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The Paw Print

2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004 ODE Excellent Rating; 2003 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Notes from the Superintendent

Calendar Notes

April 22-23
KHS Musical
The Wizard of Oz

April 28
Staff Development
Early Dismissal-
1:00 PM

May 3
Election Day

May 7
Prom

May 27
Last Day for
Students

May 29
Graduation
Class of 2005

**2005-2006
School Year**

August 22
Teacher Work Day

August 23
First Day
of School

It appears that we have made it through the winter season and at this time all calamity days have been made up. When the sun starts shining, school administrators begin to plan and prepare for commencement. As your new Superintendent, I am enthusiastically looking forward to my first commencement ceremony at Kalida.

The building project is really beginning to take shape as the workers have begun laying up block for the two new science classrooms as well as the library/media center. The project is proceeding forward on budget and in spite of the bad weather, only about three weeks behind the original timeline. Making use of the new classrooms, library, and gymnasium is something that staff and students are eagerly anticipating and it promises to be a facility that will make all Kalida residents proud.

This will be the last newsletter prior to the May election, so I believe it is appropriate to let all residents know that Kalida Schools are not alone in our need to increase revenue. According to the Secretary of State's compilation of school tax issues, on the May 3 ballot there will be a record 213 school issues. When considering the fact that the February election also set an all time high in terms of the number of school issues on the ballot, it becomes apparent that the State of Ohio is experiencing a school funding crisis. A state representative from Minster recently introduced a house bill (H.B. 155) to begin studying the idea of school consolidation and another state representative from Springfield has recently proposed a plan that would require all school districts in the state to participate in a state wide healthcare system (Lima News, March 29, 2005). Unfortu-

nately, while all these ideas are being considered at the state level, local school districts are going broke. I encourage all residents to make sure you know all of the facts before going to the polls on May 3. If there are any questions regarding the proposed income tax, please feel free to call me, school treasurer Cindy Webken, or log on to the school website at <http://kalida.k12.oh.us/>.

The Kalida Board of Education recently made the decision to reduce two teaching positions. Home

Listen to the WDOH Community Focus (March 27) interview on the Kalida Schools' Website (under Levy Information) featuring Mr. Neal and Ft. Jennings Superintendent Mr. Frank Sukup as they discuss school finance with WDOH News Director Bob Ulm.

Economics will not be offered next year at the 7-12 grade levels and there will be one less section of Kindergarten. Both of these reductions are a direct result of declining enrollment and an ongoing effort by the board of education to be fiscally conservative. Approximately 85% of the district's budget is used to pay salaries and benefits. Any significant attempt at reducing expenditures can only be accomplished by reducing the number of district employees. A reduction in the number of employees leads to fewer course offerings and larger class sizes. Kalida has repeatedly been designated as an "excellent" school by the State Department of Education and research has proven time and again that small class sizes are beneficial to student learning.

Please Vote on May 3.

Superintendent Mark K. Neal

Which one is better?

Income tax vs. Property tax for operating schools.

Well, it depends on many issues: one, which is better for the taxpayer? and two, which is better for the school district?

The burden of local support has traditionally fallen to the property owner. Knowing that nobody wants to pay more taxes, what we have been hearing from taxpayers is that a mix of both types of taxes would seem to be fairer. With an income tax issue the burden to pay depends on a person's ability to pay. A person who has chosen to invest in land, but has a modest income, isn't bearing the load.

With an income tax issue, all who live in the district contribute to the support of the schools, not just the property owners.

As for which is better for the school district, we have to look at our current situation and where we stand with state funding. State foundation money is tied to property tax millage. Currently, if we would try a property tax issue on the ballot, we would have to go with another 5-year emergency levy in order to avoid losing any state money. (A continuing property tax levy would only 'shift' money – our local tax payers would pay more money, but we lose state aid money that we would otherwise have received.)

The down side to a 5-year emergency levy is that we already have one of them, and with the 5-year Permanent Improvement levy, that would mean the school would be on the ballot for renewals 3 out of every 5 years. With an income tax levy, our state school foundation money is not affected, nor is an income tax affected by the tax reduction factors in House Bill 920. Therefore, an income tax provides an income source for schools which grows with inflation and as the economy expands.

