



# KEWASKUM COMMUNIQUÉ

January 2007

## ***Our Mission...***

**The Kewaskum School District strives to create and enhance an educational environment that is consistent with community expectations, and challenges students to do their best.**

### **2006—2007**

#### **Leadership Team**

**Superintendent  
Michael Krumm**

**Business Manager  
Paul Reichert**

**Administrative Assistant  
Jeanne Jacak**

**Dir. of Pupil Services  
Sue Burgard**

**Dir. of Curriculum  
Joannie Kalina**

**Kewaskum High Principal  
Christine Horbas**

**Kewaskum High Assoc. Prin.  
Thomas Fischer**

**Kewaskum Middle Principal  
Ken Soerens**

**Kewaskum Elem. Principal  
Dir. of Elem. Education  
Kieth Kriewaldt**

**Farmington Elem. Principal  
Wayne Elem. Principal  
Janet Molebash**

**Dir. of Buildings & Grounds  
Jim Palmer**

**Dir. of Food Services  
Kathy Robinson**

**Dir. Information Technology  
Jennifer Rae**

**Instructional Technology  
Coordinator  
Jane Lazarevic**

## **DISTRICT AND VITERBO UNIVERSITY PARTNER ON TEACHER GRADUATE PROGRAM**

By Michael Krumm, District Administrator

The Kewaskum School District and Viterbo University are beginning an innovative partnership to deliver graduate classes to the Kewaskum teachers. The partnership is called Kewaskum University. Classes are offered tuition free and year round to Kewaskum teachers. These classes are to be flexibly scheduled during evenings, weekends, and over the summer. All classes are held on the Kewaskum campus.

Christine Valenti, the Coordinator for Graduate Studies at Viterbo University, comments that "the program will be one of the most innovatively structured, district supported programs in the state of Wisconsin." Teachers can earn a Master of Arts in Education from Viterbo through Kewaskum University. Teachers can also use these classes for re-certification and improve their position on the salary schedule. Kewaskum administrators and teachers with advanced degrees as well as Viterbo faculty are to be the instructors for the classes.

In addition to providing a powerful staff development program for its teachers, the school district benefits from having its teachers collaborate within the classes and with the coursework being focused specifically on the needs of the Kewaskum School District. John Kenworthy, President of the Kewaskum School Board, is excited about the potential of the program: "Our work environment, our technologies, our world are evolving around us at an exceedingly rapid pace. It is incumbent upon our teaching staff to stay ahead of the times in which we live—in terms of curriculum, methodology, and relevance—in order that they might help guide our youth toward being active participants in our society."

The first courses are to be offered in the spring of 2007, and they include the following:

- Building Comprehension for Guided Reading
- Character Education for School and Community
- Reading and Writing Strategies for Content Areas
- Integrating Technology into Classroom Instruction
- Adapting Content to Block Scheduling

Valenti further states, "Viterbo University is pleased and proud to partner with the Kewaskum School District, its administrators, and staff to offer graduate programming that will enhance the lives of not only the educators who take the coursework and full Master of Arts in Education degree but will improve the lives of the students that they teach and the community at large."

Viterbo University is a co-educational liberal arts university located in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Viterbo provides graduate education courses throughout Wisconsin and Iowa. Viterbo's teacher education programs have the approval of the Wisconsin Department of Education. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the North Central Association for Colleges also accredits Viterbo's graduate education program.

## SCHOOL BOARD LOWERS 2007 TAX RATE

By Paul Reichert, Business Manager

On Monday, October 30, 2006 the Board of Education gave final approval to the budget and tax levy for the 2006-07 school year. Their action resulted in the lowest school tax rate for District residents over the last twenty-seven years. The budget and tax levy were adjusted by the Board to take into account changes in the District's revenue limit, equalized property valuation, and state aid estimates.

The table below shows the School District's tax rate since the 1980-81 school year.

Year	General	Debt	
		Service	Total
2007	\$6.63	\$0.93	\$7.56
2006	7.24	1.16	8.40
2005	7.33	1.26	8.59
2004	7.38	1.37	8.75
2003	7.20	1.45	8.65
2002	7.60	1.51	9.11
2001	8.11	1.72	9.83
2000	7.82	2.74	10.56
1999	8.64	1.92	10.56
1998	8.47	2.09	10.56
1997	8.31	2.25	10.56
1996	12.80	1.62	14.42
1995	14.08	1.69	15.77
1994	15.52	0.75	16.27
1993	16.28	0.63	16.91
1992	15.35	0.55	15.90
1991	15.89	0.47	16.36
1990	15.10	0.26	15.36
1989	13.64	0.24	13.88
1988	13.11	0.25	13.36
1987	15.34	0.27	15.61
1986	14.39	0.25	14.64
1985	11.10	0.32	11.42
1984	10.19	0.32	10.51
1983	8.82	1.13	9.95
1982	8.70	1.24	9.94
1981	\$8.24	\$1.33	\$9.57

A \$435,000 increase in state aid combined with a 12.4% increase in the equalized property values in the District resulted in a drop in the 2007 tax rate to \$7.56. The 2007 tax rate decreased by 84 cents from last year's tax rate of \$8.40.

School taxes on a home in Kewaskum School District valued at \$200,000 are projected to be \$1,512 in 2007, a decrease of \$168 over the 2006 tax.

The District's operating budget for 2006-07 will be \$18,101,423, up 4.03% from the previous year. State aid increased by 4.7% to \$9,678,000 while the property tax levy for the operating budget increased 3.1% to \$7,387,000.

Property values in the District increased by \$130,236,000, the largest single-year increase in the District's history. Property in the District is now valued at over \$1.1 billion.

**FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) is teaming up with Yoplait and the Susan G. Komen Foundation to help fight breast cancer.** Here is how you can help! Simply buy Yoplait yogurts with pink lids. Remove the lids, wash them and turn them in to either Mrs. Dorst at the Middle School or Mrs. Koch at the High School. Yoplait will donate 10 cents per lid, up to \$1.5 million.

