

The PawPrint

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

SCHOOL FINANCE AND HOUSE BILL 136 - The state of the economy is still a huge topic across the state and the country as we near the November 8 elections. The state of Ohio has gone through a very tough budget battle, and our state legislators have imposed a large number of cuts on state and local government entities and school districts. Kalida Local Schools has been able to continue reducing costs without cutting programs, and thanks to the help of our community and staff the district has been able to stabilize the budget for now. In the last six years we have reduced our teaching staff by eliminating nine and one half positions, and we have reduced our non-certified staff by eliminating four and one half positions. We have also reduced hours for other employees taking some of them from full time to part time status, and all district employees will also have their salaries reduced through the implementation and phase in of furlough days on calamity days. District employees will also see an increase in their insurance premiums phased in over the next three years. The Kalida Board of Education continues to strive to be fiscally responsible, and the district spends over \$1600 less per student than the state average. In spite of spending much less than the state average, our results are among the best of any district in the state.

Under the current state biennial budget, school districts are operating under a "Bridge" funding formula. This "Bridge" formula did reduce funding for most districts across the state, and is being used as Governor Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly develop a new school funding formula. The district will continue to monitor the development of a new funding formula and the effect it will have on Kalida Local Schools.

Another huge area of concern has been and continues to be a large number of federal and state unfunded mandates as well as legislation that seems designed to harm public education. These unfunded mandates and harmful pieces of legislation often require Kalida Local Schools to set aside or target funds to address problems we do not have. House Bill 136 (HB 136) is a prime example of a piece of legislation that seems designed to hurt public education. HB 136 would allow families making up to \$95,000 per year to apply for a voucher regardless of the academic standing of the public district the student currently attends. The original voucher program was designed to allow economically disadvantaged families in failing districts the opportunity to send their children to better schools. While the original program addressed a real problem, House Bill 136 attempts to fix a problem that does not exist. Under this new legislation families who are financially stable and reside in excellent districts would be able to siphon off tax dollars set aside to support local schools, and give those tax dollars to non-public/private schools.

House Bill 136 will greatly expand the current private school voucher program, and will send publicly voted tax dollars to private institutions. These school levies were passed in local school districts to support a specific school district, not to be sent to entities which may not even be located inside the local district. HB 136 also deducts the full amount of state and local funding from the local district regardless of the cost of tuition at the non-public school. In addition to this discrepancy, any tax dollars left in the students account can then be spent on college tuition later. Again, the tax dollars will not be spent in accordance with the wishes of the local community which voted to pass a levy to support their local public school district. The private schools which would receive the public tax dollars did not have to contribute to the cost of passing the levy which raised the funds, nor would they bear any of the cost of collecting these tax dollars.

In spite of assurances by Representative Wachtmann in a recent news article, this legislation does not spur competition or save the tax payers money. In order to have a true competition you need to have a level playing field, and the current rules are tilted dramatically in favor of non-public institutions. The schools receiving the vouchers through HB 136 are not required to follow the same rules public schools have to follow, such as requiring students to take and pass standardized state tests. Public schools educate all children, and are not able to turn away students based on economic status, ability, or the cost of required special programs. Public schools are also required to provide transportation and a host of other supplemental services to non-public schools. When all of these services are left out of the equation it is easy to see why Mr. Wachtmann thinks private schools are able to educate students for less money, but the truth is if private schools were required to follow all of the same rules as public schools the costs would be similar. (Continued on the next page.)

Calendar Notes

Nov. 16
School Board Meeting
Date Change

Nov. 17 - 21
Choir NYC Trip

Nov. 21 - 22
Parent-Teacher
Conferences

Nov. 23 - 25
Thanksgiving Break

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Kalida Local Schools has been an “Excellent” district for eleven consecutive years, and has achieved this designation with the help of a very supportive community, while keeping costs down. Kalida Local Schools can compete with anyone as long as the playing field is level. Unfortunately many of the state representatives in this area have supported unfunded mandates and additional legislation such as HB 136 which is detrimental to public education. I would encourage all of you to contact your state representatives, and ask them tough questions about their stance on school funding, unfunded mandates, and legislation such as HB 136.

RACE TO THE TOP

Kalida Local Schools continues to be a part of a national and state wide effort to improve education, instruction, professional development, and student assessment through the Race to the Top grant. As a part of the grant, Kalida Local Schools was required to form a Transformation Team of teachers and administrators. This team is tasked with developing a plan to implement new curriculum standards, improve student assessment practices, and a teacher evaluation tool. The Transformation Team will be attending the state Race to the Top Conference in Columbus on November 1st. The conference will be an opportunity for team members to participate in additional professional development and network with educators from across the state. The conference will also allow the team to research and identify successful practices from other districts which may be used to further enhance and improve academic practices in Kalida Local Schools.

PTO Update - The Kalida PTO is excited to announce that they are now enrolled in the *Meijer Community Rewards Program*. This program is designed for schools or religious groups to help raise funds simply and easily. Simply shop at Meijer, and we will automatically receive cash rewards from your purchases!

