

"EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL"

Kentwood Public Schools

www.kentwoodps.org

"HIGHLIGHTS"

DECEMBER, 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MATHEMATICS

The math department has given a practice ACT test to help familiarize students with the types of questions and some test taking strategies that may assist them in March. At that time, the ACT becomes the measuring stick for comparing our students to students across the country. In an effort to celebrate academic excellence, students were issued a challenge to beat their most recent Plan or Explore test result, which is what ACT uses as a predictor test for students and parents. Over 70% of the students tested showed growth by improving their previous ACT score by 1 point or higher, and over 40% of students showed growth by 2 points or higher. Imagine a student going from an 18 to a 20 overall on their mathematics test on the ACT. Or better yet, one student went from a predicted score of a 17 to a 26! That's a 9 point jump in ONE SCHOOL YEAR! Students in Mr. Lowe's class were issued certificates for "Best in the class", "Most Improved" and "Best overall". A photo opportunity was declined by the students.

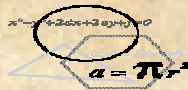
Best Overall (both classes): Jeremiah Lipscomb, ACT Math score of 27

Best "other" in 2nd hour: Joseph Reynolds, ACT Math score of 23

Best in 3rd Hour: Brie Jaglowski, ACT Mathematics score of 26

Most Improved in 2nd Hour: Samantha Vandermolen; Increased 7 points from Explore test

Most Improved in 3rd Hour: Corina Ortiz, Increased 6 points from Plan test.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT
WHYEASTKENTWOOD.COM

Dear Parents and guardians,

First trimester has come to an end and we have seen some amazing work and great accomplishments from both our students and staff. Our students are excelling in the classroom and beyond. Our staff remains committed to ensuring all students receive every opportunity to experience success.

As we begin the second trimester, East Kentwood High School staff will continue to focus on academic achievement and excellence for all of our students, as our seniors prepare for graduation and our juniors and sophomores gear up for the Michigan Merit/ACT and Plan Exams which will take place in March.

In the meantime, we invite you to enjoy our first trimester celebrations in this edition of East Kentwood High School's "Highlights". As you can see great teaching and learning are happening every day.

"Wow, you got an A without even studying." Parents does this sound familiar? In our efforts to praise and encourage our children we may falling into the "Slaves of Praise" trap.

"Slaves of praise", an interesting concept that is found in the book *Mindset* by Carol Dweck. Slaves of praise, what could that mean? Isn't praise good for children? Dr. Dweck would say yes, but it's the kind of praise we use that is so important. In fact, "Praising children's intelligence harms their motivation and performance." Kids love praise. It does give them a boost, but it is temporary. What happens when they hit one of life's snags?

"If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning."

Praising intelligence can give children the message that success means their smart, and failure means their dumb. In Dr. Dweck's words: "Parents think they can hand children permanent confidence – like a gift – by praising their brains and talent. It doesn't work, and in fact has the opposite effect. It makes them doubt themselves as soon as any thing is hard or anything goes wrong. If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning." Let's avoid being slaves of praise, and instead, build lifelong confidence.

Thank you for entrusting us with your students and for your continued support. Best of holiday wishes to all.

John R. Keenoy, Principal

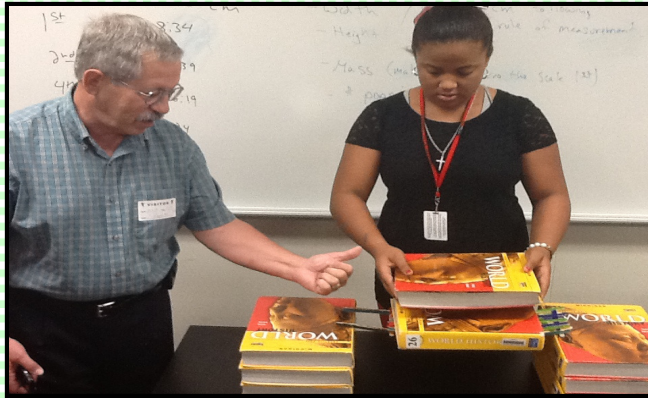
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GLOBAL TECH

