

Students Donate to Backpack Program



Elisha Jines challenged her ninth graders to show some holiday spirit while helping out the community. For two weeks, her social studies students brought in food donations for the Backpack Program. "I wanted to teach generosity and to promote community caring and to show students that in the hard economic times you can still help others," said Jines.

The four classes collectively donated 225 items of food. Jines' second period class donated 132 items to the program, winning themselves a pizza party and bonus points. "I brought food in so we could help the community," said student Brooke Essler.

Dalton's Backpack Program is in its third year and is run by Deb Baxter, Home/School Liaison. Elementary families in need sign up to receive a backpack. Every other week, a child is given a filled backpack to take home. The child returns the bag to school and it is filled again. "It's wonderful to see students excited about helping others in the community," said Baxter.

Food and backpacks are donated from individuals, community organizations, churches, and businesses. Last year, the program serviced 36 families in need. "With the help of food drives as well as donations from staff and community members we are able to keep this program going. Thank you!" said Baxter.

If you would like to donate a new or slightly used backpack, canned or boxed foods, or would like more information about the program contact Deb Baxter at 476-2234 ext. 2106.

District Continues to Focus on Student Success

Marilyn Capawan, Superintendent of Schools

As you read this issue, you will notice the many opportunities and experiences Keshequa provides for our students to grow and excel. Our District continues to sharpen our focus on student success and to recognize the necessity to both challenge and support our children throughout their academic careers. Keeping student need at the forefront of our planning is particularly important during our budget process, and it has become even more critical as we build our budget for 2009-2010. With Governor Paterson's Executive Budget proposal, school districts across the state are facing significant reductions in state aid. Keshequa's projected state aid for next year will be reduced by approximately \$450,000 from our 2008-2009 state aid. The task of providing a quality education to students balanced with respect for the taxpayers of our community may prove to be especially daunting this year, but the Board is committed to meeting that goal. We will examine all our expenditures, from facilities to instructional programming, to determine what we truly need to provide an excellent education for all of our students, and develop a fiscally sound plan to make that happen.

We are all aware that as a nation, a state, and a school district we now face financially difficult times. Although the news may be negative, our response to it will ultimately make the difference. The work we do is still important, the talents of our faculty and staff are in no way diminished, and our will to give our best to students remains unchanged. While money is a limited resource, the spirit and commitment of our community are without limits. Together we will find long term solutions that maximize both our resources and results.

We are proud to welcome Todd Galton as our newest Board of Education member. Todd has been appointed to fill the recently vacated seat until June 30, 2009. We thank him for his willingness to commit his time and energy to the District, and look forward to working with him.

We are also happy to welcome back the KPTSA, which is reorganized and renewed in its commitment to building positive relationships for the betterment of our District and students. You will find a membership form on page 8 of this issue. Our hope is to build a strong partnership that will work in constructive ways to make Keshequa the best it can be, and we are very excited about the possibilities.

Our EXCEL capital project continues at a healthy pace and on budget. Weekly construction meetings are held to review progress and address issues as they arise, and the Building and Grounds Committee of the Board meets with the Construction Manager and architect monthly. The constant communication among all parties has been a key to the success of the project thus far. Current work includes increasing handicapped accessibility of some rest rooms, and replacement of tile in the oldest section of the Nunda building. Renovation of the auditorium seating and roof replacement are slated for spring.

Title I: Facts for Parents

by Carol A. McCarville, Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Data Administrator

Title I is the name of a federal grant program that was established in order to ensure that all children have a fair and equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education as determined by the No Child Left Behind act. Each state shares federal funds for use in assuring that all children reach, at minimum, proficiency in meeting rigorous curriculum standards and benchmarks in achievement.

Keshequa receives funding from Title I, Part A, which specifically targets academic achievement for students who need additional assistance. Other Title grants we receive target areas like professional development, use of technology in instruction, and school safety. We use the Title I, Part A funds to help pay salaries of academic intervention and summer school teachers, provide supplies and materials to academic intervention programs, and fund professional training for teachers to increase student achievement. Title I, Part A funds are also used to obtain materials for use with Limited English Proficiency for students in the district. Federal law also requires us to set aside some of the funds for use in helping any homeless students in our schools.

You can learn more about Title I funds as well as other Title grants by contacting me at 468-2541, ext. 1102.

Student of the Month Awards



Mark Mattle, Middle School/High School Principal

We are starting a “Student of the Month” award in the Middle School and High School. For each month there will be a boy and girl picked for this award. The students’ pictures will be displayed on the wall across from the cafeteria and the Board of Education will be treating the students to a special lunch at the end of each month. The criteria for the award are determined by the grade level teachers. Congratulations to the following students chosen for the month of January:

- Sixth graders **Tom Mann** and **Jessica Vandorn**
- Seventh graders **Travis Montgomery** and **Kierstin Houtz**
- Eighth graders **James Derrenbacher** and **Sam Lucier**
- Ninth graders **Troy Hatfield** and **Ashlee Callaro**
- Tenth graders **Jordan Shute** and **Amber Garwood**
- Eleventh graders **Thomas Coates** and **Katherine Mucha**
- Twelfth graders **Jeff Steidle** and **Kayla Beardsley**; honorable mention, **Matt Moran**

Some of the qualities the grade levels focused on were good character, responsibility, work ethic, honesty, and attendance, just to name a few.

