



KENNETT

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Winter 2012

Message From Our Board

by Heather Schaen

The Spirit of Our Community

Friends told me that serving on the school board could be a thankless job. But as a public servant, each year I am thankful and inspired by the strength and generosity of the people within the Kennett Community. And not just the hard working staff of the Kennett Consolidated School District but the hundreds of volunteers who contribute to our school community each and every day. I never cease to be amazed by the spirit of this community. From parents, tutors, Parent Teacher Organizations, coaches, Kennett Education Foundation members, After-The-Bell volunteers, AfterProm committee members, to Kennett Boosters Club, school board members, and Kennett students... these people are giving time, talent, and sharing resources throughout the entire year. How does that impact our community, one might wonder? Not only does it make a difference within our school walls but in our community as well. Here are just a few examples of what volunteers are doing in the community.

Young Philanthropists Make Sweet Music

After participating in the One Book One School program, students at Kennett Middle School were given an autographed copy of *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick. It is a story about a boy whose world is turned upside down when his little brother is diagnosed with cancer. Kennett Middle School students are no strangers to this experience as several classmates have been treated for leukemia and other cancers at Nemours/Alfred I DuPont Hospital For Children in recent years, and one of their beloved music teachers lost his own son to brain cancer.

However, the students of Kennett Middle School decided they could make a difference in the lives of children with cancer. They were inspired to host a benefit concert for Nemours/Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children. The event featured musical performances by individuals and groups from Kennett Middle School and Kennett High School. The event raised approximately \$1,500 for treating children with cancer at the Nemours/Alfred I DuPont Hospital and for the Nemours

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KCSD Welcomes Visitors from China

Recently a delegation of administrators from public schools in the Hebei Province of China came to several school districts in Chester County to form partnerships with American schools. The goal of the trip was to exchange ideas and provide administrators from both schools the opportunity to share effective educational practices.

"This gave us a wonderful opportunity to sit down and really see the similarities and differences between our two educational systems," commented Kennett High School principal, Dr. Michael Barber.

During their trip to the Kennett Consolidated School District, the visitors split into groups, some visiting Kennett High School, some Kennett Middle School, and the others attending different elementary schools throughout the district. The group spent their entire afternoon following students from class to class and getting an idea of what a typical school day is like for students in the Kennett Consolidated School District.

"The visitors showed a high level of interest in the hands-on activities in the science lab that allows students to really put theory into practice in a lab setting," commented Dr. Barber.

The group was also interested in and surprised by the wide offering of extra-curricular and after-school activities such as sports, as well as the high school's television studio. One significant difference that the administrators



Superintendent Dr. Tomasetti, and principals Dr. Barber and Mr. Carr speak with an administrator from China about the differences in school districts.

saw between their schools in China and Kennett High School is the number of choices that students here have in what they choose to learn and participate in. One administrator noted how rich and colorful the lives of Kennett High School's students seem.

Schools in the Hebei province operate quite differently from a typical day at Kennett High School. The district that the delegation represented has a population of more than 70 million people and they are responsible for more than 4,000 high schools. The school day in China consists of a morning session, then a several hour break, during which students go home for lunch, and then an afternoon session that goes far later than American schools.

"This visit was an excellent opportunity for us to develop new friendships with fellow administrators," commented Dr. Barber. "We look forward to continuing to develop these friendships as well as the educational dialogue about the success of students."

While in the United States, the visitors were also able to tour the Downingtown Area School District and West Chester Area School District.

"They were very gracious guests," said superintendent Dr. Barry Tomasetti. "It was a great experience for everyone involved."

2012-2013 School Calendar Announced

The 2012-2013 student school year will begin on Monday, August 27, 2012, and end on Thursday, June 6, 2013, pending no inclement weather make-up days. The winter holiday will run from Monday, December 24, 2012 through Tuesday, January 1, 2013, with school resuming on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. Spring break will be Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29, 2013.

One inclement weather make-up day has been built into the calendar – Friday, February 1, 2013 (which will be a staff in-service day if not needed as a make-up day). Additional days will be made up at the end of the school year or on designated local holidays. The five days designated as "local holidays" are in accordance with the ruling of the Department of Education and, if necessary, can be used as inclement weather

make-up days. These dates are Monday, January 21, 2013 (Martin Luther King holiday); Monday, February 18, 2013 (President's Day holiday); and Monday, March 25 through Wednesday, March 27, 2013 (spring break).

The complete calendar will be posted on the KCSD website in August.

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Kindergarten Registration Deadline: March 30

See page 3 for more information.

District Directory

KENNETT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

300 East South Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-6600
Fax: 610-444-6614
www.KCSD.org

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Heather Schaen, Vice-president
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Mark T. Tracy, Director of Business Administration
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Sharon Bennett, Director of Special Education
Robert J. Perzel, Director of Construction and Facilities
Jane Pedroso, Curriculum Supervisor for Language Arts and Social Studies
Mary Lynn Vincent, Curriculum Supervisor for Mathematics and Science

Kennett High School (grades 9-12)

100 East South Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-6620
Dr. Michael Barber, Principal
Raymond Fernandez, Assistant Principal
Dr. Tomorrow Jenkins, Assistant Principal
Jeffery Thomas, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director

Kennett Middle School (grades 6-8)

195 Sunny Dell Road
Landenberg, PA 19350
610-268-5800
John E. Carr, Principal
Lorenzo DeAngelis, Assistant Principal
Karen Gerlach, Assistant Principal

Bancroft Elementary School

181 Bancroft Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-925-5711
Leah McComsey, Principal

Greenwood Elementary School

420 Greenwood Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-388-5990
Tracey Marino, Principal

Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center

409 Center Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-6260
Carla Horn, Principal

New Garden Elementary School

265 New Garden Road
Toughkenamon, PA 19374
610-268-6900
Susan McArdle, Principal

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Kennett Consolidated School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Kennett Consolidated School District students and parents who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities, should contact the Superintendent's Office at 300 East South Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348, telephone (610) 444-6600.

