

The Paw Print

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

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Calendar Notes

Jan. 17

Martin L.King Day-
No School

KHS

Musical Try-outs

Feb. 21

Presidents' Day
No School

Feb. 24

Staff Development
Early Dismissal-
1:00 PM

March 25-28

Spring Break
No School

March 30-April 3

Senior Class Trip
New York City

April 22-23

KHS Musical

April 28

Staff Development
Early Dismissal-
1:00 PM

May 7

Prom

May 27

Last Day for
Students

May 29

Graduation
Class of 2005

From our Superintendent

I would like to thank the community of Kalida for the warm reception that my family and I have received since I became superintendent. I am very impressed by the quality of the students, staff, and the administration here at Kalida. My family and I are looking forward to becoming part of the community. I also would like to thank Mr. Williams for his assistance during the transition in leadership. He is truly a professional in every sense of the word.

The building project is moving along nicely and I am currently focusing on 'getting up to speed' in terms of phase one of the project. Until recently, the weather has been cooperative and the project is for the most part on schedule. The shell is approximately 75% under cover. The next short-term goal is to button up the building in order to make it possible to efficiently heat the structure.

One of the most important and challenging responsibilities for school leaders is maintaining their school district's fiscal health. Typically, school districts that are able to maintain a solid financial position are those that follow a consistent set of conservative, common sense financial management strategies. Like most every other public school in Ohio, Kalida has some serious financial considerations looming on the horizon. The 'flat' funding from the state in conjunction with rising expenses makes it quite challenging to manage district finances. Another factor that figures into the funding equation is enrollment. Our preliminary kindergarten numbers for next school year are surprisingly low and this may eventually need to be addressed. The school board and administration are definitely not 'asleep at the wheel.' We are fully aware of the financial situation and will make every effort to be fiscally responsible without sacrificing any of the fine academic, arts, or athletic programs.

~ *Superintendent Mark Neal*



Superintendent Mr. Mark Neal, his wife Michelle and family Reed, Grant, Abigail and Catherine met many people during the Christmas in Kalida celebration.

Memorial Brick Orders

Grades kindergarten through twelve recently held a coin fund raiser to enable their respective classes to purchase memorial bricks for the new building. After a successful campaign, the students then chose a brief saying to be engraved on the brick along with the words "Class of 2005," "2006" etc.

The following is the list of bricks as they will be engraved.

<i>Legends Are Made By Seniors</i>	<i>Class of 2005</i>
<i>The Tradition Continues</i>	<i>Class of 2006</i>
<i>Nothing Like It</i>	<i>Class of 2007</i>
<i>Loud Enough To Be Heard</i>	<i>Class of 2008</i>
<i>Live, Laugh, And Learn</i>	<i>Class of 2009</i>
<i>Live Life To The Fullest</i>	<i>Class of 2010</i>
<i>Danger! Wildcat Den</i>	<i>Class of 2011</i>
<i>Honoring The Class of 2012</i>	
<i>Rock On</i>	<i>Class of 2013</i>
<i>Forever Friends</i>	<i>Class of 2014</i>
<i>Remember The Class of 2015</i>	
<i>Be The Best You Can Be</i>	<i>Class of 2016</i>
<i>True To The Maroon And Gold</i>	<i>Class of 2017</i>

With this order to date 231 memorial bricks have been sold and will be engraved. Thanks to all who have donated. Funds generated through all brick sales will now go towards added enhancements in the academics, arts, athletic or general areas throughout the school.

Donations from the Girl Scouts

Recently, Kalida Girl Scout Troop 469 donated a first-aid kit for the Kalida High School. As part of achieving their *Emergency Preparedness Badge* the girls gathered first-aid items and assembled the kit for



the school office. Shown are troop representatives Melissa Verhoff, Karri Clementz, Jen Wehri and Laura Burgei as they present the first-aid kit to Principal Don Horstman.

Happy Reading!

A big "thank you" to everyone who supported the Kalida Elementary Library's Scholastic Book Fair this past November/December. The library will be able to purchase approximately 85 hard-bound books with the proceeds from the book fair.

Thanks to the following people for helping at the book fair: Cheryl Kromer, Mike Felski, Denise Ellerbrock, Joyce Wurth, Mary E. Hoffman, Annette Schroeder, Melissa Winkle, Connie Cleemput, and Sue Clementz. Also, thanks to Joan Vennekotter, Darlene Imm, Melissa Winkle, and Jane Kleman for helping set up the book fair exhibit.

*Mary Lou Hoffman & Denise Scherer,
Book Fair Co-Chairpersons*

The Wizard of Oz ~Musical Try-outs~

High School Students
January 17, 2005
6:30 PM at KHS

"Elementary Students will be needed to be 'live' flowers. Auditions will be on January 31, 7:00 PM. Check for details later."

Joe Warnement

SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

Sad to say, there are people and organizations who try to take advantage of parents and students who are new to the college process. Here are some warning signs to avoid being scammed.

1. Fees.
2. Credit card or bank account information needed.
3. Scholarship guarantee.
4. No work involved.
5. No contact information.
6. Unsolicited scholarships.
7. Pressure tactics.
8. Claims of "exclusive" scholarships.
9. Sponsor goes out of their way to sound "official."
10. Your questions aren't answered directly.

Financial Aid for College

Come to this informative meeting and learn how to apply for college aid.