Committee on Student Achievement

The Keshequa Board of Education has created an interim BOE committee on Student Achievement. We are looking for two community members to be part of this committee and would like to invite interested community members to join. The group will establish goals and action plans, and implement these plans for contributing to our student achievement. Committee meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to participate in this committee, please contact Tammy Clark at 468-2541 ext. 1105 or via email at tclark@keshequa.org to express your interest. Thank you in advance for your interest.

Student Spotlight: Victoria Underwood



Victoria Underwood

Student Victoria Underwood thinks it’s important to have school spirit. After being at BOCES and hearing friends from other districts discuss celebrating homecoming or spirit week, Victoria knew she wanted to bring that sense of school spirit to Keshequa.

“If students get involved, they care about the school,” she said.

Last fall, Victoria approached High School Principal Mark Mattle with the idea for a KCS spirit week. There was little time to organize a whole week of spirit events before Halloween, so Victoria organized a costume contest for her fellow classmates instead. Messages were placed on the morning announcements weeks prior to Halloween. Victoria also reminded underclassman she saw at dance class to start preparing their costumes.

Victoria was then faced with the dilemma of how to actually judge the costumes. She decided to recruit all the English teachers since all students have English during the day. She kept her choice of judges anonymous to keep the contest fair. Victoria received support from Student Council, who agreed to pay for the ice cream prizes for all the winners.

The KCS senior then organized a spirit week which was celebrated after winter recess. During the week, students dressed in their pajamas, as their favorite movie character, in decade attire, and in school colors. The highlight of the week was the donkey basketball game on January 10. The spirit week provided students with the opportunity to showcase their school spirit while having some fun. Victoria did a great job organizing the week and motivating her fellow classmates to get involved.

Bus Change Information

From the Transportation Department

Keshequa Central School has a childcare transportation policy in place that greatly restricts bus changes for students. The only changes that are allowed are bus changes necessary as a result of parents' work schedules and/or shared custody arrangements. **Bus changes are not allowed for any reason other than for childcare.**

Student pick up/drop off changes must be received in the transportation office in advance of the day of the change so that questions and concerns regarding the change can be investigated and resolved ahead of time. Forms must be used; hand written notes will not be accepted. Forms are available from your student's bus driver, on the school's web site, or at the Transportation Office. Please fill out a separate form for each child and forward the forms to the transportation office. Completed forms should not be sent to the school building. They should be given to your child's bus driver or mailed to: Keshequa Central School, Transportation Department, PO Box 517, Nunda, New York 14517

The safety and general welfare of students are our primary considerations in the implementation of policies and procedures. Unnecessary bus changes become overwhelming for the transportation department and can compromise both the safety and welfare of the students that we transport. Operating the transportation department as cost effectively as possible, and at the same time being realistic in meeting the needs of the community and the students that we transport has become a real challenge. Keshequa's childcare transportation policy is critical in helping us accomplish these goals. Your cooperation will greatly be appreciated.

You may contact Transportation Supervisor Ivan Beardsley with any questions by calling 476-5789 or by visiting the Transportation Office located in the bus garage on Route 408 in Dalton.



Middle School Math Team Finishes First

The middle school math team recently placed first at the Genesee Valley BOCES Junior High Interscholastic Mathematics Competition. The team finished fifth in the first competition of the year. The third and final competition will be held this month. Student Lindsay Piraino was the top scoring seventh grader at the first meet as well as the top scoring student (in both seventh and eighth grades) at the second meet. Jessica Steidle tied for second amongst the eighth graders at the first meet and was the top scoring eighth grader at the most recent meet. The team includes: seventh graders Hannah Acciari, Kate Forrester, Gabe Mehlenbacher, Lindsay Piraino, and Brody Wood; eighth graders Mariah Barranco, Tori Coon, Christian Garwood, Zachary Mehlenbacher, and Jessica Steidle.

Parents' Right to Know Information

According to the No Child Left Behind legislation, any school that receives federal funding through the Title I federal grant must provide information to parents about the qualifications of the teachers in that school. The Dalton Elementary School receives Title I funding. Parents have a right to know information regarding the teacher's certification for their child's class and any qualifications of the paraprofessionals that are serving their child.

Parents can learn about their child's teachers' qualifications by calling the District Office at 468-2541 ext. 1105.

Keshequa Community Chorus

Do you love to sing?

KCS Varsity Chorus invites you to join them in song for the second annual *Music in our Schools Month* concert on March 26.

We will rehearse Tuesdays, February 3 - March 24, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the vocal music room at the Nunda High School.

If you are interested please call Kim Coffey at the Nunda MS/HS: 468-2541 x1140 or email: kcoffey@keshequa.org.



Students Chosen to Sing with the RPO by Kim Coffey



Four Keshequa students were chosen to sing in the 200 voice Festival High School Chorale with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. The students chosen for this honor were: Zach Coffey, Angela Colombo, Lindsay Gunn, and Greg Hoodak. The students put in many hours to learn music and rehearse with the RPO. The group performed during the Gala Holiday Pops at the Eastman Theatre in Rochester December 17-21. Congratulations singers, you make Keshequa proud!



In Other Music News...

The Music Department is now selling "Keshequa Music Rocks" car magnets to benefit our music department. These are round magnets with a G-Clef and Staff in the middle surrounded with "Keshequa Music Rocks." They are orange and white with black trim. The magnets are selling for \$6.50 - including tax. Please see any MS/HS music student or call Mrs. Coffey at 468-2541 ext. 1140. Thanks for your support.

