

School Gram

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District



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Inspiring Young Readers



Ken-Ton schools are finding creative ways to inspire a love of reading in students at all grade levels. Pictured here is Ava Sheedy, a third grade student at Franklin Elementary School, reading aloud with students from the adjoining middle school, who modeled good reading strategies. **Page 6**

Educational Leaders in Singapore Look to Ken-Ton as a Model for Mentoring New Teachers

In Singapore, education providers are facing unprecedented growth in the number of parents who choose to send their children to pre-school or kindergarten programs that are optional under the age of 6. They are hiring hundreds of teachers, and one major early childhood education provider is looking at Ken-Ton as a model for mentoring new staff.

A delegation of leaders from First Campus, the early childhood education arm of Singapore's National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), visited Holmes and Edison elementary schools in October during an eight-day visit to Western New York. They met with Ken-Ton teachers and administrators to learn more



Early childhood education leaders from Singapore, including Millicent Bawany, Amy Lek and Kok Siat Yeow of NTUC First Campus, pictured here, visited Ken-Ton faculty and administrators in October to learn more about the district's mentoring program.

about the district's successful mentoring program.

"We are desperate for people. We can't grow fast enough. That's why we want to introduce mentoring," said Geraldine Lee, chief

human resource officer of First Campus. "Because of the exponential growth in new teachers, we need to find a way for them to be properly mentored."

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A MESSAGE FROM DAWN MIRAND, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Winter is upon us after a terrific start to the 2014-15 school year! My first months as superintendent have been delightful. I have so enjoyed learning about our community and meeting many students, parents, teachers, staff and community members. Great students, parents, teachers, staff, community equals opportunities and a bright future!



**Dawn Mirand,
Superintendent**

This is a wonderful time of year to reflect on how fortunate we are as a school district to have such dedicated staff, such actively involved parents, and such a supportive community. Our faculty, staff and administrators continue to guide our students to success in and out of the classroom, and foster safe and effective learning communities within each school building. Our parents continue to energize and challenge our students, and our active parent groups provide many wonderful opportunities for education and growth through special activities and after-school events. The entire Ken-Ton community is continuing its tireless support for and commitment to our students and schools which is the cornerstone of our district.

Involved parents, a dedicated staff, and a supportive community will help us achieve the district's vision of becoming the premier school district in New York State by 2020. Thus, the Board of Education adopted two fundamental goals in October that will be at the core of all of our efforts. One goal is to ensure that all students achieve mastery in literacy and numeracy. The other goal is to achieve financial and capital sustainability.

Both goals are achievable. We are already well on our way to our first goal, all of our students achieving mastery! Mastery is defined as earning a grade of at least 85 or higher. Every student has potential and the ability to thrive; they only need the right tools to flourish. Our challenge as educators is to guide them

effectively – to provide them with the tools they need to reach their full potential.

We now have more tools at our disposal than ever before. The transition to the Common Core sets high expectations for our students, and our staff supports all of our students in believing that they can indeed achieve. The district is proud of how our teachers and parents

have risen to the changes and challenges. The emphasis has shifted from content acquisition to the learning process itself – to problem solving, complex thinking, and creativity. When our students leave our schools, they will not just know – they will know how to learn.

The second goal adopted by the Board of Education – achieving financial and capital sustainability – is also one we are well on our way to achieving. Programs that our students need have been preserved. Core subjects, art, music, physical education, and athletics remain strong in our schools despite many years of fiscal challenges that are only just beginning to ease. Voters have also approved Phase II of the district's Capital Project, which will sustain and improve our buildings and facilities, producing safe and secure learning environments for decades to come.

We are well on our way to achieving the district's vision, and it is because we are all united – faculty, staff, administrators, parents, the community, and all other stakeholders – in our desire to provide the best possible education for our children. That's what makes Ken-Ton such a special place. We should all be proud to work here, to live here, and have our children attend schools here.

Warm wishes for a memorable holiday season! I look forward to continuing partnering with you in our work throughout the New Year!

Dawn Mirand,
Superintendent of Schools



Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

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Board of Education

Bob Dana, President
Stephen Brooks, Vice President
Todd Potter, Trustee
Annemarie Gibson, Trustee
Jill O'Malley, Trustee

Dawn Mirand,
Superintendent

Board Meetings

Regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and usually begin at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.

Call 874-8400 ext. 20338 to confirm the time and location.

SchoolGram

The SchoolGram is the official newsletter of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District and regular editions are published four times a year.

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For the latest Ken-Ton news, visit www.kenton.k12.ny.us and visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentonufsd

STEAM EDUCATION**District Recognized for STEM Offerings**

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD was among those school districts recently recognized by the Western New York STEM Hub for their commitment to enhancing science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) education.

“By creating a culture of STEM learning – in addition to arts education – these schools are establishing an education pipeline to tomorrow’s careers for today’s students,” said Michelle Kavanaugh, facilitator of the WNY STEM Hub. “The workforce of the future requires STEM-trained and innovation-talented employees with technical skills and creative problem solving acumen to tackle complex challenges.”

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District is unique in one important way: its four high school Career Academies — Pre-Engineering, Computer Networking, Information Technology and Business — are certified by New York State. The programs had to be developed in partnership with business and industry and meet the state’s



District representatives including Joel Maerten, far left; Board President Bob Dana, third from left; Superintendent Dawn Mirand, fourth from right; and Board Vice President Stephen Brooks, third from right, are recognized by the Western New York STEM Hub for the District’s STEM offerings.

rigorous requirements for certification. The district is also able to procure state-of-the-art equipment through the Perkins grant for its certified CTE courses, including C&C rapid prototyping equipment, 3D printers, and robotic automation capabilities, as well as leading industry software systems such as Autodesk.

Both high schools — Kenmore East and Kenmore West — offer Project Lead the Way courses using the internationally recognized engineering curriculum. The district has also established a Grade 6-12 engineering pathway by implementing a Project Lead the Way Gateway Program in middle school beginning with sixth grade.

The WNY STEM Hub, which is part of the Empire State STEM Learning Network, seeks to reduce the current STEM skills gap and increase the growth of STEM jobs. The districts recognized were designated as the Inaugural Class of Emerging STEM School Systems, and the criteria was engaging students through study and programming.

BOARD OF EDUCATION**Board of Education Adopts New Goals**

Focus is on student mastery in math and literacy; fiscal and capital sustainability

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD Board of Education has adopted two core goals in the areas of instruction and finance/operations in order to achieve the District’s vision of becoming the premier school district in New York State by 2020.

The first goal is for all students to achieve mastery in literacy and numeracy and the second goal is for the District to achieve financial and capital sustainability.

“These goals encompass a lot of things,” said Bob Dana, Board of Education president. “We want Ken-Ton to be the premier school district in New York State by 2020 and the

only way to do that is to make all necessary course corrections now. I am now more confident than ever that this vision is achievable. Our emphasis will be on teaching what needs to be taught so that our students can meet the demands of the new rigorous curriculum, then to make any necessary adjustments to enable each and every single one of our students to reach their fullest potential.”

