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The Paw Print

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

Calendar Notes

March 25-28

Easter Break
No School

March 30-April 3

Senior Class Trip
New York City

April 22-23

KHS Musical
The Wizard of Oz

April 28

Staff Development
Early Dismissal-
1:00 PM

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

Notes from the Superintendent

As I draft only my third newsletter as your superintendent of schools, I cannot help but point out how impressed my family and I have been by the Kalida community. As a result of the recent illness and subsequent passing of Rob Kortokrax, I have witnessed first-hand how the community has drawn together in support of one of their own. Having never been a part of such a community before, I am truly amazed by the caring, sympathy, and genuineness of the people of Kalida.

I would like to extend a thank you to all of those who were able to attend one of the three district wide financial meetings during the month of February. The meetings have generated quite a bit of discussion and I have received many calls from those who are actively trying to gain a true understanding of our district finances. As a result of those meetings, and our current financial situation, the Kalida Board of Education voted on Monday, February 14, to place a one percent income tax on the ballot for the upcoming May election. I will be working to promote this issue over the next two months and will do my best to make sure that all residents have had the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns. It is my personal opinion, as well as that of the board, that an income tax is the fairest long term solution to our current financial situation.

It is the intent of the board to allow our current emergency operating and permanent improvement levies to expire in 2007 and 2008 respectively, pending the successful passage of the proposed one percent income tax. I want you to know that the future direction of the school district rests purely in the hands of Kalida residents. The State of Ohio is not directing any substantial new money towards

public education. Furthermore, the State has done a fair job of using your local dollars to offset their portion of the educational costs here in Kalida. Unlike property tax issues, **an income tax generates dollars that stay local and do not cause a reduction in state aid.**

The past administration and school board have done a wonderful job of providing a top-notch education for a per-pupil cost that is lower than 95% of the districts in the State of Ohio. Because of this lean spending, there is really no place for us to cut back on our expenditures without dramatically impacting our academic programs. Many superintendents in districts around the region have proposed cutting back on extra-curricular programs as an attempt to curb expenditures. However, in Kalida our extra-curricular programs are already virtually self-funded. The only expense to the district for extra curricular programs is the salaries of the coaches and advisors. Transportation, uniforms, and equipment costs are all covered from individual student activity accounts and the athletic department at virtually no expense to the district. Approximately 85% of our budget is used to pay wages and benefits for our certified and classified staff. Therefore, any significant spending reductions would have to result in a decrease in the number of district employees.

Please keep in mind that the district has not yet reached a financial crisis. It is my intention, and that of your school board members and treasurer to avert one before it does. It is much easier to stop a train if the brakes are applied before it starts downhill. Let's work together to preserve a great school system in a great community!

Mark Neal, Superintendent

A Sad Goodbye



*“To every thing
there is a season
and a time to every
purpose under
heaven.”*

On Friday, February 18, after a four month battle with cancer, Kalida Schools lost a dear friend and fellow teacher Rob Kortokrax. Rob had taught math in the junior high and high school since 1990. He was a 1981 graduate of KHS and the son of Donna and Dick Kortokrax. Rob is survived by wife Cindy (daughter of Gary and Diane Maag), daughters Amanda, Stephanie and Katelyn and sons Brandon, Nathan and Jordan. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the whole Kortokrax and Maag families. Rob will be greatly missed.

Kalida Local School 2005-2006 Calendar

Kalida School Board has adopted the following school calendar for the 2005-2006 school year.

Aug. 22, 2005	Teacher Workday
Aug. 23	First Day Back for Students
Sept. 5	Labor Day-No School
Oct. 6	Staff Development -1:00 PM Dismissal
Oct. 28	Quarter Break-No School
Nov. 22-23	Parent Teacher Conferences-No School
Nov. 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 22	Christmas Break Begins
Jan. 3, 2006	Classes Resume
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Day-No School
Feb. 20	Presidents' Day-No School
Feb. 23	Staff Development -1:00 PM Dismissal
March 24	Quarter Break -No School
April 14-17	Easter Break
April 27	Staff Development -1:00 PM Dismissal
May 24	Last Day for Students
May 25	Teacher Work Day
May 28	Graduation Class of 2006

Inclement Weather Make-up Days:

2/20; 3/24; 4/17; 5/25; 5/26

Open Enrollment

The Kalida Local School system is now accepting applications from **non-resident students** wanting to enroll for the **2005-06 school year**.