Music Students Attend Quartet Auditions

Katelyn Gelser, Sam Gordinier, Sarah Gray, Lindsay Gunn, Brady Jeffords, Ariel Simone, and Carly Underwood attended the All-County Quartet auditions at Perry Central School in January. The students prepared two pre-selected pieces for the audition process, then went into the audition room in quartets (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) and sang for two judges. They received a grade for singing and a grade for sight reading. The auditions will hopefully lead to a spot in the Livingston County 2009 All-County Chorus.

Sarah Gray Represents KCS at Senior High Area All-State

Senior Sarah Gray, daughter of Lori and Doug Gray, represented Keshequa Central School at the Senior High Area All-State Music Festival held on Saturday, November 22, at Marcus Whitman High School in Rushville. Gray scored 99 out of 100 on her spring 2008 All-State tuba solo, *Diverse Moments* by Robert Jager. The Area All-State Festival is held every year and features the best student musicians from around the local area. Congratulations to Sarah for being selected into this highly selective musical ensemble!



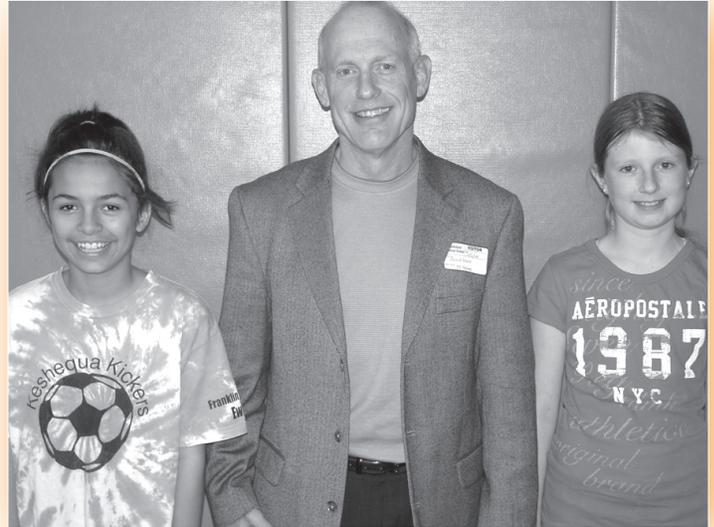
Students Chosen for All-County Chorus

Music teacher Cheryl Sanford is proud to announce that the following students were accepted into the Elementary All-County Chorus: Fifth Grade: Amelia Borgus, Kathryn Gelser, Kelsey Holley, William Rich, and Nicole Simone; Sixth Grade: Josh Barranco, Taylor Forrester, Latisha Learn, Sean Lunn, and Kirsten Willey. These students will have the privilege to participate in the All-County Conference to be held this month at Livonia Central School. Congratulations!

Coach Lewis Visits KCS

Dr. David Lewis, women's soccer coach at Houghton College, presented to Pete Piraino's middle school and Martha Blair's high school physical education classes about becoming "Champions of Character." During the presentation, Lewis shared his humble beginnings with the program and discussed how he helped transform it into one of the most successful women's soccer programs in the country. He told students that athletic success can only come after character and academic success. He shared stories with the students about some of the character that he has witnessed over the years from his players. Under Lewis, the Houghton Highlanders have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and have played in many third world countries, teaching both the sport and how to become a champion of character. Dr. Lewis explained that his team works together demonstrating good sportsmanship to not only change the culture of the sport, but also to change the culture through the sport.

Coach Lewis recently was named the American Midwest Conference Coach of the Year for the sixth time. He is the all-time leader in victories for women's soccer in the NAIA with an overall record of 281-58-18. During his career, he has coached more than fifty All-Americans and his team has routinely won academic honors and awards. The speaker was arranged by school-to-work coordinator Shawn Bielicki as part of the district's effort to promote positive school climate.



Coach Dr. Lewis poses with students Leigh Swartzfager and Morgan Ewing after the "Champions of Character" presentation.

Communication is the Key

Ami Hunt, Elementary Principal

We are having a great 2009 at Dalton Elementary. Our third through fifth grade students have taken the New York State English Language Arts exam, and all our students will be completing mid-year benchmark assessments in reading. Report cards were distributed at the end of January. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's program or progress, please contact your child's teacher. Communication between home and school is very important to the success of all of our students.

We have the opportunity to offer a new program to our pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade students. We will be partnering with the Dansville and Canaseraga Lions Clubs to provide a free eye screening to our students. The **Lions Screening Eyes Early** program's goal is to help identify children with or at risk for vision problems. The Lions will also assist those who are deemed in need of further vision testing. We are very thankful for all the community organizations that are willing to help our students!

Our drop-off loop in the front of the building has been very beneficial. As you are dropping off, please pull up to the curb on the right before letting anyone out of the vehicle. Please remember that it was designed as a drop-off or pick-up area, not necessarily for parking. We do realize that you may need to enter the building to sign your child in or out. If there is no parking available in our visitor spaces, you may park in the loop for a very short time. We do ask that if that occurs, you do not park on the curved area of the loop as it makes it very difficult for vehicles to get by. We appreciate your cooperation.

