

To reach school district personnel by email please visit our website 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. For questions please call 468-2541 ext. 1105.

Chronicle

Honor

Wisdom

Leadership

Truth

Message from the Superintendent

It really was March Madness as we have struggled to develop a responsible budget for 2006 – 2007. In a year where our fuel and diesel costs went up \$82,000 and \$23,000 respectively, and the projected increases for health insurance premiums and retirement system payments are \$245,000, it is difficult to formulate a budget that will keep the tax rate down. We are examining every line item of the budget to see where we can pare down and still preserve a quality program for all students. The next issue of the Chronicle will have detailed information on the proposed budget.

The KPTSA currently has a survey on its web site regarding transportation concerns. One question asks whether you would support the elimination of our Transportation Department in favor of “contracting out” our bussing to a company such as Laidlaw or Kemps. This is not included in the proposed budget for 2006 – 2007, nor is it being explored by me or the Board of Education. I wish to go on the record that I do not support contract bussing. What we are investigating is the most efficient routing of our own buses. Our desire is to have no child on a bus more than one (1) hour and that there be two (2) children in every seat. We have achieved the one (1) hour portion, but most of our buses have fewer than forty (40) students riding them. Forty (40) students is equivalent to two (2) students in a seat on a sixty (60)-passenger bus. Bus regulations calculate three (3) students per seat, which is unrealistic for teenagers or adults. We will check Best Practices in other schools and make appropriate adjustments for “our own drivers and fleets.”

The proposed Renovation Project has gone through many changes to bring about a project that will address handicap accessibility issues, health and safety, maintenance, and technology upgrades. There will be no additional classrooms nor a pool included in this proposal. The Board will determine the final scope of this project at its regular meeting on April 11, with an expected vote date of June 13,

District Goals

- #1 Academic Achievement
- #2 School Climate
- #3 District Communication
- #4 Educational Structure

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.

Calendar of Events

April

- 2... Turn your Clocks Ahead
- 4... Elementary Spring Concert, MS/HS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 6... Middle School Spring Concert, MS/HS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 10-13... NYS Science Test for Grade 8
- 11... Staff Development Day K - 5, Student Dismissal @ 12:30 p.m.
... Board of Education Meeting, Nunda Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 12-13... K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences, K-5 Dismissal @ 11:30 a.m., 6-8 Dismissal @ 11:50 a.m.
- 14... Third Quarter Report Cards mailed home
- 14-23... Spring Recess, NO SCHOOL
- 25... Kindergarten Information Night - 6:30 p.m.
- 27... Board of Education Meeting, Nunda Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.

Pesticide Application

by Arthur Alexander, Head Custodian

In keeping with DEC regulations, we must inform district residents of any pesticide applications to school buildings and grounds. Notification is required only if we do an application, and this notification must be done as close to winter recess, spring break and the end of the school year as possible. Only trained and certified personnel are allowed to make applications, and the least toxic material is used. We do not have any applications to report.

2

Candidates Needed for School Board Seats

There are two seats up for election to the Keshequa Central School Board of Education on May 16, 2006. Of the candidates who appear on the ballot, the one candidate with the most votes will receive a four (4) year term. The person receiving the second highest number of votes will receive a three (3) year term. In 2007 and thereafter, all seats will be four (4) year terms.

Please note that this is a correction from what was reported in the March, 2006 issue of the chronicle.

This year's election of candidates phases in the reduction of the term of office from five (5) years to four (4) years as approved at the annual meeting/election on May 17, 2005.

Petitions are due in the District Office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2006.

Superintendents' Message

continued from page 1...

2006. We thank the many community members who have attended several meetings to give input on this proposal, which will not have an impact on the tax levy. Watch for more information in upcoming Chronicle issues.

Reading First

Reading First is a focused nationwide effort to enable all students to become successful early (K-3) readers. Its goal is to ensure that all children are able to read at or above grade level by the end of third grade. There are three major assessments given each year. These are not state standardized tests but assessments designed to measure individual student progress in order to identify struggling readers and to validate the growth of others. This recent assessment has shown some very positive results overall (examples shown in accompanying graphs). Nearly all students in K-3 were tested, totaling around 200 youngsters. In the Reading First program, students receive 90 minutes of unbroken instruction daily. With this program going for less than a year, it is fully implemented and enthusiasm appears to have replaced any concerns.

April is here! Happy Spring!