Anyone not living in the school district but interested in having their children attend Kalida Schools should complete an application. Applications can be obtained from the superintendent's office. Completed applications should be returned to either office or mailed to:

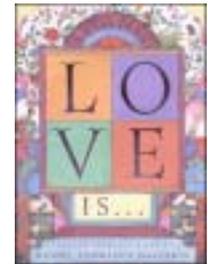
**Kalida Local Schools
Box 269
Kalida, OH 45853**

Applicants are considered on a first come, first serve basis and must meet the qualifications set by district policies and guidelines. ***Please call the superintendent's office at 419-532-3534 if you have any questions.***

Right to Read Week

The 2005 guest author/illustrator this year for *Right to Read Week* (April 18-22) will be Wendy Anderson Halperin. This year's theme is: ***Reading is a Special Gift.***

“To me, the world is a carousel of photos that take on meaning and poetry,” said Wendy Anderson Halperin. “Drawing opens children to the mysterious dimensions of this wonderful planet; it is a means to understanding what they see. My goal is to create characters whom children would like to know and places where children would want to be, so that every time they open one of my books, they find warm, treasured photos they can carry around with them like one of Grama's patchwork quilts.”



Ms. Halperin will present a special program at the Kalida Elementary building on Wednesday, April 20. Her books will be available for purchase April 4- April 13. Visit her website at <http://www.wendyhalperin.com> to learn more about the author, the stories she has published and activities in which you can participate.

Career Day at Kalida High School

On February 17, Kalida High School hosted its second annual career day and welcomed 12 speakers from a variety of careers to the building. Freshmen and sophomores spent five morning periods rotating through classrooms featuring different career areas. In each room, the speakers described their training and the education necessary for their jobs as well as different aspects of their employment situation. Not all of our speakers are pictured, so they are listed here: Jim Becker, Automotive Services (Mike Pruitt Ford); Rachel Myers, Cosmetology (Rachel's Hair on the Square); Craig Schroeder and Craig Calvelage, Manufacturing Engineers (General Dynamics Land Systems); Judge Randall Basinger (Putnam County Common Pleas Court); Judge Daniel Gerschutz (Putnam County Juvenile and Probate Courts); Annette Gerding, Controller (Schnipke Engraving), Cindy Webken, Treasurer (Kalida Local Schools), as well as Angie Brinkman, Occupational Therapist; Laura Heitmeyer, Physical Therapist; Marcie Metzger, Speech Therapist; and Nikki Wenzlick, Physical Therapy Assistant—all from St. Rita's Medical Center. Students were surveyed earlier in the year about their career interests and that information was used to select the speakers for the day.



Automotive: Jim Becker



Health Careers: Laura Heitmeyer, Nikki Wenzlick, Angie Brinkman and Marcie Metzger



Judge Randall Basinger



Judge Daniel Gerschutz



Accounting: Annette Gerding

This program was coordinated by Mrs. Mary Gerding, English teacher, and Mrs. Beth Myers, guidance counselor. Both Mrs. Gerding and Mrs. Myers would like to thank all of the speakers as well as all of their employers for sharing their time and insights with Kalida's students. The response of the volunteers once again proves that the Kalida community is blessed with people who have a deep commitment to the future of their young people.

Internet Safety Protecting Your Child

Parents of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students are invited to a special program entitled *Internet Safety* to be presented on Tuesday, March 22 at 7 PM in the elementary cafeteria.

Parents of junior high students in seventh and eighth grade are invited to attend the same program in the high school cafe on Wednesday, March 23, 7 PM. Kalida chief of police Forest Gordon and high school computer teacher Stacy Kneuve will be giving the presentation on both evenings. Please plan to attend to help insure your child's safety while using the computer.

Kindergarten Screening

April 6 - Kalida Elementary

8:15 AM - 3:00 PM

Students must be pre-registered with the Elementary office prior to the day of screening. Please notify the office ASAP if your child has not been registered for kindergarten for the 2005-06 school year.