The Kennett Consolidated School District Newsletter is published by Kennett Consolidated School District

For questions or comments email us at PR@KCSD.org

KHS Alumni Spotlight: Ana Ayala

In this edition of the Kennett Consolidated School District Alumni Spotlight, we would like to introduce Ana Ayala, a 2004 Kennett High School graduate. Ana currently works for the United States State Department as the program manager for the Charles B. Rangle and Thomas R. Pickering Fellowships.

While at Kennett High School, Ana was involved in a wide variety of activities. She was very involved with Unidad, Future Business Leaders of America, as well as many community service organizations.

"Kennett High School embodies a supportive community, and not every school has that," commented Ana. "For me it provided an extremely supportive and welcoming environment."

One person who impacted Ana greatly while she was a student at Kennett High School was Ms. Loretta Perna. Ana commented that Ms. Perna was one of her biggest influences, helping her to navigate the college and scholarship application process.

"Ms. Perna helped a lot of us to really put a focus on college and just sitting down and filling out applications," Ana said. "I think that it would have been really difficult for me without her."

Ana explained that Ms. Perna was a huge inspiration to her and her friends and kept them motivated and working hard.

Ana attended Penn State University for her undergraduate degree, where she earned three bachelor's degrees in International Studies, Japanese, and East Asian Studies. She is currently working on attaining her master's degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University and is on track to receive this degree in May of this year.

Ana has a strong interest in diversity issues as well as the Foreign Service and currently serves as the program manager of the Charles B. Rangle and Thomas R. Pickering Fellowships. These federal government fellowships are designed to attract diverse candidates to the Foreign Service.

"I like this position because it really gives me a chance to address the diversity issues," commented Ana. "I really care about making sure that everyone has an equal opportunity, and it is very important to me that our diplomats represent accurately the diversity of the American people."

Her job entails managing all of the pieces of the Rangle and Pickering fellowships, including helping fellows through both the internship and mentoring components of the fellowship and assisting them as they get acquainted with the State Department as a whole.

If you know of a Kennett High School alumnus who would be a good candidate for a spotlight, please email PR@KCSD.org.

Family Connection – A Valuable Web Service for KHS Students & Parents

The guidance department at Kennett High School introduced Family Connection, a web-based service that assists students in the college and career decision-making process, in 2009. The free service offers students and their parents an abundance of individually tailored college and career planning resources. In the years since it began, Family Connection has truly transformed the way in which guidance counselors interact with parents and students regarding their college and career decision making.

The program allows students to keep all of their information, including academic history, accomplishments, credentials, and even college and career preferences, well organized so that they have the best chance of being accepted into the schools of their choice. It provides an almost endless source of information and also allows guidance counselors to stay in touch with students and parents electronically.

"Family Connection is a great tool for students and their families as well as their guidance counselors," commented Ms. Jeanne Hutton, Kennett High School guidance counselor. "It has changed our jobs in the most positive ways. We are better able to target students and give them more personalized and informed advice based on what we can see through Family Connection."

Ninth graders are first introduced to Family Connection when guidance counselors visit the required Introduction to Personal Finance course. Freshman year focuses students on career exploration. As sophomores, students explore their personality types in order to discover suitable career options for themselves. During junior year, Family Connection helps them start planning for their future by assisting students explore the college search feature built into the program. This feature helps

students compare their interests, grades, and SAT scores with the colleges that they are browsing. In their final year of high school, Family Connection guides students through the college and scholarship application process.

"This program creates a nice continuity for students from year to year," Ms. Colleen Allen, Kennett High School guidance counselor, said about Family Connection.

Family Connection's career database maintains about 1,000 extensive career profiles for students to peruse. Out of that number, nearly 600 have short videos detailing the careers.

Other features provided by Family Connection are an SAT preparation program, reminders for events such as college visits, and more in-depth activities and resources to guide students in better understanding what future pursuits are most compatible with their skills and personality types. There is also a college search feature and information on available scholarships. Another wonderful feature that Family Connection offers is electronic communication.

"We now have the ability to send targeted e-mail blasts to students and parents about important events such as college information nights and upcoming scholarship opportunities," commented Ms. Allen. "This is a great way to communicate with students and their families."

This communication feature can be used additionally to let students know when specific college representatives are visiting Kennett High School, and counselors have noticed a definite increase in the number of students interested in meeting with college representatives.

Kennett High School's use of Family Connection was highlighted recently at a national conference for school administrators for the way the school has fully integrated the program into both educational and career planning for each student.

Parents are encouraged to participate in Family Connection alongside their children, offering guidance and monitoring their child's progress. Parents no longer need to call the high school to ask if their child's transcripts were sent to their colleges of choice. Through the Family Connection service, verifying this kind of information is possible at the click of a button.

Ms. Allen sees Family Connection as a wonderful tool to help both students and parents to prepare for life beyond the high school years. Students now have one place where they can keep track of their awards, honors, and accomplishments.

"They don't always get that in other classes," Ms. Allen said. "Whatever they complete is saved for the four full years of high school. It also allows counselors and teachers to send out emails about scholarships specific to students, such as those who have the GPA levels that might be required to apply for such financial assistance."

Families can find a link to Family Connection in the Guidance Department section of the Kennett High School website. The service allows people to visit as a guest user, but to gain the most from the service parents should contact their child's guidance counselor to learn how to set up an account.

District News

Kindergarten Registration

The Kennett Consolidated School District welcomes you to our district. Note: Students must have attained the age of 5 years on or before September 30th for kindergarten. All registrations will be processed at Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center by appointment only beginning March 5th through March 30th. You may schedule your appointment by calling (610) 444-4235. The Kindergarten Center is located at 409 Center Street, Kennett Square PA, 19348.