## ROSE HALL REMODELING PROJECT APPROVED

By Paul Reichert, Business Manager

The Kewaskum Board of Education on November 13, 2006 approved a \$1.9 million remodeling project for Kewaskum High School. Rose Hall, an old gymnasium, will be remodeled into a new media center and auditorium while the stage area that is currently used for art classrooms will be reclaimed for the auditorium. Art classrooms will be moved into the space where the old media center is currently located. A special education room will be also be relocated to make room for a computer lab adjacent to the new media center.

The purpose of this remodeling project is to increase the educational potential of Kewaskum High School and the school district. The media center is currently located in the back of the facility in an area not conducive to research and study. Auditorium space does not exist anywhere in the school district. Existing art classrooms are not meeting the educational needs of our students. The special education area for students with severe and profound disabilities is in need of a significant upgrade.

Currently the school district does not have quality space for large-group fine arts productions, academic presentations, staff development, and community activities. With such a space, educational programming for all students will be greatly enhanced. An auditorium may also bring outside organizations to our community.

Art students will gain a less congested space, with more natural light, a more productive learning environment, and unified storage of materials. Additional display cases in the project area increase the school's ability to showcase student work. Upgrades to the special education areas will increase opportunities for students to practice daily-living and work-related skills and will provide wheelchair access that is currently not available.

The cost of the Project is currently estimated to be \$1.9 million. Remodeling Rose Hall and the existing library building is estimated to cost approximately \$1.8 million. Replacing the roof over Rose Hall and removing floor tile that contain asbestos will cost an estimated \$100,000. The remodeling project will start in early April 2007 and be completed by the start of school next fall. Quasius Construction, located in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is the general contractor for the project.

The project will be funded through the combination of a loan, fund balance, and fundraising. The District can borrow \$675,000 from the state at a low interest rate while the remainder of the revenue needed for the project can be taken from the District's fund balance. Some elements of the Project, such as seats in the auditorium, may be paid for through a fundraising campaign.

### Tumble Book Library



[www.tumblebooklibrary.com](http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com)

Username: kewaskum

Password: books

TumbleBookLibrary is an online collection of animated, talking picture books which teach young children the joys of reading in a format they'll love. TumbleBooks are created by taking existing picture books, adding animation, sound, music and narration to produce an electronic picture book which you can read, or have read to you.

The TumbleBook Library collection can be accessed on-line from home through the website address above or through a direct link on our school website—[www.kewaskumschools.org](http://www.kewaskumschools.org). Click on the TumbleBookLibrary link under any one of the elementary school headings.

**2006-07 DISTRICT BUDGET**

By Paul Reichert, Business Manager

Below is a summary of the District's budget for the 2006-07 school year. The budget was adopted by the School Board on October 30, 2006. For more information regarding the budget, please contact the Business Office at 262-626-8427, ext. 8003.

<b>2006-07 BUDGET</b>							
<b>KEWASKUM SCHOOL DISTRICT - DISTRICT WIDE OPERATIONS</b>							
	<u>2006-07 Budget</u>			<u>2005-06 Budget</u>		<b>Increase (Decrease) in 2006-07 Budget</b>	<b>% Increase (Decrease) in 2006-07 Budget</b>
	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Charges For Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Net Expenditures or (Revenues)</u>	<u>Net Expenditures or (Revenues)</u>		
<b><u>INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES</u></b>	(+)	(-)	(-)	(=)	(-)	(=)	
General Instruction	7,870,944	94,500	129,020	7,647,424	7,076,039	571,385	8.07%
Special Education Instruction	1,933,978		721,025	1,212,953	1,084,902	128,051	11.80%
Vocational Instruction	762,758	5,200		757,558	889,077	(131,519)	-14.79%
Other Instruction	525,389			525,389	469,447	55,942	11.92%
Co-Curricular Activities	311,579	56,000		255,579	245,908	9,671	3.93%
<b>Total Instructional Services</b>	<b>11,404,648</b>	<b>155,700</b>	<b>850,045</b>	<b>10,398,903</b>	<b>9,765,373</b>	<b>633,530</b>	<b>6.49%</b>
<b><u>SUPPORT SERVICES</u></b>							
Instructional Support Services	2,077,151		396,043	1,681,108	1,633,653	47,455	2.90%
Administration	1,628,037			1,628,037	1,589,379	38,658	2.43%
Facilities Operations & Maintenance	1,631,245		3,000	1,628,245	1,753,251	(125,006)	-7.13%
Utilities	467,545			467,545	457,667	9,878	2.16%
Pupil Transportation	983,448		108,932	874,516	850,910	23,606	2.77%
Food Service	652,343	490,335	162,325	(317)	51,039	(51,356)	-100.62%
Open Enrollment & Youth Options	1,083,167		333,606	749,561	840,939	(91,378)	-10.87%
Long-term Debt Service	1,092,085			1,092,085	1,522,137	(430,052)	-28.25%
Short-term Debt Service	80,566			80,566	139,700	(59,134)	-42.33%
Property & Casualty Insurance	157,500		926	156,574	151,872	4,702	3.10%
Early Retirement	140,929			140,929	129,920	11,009	8.47%
Other Support Services	8,891			8,891	11,960	(3,069)	-25.66%
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>10,002,907</b>	<b>490,335</b>	<b>1,004,832</b>	<b>8,507,740</b>	<b>9,132,427</b>	<b>(624,687)</b>	<b>-6.84%</b>
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT WIDE OPERATIONS</b>	<b>21,407,555</b>	<b>646,035</b>	<b>1,854,877</b>	<b>18,906,643</b>	<b>18,897,800</b>	<b>8,843</b>	<b>0.05%</b>
<b>GENERAL REVENUES</b>							
Property Tax Levy							
Levied for General Purposes				7,820,262	7,595,308	224,954	2.96%
Levied for Debt Service				1,101,009	1,221,414	(120,405)	-9.86%
Federal and State Aid Not Restricted to Specific Purposes							
Equalization Aid				9,678,081	9,242,367	435,714	4.71%
Other				36,543	23,131	13,412	57.98%
Interest Income				125,931	108,628	17,303	15.93%
Miscellaneous Revenues				101,986	130,911	(28,925)	-22.10%
<b>Total General Revenues</b>				<b>18,863,812</b>	<b>18,321,759</b>	<b>542,053</b>	<b>2.96%</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURES OR (REVENUES)</b>				<b>42,831</b>	<b>576,041</b>	<b>(533,210)</b>	<b>-92.56%</b>

