

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 Marilyn Capawan, Superintendent

February brings the end of a great deal of testing for our students as they had the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through Regents, midterms and New York State English Language Arts examinations for Grades 3 through 8. While the official results of some of these assessments will not be available until spring, teachers are able to examine much of this student work and make instructional decisions that will lead to both increased student achievement and program improvement in the future. Thanks to our students, families and staff for your diligence and effort over these last few weeks.

Our EXCEL Capital Project has now entered a new phase. All the construction documents have arrived in Albany, and are awaiting review and approval by the State Education Department. Shortly after our documents were submitted, Albany announced that the review process could take as long as 25 weeks. However, our architects have been in contact with our project manager at the Department, and he now estimates that our project review should actually be completed within the original 16 week timeline. Should there be a change we will inform you, but at this time we expect to have state approval in time to begin construction this summer as we had planned. We will have a Community Forum prior to that time to present the project as it is approved, and share what we can expect as construction gets underway.

Earlier this year, we conducted a Communications Survey to gauge the community's perception of the quality of the District's communication efforts. While we did not receive a large number of responses, the majority indicated that the Chronicle was the main source of information, and that letters from teachers were also highly valued. Overall the ratings were fair to good, and we will continue to work towards achieving excellence with our communication to you. Please remember to check our website for updates as well!

As you may know, Mrs. Doris Marsh retired in January, and while we will miss her, we all wish her the best in this new phase of her life. Mrs. Karen Mead will serve as Interim Middle/High School Principal until the end of June. We will begin the search for a Principal in March, and invite community members to be a part of that process. If you would like to participate, please call or email me and let me know of your interest. Thank you.

The Board of Education Finance Committee, our Business Administrator and I have been working on building the budget for 2008-2009. Over the next few months, we will be looking carefully at our program and identifying the essential elements of providing our students with excellence in education. This year we will focus on student need, and create a budget that both supports academic achievement and respects the taxpayer and community.

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.

From the Music Department

by Cheryl Sanford

Congratulations to the fifth and sixth-graders who have been accepted into the Elementary All-County Festival Chorus. From the sixth-grade: Kathryn Forrester, Emily Forrester, Madison Bugman, Melissa McClements and Kaitlyn Pragle. The students chosen from the fifth-grade include: Hannah Snyder, Emma Snyder, Skylar Simmons, Tessa Gordinier, and Patricia Alberti. They performed at Geneseo Central School on Saturday, January 26, 2008. Congratulations to all the chosen students.

Congratulations Brody Wood!

Brody has been nominated by Ms. Susan Coffey for inclusion in the official 2008 United States Achievement Academy National Yearbook. Brody is eligible for one of 400 educational cash grants awarded annually by the nonprofit USAA Scholarship Foundation.

Genesee Community College's Computer Director Visits KCS



James Bucki, Sr., Director of Academic Computer Technology Programs at Genesee Community College, visited Keshequa's Senior High Career and Financial Management and Web Page Design classes to discuss the spectrum of careers available within the computer technology field. The presentation, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and inspired by Bill Gates, focused on upcoming shortages of qualified help within the fields of creation, application development and implementation, management, and application user.

According to Bucki, it's a simple problem of not enough students entering college within these fields. Thus, the laws of supply and demand are boosting beginning salaries at an alarming pace. The guest speaker was arranged by school-to-work program coordinator Shawn Bielicki in an effort to help students solidify future career plans. After the visit, James Bucki commented that he was impressed with the preparedness of students coming out of Keshequa's computer classes.

Keshequa students receive three college credits for completing the Web Page Design class through the A.C.E. program.

Chess Teams Earn Medals

It was an impressive finish for KCS students who competed in the fall Genesee Valley BOCES Elementary and Middle School Chess Tournament, with teams from Albion, Dansville, Dalton, and Geneseo. At the elementary level, Dalton tied Dansville for first place with 16 points. Kirk Shrier from Dalton placed first in the advanced section. Dalton's Steven Tortorice and Morgan Ewing both won bronze medals in the intermediate group. In the beginner group, Dalton's Michael Rautter and William Elliot also earned bronze medals. Keshequa's Middle School team scored 10 points, beating out Albion for first place. Christian Garwood earned the gold medal and Tyler Piraino earned the silver medal.

