

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 by Edward Stores

Now that the Excel Project has been approved by the voters, we are busy developing a General Fund budget for the 2007-2008 school year. Our goal since this past December has been to put together a spending plan that helps to ensure a quality educational program at a price that our taxpayers can afford. We will know whether or not we have been successful in that endeavor at the end of the day on May 15, 2007.

There are several factors that go into the development of a budget. Curricular needs drive staffing needs as do state and federal mandates. For example, a few years ago the State Education Department mandated Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and that sent school districts scrambling to figure out who would provide those services when most staff were already teaching maximum loads. The answer in some districts was to cut back programs to free up existing staff to provide the service. In other districts, staff members were added to provide the service. Special education mandates have brought about new certifications and that has increased staffing requirements. These are but a few of the considerations that drive any expenditure plan.

We have been fortunate over the past few years to have a timely State budget. In a district like ours, state aid plays a major role in trying to figure out what kind of a program we can have. We are generally only assured of what that looks like when our lawmakers adopt a budget by their mandated date of April 1st. When budget deliberations get hung up in Albany, we are forced to go to you the voters with an expenditure plan anyway. At that point we can only give you our best estimate of what aid will be and what your taxes may look like. You then are forced to make a decision on whether or not you believe that what we put forth is in the best interest of our students' educational program. How do you do that? One way is to do the best you can to inform yourself on what it is we are spending your dollars on. You can attend public hearings on the plan. There are workshops where one can hear the deliberations on what is in our budget. Many of you know Board members and administrators who would be happy to answer questions for you. If any group would like to hear about the budget, you have only to ask and we will respond. Please take advantage of these opportunities so that you can make an informed decision in May.

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 Moves Forward

by Marilyn Capawan, Assistant Superintendent

On March 20th District voters approved our proposition on the EXCEL aid Capital Project. Thank you for supporting our school by taking advantage of this opportunity to maintain and upgrade our facilities. A safe and healthy learning environment is a critical factor in our students' achievement, and it is clear that our community is committed to our children's success.

Since the initial planning stages of this project in 2005, up to the vote itself, the community has been a valued and involved partner with the school. As we begin this work, one of our goals is that this collaboration will continue and strengthen. Over the last few months, district residents have expressed concern over two main issues connected with the last building project: the quality of construction management and communication with the public. We acknowledge and respect your comments, and have made plans to avoid those problems in this project.

In late March, we began to interview qualified candidates to serve as the Construction Manager for the EXCEL project. As we have mentioned earlier, there are funds budgeted for this crucial position. When the project gets underway, the Superintendent, Business Administrator, Supervisor of Building and Grounds, and the Construction Manager will meet at least weekly to review and monitor the progress of work. Our goal is to ensure high quality work completed in a timely manner in a cost-efficient way, and the Construction Manager will help us meet that objective.

The second concern voiced by voters was the need to be kept informed about both the status of the work and any changes that may need to be made to the proposed scope. Throughout the project we will provide monthly articles and updates in the Chronicle, post information on the District website, provide progress reports at Board of Education meetings, and host Community Forums to provide opportunities for two way communication. And, as always, you are invited to call or email me with questions.

The 2007 EXCEL Capital Project, like any other, will present challenges. As a school community, we can work cooperatively to meet those, and together reap the rewards for our children. Again, thank you for your support.

Dates to Remember...

April

- 3..... Elementary Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 4-5..... Parent Conferences; K-5 Dismissal at 11:30; 6-8 Dismissal at 11:50
- 6-13..... Easter Break
- 19..... Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 24..... Kindergarten Parent Information Night
- 25..... K-12 Staff Development Day;
K-5 Dismissal at 12:30; 6-12 Dismissal at 12:50
- 26 & 27 New York State Science Test for Grade 8

NYS Foreign Language Tests

All eighth grade students taking Spanish or French must take the New York State Proficiency Exam given on Monday morning, June 18. 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, normally done after school during ninth period.

