

To reach school district personnel by email you need to type their first initial then their last name @keshequa.org for example: pshaver@keshequa.org

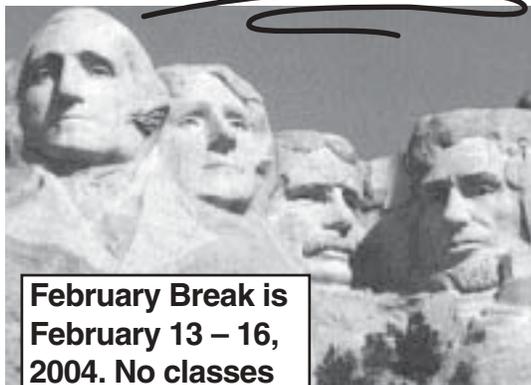
Chronicle

A Message From the Superintendent

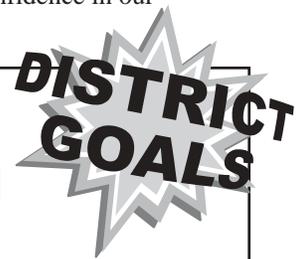
As we start the second semester I want to praise the actions of our staff and students for their efforts so far this year to raise student achievement. The purpose of schools is to teach students; whatever else we do, we must promote high-level student learning. This can best be accomplished in a safe, attractive and positive environment through a culture of hard work and opportunity. You as parents, community members and taxpayers have provided us with the facility and we are continuously trying to improve our standards. We are focusing our energies in support of our district goals and appreciate your confidence in our endeavors. Thank you for helping us convey to students that learning is important. We are seeing a difference!

*Sincerely,
Lucinda Miner, Interim Superintendent*

Reminder!



February Break is February 13 – 16, 2004. No classes for students.



Keshequa Central School District Goals, 2003-04

- No. 1 Academic Achievement
- No. 2 School Climate
- No. 3 Professional Development
- No. 4 District Communications
- No. 5 Facilities
- No. 6 Technology
- No. 7 Fiscal Responsibility

Honor

Wisdom

Leadership

Truth

The mission of the Keshequa Central School District is to provide opportunities to empower all students to be cooperative, self-directed lifelong learners, prepared to responsibly meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Keshequa Receives Six Mini-Grants from Business Education Alliance

Keshequa Central Schools has been awarded not one, not two, but six mini-grants to complete standards based field trips and career based learning activities. The grants were awarded by the Livingston County Business Education Alliance. Each grant is worth one hundred dollars. Grants must be directly tied to the career development and occupational (CDOS) New York State learning standards: career development, integrated learning, universal foundation skills, and career majors. Mr. Bielicki serves as CDOS Coordinator and applied for the mini-grants. "I was really surprised to find a check for the six mini-grants from the BEA. These mini grants help bridge the gap from classroom lecture to real life application and answer the students' never-ending question when am I ever going to use this," stated Mr. Bielicki. "These grants provide learning extensions that could not otherwise be achieved, and I am thankful for Cindy Oswald (BEA County Coordinator) and the BEA for awarding them." "The district will later send in a business visitation and student participation form for each trip or activity. Mr. Bielicki closed, "One of the things that makes receiving these grants so sweet, is that it helps level the playing field for our students when compared with wealthier districts. The planned activities enhance a solid business education. Our kids will benefit directly because of them." Keshequa is a strong member and supporter of the Livingston County Business Education Alliance. Cindy Oswald is in her third year as the County BEA Coordinator. Mr. Bielicki is a tenured business, school-to-work coordinator and in his sixth year for Keshequa.

Career Awareness Day

The Business, Education, Community Coalition (BECC) of Allegany County invites you to attend it's annual Career Awareness Day to be held Saturday, March 27, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Genesee Valley School in Belmont, NY. This is an opportunity for youth and their parents to meet over 70 area employers and learn about the wide variety of career opportunities in Allegany County. Now is the time for your child to explore careers and plan for the future by talking face-to-face with people who work in their fields of interest!

The event will include great door prizes and refreshments, as well as a Chinese Auction to benefit the J. Dennis Kirst Foundation.

Further information about Career Awareness Day will be provided through posters, local media coverage, and your school district. On the Internet, check out the upcoming Career Awareness Day link through the Genesee Valley School website at www.gvcs.wnyric.org.

Holiday Pottery Sale



The Keshequa Clay Club presented their first annual Holiday Show and Sale on Thursday, December 18th. Students worked hard to produce functional and decorative ceramic objects while learning aspects of selling artwork. The money raised by this event will be used to fund enriching educational experiences (field trips, visiting artists, etc.), requisition of materials, supplies and equipment. Thank you to all who attended and supported the visual arts in our community.

