

The PawPrint

*ODE Excellent Rating 2001-2011
2003 National Blue Ribbon
School of Excellence*

HOUSE BILL 555 WILL CHANGE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

House Bill 555 would move from rating schools using current labels such as “Excellent” and “Continuous Improvement” to an A-F grading system. The goal is to make the rating labels easier to understand, but it will also make it harder for schools to get a top grade. The reason it will be more difficult to get a top grade is two-fold. First the passage rates or cut scores for the tests will be increased, which means students will need to score higher on the test in order to be considered proficient, and the rigor of the tests themselves are going to increase.

The bill would also:

- Revise district report cards to include the creation of a “dashboard” of individual grades in areas including state test scores, student growth and college/career readiness;
- Delay awarding schools a single overall letter grade until 2014-15; and
- Create a separate grading system for charter schools serving students who have dropped out of other schools.

House Bill 555 has a number of areas of concern for Kalida Local Schools, and public schools in general. The Kalida Board of Education sent the inserted letter to a number of members of the Ohio General Assembly in an attempt to persuade them to make changes to House Bill 555. Some, but not all, of the changes suggested by Kalida Local Schools and a large number of other districts and public education organizations were incorporated into the Ohio Senate version of the bill. It is very likely Kalida Local Schools will see a very different result than we are used to on the next District Report Card. The next District Report Card will reflect the measure of a large number of changes. The curriculum has been changed with a move to the Ohio Core Curriculum, the assessments have been changed and made more difficult, and the score needed to pass the assessments will be increased.

If you have any questions about House Bill 555 please contact Don Horstman or a member of the Kalida Board of Education.



Elementary Celebrates ‘12’

It’s not very often a number gets its own day, but on 12/12/12, Kalida Elementary took the time to recognize the number 12. Twelve students or teachers were drawn to ring the school bell at 12 minutes after 12. In addition, 12 students were winners of *Wildcat Bucks* to spend on concessions at a high school basketball game. Kindergarten students proudly display their ‘12’ hats as the ceremony took place on this recent, once in a lifetime day.



A New Face in the Crowd - Kseniya Ivanova, a Russian exchange student, is currently attending KHS. "I have been here for four months already," says Kseniya. "I really like to be here. I enjoy Kalida's fast and full lifestyle. You pay a



lot of attention to sports, and spend time with friends and family. I am living with my host family, Diana and Jeff Roehrig, going to high school and meeting new people. Thanks to them, every day I learn something about American lifestyle. I couldn't wait to celebrate American holidays. Thanksgiving is a

holiday we don't celebrate in Russia. I really liked how we did it here. I had fun. I really want to celebrate Christmas. I enjoy looking at all decorations everywhere, it is so pretty. People are preparing gifts and thinking about this holiday."

Empty Stocking Bake Sale - Students in grades 9 - 12 collected \$251 during a recent bake sale. Donated baked items were sold at lunch time with the monies generated being sent to the *Empty Stocking* local charity. This event was sponsored by the KHS student council. Thanks to all!

Meet Our Crossing Guard Volunteer

Every school day around 2:50 PM, Ms. Pat Gray shows up two blocks from school to assist 10-15 students cross Ralph Street. With the reduction of busing into subdivisions and the addition of a three way stop at the corner of Third and Ralph Streets, we were looking for someone to help our students safely on their way. Ms. Gray graciously



volunteered and has been on the job for two years now. In addition to helping us out, Ms. Gray works at the Meadows of Kalida and as a home health aide. It is great people like Pat that make this such a wonderful community.

13th Annual Holiday Games for Giving!

The Putnam County Thrift store is in need of canned food items at this time of year. To help this organization, the 13th annual *Holiday Games for Giving* was held at Kalida Elementary. Students brought in at least one canned food item to physical education classes and then participated in holiday games. Since 2000, we have donated over 5,200 food items to the Thrift store. Thanks for your contributions! Have a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

National Technical Honor Society

Kalida High School Senior Alyssa Odenweller was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society on December 11 at Vantage Career Center.



