

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

EXCEL Capital Project

by Marilyn Capawan, Assistant Superintendent

This month's Chronicle features important information about our district's proposed EXCEL Capital project. As you may recall from previous articles, EXCEL aid funding gives New York school districts a unique opportunity to make necessary capital improvements in the areas of health and safety, accessibility, physical capacity, educational technology, and energy. The Keshequa Board of Education has approved a resolution to present a capital project proposal to our voters on March 20, 2007. The voting will take place in the Nunda Building from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Our share of EXCEL aid is approximately \$677,000. Combined with our current building aid ratio of 98%, EXCEL enables us to undertake a \$9,030,000 project. The proposed scope of the project has been carefully planned to maximize our resources while maintaining our commitment to providing a healthy, safe, and high quality school environment. As a result, there is no anticipated impact on our tax levy associated with this project.

Voting – EXCEL Capital Project

Tuesday, March 20, 2007, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Nunda Building District Office Lobby

An overview of the proposed scope is included in this newsletter. The work planned addresses needs identified in our Building Condition Survey, along with input from community members over the past year. The aid package is an opportunity for us to maintain the structural integrity of our buildings, offer more accessibility to both our students and the public, and increase efficiency leading to anticipated savings in our energy costs. In addition, maintenance expenses, such as roof replacement, could be removed from future general budgets providing the opportunity to reallocate funds to our instructional program.

The project budget allows for the hiring of a Construction Manager/Clerk-of-the-Works to oversee the construction phase from start to finish. This is a critical part of the project and is necessary to ensure quality workmanship.

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.

EXCEL Capital Project Components

Listed below are some of the major components of the proposed project. The exact amount of work to be completed will not be identified until the project is bid and firm costs are known. At that time, we will communicate to you a more specific scope of the project.

Dalton Elementary School

- ➔ Increase handicap accessibility at entrance and in identified bathrooms and locker rooms
- ➔ Roof replacements in the 1969 and 1988 additions and in the gym
- ➔ Kitchen renovations for accessibility, energy efficiency and health and safety needs
- ➔ New parent drop-off area
- ➔ Replace single glazed windows in the 1937 wing to increase energy efficiency
- ➔ Replace corridor doors in the the 1937 section and 1969 addition with fire-rated doors

Middle and High Schools

- ➔ Increase handicap accessibility in locker rooms
- ➔ Replace auditorium seating, including adding handicap seating areas
- ➔ Replace corridor doors in 1938, 1955, and 1969 sections with fire rated doors
- ➔ New exterior window system for increased energy efficiency
- ➔ Replace cracked and missing wall tiles
- ➔ Replace leaking and poorly insulated roof

District Wide

- ➔ HVAC efficiency upgrades: replacing worn out motors, fans, and drives
- ➔ Masonry, foundation and wall repairs needed to maintain the structural integrity of our buildings
- ➔ Improvements to ventilation systems in identified rooms in both buildings
- ➔ Install new security systems: access control, intrusion detection and surveillance systems to increase safety
- ➔ Upgrade technology infrastructure
- ➔ Network electronics upgrades
- ➔ Telephone system upgrades

Pre-Licensing Class

Mt. Morris Info

This course is a prerequisite for NYS road test.

Required: Learner's Permit.

Registration: \$25

Students will receive MV278 Certificate

Dates

• Monday, April 17, 2007

• Monday, May 8, 2007

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: C. G. May Center, Mt. Morris

Call 585-658-7821 to register

Batavia Info

Dates

• Monday, April 23, 2007

• Monday, May 21, 2007

• Monday, June 18, 2007

Time: 3:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Location: Genesee Valley CTE Center

Middle School Students Get Published



Three Keshequa Central Middle School students have had their essay accepted by Creative Communication to be published in a hardcover anthology entitled *What is Important to Me*. The three students are Arielle Bielicki for her essay *Why Education is Important*, Kathryn Faulkner for *The Message Left by Anne Frank*, and Christian Garwood for *Bravery*. The essays were written as an enrichment activity in Mr. Bielicki's computer middle school computer enrichment class.

