

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

Superintendent's Message by Edward Stores

By the time you read this edition of the Chronicle the holiday season will be upon us. It is a time when our faculty gets the opportunity to showcase the artistic and musical excellence of our students. Along that line I would like to remind you of the upcoming concerts scheduled for December. On December 4, the Elementary Band and Chorus will perform. On December 12, the High School Chorus, Women's Choir and Middle School Band will perform. Lastly, on December 20 the High School Band, Middle School Chorus, Show Choir and KVV will perform. We hope you

can attend all or some of these concerts.

The Board and I have been looking at the work done by many in preparation for a possible capital construction project. Nothing has been set in stone at the present time. It would be foolhardy to not at least acknowledge that funding through something called Excel aid is available now but probably will not be available down the road. If the funding for a project can at least approach little or no increase in the tax burden you all shoulder and if the work done is limited to keeping our buildings from falling apart, it would be irresponsible of us not to explore the possibility of getting some work done at this point. We are gathering information from our staff about our roofs, kitchens, windows and boilers to mention just a few of the items that need attention.

I hope you have a joyous holiday season.

District Goals

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

Four students to sing with the RPO

Four Keshequa students have been selected to sing in the Festival Chorale with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra



during their Gala Holiday Pops series. The students selected are: Angela Colombo, Jason Buckel, Lindsay Gunn and Nate Pierce. These students are among participants chosen from a 7 county area. The concerts will take place from December 15- 17 and December 21-23. Please visit www.rpo.org for ticket information.

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.

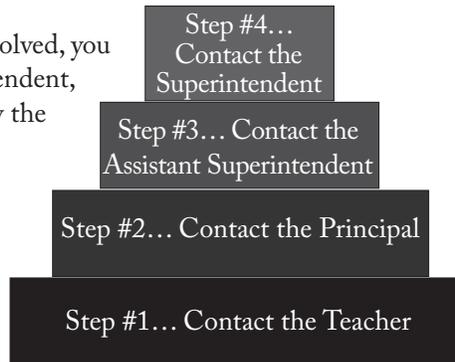
Chain of Command for Better Communications

Parents and guardians are reminded that if you should have a concern or question about your child's classroom activities to please contact your child's teacher. Please give the teacher adequate time to respond to your inquiry. Remember our teachers may be contacted by notes, phones, voice-mail, and e-mail. Teachers will respond to you as soon as they are able to in their schedules.

After contacting the teacher, if you feel that you were unable to resolve a concern/question, please feel free to follow the chain of command and contact the building principals with notes, phone calls, voice-mails, and/or e-mails. The building principals will then review with you and the teacher your concern/question to help resolve it.

If your concern/question is still not resolved, you would then contact the Assistant Superintendent, followed by the Superintendent, and finally the Keshequa School Board of Education.

We thank you for your assistance in keeping the channels of communications open to everyone.



Board Accepts External CPA Audit of District Finances



The Keshequa Board of Education accepted the Annual Audit Report at its regular meeting on November 16, 2006. The New York State Education Department requires all school districts to be audited annually by an independent CPA. Mr. Thomas Lauffer, CPA, from Raymond F. Wager, CPA, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, presented the Audit Report and Management Letter, covering the fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

During his presentation, Mr. Lauffer indicated that the district is in a sound financial position, and that the district has done an excellent job in managing its finances. Mr. Lauffer also discussed new legislation that requires additional fiscal oversight for all districts finances. Other topics included the importance of reserve funds, fund balance requirements, and recommendations for continuous improvement of district operations.



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*

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.

A New Look at Parent Reports

Christine Antalek, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Parent reports have a new look thanks to changes both here in Keshequa and at the state level. Parents may have received letters and reports for students who are receiving Academic Intervention Services (AIS). These reports are produced by new software, AISM Direct, which Keshequa is now using to track over 275 students who are receiving extra help in Math, Reading, Language Arts, Social Studies or Science.

The goal of providing Academic Intervention Services is to help students meet or exceed state standards in each core subject area. Individual performance on the New York State Assessments, which are now given to every child in Math and English Language Arts in grades 3-8, determines whether a child receives services. Students who are at risk for not meeting the standards may also receive extra help. In those cases, teachers may have recommended that students receive AIS.

Each AIS parent report from the new software is accompanied by a letter that explains Academic Intervention Services. The reports indicate what type of assistance the child is receiving, when, how often, who is providing the help, and why. All of this information is required as part of the state's AIS policies.