So for these reasons, the Board of Education has placed a 1% continuing income tax on the May 3rd ballot. **If the income tax proposal passes, the school board will not ask for renewal of the 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy or the 4.0 mill emergency levy as they expire.** We are not at a crisis stage, yet. But we dare not wait until we get to that point before income is increased and/or expenses are decreased. The district must end each fiscal year in the black. Ohio law does not permit school districts to operate in a deficit balance.

Cindy Webken, Treasurer

Junior High Quiz Bowl Team

The Junior High Quiz Bowl Team has been newly formed at KHS. They attended their first match on February 26 at Pandora-Gilboa High School. The team competed in five matches with other junior high teams from Putnam County. Kalida won all five matches and enjoyed competing against other students. The team has had several after school practices and looks forward to their next match on April 12. Mr. Dale Liebrecht is the advisor for the Junior High Quiz Bowl Team. Good luck team!

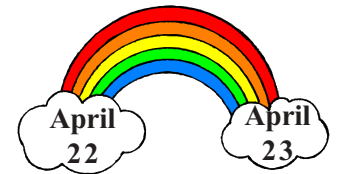


Team members include Brittany Bockrath, Kyle Hoffman, Mark Schmitz, Alex Vorst, Katie Kromer, Julia Fuerst, Stephanie Verhoff, Makenna Basinger, Michael Turnwald, Anna Tenwalde, Aissa McVicker, Michelle Webken, and Jeff Gerding.

KHS Musical

The Wizard of Oz

The students of KHS are proud to present *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday,



April 22, and Saturday, April 23. Over thirty elementary students have been added to the cast. Tickets will soon be on sale for the dinner theater on Saturday evening or general admission for either date through any cast member or from the high school office. Get yours now! Come out and enjoy the show.

Congrats also to musical director Joe Warnement and wife Laura on the birth of their twins, Zachary James and Noelle Grace, on March 13.

State Word Power Vocabulary Contest

Congratulations to Louisa Millott (8th grade) and Michael Turnwald (7th grade) who both qualified to participate in the State competition on March 18 in Dayton. All junior high students at Kalida participated in the written vocabulary quizzes with Louisa and Michael taking top honors.

Ohio Graduation Test Results

Any parent of a sophomore knows that the sophomores took all five sections of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) during the week of March 14-18. Parents and students alike would like to know when the results of the tests will be known.

Preliminary results are due back on May 26. (Notice the word "preliminary.") Two of the five tests, Reading and Math, have already been given several times to older students. Therefore, the Ohio Department of Education has already established the passing and/or failing scores (called "cut" scores) for those two tests. The results for those two tests will be official and final. However, the writing, science, and social studies tests have not been given enough times in the past to determine the cut scores. When the results arrive on May 26, we will know how many correct answers each student provided for those three tests but we will not know with certainty what the cut scores are. These will be finalized by the State Board of Education during its June meeting. Official results will arrive in our district at the end of June.

Any student who does not pass all five of the tests will have a chance to try the test again in October 2005, March 2006, October 2006, and March 2007. The state also allows summer testing in 2005 and 2006 for students who have attended 10 hours of classes for each subject they are retesting. By state regulations, the classes and the tests can only be given between July 11 and 29. The Putnam County Educational Service Center may be offering a summer school program this July, but plans are still indefinite at this time. The late arrival of the results will make it difficult for parents to plan their summers and difficult for the summer school staff to predict if there will be enough students interested in the program to make it financially feasible. We will communicate any summer school information when more definite arrangements are known.

Running for Fun and Fitness

This year the students in kindergarten through second grades voted to "run to Texas". Daily gym laps are calculated and the distance recorded for all students to see. A map of Texas was on display in the gym to show the distance they traveled from week to week. It took the students a total of 15 weeks to get to "Texas." The total miles ran were **802 miles**. This brought the total number of laps to 16,046 laps.

In celebration of this accomplishment, a water game party will be scheduled at the end of the year.

Now the students in grade 3 through grade 6 are starting their running trip to North Dakota.

Keep up the great work to stay fit!

Physical education instructor, Sherry Luebrecht.

A letter from the White House

In November, the students in Kindergarten B along with teacher Mrs. Tammy Schroeder did a lesson about the process of elections in America. The children then held an election of their own. They nominated three names for the class mascot who is a cuddly stuffed bear from their reading series. One name nominated was George W. Bush. When the class voted they chose George so George Bush won!