Five Middle Schoolers have been chosen to have their poems published in a hardcover poetry book by Creative Communication. Students were selected by company judges in the nationwide contest. They are: Arielle Bielicki for *Protect the Manatees*, Raymond Force for *Colors*, Michaela Hillier for *By the Window Sill*, Nathaniel Powers for *Snowman*, and Olivia Morris-Quackenbush for *My Colors*. Congratulations on a job well-done!

These books will go to print this Spring.

Excel Aid Capital Project Vote to be Held on March 20, 2007

Q *What is EXCEL AID?*

A EXCEL Aid (Expanding our Children's Education and Learning) was approved by the state last spring and provides \$1.8 billion for New York City and \$800 million for other schools throughout the state to fund specified types of school construction projects. Keshequa's allocation of this aid package is \$677,829. EXCEL aid can be used to help pay the local share of the project. Our proposed project is \$9,030,000, and our building aid ratio is 98%.

Q *How will this project impact our local property taxes?*

A With the proposed plan, we anticipate that there will be no increase in local property taxes due to this project. Based on the approved legislation, the EXCEL aid can be used to pay for the local share of the project. The "local share" is the amount of a capital project after state building aid that district residents would normally pay.

Q *If there is no impact on local property taxes, why must residents vote on the project?*

A State regulations require that capital projects be approved by the voters of the district. Therefore, approval by the voters is required for the district to undertake this project.

Q *What kind of work can be done in this project with the EXCEL Aid funding?*

A The state regulations are quite specific, allowing only certain types of work to be done with these funds. There are five categories of work that qualify: Educational Technology, Health and Safety, Accessibility, Physical Capacity Expansion and Energy.

Q *How did the district determine what specific items to include in this proposed project?*

A In compliance with state requirements, in 2005 the district completed its Building Condition Survey.



This report consisted of an inspection and evaluation of district facilities by a certified engineering and architectural firm. The survey indicated that items including roofing, windows and doors, ventilation and accessibility issues needed to be addressed. We began gathering community input in late 2005 and prioritized the needs of our facilities. We have also been careful to plan a scope of work that would maximize our financial resources by focusing on items that are aidable. In addition, Thomas Group, the architects for the proposed project, have been in contact with the New York State Education Department officials in Albany to ensure that the proposed work meets the state's regulations to qualify for EXCEL Aid.

Q *Why wouldn't the district include any capital improvements to its athletic fields and Bus Garage?*

A Under the provisions of EXCEL Aid, those items do not qualify. Some districts may choose to do work on these areas, but this would cause an increase in their local tax levy or the use of funds in a local capital reserve.

Q *If the project is approved by the voters, when would the work begin?*

A If approved by the voters on March 20th, we would have contracts signed by June 2008, and work could begin that summer.

Q *I have more questions! Where can I find answers?*

A Please feel free to call 468-2541 and speak with Interim Superintendent Ed Stores (ext. 1102), Assistant Superintendent Marilyn Capawan (ext. 1106), and Business Administrator Dominic Aloisio (ext.1115).

Middle/High School News

by Doris Marsh, Middle/High School Principal

March is bursting with school activity. The busy winter sports schedule has finished, with plans being made to celebrate at the Winter Sport's Banquet on Monday, March 19. Supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the awards ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. Athletes and their families are all welcome to share in the recognition of our fine athletes.

Our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are preparing for the New York State Math tests March 12-16. Please help students to prepare for the tests by reviewing, encouraging them to do homework, stay for review classes. On the morning of the test students should be rested, have breakfast, and have a quiet morning. **Good luck to our Middle School students!**

Our interim 25-week marking period ended March 2, 2007. Watch for report cards in the mail. The 30-week marking period ends March 30 and report cards will be mailed home April 5.

March is Music in Our Schools Month. To celebrate we will be hosting the Fredonia Chamber Singers on March 14 at 2:00 p.m. Come join our MS/HS students as they listen to some wonderful music. We will also have a community music performance on Thursday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join the group performance, please call Kim Coffey 468-2541 ext. 1140.

Lower Level PageTurners Off to a Great Start

by Joan Ellison

The Lower Level (grades 3-5) PageTurners team had their first competition on February 1 at Wayland Central School. They competed against teams from Wayland, Dansville and Cohocton. At the end of the competition, the Keshequa team was in first place!