**SUPER SOUP SOCIAL—January 13th****11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—KHS Café****Sponsored by the Student Council to benefit "Friends of Abused Families"****Everyone welcome—Please come!**

## KEWASKUM HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ALUMNI

By Christine Horbas, Principal Kewaskum High

Do you realize the opportunities that are open to a Kewaskum High School graduate? This “small town” educational show has had an outstanding performance year after year as Kewaskum has many outstanding graduates. We want our own students to be aware of the career possibilities that lie in front of them as they apply themselves while they are attending KHS. As a result, we’ve started a new program to honor Kewaskum High Alumni.

This fall we accepted nominations for our Kewaskum High School Alumni Achievement Award. The purpose of the award is to:

- encourage students to choose challenging careers that would benefit the community and our country, and
- recognize Kewaskum High Alumni reconnecting them to our school and our community.

This November, our very first three outstanding candidates were selected based on the following criteria:

- he/she gained distinction in his/her field
- he/she offers an admirable example to students based on character and accomplishments
- he/she contributes to his/her community of residence

This year’s recipients are:

George G. Martin, (1968), Dr. Larry Westerman (1978), and Ric Leitheiser (1982)

George G. Martin (nominated by Bonnie Koepke and Dawn Martin) has spent most of his life working for the CIA. He started for them in 1975 after graduation with a Masters from Michigan State University. Who would have known that this young man started his career at Kewaskum Frozen Foods? His first assignment was that of a geographer in the USSR-Europe division and over the years he worked his way up to the Inspector’s General Office. His hard work has even earned him the prestigious award of Career Achievement in Intelligence. George is also involved with his church not only through the church choir, band, and youth groups, but he is even a consultant to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod Commission and serves as a soccer referee in his community.

Dr. Larry Westerman (nominated by Dennis, Sharon, and Randy Westerman and Sandra Gitter) has spent most of his life working for the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. Since 2005, Larry has been working in Zambia as the Director of Quality Assurance in a lab for AIDS control. Larry is a graduate from UW-Milwaukee and Emory University (Georgia). During his stay in Africa he has already treated 53,000 people with HIV and AIDS.

Ric Leitheiser (nominated by Amy Leitheiser) is currently the President of the M&I Bank, West Bend and directs business-banking activities in the northern Metro- Milwaukee market. Ric received a Masters from Marquette University and is also a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Colorado. Ric serves on many community committees and organizations in the West Bend and Washington County area and he is currently the Board Chair for the Kettle Moraine YMCA and the Synergy Health Foundation.

On March 12, 2007, the Kewaskum School District will host these Alumni Achievement Award Recipients. They will take part in a school/community assembly at 10:30 a.m. During this assembly, the honorees will do a Power Point presentation to the student body regarding their school days at Kewaskum High School. The presentations will include the activities they were in, their educational background, and their careers that followed. After lunch, the honorees will meet with the media, conduct student career workshops in the afternoon, and be honored at a School Board reception prior to the board meeting that evening.

Everyone in the community is invited to the school assembly and the School Board reception. If you know these candidates or are interested in meeting them, please mark your calendar for March 12<sup>th</sup>. We would sure love to have you join us in honoring George, Larry, and Ric.

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**SADIE SNOWBALL DANCE — February 17, 2007 — Rose Hall/KHS**

## HOW DO WE TEACH STUDENTS TO COMPREHEND?

By Mary Metz, Reading Specialist

Have you ever read a book you just couldn't put down? Chances are that something you have read touched or grabbed you in a certain way. Perhaps you could personally relate to what you were reading. Did it stir up memories? Maybe it was pertinent to something that was on your mind at the moment. Possibly the author crafted a story that left you with the urgent need to find out what happens next. At times, you may have needed to read on to find out more information about something. Regardless of what your reason was for reading, a book or article had some meaning to you.

### How can we help our children find the meaning in what they read?

Comprehension is the understanding of what we read. It is the heart of what reading truly is, and comprehension is an essential component of reading instruction in the Kewaskum School District. Without meaning, reading becomes the act of simply reading words.

Comprehension instruction is different today than it was in past generations. We have learned an enormous amount in the past twenty years about how to teach and understand what we read. Comprehension instruction in past generations followed a read-and-assess model. Other than learning basic story structure, few tools were given to students to break the code of what the text means. Students were given a reading assignment and asked questions to check their understanding.

Today, comprehension instruction focuses on metacognition. Metacognition refers to the awareness of what you are thinking and how your thought processes work. Through explicit instruction, students are taught to monitor their own thinking while reading. They learn to listen to the "inner conversation" within themselves when they are reading, and to identify when meaning breaks down.

**Metacognition:**  
Knowledge about what and how you are thinking

Students learn to use a core set of strategies to look deeper into the meaning of text. Lastly, students learn to identify the author's purpose in writing and to use this knowledge to help them understand what they read.

A lack of finding meaning can lead to a lack of motivation to read. Without meaning, there is a risk that reading becomes a chore, something that "has to be done." Wouldn't it be a terrible thing to never enjoy the hook of a book or have the need to keep reading?