Alyssa is a senior in the Cosmetology program at Vantage. After graduation, she plans to major in fashion design but is undecided as to which school she may attend. Alyssa is the daughter of Angela Odenweller. The main purpose of the National Technical Honor Society is to reward scholastic achievement in occupational and career technical education. Students who achieved a 3.5 grade point average or better, while maintaining a 95% attendance rate at Vantage, were eligible to apply for membership in NTHS. In addition to submitting a resume and writing an essay stating why they would like to be a part of the NTHS, the students also were required to obtain three teacher recommendations.

Coaches Needed - The athletic department is taking applications for the positions of **JV Baseball coach** for spring 2013, and **head Varsity Volleyball coach** for fall 2013. All applicants are required to have a valid CPR card and complete all required classes prior to the season beginning. If interested, contact Mr. Jim McBride, athletic director, or Mr. Chris Pfahler, high school principal, at 419-532-3529. The deadline for application for the baseball position is January 14. The deadline for the volleyball position is February 1.

Toys for Tots - Kalida High School's National Honor Society held a toy drive this week to benefit the local *Toys for Tots* program. One hundred fifty-six toys were collected from students and staff members. The Christmas season just got a little brighter! Thanks to all those who donated.





American Legion Americanism/Government
Winners have been announced for the 2012 American Legion Americanism/Government test. They are:

- Freshmen- Paige Roller/Trent Gerding
- Sophomores - Rachel Rall/Derek Schroeder
- Juniors - Derek Verhoff/Kylie Siebeneck
- Seniors - Carrie Gerding/ Cassie Unverferth/
Eric Warnecke

This test evaluates students’ knowledge of American history and government. American Legion members Mr. Tom Rosenbauer and Mr. Bryce Agner presented the winners with certificates and pens.

The Pulsera Project

Students in the Foreign Language Club at KHS sold handmade bracelets - “pulseras”- as a fund raiser for the artisans of Nicaragua. The pulseras are woven by individuals in many colorful styles and designs.



Pulseras were sent here and were sold for \$5 each. **Find out more by going to www.pulseraproject.org.**

Communication Without Words - The American Sign Language (ASL) students of KHS were able to share an experience at the Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) in Columbus on December 7. **The Deaf Immersion Day** is a day where hearing students from all over Ohio go to the OSD campus and interact with the OSD students. During the visit, they were not to use their voice and could only communicate through sign language. ASL 2 students now, as part of their grade, will complete a term paper describing the experience.

PSAT and PLAN Results - Results for the PSAT and PLAN (Pre-ACT for sophomores) assessments will be arriving soon. These results will be shared with students in late December or early January.

Juniors: Don’t Forget the ACT!!

Parents of juniors are encouraged to remind their child to register and take the ACT at least 2 – 3 times before their senior year. The ACT is one of two college entrance exams – the other being the SAT - required by most schools for admission. The ACT is the more dominant of the two for schools in Ohio and the Midwest. Colleges will accept either test. The ACT is offered 6 times a year Remaining tests for this school year are in February, April, and June. The deadline to register for the test in February is January 11. Students must register online at www.actstudent.org. Fee waivers for the ACT are available in the guidance office for students who may qualify because of financial need. One new requirement beginning this year is that each student must upload a picture of himself or herself into the online account. Upon completing registration, a student must print out a registration ticket with the photo on it. This form along with another form of picture ID (driver’s license, etc.) must be taken to the test site in order to be permitted to test.

Seniors: Don’t Forget the FAFSA!!

Parents of seniors who will be attending college next fall are reminded to complete the Free Application for Student Assistance (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the governmental form which must be filled out by the student and his/her parent(s) in order to determine the student’s eligibility for financial aid. Many colleges and universities also require that it be filled out if a student wishes to be considered for funds or scholarships that the respective schools distribute. Beginning January 1 for this year’s seniors, parents and students can access the application at www.fafsa.ed.gov **What can you do right now?** Parents and students can apply for a pin number which will be your electronic signature for the FAFSA. The student and at least one parent need a pin number. You can obtain this at www.pin.ed.gov. A good goal for completion of the FAFSA is mid-February. Most schools have certain deadlines for completion of the FAFSA - some as early as the middle of February. Parents and students are highly encouraged to call a college’s financial aid office or check their websites for these dates.