BEA Awards

KCS Mini-Grants

Keshequa Central was awarded three mini-grants for worksite visitations from the Livingston County Business Education Alliance. Students in different classes will have the opportunity to visit Allegany Log Homes, the County Courthouse, and the *Our Fragile World Fair*. The funds help cover the costs of transportation and substitute teachers incurred by the trips.

Students Take a Look Back at Nunda's Past

On October 22 and 23, students in third, fourth, seventh, and eighth grades went on an historical adventure at the semi-annual Nunda History Days. The program was part of the official Town of Nunda celebration and was co-sponsored this year by the Nunda Historical Society and the Town of Nunda Bicentennial Committee.

The goal of the program is to provide an opportunity to explore the history of Nunda and Western New York and increase awareness of the historical resources available in our area. There was no cost to students. Funding for the program comes from the Town of Nunda Bicentennial Committee and a grant from the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

"We want students to be immersed in local history," said Tom Cook, Nunda Historical Society president. "They are the generation who one day will be preserving local history."

The elementary and middle school students attended the program on separate days, allowing organizers to plan activities according to the age group. The middle school students had the opportunity in the first program to see an atlatl demonstration by Letchworth Park naturalist and atlatl expert Doug Bassett. Students learned a brief history of this spear throwing technique and had the opportunity to try it themselves.

During the second program students went on a scavenger hunt using the museum exhibits and Rose Shave Gallery. Missy Clark of Barkertown Sutlers was in 18th century costume to demonstrate colonial/frontier spinning techniques. Nunda resident Jim Cromwell



displayed and discussed a variety of Iroquois cultural items from the Woodland and Contact eras. Folk musician Sue Henglesberg played traditional American music on the hammered dulcimer for students. The Genesee Valley Mountain Dulcimer Club provided students a chance to play a song on the Appalachian Mt. Dulcimer.

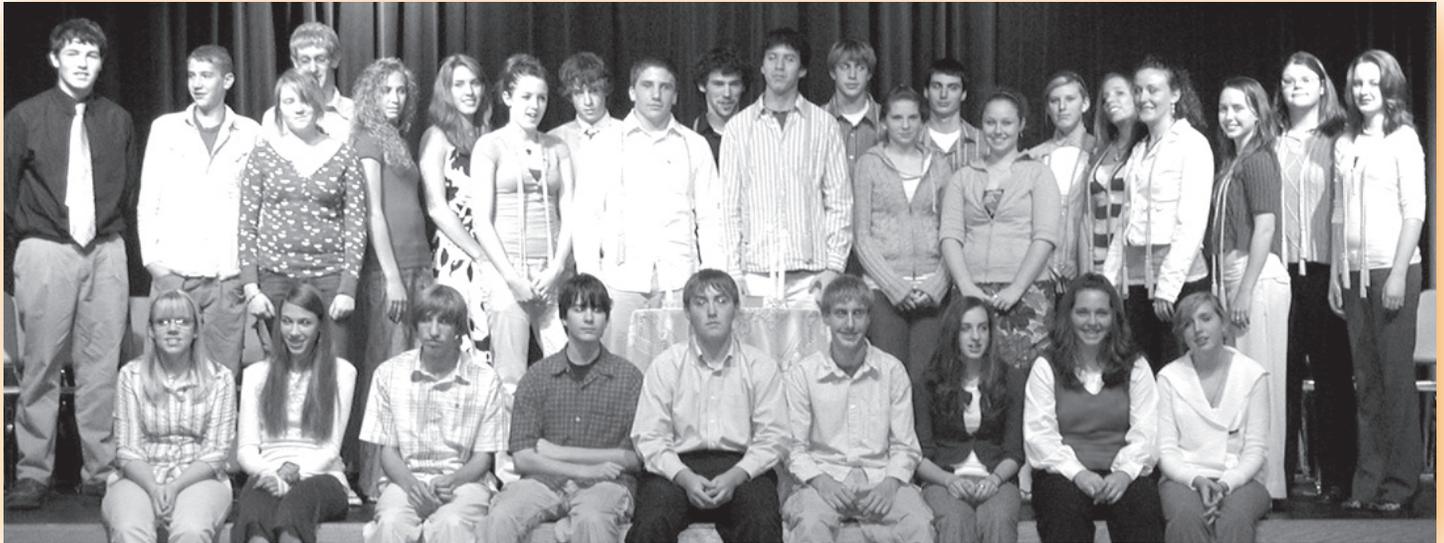
During the final program, middle school students were challenged by West Sparta Town Historian Dave Palmer to identify 18th and 19th century tools. Students also met with members of the Moses Van Campen Long Rifles, who provided a living history glimpse into the lives of trappers and early settlers. Former Nunda resident Terry Parker represented the 136th NY, a Civil War infantry company from Nunda. Parker and other members discussed a soldier's life during the war.

The elementary groups were treated to many of the same presenters with some additions. Town Historian Valerie Griffing discussed with students the uses of wool and showed them some spinning techniques. She also discussed her job. Kay Swyer, whose family's ties go back to the local Seneca reservations, talked about Seneca women and family life.

"We feel that the kids saw people enjoying history as a hobby," said Cook

History Days is offered biennially so organizers can keep the information fresh. The two-day program was also opened to the community. Organizers would like to thank the school district, administration, and bus transportation for all their help and support.