Poetry Creators

Students in 6B, Mrs. Blyth Turnwald's class, spent several weeks creating and revising poetry. These poems were then submitted to a national poetry contest. Judges looked for originality, rhythmic sounds, rhyme and audience appeal. Twelve Kalida Elementary sixth graders were recently notified that their poems have been accepted and will be published in the 2005 edition of the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans. The publication will be available in August.

Congratulations to the winning poets: Chris Adams, Ben Bockrath, Allison Fitzgerald, Brandie Hogsett, Cody Horstman, Jeremy Kahle, Brad McLaughlin, Kelsey Miller, Austin Neidert, Kristopher Osterhage, Stephanie Recker and Alice Verhoff.

High School Principal Notes

♥ American Legion's Americanism Test

Congratulations to Andy Rampe and Leah Hermiller for being named the Kalida High School winners of the American Legion's Americanism Test. The test is sponsored by the Ottawa American Legion Post 63.

♥ **Homecoming King And Queen** - Congratulations to Nate Goedde and Meredith Bash on being named the 2005 Homecoming King and Queen. They were crowned on Friday, January 28 at the homecoming game vs. Ottoville. Congratulations also to all of the coaches and players on the big win over Ottoville. The guys needed overtime to get by the Big Green, but they played great and provided plenty of excitement to everyone who was at the game.

♥ **Cats Who Care Lunch Bunch** - This past quarter eight students were nominated for the Lunch Bunch by teachers, staff and students. These students are recognized for their positive attitudes and random acts of kindness. The students were Allison Siefker, Dani Vorst, Ashley Kerner, Julie Schroeder, Rachel Cygan, Renee Cygan, Karri Clementz and Katelyn Schumaker. Mrs. Mary Gerding and Mr. Kevin Deitering joined our students for lunch as the staff representatives to the Lunch Bunch. The Lunch Bunch recognizes students who exemplify what it means to be positive role models within the school and community.

♥ **Academic Quiz Team** - The Kalida High School Varsity Academic Quiz Team is again busy with their competition against other Putnam County Schools. The members of the varsity squad include captains Dani Vorst and David Gerdeman. The other members of the varsity squad are Leah Hermiller, Leah Remlinger, Jen Wehri, Elizabeth Mack, Julie Schroeder, Brad VonderEmbse, Justin Barnhart, Ryan Hoffman, Ryan Buss, Ross Ellerbrock, Justin Kahle, Chris Kahle, and Trent Smith. The Academic Quiz Team is also preparing to host the 23rd Annual Putnam County Scholastic Tournament on March 14 at 3:00 PM. Good luck to our Quiz Team!

♥ **Congratulations!** - Darcy Langhals and Louisa Millot were selected as participants in the Putnam County Honors Band from KHS. Jenna Kahle, Preston Ellerbrock and Kyle Kahle were the Putnam County Honors Choir members chosen from Kalida. Congratulations also to High School Solo and Ensemble participants Austin Basinger, Kayla Kromer and Kelly Knueve who earned *Superior* ratings during the Solo and Ensemble contest on Saturday, Feb. 12. Receiving a *Good* rating that day were KHS participants Jen Wehri and Ashlee Warnecke.

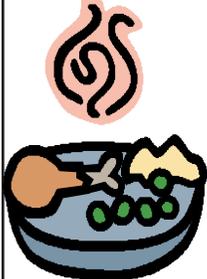
Thanks Ladies!

The Kalida St. Michael's Rosary Altar Society has donated \$199 towards the purchase of a microphone/amplifier set for use in an elementary classroom. This microphone set will enable the teacher to speak at a normal tone but will increase the volume in her speech. By using this microphone set it will help the students to hear her more clearly. Thanks to the ladies for their generous donation.

Need a Ticket?

On Saturday, April 30, the Kalida Athletic Boosters are holding their annual Reverse Draw Fund Raiser. Anyone interested in getting their name on the ticket waiting list should contact either Deb Schnipke (532-2155) or Deb Heitmeyer (532-2177) for more information.

Athletic Boosters Chicken BBQ



Sunday, March 13
11:00 AM until all sold
\$6.00 each dinner
No Pre-Sales

Like to Golf?

The Kalida Athletic Boosters have scheduled the annual golf outing KHS benefit for July 30. Anyone interested in participating in this event should contact a booster officer.



Music Boosters' February 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

<http://kalida.k12.oh.us>

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