The mission of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District, which serves approximately 7,000 students across 12 schools, is to educate, prepare and inspire all students to achieve their highest potential.



Top row, from left, Trustee Todd Potter, Board President Bob Dana, and Vice President Stephen Brooks. Bottom row, from left, Trustee Annemarie Gibson, Superintendent Dawn Mirand and Trustee Jill O’Malley.

Register for UPK and Kindergarten

Registration for kindergarten and universal pre-kindergarten at all Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda schools will begin in January. Registration for all students is by appointment only at the Central Registration Office, located at 1500 Colvin Blvd., Buffalo, NY 14223.

Parents may call Central Registration at (716) 871-2090 to make an appointment during specified weeks depending on the school and grade level (dates listed at right).

Appointment times will be scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and extended hours will be offered on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. during this time period.

To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be five years of age on or

Kindergarten & UPK Registration Dates

- **January 12-16:** Holmes Elementary School and Hoover Elementary School (kindergarten registration only)
- **January 20-23:** Franklin Elementary School and Lindbergh Elementary School (kindergarten registration only; Jan. 19 is a holiday and Central Registration will be closed on this date)
- **January 26-30:** Edison Elementary School (kindergarten registration only)
- **February 2-6:** Universal pre-kindergarten

before Dec. 1, 2015. To be eligible for universal pre-kindergarten, children must be four years of age on or before Dec. 1, 2015.

At the time of registration, parents should have with them their completed registration packet, their child's original birth certificate or baptismal certificate and two current proofs of the

parent's residence. Contact the Central Registration office at 871-2090 with any questions.

Parents who expect to register a child in a non-public school for kindergarten should notify their neighborhood public schools or Central Registration of their intent so that all eligible children can be accounted for.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

New Initiative Promotes Active Lifestyles

A new program is promoting the importance of exercise in a creative and child-friendly way to encourage elementary school students to be more active. The program is centered on its namesake character, a frog named EEEK (short for Enlighten, Empower, Energize Kids), who is featured in a series of children's books and accompanying activities. The books use rhyming verses, captivating illustrations and fun storylines to engage readers and help them understand what a healthy lifestyle consists of and why it is so important.

The five-book EEEK the Frog series has been written and developed by MaryAnne Cappellino, a local author and fitness instructor, with illustrations by local artist Michael Gelen. The program was introduced to Ken-Ton schools by Heather Ratka, curriculum specialist for health and physical education. It is being funded through the Carol M. Wright Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant, a three-year award the district received from the U.S. Department of Education, which is



now in its third and final year.

Cappellino has been featured at assemblies at each of the seven elementary schools and parent/child evening events that began in November. All students at the targeted grade level were provided the first book in the series, "The Most Clever Frog," which addresses the importance of balancing inactive time with active time and calories consumed with calories spent through exercise to underscore the fundamental principles behind

maintaining a healthy weight in a way that is easy for children to understand.

The book includes a tool for parents to reinforce the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the importance of discussing healthy living with their children. The companion parent/child evening events, which focus on topics such as nutrition, goal setting, self-esteem, positive thinking and stress management, help take these lessons beyond the classroom in a fun and engaging way for all participants.

"EEEEK is a character children can relate to, and he sends a great message throughout the series, which can give students tools for a healthy lifestyle. Michael Gelen's illustrations bring the character to life and each story reveals a practical strategy to promote health and fitness in a fun and entertaining way," Ratka said.

The series has been incorporated into the curriculum at many school districts in the region and has been used by pediatricians and businesses and organizations such as Wegmans and Independent Health.

Continued: Singapore Educators See Ken-Ton as Model for Mentoring

Continued from Page 1

According to Lee, the government of Singapore – a city-state of approximately 5.5 million people in Southeast Asia – has prioritized early childhood education and is providing unprecedented levels of funding, fueling the growth in enrollment.

Mandatory public education begins at age 6 with primary school. Pre-school and kindergarten programs, beginning for children as young as six months of age, are operated by quasi-private entities such as My First Skool, the Little Skool-House International and the Caterpillar’s Cove, the three First Campus brands.

First Campus oversees dozens of pre-school and kindergarten centers for thousands of students in Singapore. They are hiring and onboarding 800 new teachers each year and are badly in need of a system of mentoring new staff. That’s where Ken-Ton comes in.

In 1989 – long before mentoring programs became a requirement for school districts – Ken-Ton teachers, administrators and Board of Education members all recognized the need to mentor and support new teachers. They created a framework for mentoring in the district that included a specific number of mentors determined by the number of new teachers with different levels of support. A teacher’s first year would include weekly half-day observations while the second year would shift toward classroom content and collegial circles. Mentors would also write parallel assessments on each teacher’s growth, and a governing Policy Board would make recommendations to the superintendent based on these evaluations.

That framework is still in place today, far exceeding state requirements. There is currently only one mentor in the district today; at one point, the number of new teachers necessitated a total of 13 mentors with a caseload of 20 teachers each.



Pamela Ng and Eunice Tong, both cluster managers for Little Skool-House International, discuss Ken-Ton’s mentoring program at Edison Elementary School.

“We cultivate a culture of collaboration and collegiality,” said mentor Lisa Carver, who worked closely with Lee and her colleagues during their visit along with Renee L. Freda, a teacher, former mentor and Policy Board co-chair; Pamela Hanny, another teacher and former mentor; Edison Elementary School Principal David King; and Holmes Elementary School Principal Lisa Cross. “When the mentor is gone, we still have those supports.”

Facilitating the visit was Linda S.D. Croglia, former principal of Lindbergh Elementary School. A year and a half ago, she authored a book focusing on guidelines for mentors and was invited to Singapore to talk more about the subject. That’s when Lee and her colleagues became interested in visiting Western New York, where they also visited Tapestry Charter School, Read to Succeed, Amherst schools, and Buffalo Promise Neighborhood, among others.

“Linda taught us about the role of the mentor, what makes a good mentor, and what could be in a mentoring framework,” said Kok Siat Yeow, deputy director for programs at the NTUC SEED Institute, a training and resource program. “She talked a lot about mentoring as driven by the mentee – not, ‘I’m your mentor. Here’s what I want you to do.’ Ownership has to come from the mentee.”

According to Siat Yeow, what she found appealing about Ken-Ton’s model is the different tiers of support and collaborative framework.

“It’s a very good process,” she said. “What impressed me was the clarity of the process and the collaboration between the principal and the mentor. This is a good model.”

King and Cross agreed that it was a great experience for Ken-Ton staff as well to have had the chance to collaborate with the special guests.

“The experience of sharing the attributes of the Ken-Ton program was a uniquely rewarding experience,” King said. “The chance to bring together mentors, administrators and teachers for a focused discussion on developing the craft of teaching transcended culture and distance. Good teaching is, and always will be, good teaching, no matter the subject or level.”