At the competitions, students answer questions about the books they have read from the official PageTurners reading list. They have been reading all fall and writing questions to practice for the competition. They meet after school several times a month to practice and talk about the books. The team will compete again in April. At that competition they will answer questions from a new list of books.

Our students did an excellent job representing our school. Not only did they compete well, but they also displayed exemplary sportsmanship and behavior. The hardworking students are: Shannon Boehm, Tim Carlin, Cortney Clinton, Mary Colombo, Katelyn Costello, Katie Forrester, Cooper Galton, Emily Grant, Eleanor Kim, Tami Lovell, Hannah Moriarty, Selena Otero, Kathryn Piraino, Lindsay Piraino, Harlee Shoup, Skylar Simmons, Emma Snyder, Hannah Snyder, Aurora Straton, Garrett Thompson, Kirsten Willey, Kristle Willey, and Tyler Wright.

Eleven KCS Students Earn Web Design Certificates

The Web Page Design class has awarded certificates in recognition of completing HTML 4.0 at a mastery level and demonstrating proficiency in scripting code including tags, attributes, backgrounds, images, colors, hyperlinks, frames, tables, forms, image maps, style sheets, and splash pages. HTML stands for HyperText Markup Language and is a scripting language used to design websites.

The eleven awardees are Janeen Bennett, Hope Borden, Natasha Germack, Scott Gray, Eric Howard, Dean LaDelfa, Joseph Layland, Ryan Nugent, Brittany Pawlowski, Jessica Stokes, and Joshua Trim.

The class is made up of outstanding, self-motivated learners who are capable of great things. While the certificate is nice and celebrating success is great, it will never really represent the hard work and level of achievement that these students have accomplished, according to teacher Shawn Bielicki. Later in the course, students will be able to earn an additional certificate in either Microsoft FrontPage or Macromedia Dreamweaver. Students also have the option of receiving three college credits through Genesee Community College.



*Student Web Designers
Josh Trim and Hope
Borden Display their
Award Certificate*

NYSSMA Solo Fest



Thirty MS and HS vocal student will be attending the NYSSMA Solo Festival to be held March 24 at Canandaigua Central School. Students will perform a solo and sight reading for a grade. This grade will serve as a learning tool for these students but also will hopefully lead to a place in

Area All State and All State festivals. These students are to be commended for all the work they have put into learning their solos and for becoming better musicians in the process.

Students Experience National Job Shadow Day



Ryan Nugent shadows Physical Education teacher Martha Blair.

The nearly two dozen students enrolled in Mr. Bielicki's Career and Financial Management class joined thousands of other students across the country for the Tenth Annual National Job Shadow Day. Traditionally held February 2, the day provides students the opportunity to follow a professional around, or "shadow," and learn what a day on the job is really like. Students were placed in business, government, education,

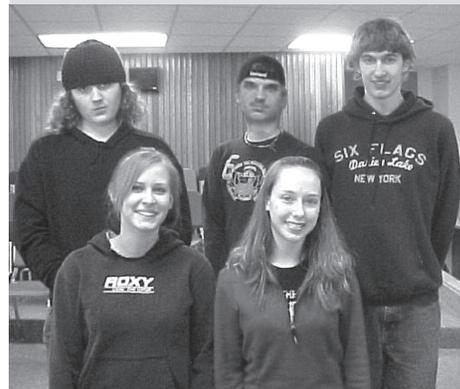
and service industries where they not only observed their mentor for a day, but also learned critical information on the entry level requirements of the career.

Students came out of the day with a better understanding about the career and a plan for success. Freshman Ross Scroger shadowed Jim Brynes at Nunda Family Pharmacy and learned that the job is a little more challenging than expected. Ross explained to the class after the experience that he learned about patient confidentiality and prescription care. Overall, he felt that the experience was positive.

Sophomore Shannen Oulton shadowed at It's All About U hair salon, but came out with a different career perspective. "The career you thought was perfect for you could change (after job shadowing)." Shannen debriefed that the experience was positive because she learned that the cosmology field may not be for her.

One of the biggest goals of job shadowing is answering the students' never-ending question of 'when am I ever going to use this?' February 2 marks the official day, but job shadowing continues throughout the school year. Interested students should see their school-to-work coordinator, Mr. Bielicki, to make arrangements.