Kindergarten: Phonemic Awareness

Initial Sound Fluency

Goal: 25 Initial Sounds

- 79% Established (56%)
- 14% Emerging (35%)
- 6% Deficit (9%)

Figures in parentheses reflect September assessment results

Third Grade: Fluency

Oral Reading Fluency

Goal: 92 wpm (77 wpm)

- Lower risk 43% (33%)
- Some risk 28% (36%)
- At risk 29% (32%)

Figures in parentheses reflect September assessment results

Board of Education News & Notes

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, 468-2451 ext. 1105) and on our website www.keshequa.org

March 9, 2006

- Superintendent Search Update – Kevin Whiteman
- Presentation by Marilyn Capawan, Elementary Principal, on Reading First Assessments
- Several personnel appointments
- Approval to implement a Pre-Kindergarten Program September, 2006 (This will replace the current Developmental Kindergarten Program and will be no additional cost nor loss of state aid.)
- Approval of two (2) new Board Policies:
 - Appointment and Designations by the Board of Education
 - Audit Committee
- Approval of Middle School Band Trip chaperones to Washington, D.C on April 28-30, 2006
- Approval to pursue a grievance against the Keshequa Central Teachers' Association as well as an individual member related to application of the agreement

March 23, 2006

- Superintendent Search Update – Kevin Whiteman
- Presentation by Bernie Donegan, Financial Advisor for the proposed Renovation Project

- Academic Intervention Services (AIS) Report – Doris Marsh, Middle School Principal and Christine Antalek, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
- Accepted several resignations for the purpose of retirement
- Other personnel appointments and resignations
- Approval of School Calendar for 2006 – 2007
- Approved resolutions pertinent to proposed renovation project.
- First reading of two (2) new policies
- Approval of private school transportation request
- Approval of 2006 Biennial Review of Shared Decision Making Document
- Update on proposed renovation project
- Draft # 3 of proposed 2006 – 2007 School Budget

April

Board of Education Meetings

- Thursday, April 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Board Conference Room, Nunda.
- Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Board Conference Room, Nunda

Superintendent Search Update

The Board of Education has diligently continued their search for a quality Superintendent for Keshequa. They have concluded that there were qualified internal candidates who already live in the District and who wish to continue their educational careers here for several years to come. To compensate for their lack of experience, these candidates could be mentored for 1-2 years by a retired Superintendent with a background of excellent experiences.

The Superintendent position was posted internally and the following individuals applied: Shawn Bielicki, Business Teacher and School-to-Work Coordinator; Marilyn Capawan, Elementary Principal; and Doris Marsh, Middle School Principal.

These three candidates have been interviewed by the Board of Education and will next be interviewed by a stakeholder group consisting of parents, community members, teachers, support staff, administrator and students for additional input to help the Board make their final decision.

Candidates have also been interviewed as potential mentors. It is expected that the final selections will be announced at the April 11, 2006 Board Meeting.

Once again the Board thanks everyone who has been involved in this very important decision.

Keshequa Middle School Fire Essay Winners

We are proud to announce that three eighth grade students from Keshequa Middle School were winners of the Livingston County Fire Essay Contest for Grades 6-8. First place winner was Melissa Preen. Paige Essler took third place for her essay, and Honorable Mention was awarded to Carly Jane Underwood.

Students were given the task of writing a two hundred word essay on fire safety. In their essay they had to describe safety measures on how fires could be prevented in order to keep homes and families safe from injury and destruction.

Great work, ladies!!

Middle School Corner

by Doris Marsh, Middle School Principal

Wow!! March was another busy month in the Keshequa Middle School! Students received their twenty-five week interim grade reports and have been conferencing with Mrs. Marsh on how they intend to improve their grades for the thirty-week report cards that are due to be sent home on Friday, April 13, 2006.

Ms. Prince, our Middle School Guidance Counselor, held an eighth grade information night for all eighth grade parents and students to share with them as to how to schedule and plan for their student's high school schedule. Parents and student then made appointments with Ms. Prince to create their ninth grade schedule for 2006-2007 school year and to create a four year plan to complete their high school requirements to graduate. Students learned that they needed at least 23 high school course credits in order to graduate from high school. Students were encouraged to research colleges that would offer coursework for their career choices. Students were informed that they would have to have a foreign language credit if they planned on attending a four-year college. Students recognized that jobs and careers in the future will require either technical training or a college degree.

Middle School students were part of the New York State Math Tests for Grades 6-8 during the week of March 13-17th. Students' test results should be available by late spring. The first part of the New York State Science Test for Grade 8 will be held Monday, April 10th and Tuesday, April 11th. Students will be completing the hands-on part of the state test. On Wednesday, May 10, 2006, the Grade 8 students will complete Part 2 of the New York State Science Test for Grade 8.