“Spending time in professional dialogue about the power of teacher mentoring with administrators from Singapore was quite enlightening,” Cross said. “As we discussed our evaluation programs and resources, we discovered many of our practices are very similar. It was a clear example of how globalization and technology has connected educators from around the world who seek to learn from best practices, like our teacher mentoring program.” ■

Inspiring Young Readers

Schools Find Creative Ways to Engage Students in Literacy

The day before Homecoming, Kenmore West High School varsity football players, including the iconic Blue Devil mascot, could be found in elementary schools reading and providing feedback to children who eagerly showcased their most recent writing and reading assignments.

The team started at Lindbergh Elementary, where they not only read with the children but engaged them in a pick-up football game too. At Roosevelt, they worked alongside struggling readers who have been working hard to advance their literacy skills. Finally, they finished the day with two classroom visits at Holmes.

This is the third year that Matt O'Malley, special education teacher and assistant varsity football coach at Kenmore West, has brought the players out to elementary schools to read alongside younger children.

"I think it's important for the players to read to kids, especially since, when they get older, they are going to be reading to their own children," O'Malley said.

On the Friday before Columbus Day, seventh graders in Tara Gabel's social studies class at Franklin Middle School could be found doing exactly the same thing: reading to their



Trent White, left, and Gavin Sloan, both Kenmore West High School varsity football players, read alongside a student at Holmes Elementary School.

younger peers from the adjoining elementary school and showing them what effective reading strategies look like.

It was a tradition that began 15 years ago as an after-school club and it has a tremendous impact on the students, teachers said.

"The great thing about this event is that they are sharing the importance of reading," said Robyn Brydalski, third grade teacher at Franklin Elementary. "The seventh graders are modeling good reading strategies, which will be critical as they go down the line. It's a lifelong skill, and it's important for the third-grade students to see the seventh-grade students following through with the lessons we teach."

All across Ken-Ton schools, teachers are finding creative ways to inspire a love of reading and promote the importance of literacy

development. There are many different strategies being used to engage younger readers, and one is bringing in guests to read.

"There is something about reading aloud to kids," said Gretchen Seibert, librarian at Edison Elementary School. "It doesn't matter if they are five years old or getting ready for middle school. They just like to be read to."

In October, students across grade



Remarkable Readers Haley Fabian, Salim Ben Jaballah and Karissa Nelles and teacher Kathleen Reiser.



Dawn Mirand, superintendent, reads "Bunny Cakes" as part of the Read for the Record campaign.



At left, students in Kelly Bacon and Michelle Hocking's ninth grade English classes on "book dates" at Kenmore West High School. At right, Leah Fron, Avery Thomas and Mia Flitt take part in CSI Hoover.

levels took part in the national Read for the Record campaign at Edison with a final count of 375 students who were read the Rosemary Wells children's book "Bunny Cakes."

Read for the Record is a national campaign in which children all across the country are read the same book on the same day. This was the fifth year the school has participated in Read for the Record, and among those who read "Bunny Cakes" to the various classes were Dawn Mirand, superintendent, along with other district administrators, teachers, and community members.

According to Rita Klipfel, a teacher at Holmes Elementary, one of the schools visited by the Kenmore West football team, younger students enjoy the opportunity to share what they are reading and writing in class with someone in addition to the teacher.

"To have a different kind of audience is really exciting for them," she said.

Promoting summer reading is another strategy at Franklin Middle School, which offered support by giving parents the opportunity to sign up and take home up to 10 books of the child's choice to be returned when the students returned in September. More than 60 "Remarkable Readers" were honored in the fall for their success in the school's summer reading program, reading a combined 212 books. The overall top student

readers – Karissa Nelles, Salim Ben Jaballah, and Haley Fabian – each read 12 books during the summer months.

Meanwhile, Kenmore West librarians Amy Young and Nancy O'Donnell have designed a creative activity to expose older students to many different types of books. They compared the activity to speed dating: rotating freshmen through multiple books, giving them the opportunity to select the best book for them for their second quarter independent reading assignment.

"We wanted to encourage students to explore as many books as possible, in a wide variety of genres," Young and O'Donnell stated. "We are happy to report that many readers found 'the one.'"

At Hoover Elementary School, retired literacy teacher Susan Busch is continuing to reach out to young students through a series of fun, family-friendly evening activities to inspire them to love reading and to help them develop their reading skills at home as well as in the classroom.

It started with Pajama Reading Night, which brought kindergarten students and first graders dressed in pajamas accompanied by their parents and optional teddy bears. They rotated through different classrooms where teachers and other volunteers read their own favorite stories and shared and modeled tips for parents on reading aloud with

their children. Next was Make a Book Night, which brought second and third graders to school to write and illustrate their own stories. The third was CSI Hoover. For this event, faculty and staff portrayed suspects and witnesses as students tried to solve a mystery by looking for clues and reading documents to find evidence.

"The kids come and have fun, and it's so much more fun with the parents, and the parents get to see what they are learning in the classroom," Busch said. "I really believe that learning starts at home. When children see that their parents value literacy so much that they come out like this to support it, then the children see it as important too, and they work so much harder at it."

These activities will be held later this year at Franklin, Holmes and Roosevelt as well. ■



Omar Fathallah helps his son Khaled write and illustrate a book at Make a Book Night at Hoover Elementary.

ART EDUCATION

Student Artists Honored at Reception

Twelve talented artists from Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda schools and their teachers were honored at a recent Student Artist Reception that also provided an opportunity to express appreciation for the service of all five members of the Board of Education.

Artwork from one student from each of the 12 schools in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District were on display at the reception, which was crowded with the students and their art teachers as well as family members, school administrators, Board of Education members and other guests in attendance.

The students were:

- **Iyanna Davis**, 4th Grade, Edison Elementary School (teacher: Wendy Yiengst)
- **Anthony Casseri**, 4th Grade, Lindbergh Elementary School (teacher: Lavinia Kirdani)
- **Leah Fron**, 4th Grade, Hoover Elementary School (teacher: Jennifer Lynch)
- **Faith Hall**, Kindergarten, Franklin Elementary School (teacher: Jon Bender)
- **Laura Hummel**, 8th Grade, Hoover Middle School (teacher: Jamie Kubala)
- **Emily McDonnell**, 6th Grade, Kenmore Middle School (teacher: Alicia Patterson)
- **Kayley Mellott**, 5th Grade, Roosevelt Elementary School (teacher: Jessica Indridson)
- **Hailey Metzger**, 4th Grade, Hamilton Elementary School (teacher: Elaine Korczykowski)
- **Ja'don Pritchett**, 1st Grade, Holmes Elementary School (teacher: Diane Schaefer)
- **Alexander Reardon**, 7th Grade, Franklin Middle School (teacher: Catherine Brooks)
- **William Rusch**, 11th Grade, Kenmore West High School (teacher: Amy Veltri)
- **Xena Williams**, 11th Grade, Kenmore East High School (teacher: Richard Scaduto)



Top photo, Jon Bender, art teacher at Franklin Elementary School, poses with his student, Faith Hall, and Dawn Mirand, superintendent. Faith's painting, "Sailboat Sunset," was selected to be reprinted for Board of Education members. Bottom photo, all the students from Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda schools whose works were featured at the recent Student Artist Reception. From left, Hailey Metzger, Emily McDonnell, Alexander Reardon, Anthony Casseri, Ja'don Pritchett, Iyanna Davis, Leah Fron, Xena Williams, Faith Hall, Laura Hummel, Kayley Mellott and William Rusch.