NHS Welcomes New Members



On November 6, the Keshequa Chapter of National Honor Society hosted its annual induction ceremony. Students Sarah Allan, Lauren Donovan, Katelyn Gelsler, Sam Gordinier, Andrew Hark, Tim Jackson, Claire Mann, Kevin Moran, and Ariel Simone were the fall 2008 inductees.

The current members of NHS include: Kayla Beardsley, Thomas Coates, Courtney Curry, Ryann Gardner, Emily Gibson, Chrysta Giles, Brian Gordinier, Christopher Gray, Sarah Gray, Lindsay Gunn, Ashley Hark, Mariah Mahlendorf, Terrence Mann, Ashley McWilliams, Michelle Montgomery, Matt Moran, Catherine Mucha, Brandon Nickerson, Jesse Orellana, Erin Pattridge, Albert Schmitter, Jeff Steidle, Sydney Sullivan, Christine Tallman, and Ethan Trim.

The ceremony has previously been held in the spring, but all inductions will now be held in the fall. During the ceremony several current NHS members spoke, along with advisor Carol McCarville and Principal Mark Mattle. Speakers discussed the four qualities of National Honor Society: character, scholarship, service, and leadership. A dessert reception was held after the ceremony.

The group plans to sell daffodils in the spring with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. They are also planning their car wash fundraiser at Nunda Fun Days. McCarville said members are looking into having one more fundraiser along with the car wash. Funds are used for the three scholarships that NHS gives out to seniors at graduation.

Keshequa Parent Teacher Student Association

Membership Due: Teachers/parents \$5, Students \$3.50

If you are interested in becoming a KPTSA member, fill out the form below and return it to: KPTSA,
P.O. Box 493, Nunda, NY 14517

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email: _____

Teen Entrepreneurs Speak to KCS Students

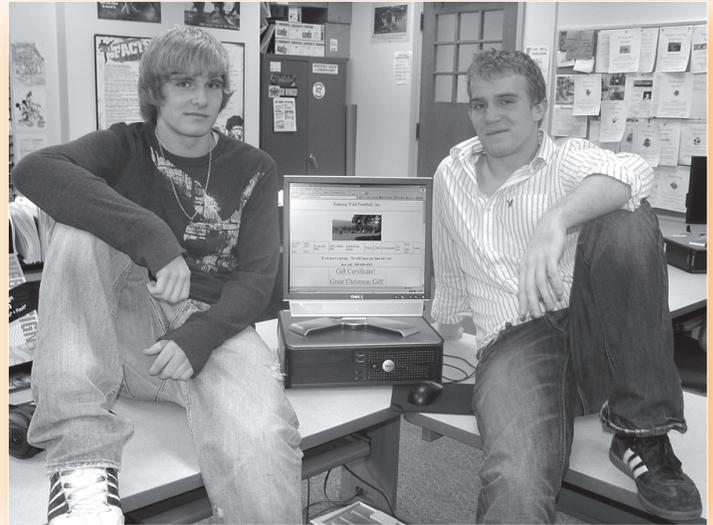
Former KCS student John Johnson and his younger brother, current high school student Ben Johnson, presented to Rick Riggi's sports marketing classes about starting and running their own business, Running Wild Paintball.

John explained to the students that his participation in the Young Entrepreneurs' Academy (YEA) at SUNY Geneseo last year proved beneficial to him opening the business. The program helped him obtain a DBA, polish his presentation skills, understand zoning laws, acquire financing, and develop marketing materials. While his name is on the business, John pointed out that his brother Ben runs much of the day-to-day operations. The young entrepreneurs said they have gained support from local groups, especially churches.

The two admitted that the first year has been pretty difficult and that they underestimated the amount of work involved. One of the biggest challenges for the pair has been getting their message out. They learned to take advantage of free marketing opportunities, such as posting their messages on the internet, hanging fliers, using e-mail, and cold calling. To date, they are right on pace for achieving their sales goals. Their next prospect involves starting some school teams.

"The best part of being in business is pride of ownership," said John.

Running Wild Paintball is located on Route 408 in Nunda. If anyone is interested in learning more about the YEA, contact Shawn Bielicki at 468-2541. For more information on Running Wild, check out their website at www.RunningWildPaintball.com.



Brothers Ben and John Johnson show off their business website.

Physical Education News...



The high school physical education students took a trip to the Letchworth Pines on December 8 and 9 to put their bowling skills to the test. Students used plastic pins and rubber balls to practice approaches, scoring, aiming for the "pocket" and picking off spares before the trip. Close to 200 students bowled, had fun and got exercise too. Chris Gray got the overall high score of 167 and Angela Colombo bowled the runner up score of 152.

Forty-eight students entered the high school table tennis tournament. Students were randomly seeded in three pools with the winner of each pool playing off for the championship. Chris Gray,

Dakota James and Tim Jackson were the pool winners, who played off in a round robin format to determine the school champion. Chris Gray defeated both competitors for the crown. Congratulations Chris!

NJHS Shows Support for Community

The members of the National Junior Honor Society spent a few hours on Saturday, November 1, lending a hand – and a few rakes – to the Bell Memorial Library. Advisor Elaine Morgan contacted Library Manager Pat Galbraith to ask what the group could do to help the library. They decided to rake leaves, which would save the library the cost of a lawn care service.

“We’re trying to give back to our community and show our support,” said Morgan.

The group was demonstrating the qualities that a NJHS member should hold: scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship.