Robotics Competition Results - Congratulations to the two VEX Robotics teams as they placed 10th and 13th out of 38 teams at the VEX Robotics competition held in Marion, Ohio on December 7. The following seniors competed in the competition: Joel Zeller, Carrie Gerding, Kaylyn Verhoff, Jessica Doepker, Jordan Wurth, Adam Knueve, Ben Cleemput, Phillip Loveland, Ryan Korte, and Anthony Dunn. Mr. Liebrecht is their advisor.

Superintendent Don Horstman

419-532-3534

HS. Principal Chris Pfahler
Elem. Principal Karl Lammers



School Board Members:

Sue M. Gerdeman- VP
Nicole Niemyer
Dennis Turnwald-President
Greg von der Embse
Gerry Vorst

School Board Meetings

Second Wednesday
7:00 PM - Kalida School Board Room

PawPrint Editor: Nancy Grote

Music Boosters

November Winners

\$50 Nancy Schnipke
\$50 Jeff Clement
\$50 Jim & Pat Hanneman
\$50 Lisa Berheide

December Drawing

\$150 Jamie & Sandy Roller
\$125 Brad Siebeneck
\$100 Denny & Carol Bockrath
\$75 Ron Knueve
\$75 Jen Meyer
\$50 Connor Erhart
\$50 Randy Westbeld
\$50 Anji Brightman
\$50 Lisa Meyer
\$50 Marilyn Niese
\$50 Cheryl Fortman
\$50 Dale & Julie Siebeneck
\$50 Lesley Peck

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Music Honors - Congratulations to senior Leah Berheide and junior Patrick Millott for being selected to perform with **District III OMEA Honors Band**. Congratulations to junior Alexis Decker who has been selected to perform with **District III OMEA Honors Choir**. The concert will be held on January 20 at 3:00 PM at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert.

They Shall Sing - The KHS Choir will have a taped performance on TV Channel 44 during Christmas season. The choir will be broadcast several times during Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Check the school's website for approximate times. The choir also performed for the Putnam County Retired Teachers December gathering at the Country Acres Golf Course on December 13.

A Successful Book Fair - A big "thank you" to everyone who supported the Kalida Elementary Library's Scholastic Book Fair this past November. The library will be able to add over **75 hardback books** with the proceeds from the book fair!! We want to thank the following people for helping at the book fair: Joyce Wurth, Kirstie Rafaniello, Annette Meyer, Carol Bockrath, Joyce Wiley, Jill Liebrecht, Kim Lehman, Dan Bellmann, and Tammy Schroeder. Please visit again next Fair!

Mary Lou Hoffman and Denise Scherer
Book Fair Co-Chairpersons

Annie Get Your Gun

Tryouts for the musical **Annie Get Your Gun** will be held on December 19. The musical will run Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 at 7:30 PM. A matinee will be held on Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 PM. Ticket information will be released at a later date.



Baby News - Belated Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Grime on the birth of their son, **Collin James**. Collin was born on the windy, turbulent day of June 29, 2012. He joins sister Kyla at home. Mrs. Beth Grime is the Anatomy, Chemistry and 8th grade Science teacher at KHS.



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. David Glick on the birth of their daughter **Haddy Makayla**. Haddy was born on September 29, 2012. Mrs. Mary Glick is the choir director at KHS and the elementary music teacher.



8th Graders Learning about Energy Efficiency

This year's 8th graders are participating in an AEP Ohio initiative called "e3smart" that is administered by the Ohio Energy Project (OEP). Mrs. Grime was selected to participate in this innovative program. She has completed a training workshop, and has received curriculum materials and student supplies that support meeting the State of Ohio energy science curriculum standards. With e3smart, students learn at school how energy is produced and used, and then apply that knowledge and practice new behaviors at home to help lower energy use and save money. Students will have the opportunity to put energy conservation lessons into action and install energy-saving items provided by AEP Ohio. Once installed, these electricity and fuel-saving measures give students the opportunity to see how low-cost and no-cost measures can help lower energy usage. To learn more about this program, visit the Ohio Energy Project (www.ohioenergy.org).

Bag Collections - The Junior High Student Council is once again sponsoring a plastic bag recycling collection. During the first week in January, collection boxes will be in place to gather the bags at the high school building.