A tradition at Ken-Ton schools is to have the Student Artist Reception coincide with New York State School Board Recognition Week. As a way of thanking members of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD Board of Education for their service, one of the students is selected to have their

artwork reproduced and given to each board member.

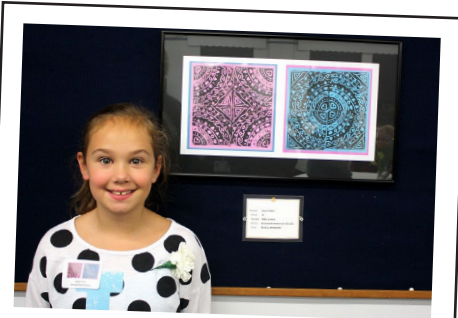
Franklin Elementary School kindergarten student Faith Hall's painting, entitled "Sailboat Sunset," was this year's selection and was presented to all five members of the Board of Education.



Anthony Casseri
4th Grade,
Lindbergh Elementary School,
"Cow Skull w/ Native Blanket"



Iyanna Davis
4th Grade,
Edison Elementary School,
"Cool Koi"



Leah Fron
4th Grade,
Hoover Elementary School,
"Radial Symmetry"



Laura Hummel
8th Grade,
Hoover Middle School,
"Ed Sheeran"



Ja'don Pritchett
1st Grade, Holmes Elementary
School, "2 Self Portraits:
Observation and Imagination"



Xena Williams
11th Grade,
Kenmore East High School,
"Revealing What Is Beyond"



Hailey Metzger
4th Grade,
Hamilton Elementary School,
"Birch Trees"



William Rusch
11th Grade,
Kenmore West High School,
"Nanu"



Emily McDonnell
6th Grade,
Kenmore Middle School,
"Expressive Self Portrait"



Alexander Reardon
7th Grade,
Franklin Middle School,
"Impressionist Garden"



Kayley Mellott
5th Grade,
Roosevelt Elementary School,
"Purple Water Lily"

Congratulations
students and
a special thank you
to our art teachers
and Board of
Education members!

SCHOOLS MAKE HALLOWEEN MEAN MORE THAN CANDY & COSTUMES



Activities Included Operation Gratitude and Fundraisers for UNICEF, Local Family

October 31 was for more than just trick-or-treating for Ken-Ton students and staff – it was for helping those in need, whether they are children and soldiers half a world away or members of the school community.



Through the annual Operation Gratitude drive, students gave up some of their trick-or-treating candy and brought it to school, where it was weighed and given to Winning Smiles Pediatric Dentistry and then

donated to those serving in the Armed Forces. All told, Ken-Ton schools donated a total of 1,470 pounds of candy, which also meant \$1,470 was raised for the schools since Winning Smiles Pediatric Dentistry matches every pound of candy with \$1.

Students also raised money for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), which provides humanitarian aid to children and

mothers in developing countries.

At Hamilton Elementary, staff and students dedicated the Monster Mash indoor trick-or-treating event organized by the PTA in honor of the late Sherrie Green, a beloved pre-kindergarten teacher who died in a tragic car accident just before the beginning of the school year. The school community raised money for the Green family through a themed basket raffle.



Students at Hamilton Elementary also stepped up to show their support by wearing green that day in honor of the Green family, an idea of fifth grader Andrew Wolf.

At Edison Elementary, approximately 200 children took part in the inaugural Pumpkin Run, which consisted of two laps around the school with every child who finished the race receiving a pumpkin. The event featured several food trucks, which donated a portion of the proceeds back to the school, and coincided with the school’s annual book sale.

Faculty and staff provided many creative and fun ways for students to enjoy Halloween too. The Kenmore Middle School Library hosted a “Raven”-themed Edgar Allen Poe Halloween party with a raven mask-

making activity, a wrap-the-mummy contest, and a reading of “The Raven.” There was a “haunted gym” at Edison

Elementary with many different holiday-inspired physical activities from physical education teachers Chris Robey and Nicole Zugelder. And Roosevelt Elementary added a

vocabulary element to the traditional Halloween parade by having students identify and display one colorful word to describe their costume, an idea inspired by the children’s book “Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster” by Debra Frasier.



Clockwise, from top left, the Pumpkin Run; a student exits the locker room at the “haunted gym” on a scooter; the “Raven” party; Aidan Satchidan and Maranda Ackendorf at Hoover Elementary donate to Operation Gratitude; Roosevelt teachers take part in the Halloween vocabulary parade; and Hamilton’s Monster Mash.

Getting in the Spirit



Students in Michael Roy's class at Kenmore East High School with Mike Billoni of the WNY Food Bank, back row, far right. Of the 6,866 food items collected through this year's school-wide Gobblin' Up Hunger food drive, 1,029 came from this class.



Kenmore Middle School students made and wrapped specially designed snowman gifts out of repurposed glass jars and peppermint candy during a gift-making party in the library.



Kenmore West students went caroling at Chrusciki Bakery to support the Kenmore Merchants Association Night of Shopping on Delaware Avenue.



Holiday concerts were held at all Ken-Ton schools, featuring band, orchestra, jazz and choral groups at all grade levels.



Approximately 170 students took part in the Edison PTA's Bedtime Story Night – a tradition brought over by Jefferson Elementary families – complete with 11 readers, milk and cookies, and caroling.

Eighteen Teams Win Scholar-Athlete Award

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda student-athletes continue to shine in the classroom as well as on the field.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) has recognized 18 fall varsity teams from both high schools with the Scholar-Athlete Award. To qualify, varsity teams must have carried cumulative team GPAs of 90% or higher.

The following teams earned the prestigious state honor. From Kenmore East: Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Girls Swimming, Girls Tennis and Girls Volleyball. From Kenmore West: Girls Cross Country, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Swimming, Girls Tennis, Boys Volleyball and Girls Volleyball.



The Kenmore East and Kenmore West Varsity Football teams square off in their annual game on Oct. 18. Both teams were among 18 fall varsity teams to win the Scholar-Athlete Award.

Sleepout is February 6

The 28th annual Jerry Starr Ken-Ton Schools' Sleepout, sponsored by Educators Totally Committed (E.T.C.), will take place from 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6 to 7 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Hoover Middle School parking lot. Donations of cash, food, clothes, personal care items, and small furniture items will be collected and donated to local organizations that help the less-fortunate.

Donations may be dropped off at the Sleepout site on Feb. 6 between 7:45 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. Those wishing to donate by check may make it payable to: KEN-TON SCHOOLS – E.T.C., and mailed to Ken-Ton Schools' Sleepout, c/o Kenmore West Senior High School, 33 Highland Pkwy., Buffalo, NY 14223. For more information, call 694-4492.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

'Girls on the Run' Teaches Self-Esteem, Confidence

Local Girls on the Run chapters at Holmes and Franklin elementary schools worked hard in the fall to train for 5K races while building their self-esteem and confidence, culminating in races at Delaware Park.