Parents of students in grades 4-9 also received new state reports indicating performance levels for each child who took the grade 3-8 English Language Arts and Math exams in 2005-2006. Each school district's scores are fed into a "data warehouse" at the state level. Student and school summary data is then accessible through a program called NYSTART, which stands for New York State Accountability and Reporting Tool. This year, the reports were very late because of the load of new tests that were given last year and because the new NYSTART program experienced technical difficulties.

These testing reports look very different from the previous reports for the

4th and 8th grade exams; however, they contain much of the same information. The first page contains some information about the testing program and an overall summary of performance.

The students' level of performance (1, 2, 3, or 4) and a bar graph showing the scale score are at the bottom of the page. A 1 or a 2 indicates that the student has not yet met the benchmark standard for this grade and subject area. In those cases, schools are required to provide extra help to students in the form of Academic Intervention Services. A 3 or a 4 indicates that the student met or exceeded benchmark standards. The scale score cut off point for a 3 is 650. The bar graph at the bottom shows

where the student's scale score fell: a scale score above 650 equals a score of 3 or 4; a scale score below 650 equals a score of 1 or 2.

The second page of the NYStart parent report delivers more specific information about individual strengths and needs for improvement. Parents are encouraged to use this information in their conversations with teachers during parent conferences.

Finally, parents may find more information about the state testing program, state standards and curricula, and the ways they can help their children with homework and learning on www.NYSParents.com.

By Marilyn Capawan, Assistant Superintendent

Our first Community Forum, hosted by the Board of Education, was an excellent first step in our commitment to provide open communications between our school and community. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Special thanks to the KPTSA for providing refreshments! We look forward to meeting again during the winter, and will let everyone know the date and topic in a future Chronicle issue.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the safety of our students is a top priority. This concern extends to helping our children understand how to be safe when using the Internet. Throughout this year we will be adopting and implementing a curriculum offered by i-SAFE Inc., whose mission is to educate and empower youth to safely and responsibly be in control of their Internet experiences. I-SAFE also offers a Parent Education component that you can access online at www.isafe.org. We will keep you informed about this initiative over the next few months.

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone, and Christmas is just around the corner. As you may have heard, this year the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the first annual "Christmas in Nunda" event on December 15 and 16. Highlights include the arrival of Santa at the gazebo on Saturday at 4:30, horse drawn wagon rides and an array of goods offered by local artisans and shops. The school is proud to be a partner in this event, and we recognize the special contributions our students will make to the festivities. Thanks to teachers Mrs. Stephanie Gehrig and her work with the Key Club member volunteers and Mr. Shawn Bielicki for his efforts in coordinating activities for the special day. I hope to see you at "Christmas in Nunda" and wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday.

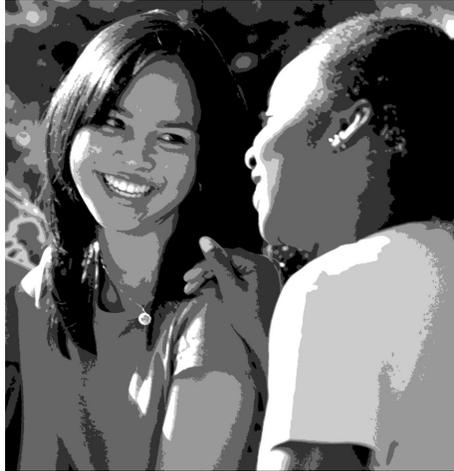
High School Seniors Working With Mentors from SUNY Geneseo

During the month of November and December eleven high school seniors will be working with SUNY Geneseo college students on their post secondary plans. This opportunity is being made available through the Americorps program and supervised by Scott Hangauer, Americorps, VISTA Program Coordinator.

Once a week the Geneseo students meet individually with a Keshequa student to work on the college exploration and college application process, developing resumes, preparing and registering for college entrance exams and reviewing the financial aid process.

The goal of the program is to give students an opportunity to work with someone who they themselves, have most recently been through the college experience. The mentor is an individual who can relate to the student helping to answer questions, alleviate fears and break the process down to a manageable task.

Students involved in the program are: Lorelei Kujat, Hope Borden, Amber Stephens, Amber Carney, Kristin Hanley, Jordan James, Dan Domagalski, Charles Provorse, Heather Pawlowski, Jessica Case and Wendy Carmen. Good luck to them and thank you to the Geneseo students for all that they are doing.



Students Visit SUNY Brockport

On October 26th twenty-two juniors had the opportunity to visit the SUNY Brockport campus and get a taste of college life.

During their time there students listened to an informational session about college admission requirements, the importance of visiting the campuses of the colleges they are applying to, and what opportunities a four-year school has to offer.