Students in Spanish III or French III will take the Regents on Friday afternoon, June 15. 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, normally done after school during ninth period.

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



On March 24th Corey Gillen became Keshequa's first National Wrestling Champion. He won the Brute Empire National wrestling tournament held at RIT. This tournament had wrestlers from all over the East Coast. Congratulations Corey!

New Reading Software Programs

by Christine Antalek, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

The Reading First grant at Dalton Elementary has allowed the district to purchase new classroom computers for students in grades K-3. We now have the opportunity to review the vast quantities of software available to help children learn to read. Last year, through the Reading First grant, we purchased the Lexia Phonics program from Houghton-Mifflin, which has a K-2 component largely focused on mastering letters and sounds, and grades 3-6 component, which focuses on reading words fluently, using vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

This year we were able to expand our programs for literacy within the classroom, as well as meet more intense reading needs by purchasing new technology. The first software program we purchased is called *Destination Reading*, and is being used as a supplement to our reading series. Students are able to interact with the program through headphones and keyboards. Young readers learn “letter names and sounds through song, rhyme and manipulative activities,” according to the Florida Center for Reading Research. Then they learn to blend sounds into words and begin reading decodable text. After that, students are offered support as they build fluency. The Florida Center states that students can “choose to have specific words read or entire pages, or, at the teacher’s discretion, read-alone text can be prescribed for a student, which offers no auditory support from the computer...vocabulary activities accompany each reading passage.” Each lesson is about 20 minutes long, so many teachers are using the program as part of a literacy center, where small groups of students work independently during a portion of the reading instructional block. Jeni DeMarco, our District Reading Coach, reports that, “Kids love it!” Teachers and assistants received additional training in the program during Superintendent’s Conference Day in March.

Another literacy center program we have purchased is the *LeapFrog Literacy Center Program*. This program also supplements and reinforces our core reading series. Designed specifically for readers who are at the earliest stages of reading, this program contains both software and interactive manipulatives, like a “LeapMat” to provide students the opportunities for using sight, touch and sound to teach letter names and sounds. The program’s “Workstation” is an interactive device, which explicitly instructs

children to recognize letters, phonics and short words.

Each program allows teachers to track students’ progress, and therefore, monitor and assess growth. Teachers are then able to make decisions regarding assignments, pacing, and links to core lesson programs. These technology programs are just two of the methods we are using to increase reading capacity in grades K-5. To learn more about the Reading First program, please contact Dalton Elementary School at 476-2234.

Preparing For Next Year

The counseling office has been working with students in grades 8 – 11 selecting courses for next year. High school students are reviewing their transcripts and 11th graders are preparing for college, registering for SAT and ACT exams, and beginning to think about college visits and the application process.

If you’d like to meet with your child’s counselor, please call Annette Prince at 468-2541 ext. 2008 for grade 8 and Deb Beaumont at ext. 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 in Foreign Lang.

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.

Or 5 credits in an occupational, technical or art sequence

1 credit in the Fine Arts
4.5 credits in Electives

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 2007-08 schedules before the end of this school year. All routine schedule changes need to be made before **August 15** prior to the beginning of school. Schedule changes after August 15 must be made under the following conditions: 1) An error or omission was made in scheduling regarding a mandatory course; 2) School committee recommendation i.e. CSE; 3) Summer school failure; 4) To replace a study hall; 5) School to Work request; 6) Administrative request.

Middle School/High School News

by Doris Marsh, Middle/High School Principal

At this writing students are anxiously awaiting spring vacation. Hopefully, the weather will be such that they will be able to get outside and enjoy the fresh spring air.

In the past few weeks our staff and students have been extremely busy preparing for tests and making plans for schedules for next school year. Our Middle/High School Guidance Department held an informational meeting with eighth grade students and parents to learn about high school requirements for graduation. Appointments were set up with Ms. Prince to create individual schedules for next year and a four year plan for high school completion. Students need to have at least 23 high school credits in order to graduate from high school.