Mrs. Schroeder took a photo of the children and the newly named mascot. The children also dictated a letter to go along with the picture and then Mrs. Schroeder sent it off to the President. In early March the students from Kindergarten B had a nice surprise. They received a letter from the White House and a picture of President and Mrs. George W. Bush. The children were very excited to receive this picture and letter. Now it is a custom in Kindergarten B that each weekend one lucky student gets to take George W. Bush home!

High School Science Fair Results

The County Science Fair was held on March 5. The following individuals and teams took part in the fair:

Josh Verhoff - How does temperature affect the bounce of a bouncy ball? **Jesse McDaries** - Can I accurately determine the weather? **Louisa Millott** - Sound Wave Frequencies. **Bill Schumacher and Ben Schroeder** - How to get more power out of a 4-stroke engine? **Lauren Erhart and Nicole Nordhaus** - Can we show sound waves are a form of energy? **Jenna Kahle and Gina Verhoff** - Which material absorbs sound the best? **Matt Erhart and Josh Wehri** - Which 4-wheeler has the best maneuverability? **Brittany Bockrath and Michelle Webken** - Are hamsters capable of getting through a maze?

All teams obtained a good through excellent score. Jenna Kahle and Gina Verhoff went on to attend the District Science Fair in Ada on March 19 where they obtained a Superior rating and qualified to attend the State Science Fair. Ben Schroeder and Bill Schumacher will be attending the Regional Fair on April 2 in Archbold.

Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and extra efforts in developing their communication and presentation skills.

Mrs. Bonnie Brooks, Science Fair Coordinator

Vantage Competition Results



Ryan Miller earned 1st Place Welding Competition & Alex Wurth earned 2nd Place Precision Machining Competition.

Congratulations to the Vantage SkillsUSA members who placed in the top three of their respective contests recently at Terra Community College in Fremont. Ryan Miller, a senior from Kalida, placed first in the Welding competition and Kalida senior Alex Wurth placed second in the Precision Machining competition.



Kurt Fuerst and Alan Bendele earned 1st Place in the Software Engineering Team Competition.

These students will advance to the State Skills USA Contest in Columbus on April 29 and 30.

Business students from Vantage Career Center also participated in the first round of the Business Professionals of America (BPA) regional skills contest. Taking first place in the Software Engineering Team competition were Alan Bendele and

Kurt Fuerst, both from Kalida. They advanced to the state BPA competition in Columbus on March 18 and 19.

Kalida Elementary Science Fair

On February 25, twenty-three Kalida Elementary sixth grade students presented their science projects in the elementary cafeteria. They were judged by pairs of high school seniors. Project topics ranged from "How Does Color Affect Taste?" to "Which Insulation is Best For Your Home?"

The projects were viewed by fifth and sixth grade students and several adults. Sixteen first place ribbons, six second place ribbons and one third place ribbon were awarded. Thanks to all who helped with the projects. Pictures of the projects can be viewed on the Kalida Local Schools' website. Click on Kalida Elementary and then KES science fair projects. *Roger Luersman, Elementary Science Fair Coordinator*

.....
 • National Honor Society
 • BBQ Pork Loin Dinner
 • Sunday, April 17, 2005
 • 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 • Carry-outs only - \$6.00
 • KHS VoAg Building
 •

There Ought to be a LAW

Louisa Millott, 8th grade KHS student, has been notified that she is one of six junior high students to be named as a regional finalist in the Ohio State Bar



History teacher Frank Schroeder and Louisa Millott

Association's "There Ought to be a Law" essay contest. Louisa has been invited to a special luncheon at the Statehouse in Columbus in her honor on May 4. At that time first- and second-place prize-winners will be announced.

Attending the ceremonies with her will be her parents and her history teacher Mr. Frank Schroeder. Louisa's essay was entitled *Compulsory High School Classes on Credit and Loans*. Her idea is that all high school students should have to complete such courses before graduation. Congratulations, Louisa.



**Music Boosters'
 March
 Drawing
 \$50 Winners**

Jessica Knueve
 Duane & Barb Steffan
 Gladys Unverferth
 Dave & Cindy Erhart

Superintendent:
Mark Neal
 419-532-3534

HS. Principal Don Horstman
 Elem. Principal Karl Lammers

School Board Meetings
 Second Wednesday
 8:00 PM - High School Library

**School Board
 Members:**
 Dave Erhart
 Brian Laudick
 Rhonda Osterhage
 Pres. Gary Stechschulte
 VP. Barry von der Embse

PawPrint Editor
 Nancy Grote

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