The following students are members of NJHS: Mariah Barranco, Victoria Coon, Blaithe Donovan, Alex Flint (president), Michelle Hand, Kristen Jackson, Atticus Kiser, Dan Mattle, Grace Mehlenbacher (secretary), Zach Mehlenbacher (treasurer), Alicia Pritchard, Chauna Savastano, Steven Schiano (vice president), Alex Simone, Jessica Steidle, and Carrie White.



Students Prepare Tasty Meal for Guests

Colleen Proctor’s life skills class treated family and friends to a homemade Thanksgiving dinner on November 19. The students prepared the entire meal themselves with the skills they’ve learned in cooking and etiquette. They made sure their guests felt welcomed as they greeted them at the door, and made all the decorations on the tables. The group spent the days prior cooking five turkeys, mashed potatoes, stuffing,



Students show-off their cooking skills to guests

corn casserole, pumpkin pie bars, apple cobbler, rolls, and punch. Mrs. Proctor has been having the dinners for many years, but this is the first year this group of students has prepared the meal.

GCC Offers Free Summer Courses to Graduates!

As a continuation of *The Genesee Promise Plus* initiative at Genesee Community College, every student who graduates from a Genesee-Livingston-Orleans-Wyoming high school in June will receive a full tuition scholarship for one or two summer courses beginning June 29. All June 2009 graduates are eligible whether they plan to attend GCC, another college or university, or even if they have not made college plans. Students can attend classes at the Batavia campus or any of the six campus centers. Go to <http://www.genesee.edu/gcc/promise/> to get a GCC admissions application and GPP scholarship form.

Busy Bees and Sixth Graders Team Up

On Friday, December 12 and 19, the Busy Bees teamed up with KCS sixth graders to build some much needed locker shelves so the younger students can organize their hall lockers. The Bees set up “stations” and manned the saws. The sixth graders, after receiving careful instruction, safely ran their pieces on the router table under the watchful eye of Jim Myers. They then sanded their shelves.

The project went very smoothly and was a huge success. These shelves will certainly help in the longevity of the students’ textbooks as they will now no longer get tossed in lockers, caught in the doors, or have their spines split from improper stacking.

More Buzz from the Hive...

Seven out of the sixteen Busy Bees made the honor roll! Over 70 community members attended the Busy Bee Mini-Open House Thursday, December 11. The Hive was so packed with people it was hard to walk around! The students brought parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and even their regular teachers. School Board members and administrators were also in attendance.

The Bees took great pride in showing off their work. Every student received a different individualized award. Many of the awards reflected their building skill, improvement, creativity, and/or team participation. Pictures were taken of every student with the people they brought to the event. It was a great success. The Bees’ next project will be a log cottage and storage sheds.



Students Reprise Roles in *Rumors*



Members of the cast pose for a picture while rehearsing.

The Keshequa Drama Club presented Neil Simon’s *Rumors* on December 5-7 in the high school auditorium. The students reprised the roles they first performed when they were middle school students. Erin-Kate Howard directed the production with the help of assistant director Chris Norton. The cast included: Zach Coffey (Lenny Ganz), Brandy Gallichio (Claire Ganz), Sam Gordinier (Officer Welch), Lindsay Gunn (Cassie Cooper), Michaela Hillier (Chris Gorman), John Nesbitt (Ken Gorman), Erin Patridge (Cookie Cusak), Hannah Snyder (Pudney), Ethan Trim (Ernie Cusack), Tyler Westcott (Glenn Cooper), and Kiersten Willey (voice of Myra). Stage managers and crew members were Josh Callaro, Victoria Coon, Hannah Snyder, and Kiersten Willey.

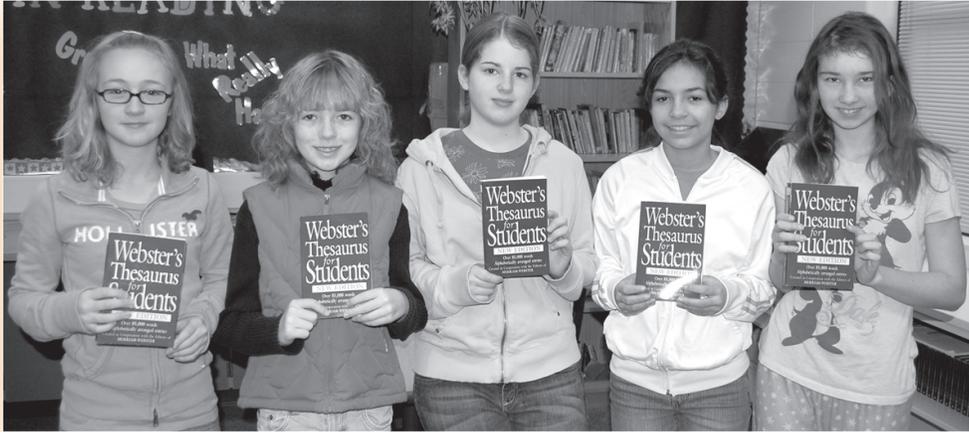
Rumors is set in the New York home of Charley and Myra Brock. The couple invites four couples over to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary. The first couple arrives to find Charley upstairs bleeding from a gunshot wound to the ear and his wife is nowhere to be found.

The first couple spends the evening trying to conceal the crime from the rest of the guests and the police.

