

To reach school district personnel by email please visit our website at [www.keshequa.org](http://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*

## Superintendent's Message by Edward Stores

As parents and grandparents you have been receiving information on the various student safety drills we have been conducting. I thought I would share with you the process for formulating these drills and information on why.

You have every right to expect that you are sending your students to a safe school. You have every right to demand that we do all in our power to protect your children. In an effort to be responsive to these needs we practice and we practice and we practice. Each time we run a drill we learn something new

about what could happen and how we should react. When you think about it, none of us were trained in this sort of thing.

We were trained to be effective teachers and administrators but have, more and more, become aware of the need to provide custodial care to our students. So how do we deal with this? When we run these drills we bring in people who are trained in these areas. We deal with the NYS Police and with the Livingston County Sheriff Department. I would also like to recognize Kevin Niedermaier, from Livingston County for the direct assistance he has provided in helping with drills and updating our emergency preparedness plans.

Having said all of this, can we ever guarantee with 100% accuracy that all kids and staff are totally free from danger. We cannot. We can guarantee you that we will continue to practice and get better. Thanks for bearing through all this and thanks for your support. The calls we have received thanking us for our efforts are greatly appreciated.

### District Goals

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

*The Board of Education  
Cordially Invites You to the*

*Keshequa Central School  
Community Forum*

**Our Focus Topic:  
Student Achievement**

**Thursday, November 9  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Nunda High School Media Center**

*Please join us for an evening of conversation  
about our students, our school, and  
our future. We look forward to  
sharing information and  
hearing your thoughts.*

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.

# Back to Basics *by Marilyn Capawan*



A new school year often inspires us to set new goals, make positive changes, and challenge ourselves to excel. This is true for both students and adults, and September's energy is still very much alive by the middle of Fall. Already we see growth on many different levels, and we know that by continuing to capitalize on all the excitement and motivation of these early days, we increase our students' opportunities for learning.

We also know that while learning takes us in new directions, as a school we must remain anchored to basic principles that support excellence in education. Two of these are safety and communication.

Our top priority is the safety and welfare of our children. In these first months of school, teachers spend a great deal of time establishing a sense of caring and trust in their classrooms. At the building level, as you know, we have had many safety drills: fire, intruder, and bomb threat. In November, we will practice our Emergency Early Dismissal procedures. Our school Safety Committee meets quarterly to review plans and update them as needed, and we will continue to work diligently to provide a safe and secure environment for our school community. Thank you for your support in this.

Communication remains a district goal. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education is holding the first of three Community Forums, an invitation to all community members to share their thoughts, questions, and concerns. The focus of this meeting will be Student Achievement. I will be there, along with Board members, to review recent test results and talk about our programs. More details are in this newsletter. Speaking of communication, we appreciate your positive feedback on the Parent Broadcast system and we will continue to use it to keep you informed of events throughout the year.

On a personal note, thank you for the many words of support and encouragement you've given me in my new role as Assistant Superintendent. I have been listening and learning and will continue to do so in order to provide the leadership our district deserves. I encourage you to call me at 468-2541, extension 1106, or email me at [mcapawan@keshequa.org](mailto:mcapawan@keshequa.org) with any thoughts or questions. I hope to see you on November 9<sup>th</sup>!

## Thank You to Our Cleaners

*Sincerely, Marlene Huff*

After traveling to other schools in the area to watch sporting events, I realized how lucky we are at Keshequa. Our High School is by far the cleanest and well kept that I have seen. We are very fortunate to have such a top notch cleaning crew here who take such pride in their work.

### Thanks to:

- ★ Duane Bennett
- ★ Jennie O'Dell
- ★ Debbie Rice
- ★ Lori Kenney
- ★ Pam Dudley
- ★ Jackie Hatfield
- ★ Debbie Ferry
- ★ Lynn Gilbert
- ★ Grace Kruzinski
- ★ Cher McTarnaghan

We appreciate all that you do!

## Emergency School Closings

When schools must be closed, the decision is made by the Superintendent of Schools based on available information and recommendations. If the decision is made to close the schools, the Superintendent informs the following radio and television stations which then broadcast the information immediately:

WHAM (1180AM)	WKBW (channel 7)
WBEE (92.5FM)	WROC (channel 8)
WPXY (97.9 FM/1280AM)	WHEC (channel 10)
WDNY (93.9 FM/1400AM)	WOKR (channel 13)

If the schools must close during the day, parents should make sure children know in advance what to do should they come home unexpectedly and find no one there. Prior arrangements should be made to have children cared for until a parent arrives home.