Keshequa Receives Business Education Grant from Genesee Region Tech Prep

Keshequa Central Schools received a competitive \$1,000 grant awarded by the Genesee Region Tech Prep to promote careers within the legal field. Proposals for projects given priority consideration were ones that will provide students with real world experience, exposure to a variety of legal careers, and improve basic skills necessary for success in a legal career. KCS School-to-Work Coordinator Shawn Bielicki wrote and submitted the proposal on behalf of Mr. Riggi's business law class.

The grant monies will be used to help KCS develop and run a business law mock trial team. Last year, KCS helped launch its first competitive team, which later became the 2003 Livingston County Champion. Mock trials feature classroom re-enactments using students at each legal career. Each team is paired with an attorney to help mentor them through the process. "The class has been learning a great deal about this kind of stuff in their textbooks. It will be a powerful lesson to actually apply what they learned," stated Mr. Riggi. The proposal explained how the project will impact students and emphasized what the students will be able to do because of the grant. A rubric grading system will be used to judge the students, or the employees' performance in the endeavor. "I was pleasantly surprised to hear that Keshequa was awarded another grant this school year," states Mr. Bielicki, "I like to take advantage of applying for grants that will really enhance what we do. Genesee Tech Prep and their legal career and education grants will really help partner the students and their vision. I look forward to seeing how the students can handle this classroom endeavor and how much they will learn because of this project. I am excited that this will come to fruition without any further cost to the district."

Kathy Lopes is the director of the Genesee Region Tech Prep and is located at Genesee Community College. In a letter she congratulated KCS on a job well done and stated, "Hands-on activities, such as you describe are definitely in keeping with the overall mission of the College Tech Prep Program." Mr. Riggi is a third year business teacher at KCS. Mr. Bielicki is a tenured business teacher and school-to-work coordinator, and is in his sixth year at KCS.



***KCS District Goal #3:
Professional
Development***

In order to provide students with the best possible learning opportunities, teachers must continuously work to advance their knowledge and skills. Keshequa educators seek opportunities for learning what will be relevant in both the short and long term. Professional development must consist of more than one-shot workshops. It must enable teachers to engage in meaningful conversation and work with their colleagues, all with the purpose of improved teaching and learning.

I am proud to say that our teachers are committed to their profession and take every opportunity to 'learn.' An expectation for everyone is that we can all improve and constantly try to do so, with the ultimate goal of improved student learning.

Artist Visits Nunda



Adam Zyglis, a fourth year computer science major at Canisius College in Buffalo, and editorial cartoonist, visited Keshequa on January 14. Mr. Zyglis presented and inspired students in the art and satire of political cartooning.

Adam has drawn caricatures at Six Flags Darien Lake for the past five years. He recently accepted a prestigious national award for his cartoons appearing weekly in ArtVoice (an arts newspaper of Buffalo). This summer Adam will be filling an internship position illustrating and drawing cartoons for the Buffalo News. The Art Department would like to thank Mr. Zyglis for sharing his talents with our students and wish him continued success in the future.

Greetings from the KCS High School



Mark Mattle, High School Principal

When students get good grades, parents, relatives and teachers are proud of their accomplishments. School becomes fun, you develop pride in your school and you feel good about yourself. In this article I will outline the first five of a ten step process that when put into practice will help you to get better grades in school. I suggest that you try the first five for a month and then look for the second five in the next issue of the chronicle.

Step One – Believe In Yourself

- To succeed you must believe that you can!
- Recognize Talent and Abilities
- Know and Believe You Can Succeed!

Step Two – Be Organized

- Use an assignment notebook or agenda
- Use 3-Ring notebook for notes
- Use folders for school work and hand-outs
- Keep your locker and backpack neat

Step Three – Manage Your Time

- Use class time and study halls efficiently
- Create a study plan (when & where)
- Be aware of time distractions (TV, Video Games)

Step Four – Be Successful In The Classroom

- Be in school, on time everyday
- Adapt to different teachers
- Be prepared for each class
- Sit in front of class if possible
- Always do your homework
- Participate in class
- Be a good group member
- Always treat others with respect and courtesy
- Involve your parents

Step Five – Take good notes

- Be an active listener
- Take notes to help pay attention
- Recognize key/important information
- Take notes that you can read
- Go over notes ASAP
- Get copies of notes if absent



Pre-Order your 2003-04 KCS Yearbook now for \$40.