Parent-Teacher spring conferences are scheduled to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 11th and April 12th. Teachers will be scheduling conferences with parents beginning at noon on both

days. These conferences are focusing on students who may need additional guidance and direction to meet the requirements to be promoted to the next grade.

Keshequa Drama Club was pleased to present the play "The Little Shop of Horrors" on Friday and Saturday, March 3rd and March 4th. Several Middle School and High School Students performed their parts extra-ordinaire and had a wonderful time displaying their acting abilities. Even Mrs. Marsh had the opportunity to debut in her first acting experience since her high school years.

Keshequa Central School was pleased to be the host of the Livingston All-County Music Festival for high school band students and middle school choral students on Saturday, March 11, 2006. Over 200 students from thirteen schools from the Genesee Valley BOCES participated in the event. Our music instructors, Mr. Hoffman and Mrs. Coffey chose Mr. Mark Case from Iliion Central School to conduct the High School band and Dr. Grace Cummings from Roberts' Wesleyan College to conduct the Middle School chorus. The two performing groups were outstanding and made parents, families, and friends in the audiences very proud of their musical talents and hard work.

On Friday, March 17, 2006, 18 Middle School students attended the annual Health Career Day at York Central School sponsored the BEA (Business Education Association). Students were able to view and learn about numerous health fields such as nursing, doctors, pharmacy, phlebotomy, therapeutic medicine, dentistry, radiology, physician assistants, music therapy, acupuncture, athletic training, nursing aids, and the health careers academy. Presentations included topics such as "Soft Skills- Importance to Employers" and how students need people skills along with choosing a medical field of interest. A career and college fair

was held so students would be able to interact to ask questions about different medical fields and gather brochures to share with their families and friends.

Spring sports' practices and games have been scheduled. If you are interested in attending and watching our fine young athletes, please call Craig Velej, Athletic Director, at 468-2541, ext. 1197 or Michelle Seifried, MS/HS secretary, at 468-2541, ext. 2017, for a copy of the sports' schedule.

State Testing Schedule for Grade 8

Middle School students will be taking New York State Tests beginning in April. Please note the following schedule:

Grade 8 Science **Monday, April 10 – Friday, May 12**

(Administered dates will be decided by teacher. Additional information will be sent to parents when date is set.)

Grade 8 Science **Monday, May 1 – May 12**

(Administered dates will be decided by teacher. Additional information will be sent to parents when date is set.)

Grade 8 Social Studies, Booklet 1 **Wednesday, June 7**

Grade 8 Social Studies, Booklet 2 **Thursday, June 8**

It is very important that students be in attendance on these days. Please note that these are New York State tests and are only administered during the stated times. Performance on these tests will indicate student's academic growth and will aid in determining if a student needs additional academic intervention.

KPTSA News

Welcome to Spring!! The KPTSA has been very busy lately. The highlight of the past month was the Scholastic Book Fair held at the Dalton Elementary School. The KPTSA was able to donate over \$1,100 worth of books to fulfill teachers' wish lists, prizes for Flag Day, and help build the school's library. We were also able to generate a profit of about \$850 that will go towards future projects and/or awards. We want to thank all the volunteers - Michelle Buchinger, Rhonda Elliot, Smidge Stevens, Marilyn Capawan, Bruce and Jennifer Reichart, and Linda Strathern. Special thanks go to Maureen Davis and Tracy Cassidy for all of their organizational help and long hours. We also want to thank the many students, parents, and teachers who made it all possible by participating in this event. Finally, thank you to the school administration and BOE for allowing the KPTSA to hold the book fair on school property and for finding us space in an already busy building. Without all of your support, the KPTSA could never accomplish our twice-yearly book fairs.

Along with the book fair donations, the KPTSA has \$115 worth of vouchers for School Specialties that we are raffling off to teachers only. Tickets can be had for the price of \$2 each or 5 for \$3 (an advertising glitch accounts for the strange pricing scale). This is a great way to possibly get supplies for the classroom at a very reasonable price. Ask any KPTSA officer for tickets. All proceeds from this raffle will go towards our Leadership Awards.