Below is the list of required documents at the time of your scheduled registration appointment:

1. Two (2) current proofs of residency (Valid proofs of residency consist of a lease signed by both parties, deed, real estate tax bill, settlement contract, or current (within 30 days or quarterly) mortgage statement or utility bill (water or electric)). Further documentation may be requested at the discretion of the school district.
2. Parent/Guardian identification: valid driver's license, state issued ID or passport
3. Student's original birth certificate, baptismal certificate or valid passport
4. Immunization record
5. Parent Registration Statement (provided in the registration packet) Form must be notarized.
6. Home Language Survey (provided in the registration packet)

If applicable: Residency and Guardianship Affidavits will be considered after July 1st.

1. If parent/guardian and student are residing in someone else's home, a notarized Residency Affidavit must be completed by both resident and parent/guardian. At the time of registration appointment all parties must be present. Note: Two (2) proofs of residency and identification of the resident and four (4) proofs of residency and identification of the parent/guardian must be provided when submitting for approval. Acceptable proofs of residency and identification are listed on the forms. Forms are included in the registration packet. Further documentation may be requested at the discretion of the school district. Superintendent will review documentation submitted and provide final approval.
2. If student is residing with someone other than the parent, a notarized Guardianship Affidavit must be completed by the guardian. Note: Two (2) proofs of residency and identification of the guardian must be provided when submitting for approval. Further documentation may be requested at the discretion of the school district. Superintendent will review documentation submitted and provide final approval.
3. If student is placed with a family by a court system or foster agency, an original placement letter is required at the time of the registration appointment.

For your convenience a notary is available for registration (student enrollment) purposes ONLY.

To ensure a smooth transition in the educational needs of your child, the following documents should be provided:

1. For special education students, a copy of the most recent Individualized Education Program (IEP) and evaluation report.
2. 504 Service Agreement/Plan

The Kennett Consolidated School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Kennett Consolidated School District employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities, should contact Dr. Barry Tomasetti, District Superintendent, 300 East South Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348, telephone (610) 444-6600.

Inscripción del Kindergarten

El Kennett Consolidated School District le da la bienvenida al distrito. Nota: Para asistir a kindergarten, los estudiantes deben tener los 5 años cumplidos el 30 de septiembre. Las inscripciones serán procesadas en la Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center por cita solamente comenzando el 5 de Marzo hasta el 30 de Marzo. Puede pedir una cita llamando al (610) 444-4235. El Kindergarten Center está localizada en el 409 Center Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

A continuación encontrará una lista de los documentos necesarios que deberá llevar a la cita para la inscripción:

1. Dos (2) pruebas actuales de residencia (pruebas válidas de residencia son un contrato de arrendamiento firmado por ambas partes, una escritura, una cuenta de impuestos a la propiedad, un contrato de pago, una declaración actual (correspondiente a los últimos 30 días o trimestre) de la hipoteca, una cuenta de servicios (agua o electricidad)). Es posible que el distrito escolar le pida más documentación.
2. Identificación del Padre/Tutor: licencia de conducir válida, identificación emitida por el estado o pasaporte
3. Certificado de nacimiento original del estudiante, certificado de bautismo o pasaporte válido
4. Certificados de vacunación
5. Parent Registration Statement Form (formulario de declaración de inscripción para padres). Este formulario se incluye en el paquete de inscripción y debe ser firmado ante notario público.
6. Home Language Survey (cuestionario del idioma que se habla en el hogar). Este cuestionario se incluye en el paquete de inscripción.

Si corresponde: La declaración jurada de tutela y residencia se considerará después del 1ro de julio.

1. Si el padre/tutor y el estudiante residen en la casa de un tercero, tanto el residente como el padre/tutor deben presentar una declaración jurada de residencia, firmada ante un notario público. Todas las personas deben estar presentes en el momento de la inscripción. Nota: Al enviar la aprobación, debe proporcionar dos (2) pruebas de residencia e identificación del residente y cuatro (4) del padre/tutor. Los formularios contienen una lista de los documentos que se pueden utilizar como prueba de residencia e identificación. Los formularios se incluyen en el paquete de inscripción. Es posible que el distrito escolar le pida más documentación. El Superintendente revisará la documentación presentada y dará la aprobación final.
2. Si el estudiante reside con otra persona que no sea el padre, el tutor debe completar una declaración jurada de tutela firmada ante un notario público. Nota: El tutor debe proporcionar dos (2) pruebas de residencia e identificación al entregar los documentos para que sean aprobados. Es posible que el distrito escolar le pida más documentación. El Superintendente revisará la documentación presentada y dará la aprobación final.
3. Si el tribunal coloca al estudiante con una familia o con una agencia de acogida, se necesitará presentar una carta original de colocación cuando se vaya a la cita de inscripción.

Para hacer el trámite más fácil, hay un notario público disponible SÓLO para la inscripción del alumno.

Para que la transición hacia las necesidades de educación se realice sin problemas, presente los siguientes documentos:

1. En el caso de los estudiantes que reciben educación especial, necesitará presentar una copia del IEP (Programa de Educación Individualizado) más reciente y un informe de evaluación.
2. Acuerdo/Plan de servicio 504

El Kennett Consolidated School District no discriminará en sus programas educativos, actividades o prácticas de empleo, basándose en la raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, orientación sexual, discapacidad, edad, religión, antepasados, afiliación con sindicatos o cualquier otra clasificación protegida por la ley. El comunicado de esta política está de acuerdo con las leyes estatales y federales, incluyendo el Título IX de las Enmiendas de Educación de 1972, Secciones 503 y 504 del Rehabilitation Act del 1973 y del American with Disabilities Act de 1990. Los empleados y los participantes del Kennett Consolidated School District que tengan preguntas o quejas por abuso o discriminación o que necesiten información sobre modificaciones para personas con discapacidades, deben ponerse en contacto con el Dr. Barry Tomasetti, Superintendente del Distrito, 300 East South Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348, teléfono (610) 444-6600.