### 6 Key Strategies to Help Students of All Ages Understand Text

- 1. Monitoring reading**  
Notice when ideas and words do not make sense
- 2. Questioning**  
Use self-questioning to understand important ideas in text (I wonder... Why...?)
- 3. Visualizing**  
Create a picture or representation in your head based on details, ideas and relationships in the text
- 4. Inferring/Predicting**  
Use what is known to predict or draw conclusions about things the author has not explicitly stated
- 5. Summarizing**  
Use knowledge of the author's purpose in writing to determine what is important
- 6. Making Connections/Using Existing Knowledge**
  - Use existing knowledge to understand what is read
  - Add to existing knowledge
  - Relate reading to experiences and the world around us

Harvey, S. & Goodvis, A., 2000. *Strategies That Work*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The following companies made financial donations to the Computer Aided Machining Program at the high school.

**MGS MFG GROUP—Donated \$3,000**  
**TOOL, DIE & MACHINING ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN—Donated \$500**  
**MID-STATES ALUMINUM—Donated \$250**

The following companies made financial donations to the Robotics and CNC class at the high school.

**TOOLCRAFT COMPANY, INC. —Donated \$1,500**  
**REGAL WARE, INC. —Donated \$250**

Many thanks to these companies for the support of the education of our students and better enabling them to go out into the workforce with up-to-date technical training.

## FAMILY ACCESS IS COMING TO THE DISTRICT

By Jenny Rae, Dir. Of Information Technology

The Kewaskum School District will be rolling out new software called "Family Access" in mid-January. This service will allow parents to view a student's school information over a secure Internet connection from any computer with Internet access. Some of the information that will be available includes lunch balances, emergency contact/address information, and attendance information. Family Access will allow parents to be more aware of their student's progress with the most up-to-date information.

The Technology Department started testing the system in October with thirty participating families. More families were added in November and December. Currently, we have about eighty families participating in our test groups. We would like to thank all of the families who took part in our test groups. They helped us to work out the bugs, and make suggestions about the software. Here is what some parents are saying about their experience with Family Access:

District parent, Michelle Krueger said, "I find this program very accessible and easy to follow. With having two children in the district, I am able to view their grades, lunch accounts and see any problems they may be having on a daily basis. As a working mom this extra form of communication from the school has been great!"

Another District parent, Julie Fechter, said "I can't say enough good things about Family Access. The fact that we are able to log on as often as we want, allows us as parents to stay on top of things. This also seems to allow for easier communication between parents and teaching staff. I think Family Access is one of the best things Kewaskum schools ever did."

Logins and passwords for Family Access will be sent home in the reports cards of High School students. All other parents/guardians will receive a separate mailing containing the login and password information after January 20, 2007. Please remember to keep your login and password information secure and confidential.

We are very excited about this education tool and look forward to working with you. We believe this tool will improve communications between our families and the Kewaskum School District.

## KMS STUDENTS ARE MOVIN' AND MUNCHIN' - By Jeff Grotenhuis

This year, seventh grade health students will be participating in "Movin' and Munchin' Schools". Created by the Department of Public Instruction, Movin' and Munchin' Schools is an innovative approach to the growing problem of obesity, poor nutrition choices, and lack of physical activity among our school children. Teachers, Jeff Grotenhuis and Mary Holfeltz, will be challenging students to earn as many miles as possible, and see which class can reach their destination first. Students earn miles by being physically active, and by making good nutritional choices. Students can earn bonus miles by including adults, and helping others.

## Atomic Learning



**Meet AI, your technology tutor.**

**He is available 24/7.**

[www.atomiclearning.com](http://www.atomiclearning.com)

Login: kewaskum

Password: indians

Atomic Learning is an online resource for software training. It's available to our students – and their families – in school and at home - 24/7 - throughout the school year.

Atomic Learning's just in time approach to software training focuses on answering the common questions you have when learning and using software. Need to know how to cut and paste in Word? Is your child making a PowerPoint presentation and looking for help? Need to type a formula in Microsoft Excel? Go to the site, type in your question, and watch a narrated movie that shows you step by step how to accomplish the task.

Atomic Learning library features more than 4,000 tutorial movies on over 40 of the most common software applications, and an average of 150 movies are added every month.

**EIGHTH GRADE REVIEW** — By Grade 8

A great time was had by all!

It's hard to believe it is already December. It feels like we just started our new school year! The 8<sup>th</sup> grade was very busy first quarter and there are lots of exciting things coming up as well. Our first big event was the cave trip, which provided students with an adventurous educational experience. We went to Ledgeview Nature Center in Chilton. This was a rugged, natural caving experience that provided a more memorable and realistic feel than a show cave. Students crawled through tunnels, tight spaces, and saw first-hand formations and ecosystems they had previously learned about.

In honor of Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we invited a local veteran to speak to the students. Mr. Stonecipher returned in August after spending one year in Iraq. Along with many stories of his experiences, Scott Stonecipher shared multiple photos covering his yearlong service in Iraq. This was such an eye-opener for all of us. We observed the extremely different terrain and the unique culture of the Iraqi people. Mr. Stonecipher definitely gave the students a better understanding of the war and an appreciation for all those who have bravely and selflessly sacrificed their own safety. It is difficult to thank veterans enough for all they do, but we would like to extend our gratitude and deep appreciation.



We also had environmental engineers come in and show the students how their job skills relate to earth science. It was a great connection between what the kids were learning at school and a career out in the work force! It was especially valid because we were closing our unit on caves. Students transitioned into the unit on rocks and minerals with ease and understanding. Tim Winkler, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent, generously brought two of his associates in to demonstrate sinkholes. Students gained a hands-on experience with rock/soil composition and how it can affect road and building construction. They even brought in a drilling rig and cored a sample from our own parking lot, so we could see how core samples are taken and analyzed. Mr. Winkler and his associates did a phenomenal job! It is always fantastic to have parents share their talents and areas of expertise with our students.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have the great opportunity to observe and participate in traditional African dance. The nationally renowned Ko-Thi Dance Company will be performing "Drum Talk". This fun and educational performance ties into Black History Month and our Language Arts unit. Students will be reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry and studying share cropping as a social system. The Ko-Thi Dance Company will be giving an afternoon presentation to the entire middle school. In late March, students will begin looking forward to the annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade lock-in. This gives students and teachers an opportunity to build positive relationships. There will be a wide variety of activities geared towards the interests of our students. All eighth grade teachers and interested students will begin planning this exciting event in January. We look forward to all the amazing lessons coming up and are impressed with the wonderful start we have had this winter.