First, you have to join Meijer Community Rewards. It's free and can be done online at Meijer.com/rewards or by mailing an application (located in school offices). When prompted, enter the **Kalida PTO code 996637**. If you were a previous member of Meijer Community Rewards, you can call 1-800-962-7011 to update your status with Kalida PTO. Enrolled members then pay for the Meijer purchases with cash or debit card and their Meijer Card, or with their linked Meijer Credit Card. You do not have to have a Meijer credit card to participate. Purchases made with a linked Meijer Credit Card earn 1% for the Kalida PTO. Purchases made with cash or PIN-based debit card and a swiped Meijer 1 CardSM earn 0.5%.

This program has proven to make a significant impact in serving other non-profit organizations – ours will be no different. The sooner you join, the sooner we will begin receiving rewards! So please, apply today! If you have any questions, please visit Meijer.com/rewards or call Erin at 419-532-2424. Thank you for your support.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Nov.21 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Nov. 22 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

No classes Tuesday - Friday for Thanksgiving break. Parents please sign up at either school for conferences. Sheets will be posted **Nov. 7 through Nov. 14**. We encourage all parents to come and meet with their child's teachers for achieving a successful school year.

European Trips 2013

Discover Europe with Mr. Gasser. Special prices apply now if you book before November 20, 2011. There will be two separate trips in the summer of 2013:

June 25 - July 3, 2013

Student-Adult Combination “Best of Italy” tour. We will visit Venice, Florence, Assisi and Rome. KHS students in grades 10 and 11 and their parents are now in the process of signing up.

June 5- June 13, 2013

Adults' Exclusive Tour for adults only will tour Rome, Pompeii, Olympia and Athens. The trip is now available online at www.explorica.com/Gasser-9379.



Any adult who would like more information on either of these trips, please contact Robert ‘Sonny’ Gasser at rjgasser@bright.net.



The Kalida Elementary Library will host an out-of-this-world **Scholastic Book Fair** Nov. 21 – Dec. 2. Funds raised will help purchase books for the elementary library. Families, faculty, and the community are

invited to attend this fun reading event. The Book Fair will feature a special Family Event for parents and grandparents during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Book Fair hours during P-T Conferences are Monday, Nov. 21, 5 – 9 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 22, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and 5 – 7 p.m.

The Classroom Wish List program is available this year. You have the opportunity to purchase a book or two for your child's classroom (to give now or at Christmas time) to thank your child's teacher, while building a classroom library.

Love Books? Volunteer to help at the book fair. You can decorate and set up, help kids select books, work at the cashier's table, or help pack up. There are lots of ways to participate. Please call Mary Lou Hoffman at the elementary school office at 419-532-3845 if you would like to volunteer or email ka_hoffman@kalida.k12.oh.us

Sewing up!

Throughout the four Biomedical Courses students become familiar with many biomedical laboratory techniques such as taking blood pressure, monitoring EKG's, DNA fingerprinting, and cancer screening just to name a few. They also have the opportunity to learn a few basic surgical techniques such as laparoscopic surgery and suturing. Therefore, Biomedical students spend many class periods cutting things up, dissecting hearts, kidneys, brains, eyes, and other organs. But as seniors they'll also learn how to "sew up" what's been



Senior Eric Kahle sutures a laceration on a pig leg during his Biomedical Innovations class.

cut by learning basic suturing techniques. Students learn the techniques while watching a doctor demonstrate each type of suture. Students then practice the techniques on artificial skin and eventually are tested over the techniques by suturing lacerations on a pig leg. Later in the year, seniors will use their suturing skills to complete an autopsy. These classes will prepare the students for future classes in the medical field at college.

What's Up!...Kalida Athletic Boosters

On Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011, the Kalida Athletic Boosters will be holding their annual **Reverse Draw Fundraiser**. It again will be held at the Kalida Kof C and will include a steak dinner, all you can drink beverages, a D.J. to dance in the new year, and of course a chance to win money! The cost will be \$50 per ticket. Our ticket chairmen will start selling tickets the first week of November. If you did not get a ticket last year and are interested in going, please call John Guisinger (419-303-3772) or Traci Miller (419-532-2437). Next year the reverse draw will be changed back to the month of April, so this will be the last year to ring in the new year with the Athletic Boosters!

The Athletic Boosters would also like to thank the parents of the Girls Varsity and Boys J.V. and Varsity Soccer teams for all of their help in the soccer concessions this year. This is a very good fundraiser for the Athletic Boosters. We would not be able to do this without all of your help!

Guidance Notes ~ Jeff Clement

During the month of September and early October, I had the opportunity to visit all students in grades 6-12 in various classrooms to discuss a variety of topics. In addition, senior meetings have begun and will conclude by the end of October. In these meetings, their future plans are explored. All seniors and parents of seniors with plans of attending college after graduation are highly encouraged to contact their colleges of choice in October to pinpoint scholarship deadlines. Most colleges have specific deadlines – usually ranging from December 1 through February– by which students must apply for admission in order to be eligible for university relevant scholarships. Accessing a college's website or calling its financial aid office will help to verify these dates.