Girls on the Run is a national program for third- through eighth-grade students that uses the process of preparing for a 5K to teach the importance of nutrition, health and

fitness and build self-esteem and confidence while also combating bullying.

"We had a great time at our first Girls on the Run 5K," said Franklin Elementary teacher and coach Jennifer Zebulske. "Our girls ran hard and not one of them walked. I'm so proud of all of them."

Girls on the Run teams at Franklin Elementary, top, and Holmes Elementary, bottom.



Students Learn About Internet Safety at Hamilton Elementary

Amy Benfanti's third-grade class at Hamilton Elementary learned about internet safety during recent visits to the library.

Students prepared posters to enter into the Kids Safe Online NYS Poster Contest, which is sponsored by the New York State Office of Information Technology Services to raise awareness of cyber safety.

Students' posters had titles that included "Ask Before You Click" and "Don't Give Your Information to Strangers."



Alexandra Gartz and Jadyen Milligan with their poster entitled, "Treat People The Way You Want to Be Treated Online."



A Thanksgiving Tradition

First-grade students at Roosevelt Elementary School as well as students enrolled in BOCES programs performed for their parents and pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and second-grade classmates. They sang songs and poems to express their thanks for all the blessings in their lives, a tradition at the school for many years.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

K-Kids Strive to Make Community a Better Place

For the past 13 years, students in the Kiwanis K-Kids club at Roosevelt Elementary School have been doing their part to make the Ken-Ton community a better place.

That tradition is still running strong. Students stayed late on Dec. 2 to close out their UNICEF fundraiser and start a new holiday project for elderly residents in the community. Then, in January, they will be partnering with the Rotary Club of Kenmore in support of the Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio worldwide.

"One of the things I tell the kids at the beginning of the year is that our goal



The Roosevelt K-Kids club organize money they raised during their recent fundraiser for UNICEF.

each year is to do something for our school, our community and the world to make it better," said Michele Dean,

teacher aide at Roosevelt and a K-Kids advisor alongside teacher aides Debbie Naples and Sarina Micieli.

On Dec. 2, the students made 85 snowman door hangers to bring to Wynwood Senior Apartments. They sang carols as well, making it an event that is very well-received by residents.

When they return from recess, the students will team up with Kenmore West students, who will come to Roosevelt to paint students' pinkies purple. The fundraiser is sponsored by the Rotary and, for every dollar donated, one child in a third world country is vaccinated against polio.

Franklin Elementary Craft Show, Basket Raffle is Jan. 31

Franklin Elementary School will host its annual Craft Show & Basket Raffle on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This annual event has become the school's largest fundraiser of the year and is used to fund student field trips, assemblies and all extra student programs at the school. In years past, the students have visited the Lockport Locks, the Buffalo Zoo, Kelkenberg Farm and Camp Tahigwa. Proceeds from the Craft Show & Basket Raffle also help fund visits from children's book authors, Nickel

City Reptiles and Hawk Creek.

The Craft Show will include local vendors selling artwork, jewelry, flower arrangements, handmade greeting cards and home decor items, pet accessories, and much more.

The Basket Raffle boasts more than 75 baskets including some large donations from local sports groups and community businesses.

If you would like to be part of the Craft Show or have a local business that would like to donate to the Basket Raffle, email bfcraftshow@gmail.com.

FES Hosts Family Math Night

In October, students and families from Franklin Elementary School took part in a fun-filled event that fostered a greater understanding of and enthusiasm for math instruction at the elementary grade levels.

Family Math Night included many different grade-appropriate games and activities, all from the Math Expressions program, reinforcing the instruction taking place in the classroom.

Guests were also entered into a drawing for tickets to a Buffalo Bills game and several gift cards.

The event served as the kick-off to the "We're Counting on You" program at the school, which is designed to encourage students to practice math at home each night. Students who participated for three or four weeks were invited to the "Counting on You" Carnival, which took place Nov. 3.



Jay and Theresa Clause teach students about Haudenosaunee artifacts, culture and traditions.

Students Exposed to Haudenosaunee Culture

Jay and Theresa Clause, a Native American couple from the Tuscarora Reservation, visited Franklin Elementary students on Nov. 24 to teach them about Haudenosaunee culture and traditions.

Mr. and Mrs. Clause brought many artifacts such as Wampum belts, animal pelts, tools and drums for the students to interact with. They began their presentation by reciting part of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address, which students have read in class. They also told the story of the Great Peacemaker who, according to tradition, brought together the Five Nations of the Iroquois League.

The presentation included history, stories, and many fun, hands-on activities. Students even danced to the traditional Haudenosaunee music.

"The presentation enriched the learning of the students, who have spent the first eight weeks of school learning about the first inhabitants of New York State," said teacher Heidi Sorel.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Holmes Students Take Part in Special Bills Event

Thanks to the NFL's Fuel Up to Play 60 program, the Dairy Council and the Buffalo Bills, 30 students from Holmes Elementary School were able to connect with Bills players at a special Hometown Huddle event at Wegmans in Blasdell to learn about the importance of good nutrition and physical activity.

As part of the special event, they each had their picture taken with wide receiver Sammy Watkins and linebacker Preston Brown, and they were also able to meet all 14 Bills rookies and get their autographs. They had the chance to move through the store, learning

about healthy food groups and shopping beside the Bills players with \$100 Wegmans gift cards they received.

Dan LiBurd, Buffalo Bills nutritionist, spoke about good nutrition and the students took part in some fun physical activities too.

"It was such a cool event. To see these great big Buffalo Bills players and our kids with their grocery bags – these fourth and fifth graders who were learning about nutrition – it was so exciting," said Kim Roll, food service director, who helped Holmes be chosen for the event. "Our kids were so good. I was so proud of them."



Bills rookies Bryan Johnson, Ross Crockrell and Sammy Watkins help Holmes students, from left, Joseph Meciszewski, Mason Forney and Johnathon Lebron shop at Wegmans.



Partnership With Praxair

In October, employees from Praxair visited Holmes Elementary to kick off a mentoring partnership that has been going strong for 20 years. Reading is the focus for the year and they challenged the students – some who they have mentored since second grade – to write and illustrate a book.



Visit to Kelkenberg Farm

Lindbergh Elementary first grader Samantha Buyea enjoys a pony ride at the Kelkenberg Farm in Clarence Center. Samantha and her classmates visited the farm to learn about all aspects of farm life.

Lindbergh Raises \$1,306 for Breast Cancer Research

Faculty, staff and students at Lindbergh Elementary went pink in October to raise money for the Susan G. Komen foundation, which provides groundbreaking research, community health outreach, advocacy and programs in the fight against breast cancer.

Students and staff donated money in exchange for pink feathers, hair extensions and tinsel, which was installed in their hair by volunteers from a local salon. Students were also allowed to donate money to wear a hat to show their support.

This year, Lindbergh Elementary raised \$1,306 for the foundation.