Purchase a copy of last year's 2002-03 KCS Yearbook now for \$10.

Please contact Michele Starr at the High School Office (468-2541) ext. 2017



KCS District Goal #2: School Climate

The Middle School has been working hard to build a school climate conducive to students at grade levels 6 – 8. Students at this period in their lives experience rapid physical, emotional and intellectual growth, matched in scope only by the first three years of life. They are experiencing fast and sometimes confusing changes, so we must strive to provide stability and stimulation, respecting the students' age-related concerns. Some of our recent activities include:

- Holiday Pep Rally
- Modified Sports Team Recognition
- Participatory Activities
- Academic Awards
- PeaceBuilders Award Acknowledgement
- PeaceBuilders Pizza Party for "PeaceBuilders of the Month"
- Community Service Activity – Student Council Holiday food baskets for the elderly
- Student Assistant Program (SAP) – a program that uses established procedures and feedback from teachers and administrators to brainstorm and implement possible solutions to specific student issues...only two (2) referrals this month!

Life Skills Students Happenings

Our first Holiday Bazaar was a great success! Working hard in Mrs. Shultz's Life SKills sewing class and our Life Skills kitchen, students made rice bags, plastic bag holders, hard candy, pretzel treats, candleholders, and many other goodies to sell. Students are planning to use the profits towards kitchen supplies and field trip expenses.

Also in Mrs. Shultz's sewing class, Mrs. Proctor's and Mrs. Sawyer's students have been busy making no-sew pillows, personalized aprons, and they are now in the process on making pajama pants with fabric they selected and purchased on their own.

Life Skills students reviewed basic first aid and discussed health issues with a classroom guest. Laura Folts, a Physician's Assistant from Evergreen Family Medicine in Brockport, NY, visited and discussed important topics of basic personal safety with students. Hands-on experience included listening through a stethoscope, checking reflexes, and practicing bandaging.

Justin Cartwright (Mrs. Proctor's class) and Matt Newcomb (Mrs. Sawyer's class) were the winners of our November-December Reading Contest. Justin and Matt each read the greatest number of books for the two months among students in their classes. The boys enjoyed a special lunch of take-out pizza and soda for their accomplishment.

KCS District Goal #7: Fiscal Responsibility'

A community member raised the question of why the District doesn't make use of bulk mailings. We do have a permit which is used for items such as The Chronicle and the District Calendar. A first class permit would be needed for mailings such as report cards, tax bills, letters from teachers/nurses, etc., and this would cost \$150 annually. Each item would then cost \$0.352 plus \$0.225 for each additional ounce. The minimum mailing for this rate is 500 envelopes and most of our mailings are less than this. Therefore, it is not cost effective for the district to purchase a first class permit.

We welcome suggestions to save money for the District at anytime, so feel free to call us with your ideas. We would be happy to investigate all of them.



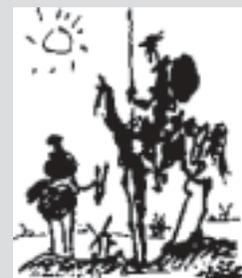
February 20, 21, 27 and 28, 2004

The Keshequa High School drama club will present the Tony award-winning musical *Man of La Mancha* on February 20, 21, 27 and 28, 2004 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$6. The play stars Pete Trippett as Cervantes, Rachel Strain as Aldonza, Andrea Demarco as Sancho, Sarah Luther as The Governess, Delia Kennedy as The Padre and Conor Sheehan as Dr. Carasco. The musical director is Kim Coffey. The show was choreographed by Mary Luther, Chris Norton and Trevor Earley. Costumes are by Trevor Earley. The show was designed and directed by Chris Norton. Other cast members are Megan Giles, Dillon Kronert, Kari Delahooke, Brandi Kelly, Calla Clancy, Nathan Pierce, Jason Buckel, Scott Gray, Cara Lundquist, Kady Smith, Brandy Cartwright, Donna Hoodak, Lindsay Gunn, Sarah Gray, Cheyenne DeMarco, Megan Brooker, Sonya Brooker, Tyler Westcott, Chris Gray, Ethan Trim, John Nesbitt, Finn Kennedy and David Brooker. Light and sound are by students Bryan Buckel, Jessica Doyle and Derek Worden.

Man of La Mancha is based on the novel *Don Quixote* written by Don Miguel Cervantes at the turn of the 17th century. The story of an older gentleman who thinks he is a knight three hundreds years after the age of chivalry, *Don Quixote* was an overwhelming success and is considered one of the greatest novels of all time. It was one of the first major stories concerned with a protagonist who must break loose from the beliefs of society to find enlightenment.