On November 9th the seventh grade staff hosted their fourth annual chili supper for students and their families. This well-attended event couldn't have been possible without the help of Joan Truog, Kewaskum Middle School's lead cook. More than 250 people dined on the provided chili and delicious desserts parents volunteered to supply. Families and staff members enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, welcoming friendly socializing and a preview of first quarter's report card. Students and parents were invited to test their academic prowess at several math and science related stations. These stations were meant to entice curiosity for an upcoming hands-on Science and Math Family Night. The seventh grade staff intends to invite parents and students back to KMS towards the end of second quarter for this event.

**Warm Chili, Friendly Conversation**

By Grade 7



## KMS ART STUDENTS CONNECT WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY — By Lynn Molenda

Every year the **Wisconsin Association of School Boards** creates an art challenge for all 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Wisconsin. This year students have been asked to look closely at their family history and traditions and to express this in a colorful 2-D form. As students talk to their parents and relatives, they have been surprised at the talents and accomplishments that they are discovering. They often do not realize how their family is connected to Kewaskum’s past. Do not be surprised if a middle school neighbor asks you to share what you know about our community’s past. If you are interested in sharing what you know about the origins of Kewaskum, please contact Ms. Molenda at the Middle School (626 8427 Ex.2030). Our students would be delighted to hear from you.

Students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Art & Design class traveled to the **West Bend Art Museum** to get a “sneak peek” at the 2006 Membership Exhibit. This is a yearly opportunity for **all the members of the museum to exhibit one work of art** in any medium of their choice. Students enjoyed the variety of ideas and media that people from the local area had submitted. The work ranged from abstract oil paintings and realistic watercolors to imaginative sculptures and unique jewelry. After observing all of the entries, students worked in cooperative teams to “judge” the show. They looked for qualities of color, unity, and unique ideas. The museum opened 2 hours early to accommodate our school schedule and paid for half of our transportation costs. While the museum often hosts national exhibits by professional artists, this show of local talent inspired and connected these students to their community.



Students at the West Bend Art Museum viewing the membership exhibit: Georgiana Abfall, Tyler Still and Rachael Gonja.

## DISTRICT LIBRARIES BENEFIT FROM KAP DONATION

In recognition of American Education Week (Nov. 13-18) the Kewaskum Auxiliary Personnel (KAP - support staff union) presented a check for \$50.00 to each library in the District. KAP would like to reach as many students as possible with this donation. We feel by giving it to the libraries, more students would have an opportunity to use the materials purchased with these donations. Reading is so important in all of our lives.



From left: Marlene Klahn (KAP Member and Library Aide), Jan Donahue, District Librarian and Pat Soller (KAP President)



From left: Denise Spaeth (KAP Member and Library Aide), Kathy Roehrig, Elementary Librarian and Jeaneen Kudek (KAP Treasurer)

## SIXTH GRADE SODA TAB SERVICE PROJECT – By Bob Gonwa

As a service project for the year my class is collecting soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House is a place for families to stay when a loved one is staying at a hospital. Throughout the country there are many Ronald McDonald Houses. Locally there is a Ronald McDonald House across the street from Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. I know of a number of children from our school district who have benefited from the services of Children’s Hospital and the nearby Ronald McDonald House.



The Ronald McDonald House is run on donations and our class feels that they can make a difference and help. We are helping by collecting aluminum tabs that are given to Ronald McDonald Charities to support their houses.

It is the job of this class to provide a place to collect tabs and to motivate their peers to collect and bring in tabs. To motivate others my students have written some very creative ads for our morning announcements. Clarissa Dehling wrote one of my favorites so far and ends like this “...so this Thanksgiving remember to drink a lot of soda and save the tabs, but don’t forget to brush those teeth!”

## KEWASKUM SCHOOL DISTRICT'S VIRTUAL LIBRARY

By Jane Lazarevic, Instructional Technology Coordinator

Jan Donahou, our district library media specialist, is in the process of developing a "Virtual Library" for students and their families. You can find a link to it on the Kewaskum School District Web Site at [www.kewaskumschools.org](http://www.kewaskumschools.org). The "Virtual Library" link is on menu on the left side of the screen. Keep checking back as more features are added throughout the year.

As part of the Virtual Library, the district has purchased subscriptions to online encyclopedias and information databases. The licenses allow students and their families access from home. Because it is a subscription service, we are not allowed to post the usernames and passwords on the Internet. Therefore, the usernames and passwords are published in this newsletter. Following is a description of the encyclopedias and databases that are available:

### Online Encyclopedias

**World Book Online Reference Center:** This online encyclopedia includes *Americas Edition*, *World Book International Edition* and *Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos* (Spanish)

Username: kewaskum

Password: Indians

**Grolier Online:** Includes *Encyclopedia American*, *The New Book of Knowledge*, *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, *Lands and Peoples*, and *America the Beautiful*

Username: kewaskum2

Password: indians

### Information Databases

**CQ Researcher:** This database covers current issues of the day. Sort articles by relevancy, by date, etc. Each topic contains a pro/con section within the report.

Username: kewaskum

Password: researcher

**SIRS:** Thousands of full-text articles on everything imaginable—health, science, economics, global issues.

Username: WI0720

Password: 53040

### Databases from ABC CLIO:

Username: 41981student

Password: 41981student

**World Geography:** This database focuses on the geographic, political, social, economic, and cultural forces that influence our world. Some of the features it includes are—daily international news updates, country specific holidays and celebrations, and feature stories that consider current international issues.

**American History:** This database combines primary and secondary sources. It has an analysis of current events and explores the ongoing development of the United States from pre-colonial times to today.

**American Government:** This database discusses the current issues of the day when it comes to government. It has daily UPI Washington news, political cartoons and differing political viewpoints and commentaries. It also has videos, quotes, and more.