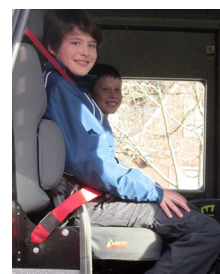


Front row, Clare Ring, left, and Oliver Varney. Middle row, from left, Luci Cryan, Erin Devine, Molly Stewart, and Carolyn Bourgeault. Back row, Lindsey Jones, left, and Grace Watters.

Student Rides Fire Truck Home from School

A Lindbergh student had a once-in-a-lifetime chance to ride a fire truck home through the Lindbergh Leaders Program.

The program is designed to promote positive behaviors and maximize academic achievement while providing staff a proactive approach to teach, reinforce and reward positive behavior.



Students who meet or exceed expectations earn "Lindbergh Leader" tickets, which give them the chance to earn very special prizes.

In this case, that prize – awarded to fifth grader Charles Robinson – was a ride home from school with his friend, Liam Lesakowski, in a fire truck operated by the Ellwood Fire Company, which donated their services in support of the program.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Air Force Veteran Teaches Students About Afghanistan

The day before Veterans Day, third-grade students at Hamilton Elementary who are studying Afghanistan had the opportunity to learn about the region from a very special guest speaker: Captain Christopher Morrison, a nine-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who recently returned from Kabul.

Morrison serves as a navigator aboard a C-130 in the 914th Airlift Wing, Operations Support Squadron, out of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and visited Cynthia Morath's and Amy Benfanti's classes. He talked about his own role helping to teach Afghanis how to operate the C-130. He discussed the geography and climate of Afghanistan, as well as culture, literacy and what schools are like there. He even gave the students a crash course in the Dari language, showing them how the structure of Dari differs from English and teaching them a



Capt. Christopher Morrison is introduced by his wife, Hamilton Elementary librarian Grace Morrison.

to help broaden the world of our students so that they are prepared to build relationships with people in a different culture from our own," she said. "Students were able to interact with a member of the United States military and learn about how he interacts with people in a culture very different from his own."

handful of Dari courtesies.

"The event with Capt. Morrison was especially meaningful, relevant and important, not only for educational reasons but also because the following day was Veterans Day," Benfanti said. "Students left with a better understanding of the sacrifice those serving in our armed forces make every day for their country."

Morrison's wife, Grace Morrison, who is a librarian at Hamilton Elementary, helped arrange the visit.

"It is important for us, as teachers,

Edison Honors Teachers Who Served

Students and staff at Edison Elementary had a special Veterans Day celebration to honor two teachers who served in the armed forces: Sean Grohman and Katrina West.

Grohman served four years in the Air Force and another 16 years in the New York Air National Guard with the 107th Air Refueling Wing. Grohman was an aircrew life support specialist and served in two wars.

West served in the Army Reserve for eight years with the 277th Quartermaster Company. She traveled a great deal, including a tour in San Juan where she participated in a peace mission to help build schools for young children.



The Student Ambassador Choir sings at Edison's Veterans Day ceremony.

The ceremony featured patriotic songs by the Student Ambassador Choir, a color guard and the reading of a patriotic poem. In addition to the ceremony, students at Edison contributed to a "Wall of Honor" to recognize members of their family who have served in the armed forces.



United Against Bullying

On Oct. 22, Hoover Elementary staff and students joined millions nationwide in opposition to bullying by wearing orange and signing a school-wide banner, which was hung in the mail hallway. The observance was part of the nationally recognized Unity Day and National Bullying Prevention Month. Pictured above are fourth graders helping to spread the message: top, from left, Jolin Chen, Angelina D'Agostino, Yasir Mahmood, Haydenn Bouley and Ian Wirth; below, from left, Emiliana Cassillo and Victoria Hatch.

Army Veteran Visits Roosevelt

U.S. Army veteran Andrew Kornacki, husband of Roosevelt Elementary teacher assistant Ashley Kornacki, paid second- and third-grade students at Roosevelt a very special visit for Veterans Day.

Kornacki shared his experience serving in Iraq and presented on places he has been and jobs he has had in the Army. The students also enjoyed the chance to try on his helmet and gas mask.



U.S. Army veteran Andrew Kornacki visits Roosevelt Elementary.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Students Take Part in Leadership Conference

On Oct. 29, 12 students from Kenmore Middle School, Franklin Middle School and Hoover Middle School participated in a Leadership Conference hosted by the Western New York Character Council. Each student was selected by his or her school counselor to participate as a result of the leadership qualities they have displayed in their school.

Students spent the day listening to presenters, participating in interactive

activities, and brainstorming ways to empower and encourage students to make a difference in their schools.

Participants in the Leadership Conference were, back row, from left, Marissa Teter, Ryan Kelly, Matthew Catani, Ryan Miller, Emma Grzeskowiak, Isabella DiGesare, Maya Maccagnano, Aurora Scolla, Cameron Burgos, Isabella Chimera, and Alanna Krug, and front row, from left, Jenna Butler, Lyndsay O'Brien and Madeline Love.



Room 230 at KMS Dedicated to Beloved Teacher Aide Sandra Sorrento

The late Sandra Sorrento, a former Kenmore Middle School teacher aide who retired in August, left a mark on the school community with her love of books and ability to share that love with others.



service, staff and students designated Room 230 as the Sandra Sorrento Reading Room: "A Special Place Where Books Come Alive!"

To show their appreciation, as she was departing the school after 30 years of dedicated

A plaque was donated by Niagara Sports Awards and hung outside Room 230 and she was presented with a letter of appreciation for her contributions.



KMS Students of the Month

Each month, Kenmore Middle School faculty submit nominations for Student of the Month, who can be selected for academics, leadership, sportsmanship, citizenship and for being a role model. During an assembly in November, parents and family members were present as seventh grader Julianna Falsone and sixth grader Andrew Cancilla received certificates from Michael Haggerty, assistant principal, and Janine Galante, guidance counselor, for the months of September and October respectively.

Students Celebrate Authentic Oktoberfest

German students at Franklin Middle School celebrated Oktoberfest in October, enjoying traditional German food complete with wurst (sausage) sauerkraut, authentic kartoffelsalat (potato salad) and homemade streusel, not to mention German music and dancing.

Staff had help from Wineker Gabel, mother of German language teacher Matthew Gabel and a native of Germany.

Approximately 60 students took part in the event, which was intended to be the first of many annual observances of Oktoberfest.



From left, students Megan Adams and Sierra Camisulli; Matthew Gabel, German language teacher; and students Victoria Zies, Taylor Adams, Grace Jackson, and Mia Sirianni.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Eight Sets of Twins in One Grade

This year's sixth grade class at Hoover Middle School includes no less than eight sets of twins out of only 237 students.

The configurations varied with some identical and some fraternal. According to school staff, while their similarities have been noted, so too have their uniqueness.

"Each child is treated as an individual with his or her own personality and special qualities," said Tina Schultz, ELA and science teacher.



