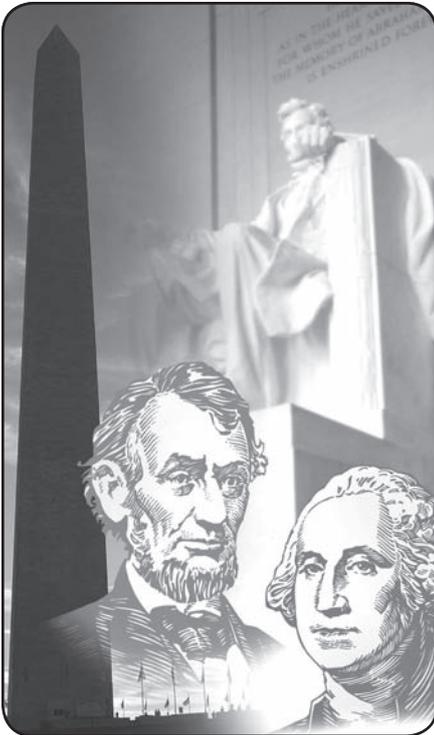


Keshequa Chronicle

H O N O R W I S D O M L E A D E R S H I P T R U T H

Feb. 2006
Vol. 3 Iss. 7



A Message from the Superintendent by LUCINDA MINER

The Superintendent search is still in progress. Please see the related article on this topic.

A proposed capital project continues to be explored by the Board of Education. I have been very pleased with the involvement by community members as they have joined us for discussion meetings on what the scope of the project should be. They have offered very constructive comments on all areas of the project and it appears likely that the Board of Education will approve a final scope at their February 16 meeting. These details, along with a vote date will be provided in the March Chronicle

We have spent the last three months studying the feasibility of building a swimming pool either in Dalton or Nunda. I will not be recommending

this part of the project to go forward at this time. After exploring several designs and location alternatives, along with multiple state aid options, we have found that there is not an affordable plan to propose. In addition, there has not been a large contingent of community members pushing for this option. Perhaps some day in the future this could be considered, but it is not to be at this time.

January was a sad month for our school community. We mourn the loss of Katelyn Brewer and pray for a full recovery of Janeen Bennett. We share in the sorrow of other family losses and thank everyone for their support during these times. The students especially are to be commended for their acts of courage and kindness. Keshequa is truly a caring family!

Upper Level Pageturners: The Competition Has Begun!

by LYDIA KEOUGH

The southern division of Upper Level Pageturners had their first of two competitions on December 14th. It was held at Dansville Middle School. Upper Level Pageturners is an after school enrichment club for middle school students. They read a list of both fiction and nonfiction books as well as poems and short stories. Then the students write questions about all aspects of the literature which are turned in and used at the competition. Keshequa played against students from Dansville, Letchworth and Batavia schools. Competition was tough and we are currently in 4th place, but only by 2 points that can easily be made up in the spring competition. Keshequa will be hosting the spring compe-

tion on April 6th and all are hoping the home court does have advantages. The points from the winter competition are added to the spring competition points and the southern division winner will go on to compete against the winners of the central and northern divisions in May. Everyone had fun reading and is looking forward to the new spring list. The members, coached by Lydia Keough, are: Thomas Coates, Kalie Buckel, Elizabeth Gilbert, Dylan Hatfield, Jacob Osborn, Christine Tallman, and Bret Vesico (all eighth graders) and Amelia Bloomer, Kasey Calkins, Gabrielle DiAngelo, and Amzi Mitchell (the new sixth grade additions to the team). Good luck in the spring competition.

Inside

- 2 Superintendent Search Update
- 4 It's Elementary!
- 6 Middle School Corner
- 7 High School Notes

Board of Education: News & Notes

District Goals

- no 1 Academic Achievement
- no 2 School Climate
- no 3 District Communication
- no 4 Educational Structure

Mission

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

Computer Lab Hours Changing...

Community members and students of KCS are welcome to attend the Open Computer Lab on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Middle School computer lab beginning February 8, 2006. A variety of software applications will be available.