KPTSA Executive Officers

Mark W. Ewing: President

Jan Pirrello: Vice President

Maureen Davis: Treasurer

Monica Morris: Secretary

On another note, the KPTSA is planning a Family Night this spring/summer. The main event will be bingo, with prizes (no money, sorry!) presented for all winners. Admission is free and there will be refreshments and snacks available. This is meant for the entire family, so please plan on bringing the children out for a night of good old-fashioned fun. Watch for flyers!

Lastly, the KPTSA would like to congratulate our winter athletes. The Wrestling Team made Keshequa history by winning Class B Sectionals, the Cheerleading Team took 3rd place in the sectional competition, and the Boys' Basketball team made it to the second round of the sectional tournament. Way to go, the KPTSA is proud of you!!!

Please check out the KPTSA website. KPTSA Secretary Monica Morris has done a wonderful job with this site and it provides links and information about more topics and events than can be listed here. It is well worth your time to see what this website has to offer. It can be easily accessed from the Dalton Elementary page of the school website or by going to <http://myschoolonline.com/ny/kptsa>.

As always, the KPTSA is looking for members of our community who would like to share their views about and commitment to our students and school. Please consider joining the KPTSA and help us to promote a safe, healthy, and pleasant school environment for the entire community. There is power in numbers and with your help; the KPTSA can work towards larger projects and loftier goals.

Please have a safe and relaxing spring break!!

Cell Phones Prohibited *from KCS Staff and Administration*

We have a rule in the Keshequa Middle/High School Handbook that prohibits cell phones and other electronic devices such as iPods, CD players, etc. from being in school during school hours (8:00-3:30). The reasons for their ban from school are for security purposes, exam and test security from text messaging, and security during an emergency situation. We also want to avoid the disruption they may cause to the educational process such as ringing during class.

Our first attempt at controlling the use of cell phones in school was to simply ask the students to put them in their locker when it became evident that they had one. This effort has been unsuccessful, as the use of cell phones in school has become more prevalent.

Therefore, we are going to adopt the following procedure: should a student be found with a cell phone in school or on the school bus:

1. First Time Offense

Cell phone will be taken and brought to MS/HS Office, student may pick it up after school.

2. Second Time Offense

Cell phone will be taken and brought to MS/HS Office, the student's parent will need to pick up the phone.

3. Third Time Offense

Cell phone will be taken and brought to the MS/HS Office; student's parent will need to pick up phone, and the student will receive an extended detention.

Should the student refuse to give up the cell phone when asked, they will be referred to the principal for insubordination, which will result in a suspension from school.

The best action is to leave cell phones home. If a student absolutely needs the use of a cell phone after school hours (school hours are between 8:00-3:30), they are to keep the phones turned off and in their school lockers for the entire day.

As always our goal is to provide the best possible education for all our students at all times. Your support and cooperation with this effort is greatly appreciated.

Counseling

The Counseling Office has been busy this month working with students in grades eight through eleven selecting their courses for next year. Students in the high school are reviewing their transcripts and eleventh graders are preparing for college, registering for the SAT and ACT exams, and beginning to think about college visits and the application process.

If any parent would like to meet with their child's counselor you may call Annette Prince at 468-2541 extension 2008 for grade 8 and Deb Beaumont at extension 2011 for grades 9-11. An overview of the state graduation requirements is as follows:

Regents Diploma

4 credits Social Studies
4 credits in English
3 credits in Math
3 credits in Science
2 credits in PE
1 credit Foreign Lang.

or 5 credits in an occupational, technical or art sequence

1 credit in the Fine Arts
4.5 credits in Electives

Advanced Regents Diploma

4 credits in Social Studies
4 credits in English
3 credits in Math
3 credits in Science
2 credits in PE
3 credits in Foreign Lang.

1 credit in Fine Arts
2.5 credits in Electives

In addition to their coursework all students must pass the required Regents exams: Foreign Language Proficiency, Math A, one Science, Global Studies II, US History, English 11 (ELA). Students wishing to receive the Advanced Regents diploma will be required to pass the Math B exam and an additional science Regents exam.

Students will be receiving copies of their 2006-2007 schedules before the end of this school year. All routine schedule changes need to be made before August 15th prior to the beginning of school. Schedule changes after August 15th must be made under the following conditions:

- An error or omission was made in scheduling regarding a mandatory course
- School committee recommendation i.e. CSE
- Summer school failure
- To replace a study hall
- School to Work request
- Administrative request



Save the Dates!