**Visit Our School Website** for up-to-date information on our schools and school activities....[www.kewaskumschools.org](http://www.kewaskumschools.org)

## THINGS WORTH FIGHTING FOR... (Continued)

By Kieth Kriewaldt, Dir. Of Elementary Education

In Chapter 12 of Allington's book *Beyond the Classroom: Things Worth Fighting For*, the authors speak to the many issues the general public knows little about. Education today is nothing like the education most of us experienced. Today school districts need to consider what things to fight for and what things to let go. I believe our community needs to fight for change in the areas that have been shown to help student academic growth. These areas include school and community libraries, responsive programs, extended school day or year, early childhood intervention, continued teacher training, and shared input of staff, parents, and community. The area being addressed in this article is about responsive programs.

### Responsive Programs –

Under the new Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), schools are now being strongly encouraged to provide many different levels of responsive programs for our students. While KSD is fortunate to receive some federal funding to offset the cost of these programs, it is never enough to fully fund all of the programs.

At the elementary level, one of the programs that has been put in place is *Homework Club*. Here children are able to work with staff after school to get a jump start on their homework, or in some cases complete it. We have also been able to provide some staffing for students to get extra help during the noon recess, known as *Homework Clinics*. Here students are able to stay in one or two times a week to get extra help on work and individual tutoring. Over the summer, we were able to provide a *Reading Tutor Program* for 36 students who received individual tutoring or small group tutoring. When the school year started, not one of the 36 students had slipped in their reading and many students made progress. In one school, a pilot program called *Reading On First and Home (ROFaH)*, was implemented to work with 18 identified first graders to receive supplementary reading instructional minutes above the current district average. Some of these students receive an additional 225 minutes a week of extra reading support to get them up to the level of their peers. The results look very promising and it may lead to expanding the program to all the first grade classrooms.

After surveying parents about the responsive programs, they indicated that these interventions have helped their children move closer to reaching their learning goals. Students tell us that they feel more confident and ready to start the year or next school day. As Cunningham states, "We hope to soon see schools design intervention programs that provide children with sufficient extra instruction to return them to the classroom level with their peers in a short amount of time." (p. 261). Kewaskum School District is working at designing programs to ensure that all of our students read at grade level and are prepared for the next step in their learning. We will need to continue to try new responsive programs as well as alter or discontinue ones that do not result in student growth. Either way, we need to keep fighting for students and their education.

Cunningham P. M. and Allington R. L. (2003). *Classrooms that work: They can all read and write*. Boston: Pearson Education.

## NEW MUSIC OPPORTUNITY FOR DISTRICT FIFTH GRADERS

By Eric Christie

A new band program has been started at the elementary schools this year and it's going very well. Once a week, fifth graders have a group lesson at their school given by Mr. Christie, the Middle school band teacher. At this time 45 students are taking lessons on flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or percussion. Mr. Christie plans to have the combined group play for one of the spring concerts at the Middle School.

This new opportunity will give these fifth graders a huge jump on their preparation for Middle School next year and will take the place of summer lessons next summer which had been the time for preparation for the basics of instrument playing. Many of these students are displaying great talent and are rapidly improving their skills. Any fifth graders who still wish to take lessons are invited to join in.

## KIDS CARE TOO

By Sue Burgard, Dir. Of Pupil Services

It should come as no surprise that our Kewaskum School District students have warm, generous hearts. When they understand that there is a need to help, they step right up. This is apparent when looking at all the wonderful things they do throughout the year to help others.

Earlier this year, the elementary schools helped provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to several families. Along with this, they had several food drives as well as donating to the Washington County Humane Society. During the Christmas season, new toys and clothing were collected and given to students in our district that needed extra help around the holidays. Any toys left went to the Jaycees' Toys for County Kids of Washington County.

At the middle school, students collected over 1300 food items before Thanksgiving. These items were taken to the local food pantry. As Christmas neared, you might have seen middle school students ringing bells for the Salvation Army at the area Piggly Wiggly. Students also found a way to have fun while helping others. During the weeks before Christmas, they were able to purchase duct tape by the foot. At the Christmas Dance, staff members were duct taped according to the amount of tape sold. This resulted in a lot of laughter and good fun. The money from this sale was then used to provide gifts and gift cards to a special family in town.

The high school, too, has been active in their support of those in need. During October, students raked lawns for nine homes of senior citizens and choir classes caroled at nursing homes during the holidays. A project worked on by the ski club, student council, and sociology classes involved sponsoring four families during the holiday season. After the families were chosen, ideas were compiled, gifts were collected, wrapped, and then delivered to The Youth and Family Project for distribution. Plans are already underway for January to offer a soup social and silent auction that will benefit the Abused Families organization.

Yes, the youth of our community cares. These wonderful activities not only give to others at the time, but also become life-long lessons that continue into adulthood. We are very proud of our kids.

## FOOD SERVICES AND NUTRITION REPORT

By Kathy Robinson, Dir. Of Food Services

Good News!

Larger cold storage units for the middle school have been a daily wish of the KMS Food Service staff since the 1980's! In June 2006, your school nutrition program finally had the money to update the Kewaskum Middle School kitchen. The decision was made to add a new outdoor freezer & cooler unit.

Kewaskum Middle School was built in 1974. The number of students buying hot lunch was far less than our current lunch counts. In addition, in the 1970's & 80's, the students were offered only one entrée option instead of two. The middle school kitchen currently prepares approximately 400 lunches per day for KMS students and now 90-110 meals per day for Wayne Elementary. In 2002, the Food Service Department was asked to create a breakfast program at the middle school. So additionally we now serve breakfast to approximately 100 KMS students per day.

For many years, even before the KMS breakfast program, the Food Service staff has struggled with a lack of freezer, cooler and dry goods storage space. When our cooks needed frozen items to prepare lunch and breakfast they often had to unpack much of the freezer in order to reach their daily supplies. Every week more supplies would arrive from the high school and from our food vendors. It would take the cook almost an hour to unpack and re-pack the freezer in order to organize the freezer and to fit everything in. Space is needed for the many different items we offer. We had a similar space related problem with the walk-in cooler. The dry storage space at KMS was also inadequate for the number of meals that they served.