This section of the newsletter is intended to communicate information about the Board of Education and highlights from recent meetings. Complete minutes are available from the District Clerk (Tammy Peck, 468-2541 ext. 1105) and on our Web site www.keshequa.org.

January 12, 2006

- Presentation on the Livingston County Business Education Alliance (BEA) – Carrie Malone, Director.
- Presentation on the Keshequa Technology Plan – Kim Englert, KCS Technology Coordinator.
- Report on the Proposed Capital Project – Terry Lowell, Chairman of Buildings & Grounds Committee.
- Personnel Appointments.
- Approval of Ski “Team of One” from Letchworth and Attica to participate with KCS for 2005-2006.
- Approval of Second Readings for select policies.
- Superintendent Search Update.

January 26, 2006

- Discussion of the Proposed Capital Project.
- Superintendent Search Update.
- Personnel Appointments.
- Approval of several novels for use in the English 11 Curriculum.
- First Reading of two (2) new policies.

February 2006

- Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room, Nunda

Question of the Month:

How does someone get hired for a position at Keshequa Central School?

Answer:

When a vacancy occurs the position is posted internally with a copy given to the unit president and advertised as appropriate. Support staff positions are generally filled by local candidates and therefore the advertising may only occur in *The Shopper*. Many of these are Civil Service positions and must be filled from the Civil Service List. Positions for teachers and administrators are advertised statewide, including at the appropriate colleges and universities.

Interview teams are then set up with the appropriate administrator, supervisors and department personnel. For example, if a cleaner is needed, the interview team would include the Business Administrator, the Head Custodian and at least one cleaner on staff. The final candidate is sent to the Board of Education for approval.

If a 7th grade English teacher is needed, the interview team would include the Middle School Principal and at least two teachers, such as another English teacher and a Middle School teacher. The interview usually includes teaching a lesson to one of our classes. After all parts of the interview process have been completed the final candidate is sent to the Superintendent for an interview and then to the Board of Education for approval.

All hiring is done by an interview process that allows all district personnel the opportunity to be involved.

Superintendent Search Update

The search by the Board of Education for a new Superintendent has been diligent and genuine. Advertising dollars were spent where we would most likely attract viable candidates. Ads were placed in the publications and on the websites of the New York State Council of School Superintendents and the New York State School Board As-

sociation. This is where prospective Superintendents look for job postings, not in the local newspapers. Postings were sent to SUNY Brockport, Oswego and Cortland because these colleges offer administrative certification. In addition, 5500 brochures and applications were mailed across the state to every building principal, Superintendent and

BOCES Superintendent. Multiple copies were enclosed to Superintendents for distribution in the field to qualified candidates. All inquiries and applications were logged in by the District Clerk and made available to the entire Board of Education.

Applications for the next Keshequa Superintendent closed on January 19, 2006. Fifty-six (56) requests were received for a brochure and application, with thirty-three (33) candidates submitting the required application materials. The Board of Education interviewed six (6) candidates and narrowed the field to three (3) finalists who will each spend a full day in the District. The schedule for these finalists will include interviews with all the stakeholder groups as follows:

8:00 a.m. Arrive at District Office
Tour all buildings, athletic sites, Nunda and Dalton

10:00 a.m. Students
11:00 a.m. Administrators
12:00 noon Lunch with Administrators
1:00 p.m. Transportation
2:00 p.m. Middle Management and District Office Staff
3:00 p.m. Faculty
4:00 p.m. Support Staff
5:00 p.m. Break
5:30 p.m. Community and Parents
6:30 p.m. Dinner w/ Spouse and Board of Education
8:00 p.m. Board of Education

The Board of Education will review the input on each candidate from all the stakeholder groups and make the final selection.

A visit may be made to the District of the final candidate and a selection made by the end of February.

Watch for the March Chronicle for information on the successful candidate.



Know the Basics About Asthma

Have you ever been exposed to perfumes, cleaning products, dust or pollen and you suddenly notice a cough or wheezing? These symptoms could indicate an Asthma attack. 12 to 15 million Americans are affected by Asthma and 10% to 20% of these are children under age 18. Although it can occur at any age, it's more common in individuals under 40.

WHAT CAUSES ASTHMA?