# Early Dismissal Drill

by Marily Capawan, Assistant Superintendent

Each year, school districts are required by Education Law to conduct an Early Dismissal "Go Home Drill" to ensure that we are appropriately prepared to transport all students to their homes, or other parent-designated area, should there be an emergency. The drill requires that we not dismiss students any earlier than fifteen (15) minutes from the normal dismissal time, and must account for all students during this time period.

On Thursday, November 9, 2006, Keshequa Central will conduct this drill. As per our policy, there will be no change of bus pass issued on this day or any other. In addition, if you plan to pick your child up on this day to transport him or her home, we ask that your child participate in the drill first. After attendance has been taken on each bus, your child will be allowed to disembark and proceed home with you, provided proper notification has been received. We ask that these requests be made only as necessary in order to help minimize confusion for this drill. I'm sure you can under-



stand the need for us to practice our plan in the event we should ever have to put it in place.

Most students will arrive home at their usual time even though they will be dismissed from their buildings fifteen (15) minutes early, as this time will be used to take attendance and account for every student. However, there will be some students who may arrive home earlier, particularly those who are dropped off before the buses arrive at the Nunda building. Please be prepared to receive them so that our drill may continue in a timely fashion.

There will be complete silence during this drill and it will be conducted in a formal manner. Please talk about the importance of this drill with your child(ren), as their safety and security is top priority to all of us.

Thank you for your support and should you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 468-2541, extension, 1106, or contact the appropriate building

## Social Studies Department

High School Social Studies classes have been promoting the significance of voter participation in this year's election. Students have started to look at New York State's current races for Congress and Governor and determine where each political party stands on issues affecting our local economies and schools. All seniors eligible to vote in the November election completed voter registration cards. Election Day is November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Seniors are also currently researching controversial issues that affect our society today. Some of these issues include gun control, racial profiling, cloning, stem cell research, and health care reform. Each student has a different topic and has done extensive research in and out of class pertaining to past, present and future legislation on these issues. They are writing perspective papers and creating PowerPoint presentations for their classmates in an effort to spark discussion in class.

Senior Kelsey Wagar was interviewed about her topic of racial profiling. She said, "I think that Americans need to be more aware of cultural groups in this country, besides our own. As Americans we can be more sympathetic to groups like Muslim

Americans. Not every Muslim American is a terrorist. I think it is good that our government is trying to take steps to protect us at places like the airport. We can't discriminate against one group of people. All people need to be checked at airports, for example. On the other hand, our Constitution has certain rights that protect our individual freedoms. My topic deals with the issue of whether or not our rights to privacy are violated during wartime."



## Concert Dates

The Holiday concert dates have been arranged as follows (all concerts begin at 7:00 p.m.):

December 4 ..... Elementary Band/Elementary Chorus

\*December 12 ..... HS Chorus, Women's Choir, MS Band

\*December 20 ..... HS Band, MS Chorus, Show Choir, KVV

*\*Note date change for this concert*



# Middle School/High School News

by Doris Marsh, MS/HS Principal

October was a busy month for the Middle School and High School students and faculty. We had an Open House at the end of September, so students could share their daily schedules and academic expectations with parents. The Open House Middle School students (Grades 6-8) encouraged their parents to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences to be held November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21. If parents did not sign up for a conference, please contact a teacher at your child's grade level and schedule a conference time.

Students' five-week interim grades have been sent home. If your son or daughter needs to improve his or her grades, please contact the teacher for any late homework assignments and encourage your student to be more responsible for his/her academic achievement. Ten week reports are due in the Guidance Office on November 9 and report cards will be mailed home on November 17.

Juniors and Seniors have been visiting with college representatives as they decide about future college plans. Some of our students will be visiting SUNY Brockport and SUNY Alfred campus in the next few weeks. Also, our High School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Beaumont, has been meeting with seniors and senior parents/guardians to review the college application process, transcripts and discussing college programs. She also scheduled the PSAT tests for all juniors. By taking PSAT students will have the opportunity to practice for the SATs in addition to receiving mailings from colleges offering degrees in the field areas of interest to the students.

Our Middle School Counselor, Miss Prince, organized a Middle School Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31) for students.

## Red Ribbon Week Activities

Mon., Oct. 23 ....Dress in Red

Tues., Oct. 24....Dress in the decade of your choice (excluding the 90's and the present)

Wed., Oct. 25.....Pajama Day

Thurs., Oct. 26 ...Twin Day

Fri., Oct. 27 .....Freaky Hair Day

Mon., Oct. 30 ....Dress up Day

Tues., Oct. 31..... Costume Day

To show our commitment to a drug-free lifestyle, each day had a special activity.

On November 3, 2006 there will be a Middle School Dance (grade 6-8) from 3-6 pm.