All Around the Schools

No Place for Hate at KMS

Bullying is a hot topic in the news these days. You cannot turn on the television without hearing “yet another” story about fights, suicide, harassment, or other forms of violence occurring in our nation’s schools. We are thankful and proud that at Kennett Middle School such incidences in our community have been tame in comparison. We take bullying seriously at KMS.

At KMS, we include anti-bullying education as part of the curriculum for all students. We continue to talk about what bullying is and provide alternative acceptable behaviors; programs for both staff and students have been developed. KMS has established a task force to ensure that these resources and activities are implemented and ongoing. The task force consists of administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, students, and parents, as well as representation from our transportation department.

KMS has partnered with the ADL (Anti-Defamation League), a national organization, to become a No Place For Hate School. The No Place For Hate program provides a model for combating intolerance, bullying, and hatred. This program is currently in 160 schools across Pennsylvania. To be recognized as an official No Place For Hate School, KMS must meet specific criteria



annually. The designation of a No Place For Hate School comes following the approval and implementation of three or more projects which celebrate diversity and promote respect throughout the student body. To date, the following programs are examples of what has been implemented:

- Student/Parent/Teacher bullying survey
- Cyber-Bullying Assembly for both students/parents
- Mix-It Up Day
- Stomp Out Bullying dance troop
- No Name Calling Week
- RAK (Random Act of Kindness) student recognition

We are committed to creating an environment where bullying is not accepted or tolerated. Creating a Culture of Care requires consistent effort and coordination between home and school. We require your assistance in making this effort to change to a CULTURE OF CARING a priority. For further information, please contact Jenna Reinheimer (School Counselor and No Place For Hate Coordinator) at: jreinheimer@kcsd.org.

What a Difference a Friend Makes

The mission of Kennett High School’s Special Friends Club is to include special needs students in social activities with other high school students, to build friendships, and to raise awareness about differently-abled students at Kennett High School. Special Friends Club is in its second year at Kennett High School, but already the club has made a significant impact on students across the school and has grown to fifty active members.

“I think partially because of the wonderful students that are involved in the club, and partially because of the incredible meaning of what the students do, this club has been contagious,” commented Ms. Amy DeFeo, a Kennett High School special education teacher and one of the founders of the club.

Special Friends Club consists of students volunteering during their lunch or study hall period to spend time with a student who has special needs. The peer buddies and their special friends meet once a week throughout the school year and either have lunch together in the cafeteria, read books in the library, or participate in ceramics class. Many of the students participating in Special Friends Club have two buddies, one whom they take to lunch, and one whom they take to their library or ceramics class.

“Having students take their special friends to ceramics class is a wonderful opportunity for our students with special needs,” commented Ms. DeFeo. “It allows them to experience an art form that they may otherwise not have had access to. This club really allows special needs students to overcome the communications and academic gap that exists and explore on the same level as our other students.”

Melissa Griffin, a 2011 Kennett High School graduate, founded the club after participating in the Special Friends Club at Kennett Middle School. She had a dream to bring the club to Kennett High School, which became a reality with the help of Mrs. Amy DeFeo. In the year since she founded the club, it has seen tremendous growth under the guidance of club president Elizabeth DiAngelis, a Kennett High School senior, and vice president Heather Day, a junior.

In the past year, Special Friends Club has changed its approach, trying to get special needs students into the most meaningful activities possible. Dr. Michael Barber, Kennett High School principal, has been extremely supportive of the club’s efforts as well.

“I truly believe that this club has changed Kennett High School,” commented Ms. DeFeo. “On Thursdays,



KHS senior Emily Lessner (left) creating ceramics with her friend Grace Eagle.

when you walk into the cafeteria you see all of the special needs students sitting at all different tables throughout the cafeteria with their new friends. I think this really makes a statement about the culture of Kennett High School.”

The club’s president, Elizabeth, has been part of the club since it was founded last year. The work that Special Friends Club does is especially meaningful to her, as she plans to work with special needs students in her future career.

“It has been great to see how strong our bonds have grown with our friends since the club started,” Elizabeth commented.

“I also think it is neat to see how much everyone at Kennett High School has really stepped up to get involved in this

club,” Heather, the club’s vice president, continued. “The amount of kids that will go to lunch or study hall with a friend is incredible. It has been so great to watch this program grow.”

Both Heather and Elizabeth commented on how rewarding it is when they see their special friend’s face light up when they come to take them to lunch or study hall.

“The first day I took my special friend to lunch with me, all of my friends decided to join the club as well. It is such a rewarding experience,” Heather said.

The Special Friends Club hopes to continue to grow in order to expand the opportunities for Kennett High School’s students of all abilities.

Football to Start at Kennett Middle School

It’s official - the football season will kick-off at Kennett Middle School this fall. With seven games and a scrimmage already scheduled for the new team of seventh and eighth grade students, players are already gearing up to represent the Blue Demons.

“It is great to see everyone come together to get this off the ground,” said Mr. Scott Green, high school football coach. “From volunteer coaches to people out raising funds, the enthusiasm and support has been amazing.”

The new football program is coming at no cost to the Kennett Consolidated School District, thanks to a number

of factors. The Kennett Athletic Booster Club donated \$5,000 to help the program get off the ground, and the middle school head coach, Mr. Mark Beeson, is volunteering his time. Additionally, each player must pay to play (\$185 per player). Although, if a family finds that the cost is prohibitive, they are asked to contact Coach Scott Green at the high school.



The middle school team will be bused to the high school, where they will practice with the freshmen team, led by Mr. Bryan Dilcher. This not only minimizes the staff needed but also insures continuity in the program as players move from the middle school to the high school level.

“Coach Green and his staff do a great job of developing players,” commented Mr. Lorenzo DeAngelis, Kennett Middle School assistant principal. “Their focus on building relationships and developing a player’s character on and off the field, as well as maintaining strong academics, is evident in the high school program. We are looking forward to a great middle school program.”