Summer Institute will be held from
July 10[☆] - 21, 200[☆]6[☆]

**Fun and exciting NEW classes
for students entering grades 3-8**

Two Locations:

- May Center, Mt. Morris
- Career & Tech Center, Batavia



For a brochure of classes and registration form,
please call (585) 658-7560 or 344-7560

After April 1, go online to www.gvboces.org/enrichment for classes
offered and other information

Sponsored by Genesee Valley BOCES Enrichment Department

The Sweet Taste of Spring *by Mark Mattle*

Mr. Riggi's Small Business Class and Ms. Gottschall's Food Class teamed up to take a field trip to Cartwright's Maple Tree Inn. The Inn, famous for its homemade maple syrup, conducted a tour of the facility including the production area, packaging area, and the restaurant and dining area. A member of the Cartwright family, Jason Cartwright, graciously conducted the tour. Upon completion of the tour the students were able to explain what it takes to run a family business, recognize career options locally, and discuss niche markets. They were also treated to some of the famous buckwheat pancakes.

The Maple Tree Inn has been serving pancakes since the early sixties, but the family has been in the syrup business since the mid eighteenth hundreds. Times have changed, and today the family taps nearly ten thousand trees. It takes almost forty gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. They boast that despite their out of the way location people have visited from as far away as Germany and Japan. This certainly was true, and a little bit fulfilling. In regards to this field trip, as Mr. Riggi brought two foreign exchange students, Soeren Melskotte of Germany and Ryo Nezu of Japan. Mr. Riggi commented, "We had a great trip! For those students interested in working for themselves one day, this trip is just excellent. They see so many neat facets of business, from production to marketing. It's a real niche business and also a family business. It's cool to see a family work together and succeed locally. I think this trip made a difference for many of our students and in the end that's what is important."

The field trip was arranged by School-To-Work Coordinator Shawn Bielicki as part of our effort to add relevance to classroom instruction. Mr. Bielicki used funds from a mini-grant, which was awarded by the Livingston County Business Education Alliance to help offset costs of the trip. Mr. Bielicki added, "Carrie Malone of the BEA made this trip possible and our students benefited immensely. One thing is absolute; we live in an area of limited opportunity. But it is only limited to the imagination and desire of the students themselves. If a restaurant can be successful in the middle of nowhere, selling pretty much just pancakes, these students can succeed at anything they put their mind and heart into. I believe that they are all success stories waiting to happen."



M.S Band Members Perform with Area Wind Ensemble

Four Middle School Band members were selected to perform with the Hornell Area Wind Ensemble at their Mid-Winter Concert, Sunday, March 12. Amanda Gath, flute, Christine Tallman, french horn, Tyler Green, tenor saxophone and Michaela Hillier, alto saxophone, practiced with the group at the dress rehearsal, and then performed with the Wind Ensemble as part of the Young Musicians Concert held at the Hornell High School. These students were selected by Mrs. Schoenacker, who is also a performing member of the group. Congratulations on a fine performance!

All-County Band & Chorus Concert a Smash Hit

On Saturday March 11th our KCS community had the honor of hosting the 2006 All-County Music Festival. Our county's top musicians and singers gathered at KCS beginning on Friday afternoon through Saturday morning to prepare for an "All-Star" concert featuring the Junior All-County Band and the Senior All-County Chorus. Mr. Mark Case directed the Junior All-County Band; currently teaching music at Ilion High School and Dr. Grace Cummings who is an Associate Professor of Vocal Music at Roberts Wesleyan College directed the Senior All County Chorus. Performing in the band from KCS was, Sarah Gray, Lindsay Gunn, Bryan Knukle, Christine Tallman, Chrysta Giles, Alicia Halpeny and Jesse Orellana. Performing in the chorus from KCS was, Scott Gray, Ashley McAuslen and Jason Buckel. Congratulations to Mr. Hoffman and Mrs. Coffee for the fantastic job they did in the planning and production of this special event. Also, thanks for the excellent job they do day in and day out to produce such fine musicians, you make us all very proud!

High School Physical Education Is Not What It Used To Be



The High School Physical Education students had a new experience this year when they tried fencing. Each year the physical education staff tries to include a new activity in their curriculum to give their students a well rounded experience in their high school career. This year thanks to the generosity of Mr. Swartzfager who owns the equipment, we were able to give an introduction to fencing. The students and teachers learned terms, strategies, positions and etiquette relevant to this Olympic sport. Mr. Veley commented, "We kept a step ahead of the students in learning this sport as it was new to us as well."