High school students have been meeting with Mrs. Beaumont to review their high school transcripts and create a high school schedule for next year. Seniors have been busy completing their FAFSA forms for college and applying for as many scholarship opportunities as possible. Senior students and parents will be receiving a list of some of the scholarship opportunities from local businesses and private individuals to be awarded at the Senior Banquet in June. Seniors are reminded to check at the Guidance Office for scholarship applications and opportunities.

Middle School students were part of the New York State Math Testing (Grades 6-8) during the week of March 12. Student test results should be available by late spring. The first part of the New York State Science Test for grade 8 (hands-on section) will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 26 and April 27, completing Part 2 on Tuesday, May 10. Parent-teacher spring conferences are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 4 and 5 for Middle School students. Teachers will be scheduling conferences with parents beginning at noon on both days. These conferences will focus on students who may need additional guidance and direction to meet the requirements to be promoted to the next grade. Middle School students will be dismissed at 11:50 a.m. on both days.

On March 16, some of our grade 8 students had the opportunity to attend the annual Health Career Day at York Central School sponsored by the BEA (Business Education Alliance). Students learned about numerous health fields such as nursing, dentistry, radiology, and other medical professions.

On March 19 we held the Winter Sports Award ceremony. Grades 7-12 athletes that participated in wrestling, cheerleading, and basketball were recognized. Presently, students are preparing for spring sports (softball, baseball, and track) events. Please contact Mr. Veley if you need a copy of the spring sports' competitions.

March was Music in our School Month. We hosted a music assembly with the Fredonia Chamber Singers performing. Also, our Music Department organized a Community Concert Night on March 29.

The thirty-week marking period ended March 30. Report cards will be mailed home on Thursday, April 5.

Students will be on spring break from April 6 to April 13. Enjoy the spring weather and be ready to finish the school year with flying colors.

I Don't Feel Good



It's that time of year when all the illnesses are going around school. Please keep your child home and have them seen by a physician if they present with any of the following.

Influenza (Flu)

- Fever of 100°, which can reach 106° when symptoms first develop.
- Chills
- Body aches and muscle pain
- Headache
- Pain with eye movement
- Fatigue, a general feeling of sickness, and loss of appetite
- A dry cough, runny nose, and dry sore throat

Strep Throat

- Severe and sudden sore throat without sneezing
- Pain or difficulty swallowing
- Fever over 100°
- Swollen Lymph nodes in neck
- Bright red throat or dark red spots on the roof of the mouth at the back near throat

Mononucleosis (Mono)

- Fever from 101° to 104°
- Sore throat often with white patches on tonsils
- Swollen Lymph nodes all over the body, especially neck
- Swollen tonsils
- Headache or body aches
- Lack of energy/tired/ fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Pain in the upper left part of abdomen

Physical Education News

The High School Physical Education students kicked off the school year with a unit never previously attempted here. Through a grant, we were able to purchase six kayaks, paddles and vests, and introduced kayaking to our students. They were oriented on kayak safety, turning, getting in and out of the boat properly, and types of kayaks available. The students then had the option of taking a 30 minute trip down the Keshequa Creek to put their skills to the test. As you might recall, the fall was a rather wet one, and when we put a beginner kayaker into the mix it sometimes became even wetter. We had a great time, and look forward to future excursions.

In November the students took to the lanes for some bowling. This is a great lifetime sport, and we are fortunate to have Letchworth Pines nearby as a resource. Although nobody scored a 300, most experienced the thrill of a strike.

The winter months kept us inside with volleyball, pickleball, and badminton, as we anxiously await our orienteering trip to Mendon Ponds Park. The students will get a map, compass and a few friends to help them navigate a course through the Park. The afternoon will be complete with a cookout at the lodge.



Winter Athletes

On March 19, athletes were recognized at the Winter Athletic Awards Ceremony. Parents, athletes and coaches heard a summary of the season and athletes were recognized at the modified, junior varsity and varsity level. Following is a list of special awards that were presented to the varsity teams.