Scholarships - Now in October, scholarships sent to Kalida High School from local, state, and national organizations will begin to be made available to seniors. Most have specific criteria which a student must possess in order to apply. These scholarships will also be posted on the guidance link of the Kalida schools' website (www.Kalida.k12.oh.us) on a monthly basis. During October, various college representatives will continue to visit Kalida High School. All juniors and seniors have opportunities to talk to these individuals. One local college fair will take place in early November. This college fair is scheduled at the OSU-Lima/James A. Rhodes State College Campus in Cook Hall on Tuesday, November 1 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Over 100 schools will be on hand at these fairs to present material and answer questions. These college fairs are open to all students and parents with no charge for admission.

Sophomore Testing - All sophomores currently have had the opportunity to register for the PLAN or Pre-ACT. This is a good practice test for the ACT which students should take later in high school as preparation for college. The PLAN is a shorter version of the ACT and is a good indicator or predictor of how students will do on it. Approximately two months after the test date, which is Tuesday, November 15, an informational session will be held with students to discuss their score reports. The cost of the PLAN is \$11. A few extra tests were shipped with the order so please have your student stop by the guidance office if interested and has not yet registered. Exact cash or checks made payable to Kalida High School are the accepted forms of payment.

Project Northland - Beginning in early November, sixth and seventh grade students will begin lessons for the Project Northland curriculum. This curriculum is part of a research-based program that has been proven effective in delaying alcohol use and reducing alcohol-related problems among young people. Your support is one of the keys to its success. Representatives from all of the Putnam County schools approved this program and its use for the prevention of alcohol use at a young age.

If you have any questions related to the above topics, please call the guidance office at 419-532-3504.

Superintendent Don Horstman
419-532-3534

HS. Principal Chris Pfahler
Elem. Principal Karl Lammers

School Board Members:

Brian Laudick - President
Sue M. Gerdeman - VP
Dennis Turnwald
Greg von der Embse
Don Wehri

School Board Meetings

Second Wednesday
8:00 PM - Kalida School Board Room

PawPrint Editor: Nancy Grote

KALIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOX 269
KALIDA, OH 45853

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Scholastic Book Fair
Nov. 21 - Dec. 2

Kalida Elementary Library

Boxholder
Kalida, OH 45853

Basketball Season Ticket Sales

Monday, November 7

Main Lobby near auditoria 5 PM - 8 PM

Tuesday, November 8

Main Lobby during Election Night dinner 5 PM - 8PM

No girls basketball season tickets are sold. Prices are as follows:

General Admission

Adult/College Students \$6
Elementary & HS Students \$4
Senior Citizens age 60+ \$4

Junior High Admission

Student \$2 - Adult \$3

PRESALE- \$6 and \$4

ALL PCL GAME TICKETS AT THE DOOR \$6

Season Tickets Boys Games

Student	\$40
Adult	\$60 (preferred seat remains + \$20 per)
Sr. Citizen	\$40 (preferred seat remains + \$10 per)

Boxtops for Education - Since 2002, Kalida Elementary has received over \$14, 000 from the Box Top program! So keep on saving those Box Tops. Just this year alone we have already collected over \$2000 worth of points. Monies collected from this project helps fund special purchases for our schools.

Be a Part of the New Kalida Park - Looking for a Christmas gift for the person that has everything? The New Kalida Park committee has compiled a list of items, such as picnic tables, trees, etc. that you might want to consider purchasing and donating to the Kalida Park in the name of a parent, grandparent or loved one. This list can be found online at www.kalidaparks.com or call Brenda Warnecke at 419-532-2063 for more information or to place an order. All items will be acknowledged, with a donor plaque, which will be located on each item when placed in the park.

“Please come out on November 25 as the Columbus Bishop Hartley Hawks, coached by Randy Kortokrax, take on the Kalida Wildcats under the direction of Richard Kortokrax - 100% of the proceeds from this game will be donated to the New Kalida Park. What a great way to kick off the Basketball season!”

Father vs. Son Basketball Game November 25

On Friday, November 25 (the Friday after Thanksgiving) Kalida High School will be hosting an Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Foundation Basketball game between the Kalida Wildcats and the Columbus Bishop Hartley Hawks. This game will bring back Kalida High School Basketball Alumni Randy Kortokrax to coach against his father, Richard Kortokrax, the winningest coach in Ohio High School Basketball history. The Hawks of Bishop Hartley were State Semi Finalists last year in Division II and return almost the entire team that compiled a 25-2 record last year. The Kalida Wildcats are coming off of a 17-5 record last year, and are looking forward to a great 2011-12 season.

An OSHAA Foundation Game is played like any other Basketball game, however, it is not considered part of the regular Basketball season record. All proceeds from this game will be donated to the New Kalida Park. The Junior Varsity game will start at 6 PM with the Varsity contest to follow. Since this is an OHSAA Foundation Game, season tickets and/or passes are not valid at this game. **Admission to the game will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.**