The students were grouped based on experience and skill level. The elementary players were in an advanced, intermediate, beginner, or a non-scoring open section. The top four finishers in the advanced, intermediate and beginner category were awarded medals. The top finisher in the open section also received a medal.



The Financial Aid Process

The college search has ended and it is now time to wait for acceptance letters to begin rolling in. In the meantime parents and students need to begin gathering the information needed to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form required to receive financial aid for college, the web address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. By filling out the form students will then become eligible for scholarships, grants and loans from the federal and state governments and from the college(s) they have applied to.

It is important that even if a family thinks they will not be eligible for aid from the government all schools require this information to qualify students for scholarships. The information that will need to be reported will be income from the 2007 year. Parents and students will need to have completed their tax information in order to fill out the FAFSA and it should be a goal that this be completed by mid-February to the beginning of March. If accurate information cannot be available by this time the family may do an estimate and then later go back and adjust any figures that need to be changed.

Once this information is submitted each college the student has been accepted at will send what is called a **"Financial Aid Package"** this will list the scholarships, grants and loans the student qualifies for, any remaining amount needed is defined as the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).

For many of you this will be your first time through the process of applying for Financial Aid, and it can appear complicated and overwhelming. Please be assured there is help out there. If you have any questions you can refer to the website or, if you prefer a more personal touch, any college financial aid office will help you with your questions and guide you through the process.



Thank you

Karen Mead, Interim MS/HS Principal

To all Keshequa District and community members...thank you. Thank you for all the warmth and kindness extended to me in my first months with Keshequa Central School District! Throughout my first months as an Administrator, I have made every effort to interact with students, their families, faculty and staff, and I have been sincerely welcomed at every turn. I greatly appreciate the support I have received and am honored to serve the Keshequa community.

Please know that I am anxious to meet all members of the community, and my door is open. Feel free to contact me with thoughts and ideas, as well as any possible concerns, regarding the middle school/high school. I look forward to the months ahead and the many opportunities to support and acknowledge our students' many successes.

[Mrs. Karen Mead is enjoying her 17th year in education. She has previously served as a teacher of English and Special Education in Dansville, Bolivar and Olean, New York. Prior to her family's return to New York State and her position with Dansville Central School District, Mrs. Mead served as an administrator for four years with an urban charter school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She currently resides in Wayland, New York with her husband and their two sons.]

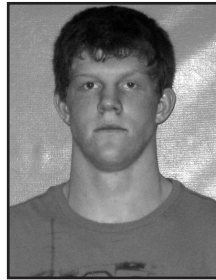
KCS Student Receives Scholarship

Senior Jacalyn Donovan was quite surprised when she received a letter from St. Bonaventure University in December. Not only did Jacalyn receive an acceptance letter to her first choice school, but she also received information about a scholarship for which she qualified. Jacalyn's good grades made her a contender for a \$14,000 annual Friar Scholarship from the University. Jacalyn waited two weeks to hear if she would be awarded the scholarship, which would help with the mounting cost of college that most students face today. In the end, Jacalyn was awarded the scholarship and plans to attend St. Bonaventure in the fall to study mathematics. She hopes to become a teacher one day. Congratulations Jacalyn!

Congratulations Subway Athletes of the Week

Jake Dale

Jake, the son of Steve and Brenda Von Dell, and James Dale, is a high honor student, a two time sectional wrestling champion, and the KCS wrestling team captain. Jake is currently 15-0 for his senior season. He was the champion of the Byron-Bergen tournament, the Batavia Christmas tournament and the Hammondsport tournament (where he was named most outstanding wrestler). Jake is also a soccer player and a catcher on the championship baseball team.



Ryan Nugent

Ryan Nugent - Senior 6'0 Avg 13.8 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 3 ast pg, and 2.6 stlpg. Ryan is shooting 68% from the line and 30% from the 3 point range. Ryan is an all-around great person and a great leader on and off the floor. He spends numerous hours helping his team and the youth program. He is a player any coach hates to lose, not only because of his athletic talent, but for what he brings to the overall program. He is an athlete you want your younger student-athletes to watch and learn from. He plays every possession as hard as he can. Ryan is also a captain. He is the son of Keith and Eileen Nugent.



Marissa Underwood

Marissa Underwood, daughter of Mike and Roxanne Underwood, was recently selected Most Valuable Player in the Francis "Pete" DiAngelo Girls Basketball Tournament. In those two games, Marissa scored 25 points, had 11 steals and 11 assists. After graduating in June, Marissa plans on attending Monroe Community College.