Asthmatics have very sensitive airways. Triggers are from the environment, which cause the symptoms to occur. These are some triggers:

- Infections such as colds, flu, viruses, and sinus infections
- Allergens like pollens, mold spores, pet dander, and dust mites
- Irritants such as strong odors from perfumes, cleaning solutions, and air pollution
- Tobacco smoke
- Exercise or exertion
- Weather such as changes in temperatures and humidity, and cold air
- Strong emotions like anxiety, crying,

stress, and even laughing

THERE ARE 3 MAJOR COMPONENTS TO ASTHMA:

Airway obstruction. Triggers make the bands around the airways tighten. Therefore, air cannot move freely. The wheezing sound, also called whistling sound is the air moving through the tightened airway.

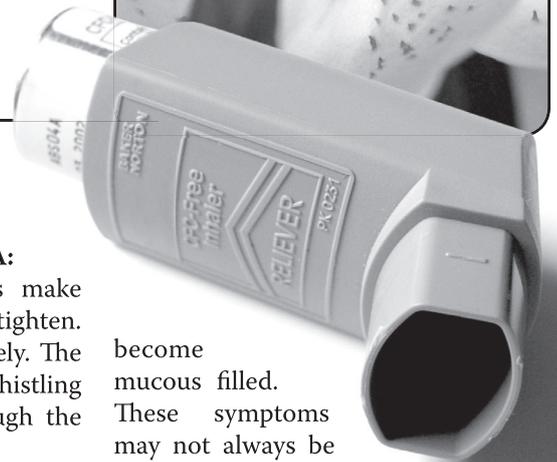
Inflammation. Redness and swelling of the bronchial tubes (airway tubes) contributes to long-term airway damage. Therefore, treatment is very important.

Airway irritability. Airways are extremely sensitive. They overreact and constrict or narrow from contact with even the slightest triggers.

SYMPTOMS: (Common)

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain, pressure, or tightness

The airways tighten, swell up, or



become mucous filled. These symptoms may not always be present with every attack. A person could have different symptoms from these at different times. The severity may differ also. This means one attack may be mild, and then another could be severe.

It is important to be evaluated by a medical professional if you suspect you may have asthma to receive the necessary tests and treatment. Once the diagnosis is made, there are many different medications and treatments available to help you feel better.

Source: Article from Cleveland Clinic Department of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, June 2004

It's Elementary!

by MARILYN CAPAWAN

The month of January has flown by and our young learners have made the most of each day. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade students took the New York State English Language Arts exam earlier in January, and we congratulate them on giving their best efforts to that endeavor. The official results are not expected until September, and we will share those with parents as soon as they become available.

Congratulations also go out to our Keshequa Elementary Chess Club whose members were victorious in their match against Geneseo! Please see Mrs. Schoenacker's article and pictures in this issue for more details. We also extend Congratulations to our Elementary PageTurners Club for taking First Place in their first competition this year in Wayland. We are very proud of our outstanding readers! Our Odyssey of the Mind teams are also busy putting their creativity and problem-solving skills to work, and we will keep you informed of their progress.

Our First Grade PeaceBuilder principle this month is "Noticing Hurts That I Have Caused". School counselor Mr. Wiggins and I continue to meet each week with our 1st Graders to help our students develop an awareness of their actions and the consequences to others that

these may cause. The skills children learn through this program truly do contribute to a safe and peaceful environment in our school.

Dalton recently received a visit from a Reading First New York State Department of Education representative. She toured our school and visited each Reading First classroom to see this initiative in action. We are very proud to announce that she was very favorably impressed with the hard work of our teachers, assistants, and students. Especially noteworthy were the sense of community in our building and the commitment to creating an environment that values and nurtures early literacy. This is a great place to work and learn!

Last month we mentioned plans for starting a preschool in our building next year. We continue to explore this early education option, and we will keep you informed along the way. Thanks to everyone who has given us feedback via the survey! The response has been very positive.

If you are in our building, be sure to check out the fantastic display of longhouses and Iroquois artifacts created by our talented 4th Graders. In this Chronicle issue, you can also see what our 1st Graders have been doing. There is always something exciting happening in Dalton!