The team is still collecting donations and has about \$5,000 more to raise. If you are interested in supporting the team or have a child who is interested in playing, please contact Coach Scott Green at the Kennett High School.

Polar Bears, Whales, and Penguins, Oh My! Kindergarteners Travel to the Poles

Teachers at the Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center magically transformed the school's hallways and classrooms into the north and south poles for a six-day unit on these unique geographic regions and the animals that live there.

The completely hands-on adventure began with the students creating their own passports and making and packing their paper suitcases with paper clothing. Students then bundled up and walked to the library (the airport) where they boarded a plane to Antarctica. On the plane, operated by Penguin Airlines, students watched an in-flight movie all about penguins while the teachers transformed the hallways of the Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center into Antarctica. Once the plane had safely landed students headed out to explore the frozen tundra.

"This is a very magical experience for the students," commented kindergarten teacher Mrs. Jeri Ramagnano. "It is so much fun to see their faces light up as they come back to their classrooms. Each year it is always such a delightful reaction."

After spending several days in Antarctica, the students boarded the Polar Lights Cruise Line, which also departed from the library, and took a trip to the North Pole.

Each class does its own activities related to the trips, with all activities tying into every aspect of the curriculum. Math activities compared the students' height to the height of penguins. To practice writing, students journaled about what they experienced and saw at each of the poles. In science and social studies classes, students talked about weather and how the amount of daylight is different at the poles.

"The students just learn so much during the six days of the project," commented kindergarten teacher Mrs. Kelly Sarro. "The facts they can tell you at the end are amazing, and since all of the students are so engaged in the project, I see many students that normally struggle to write a sentence go on and on about their experience."

The North/South Pole project was a favorite of the teachers at the New Garden Kindergarten Center before bringing it to the new Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center.

"We try and make the experience as authentic as possible to really engage the students," commented kindergarten teacher Mrs. Ashley McKeown. "This project becomes something that they talk about for years to come."



Above: Children had their passports stamped as they departed the plane at the South Pole.



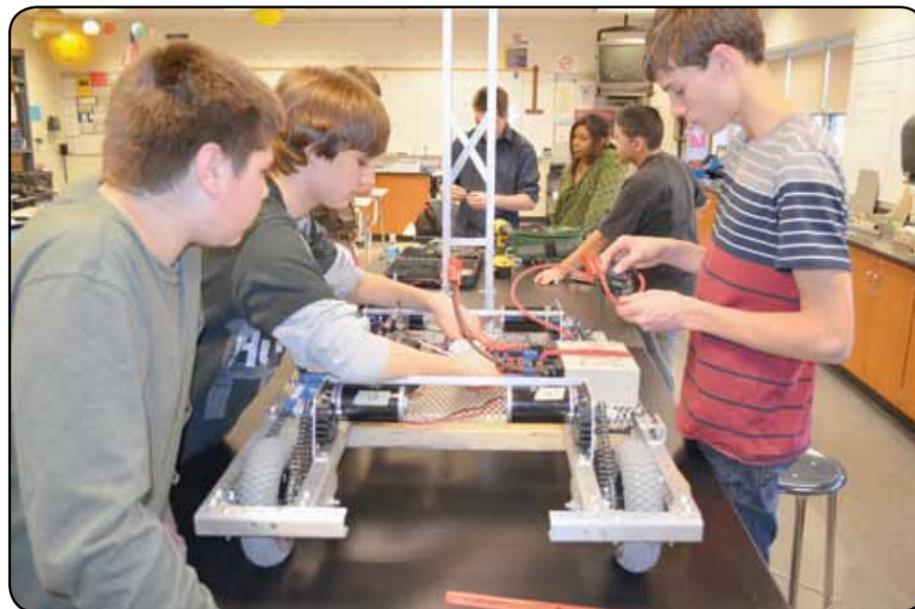
Left: Upon returning to their classrooms, children found the hallways transformed into Antarctica, complete with icebergs, igloos and penguins.

Kennett High School Students Participate in National Robotics Competition

Through the Kennett Education Foundation's Competitive Educator Grant Program, students at Kennett High School have the incredible opportunity to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition, a nationwide robotics building competition for students in grades 9-12. Mr. Dan Folmar, the club's advisor, worked with Kennett High School junior Steven Lawton to apply for the \$10,000 grant in the hopes of bringing this club to Kennett High School to get students excited about math and science.

"This is the first club at Kennett High School that encourages STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics]," commented Mr. Folmar. "We are very excited to have been given this opportunity through the Kennett Education Foundation to start a Robotics Club with the goal of participating in the competition."

The FIRST Robotics Competition works by first sending each team a kit of parts that they are able to use to construct a robot. At that time they are also given a specific set of guidelines detailing the maneuvers that the robot will need to complete on the day of competition. After receiving the kit, the students have exactly six weeks to construct a robot for the competition. The team had until midnight on February 21 to complete its robot.



Kennett High School's Robotics Club currently has 13 students and six mentors who help guide the students in the construction of their robot. The mentors are parents, teachers, and community members who have volunteered to guide the students in the right direction. The FIRST Robotics Competition focuses heavily on collaboration. With this in mind, a mentor from a high school in Wilmington whose team won the national championship comes to Kennett High School to serve as a part-time mentor.

"It's great to get to know other people who share an interest in technology and engineering," commented Kennett High

School junior Steven Lawton, club president and founder. "We're learning so much from the parents and community members who are acting as mentors ... as the founder of the club I am amazed at the support."

With only six weeks to build a complete robot, the club members and advisors worked very hard. The club met every Tuesday and Thursday after school as well as some Saturdays in the hopes of completing a robot that would perform well in its first competitions in early March.

All of their hard work paid off with a fantastic showing at the first two com-

petitions. Kennett High School's robot competed against other teams who were at the rookie level. The robot had to navigate its way through a course that involved shooting basketballs into hoops, playing offense and defense and crossing bridges.