Clockwise, from bottom left, Emma and Abby Grzeskowiak, Lily and Sam Holden, Harper and Owen Lake, Jess and John Botham, Ashley and Tiffany Tully, Gabe and Cole Baker, Jordan and John Dywan, and Joseph and Emily Terranova.

HMS Students Explore 40 Career Areas

In October, local professionals from more than 40 different career areas helped approximately 200 Hoover Middle School eighth graders get a better sense of what career might be right for them.

Students had completed a survey and were assigned to their three top career choices. For the fourth rotation, typically where they gain the most knowledge and develop new interests, they were encouraged to choose something they know little about.

Continued on Page 20



Eighth graders Kaylee Kenkins, Lindsey Willis and Erin Broniszewski take notes as Carmarie's Dance Studio owner Carmarie Glogoza discusses her career field.

KMS Opens New PBIS Store

Through Kenmore Middle School's new Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) program, students can earn tickets to be used to purchase items in a new PBIS store. Kristen Merz, teacher aide, manages and opens the store for students to shop after lunch. The students can also save their tickets to be entered into drawings.

The goal of PBIS programs is to find creative ways to reduce disciplinary incidents and improve safety and student outcomes.



With the help of teacher aide Kristen Merz, students shop at the new KMS "Rocks" store. ROCKS is short for Respect, Ownership, Cooperation, Kindness and Safety.



From left, Devin Debski, Alessia Craig, Zahraa Faisal, Anna Bandenelli and Cameron Gruntz display the flag of Uganda.

Ugandan Water Project Comes To Franklin

On Dec. 5, Franklin Middle School seventh graders walked around the building carrying one-gallon water jugs to experience the plight of many East African children who must walk to retrieve water daily to survive. It correlated with the ELA module study of "A Long Walk to Water" by Linda Sue Park, in which one of the main characters, Nya, is responsible for gathering water for her family.

Students are also raising money for filtration systems in Ugandan villages through the Ugandan Water Project, a non-profit humanitarian organization that works to provide safe accessible drinking water and other resources. Students had the chance to meet the organization's executive director, James Harrington, as part of an interactive assembly.



Wearing Orange for Unity

In October, Kenmore Middle School sixth grade students, along with Janine Galante, guidance counselor, showed their support for Unity Day by wearing orange. Unity Day is a national observance that allows everyone to come together in schools, communities and online to send a message of support, hope and unity against bullying.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Holocaust Survivor Tells Story to Ken-East Students

At a presentation at Kenmore East High School on Nov. 25, Holocaust survivor Joe Diamond brought to life something many students have only learned about from textbooks. He provided a first-hand account of what it was like to endure the concentration camps of Nazi Germany and explained why it is such an important subject and how it relates to the world today.

"We have to make sure that this doesn't happen again," Diamond said.

Diamond grew up in the former Czechoslovakia, the older of two boys. At age 14, he, his family, and all people of the Jewish faith in his village were transported to Auschwitz by the Nazis. Diamond was separated from his mother and seven-year-old brother, who were killed in the gas chambers. He and his father were sent to the work



camps as the Allies advanced along the Eastern and Western fronts.

When he himself had been marked for the gas chambers, a prisoner saved his life by guiding him to a latrine to hide. After a day, he made his way to another part of the camp, narrowly avoiding detection. Soon, with the Russians closing in, the Nazis abandoned Auschwitz, evacuating all detainees and forcing them on a death

march to another concentration camp.

Diamond survived and was liberated by American soldiers in the final days of World War II. He eventually made his way to America, making Buffalo his home. Diamond is one of only a handful of Holocaust survivors in Western New York who work in conjunction with the Buffalo Holocaust Resource Center to speak to thousands of children every year.

"I've had him in my classroom for the last 15 years explaining his plight and his family's plight," said social studies teacher Nicole Pauly. "His visits are important for students to understand the past as there are so many genocides occurring in the world today."

Kenmore East High School junior Emily Laufer contributed to this story.

Music Teacher Named Grammy Semi-Finalist



Kenmore East band instructor Phil Aguglia was named a semifinalist for the 2015 Grammy Music Educator Award. He was among only 25 semi-finalists nationwide.

This is the second year in a row that a Grammy will be awarded to a music educator, and the fact that this recognition is now included in the ceremony makes sense to Aguglia.

"Performers who are involved at the level of the Grammys are often educators or owe a lot to the people who have given so much to their students," Aguglia said.

Senior trumpet player Justin Moser sees Aguglia as just that type of educator. "He's super energetic and loves all the kids like they're his own," he said. "He gives 110 percent to every student."

Aguglia has been the band instructor since 2002. He cites his own high school band director as a major influence in his choice to pursue music education and his passion for music in schools.

Much in the Works to Engage Students in College, Career Planning

The Kenmore West High School Counseling Department has been busy this year guiding seniors through their final year of high school and preparing the other grades for their eventual transition to college.

Counselors conducted senior reviews with all 12th graders, checking credits and graduation requirements and discussing the college application process. Many students and parents attended the College Information Planning Night on Sept. 25. Two College Application Workshops were also held during and after school in October and November to help students with the college application process.

The counseling department also sponsored a college fair for 11th and 12th graders and all parents and students in 11th and 12th grade were invited to attend the Financial Aid Night on Dec. 4 to learn more about the FAFSA.

Counselors are currently meeting each of their ninth graders to introduce them to the Counseling and Career Center, as well as register their individual accounts in the Naviance Family Connection Program, an online college and career planning tool that is utilized by Ken-Ton schools. In December, counselors began meeting with 10th graders to continue the career exploration process using the Naviance program.

This winter, parents of 11th graders will be sent information by mail on how to create their own accounts in Naviance to further support their students in preparation for the college application process next year. Counselors will meet with juniors in the spring to make sure they are on track with college searches, SAT/ACT sign-up and other important college planning activities.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Ken-West Unites to Send Rugby Player to Elite Camp

Cory Ratka, a sophomore at Kenmore West High School, can now count himself among the top high school rugby players in the country, and thanks to the generosity of the entire school community, he has a shot at competing internationally for USA Rugby.



Cory was one of approximately 50 players from around the country to be selected for the USA Rugby Boys High School All-Americans Winter Camp just after Christmas. Half the players will become part of the High School All-Americans team that will compete internationally.

To participate in the high school program is a fantastic opportunity for Cory, according to William Conrad,

social studies teacher and rugby coach at Kenmore West, since there are a lot of opportunities for successful high school rugby players.

When it was time to start training for the winter camp, Cory had just finished the season as part of the Kenmore West Varsity Football Team, which came five points away from the Section VI Class AA Championship game. He is an all-around exceptional athlete, according to Conrad.

“He started as a scrumhalf when he was in eighth grade and he plays varsity football and wrestling – all of this as a sophomore,” Conrad said.

The Ken-Ton Rugby Team has had a lot of success since forming as a club sport in 2003. They were the runner up in the state championships for the past two years only losing to the recurrent

national champion, Xavier, twice. Also, two players have been selected as alternates for the All-American camp over the past 12 years, though no one had ever made the camp until Cory.