First Grade News

The main focus of instruction in first grade is reading. Since September our little ones have been introduced to a new reading series as part of Keshequa's Reading First Grant.

Each day is filled with direct, explicit instruction to provide a greater understanding of letter sounds and how these are used to form words. We actively "stretch" words to hear and count the individual sounds. Research has found that this is the essential element

necessary to promote good

reading. We are carefully building on the foundation laid in Kindergarten and have busy, happy readers.

We have also learned about: the seasons, neighbors, shapes and properties, fact families, holiday traditions and many other things. For the holidays all the classes rotated to different rooms to experience a variety of seasonal activities. This was enjoyed by students and staff alike!

The rest of the school year looks to be just as exciting! The first graders will see a play, grow plants, learn about animals and end the year with our annual trip to the Seneca Park Zoo in June.



Second Grade News

Second Grade has been busy with our new reading program, Reading First. Exposure to language arts has not been limited to just Reading First, however. In November, the second grade saw a musical, *Come Back, Amelia Bedilia and Other Stories*, which was a great hit, inspiring much independent reading and journal writing. Mrs. Gehrig's class made decorations for the Nunda Community Home for Thanksgiving. They also had a school wide food collection for the Christmas Food Baskets which are traditionally given out by the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs.

Mrs. Downey's class was busy the last 3 weeks getting ready for their holiday play. They wrote the play, made the props, and rehearsed many times. The parents

were invited to watch the play on December 20th. It was a big hit! Mrs. Downey was very proud of them.

Mrs. Wood's class has been very busy learning about many new exciting things from money to our country. A few students in Mrs. Wood's class have also been volunteering their free time to "show off their wonderful reading skills by reading to groups of kindergarteners once a week.

Mrs. Ellis' class has enjoyed learning about America, from its discovery and early settlements, to present day diverse communities. The children are really interested in our history that leads to great shared discussions. Our class was very excited to have four new Dell computers and extra learning materials delivered

from the NYS Reading First Grant. We use them to enhance our skills daily. Recently, we were fortunate to have the Merry-Go-Round Theatre here to present, "The Gifts of Obediah." The class had many questions about play acting, so we each wrote letters to cast members. We're looking forward to the responses. Finally, we were very busy in December with Christmas activities. Thank goodness we have the extra helping hands of our assistant, Mrs. Halbert. She is a real gift to us. All of the second grades have learned about the importance of both helping and giving for good community spirit. We would like to wish you a very healthy, happy new year and thank you for supporting us in our school community.

Chess Club: Checkmate!

The Keshequa Elementary Chess Club got off to a slow start in its second match of the year against Geneseo on Saturday but came back with authority to win the overall competition 29-16.

The Middle School Team also played Geneseo in a non-league match winning 8-7. This team defeated both Bloomfield and Livonia and nearly beat the Div. 10 Champs, Perry, in their first ever tournament in Rochester Chess League play in mid January.

All team members did extremely well and represented our School with pride.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

Troy Hatfield: 4th Place
Philip Wood: undefeated 1st Place

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINNERS

Beginner Level:

- Tied, Josh Barranco & Jade Gardner 4th Place with 4 wins, 1 tie, 1 loss.
- Kirk Schrier 2nd Place with 6 wins and 1 loss.

Intermediate Level:

Connor Lucas: 4th Place with 4 wins
Joshua Gath: 3rd Place with 5 wins
Austin Prince: 2nd Place with 6 wins
Brandon Bailey: 1st Place, undefeated, 6 wins

Advanced Level:

Brody Wood: 4th Place with 3 wins, 2 ties, 1 loss and Christian Garwood 1st Place, undefeated Tournament Champion with 6 wins. Christian has not lost a tournament game against Geneseo or Danville this year or last.

Keshequa remains the County Champions with a 2-0 record and will play Caledonia-Mumford School on March 4th.

Congratulations to all team members!!!



Keshequa MS HS Emergency Information

Middle School and High School students and parents/guardians are reminded to update the information data on file in the MS/HS office on a yearly basis. It is important that administrators, teachers, coaches, and staff be able to contact parents in an emergency should your child be injured and need immediate medical services.