In early October, the EKHS Global Tech 21 students worked on a project titled Building Bridges. This was a cross curricular project that involved concepts from their Algebra 2 and Chemistry classes. The driving question for the project was "Which type of bridge is safest?" Students had to use their skills in the scientific method, measurement and equations of lines to design and build a bridge out of Popsicle sticks. After testing their first bridge, they then designed and built a 2nd bridge to try and make it better. The GT21 teachers involved, Mrs. Jenin Shamali (Algebra 2) and Mr. Eric Page (Chemistry), enlisted the help of 3 community members to help with the project. Tom Byle, a Civil Engineer with the Kent County Road Commission, assisted students with their bridge design and also came in for a 2nd day to watch the stress test of each group's first bridge. Betsy Artz and Sharon Brinks, both City Commissioners for the City of Kentwood, attended presentations to see the culmination of this 2 week long project. The students worked hard on this project, and hopefully the math and science concepts taught were reinforced by this hands on, real world project.



Tom Byle, Civil Engineer for the Kent County Road Commission, assists Tioni Summers during the testing of her group's first bridge.



Tanner Brown adds books to his group's final bridge, while Josh Sagum assists and looks on.



SCIENCE

After the successful release of 76 salmon into the Grand River last year, Mrs. Goodwin and Mr. Warfield are getting ready to raise 250 salmon eggs again this year with the help of AP Environmental Class. Salmon eggs will be picked up from the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery on November 6 and placed in a 250 gallon tank in Mr. Warfield's room. The AP Environmental students will feed and maintain the tank until the salmon are ready to be released in May.



MICHIGAN HALL OF FAME

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND CONGRATULATIONS WENT TO MR. RICK SMITH, WHO WAS INDUCTED INTO THE MICHIGAN WRESTLING COACHES HALL OF FAME.

RICK GRADUATED FROM MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL, OLIVET COLLEGE AND COMPLETED HIS MASTERS AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. MR. SMITH TAUGHT SCIENCE FOR 21 YEARS AND HAS BEEN AN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR 16 YEARS. HE COACHED SOFTBALL FOR ONE YEAR AND FOOTBALL FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS AT EK. COACH SMITH HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING FOR 37 YEARS, FOUR AS AN ASS'T. COACH AT EATON RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL AND 33 AS HEAD COACH FOR EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.

IN THE OK RED CONFERENCE RICKS ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE INCREDIBLE. HIS DUAL MEET RECORD WAS 435-277. FOUR CONFERENCE TITLES, 8 DISTRICT TITLES AND IN 2002 ADVANCED TO TEAM FINAL 8 AFTER CLAIMING REGIONAL CHAMPIONS TOUTS VOL-UMES.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS TEAM MEMBERS WERE 61 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, 99 STATE QUALIFIERS, 54 STATE PLACE WINNERS, 15 STATE FINALISTS AND 6 STATE CHAMPIONS MARK OUR FALCONS INCREDIBLE SUCCESSES.

COACH SMITH TEACHES AND LEAVES LASTING IMPRESSIONS EVERY DAY.



GUIDANCE

COUNSELING STAFF WORKS TOWARD A COLLEGE GOING CULTURE

The East Kentwood school counselors have been very busy working with students to prepare them for college. For seniors, this includes an individual "senior interview" with each student to discuss plans after high school and help with the college application process. A new feature in that process this year is an electronic transcript service called Parchment in which students can order transcripts online for secure delivery to college admissions offices. Our registrar has already processed several hundred transcripts without paying postage or other mailing costs. Counselors and computers are available every day for student use in college applications, registering for the ACT, or scholarship searching. On November 26, the director of Financial Aid from Aquinas College will be at the Freshman Campus cafeteria to present information to families about the financial aid process. All are invited.

Our juniors are working hard in their courses to prepare for the ACT test, which is the primary college admissions test in the state of Michigan and the most widely used test in the country. School counselors have presented to over 15 classrooms regarding preparation for college and will continue to do so throughout the school year. Over 20 college admissions representatives have visited campus to speak to juniors and seniors about the programs and opportunities available to the students. In late January, the community is invited to a College Information Night with a panel of college representatives from private, public, and community colleges.

Grades, test scores, course selection, and extracurricular activities are all important in the college admission and scholarship process, so these are the emphasis with our sophomore students. We encourage the students to keep as many options open as possible by concentrating on learning as much as possible, challenging themselves, and getting involved in the community.