The trip isn't cheap, and Cory initially declined to participate because of the cost. However, teachers, staff, parents, rugby alumni and others in the community came through for him by raising \$1,000 to send him to the camp.

Assisting Conrad has been the Buffalo Rugby Club, for which he coaches and serves as a member of the board of directors. It was the Buffalo Rugby Club that initially offered the challenge: if the school raises a certain amount, the organization will provide a dollar-for-dollar match.

Not only did the school raise enough money, but they did so in just 24 hours.

Student Exchange Opportunities For Foreign Language Students

Two teachers and 20 German students from a partner school in Zülpich, near Cologne, Germany visited the district for 10 days in October. The group was hosted by Ken-Ton families, visited classes, explored the region, and experienced the culture and cuisine of Western New York.

Ken-Ton students will visit Germany next year. Spanish and French exchanges will also take place next year as well as an IB Spanish trip to Costa Rica and a French trip to Quebec.

“Travel and hosting exchange

students are the best ways to bring the languages we learn in the classroom to life,” said John Carlino, LOTE (languages other than English) curriculum and learning specialist.

Parents are key partners in supporting foreign language learning and now is the time to start planning a semester or year abroad, said Carlino. For more information on how to support a child studying a foreign language, visit www.nysaft.org/parents. Carlino may be contacted at jcarlino@kenton.k12.ny.us.

Students Visit Buff State, Dream It Do It

Kenmore East business students recently traveled on a field trip to Buff State to visit the college's Computer Information Systems program and tour the campus.

Kenmore West also traveled to Dream It Do It at Erie Community College where they interacted with local manufacturing companies.



Real Life Learning

Top, Kenmore West High School student Emily Gates works with Matt Rizzo, a Kenmore East graduate and vice president at AXA Advisors, a financial services firm. Bottom, Kenmore West student Nick Kaszynski, right, poses with Brian Sullivan, design engineer at Hebel, a local manufacturing company. Both students interned at the respective companies in the fall through the district's Career Exploration Internship Program.

MUSIC EDUCATION**High School Students Accepted Into Honor Ensembles**

Many student musicians from Kenmore East High School and Kenmore West High School were accepted into the following ensembles, which are comprised of the best high school musicians who compete at the local, regional and state level:

Buffalo State College Honor Band (October 18-19): From Kenmore East, Mark Begovich (trombone), Zachary Jurewicz (flute), Alex Schultz (tenor sax), Julia Brundin (clarinet), Zach Mattewson (percussion), John Miranda (tuba), Bethany Coates (clarinet), Gillian Scozzaro (alto sax), Brandi Palmer (clarinet), Thomas John (trumpet), Kyle Michaels (percussion), Claire Butler (flute/piccolo), Jacob Jurewicz (alto sax), Alex Russell (trombone), Alyssea Carroll (trombone) and Matthew White (bass clarinet), and from Kenmore West, Colin Lynch (tenor sax), Christopher Powers (alto sax), Allison Rapp (tenor sax) and Maria Taravella (alto sax).

Roberts Wesleyan College Honor Band, Rochester (Oct. 25-26): From Kenmore East, Claire Butler (flute/

piccolo), Matthew White (bass clarinet), Erin Lexner (flute), Jacob Aguglia (trumpet) and Kyle Michaels (percussion).

Capital University Honor Bands, Columbus, Ohio (Nov. 14-15): From Kenmore East, Claire Butler (Wind Ensemble: flute) and Matthew White (Wind Ensemble: bass clarinet). From Kenmore East (pending), Kyle Michaels (Concert Band: percussion), Erin Lexner (Concert Band: flute), Ashley Henderson (oboe), Gillian Scozzaro (alto sax) and Jeromy Jacobs (tenor sax).

Senior High Area All-State, SUNY Fredonia (Nov. 21-22): From Kenmore East, Claire Butler (Band: flute), Bailey Valint (Orchestra: violin), Erin Lexner (Jazz: bari sax), Mary DiCioccio (Jazz: bass), Kyle Michaels (Jazz alternate: drum set), Rhett Boswell (Mixed Choir), Paige Gilmar (Woman's Choir), Jordan Jade Hendricks (Woman's Choir), Hannah Raymond (Mixed Choir), Michael Ta (Mixed Choir), Tyler Vogt (Mixed Choir), Natalie Elwood (Mixed

Choir), Gabbie Alderman (Choir, alternate), Noah DeSalvo (Choir, alternate) and Cassie Marcotte (Choir, alternate). From Kenmore West, Lesley Rudin (Full Orchestra: violin), Morgan Miller (String Orchestra: cello) and Nina Brocculeri (Full Orchestra: viola).

Junior High Area All-State, Akron Central School District (Nov. 7-8): From Kenmore East, Jacob Aguglia (Jazz: trumpet), Alyssea Carroll (trombone), Jordan McKenna (bari sax, alternate) and Alex Russell (trombone, alternate). From Kenmore West, Zoe Battaglia (Full Orchestra: cellist), Isabella Eberle (clarinet) and Christopher Orrange (clarinet).

Conference All-State, Rochester (Dec. 4-7): From Kenmore East High School, Mary DiCioccio (Vocal Jazz Ensemble: string bass).

Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra: From Kenmore West, Isabella Eberle (clarinet).

Buffalo State College Jazz Workshop: From Kenmore West, Maria Taravella (alto sax).

Continued: HMS Career Fair**Continued from Page 17**

It was the fourth year school counselors have organized the event. A wide range of occupations and job areas were represented, including the U.S. Coast Guard, engineer, attorney, sports play-by-play announcer, police officer, personal trainer, real estate agent, athletic coach, graphic designer, dentist, automotive sales manager, cosmetologist, counselor, culinary arts, dance instructor and massage therapist.

Daniel Snitzer, project engineer at Praxair and an alumnus of Hoover Middle School and Kenmore East High School, was the keynote speaker. Snitzer spoke about his life and work experiences as an engineer, with particular attention to his educational background. He explained to students that it

takes a great deal of perseverance to succeed in virtually any career choice and encouraged them to find their passion in life and pursue it.

According to guidance counselor Elizabeth Cipolla, the program exposes students to local professionals and allows them to experience multiple career pathways in order to assist them in making wise choices for their own careers.

"We are really trying to promote career literacy," Cipolla said. "We start in sixth grade with career-oriented lessons in the classroom and then activities to promote the importance of early exposure. This allows students to think carefully and early about their futures and learn of the opportunities for growth and career development in Western New York."

Job Opportunities!

The Ken-Ton School District is hiring for support staff and substitutes in the areas of Teacher Aide, School Monitor, Clerk Typist, Bus Driver, Transportation Bus Aide, and Nurse. These are wonderful opportunities to generate income and work the same schedule as school children.

For many jobs, patience and a willingness to see children succeed is the only experience required. To apply online, please go to the district website at www.kenton.k12.ny.us, select the Human Resources tab, and then follow the "Job Opportunities" link on the left side. This will take you to an online job application. Please complete and attach this to the Support Staff Substitute job posting.

For more information, contact Donna Mesmer at 874-8400 ext. 20350.