Rotarians Visit the Sixth Grade

The Rotarians paid a visit to the Middle School on October 16. Barb Baldwin (president), C.J. Bullen (secretary), Fran Mann (past president and chair of dictionary and thesaurus project), and Donn Thompson (past president) met with the sixth grade and passed out thesauruses to each student. This is the second year thesauruses have been passed out to the students in an effort to help them be more successful in school.

The students and Rotarians had a short discussion regarding what a thesaurus was and how its use could be helpful in school. Students reminded the visitors that they had received dictionaries when they were third graders. The Rotarians were pleasantly surprised to find



that many of the students still have and use the dictionaries to help with their schoolwork.

Students were then asked to look up the word "eradicate," which led to a discussion about Polio and the Rotarians ef-

forts to help eradicate the disease in the handful of countries still plagued by it. They spoke directly about their efforts to raise money to help send vaccination serum to those countries.

The sixth grade students, their teachers, and the Keshequa Central School administration would like to send a heartfelt thanks to the Rotarians for their kindness and their continued support of the school system.

Native American Celebration

After completing their unit of study on Native Americans, the fourth grade classes held an evening celebration to showcase all they had learned. Fourth graders displayed their Native American projects for both family and friends to see. Projects ranged from birch bark canoes to longhouses and False-Face masks. Guests were able to try Native American food which included Iroquois Strawberry Drink, corn bread, and Three Sisters Soup. A great time was had by all! A separate celebration was held during school hours so other grade levels could admire all the projects. The fourth grade classes would like to thank everyone who attended.



A Glimpse of the Past

Mr. Joe Christiano and Mr. Sam Maggio brought in their personal collection of Native American artifacts. Fourth grade students were enthralled to learn that the artifacts presented were all found in our area! Students enjoyed touching arrow heads, primitive tools, and beads. The most popular item was a stone carving. Legend says touching it makes wishes come true!

Keshequa Student Becomes a Published Author



KCS student, author Arielle Bielicki explains the writing process as illustrator Christopher Norton looks on.

Thanks to being chosen by a panel of judges as the winner of a middle school children's book writing contest, KCS student Arielle Bielicki published her first children's book, "The Mystery of the Stolen Cookie." Funding was provided by an enrichment grant titled, "Pen, Publish, and Promote" which took students through the process of writing a story, having it illustrated, and promoting the work by creating flyers, invitations, posters, and conducting a story-tellers seminar and a book signing. Drama club advisor and local artist Christopher Norton completed the illustrations for the book using paint on canvas. Cornerstone Books in Nunda hosted the book signing. Many students, teachers, politicians, and community members attended the signing making it a very busy and exciting day for the author and illustrator.

Third Graders Take a Trip Back in Time



Nathan Ellsworth and Cassandra Szulewski dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Mills.

In December, the third graders visited Mills Mansion for *A Child's Christmas at Mills Mansion*. During their visit, students played with toys that children would have played with 200 years ago. They also toured the house and learned how different life was that long ago. Mrs. Long and Mrs. Martello

gave the students a first hand look at the hard work of servants. Some of the children were able to try out old items like a top hat, cape and pipe. The house is maintained by the Mount Morris Historical Society and the visit is funded by a grant from Genesee Valley BOCES Enrichment program On-The-Go.

Fifth Grade Journal Helpers



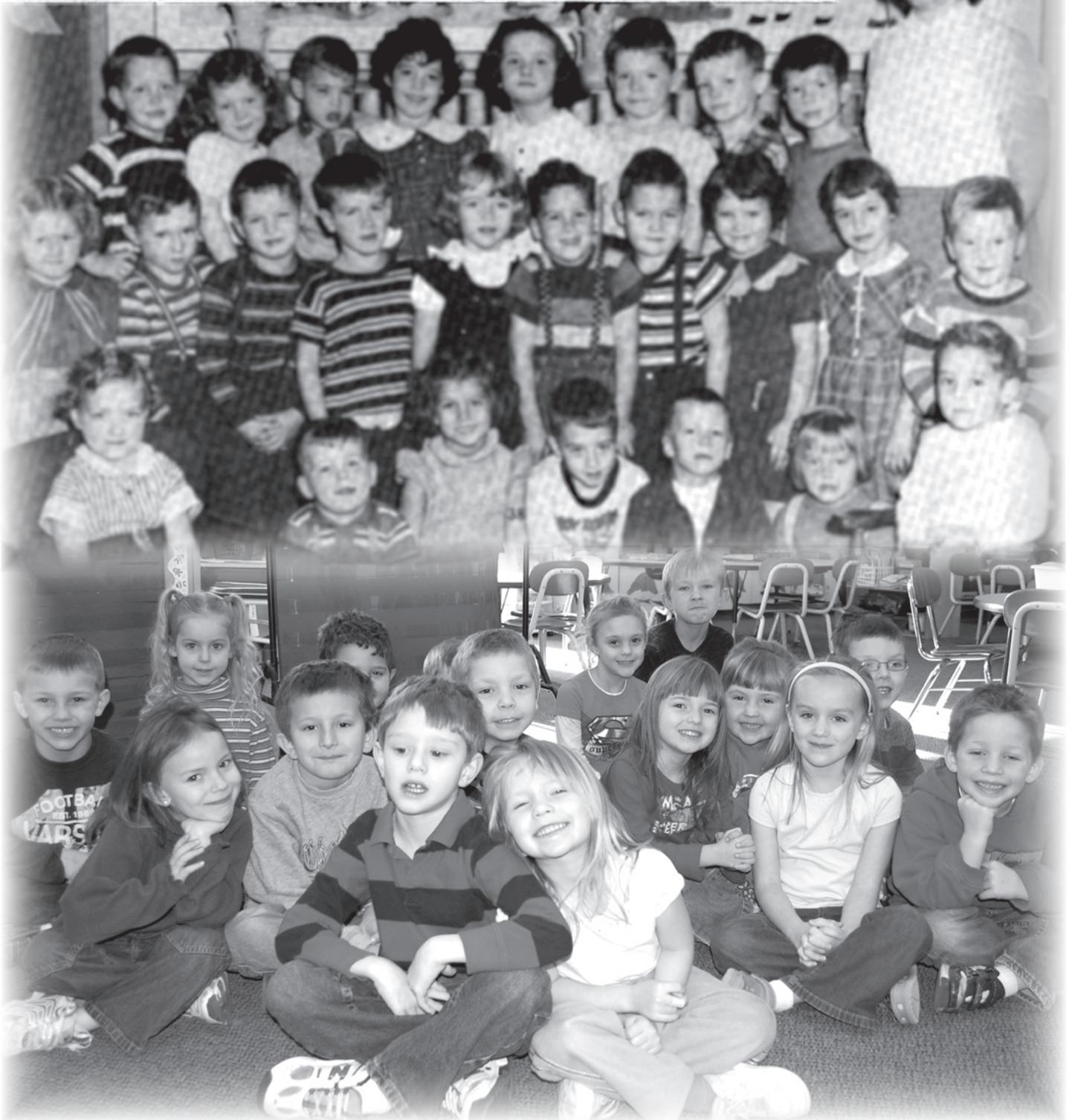
Fifth grader Amelia Borgus helps kindergartner Alexis Ethridge with her journal.