As educators, we look forward to supporting every student in achieving their goals. We are happy to support students and families in whatever way we possibly can. Please feel free to contact the guidance office with questions or concerns.

Mr. Page's 2nd hour students participate in an important step of the project based learning process called Critical Friends. In this process, groups give a detailed explanation of their project work to another group, which in turn gives constructive feedback by using "I like" and "I wonder" statements. This step is an important step at producing the best product possible.



FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

Students in Mrs. Broekhuizen's Relationships and Family class recently completed an eight week course called Willing to Wait. The goal of the course is to encourage teens not to be sexually active. The Willing to Wait program also hopes to reduce the incidences of sexually transmitted infections and early pregnancy along with providing students with the skills to handle pressure and form healthy relationships. Pattie Gaddy, the trained instructor, led the students through activities and discussions that helped them understand why they should wait to engage in any type of sexual activity until marriage. The course concluded with a presentation from the Willing to Wait drama team that is made up of area high school and college students. The drama team performed a variety of skits that dealt with topics that the students discussed throughout their visits from Pattie. All students who participated in the program showed substantial growth and understanding about the ramifications of premarital sex. Following are some statements that students made while giving their review of the course:

"I'm already saving myself by I'm REALLY going to save myself now! I tell people sex might feel good but it comes with a lot of baggage".

"Thanks for knocking some sense into us! Most helpful was everything I learned. I tell friends to wait to have sex because it only complicates things, not better".

"I will now choose who I hang out with wisely. I have helped others by talking about the lessons we did and the games we played. This class has been a great resource for us! All the info was helpful".

"Hearing all of the statistics and all the stories really got me interested in learning more. I told my boyfriend everything I learned".

SOCIAL STUDIES

"We the People..."

Currently, thirteen students in the Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics course are preparing to compete in the annual We the People competition. **The We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Program** promotes civic competence and civic responsibility among the nation's secondary students.

East Kentwood High School has competed in the most competitions in the State of Michigan since the program began in 1987. East Kentwood students will be showcasing their knowledge of the Constitution at the 3rd Congressional District hearings on Mon., November 25 and will compete in Lansing, MI in January.



WORLD LANGUAGES

ELENA BRUBAKER'S SPANISH CLASSROOM IS SHOWING WHAT THEY DID OCTOBER 31ST TO PREPARE FOR CELEBRATION OF THE DAYS OF THE DEAD NOV. 1 & 2. THEY COLORED MASKS, ATE FOOD AND TALKED ABOUT PAPEL PICADO.



MATH STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Kiarra Figures, like many students, struggles with Math. It just doesn't come easy for her, but she didn't give up. In fact, she has shown great strides in Geometry this year. Because of her determination to succeed in Geometry she chose to give up an elective class and take a math lab class. Kiarra has shown a remarkable amount of grit by asking questions, doing her homework, taking good notes and asking for extra practice when she was struggling on a concept. These habits along with regular attendance have helped Kiarra to persevere and be successful. We are very proud of her and the example she is to others! Because of her perseverance in math, we are recognizing Kiarra as the November Math Student of the Month.

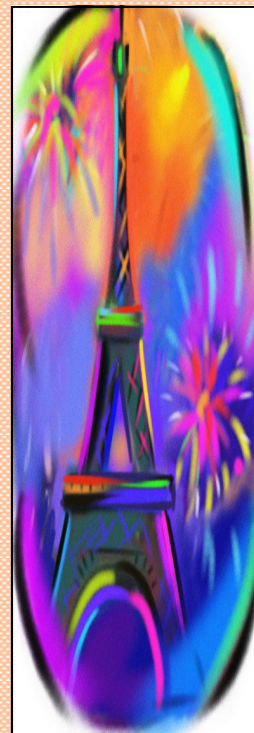


BONJOUR

MOULDI BEN-MLOUKA'S FRENCH 2 STUDENTS ACTED OUT A VERSION OF THE FRENCH POEM, REINFORCING THE PRET-ERIT THEY HAD JUST FINISHED.