The combination cabinets that contained both the KMS freezer and a cooler, between 1974 and 2006, were only 5 ft. x 19 ft.-8 in. x 8 ft. (interior dimensions). The new freezer & cooler unit is a Leer unit, 15.5 ft. x 23.5 ft. x 8 ft. (interior dimensions)! We are also able to use the kitchen space vacated by the old units for additional dry storage. This larger freezer/cooler unit and the extra dry storage area will serve our current and future needs for many years to come. The wishes of the KMS Cooks have finally come true!

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**KMS GIRLS—Remember “Girl’s Night Out” sessions at the YMCA in West Bend.**

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Meeting dates in January through March (See School Website or KMS Newsletter)

## POLICY COMMITTEE NEWS

By Sally Cochran, Policy Committee Chairperson

All of the current District policies are available for your viewing on the new and improved District website. Check them out when you have the time or look up something you are specifically interested in. Now here is the low-down on what the Policy Committee has been working on lately...

As many of you may know the high school is about to go through some scheduling changes. Along with the proposed changes, we have had to look at our policies regarding high school graduation. The Policy Committee has been working on the requirements for graduation as well as types of diplomas given out and foreign exchange students both incoming and outgoing. Mrs. Horbas has recommended changes in the current District Policy 345.6 that would reflect the upcoming schedule changes. The procedure that accompanies this policy has also been revised. When all is refined and submitted, it should be an excellent policy that most everyone will need to refer to some time.

At our next meeting, we will discuss a new policy on bullying. Mr. Krumm will gather ideas and information for us to put the new policy together.

The District Policy Committee meets every fourth Monday at 6:30 pm in the District Board Room. We encourage anyone who is interested to attend the meetings.

## PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

By Jim Palmer, Dir. Of Buildings and Grounds

A primary component of extending the life cycle of equipment is preventive maintenance. Manufacturers recommend preventive maintenance to maximize performance of their products. Well-maintained equipment reduces down time and repair cost by eliminating problems before they occur.

In today's world of preventive maintenance (PM) we define preventive maintenance as the combination of all actions to prevent failures and detect failures early. The two parts of preventive maintenance are:

- Condition monitoring (actions that detect failures)
- Maintenance prevention (actions that prevent failures)

Examples of condition monitoring are all inspections: look, listen, feel, smell, vibration analysis, amp reading, infrared, oil analysis and much more.

Examples of maintenance prevention are: lubrication, alignment, balancing, operating procedures, cleaning, adjustment, and much more.

In my experience most equipment failures are found with condition monitoring techniques such as look and listen. This is why simple inspection is so important in reducing equipment failures.

At the Kewaskum School District the Preventive Maintenance program we use allows us to schedule the PMs in many different ways.

- Monthly, quarterly, semi annual or annually.
- Run-time hours

This allows us to track each piece of equipment and enables us to see how much it costs each year to maintain each piece of equipment. We also do preventive maintenance on all the buildings in the district. Some of the areas looked at are roofs, windows, doors, asphalt, concrete, brickwork and much more on a regular basis.

During PMs, if we find something that needs to be repaired, we take care of the problem and on the PM sheet we log what was fixed and how much it cost so we have a record of it. This allows us to retain and monitor equipment / building maintenance and repair costs over time and aids in developing a five-year maintenance plan for equipment and buildings. Using a five-year maintenance plan allows us to wisely use the resources that are available.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT - WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

The application period of February 5 to February 23, 2007 (4:00 p.m. deadline) marks the tenth year in which Wisconsin law has permitted children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they live.

Under the full-time public school open enrollment program, parents must apply during the application period to the school district they wish their children to attend. Early and late applications are not be accepted. Parents may submit applications to no more than *three* nonresident school districts for each child during the open enrollment application period. Submitting more than three applications to nonresident school districts will result in all applications being invalidated. Parents will be informed by April 6, 2007 whether their open enrollment applications have been approved or denied.

Transportation is the responsibility of the parent. However, some school districts may elect to provide partial transportation. Parents with questions about transportation should call both resident and nonresident school district offices to find out if any transportation will be provided. Reimbursement of some transportation costs is available for low-income parents whose children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches under the federal school lunch program.

Most students who attended a nonresident school district under open enrollment last year are not required to reapply for the 2007-08 school year. However, if the student will be entering middle or high school in the 2007-08 school year, parents should call the nonresident school district to find out if reapplication will be required.

Parents may apply for their children to attend 4-year-old kindergarten under open enrollment only if the resident school district also offers a 4-year-old kindergarten program for which the child is eligible.

More information is available from the DPI's open enrollment website at [www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/psctoc.html](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/sms/psctoc.html) or from Mary Jo Cleaver, DPI, 888-245-2732, or [maryjo.cleaver@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:maryjo.cleaver@dpi.state.wi.us).

## DISTRICT SPELLING BEE BUZ — By Diane Stangl

It's that time of year again to start thinking of the 2007 Spelling Bees. All students in grades 1-8 will begin with their classroom spelling bees in January. The final District Spelling Bee will be Monday, January 29, 2007 for grades 5-8, and Monday, March 19 for grades 1-4. These bees will be at 7:00 pm at Kewaskum Middle School. The public is invited so come and support these spellers. Everyone will go home with a trophy.

The next level of competition will be the Regional Spelling Bee. This year the host school is West Bend, and will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007. Only grades 5-8 can compete in this, and one of our students could possibly go all the way to the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.! If you need more information on any level of spelling bees, you can contact Diane Stangl at KMS at 626-8427, ext. 2022. Thank you in advance for your continuing support of this enriching activity for the students.