The students then toured the campus in small groups and visited the dormitories, library, athletic complex, computer lab and student union. They ended their tour at the dining hall for an all your can eat lunch.

This tour was made possible through a grant written by Mrs. Beaumont, Senior High Counselor, and paid for by the Livingston County Fund of Rochester Area Community Foundation. The Livingston County Fund supports access to educational excellence for county residents. Almost 900 individuals, families, and organizations in the six-county region around Rochester have funds at the Community Foundation and benefit from its unique combination of personalized service, local expertise, and community leadership in the upstate New York area.

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Protect Yourself and Your Family from the Flu

Genesee Valley Health Partnership Fall 2006

Influenza or the flu is a respiratory illness that can spread easily from one person to another. Most of the time influenza causes mild illness, but for certain individuals it can be much more severe. According to the Centers for Disease Control, "Every year in the United States, more than 200,00 people are hospitalized from flu complications, and about 36,000 people die from the flu." Symptoms of the flu include; fever, chills, headache, sore throat, dry cough, and body aches. Stomach symptoms such as vomiting, and diarrhea are more common among children than adults.

The best prevention against the flu is to receive the flu vaccination. Here are some additional suggestions to keep yourself, and your family safe from the flu:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and avoid going near people when you yourself are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often. Keeping your hands clean can help stop the spread of germs.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person who is contaminated touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.

By following these tips you can help protect yourself and your family from the flu. For further information or concerns, contact your health care provider or the

Livingston County Department of Health at 243-7299.



Middle School/High School News

By Doris Marsh, MS/HS Principal

The Middle School/High School students have just completed the first ten weeks on school leaving just thirty weeks before our seniors will be walking across the stage to receive their high school diplomas. The time is really going by too fast for some of us!!

Students will have received their ten-week grades by the time this article has been published. I have reviewed every student's report card and overall I am impressed with most students' grades and positive comments from their teachers. We will have several students being recognized on our honor and high honor lists to be published by the first of December. For the parents of our fine, hard-working students I would highly encourage you to follow through with words of praise and compliments as our students are working very hard to be the best that they can be.

In our music department we were pleased to recognize that three of our high school band students had been chosen to participate in the Area All-State Festival held in North Rose-Wolcott Central School on November 18, 2006. Jason Buckel, Laurie Rich, and Sarah Gray were chosen to represent Keshequa Central School. They had the honor of playing with the best students in the western county area of New York State. Kudos to three great musical representatives from the halls of Keshequa!

Our high school guidance department has been very busy scheduling parent/senior interviews for college preparations – completing transcripts, college applications, resumes, and learning about college programs. Many of the college applications are due by December 1st; therefore, we will be anxiously waiting for the results of the selection processes from the various colleges. Juniors and seniors had been meeting with college admissions representatives and recently several of our students went to the SUNY Brockport and SUNY Alfred campuses for tours. Choosing a college to attend after high school can be a very

difficult decision to make.

We presently have 11 seniors working with our SUNY mentoring program from Geneseo College. The SUNY Geneseo college students are assisting our students on how to complete the college application process in addition to sharing some of their personal college preparations in order to go to college. Many of these students are the first individuals from their families to go to college and are appreciative of the insight from the veteran college students.

Our first Fall Athletic Awards night was held on Monday, November 13. We were pleased to recognize our athletes from the fall modified, junior varsity, and varsity teams. Several athletes, fellow students, parents, siblings, coaches, and administration were in attendance to share the special recognition of teams and outstanding athletes. It was a great sports' season for all!!

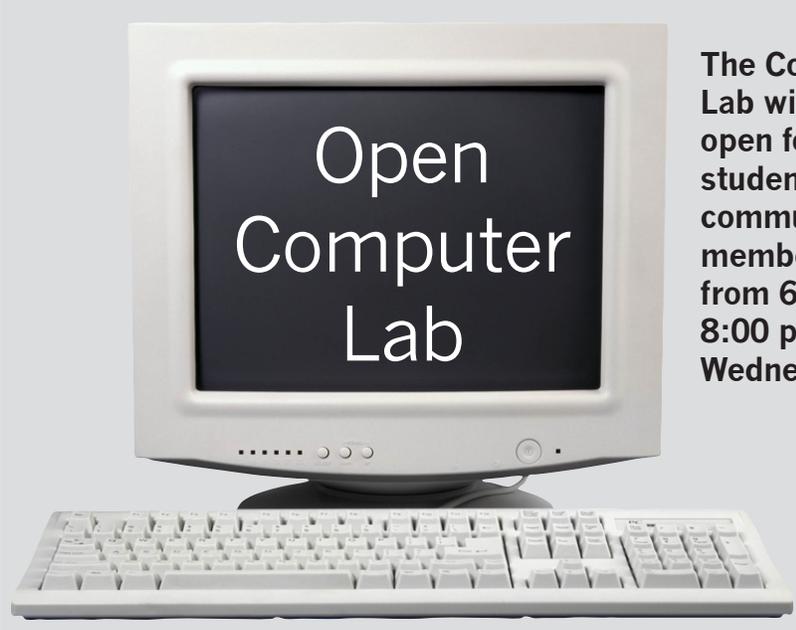
Our Middle School Student Council and Middle School students will be conducting a fund-raiser for the next two weeks – until November 27, 2006. Funds raised will go toward all Middle School activities such as dances, movie nights, and Darien Lake trip in June. Our Middle School Student Council