Monday, January 17, 2005
Ottoville High School
7:00 PM in the Auditoria

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR JUNIORS (AND YOUNGER STUDENTS)

ACT tests have a new wrinkle beginning this February. An optional writing portion will be added to the existing four part ACT test. It would almost be simpler if the writing portion were required because some colleges are requiring the writing test and others are recommending—and the list has already changed several times.

Unsure about whether to take the writing test? Listed below are colleges that require or recommend the new writing part of the ACT test:

State Schools REQUIRING the test

Miami University
The Ohio State University and OSU-ATI
Ohio University
University of Cincinnati
University of Toledo

Private Schools REQUIRING the test

Case Western Reserve University
College of Wooster
Denison University
Notre Dame College of Ohio
Ohio Northern University

State Schools RECOMMENDING the test

Bowling Green State University
Central State University
Kent State University
Hocking College

Private Schools RECOMMENDING the test

Baldwin-Wallace College
Circleville Bible College
David N. Myers College
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Heidelberg College
John Carroll University
Tiffin University
Walsh University
Wittenberg University

Looking at last year's senior class as an example, one third of those students made final choices of colleges that will now require the writing test. For this year's juniors and students in lower grades, it would be very wise to take the extra writing portion just to be safe and to have more options in making college choices.

NOTE: This year's seniors do NOT have to take the writing test portion of the ACT.

FOR PARENTS OF SENIORS—FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

If you will be filing the FAFSA (financial aid application) this year, you can get extra help in a variety of ways.

First, on Monday, January 17, a financial aid presentation sponsored by Ottoville, Fort Jennings, Kalida, and Continental will be held at 7 PM in the Ottoville High School Auditoria. Mr. Lawrence Matthews of Bluffton University will explain the financial aid application process. Mr. Matthews is the president of the Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators—in other words, one of the most knowledgeable people in the field. Plan to allow about 90 minutes for this session. All of our seniors will receive a packet of information in financial aid. It will be helpful (but not required) to bring this packet along.

Second, on February 13, 2005, College Goal Sunday is being held all across the state at over 30 sites. These are hands-on sessions doing the actual FAFSA application. You will need to bring both parents' and students' 2004 IRS 1040 tax returns and W2s along with other 2004 income and benefits information. Everything else will be provided. The closest sites for Kalida parents are at Lima Senior High School and the University of Findlay. Walk-ins will be welcome, but it is best to register ahead of time. **Registration will begin after January 2 at www.oasfaa.org.**

More suggestions—consider doing the FAFSA online. It is a faster process and has some nice features built-in that can help spot innocent errors and help save six weeks of processing time. All of the seniors will be given a “paper” application as well that can be used as a guideline for assembling the required information. To save even more time, get a PIN (Personal Identification Number) ahead of time. The PIN will allow you to “sign” your FAFSA electronically. That saves you the processing time that would be taken up by having to print out a page for your signatures and mailing the page in. Pins can be obtained at www.pin.ed.gov or use the handy link on the high school and guidance pages of the school website. **Both a parent and the student need separate PINS for this process.**

Another concern—there are several FAFSA websites on the internet which will charge you for doing the application. Be sure you use www.fafsa.ed.gov when applying online. That website is the official one sanctioned by the government and it is free.

Join the Boosters & Support the Wildcats!

The Athletic Booster Organization is holding their annual membership drive and want YOU to be part of the action. Anyone can join. This is an organization created to enhance the KHS Athletic programs. Donations and support are made to every high school sport. By becoming a member, your name is entered into a monthly drawing that is pulled at each meeting. If present at the meeting you could win \$50. If you are unable to attend that night and your name is drawn, you still win \$10. Dues are \$5 per person per year.

Complete the form below and mail it to: **Athletic Boosters, PO Box 556, Kalida, OH 45853**
Please include payment and respond by January 31, 2005.

Name of Member _____ (phone) _____

Go Wildcats!

NTHS Members Inducted

Twenty Vantage students from ten different home schools were selected as members of the Vantage Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. Four Kalida students were inducted this year: **Dustin Fortman** (Automotive Services Tech Prep), **Alex Wurth** (Machine Tool Technology), **Ashley McElwain** (Welding), and **Ryan Miller** (Welding). They were inducted at the NTHS banquet on Thursday, December 9, 2004.



New NTHS members attending the induction ceremonies from Kalida were Dustin Fortman, Ryan Miller and Ashley McElwain. Mr. Horstman was present at the banquet held on December 9. Kalida senior Alex Wurth was unable to attend.

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. NTHS membership is the benchmark in career-technical

education - the highest award for excellence - and is one of the most reliable indicators of performance and leadership in the American workplace.

The Kalida School Board



In January each year we recognize our school board members. We are grateful for their dedication and service to our community. Current Kalida School Board members are President Gary Stechschulte, member Rhonda Osterhage, Vice President Barry von der Embse, and members Brian Laudick and Dave Erhart. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month in the high school library at 8:00 PM.

Our Best Year - During the Elementary's *Holiday Games for Giving* **675** canned-food items were donated. The Thrift Store was very pleased with the delivery! Thanks to all.



Music Boosters' Holiday Drawing

- \$175 Norm & Sandy Schnipke
- \$100 Len Kahle
- \$100 Patty Broecker
- \$75 Martha & Charles Berheide
- \$75 Marlene Verhoff
- \$50 Dan & Linda Honigfort
- \$50 Richard Bockrath
- \$50 Mary Kay Unverferth
- \$50 Steve Unverferth
- \$50 Becky Brinkman

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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