The information needed is as follows: name, address, phone, grade, birth-date; father's name, address, work phone number; mother's name, address, work phone number; in case of emergency names and numbers if parents are not available; family doctor and phone number.

Please send your child to the MS/HS office to obtain a yellow information card or call Ms. Starr at 468-2541, ext.2017 to update your child emergency file.

To Contact Us By Email..

To reach school district personnel by email, please visit our Web site at www.keshequa.org, click on the Dalton Elementary, Nunda Middle School, or Nunda High School link, scroll down the page and look for the link that says Faculty Directory. Please call 468-2541 ext. 1105 with questions.

Middle School Corner

by DORIS MARSH, *Middle School Principal*

Middle School students were excited and anxious to welcome a new year. Students began the year by preparing for the New York State English Language (ELA) tests. Our English teachers, Grade 6 - Mrs. Brierbrauer, Grade 7 - Miss Coon, and Grade 8 - Mrs. Gehrig, had worked diligently to prime our students to do their best. After school ELA sessions were held and homework assignments that were based on the New York Learning Standards were assigned to prepare our students. The New York State ELA at the sixth and seventh grade levels were a first time experience for both the students and teachers. We are very proud of the fine effort by our students to do their best. We should have the results of the tests in a few weeks.

Our Middle School students also prepared to do their mid-term tests during the week of January 23-26, 2006. Students were scheduled for double periods on Wednesday, January 25th, and Thursday, January 26th to complete their tests. Commencing on January 30, 2006, students will have begun the third marking period and may also have had a few changes in their schedules such as computer, music, home careers, library skills, or technology.

On February 3, 2006, the Middle School students will have had their report cards mailed home. Those students who had an 80 average or above or a teacher recommendation for doing his/her best will be rewarded with a special treat from

Mrs. Marsh.

Middle School students had the opportunity to participate in a movie night Friday, January 6, 2006, sponsored by the Healthy Communities That Care Committee. Students were able to attend two free movies and have free pizza. About 65 students attended the first movie, *Cheaper By The Dozen*. Several students, parents, and Senior Citizens attended the second movie, *Madagascar*. A fun time was had by all. The cost of the pizza was paid for by a community resident, to whom we give a huge thanks. Thank you to all the parents, teachers, counselors, and community members that volunteered to make this evening a great success.

Also, we would like to remind students and parents that attendance at school and being on time for school is very important. If students are absent or tardy, they need to make up any missed work either by staying after school for extra help or by completing the work within the time allotted. It also should be noted that if a student is tardy five times, they are expected to stay for an extended detention. Please check your student's agenda for the school's attendance policy and procedures.

Please note the upcoming event for sixth grade students as they will be going on a field trip on February 16th to the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Students will need to have submitted a permission slip to attend the field trip.

Date Set for Career Exploration Day

The 2006 BEA Health Careers Exploration Day has been slated for March 17th at York Central School. This event is in its fourth year and is an educational and exciting way for Middle School students to learn about the variety of career options available in the Health Care Field. The event will once again be held at York Central School District during a day-off for students.

The day's events will include guest speakers, a college/career fair, small

and large group activities and hands-on learning opportunities. The event will also include a special celebrity lunch speaker to be announced at a later date. The event is sponsored by: the Livingston County BEA, Genesee Valley Health Partnership, Noyes Memorial Hospital and Western NY Rural-AHEC.

For further information on this event, please contact the BEA office at 243-2222 ext. 224 or your child's guidance counselor.

School Board Student Representative: Brandi Kelley

Keshequa Board Policy #1212 provides for a student to be an ex officio member of the School Board. That student shall be the president of the Student Council, who for the school year is Brandi Kelley. Brandi is entitled to sit with Board members at all public meetings of the Board and participate in all Board hearings and meetings. She does not have a vote nor is she allowed to attend executive sessions. Here is a bio of Brandi:

Keshequa Senior, Brandi Kelly, is the daughter of Bob and Pat Kelly. She has two brothers, Justin and Chad.

