

# The PawPrint

*ODE Excellent Rating 2001-2010  
2003 National Blue Ribbon  
School of Excellence*

## Notes from Superintendent Don Horstman SCHOOL FINANCE

As we begin the new calendar year, we also enter into a difficult financial time for public schools in Ohio. It is a time of unknowns in terms of what public education might look like during the current school year and going forward. Ohio's annual budget is roughly \$50 billion dollars and the State of Ohio is currently facing a budget shortfall of between \$4 billion and \$8 billion. Governor-elect Kasich will unveil his plans for the next biennial budget in March, and Mr. Kasich and incoming House Speaker, Representative Batchelder have been very clear in their plan to reduce the state share of education funding. The following statements were made by an official with the Ohio School Boards Association who was recently quoted in the Columbus Dispatch:

*"I think the education community is nervous about what's going to happen," said Damon Asbury from the Ohio School Board Association. Asbury said that the districts have been preparing for cuts that could total up to 20 percent in their next budget. "These could be devastating cuts," Asbury said. "School districts will, with these kinds of cuts, there will be layoffs and programs cut."*

The district and the state are dealing with the same issues that many of you are dealing with in your personal finances; falling incomes and increasing expenses. The Board of Education has been committed to saving jobs whenever possible while simultaneously reducing expenditures. As was stated in the October Paw Print over the last six years the district has reduced the teaching staff by eliminating seven positions and non-certified staff by eliminating three positions. The district has been forced to do this for two reasons, declining enrollment and falling revenues. I have included a chart showing the district enrollment that is reported to the state during our October count week. This chart includes the enrollment by grade level for every district in the county. The October count is a portion of the formula used to calculate our state funding. Over the last ten years Kalida Local Schools has had a decline in enrollment of more than 130 students, and a decline of 34 students since the 2008-09 school year. The entire county has had a decline of over 1200 students in the last ten years.

**Putnam County Schools Enrollment 2010-11 School Year - October Count Week Figures**

School	Pre-K	K	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 7	Gr. 8	Gr. 9	Gr. 10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12	Other	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Jennings	2	23	23	32	23	34	28	30	33	27	35	37	27	32	0	386	418	410
Miller City	4	31	33	37	29	34	44	30	37	36	32	37	36	31	0	451	472	469
Ottoville	3	40	36	44	24	24	44	26	29	27	39	50	48	52	0	486	490	512
Continental	8	38	29	42	36	49	32	39	41	45	45	41	37	51	1	534	565	594
P-G	5	48	42	41	28	40	52	42	48	47	44	30	48	45	1	561	574	576
Kalida	7	52	33	42	52	45	36	48	56	57	45	50	64	51	1	639	643	673
Leipsic	12	50	39	32	37	59	61	49	36	38	56	57	59	61	1	647	685	646
Col. Grove	11	69	69	57	68	60	56	70	59	66	74	90	67	78	2	896	939	920
O-G	94	140	126	95	95	86	89	93	109	116	119	149	145	140	3	1599	1622	1619
Total																6199	6408	6419

To this point the district has been able to reduce staffing through attrition. However, I am compelled to make it clear to all residents and employees that we are not in a financial position to absorb even a 10% (approximately \$260,000) reduction in state funding without making drastic reductions to programs, services and personnel. This problem is further complicated by the fact that we do not know how large the pending reductions will be. Once our schedules and staff are in place for the upcoming school year, it is very difficult to make staffing reductions. The school district has contractual obligations and state laws that dictate the timelines for notifying staff members who might potentially lose their positions.