October has also been a time for safety in our school. We have completed our required number of fire, intruder, evacuation and bus safety drills. We will complete our emergency go home bus drill on Thursday, November 9. During this drill students will go to their assigned buses at dismissal time, and then be dismissed to go home.

On October 19, our MS/HS students had the opportunity to listen to the Army Field Band perform. This group travels throughout the United States performing for high school settings. This band provides musical support to strengthen ties between the Army and civilian communities nationally and internationally for the Office of Public Affairs, Secretary of the Army, as authorized by headquarters, Department of the Secretary of the Army's band from the nation's capital.

Our sixth grade has attended a Conservation field trip at Cuylerville and will be attending a field trip to the I-Max theatre to watch "Mysteries of Egypt" as part of the social studies curriculum.

Our seniors went on a field trip to view "The Crucible" on October 25 as part of their English curriculum.

Our students have also had the opportunity these past few weeks to attend numerous volleyball, cross country, and soccer games.

## Key Club is Revitalized!

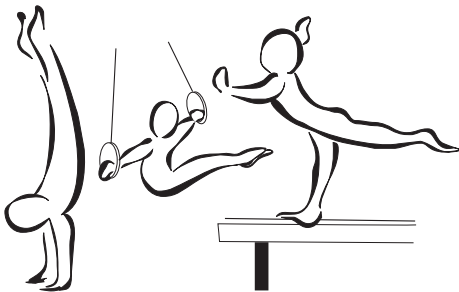
Natasha Germack along with many of her friends have taken the initiative to re-instate the Key Club—a community service group of high school students. The Key Club will be working closely with the Nunda Kiwanis Club to complete several projects for the good of our community. We are very proud of their volunteerism !



# November Newsletter Article

by Christine Antalek, Curriculum and Instruction

Last year, the Dalton Elementary School was awarded a grant from the National Centers for Disease Control to help increase student physical activity. Mr. Todd Isaman and Mr. Mike Uveino, both physical education teachers at Dalton, planned to use the grant money to build exercise stations beyond the playground area at the back of the Dalton building. Both students in physical education classes and community members could use these simple stations, such as a low balance beam and a pull-up bar. Mr. Isaman and Mr. Uveino engaged both Nunda Building and Lumber, who donated materials, and the local Boy Scouts as volunteers. Even though it was raining and cold on September 23, over thirty students, Boy Scouts, parents, Board of Education members, teachers and community members worked to clear the paths and woods of debris and to lay the foundations for these various exercise stations. It was a very successful day, and everyone worked hard to make this project possible!



## Other news and notes from Curriculum and Instruction:

We have received English Language Arts and Mathematics scores for students who took the exams in grades 3-8 last year. Reports have been mailed home to parents. Parents with questions are encouraged to call their child's teachers.

## KPTSA News



**THANK YOU** to all who made our Middle School Book Fair a hit. Remember we will be having the Elementary Book Fair October 24, 25, 26 and the 27<sup>th</sup> in the Elementary Science Lab in Dalton.

**THANK YOU** to all who have bought Keshequa Indian logo hoodies, sweatshirts, mock turtleneck and Ts. We are still taking orders. If you are interested contact one of the officers or go to our website [www.kptsa.org](http://www.kptsa.org). Just a hint – they make great holiday presents.

**THANK YOU** to all who have joined the KPTSA as members. Not only do you have a voice in our district, but your membership gives you voice in a very powerful Washington lobby as well. We are still taking memberships, so please join us. \$2 for each member stays here in our district. See our website for information.

*Keshequa Central School*

## Mandatory Winter Sports Meeting



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

- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Cheerleading
- ✓ Skiing
- ✓ Wrestling



Are required to attend a Mandatory Meeting on:  
Thursday, November 2, 2006  
7:00 p.m.  
MS/HS Auditorium, Nunda

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

# Greetings from Elementary School!

We have had a fantastic first seven weeks of school. Initial Reading First Scores indicate that our students started this year with much stronger reading skills than they did last year. This tells me that last year's Reading First Program was very successful! The program structure is in full swing and we anticipate great gains in our student's reading skills this year.

The atmosphere and culture at our Elementary School are those of positive collaboration, care, consideration and respect for others. This atmosphere is incredibly conducive to learning. A big piece of this positive environment is a shared belief in our Peace Builders Program. The Peace Builders Program is built around several key principles: praising other people when they do good, giving up put-downs, seeking wise people for advise, noticing hurts and righting wrongs and helping others as much as you can. Mr. Wiggins and all of our staff teach these principles both directly and through their day-to-day modeling for our students. The Peace Builders Program really makes a difference, and all our staff at Dalton Elementary really make a difference making this a great place to work and learn.