The musical takes place during Cervantes very real prison stay in 1597 and speculates on how he may have come to compose his classic story. Its themes are hope, redemption and enlightenment. The show is probably best known for the song "The Impossible Dream". It is the story of how Cervantes attitude transforms one troubled woman. There is a great deal of comedy in the show which arises from Don Quixote's belief that castles, giants and maiden's-in-distress can be found in everyday things.

Man of La Mancha opened on Broadway in 1965 and won the Tony award for best musical. It remains one of the few successful adaptations of Cervantes' book. Parental guidance is suggested.



Middle School Information

Gary Collichio, KCS Middle School Principal

As we enjoy the diverse winter weather, our Middle School will focus on curricular plans for the remainder of the academic year.

Students (and parents) often wonder why mid-term tests and high stakes NYS assessments, that take so much time and effort, are important to student achievement. One part of the answer to this question lies in examining the data generated by our mid-term assessments, specifically how our students have fared on selected *performance indicators*. These indicators note the required expectations for intermediate level students in the chosen subject. In other words, the performance indicators specifically point out what students should know and be able to do.

Performance Indicators incorporate five dimensions of growth:

- 1) Range (extent and depth of texts, topics etc.)
- 2) Flexibility (student performance in varied or changing conditions)
- 3) Connections (the student's ability to see commonalities between ideas, texts and contexts)
- 4) Conventions (rules, protocols or traditional practices)
- 5) Independence (student's ability to perform without models or directions)

New York State Standards and Resource Guides outline curriculum expectations by grade levels. Assessment questions are "mapped" to these performance indicators. Educators commonly know this as an "item map".

Now, when someone asks you why the school gives students so many tests, you can tell them about their relationship to performance indicators, which give administration and teachers a clear indication of what our students actually know and are able to do.



The project included four original plays, masks, The Chariot newsletter, and set designs created by students.



Sixth Grade KCS Students thank Artist in Residence, Patti Lewis-Browne, for her assistance in their Interdisciplinary Drama Project of Ancient Greece.

KCS
District
Goal #6:
Technology



Although the 2004-05 school budget will again be a real challenge due to limited state aid funding, we are examining the District's use of technology and its curriculum for our students. We expect to make a recommendation to the Board of Education in March to update and expand our program to better prepare our students for the future. Watch for more details to come.

KCS District Goal #4: District Communications

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!



We are in search of a host for a Home Coffee for parents of elementary or high school students. We thank Doug and Lori Gray for hosting our first Middle School Coffee on January 28. It was a great evening and our dialog with parents helped us know what we're doing well in our schools and where we can improve. Please call me at 468-2541 ext. 1105 to learn more!

Middle School Student Council is Busy

The Middle School Student Council has had a busy winter. Led by Presidents Angelica Schmitter and Justin Camuto, the Council has carried out a variety of activities and projects.

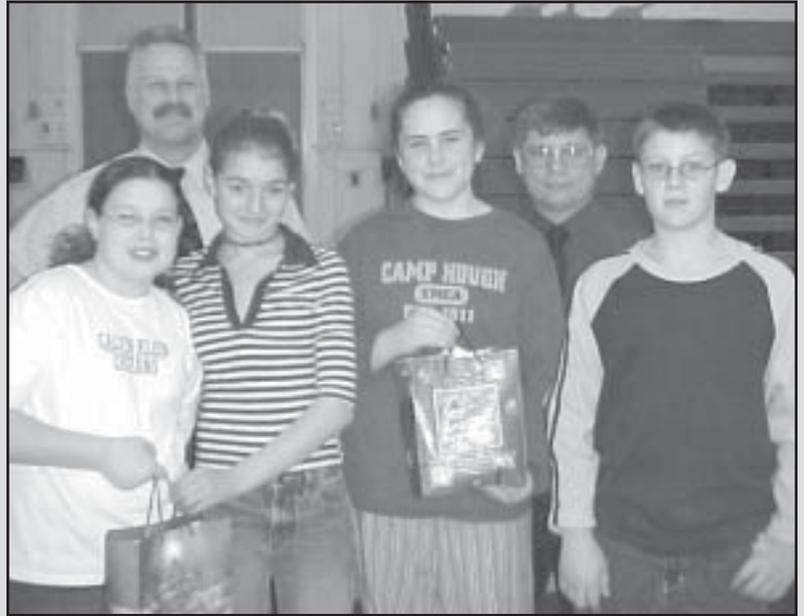
First of all, the Council would like to thank all parents and community members that helped us with our annual fund raising. We had another successful sale that will help pay for our spring trip and other activities and materials. Special thanks to Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Whiteman, and Mrs. Kreuzer for their help in collecting money.