Everyday, fifth graders Amelia Borgus, Rachel Bugman, Mary Columbo, Austin Galton, Dylan Lew, Hannah Moriarty, and Abby Wood visit the kindergarten classrooms of Kammy Snyder, Patrice Forrester, and Heather Macomber to help the younger students write in their journals. The fifth graders help the kindergartners develop topic ideas and check for spelling and punctuation. Both kindergartners and fifth graders alike learn from this experience. The adults are very impressed with the kind, caring nature of the older students.

A Look Back...

Mrs. Hoch's kindergarten class posed for a picture back in 1954. Kindergartners in Mrs. Randall's class smiled for the camera this fall.

First Row, L. to R.: M. Reynolds, D. Tunningley, B. Myers, B. Buchinger, D. Wood, J. Goff, G. Gerace. Second Row: P. Macomber, J. Hussong, R. Smith, L. Coburn, F. Simons, J. Wigden, R. DeVinney, P. Spohn, P. Scism, R. Havens. Back Row: M. Robinson, M. McMaster, K. Weaver, P. Watkins, E. Struble, N. Smith, J. Roby, G. McKeown, Mrs. Hoch.



Lower Level PageTurners off to a Great Start

By Joan Ellison

The 2008-2009 PageTurners team worked hard to get ready for its first competition which was held on December 12 at Letchworth Central School. Team members read books from the official PageTurners' list and then wrote questions about what they read. The list contained many genres of books such as poetry, science fiction, mysteries, biographies and non-fiction. The books were also at many different reading levels. The students met every other week after school to practice for the competition. Once at the competition, they were asked questions about the books and it was amazing how much they remembered! They competed against teams from Dansville, Letchworth, Wayland, and Cohocton. At the end of a tight competition, the team is currently in fourth place.



The team is made up of students in grades 3-5 and includes: Christina Adams, Liam Costello, Danielle Dean, Julia Howell, Cheyenne James, Allegra Learn, Tami Lovell, Hannah Moriarty, Kyrstin Rawleigh, Lauren Simmons, Nicole Simone, Cassandra Szuluski, Garrett Thompson, Sylvia Thompson, Savannah Vasile, Lillian Willett and Hannah Wood.

The next competition will be in April and students will have a new list of books to read. The score from the December competition will be added to the score of the April competition and whichever team has the highest score will go to the finals in May or June. Congratulations team! Keep up the good work.

Kindergartners Have Holiday Fun!



The Kindergarten classes spent time before Thanksgiving completing some decorations and fun activities they could take home for the holiday. Kindergarten teachers Joyce Randall, Patrice Forrester, Heather Macomber, and Kammy Snyder rotated their classes so each could work with a different class and on a different activity. In Mrs. Randall's room students made Mayflower ships with flags that pictured what they would bring on the ship if they were a pilgrim. In her classroom, Mrs. Snyder had students color a picture of a cornucopia, a horn filled with food which symbolizes abundance. They then glued that to another piece of paper and added a patterned border around it. Mrs. Forrester and Mrs. Macomber had students make a Thanksgiving banner that could be hung at home. At the end of the morning, students had several decorations they could take home for the holiday.

Teacher Joyce Randall helps a student assemble his Thanksgiving project

KCS Provides Cozy Cover to Families



Keshequa faculty and staff collected 17 blankets to donate to the Cozy Cover Campaign. The campaign was organized by the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center for migrant farm workers and their families. Sara Privitera's fourth grade class made two blankets to donate.

Keshequa Central School
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February 2009

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