Learning at the Movies

Rick Riggi's Senior High Small Business class had an unusual lecture at an unusual place... The Dansville Star Theatre. Using the single screen historic theatre as a classroom, the students were introduced to owner Chuck Schmidt, who explained the joys and pitfalls of entrepreneurship and management, running a family business, working on Main Street, and playing in the entertainment business. Students also learned about competitive advantages and disadvantages, location, revenues and expenses, and marketing.

After a tour of the facility, a discussion of the renovations, and a lecture on the fundamentals of the business, students were treated to a movie and some popcorn. Riggi commented that the lesson brought the textbook to life. The field trip was arranged by school-to-work coordinator Shawn Bielicki in an effort to add relevance to classroom teaching. Before leaving, Schmidt commented that the students asked outstanding questions and that he wouldn't be surprised if some of them went into business for themselves, bringing a smile to the teacher's face.

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Busy Bees

Several Bees found themselves on the Honor Roll for the first marking period, including 100% of the third year Bees! Attendance and disciplinary reports, as expected, again show dramatic improvement among all Bees when compared to their individual non-Bee years.

We have lots of highlights to share with you. We were honored to receive the invitation from both Superintendent Capawan and Board member Lori Gray to attend and represent KCS! The Bees represented Keshequa Central School in a way that would make anyone connected to our school feel honored. They did such a nice job, and folks there were so impressed with them individually and the program as a whole that the final speaker of the night singled out the "Bees from Keshequa" as his favorite program on display. Not bad considering that there were many, many programs on exhibit that night; one from each BOCES district school. After talking to our students, several schools expressed an interest in starting a program like ours. Oakfield-Alabama's administrators were especially taken with the program.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not mention that I was a bit apprehensive about attending the program since it was held at the Mt. Morris BOCES Center. As you well know, one of our "bragging points" is that our program saves us 1000s of dollars per student per year by not having to pay the tuitions to send our students there. But not only did the top BOCES administrator welcome us with open arms, he also spent a long time talking to each of the Bees individually. He had many nice things to say about us and many words of encouragement for the boys.

“Sweet Learning”

by Carrie Malone and Lisa Burns, Livingston County BEA

Rick Riggi's Small Business Class took a tasty twist on November 27th when Lisa Burns, Livingston County Tourism and Marketing Director partnered with the Livingston County Business/Education Alliance and local chocolatier Frieda Mae Chocolates and Fine Confections in order to inform students about the business of Tourism.

As part of the BEA's Business Lunch Series program, Ms. Burns presented to the the small business class at Keshequa School about the tourism industry as a whole, but more specifically about its importance to the county and its economic structure. Tourism

is a hugely successful business and the tourism office has “kicked off” its newest initiative promoting the **buying and utilization of locally made products**. The BEA's Business Lunch Series program, which is grant funded through the Rochester Area Community Foundation, was a logical collaborating partner since their mission is to educate students about the many career possibilities within our local region. Livingston County host a bounty of opportunity for young people looking to start or become involved in the boutique business trend.

Freida Mae Chocolates located on Kidd Road in Dansville is the perfect

example of such a boutique business that has seen great success in the last year. Making fine chocolates and confections out of her own rural, farmhouse kitchen Beth Lee develops and markets a wide variety of hand made truffles including the diamond truffle and her latest indulgence developed in conjunction with the Tourism Offices Buy Local Campaign. The Livingston County Signature Truffle is a one-of-a kind peanut butter experience. The truffle is a decadent blend of Nunda's own Once Again Nut Butter (Peanut) and locally produced jellies from Turkey's on the Hill Jelly mixed with Freda Mae's own dark and crisp chocolate to create a melt in your mouth taste explosion that is second to none.

Students in Mr. Riggi's class were privileged to be the first to savor this fabulous treat when they functioned as a test market group for the product during Ms. Burns' discussion. The students were the first to see and taste test the truffle and were then asked to provide feedback rating the truffle on its overall appearance, smell, texture, taste, lingering memory and marketing concept. Students overall impression was that the truffle was the ultimate experience and a memorable concept for the county marketing initiative. The students' comments will be used to make any final adjustment before the product release.