THE MORNING LUNCH (TRANSLATION)

He put the coffee In the cup
He put the milk
In the cup of coffee.
He put the sugar
In the latte
With the small spoon
He stirred
He drank the latte
and set down the cup
Without talking to me
He lit a cigarette
He made circles
With the smoke
He put the ashes
In the ashtray
Without talking to me
Without looking at me
He got up
He put his hat on his head
He put on his rain-coat
because it was raining
And he left Under the rain
Without a word
Without looking at me
And me, I put
My head in my hand
And I cried.



Jacques Prevert

The Clothing Closet is a project originated by Mrs. Mel Trombley to directly help families in Kentwood. The project donates gently used clothes to families throughout our community who are struggling economically and are in desperate need of clothes. Mrs. Trombley's 5th hour Vocational Skills class, along with Mrs. Mast (Employment Training Specialist), have been working in the clothing closet to sort and organize bags of the donated clothing. This project has been an wonderful experience for our students to learn how to give back to the community.



GERMAN

Mrs. Lisa Erhart/McManus's German 2 students just completed a mini-project drawing the floorplan of their house/apartment. They then had to label all rooms/ furniture in German. Students really got into the project and became quite competitive over their floorplans. Students were encouraged to create a "Fantasy House" if they didn't want to draw their own house or apartment. It was a very simple project, but the kids loved it! Final projects were posted on the walls in the classroom.

MEDIA CENTER

The LMC is embarking on a new endeavor to order more materials for the media center for ELL students to read. The focus is going to bring materials in the fiction and nonfiction subject areas. We understand the importance having of these materials available to our students that are trying to learn and speak the English Language fluently. It is important that these materials are easy for the students to try and read without that many difficulties etc. I have gotten recommendations from Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. Prindle. We did spend over \$600.00 on materials that we thought were appropriate for these students. We will continue to order materials when funds are available. We also would like to share a couple of pictures that reflect what is happening each morning in the LMC.



EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS HONORED AS COACHES OF THE YEAR!

Joey Sutherlin, named Regional Water Polo Coach of the Year, in first year of coaching Water Polo.

John Conlin, named Boys Soccer Coach of the Year for the State of Michigan.

Dave Emeott, named Boys Track and Field Coach of the Year for the State of Michigan.

Lindsey Boyle, named Regional Girls Golf Coach of the Year.



STUDENT COUNCIL

Homecoming Festival—2013

On Friday, Oct 4, we held our 2013 Homecoming Festival and it was the largest to date. We had over 45 booths set up from the community ranging from pumpkin decorating to a dunk tank to the David Warsen Memorial Booth. We had just over 1,000 people attend and enjoy the festivities.



PowderPuff Football

This year's Homecoming Powderpuff game was fantastic! With 120 girls participating and over 425 spectators, we raised enough money to donate \$1,000 to the Ms. Brush Memorial Fund. Congratulations to the seniors for taking home the victory this year! The committee would like to thank the coaches, football players, and referees who made the event a huge success, and congratulate the senior girls on a victory!



Blood Drive

East Kentwood's Fall Blood Drive was a huge success. We exceeded our goal of 60 pints with the help of 96 donors. We had 38 first time donors. Each week, 2,200 pints are needed to supply hospital transfusion orders and our staff and student body helped to meet that need. The winter drive is scheduled for February 24 and the spring drive is April 22.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY



Mr. Boy's Materials Technology Course has a variety of woodworking projects each trimester. The picture (below/ above) shows off some of that work. Students are required to use a table saw to rip alternating types of wood for the board tiles and frame. They laminate these strips together and then cut them into 2 inch squares for the surface.

When all of the tiles are glued and set the students add the frame around the perimeter of the board. After setting up, the students then surface and sand the chess board until it is in a finished and smooth state. Once they receive instructor approval, they apply a lacquer finish to seal the wood and provide a durable and lasting finish.

Student pride runs high around this project and the quality of boards is outstanding, as Mr. Boy will allow nothing less. This project incorporates design, flow charting for processes, material set up, manufacture, assembly and finishing. Students are receiving real world training and getting a high quality experience and product at the conclusion of this project. Congratulations to Mr. Boy and is Materials Technology classes!