In keeping with the Olympic theme, the adapted physical education class went bobsledding. The students designed and built their own two man bobsleds out of cardboard and then tried them out on the hills at the new fields. Steering wasn't quite what you would see at the Olympics, but neither were the conditions. The students had a great time and so did the teachers! Other activities this year included golfing at the Triple Creek Golf Course (a special thanks to the owner of Triple Creek!) After practicing in the gym and behind the school hitting whiffle balls and foam balls the students spent a class period hitting real balls from the driving range. The next class most students were able to golf a few holes on the course. For many, this was their first experience actually golfing.

As per the school health index recommendations, high school students were required to write their personal fitness plan. They had to set goals, both activity wise and nutritionally, and create a plan to meet those goals. These plans will be reevaluated this spring. Thanks to the assistance of Mrs. Antalek, the P.E. Department will be receiving a minimum of \$1,000 and maybe up to \$6,000 grant to take the students on P.E. field trips. The grant allows for canoe or kayak rentals down the Erie, or Genesee, rock climbing at Rock Ventures, and other exciting out-of-classroom experiences to be determined.

Keshequa Chess Club

The Keshequa Elementary Chess Club squared off against Caledonia-Mumford Saturday, March 4 in the final Regular Season League Games of the year. Keshequa had 22 competitors and all of them had a winning percentage of matches. The team took all 45 points and 12 medals, including 5 members who won for the first time. The team will now play against Dansville for the League Championship on Saturday April 1. Dansville upset Geneseo in match play for the first time, putting Geneseo out of the finals for the first time. It was very exciting for both Dansville and Keshequa.

Medalists:

Beginning Level:

1st-*Jade Gardner* • 2nd-*Kyle Houtz* • 3rd-*Cody Wise* • 4th-*Alex Mongillo*

Intermediate Level:

1st-*Josh Gath* • 2nd-*Gage Poler* • 3rd-*Kirk Schrier* • 4th-*Austin Prince*

Advanced Level:

1st-*Christian Garwood* • 2nd-*Marty Bielewicz* • 3rd-*Alex Simone* • 4th-*Brody Wood*

Mr. and Mrs. Schoenacker are very proud of all team members who participated by showing good sportsmanship and hard work.



Tons of Fun at Game Night

On Friday, March 17, over 126 students from Grades 6-12 participated in a Game Night at the MS/HS cafeteria and gymnasium. Students were asked to bring their own board and card games, and x-boxes and TV sets. Students also had the opportunity to play basketball and volleyball. The movie, *Freaky Friday*, was shown in the auditorium.

Students had the opportunity to have a chair massage from a massage therapist, Rhonda Howard. For many students it was the first time they had ever seen or participated in a massage.

Students were encouraged to play and win as many different games as possible as for every game they won (individually or as a team), they would receive tickets for free drawings. The free drawings included gift certificates to McDonalds, Walmart, massage, money, Sabres Yearbook, Sabres hockey puck, and Sabres t-shirt.

Free food was paid for by Livingston County Council on Substance and Alcohol. Students were served cheese and cracker trays, vegetable trays, cookies, pizza, ice cream sundaes, pop, punch, and water.

Volunteer chaperones for the event included community members, parents, teachers, and administration.

A great fun time was had by all.

If you would like to join our Healthy Communities That Care Committee and help plan the next event, please join on Monday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the MS/HS Library.



It's Elementary!

by Marilyn Capawan

March has been another action filled month as students, faculty and staff came back from Winter Break with plenty of energy and enthusiasm. One of the highlights of the month was the KPTSA Book Fair, which was held in our Science Lab in the middle of the month. Business was brisk, and everyone enjoyed browsing and choosing from a wonderful selection of books and other items. Our thanks to the KPTSA for all the work and planning they put into this event. Thanks, too, for donations of books to our classrooms. We appreciate your partnership in our students' learning!

Our most exciting news is that the Board of Education has approved the implementation of a Pre-Kindergarten program beginning in September 2006. The Pre-K committee, chaired by Dorothy DiAngelo, will be meeting in the weeks ahead to plan for the program, and we will keep you posted as decisions are made. Look for information in this publication, as well as the Mt. Morris Shopper and the Dalton Elementary Newsletter. Thank you to our community for supporting this program, and for all the parents who responded to our survey. Reaching out to our 4 year old learners will help strengthen the district's mission to help all our students be successful.