also sponsored a Halloween Dance on November 3, 2006. Also, our High School Student Council sponsored a dance the same night.

Up-coming events for the Middle School/High School students include the winter sports' competitions along with our Christmas concerts. Please note the change in dates for the Christmas concerts – December 12 (High School Chorus, Women's Choir, and Middle School Band) and December 20 (High School Band, Middle School Chorus, Show Choir, and KVV). Both concerts will be at 7:00 p.m. Plan arriving early for a good seat. Also, our music department has several students preparing for the Solo-Festival competitions to be held in January.

At this time I would like to say thank you to the Middle School and High School teachers, staff, students, parents, and community for your words of encouragement and guidance as I learn my role of being a Middle School /High School Principal. Your support has been much appreciated in my striving to give back to my community a small token of what you have done for my family and me over so many years.

YOU ARE THE BEST!!



The Computer Lab will be open for all students and community members from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

What is “Math Fluency”?

Math fluency is the ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide quickly and correctly. In order to accomplish that, students need to have their math facts memorized!

Students who are fluent in math will spend less time on their homework, less time on tests, and score higher when tested. Less time is spent ‘figuring out the fact’ and more time spent answering the problem.

Fast and Fun Ways to Memorize!

- Repeat the facts over and over to your child while they are trapped in your car!
- Make up silly songs together about the facts!
- Choose 5 facts a day; tape them to the refrigerator and have your child repeat them before opening the door!
- Repeat the same facts when YOU open the door and your child is within earshot!
- Play “Fact Memory” Choose 20 facts; place the fact on an index card, the answer on another. Mix pile, and lay in rows face down. The goal would be to turn over a matching fact and answer. Have your child repeat the fact and answer out loud when they get a matching set!



Strategies for Success!

The holidays bring LOTS of opportunities for working with estimation!

- Estimate how much money the turkey will cost for your holiday meal (22 lb turkey @ \$.79 lb... about how much will it be?)
- Practice doubling and tripling favorite family recipes.
- Use the grocery ads to estimate the total food bill.
- Cooking is ALWAYS a great time to talk about fractions!
- Problem Solve: “We have 26 guests coming for dinner. I have 60 dinner rolls. Will everyone get to have 2? Will there be any left?”
- If traveling, estimate the amount of time it will take to arrive.
- Practice those facts as a family while you are all in the car together!

Science

Due to changes in the Science Core Curricula the Middle and High School Science Department has been incorporating inquiry and experimental design into many of their activities. These activities challenge the students to not only understand a concept but they must be able to design an experiment, collect data and analyze the results. These activities help students make connections to past, present and future science discoveries.

Currently some Living Environment students are designing experiments to show the affect of factors on enzyme activity and the affect of factors on population growth of duckweed. Seventh graders are designing “paper pets” to determine the affect of genetic shuffling on physical traits, and Earth Science students just finished a walk through of the solar system that helps them to visualize the size of the solar system and its planets.

As part of Mrs. Coffey’s unit on weather and technology students made tornadoes in a bottle and then were asked to create a project of their choice. The students did a wonderful job presenting their barometers, wind vanes, clouds, hurricanes, tsunamis and much more. Sarah Link, Mariah Barranco, Max Borgus, Connor Lucas, Jessica Morgan-Strauss, Jessica Steidle, Blaithe Donovan, Caitlin Gregg, Austin Rudgers, Jordan Mock, Josh Willey, and Haley McLean all received special awards for their hard work and exceptional projects.

The Science Club hosted a Livingston County competition to have the most students pledge to recycle and use recycled products. Keshequa was recognized by the GLOW region’s Solid Waste Management Committee as the school with the most pledges and as a result earned an ice cream party funded by Perry’s Ice Cream.

The Science Club is collecting used computer ink cartridges and cell phones to recycle. If you would like to help the Science club you can donate your cartridges and phones by dropping them off in Mrs. Coffey’s room #1162.