When school districts are faced with a financial scenario like I have just described, there are really only two options to consider: reducing expenditures or increasing revenue. At this time, there are no plans to attempt a levy (our only means of increasing revenue). The Board of Education is fully aware of what our taxpayers have endured as a result of the economic downturn. I would encourage all of you to view the 5-year forecast for the district, which is available on the school website, and if you have any financial or budgetary questions to please contact Don Horstman or Cindy Webken in the Superintendent's office. The phone number is 419-532-3534, or you can email the superintendent at [ka\\_supt@kalida.k12.oh.us](mailto:ka_supt@kalida.k12.oh.us) or the treasurer at [ka\\_treas@kalida.k12.oh.us](mailto:ka_treas@kalida.k12.oh.us)

## Reading Record Broken

“We did it! Thanks to your participation in October, we broke the world record for the number of adults and children reading the same book on the same day. It was the fifth annual *Jumpstart’s Read for the Record*, and the biggest one yet! There were **2,057,513** children read to on that day! Want to know more about this record-breaking event? Go to this web site [http://www.readfortherecord.org/site/PageServer?pagename=media\\_event\\_highlights](http://www.readfortherecord.org/site/PageServer?pagename=media_event_highlights)

## Plastic Bag Recycling

The Kalida Middle School students are once again conducting a plastic bag recycling collection the first two weeks in January. Save all those holiday and grocery plastic bags to bring to school. Collection barrels will be located at the main HS entrance by the office and the event entrance near the auditoria.

### 2010-2011 Music Boosters

#### November \$50 Winners

Arnie Siefker  
Herk & Julie Selhorst  
Jim & Diane Kahle  
John Warnecke

#### December Special Drawing

Cindy Webken	\$150
Bill & Beth Rieman	\$125
Mary Lou Merschman	\$100
Lori Kahle	\$75
Ed & Marge Verhoff	\$75
Rita Illiff	\$50
Dwayne & Anne Ketcham	\$50
Jamie & Beth Grime	\$50
Joyce Wurth	\$50
Rhonda Siefker	\$50
Kelly & Glen Wurth	\$50
Scott & Brenda Vorst	\$50
Trevor Vorst	\$50

## Membership Drive

Become an Athletic Booster member for the 2011 year! Be a part of this non-profit organization that helps fund Kalida’s student athletic programs. The Kalida Athletic Boosters meet on a monthly basis September through May. You can be a part of this growing organization for just \$5 dollars per person with members being over the age of 18. Members are entered into a “Monthly Cash Drawing” at each meeting present or not. Members will also get updates of events and items that Athletic Boosters are doing or purchasing for the Athletic Sports Teams.

Please send your name and address with your payment to:  
**Kalida Athletic Boosters PO Box 556, Kalida, OH 45853**

## Financial Aid Night for Senior Parents and Students



Every year a financial seminar is held at one of the area participating schools. This year it will be held at Kalida on January 10 from 6:30 - 8 PM in high school auditoria. A representative from a local college’s financial aid department will be present to

explain the proper procedure for filling out the Free Application for Student Aid. Parents of juniors are also encouraged to attend if they wish to get a head start on the college process.

## NTHS Induction

Congratulations to Kalida High School Senior Curtis Schroeder on being inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Vantage Career Center on December 7. Curtis is in his second year in the Carpentry program at Vantage. Curtis is the reigning 2010 *SkillsUSA* State champion in cabinetmaking and was a national *SkillsUSA* contestant. He is a Student Ambassador, Honor Roll student and GOALS cardholder. Curtis is the son of Glen and Annette Schroeder.

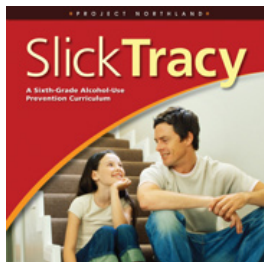


**KHS Principal Chris Pfahler and senior Curtis Schroeder**

The main purpose of the National Technical Honor Society is to reward scholastic achievement in occupational and career technical education. The NTHS assists members in their pursuit of career and educational goals. NTHS membership is the highest award for excellence in career technical education and is one of the most reliable indicators of performance and leadership in the American workplace.

After graduation, Curtis would like to attend college to add to the education he has received at Vantage.