During the March 2nd and 3rd competition at Hatboro-Horsham High School, the team earned an award for "cooperation" which is best cooperation in the competition as well as an award for "Rookie All Star." Moreover, while the team was not one of the top eight seeded teams, it was chosen by a top eight team and competed in the quarter finals.

At the March 9th and 10th competition at Chestnut Hill Academy, the team finished the qualification rounds as the fourth seeded team. They made it to the finals and finished in second place, earning the "finalist" and "highest rookie seed" awards.

Finalists for regionals will be announced around the end of March.

"The students were very excited to see their robot compete," commented Mr. Folmar. "It is my hope that the students' enthusiasm combined with the support of our adult mentors will help to sustain this program for years to come."

Bancroft Students Ask “Where in PA?”

Similar to the popular PBS game show, *Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?*, which has three contestants answering questions to determine the location of one of Carmen Sandiego’s henchmen, the “Where in Pennsylvania?” video conference project was a big hit with the fourth grade students at Bancroft Elementary. The project was facilitated by the Chester County Intermediate Unit, and is based on the “Where in Michigan?” video conference project developed by the Berrien County Regional Education Service Agency.

Designed for fourth grade students studying Pennsylvania geography and history, “Where in Pennsylvania?” incorporates the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s standards in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Using video conferencing software, the four Bancroft Elementary School fourth grade classes challenged four fourth grade classes from towns across Pennsylvania. The goal is to determine where each classroom is located based on clues provided through PowerPoint presentations, songs, poems, cheers, and other creative communication tools.

Prior to the video conference, each classroom created an original five-minute presentation with clues such as the school’s proximity to rivers or mountains, famous residents, and industries. Kennett’s clues included “We lie about 35 miles west of the city of brotherly love,” and “A famous author named Taylor was born in our town.”



Bancroft students deliver their introduction via video conference to four other schools.

On the day of the presentation, each school did a short introduction (without giving away their location!) and then presented clues to the other schools. The Bancroft fourth grade students were divided into four teams, with each team assigned to take notes and research one of the other schools.

After all of the presentations, the teams were given 30 minutes to go on a quest and research the clues that were provided. Each team was allowed to use maps, the Internet, textbooks, and other resources to discover the mystery location of the other participating schools.

At the conclusion of the research period, each team had the opportunity to ask one yes/no question of the other classrooms before regrouping and re-evaluating where the other classes were located within the state. Each classroom was given

a chance to present its guesses before the big reveal. All four of Bancroft Elementary School’s teams correctly guessed the locations of the other schools, which were located in Pittsburgh, Cranberry Township, Bryn Mawr, and Wernersville.

This innovative project gave students the chance to develop their research and communication skills while expanding their social studies knowledge and their ability to work in small groups. While all the kids agreed, “It was so much fun being a detective!”, the teachers couldn’t have been happier with this first-year project. “The creativity that the project allowed our students to express really made the topic more interesting and memorable for them,” said fourth grade teacher Lisa Cole.

Kennett Middle School Hosts Spelling Bee

With no spellcheck to rely upon, 30 Kennett Middle School students stood on stage in front of family and friends to compete in the school-wide spelling bee. Organized through the Chester

County Intermediate Unit and part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, this year’s Kennett Middle School Spelling Bee is the first one to be held in many years. Kennett Middle School language arts teacher Mrs. Carole Koroluck and Spanish teacher Ms. Brena Levi were responsible for bringing the competition back to Kennett Middle School.



(L-R) Ms. Levi, Mrs. Koroluck, Harry Lehr, Dylan Munson, and assistant principal Mrs. Gerlach.

“We wanted to give students the opportunity to participate in this exciting event that could even allow them a chance to participate at the national level,” commented Mrs. Koroluck.

Through a written pre-test, the 30 students with the highest scores were offered the opportunity to participate in the spelling bee, with equal representation from each grade level.

The competition was very close, and in the end it took 30 rounds of spelling

to find a winner. Seventh grader Harry Lehr ultimately won by correctly spelling the word “antecedent”. The runner-up in the competition was eighth grader Dylan Munson.

“The end of the competition was very suspenseful,” commented Ms. Levi. “The last two spellers went seven rounds without getting a single word incorrect.”

“The students were very excited and into the competition, and all were very respectful of each other,” commented Mrs. Koroluck. “The whole school was buzzing about the spelling bee for several days afterwards.”

Mrs. Koroluck and Ms. Levi hope to continue growing interest and excitement about the spelling bee for next year.

On February 7, Harry traveled to the Chester County Intermediate Unit to compete at the county level. Although he will not be continuing on to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., the Kennett Consolidated School District is proud of Harry’s accomplishments.

New Garden Students Build Math Skills



Students share their cube “buildings” with visiting architect Mr. Philip Yocum.

The students in Mrs. Yocum’s second grade classroom at New Garden Elementary School recently shared floor plans and models built from connecting cubes with architect Mr. Philip Yocum. While studying an Investigations Math unit entitled “How Many Floors, How Many Rooms,” the children explored the relationship between two quantities in a constant ratio situation. They used tables to represent the ratios and found the value of one quantity in a constant ratio situation, given the value of the other.

Mr. Yocum arrived with many examples of floor plans, elevations, and site plans. He also brought some of the tools he uses each day in his office and shared how he uses math each and every day at work. With materials set up in four stations around the classroom, the children were introduced to the link between the math they had studied and an architect’s projects. Later in the visit, the children shared examples of their “cube structures” and modeled how they computed the number of rooms within a multi-story building using repeated addition, skip counting patterns, or pictures on the Smartboard.

KCSD Students Explore Coastal Habitats

Twenty Kennett Consolidated School District students were recently given the incredible opportunity to travel for four days to the Marine Science Consortium (MSC) at Wallops Island, VA. This gave the students hands-on experience learning about the importance of marine ecology. The trip was provided to the students free of charge as part of a grant from Millersville University in partnership with West Chester University.