KCS Fall Athletic Awards

Varsity Boys' Soccer Team

Coach: Ron Macomber

Seniors

Dan Domagalski
Steven Emke
Ray Halter
Chris Hendershot
Josh Houghtaling
Mark Nesbitt
Ian Phillips
Tyler Snyder
Matt Whiteman

Record: 17-2-1

LCAA Division III Champions

Livingston County All-Star Team

Jacob Dale, Travis Flint, Josh Houghtaling,
Mark Nesbitt,
Brandon Schrier, Matt Whiteman

Livingston County Exceptional Senior

Josh Houghtaling, Matt Whiteman

Section V Exceptional Senior Team

Mark Nesbitt

Section V Class 'C' All Tournament Team

John Johnson, Mark Nesbitt

Cross Country Team

Coach: Bob Hambridge

Seniors

Scott Gray
Matt Preen
Nate Preen
Charles Proverse
Joe Waddle

Record: 4-17

Varsity Girls' Soccer Team

Coach: Craig Veley

Seniors

Janeen Bennett
Casey Chatley
Sarah Morris
Kelsey Wagar
Record: 8-10

Livingston County All-Star Team

Anna Mucha, Marissa Underwood

Livingston County Exceptional Seniors

Casey Chatley, Kelsey Wagar

Birdseye Foods LCAA Player Of The Week

Lauren Morris

Varsity Volleyball Team

Coach: Martha Blair

Seniors

Crystal Harrington
Record: 9-11

Livingston County All-Star Team

Angelica Schmitter

Livingston County Honorable Mention

Emily Gibson

Livingston County Exceptional Seniors

Crystal Harrington

The Importance of Sports from <http://searcherhc.org>

Most high schools have at least four sports they offer to their students. High school sports have been a vital part of the high school curriculum for many years. For years school districts have realized the importance of sports.

The truth is that high school sports are more than just fun. They are great tools to help students learn about life. They can teach students many things like teamwork, cooperation, and leadership. They can take these things into their everyday lives as well. When they build confidence on the sporting field, they are also building confidence in the world. They will be able to work well with others in all other areas of life as well.

High school sports are also the perfect way to keep teens away from drugs and other dangerous behaviors. Coaches are great role models that can often encourage players to be well behaved. Many schools expect a certain GPA from their athletes. If a student athlete's grades fall below a certain point, they cannot play. Students who love sports will do anything to play, including study more. They will also be less likely to try drugs or break the law in any other manner. So, allow your children to participate in school sports. Get involved and make friends with the parents of the other students as well. The whole family can have a great time and learn about sports together.

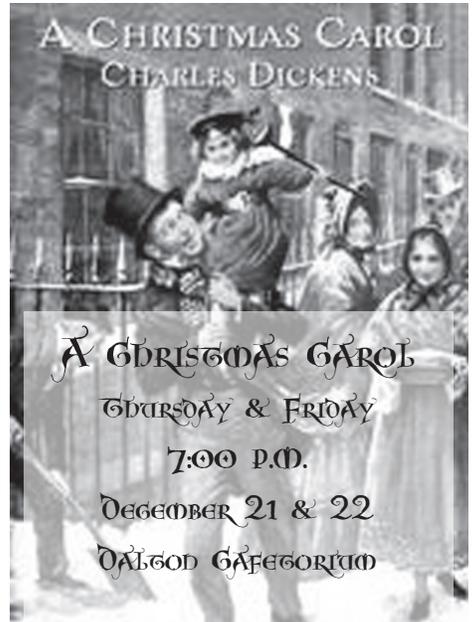
Congratulations to Three All-State Musicians!



instruments. All-State ensembles are chosen from the very best high school students in the surrounding eight county area. These students truly are the best of the best, and Mr. Hoffman is extremely proud that they will be representing the Keshequa Band Program at All-State this year.

Mr. Hoffman is proud to announce that three of his high school band students were chosen to participate in the 2006 Area All-State Festival. Jason Buckel, Laurie Rich, and Sarah Gray were chosen based on their NYSSMA Solo Festival ratings. These three students have worked so hard to become extremely proficient on their

Drama Club



The Drama Club will be presenting their Middle School play "A Christmas Carol" on Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dalton Cafeterium. Ticket price is \$4 and can be bought from any Drama Club member or at the door. Join us in celebrating the holidays with this wonderful classic.

Refreshments will be available.

Auditions for "Midsummer's Night Dream" will be held December 12 and 13 during 9th period in the Middle/High School Auditorium.

Keshequa Central School

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December 2006

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