**Awareness Program** - For the past month, all sixth grade students at Kalida Middle School have been participating in an alcohol-use prevention program. This program is part of Project Northland, a research-based curriculum that has



been proven effective in delaying alcohol use and reducing alcohol-related problems among young people. Representative from all of the Putnam County schools have approved the use of this curriculum. Its focus is to prevent under-age alcohol use in the hopes of keeping our youth safe from possible negative consequences. Students have completed four lessons and are working on a poster project related to the theme of "preventing underage alcohol use." Their posters will be exhibited in the auditoria at the girls' and

boys' high school basketball games on Saturday, January 8. If you are attending either of the games and get an opportunity, please view their projects.

### **"Bully Proofing" Workshop for Parents**

On February 3, 2011, from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM, the Putnam County Educational Service Center will be hosting Mr. Jim Bisenius. The anti-bullying parent workshop will cover exactly how to teach your child to respond to verbal bullying, physical bullying, social bullying, and group manipulation. Parents will walk away with concrete tools that they can immediately implement and help their child master in order to eliminate bullying from his or her life. Participants will learn specifically how "popular" bullies isolate, control and manipulate their peers. Then they will learn exactly what steps their son or daughter must take to stop them. In addition, parents will be able to use all of these techniques in their own life to deal with controlling or intimidating adults. It will be held in the assembly room at the Putnam County Educational Service Center located across from the Putnam County YMCA at 124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, Ohio.



Jim Bisenius has sixteen years of experience as a child and adolescent therapist specializing in teaching extremely targeted youth how to handle bullying situations. He has developed response techniques that have been recognized nationally as extremely effective at stopping the dance between kids who bully and the ones they target. Jim has taught his methods to over 450 schools nationally.

For more information, you may go to Mr. Bisenius's website, **bullyproofingyouth.com** or locally contact Mike Klear at the Putnam County Educational Service Center, (419) 523-5951.

## **Calendar Notes**

**2011**

**January 3**

Classes Resume

**January 10**

Financial Aid Seminar KHS Auditoria  
6:30-8:00 PM

**January 17**

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
No School

**January 29**

Vantage JH Girls Day Out

**Feb. 21**

Presidents' Day  
No School

**March 1**

Red Cross Blood Drive-KHS Gym

**March 25**

Quarter Break  
No School

**April 15**

Staff Inservice  
2 hour delay

**April 22- 25**

Easter Break

**May 26**

Last Day for Students

**Superintendent Don Horstman**

419-532-3534

HS. Principal Chris Pfahler  
Elem. Principal Karl Lammers

**School Board Members:**

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

**School Board Meetings**

Second Wednesday  
8:00 PM - High School - Media Center

**PawPrint Editor: Nancy Grote**

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KALIDA, OH 45853

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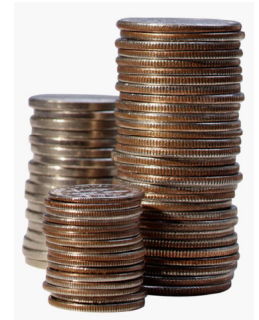
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**Semester Test Schedule**

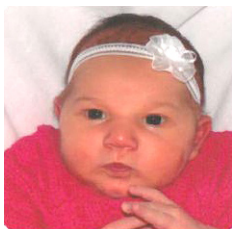
Due to the inclement weather and schedule changes, all high school semester tests are postponed until we return from Christmas vacation. Students and families are asked to check the school district’s webpage for testing schedules. All permission slips signed by parents previously for the December 22 and December 23 dates will be valid for those January testing dates.

**Coin Drive Success**

The National Honor Society held a coin collection drive in mid December and collected nearly \$700 to benefit the Putnam County Food Bank. Thanks to all who emptied their car ash trays, moved couch cushions and shook out their piggy banks to gather and donate all those coins. Thanks also to the Union Bank for handling the coins, recounting and wrapping them up!



**Baby News**



**Ava Ann**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Adam Huber on the birth of their daughter born on December 1. Welcome Ava Ann - 10 lbs. 9 oz / 21 inches long. Mr. Huber is the math teacher in the JH/High school.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Miller on the birth of their daughter born on December 17. Welcome Madelyn Joy Miller - 8 lbs./ 20.5 inches long. Mr. Miller teaches History and Eastern World Studies.



**Madelyn Joy**