"This was a great opportunity for students," commented Kennett High School teacher Mr. Michael Anastas who helped organize the trip. "We had students from the whole spectrum of grades and academic levels, and everyone

learned a great deal from the experience."

MSC is an educational and research center that focuses on the environmental, biological and ecological systems found along coastal regions. These include salt marshes, barrier islands, dunes, and intertidal regions. The group of students on the trip included ten students from Kennett Middle School and ten students from Kennett High School.

Once at the Marine Science Consortium, students participated in a wide range of educational activities based around the research that is conducted by the MSC every day. The group spent

time out on the water in a research vessel where they collected water samples which were brought back to the lab for analysis. They also ventured into the salt marshes to learn about the unique ecosystem present there. The students caught small fish and sponges along the shoreline and took them back to the lab for identification. They also studied the community along the beach, including the different plants and animals that live in the dunes.

The students enjoyed getting a chance to explore the beach and the ocean from a new perspective. "It was neat to go out in a boat as a scientist and not just as a

sailor," commented one Kennett High School sophomore of the trip.

"I have been to the beach before, but I never really thought about what else lives there," commented another Kennett High School Sophomore. "I will definitely think of the shore differently from now on."

The Kennett Consolidated School District hopes to continue its relationship with West Chester University and the Marine Science Consortium. As part of this grant, a new group of high school and middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in the program again next year.

Greenwood Elementary Students Sing About Reading

Over the winter months first-grade students at Greenwood Elementary School delved deeper into their favorite stories and the authors behind them with the assistance of Mr. Rick Waterhouse, a songwriter and former teacher.

The Author Project began with each class selecting an author and spending time not only reading books by their chosen author but also focusing on the author's writing and illustration styles. After students had spent time learning about the writing styles of their chosen authors, Mr. Waterhouse visited each classroom to make a presentation on the author's life. The first-graders then created their own pieces of writing and art inspired by their authors.

"My class chose Lois Ehlert this year, and we made geometric animals inspired by her collage work - it was a fun way for the students to understand her style of illustration," commented first grade teacher Mrs. Maureen Keitch. "This project also exposed the students to new genres of writing, and it gave them a chance to really understand the writer's craft and inspiration."



Mr. Waterhouse returned to each classroom a second time to teach the students an original song about their author.

"The students absolutely love to sing and perform, and this is a nice way to incorporate singing into the curriculum," commented Mrs. Keitch. "It is fun to see the kids go home after the presentation and ask to read books by different authors that they learned about."

The Author Project culminated in a grade-wide assembly where each class had the opportunity to share facts that they learned about their authors with their friends, parents and teachers. And of course, the students performed the songs they learned from Mr. Waterhouse.

This is the fourth year that Mr. Waterhouse has run the author's project at Greenwood Elementary School. "Greenwood Elementary School has a great group of kids. It is always fun when I walk into a classroom and the children are so excited about learning their songs," commented Mr. Waterhouse. "I am not sure who has more fun with the Author Project - me or the children!"

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Center for Childhood Cancer which is working to develop and research improved delivery of medicines with fewer side effects for children with cancer.

National Honor Society Gives Back

Kennett High School National Honor Society students have been busy giving back to the community in a variety of ways this school year. To be granted membership in National Honor Society, students must be in either their junior or senior year and must meet specific criteria including a grade point average of at least 3.75, involvement in at least 2 different activities, strong leadership qualities, and recommendations of their teachers.

This past year, National Honor Society members have been making their mark in the community. From participating in the Red Clay Creek Clean Up and organizing a blood drive for Winter and Spring seasons to collecting "Pennies for Patients" for Lymphoma and Leukemia Society and raising \$1,300 for UNICEF by running a Haunted Halloween Trail at Anson B. Nixon Park, these students have community service down to a science. However, they didn't stop there. They have also worked at the Kennett Run and participated in the AI DuPont Hospital Food Drive where students

went "trick or treating" for canned goods instead of candy. Next on their list is to volunteer at the new Habitat for Humanity store coming in April to New Garden Shopping Center.

WIN (Walk In kNowledge) Program Makes Community Service a Priority

The WIN Program is an after-school program which provides academic enrichment opportunities to supplement and support the regular academic program. The program offers a variety of different services such as mentoring, tutoring, homework assistance, goal setting, and more. WIN coordinator Ms. Loretta Perna stresses the value and importance of giving back to the community on a regular basis. Students have full class loads but know they must make the time to volunteer each month. Starting in September, more than 25 WIN students volunteered at the Kennett Mushroom Festival. Students assisted the vendors in setting up, running errands, carrying materials, serving customers, and doing whatever was necessary to make the day run smoothly.

WIN students also assisted the Longwood Rotary Club with their two mile "Adopt a Highway" clean up along Route 1. Under the guidance of teacher Ms. Emlyn Frangiosa, the WIN students

are volunteering to work with students as "Study Buddies" to help younger students with homework. Also on the calendar is participation in Clean up Day in Anson B. Nixon Park hosted by the Red Clay Valley Association, working at the Kennett Run, and volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Store.

Parent Volunteers Build a Kennett Middle School Football Program

Parent Bryan Dilcher and Kennett High School football coach Scott Green rallied 55 prospective football parents to initiate a pay-to-play football program at Kennett Middle School. The program's pay-to-play format represents zero cost to the District and will be funded by a membership fee. In order to keep the fee affordable for families the team will be supplemented by fundraising efforts initiated by volunteer parents and coaching staff. The program will begin in September 2012 with a goal of all fundraising being completed by the end of this school year. Practice will be open to seventh and eighth graders and will be held on Kennett High School fields. The team will practice with the freshman squad for certain intervals in order to prepare and get acclimated to the high school program.