She has been in the National Honor

Society all four years of high school. She has participated in the band for nine years, Student Council for six years – President, Treasurer, and Vice-President, Class Officer for four years – President -three years, Treasurer- one year, active in the Nunda Rotary, and also has worked at her parents' restaurant. She is the first high school student to represent the Keshequa student body on the Keshequa Board of Education.

She plans on attending a four-year college or university majoring in social work and then continuing to law school. Her goal is to become a law guardian.



High School Notes

by MARK MATTLE, *High School Principal*

Greetings from the High School! I would like to thank our Teachers, Students and parents for a successful mid-term exam “week.” Specific test results are not in yet but preliminary indications show that our students did well. Student report cards with mid-term and twenty-week grades will be mailed home on Friday, February 3rd.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our winter sport coaches and athletes. The winter season can be a long one, this year’s winter season was filled with excitement and many thrilling moments. Our KCS athletes have demonstrated hard work, dedication, passion and courage from the ski slopes at Swain to basketball courts and wrestling mats in gyms throughout our county and beyond. I wish you all good luck in the upcoming sectional tournaments.

Our KCS Distance Learning Lab takes students on a virtual field trip to Buffalo and Indiana. Mr. Bielicki’s Financial Management Class took a virtual field trip to the Buffalo Zoo where they learned about the many career opportunities available ranging from a zookeeper to technology specialist, dieticians, marketing experts and biologists. Students viewed close-up video of a lizard, live cameras in the gorilla and monkey exhibits along with some back-

ground business information on running a zoo. Mr. Riggi’s Business Law Class virtually traveled to The Prairie Living Museum in Indiana. When at the museum the students participated as jurors in a reenactment of the Fall Creek Massacre Trial. Actors at the museum who reenacted the famous trial where James Hudson became the first white man to be brought to trial in the state of Indiana for murdering an Indian were in full costume and character of 1824-time period. Our KCS Mock Trial Team is currently preparing for Mock Trial Competition; Mock Trial Coach Mr. Riggi says he is excited about the talent and enthusiasm of this year’s team.

A special thanks to Mr. Bielicki, our School To Work Coordinator and BEA Representative and to our local community members for partnering with KCS and providing the following guest speaker opportunities:

- Mr. Bob Kelly from Bill’s Restaurant visited Miss Gottschall’s Foods Class.
- Mr. Mark Miller from Radio Station WDNV visited Mrs. Bugman’s Public Speaking Class.
- Mr. James Bucki the Director of Academic Computer Technology Programs at GCC visited Mr. Bielicki’s Web Page Design Class.

Emergency Closings

Radio

- WHAM (AM 1180)
- WPXY (FM 98.9)
- WDNV (FM 93.9, AM 1400)
- WBEE (FM 92.5)
- WYSL (AM 1040)

Television

- WKBW (Channel 7)
- WHEC (Channel 10)
- WHAM (Channel 13)
- WROC (Channel 8)
- R NEWS (Channel 14)

Parent Broadcast

- Phone call to your home

Public Safety Bulletin

The Keshequa Central School District has received formal notification that a classified level 3 sex offender is currently residing in our school district. For more information you may:

- Contact the Nunda Police Department at 468-2515
- Visit the state web site at <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>

Lucinda Miner, *Superintendent*
Dominic Aloisio, *Business Administrator*

School Board

Theron Foote
John Gordinier
Lori Gray
Patricia Kreuzer
Terry Lowell, *Vice-President*
Lyle Tallman
Kevin Whiteman, *President*

Keshequa Central School Mandatory Spring Sports Meeting

All parents and athletes, grades 7-12, that plan to participate in:

- Baseball
- Golf
- Softball
- Track

are required to attend a Mandatory Meeting on: Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the High School Gymnasium, Nunda.

If you are unable to attend please call Craig Veley at 468-2541 ext. 1197.

Calendar of Events

Monday – Friday, February 20-24

- Mid-Winter Break. No Classes.

Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4

- High School Play "Little Shop of Horrors"
MS/HS Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday, March 6-10

- NYS Math Tests for Grades 3-5.

Friday & Saturday, March 10 & 11

- MS/HS All County Festival at Keshequa Central.



Keshequa
Chronicle

Keshequa Central School

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