Boys Basketball

Eric Howard – Coaches Award
Ryan Nugent – Most Valuable Player

Cheerleading

Jessica Stokes – Coaches Award
Brittany Willey – Most Valuable Cheerleader

Girls Basketball

Rachel Kanouse – Most Valuable Player
Marissa Underwood – Most Valuable Player

Skiing

Melanie Klug – Coaches Award
Terry Mann – Coaches Award

Wrestling

Korey Gillen – Coaches Award
Jake Dale – Most Valuable Player

The Girls Basketball Team was also selected as the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar Athlete team for having the minimum number of athletes having a combined GPA over 90%.



Keshequa 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's 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."

Tips For Setting Clear Rules and Consequences

Involve your children in creating rules, expectations and boundaries. Ask them what they think are fair rules and consequences for breaking those rules.



Set the rules and the consequences at the same time. This way there is no surprises or misunderstandings if a rule is broken.

ALWAYS follow through on the consequences that you have set. Parents and caregivers must always be consistent every time a rule is broken and must be consistent with every child.

Know where your kids are at all times. Let them know The expectations that you have for them and ask them what their expectations are for themselves.

Be a role model for your children and encourage other adults to be good role models.

For more information: http://www.theantidrug.com/advice/advice_enforcing_rules.asp.

Busy Bee Student Refinishes Main Office Table

Article by Nick Shute, Busy Bee Student

This table is made of American Walnut. It is about seventy years old. The table was in pretty bad condition and I took the time out of my day to strip and sand it down to get all the scratches, cuts, and marks off this beautiful table.

It took me about 4 1/2 weeks to strip, sand, and refinish this table. It was well worth the time as you always appreciate it when it is done. When you can say "I built that," it makes you feel good to know that everybody sees it and compliments you on your work. Things like that inspire me to continue in this field of work and want to go to college.

GAME NIGHT and Talent Show



Join the fun for a night of basketball, volleyball, Ping Pong, board games, cards and an x-box tournament; followed by a Talent Show. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Backpack Program!

- Games
- Food
- Fun
- Talent Show



Brought to You by KFLO (Keshequa Family Life Opportunities); a Healthy Communities that Care Coalition and the Keshequa Parent Teacher Student Association

When: Friday April 20th from 3-7 PM , Talent show begins at 7 PM. Admission to Talent show is \$1.00.



Where: Keshequa Middle School



Odyssey of the Mind Participants Travel to LeRoy

On March 3, the Odyssey of the Mind teams traveled to LeRoy. Two teams from Dalton Elementary took on the challenge to be creative and put on a performance that made all of us proud!

Mrs. Baxter's primary group transformed into a group of explorers who discovered a time capsule filled with five unusual items. Each team member contributed to the problem by making something that would be discovered. The explorers presented an eight-minute skit where they found the time capsule, opened it, and explained each item that the capsule held. The judges were very impressed with how the team worked together and how well they projected their voices. They did a wonderful job. The group consisted of one Kindergartener, Payton Powers; three 1st graders, Jared Boss, Laney Kenyon, Koen Weaver; and three 2nd graders, Colton Davis, Christopher Ehrhardt, and Garrett Lucus.

Miss Neu's group consisting of 7 3rd, 4th and 5th graders creatively put together a skit that included a "traveler" character. This traveler had to take a trip around the world in eight minutes. Throughout the journey they ventured to Antarctica and Egypt. Their mode of transportation was an old horse named "Jet" who came equipped with a rocket saddle! The team also created an imaginary undiscovered place called, Shabalad-ingdong town, where bubbles and candy are everywhere! The judges commented that the team was very prepared and they were very pleased with their scenery, especially the Sphinx that was made out of corn, oatmeal and cereal.

Congratulations to Erin Schiano, Kirsten Willey, Connar Blair, Alexis Buchholz, Amelia Borgus, William Rich and Holli Cotton for doing an outstanding job.



Keshequa Central School

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April 2007

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