exams, half day for students

**Monday, December 21, 12pm**

Holiday Luncheon, admission is one non-perishable, see article below

**Wednesday, December 23-  
Friday, January 1**

## A Message from the Principal . . .

by Jim Perry

It is hard to believe that our first semester is drawing to a close. I would like to take this opportunity to commend our students on their outstanding effort this semester and our teaching staff on their dedication and tenacity in helping our students strive toward their highest potential.

As a staff we talk often, and fully understand, that it is the process of achieving that holds the most potential to teach students that they possess the intelligence and capacity to build skills and knowledge. We call this thinking Growth Mindset where we believe strong effort and hard work will grow our intelligence and our capacity to learn.

We hope that you will look for opportunities at home to praise the process more than the product and reinforce, with us, that effort and persistence are habits that will serve our students well their entire life. One of our teachers came across this quote during the week and forwarded it the staff as a reminder for all of us as we put in a lot of extra time with students this week preparing for final exams:

*"People are in greater need of your praise when they try and fail than when they try and succeed."*

We need this reminder because our society can be very focused on the product, to the point where young people feel that their effort is worthless if their end product isn't "good enough", or "as good as". What do we do to a young person's capacity for achievement through persistence and strong effort, and even innovation when we do not emphasize the process over the product?

As a last note, we schedule our final exams on the two

No School, Holiday Break

**Monday, January 4**

School resumes, First day of 2nd Semester

**Wednesday, January 6**

Last day to register for LCC classes, see Ms. Merrill for details.

**January 4, 5, 6 & 7**

Yearbook Sales during lunch, \$35. The last day to purchase a book at presale price is January 15. After that, books are \$40.

days before our holiday break so students can enjoy a well deserved respite where they can relax and enjoy time with their family without the stress of due dates and impending exams lurking just around the corner. We hope you all take advantage of this purposeful scheduling and enjoy the spirit of the holidays with relaxation and joy.

Warmest regards,  
*Jim Perry*

## Finals Schedule

**Monday, December 21**

A Block: 7:40-8:40  
B Block: 8:50-9:50  
C Block: 10:00-11:00  
F Block: 11:10-12:10

**Tuesday, December 22**

D Block: 7:40-8:40  
E Block: 8:50-9:50  
G Block: 10:00-11:00

### COLLEGE NEWS

## All About Scholarships

by Shawn Pollman

### College Presentation on Personal Statements and Scholarships

On Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Karen Cuzydlo, an advisor from *Lansing Community College* made an hour long presentation to all KWHS Juniors and Seniors on how to write a successful personal statement which is used for both college applications and scholarship opportunities. As a member of LCC's scholarship selection panel, Ms. Cuzydlo was able to give our students inside information on what the committee is looking for with respect to personal statements. She emphasized the importance of technical aspects of writing such as spelling, grammar and organization. She also discussed content information which includes personal experience and history, goals and ambitions, and passion. Students participated in a brainstorming session to organize their thoughts for their own personal essays. Ms. Cuzydlo also provided our students with several tips for applying for scholarships. Some highlights from her presentation are listed below.

### Tips for Applying for Scholarships

- Keep a portfolio of all athletic and academic achievements, community service projects,
- Leadership roles and any other awards or honors you have received.
- Have three written letters of reference available (on professional letterhead).

- Most scholarship applications require a written personal statement. This explains who you are, your future goals, and should set you apart from other applicants. Practice writing your personal statement now.
- Involvement in extracurricular activities and volunteer work is looked upon favorably when being considered for a scholarship.
- Search your institution's "scholarship" web site to explore all scholarships. For example, go to [www.lcc.edu/scholarships](http://www.lcc.edu/scholarships) and then look at all the options including "external scholarship opportunities".

### Local Sources for Scholarships

Contact the following organizations to see if they offer any scholarships:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your local church</li> <li>• Your place of employment</li> <li>• Banks</li> <li>• Libraries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elks, Rotary and Kiwanis Club</li> <li>• Community Foundations</li> <li>• Local stores and businesses</li> </ul>
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### Scholarship Searches on the Internet

<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a> <a href="http://www.wiredscholar.com">www.wiredscholar.com</a> <a href="http://www.collegenet.com">www.collegenet.com</a> <a href="http://www.edamerica.net">www.edamerica.net</a> <a href="http://www.offtocollege.info">www.offtocollege.info</a>	<a href="http://www.mapping-your-future.org">www.mapping-your-future.org</a> <a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a> <a href="http://www.freschinfo.com">www.freschinfo.com</a> <a href="http://www.ed.gov/org_info/sfa/studentguide">www.ed.gov/org_info/sfa/studentguide</a> <a href="http://www.scholarshipexperts.com">www.scholarshipexperts.com</a>
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### Books on Scholarships

*The Scholarship Book* by Daniel J. Cassidy, Prentice Hall, Inc.

*College Scholarships and Financial Aid* by John Schwartz, Arco Pub.

*Complete College Financing Guide* by Marquerite Dennis, Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

*The Complete Scholarship Book* by Student Services, Inc., Sourcebooks Inc.

### PARENT TEACHER GROUP

## Holiday Luncheon to be Held on Monday, December 21st

The Parent-Teacher Group will be hosting a holiday luncheon for the students and faculty at KWood in the Big Room on Monday, December 21st at noon.

We'd like to invite any parents who'd like to have lunch to join us. We hope to honor Gail Hernandez, our former secretary, at this event for her years of service. This is also to thank our wonderful staff for their great commitment to our kids.

We're looking for donations of food items from our parents, so please contact

Debbie Uhley at the email address or phone number below if you would like to help.

We're asking everyone who attends this event to bring a canned-food item, gift certificate or money to help out a local needy family. Any size donation is welcome!

Debbie Uhley, President  
Kensington Woods Parent Teacher Group  
810-231-2662  
[bumd@chartermi.net](mailto:bumd@chartermi.net)

#### **DRAMA CLUB**

### **Feature your Business with the Drama Club**

Drama Club is now accepting advertising orders for the program for Barefoot in the Park. Its a great opportunity for you to advertise your business and support Kensington Woods High School. Personal ads to the cast are also being accepted! The performance dates are February 26, 27, 28, 2010.

Pricing:

- 1/4 page (2.75in x 4.25in): \$15
- 1/2 page: (5.5in x 4.25in): \$25
- Full page: (5.5in x 8.5in): \$40

We are also looking for donations for the set (building supplies and furniture) and volunteers to help build the set. If you are able or interested, please contact Jason at [dramaclub@kwoods.org](mailto:dramaclub@kwoods.org)

Happy Holidays!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Good Stuff Going on at KWoods**

#### **Parents of Juniors and Seniors**

If you are planning on dual enrollment for your son or daughter, registration for Lansing Community College is from November 17th - January 6th. Call Ms. Merrill for details regarding eligibility.

#### **2 Liter Pop Bottles Still Needed!**

We will be collecting 2-liter pop bottles through February to be used in Project Green Winter, a recycled materials greenhouse. Please keep us in mind when you are returning bottles and drop your 2-liter bottles in the box by the Main Office!

## 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](mailto:jpratt@kwoods.org).

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