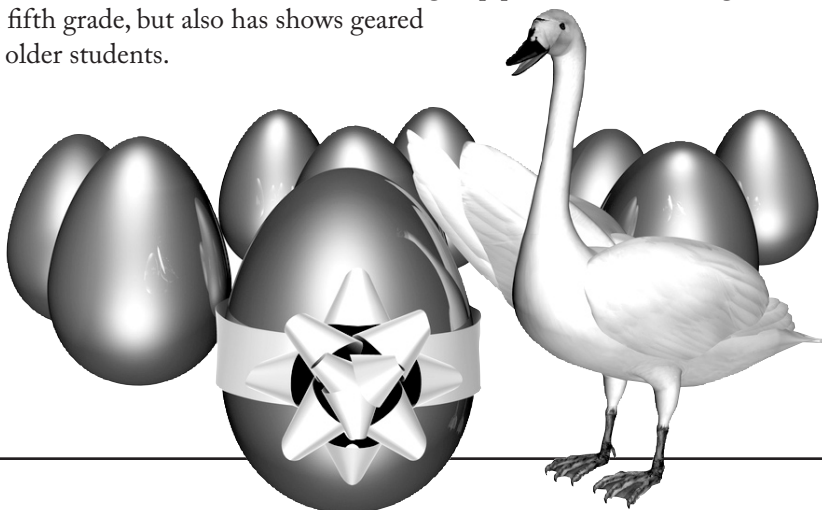
The collaboration in making this program possible provided an opportunity for “Sweet Learning” for Keshequa students that promoted **locally made products** and instilled a sense of pride in Livingston County.

If you would like more information on BEA programs, please feel free to contact BEA Director Carrie Malone at 991-5085. For information on Livingston County Tourism initiatives contact Director, Lisa Burns at 585.243.2222 and to place an order or see the Freida Mae Chocolates full product line contact Beth Lee at 585.335.9446.

Dalton Kindergarteners Find a ‘Golden Goose’

On February 4, the actors from the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre visited the kindergarteners at Dalton Elementary. During their visit, the actors took the students on an imaginary trip to the Land of the Golden Goose! The morning began with the actors meeting the students in their classrooms. The students were then led to the lunch room, where a fairy tale kingdom was set up. Students were given medallions that represented the group of characters they were to play. The students were assigned to a certain group: clowns, hunters, elders, firefighters, bakers or soldiers. During the performance, the students played an active role, with the help from the actors. The students were required to use their imagination to tell the story of the Golden Goose. By the end of the hour-long performance, the students were crowned official story apprentices and were given certificates to take home.

The Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre actors have been performing in Dalton for many years. The educational performances concentrate on incorporating classroom curriculum into the stories. The group performs for kindergarten through fifth grade, but also has shows geared towards older students.



Greetings From Dalton Elementary School!

by Mr. Mattle, Dalton Elementary Principal



I would like to take a minute to congratulate this year's Student Council officers and also thank them for the excellent job they have done so far this year. This year we have Co-Presidents, Kirsten Willey and Skylar Simmons. Our Vice Presidents is Austin Galton, our Secretary is Emma Snyder. We also have two Treasurers, Jack Mann and Dylan Feeney.

This fine group of student leaders started out the year by hosting our traditional Senior Citizen's Thanksgiving Dinner, which was a great success! They then hosted the After School Movie Show, followed by a school wide charity event called Coins For Caring. The Coins For Caring Event raised \$800, which went directly to our Nunda Community. \$500 went to the Community Christmas Fund sponsored by the Nunda Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, which supplied holiday food baskets to 78 local families. \$300 went to the Catholic Charities Rural Outreach Program, which helps provide food and emergency heating assistance to local families.

The Student Council is currently working hard in the Support Our Troops Effort by wearing red on Fridays. They organized the Dalton Elementary Spirit Week that took place January 27 through February 1. I would also like to say thanks to our Student Council Advisors for all their hard work and effort in promoting our young leaders. I look forward to the great things to come!

Internet Safety For Children

Healthy Communities that Care sponsored a talk called Internet Safety for Children and Cyber Parenting by Michael J. Kozak on January 3 in the MS/HS library. Here are a few tips to keeping your children safe while on the Internet.