March was "Music in Our Schools" month, and the Elementary School celebrated this event by sharing their musical talents with others. Our 5th Grade Band traveled to Dansville to play with the Elementary band there, and to entertain the students in Ellis B. Hyde's Grades 3, 4, and 5. Our students represented our school very well, and I was very proud to receive compliments about their performance and behavior from many Dansville teachers. We reciprocated the next week by having Dansville perform here. Our Chorus,

recorder performers and bands also gave a concert for our own students in March. Our thanks to Mrs. Marie

Schoenacker and Mrs. Cheryl Sanford for their hard work in planning opportunities for our kids to shine. Remember, the Dalton Elementary School Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00PM in the Nunda Auditorium. We hope to see you there!

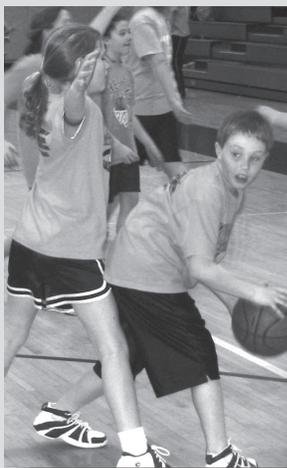
Our students in Grades 3 through 5 completed their New York State Mathematics test during the week of March 5th. The students (and teachers!) remained calm and purposeful throughout that time, and I know each student did his or her best. As with the English Language Arts tests, students' attendance was excellent. Thank you to all our families for having your children here and ready to excel. Your support in their learning is the most important factor in their success.

Important dates to keep in mind: April 25 is our Kindergarten Parent Information Night at 6:30 p.m. in our Cafetorium. At that time, appointments for screening will be made and registration packets will be handed out. Screening itself is scheduled for May 10, 11 and 12. If you have not received a letter and enrollment form, but have a child who will be 5 by December 1st and is eligible to attend Kindergarten, please call Brenda Weaver at 476-2234 for more information. Thank you.

Our Student Council is hosting "Crazy Hair Day" on March 31st as part of its School Spirit activities. I don't know exactly what to expect, but I invite you to come in and check it out! We will try to get some pictures for the next edition of the Chronicle!

Physical Education

by Todd Isaman



On March 19, the boys' and girls' program held a one-day basketball camp for Keshequa students in grades 4-8. From 1:30-4:30, 72 students packed the gymnasium. They were involved in skills and drills, competitions, and listened to our very own Gregg Hepler. Coach Hepler, who now works at Ithaca College as the Head Assistant was our keynote speaker. The young athletes watched anxiously as Mr. Hepler passionately talked about what it takes to become a better player and person. Each student who attended was given a very nice basketball and a t-shirt for only \$10. Pete Piraino and I would like to thank the following for their help with this day: Gregg Hepler, Craig Veley, Jeff Howard, Randy Clinton, Pat Forrester, Jennie

Flint, Mandy Swanebraten, Sue Piraino, Kathryn Piraino, Eric Kanouse, Ryan Nugent, Casey Chatley, Kelsey Wagar, Rhiannon Boehm, and Marissa Underwood. We would also like to thank the Booster Club who donated money to help pay for the t-shirts.

We would like to remind all students entering grades 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th next year about our upcoming summer camp. The camp is for Keshequa students only, and will be held July 5th-8th. The cost of the camp is only \$30. The participation form and the money are due by May 1, 2006. If you need a participation form please see Todd Isaman or Pete Piraino.



Elementary Library by Joan Ellison

Everyone knows what a library is, but do you know what your child is learning when he/she comes to class in the elementary library? It is more than just reading stories!

In kindergarten I read stories to the students. This helps to develop their listening skills. They are being exposed to different styles of writing and illustrating. They learn about different parts of a book. The children also get to practice their decision-making skills by selecting books that interest them. Sometimes the children may bring home books that you feel are too difficult or not very interesting, but keep in mind that they are developing their skills of picking appropriate materials. You can help by discussing their choices with them. Of course, I do try to guide them in the right direction!

First graders continue to listen to stories. I branch out to include different genres of literature. We read non-fiction and fiction books and discuss the differences. We read tall tales, fairytales, folktales, and fables. We read Caldecott Award books and talk about the illustrations. The children continue to improve their book selection skills.

Second graders are getting mature enough to handle longer books, so I often choose chapter books that take many class periods to complete. So far this year we have read *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* and several *Junie B. Jones* stories. We also learn how to log-on to the computer and look up library material on the automated catalog. The students always love to learn to do that. We look at call numbers to learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction and then the children try to find the books on the shelves.

Third graders get to hear my favorite children's story, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. In fact, I read them several books by Roald Dahl, including *The BFG*. They always enjoy these stories. Along with listening to stories we continue to practice finding books on the shelves. My goal is to help them become independent library users.