A big thank you goes out to our Nunda Fire Department for their excellent presentation on fire safety. Thanks to our KCS Transportation Department for their fine presentations during bus safety week and many thanks to our Nunda Rotary Club for their awesome job in presenting dictionaries to our Third Graders. Please enjoy the pictures of the Bus Safety presentations and of the dictionary presentations.



# The Six Pillars of Character

a youth initiative excerpted from [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

## TRUSTWORTHINESS

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable – do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal – stand by your family, friends and country

## RESPECT

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

## RESPONSIBILITY

Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act – consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

## FAIRNESS

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly

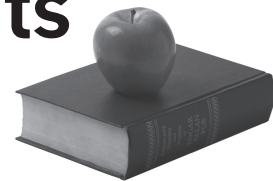
## CARING

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

## CITIZENSHIP

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment

# 10 Ways for Parents to Help Teachers



by Mimi Doe, excerpted from [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

*Many teachers have written to me over the years, frustrated with how unprepared their students are – and they don't mean academically. Chris, a kindergarten teacher, wrote what many teachers have expressed, "I would love it if you could write a 10 tips for parents to help us teachers do our increasingly demanding job. Many parents of children I teach have left the job of spiritual, character, and social/emotional education to me. I can't do it all in addition to teaching academic skills. I'm getting burned out and pretty soon won't have the energy left to nourish one child let alone 25."*

## So here goes – my 10 tips:

1. **Create a smooth takeoff each day.** Give your child a hug before she ventures out the door and you head to work. Look her in the eye, and tell her how proud you are of her. Your child's self-confidence and security will help her do well both in school and in life
2. **Prepare for a happy landing at the end of the day when you reconvene.** Create a predictable ritual such as 10–20 minutes listening to your child talk about his day – before you check phone messages, read the mail, or begin dinner. That way you are fully present to listen, and your child has a touchstone he can count on between school and home.
3. **Fill your child's lunchbox with healthy snacks and lunches.** Have dinner at a reasonable hour and a healthy breakfast. A well-balanced diet maximizes your child's learning potential.
4. **Include calm, peaceful times in your children's afternoons and evenings.** Maintain a schedule that allows them to go to school rested, and if they are sick, have a system in place so they are able to stay home.
5. **Remember it's your children's homework, not yours.** Create a specific homework space that's clutter-free and quiet. Encourage editing and double-checking work, but allow your kids to make mistakes, as it's the only way teachers can gauge if they understand the material. It's also how children learn responsibility for the quality of their work.
6. **Fill your child's life with a love for learning** by showing him your own curiosity, respecting his questions, and encouraging his efforts.
7. **Fill your home with books to read,** books simply to look at, and books that provide answers to life's many questions. The public or school library is an excellent resource.
8. **Be a partner with your child's teacher.** When you need to speak to him or her in reference to a specific issue with your child, do it privately, not in front of your child. Make a point never to criticize your child's teacher in front of your child.
9. **Set up a system where routine items are easily located** – such as backpacks, shoes, signed notices. Create a central calendar for upcoming events to avoid the unexpected.
10. **Tuck a "love note" in your child's lunch bag** to let her know how special she is. Knowing they are loved makes it easier for children to be kind to others.



## Parents! You're Invited!!

Come join us the first Wednesday of every month for coffee and breakfast treats. This is a great way to meet other parents, KPTSA members, and various Keshequa Staff. Join us at either building. Hope to see you there!  
Any questions call Deb Baxter, 476-2234 ext. 1127.

### Nunda Building Coffee Club:

**Meeting Place:** Board of Education Room

**Meeting Time:** 8:00-9:30 a.m.

**Dates:**

December 6, 2006

February 7, 2007

April 4, 2007

June 6, 2007

### Dalton Building Coffee Club:

**Meeting Place:** Conference Room

**Meeting Time:** 8:00-9:30 a.m.

**Dates:**

November 8, 2006

January 3, 2007

March 7, 2007

May 2, 2007

# Academic Excellence Scholarship Winners



Congratulations to Kari Buchinger, Grace Rich and Lorelei Kujat who are the recipients of the Scholarship for Academic Excellence awarded by the State Education Department. The award is based upon the student's Regents test scores with Keshequa Central School being allotted one first place award of \$1500 and two awards for \$500.

The students will receive the award all four years that they are in attendance at a university in New York State.

Congratulations to the students for a job well done.

## Public Safety

The Keshequa Central School District has received formal notification that a classified Level 2 Sex Offender is currently residing in our school district.

### For more information:

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

## Keshequa Central School

P.O. Box 517

Nunda, New York 14517-0517

November 2006

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### School Board Members

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Lyle Tallman

Kevin Whiteman, President

Edward Stores, *Interim Superintendent*  
Dominic Aloisio, *Business Administrator*