High School All-County



The above students have been accepted into the 2007 Livingston County High School All-County Chorus to be held in Mt Morris. Pictured are: bottom row, left to right – Theresa Krenzer, Lindsay Gunn; Top row, left to right – Nate Pierce, Jason Buckel, and Scott Gray. Not Pictured: Sarah Gray. These students had to audition in January for a spot in this select chorus. Those selected had to score very high and go up against all the other music students in the county to be considered. Congratulations to these wonderful singers!

On-line Driver's Test Offered at Keshequa High School

Every student can't wait to turn 16 years old so that he or she can get a permit to drive a car. Now parents, you do not have to take a day from work or time from your busy schedule to drive them to the Motor Vehicles Office to take their permit test. The permit test can be taken here at school under the direction of Mr. Baker or Mr. Bielicki with no cost to the student.

The testing process is called the Online Knowledge Test Application and it is Internet-based. The test administrator (teacher) will need to identify the student with a birth document, enter the student's basic information on the computer, set the program up for the students to take the test, monitor the student while he or she takes the test, and then print a receipt as proof that the student took the test. The student will then take the receipt to the DMV office if he or she passed the test.

The scoring of the test will be done automatically and results displayed on the screen for the student. There is no manual test scoring for the local administrator. If the student does not pass the test, he or she will have to take the test again at no charge.

If a student is interested in taking the test here at school, he or she needs to contact Mr. Baker or Mr. Bielicki to set up a time after school to take the test.

Safe driving everyone!!



Business Students Receive History Lesson



For a little more than a century, people have flocked to cinemas built exclusively for movies. Original films contained no sound effects, but an organist would accompany the film to enhance the entertainment. As movies caught on, technology provided new opportunities and also provided the ability to project sound. Movies quickly became a hit and became something to talk about around the water cooler. Of course, back then cinemas usually housed a single screen, but the theatre itself was ornate and well-done. A balcony provided additional seating, and in some cases, seating for certain people. These are some history lessons which business students at KCS took in at a field trip to the Dansville Star Theatre, a historical and renovated single screen cinema.

At their peak, single screen cinemas numbered in the tens of thousands, but today only a few hundred remain. Teacher Mr.

Riggi posed the question of how a single screen cinema can compete in today's era with mega-complexes and IMAX experiences to his class. Students discovered the answer with the help of the Star owner Chuck Schmidt. The class learned a number of reasons they are competitive including: ticket pricing is cheaper, snacks are more reasonable, old-time ambiance, location, and being a family business. While the Star Theatre may be small on number of screens, they are big on making guests feel special.

During the trip, students toured the facility, examined photographs of before and after the renovation, discussed running a small family business, and discovered what it took to run a cinema today. Chuck Schmidt also explained another reason movies are popular – dating. Movies provide an excellent location for a date. You can meet your date there, the movie provides a couple of hours of entertainment so you won't have to fill dead silent space, and then after the show, you will have something in common to talk about. Some older students agreed. Schmidt closed with

some career advice, "Choose a lifestyle first and then choose a career that matches well to it."

The field trip was arranged by school-to-work coordinator Shawn Bielicki in an effort to demonstrate how a small family business can fill a niche and compete with bigger ones. The trip was funded by a mini-grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation through its Livingston County Student Enrichment Fund. Bielicki who applied for the grant on behalf of the class stated, "The program provided real enrichment to the students of Mr. Riggi's Small Business class and I am pleased that the RACF, Mr. Riggi, and Mr. Schmidt helped make a difference in these kids."

The Livingston County Fund supports educational excellence for county residents. Almost 900 individuals, families, and organizations in the six-county region 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.

KCS Central Receives Recognition

This past fall, CVS Pharmacy and The Wall Street Journal set out to transform schools and communities into more inclusive learning environments, and to support classroom teacher efforts by removing barriers and building bridges. While their mission was designed to emphasize good corporate citizenship, they also wanted to recognize outstanding educators and innovative classroom projects which boast concrete ideas on how to make their schools more inclusive.

After reading about what was taking place in Keshequa Centrals Middle School computer enrichment classroom, and interviewing the classroom teacher Shawn Bielicki, CVS announced it had a winner.