Project Lead the Way (STEM/Science Technology, Engineering, and Math Program)

Dr. Barry Tomasetti is leading the way to implement Project Lead the Way for the 2013-2014 school year. Project Lead the Way is a nationally acclaimed Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum for grades 9-12. This initiative will increase the number of students who are both prepared for and interested in STEM-related careers. Project Lead the Way presents a comprehensive engineering and biomedical sciences curriculum that has been designed in a collaborative process by teachers, university professors, and engineering and biomedical professionals to promote the skills of thinking, creativity, innovation, and real world problem solving (www.PLTW.org). Dr. Tomasetti presented the initiative to implement the STEM program to the Kennett Education Foundation for funding consideration. Kennett Education Foundation has approved the funding of the fixed costs while business partners that employ engineers are still being sought.

On behalf of the Kennett Consolidated School Board, thank you for making this a wonderful school community in which to live and to serve.

KHS Senior Celebrated for Achievements On and Off Football Field

Kennett High School senior Anthony Torello was honored recently for his achievements both on and off the football field with a Mini-Maxwell Award from the Maxwell Football Club. Each year, the Maxwell Football Club presents several Mini-Maxwell Awards to the region's top high school senior football players who are active in the community and excel academically.

Anthony, a running back, is the captain of Kennett High School's football team and also serves as the captain of Kennett High School's lacrosse team. Off the field, Anthony is very involved in community service and is academically accomplished, taking Advanced Placement calculus and physics.

"Anthony is a terrific young man who has demonstrated his ability to be a high achiever in numerous arenas," commented Kennett High School principal Dr. Michael Barber. "He is a strong, quiet leader who leads by example and displays an attitude that would make any parent, principal or coach proud."

Anthony was nominated for the award by Kennett High School football coach, Scott Green.

"It's humbling and nice to know that my community service was noticed in receiving this award," Anthony commented. "It's great to be recognized for something other than athletics."

The Maxwell Football Club (originally called the Maxwell Football Club of Philadelphia) was established in 1935 to promote safety in the game of American football. Named in honor of the late Robert W. (Tiny) Maxwell, legendary college player, official, and sports columnist, the club was founded by his friend Bert Bell, then-owner



of the Philadelphia Eagles professional football team and later commissioner of the National Football League. In addition to the Mini-Maxwell Award, the Maxwell Football Club presents the Maxwell Award for the College Player of the Year, as well as the Rotary Lombardi Award and the Heisman Trophy.

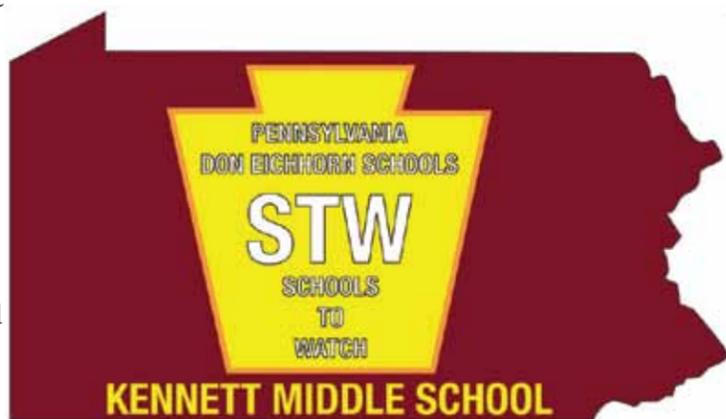
Kennett Middle School Named a "PA School to Watch"

Five exemplary middle grades schools in Pennsylvania have been named PA Don Eichhorn Schools: "Schools to Watch" (PA STW) as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. The Pennsylvania "Schools to Watch" team has announced that Kennett Middle School is one of five schools in Pennsylvania that met the strict STW criteria this year.

KMS joins 21 other Pennsylvania middle-grades schools recognized earlier. The five newest schools were recognized at the Pennsylvania Middle School Association Conference in State College on March 4.

Each school was selected by state leaders for its academic excellence, its responsiveness to the needs and interests of its students, and its commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels.

In addition, each school has strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement.



Dr. John Harrison, Past President of the National Forum stated, "We congratulate these schools for being places that do great things for all of their students. These schools demonstrate that high-performing middle grades schools are places that focus on academic growth and achievement. They are also places that recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensure that every child has access to a rigorous, high-quality education."

Linda Hopping, Chair, as well as other members of the National Forum Schools to Watch Oversight Committee, explain that selection was based on a written application that required schools to show how they met criteria developed by the National Forum. Schools that appeared to meet the criteria were then visited by state teams which observed classrooms, interviewed administrators, teachers, students, and parents, and looked at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work. Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of three years must demonstrate progress on specific goals in order to be re-designated.

Parent/Student Resource Corner



Welcome to the Kennett Consolidated School District's Parent/Student Resource Corner! In each issue of the newsletter, parents and guardians will find educational web sites that will help keep their student academically engaged and challenged outside of the classroom.

Good Sites for Kids

<http://www.goodsitesforkids.org/literacy.htm>

Good Sites for Kids- A strong literary resource for students in grades 3-8, this website guides students and parents to a variety of other literacy websites targeted to help students get some extra practice on their individual and grade-specific needs.

The Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

The Purdue OWL is a wonderful online writing resource center for students in grades 7-12. This resource offers guides to MLA and APA formats, style guides, grammar rules, information on how to write different types of essays, and much more. No username or password are needed to access this website.

Online Writing Lab for Elementary Students

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/concord/teacherlinks/sixtraits/sixtraits.html>

This website is a great resource for students in our younger grades to explore writing with their parents. It focuses on six traits that make good writing work and provides useful information as well as activity ideas. No username or password are required to access this website.

Figure This!

<http://www.figurethis.org>

Figure This! is a website that offers a variety of mathematical challenges aimed at middle school students and their families. The challenges are designed to teach students how to apply complicated mathematical principles in real-world situations. No username or password are required.

PBS Kids Cyberchase

<http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/>

Cyberchase offers a variety of mathematical problem-solving games for students in grades K-8. The games are targeted to each specific grade level and offer a fun, challenging way to reinforce math skills taught in the classroom. No username or password are required.