In December the Council held a Holiday Spirit Week. We had a Holiday Dance, complete with a DJ from the Pittsford area, which was well attended and lots of fun. We also had a Homeroom Door Decorating Contest that was won by Mrs. Goodhue's 8th grade homeroom. Our annual pep rally was held that included awards, recognition of our sports teams and others, reindeer races, and tug of war contest.

This year we also wanted to add community service to our Holiday activities. Working with the Council of the aging, the Middle School brought in a variety of gifts for elderly shut-ins in our area. We put together twelve Christmas baskets that were then delivered before Christmas by volunteers.

The Council is currently planning some spring activities and, of course, our June trip to Six Flags at Darien Lakes. Watch for details! We have a folder in the Middle School Collection at Docushare. You can access it through www.keshequa.org.

Middle School Student Council reaches out to the community.



Every MS homeroom donated, assembled and delivered a basket of goodies for senior community members.

**GOAL
#1**

KCS District Goal #1: Academic Achievement

Middle School Activities

- **Conclusion of the ELA after-school remediation and test strategies academic intervention ninth period ELA "Club"** that was utilized to prepare 8th grade students (who were identified as at risk for not meeting state standards) for the January NYS English Language Arts Assessment. We will evaluate the results of this effort by examining results of the Grade 8 ELA Assessment.
- **New York State Grade 8 English Language Arts Assessment administration (1/13 & 14/04) New York State Grade 8 Science Performance (lab practical section, 1/20 & 21/04).**
- **Organization of an after school 'homework hotline' for 7th grade students** who need help with homework is underway. This program will be staffed by teachers and aides and will concentrate on classroom content reinforcement, remediation, and low instructor-student ratio. Parents of prospective students have been informed of this remedial offering. Referral will be strongly suggested for identified students. Refreshments will be provided for added incentive to attend.
- An interdisciplinary 6th Grade drama production of ancient Greece was held on 12/17/03. There were four original plays, masks and set designs created by the students, in cooperation with Patti Lewis-Browne, Artist in Residence.
- **Seventh Grade Field Study:** Rochester Museum and Science Center, to review Native American Cultures (specifically Iroquois) and Westward Expansion (1/14/04).
- **Sixth Grade Field Study:** Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (1/21/04).

Greetings from Dalton Elementary

Rich Greene, Elementary Principal



One of the 'building blocks' of reading is something we call *phonemic awareness*. It is sometimes referred to as *phonological awareness*. Whatever term you're using, the idea is basically the same. Human speech is made up of sounds (phonemes) that, when strung together in just the right way, make up words, phrases and sentences. This is most people's primary form of communication. When we are very young, we learn that sounds have meaning. At first, those sounds are very basic, like when a baby cries when hungry. As we grow, spoken language becomes more complex. Simple sounds are put together to form words like "mama" and "dada." Then, those words are combined with others and eventually we're carrying on complex conversations.

So what does this have to do with reading? Well, one of the important things that has to happen when children learn to read is that they need to make the connection that the words they say are made up of a series of sounds. When they have a sufficient understanding of that, they can move to the next step which is that those sounds can be written down by using letters (This is called *phonics* - but we'll talk about that some other time). The better children are at breaking words down into the smaller pieces of sound that they are made of (segmenting), the better they will be able to make the sound-letter connection later on and the better readers they'll become.

So what does this have to do with your child? The more you can do with your child when he/she is young around segmenting, the better she/he will be ready to read. Segmenting can be fun. Have your child say a word as slowly as they can, exaggerating every sound in that word. If that's too complex, have them say a simple sentence and clap their hands on every syllable (beat) that the sentence contains. When children rhyme words, they're playing with phonemes. Say a word and ask your child to say a word that rhymes - even nonsense words are okay. The rhyming is the most important thing at first. All of these games are exercises that will help your child be more aware of the sounds that make up language. The more they play these games, the more they'll be ready to read when the time comes!

**GOAL
#5**

KCS District Goal #5: Facilities

The new gym floor in the Middle school was completed and open for use on January 22. We are grateful to have this physical education teaching station back in service and also look forward to hosting the Section V Class BB Wrestling Tournament on February 13 and 14. COME CHECK IT OUT!

Keshequa Central School

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