"REHEARSALS - "THE PRINCESS BRIDE"



This trimester has featured 3 strong classes in Theatre.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE has had two energetic, creative groups of students learning about the basic structure of the art form. Thus far, they have learned about producing, directing, acting, play writing, scenic design, costume design, and theatrical criticism. This year, in response to a positive reaction from last year's students, I have expanded the acting/writing units to include the performances of monologues and scenes generated by the class participants. Our upcoming final project will require the students to incorporate the skills they've acquired from each unit (save play writing) to present a complete creative design for a short, one-act play. Along with design elements, students will be performing a memorized monologue from the script.

This year's **ADVANCED ACTING** class is the largest I've had in the history of the course; with its size, it also contains the broadest range of abilities and levels of experience. Given the unique make up of the class, we began the trimester with an extensive unit on essential, foundation building methods of approaching the craft. These lessons have been reinforced with challenging monologue and scene work, including efforts in Shakespearian literature. I have created a new unit for the class that focuses on basic direction skills; it has been designed to teach important techniques for theatrical blocking (an actor's movement on stage). This class saw a community performance opportunity early in the trimester as we prepared several students to present scary tales for the Bowen Elementary Reading Night. Currently, the student's are organizing a Shakespeare Showcase performance for next week that will display the monologues they have been work-shopping in small groups. The final exam will present each student with an intense, real-world scenario audition for which they will be allowed limited preparation time. This assignment has become somewhat notorious among the Theatre students because of its effectiveness in bringing together all of the skills covered in the class and in providing an emotional challenge that tests their resolve.

We like to remind families of important upcoming dates.

- We begin with a late start day on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013 with classes beginning at 10:00 a.m. for our 9 through 12 grades.
- Our Winter Break begins on Monday, Dec. 23rd, with students returning on Jan. 6, 2014.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences for the Winter Session will be on Thursday, Jan. 23 (only) from 11:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

This publication is available in color on our website:
www.kentwoodps.org EKHS From the Principal's Desk

THEATRE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Our featured student of the month is **Alexandra Rodriguez** (12)! Alexandra, or A-Rod as we've nicknamed her, has been a wonderfully positive influence in and out of the classroom. As a member of the Advanced Acting class, she has continually challenged herself and provided excellent support to her peers. For the Bowen Elementary Reading Night, she stepped in to perform for the kids when we needed her and was a humorous hit.

As a cast member of **THE PRINCESS BRIDE**, she has continually assisted the production by not only playing her parts well, but by filling in for missing performers and volunteering to create specialized dolls for the production. Alexandra is a sweet kid with a great attitude and we are proud to have her participate in the drama department!



Students and families from Bowen Elementary School thoroughly enjoyed Camp Read-A-Lot, a program to stimulate young readers, with EK's Advanced Acting Theatre students reading and acting out scary stories around the campfire teaching the these young Falcons to appreciate and celebrate reading. Kentwood Public Library joined in the fun with one of their youth librarians reading to students as well. Pam Gombert, Bowen Elementary Media personnel worked with the group putting together this opportunity for all to enjoy.



BUSINESS

****TEN NEW STUDENTS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA AND WILL COMPETE ON JANUARY 11 AT DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY.**



****FNN HAS EXPERIENCED AN UPGRADE IN QUALITY DUE TO STUDENTS TAKING OWNERSHIP IN THE PRODUCT THEY PRODUCE. EVIDENCED BY HIGHER QUALITY VIDEOS AND BRANCHING OUT TO COVERAGE OF THE GOOD THINGS OF EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.**

****MARKETING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDENTS HAVE GIVEN TOP NOTCH/HIGH QUALITY PRESENTATIONS THAT WILL BE USED IN DECA COMPETITIONS THIS JANUARY.**

****AP COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS STUDENTS WILL REPRESENT EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL AT THE REGIONAL COMPETITION OF BPA IN JANUARY PROGRAMMING.**

CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE TROUPE



EK Theatre has used this first trimester to mount our first production of the season. In October, the Children's Performance Troupe presented a well-received **BIG BAD**, which was directed by Marjorie Behm. This marked the seventh anniversary for the Children's Performance Troupe.

A smart, humorous review of several classic tales told in a courthouse setting, the show featured an enthusiastic cast and a wonderful display of costuming! As an interactive show it encouraged audience participation to determine the verdict of the show. It was great quality family entertainment enjoyed by our community.