The project idea was developed by students in the enrichment class as part of a research and computer project involving other countries, entitled "International Expo". Originally planned

to only be PowerPoint presentations, the enrichment students decided to take the project further. The outcome resembles an electronic version of the World's Fair. Students will complete multimedia presentations about different countries and burn them to a CD. They will also create presentation boards about the country, similar to those used in a science fair. The project will be cross-curricular in nature and with the help of the Home and Careers teacher Gwen Gottschall, students will re-create authentic looking costumes from that country and then prepare some ethnic foods or local specialties. Later this spring, students will host the Expo for parents and community members.

This activity promises to teach students the importance of diversity, inclusion, teamwork, lifelong learning, cultures, and civic engagement. Teacher Shawn Bielicki stated, "Inclusion implies accepting differences. Getting to the

point of accepting differences and making room for someone new is not an easy task. It requires knowledge, tolerance, teamwork, collaboration, flexibility, and the ability to manage risks. This project hopefully is the first step towards that. If you can learn about other countries and cultures, you may have one foot in the door and be ready to take the next step. This will be important to this upcoming generation, especially as our country continues to grow into a melting pot."

This project was chosen on a competitive basis amongst thousands of proposals. Keshequa Central was one of only five schools across the entire United States to receive this prestigious award. In addition to the recognition, CVS has generously donated a grant in the amount of \$1000 to continue the project and help make it more widespread. Bielicki closed, "It is great to be recognized for making a difference with kids, because it is what the teachers and administrators at KCS do everyday."

2007 Skills Competition Winners

The following Keshequa Central School students were winners in this year's Genesee Valley BOCES Skills Competition.

Greig Kershner.....	Animal Science	1 st Place Team
Jon Tomczak.....	Animal Science	1 st Place Team
Tom Rook	Conservation.....	1 st Place Team
Andy Hatfield.....	Conservation.....	1 st Place Team
Tyler Snyder	Conservation.....	2 nd Place Team
Meghan Lowell	Cosmetology	1 st Place
Steve Emke	Criminal Justice	1 st Place
Duane Still	Criminal Justice	1 st Place
Roger Cobin.....	Culinary Arts	2 nd Place
Casey Jeffords	Health Dimensions.....	2 nd Place

New York State Foreign Language Tests

All eighth grade students taking Spanish or French must take the New York State Proficiency exam which will be given on Monday, June 18, 2007 in the morning. Your child must be present for this exam. A passing score on this test will give your child his/her high school foreign language credit which is a requirement for graduation in New York State. This is the only date and time this exam is given for this school year. Before the June 18 test date, your child will be required to complete the speaking portion of the test. This portion of the test is normally done after school during the ninth period.

Students in Spanish III or French III will take the Regents on Friday, June 15, 2007 in the afternoon. This is the only date and time this exam is given for this school year. Before the June 18 test date, your child will be required to complete the speaking portion of the test. This portion of the test is normally done after school during the ninth period.

If you have any questions regarding these tests, please contact your child's teacher.

★ ★ VOTING ★ ★

EXCEL CAPITAL PROJECT

Tuesday, March 20, 2007
7:00 am to 9:00 pm
In The Nunda Building
District Office Lobby

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

You Must Be:

- 18 years of age
- US citizen
- Resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the vote

ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

Absentee ballots will be available in the District Clerk's Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Applications for absentee ballots must be submitted to the District Clerk by March 13, 2007

If you have any questions, contact
Tammy Clark, District Clerk at 468-2541 ext. 1105

Reminder to High School Students

Summer Driver Education

If you are interested in taking summer driver education, you must see Mrs. Starr-Seifreid – MS/HS Main Office to obtain paperwork and sign up for the driver education class by April 2, 2007. Class size is limited.



*You are Cordially Invited to an
Extraordinary Concert Featuring the*

Varsity/Community Chorus

With special appearances by:

*Mass Transit
Jack Morgan
Frank Simone
Kevin Hoffman
Danielle Connor
Cheyl Sanford
and much more!*

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.
Nunda MS/HS Auditorium

Join us for an evening of great (free) music!

*March is Music in our
Schools Month*

Keshequa Central School

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

March 2007

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