In fourth grade we read a lot of literature that might be found on the 4th grade E.L.A tests. We start the year with myths (which the children love) and continue with folktales, tall tales, fables, and fairytales. We also do a unit on the Erie Canal, which is part of the 4th grade social studies curriculum.

Fifth graders are very busy learning about different reference books that can be used in the library. We work with the encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases, dictionaries, and thesauruses. For a

big chunk of the year Mr. Wiggins, the school counselor, and I do a unit together. The students use their knowledge of research to explore careers. By the time we are done with these units the students are begging me to read them a story, which I gladly do at the end of the year.

Besides their usual library times the children are always welcome to come checkout books and movies. There is something for everyone at the library!

Health & Wellness

Our Health and Wellness Committee, which is comprised of staff and teachers, administrators, parents, community members, and students have been meeting since September and are making progress in the creation of a district Health and Wellness Policy, which is required by New York State. Recommendations for nutrition education and physical education must be a part of the policy. The committee is also discussing recommendations for ways that nutritional foods can be served during school celebrations and in vending machines.

The Health and Wellness Committee completed a needs assessment called the School Health Index to prepare for this policy work. We were able to apply for two mini-grants which focus on physical activity opportunities for students outside the school day. We have received one grant to allow Middle/High School students to increase opportunities for exercise, and we have also received the grant for Dalton Elementary which focuses on asthma management and physical activity.

Keshequa Central School is also implementing health and wellness activities. Last month, we began a program through the Genesee Valley Partnership for Health entitled, "Simple Steps." Forty-four faculty and staff members have signed up to participate. Each team will be logging their exercise activities for five weeks. Winning teams will receive rewards for their time spent exercising. Encouraging workplace wellness provides students with positive and healthy role models. In addition, Dalton Elementary is planning to address childhood asthma with an asthma support group designed to help students with asthma better understand and control their asthma.

Other Curriculum News:

The first round of testing in grades 3-8 was completed in January. English Language Arts assessments were given to all students in grades 3-8. Every student in grades 3-8 will take Math assessment in March. These tests are designed to determine how well learners are meeting the New York State standards. Teachers use results of these assessments to examine their curriculums and to place students in Academic Intervention Services.

Diane Gallo joined Dalton Elementary during the last week in February to work with student writers in grade 5. As a Writer-In-Residence, Diane will teach students about the writing process and will take students through a real writing experience. Diane's visit will culminate in the publication of students' work.

Transportation Request to Non-Public Schools due by April 1

Requests for transportation to non-public schools for the 2006 – 2007 school year must be made by April 1. A new request must be made each year for a student to be scheduled for transportation.

Requests should be sent to:
Lucinda Miner, Superintendent
Keshequa Central School
13 Mill Street P.O. Box 517
Nunda, NY 14517

Notice to District Residents

The Annual School District Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nunda Auditorium.

Voting for two (2) Board of Education members and the School Budget for the 2006 – 2007 school year will be held on Tuesday, May 16 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Middle/High School Lobby in Nunda.

Copies of the School Budget for the 2006 – 2007 school year will be available by Tuesday, May 2 in the District Office.

Qualifications for Voting:

1. Citizen of the United States.
2. At least 18 years of age.
3. Legal resident of the District for at least 30 days.

Deadline for submission of petitions for nomination of Board of Education candidates is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2006. Interested residents may pick up a petition and information on school board membership from the District Clerk in the District Office.

Pre-Kindergarten is coming to Dalton!

We are excited to announce the addition of Pre-Kindergarten at Dalton Elementary School beginning Fall 2006. This program is open to all children who will be four years of age by December 1, 2006. The program will run five days a week, with two sessions each day. The morning session is scheduled to run from 8:30-11:00 and the afternoon session from 12:15 to 2:45. Families who choose to have their child participate will be responsible for providing transportation to and from school. There is no fee for this program.

There will be open registration from April 10- May 1. Forms will be mailed to each family that, according to the census, has children who meet the age requirement for attending Pre-Kindergarten. Beginning April 10, forms may also be picked up at the Elementary office or mailed to you upon request, forms will also be available on line at that time. Please contact the Dalton Elementary office at 476-2234 with any questions regarding registration. Thank you.

Tax Time Is Here

The Keshequa Central School District Identification number required on all New York State Income Tax forms is 320.

Keshequa Central School

P.O. Box 517
Nunda, New York 14517-0517

April 2006

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