1. Open lines of communication for all age groups
2. Talk to your kids and be prepared for uncomfortable topics
3. Monitor Web activities - Make it a **RULE**
4. Use Web security and Content filtering
5. Educate yourself on Web activities
6. Utilize Internet Safety Resources
7. Set Expectations for your kids

KCS Students Submit Posters in Contest



In order to promote foreign language learning, the New York State Foreign Language Teachers Association (NYSFLT) sponsors an annual Poster Contest. This year's theme was "Languages: Connecting Students to the World." There were over 75 entries to the contest from all over New York State. Three of Jackie Noble's eighth grade students, Nicholas Faulds, Kaylie Mann, and Amzi Mitchell, submitted posters for the contest and were presented with Certificates of Merit. Congratulations to all!

NHS Sponsors Clothing Drive

After the success of last year's community clothing drive, the members of National Honor Society were adamant about sponsoring another this year. For two weeks in January, community members, students, faculty and staff dropped off gently used clothing for men, women, children, and infants at the High School/Middle School main lobby. National Honor Society advisor, Carol McCarville, also volunteered to pick up clothing from donators unable to get out. After the clothing was collected, NHS members folded and sorted according to size. The two weeks ended successfully, with six tables covered with donated clothing! On January 31 and February 1, room 2091 was opened up for community distribution. The clothes that were left were donated to the local used clothing depository bin.

When is My Child Too Sick for School?

Ask yourself these questions the next time your child is sick and you think they shouldn't go to school or daycare...

- Is my child safe at school?
- Is it safe for my child's classmates?
- Will my child be able to learn at school?
- Is enough care available at school/daycare for my child?



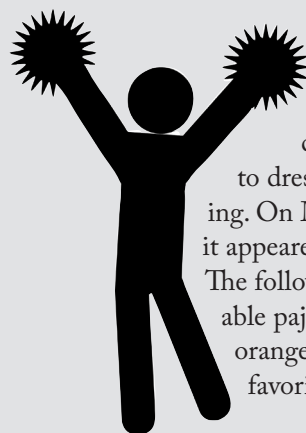
Don't send your child to school if they have...

- A fever of 100° or higher
- Untreated strep throat (once they are treated for 24 hours, they may go back)
- Diarrhea and/OR vomiting
- Just begun a serious cold
- Having a hard time breathing
- Scabies, until treatment is started
- Chicken pox lesions that are not all crusted over
- Undiagnosed skin rashes with a fever
- Severe headaches
- Significant pain of any sort
- Recent significant head injury

Do send your child to school...

- If your child has mild symptoms of a common cold, sore throat, ear infection or runny nose (yellow, green, clear - ALL OK) and does not have a fever
- Fifth's disease
- Hepatitis B
- Has been treated for head lice, ringworm, scabies

Dalton Students Show School Spirit!



During the week of January 28, the Elementary Student Council organized a Spirit Week for the Dalton Elementary students. Student Council members created posters to help motivate their fellow classmates to dress in unusual, sporty, comfortable and spirited clothing. On Monday, students came to school in wacky outfits and it appeared that everyone got dressed in the dark that morning! The following day, students could keep their favorite, comfortable pajamas on. Wednesday, everyone had to dress in black and orange to show their school spirit. Thursday was dedicated to favorite sports teams and Friday was hat day.

How to Contact Your Child's Teachers



Your input and questions regarding your child's academic progress are greatly appreciated. Regular communication between the school and a child's family help to support greater success for every child.

Your child's teacher may be contacted by email or by phone. Email addresses and phone extensions are listed on the District's website, www.keshequa.org. The automated operator can also help direct your call to an individual teacher.

Speaking with you is very important, but please note that calls may not always be directly answered. You may need to leave a voice mail. Calls received during instruction times will be allowed to go to voice mail. At these times, please leave a detailed message with your name, your child's name, a brief description of your question or concern, and when and how you may be contacted. Calls will be returned in a timely manner.

Thank you for your continued support of your child and our teachers.



Scott Gray, Kari Buchinger, and Amber Didas. Scott and Kari are the recipients of the Rotary Scholarship. Amber Didas is the recipient of the Jack Mann Memorial Award presented by Fran Mann from the Nunda Rotary Club. These 2007 graduates received the award in December at a Rotary luncheon.

Has your contact information changed?

Have you moved?

Has your phone number changed?

If so, please call your child's school office immediately with your new contact information.

Keshequa Central School

P.O. Box 517

Nunda, New York 14517-0517

February 2008

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