## MIX IT UP LUNCH AT KMS - By John Nell

On November 14, Kewaskum Middle School along with over 9,000 other schools participated in Mix It Up at Lunch Day. Mix It Up Day is a simple call to action for students, asking them to step out of their comfort zones to meet new people in the school cafeteria. Why the cafeteria? Students thrive socially and academically in schools that are inclusive. The Mix It Up program works to improve intergroup relations on school campuses by encouraging students to identify and challenge social boundaries and to make new friends. To create mixed seating at tables, Kewaskum Middle School assigned students and staff by birthday (October birthdays at one table, May birthdays at another) as they entered the cafeteria. Students were encouraged to talk to other classmates at their tables. The interaction between students and staff was positive. One-eighth grade student stated; "One of the students at my table has been in elementary school and middle school with me and this was the first time we had a conversation together". We are planning to hold Mix It Up lunches as an ongoing part of our Middle School, hosting them once a month. We will also create mixed seating at our lunch tables in various ways in order to build a variety of relationships.

## ART SUPPLIES DONATED TO DISTRICT

Terry and Tracy Weber, district residents, donated art supplies to the District. Acrylic paint sets, colored round plastic lanyard and plastic potting cups with a soil-less medium were donated for our students to use in fostering their creativity and learning. A sincere thank you to them for this very generous gift.

## STAY ACTIVE THIS WINTER ! — By Joe Moser and Jeff Grotenhuis

Physical activity is not only essential to the proper growth and development of our young people, it is important for everyone to stay active all year long. This can be difficult to do in the cold winter months. Here are some ideas of ways you can beat those winter blahs!

**Kettle Moraine YMCA in West Bend-** (335-3405) [www.kmymca.org](http://www.kmymca.org)  
Swim, run, bike, tumble, play basketball, racquetball, lift weights, and more at this state of the art YMCA.

**Ke-West Sports-** (334-9760) [www.ke-westsports.com](http://www.ke-westsports.com)  
Indoor paintball, mini-golf, and more. This brand new building is over 27,000 square feet.

**Kettle Moraine Ice Center-** (338-0876) [www.wcyha.org](http://www.wcyha.org)  
Open skating, figure skating, ice hockey, and lessons.

**Camp Matawa-** (626-2149) [www.matawa.org](http://www.matawa.org)  
Have you ever gone to summer camp in winter? At Matawa, you can! Fun for kids and adults of all ages.

If you are brave enough to tackle the winter months outdoors, then there a plethora of activities to take part in. Snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and hikes in the Kettle Moraine area are not only beautiful, but great exercise as well. Don't forget about sledding and skiing. Hiking up-hill is a great way to increase your workout load and have fun while doing it. Here are some outdoor ideas to beat the winter blues!

**Sunburst Ski and Recreational Area-** (626-8404) [www.sunburst.com](http://www.sunburst.com)  
Ski, Snowboard, and Snow Tube at an area striving to provide an excellent place for family recreation.

**The Kettle Moraine Northern Unit-** (626-2116) [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/kmn/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/kmn/)

Ample places and ideas for cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and ice fishing in your local state park. Also check out hiking on the Moraine Nature trail, Tamarack Nature trail, or the Parnell look-out tower trail.

**The Ice Age Trail-** 1-800-227-0046 [www.iceagetrail.org/infocenter/index.html](http://www.iceagetrail.org/infocenter/index.html)  
Along with the Eisenbahn trail, this is another great local trail for winter hiking and snow shoeing.

## MEDICAL SUPPLIES DONATED TO THE DISTRICT

Medical supply donations were given to the District by the following companies:

**CARDINAL HEALTH— Valued at approximately \$32,000**  
**R.R. DONNELLEY— Valued at approximately \$500**

These medical supply items were shared by all five District schools and the athletic training area.

A special thank you to these organizations for supplying these items to the District. We appreciate this gift which helps the District to provide our students with adequate care during health care situations.

## EIGHTH GRADE PARENTS NIGHT

On Monday, January 15, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents had an opportunity to meet with the high school principal, assistant principal and guidance counselors to review information regarding scheduling and registration of classes for freshman year. Students and parents also had a chance to browse and learn about extra-curricular opportunities, as teachers and club advisors were also available at that time. If you missed this opportunity and would like to set up an appointment with a guidance counselor, please call the high school at 626-8427 and contact Sharon Blank, ext 4144 or Michelle Eberle, ext 4146.

## CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, January 19	End of 2nd Quarter — End of 1st Semester
Monday, January 22	<b>No School For Students</b> —In-service/Work Day
Monday, February 5	<b>No School For Students</b> —In-service Day
Monday, February 12	<b>Late Start—10:00 a.m.—Middle &amp; High Schools</b>
Thursday, February 15	K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences—4:30-8:00 p.m.
Friday, February 16	<b>Early Release Elementary Level—Noon</b>
Monday, February 19	9-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences—4:30-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 22	6-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences—4:30-8:00 p.m.
Monday, March 19	<b>Early Release Elementary Level—Noon</b>
Friday, March 23	End of 3rd Quarter
Monday, March 26	<b>Half Student Day (AM) - Work Day (PM)</b>
Friday, March 30	Last Day Before Easter Break
Monday, April 9	Classes Resume

## LOOKING FOR DISTRICT FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

If you are a family that is new to the Kewaskum School District and your child has no older siblings attending the district already, please call the District office at (262)-626-8427 ext. 8001, to share information on your child. This applies to children entering four-year-old kindergarten and/or a new to the district five-year-old going into kindergarten.

This year's annual screening and 2007-2008 school registration will be held in April of 2007. The district screening covers areas of speech and language and readiness skills. A postcard mailing will be done the beginning of March with screening dates and times and instructions to call the District to set up an appointment.

Parents of children that are three-years-old for whom there is a concern in the areas of speech and language or readiness skills should also register them for screening. To be eligible for enrollment in 4-year-old kindergarten, children must have attained their fourth birthday on or before September 1, 2007

**School District of Kewaskum**  
**1455 School Street**  
**P.O. Box 37**  
**Kewaskum WI 53040**

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