

Keansburg Donates Books To Students in Africa

Keansburg students and staff pitched in to donate used books to help stimulate educational programs for students in Ghana, Africa. The NAACP has arranged for the shipment of the used preschool through 12th grade books to Ghana, Africa. Standing in front the boxes of donated books are School Superintendent Barbara Trzeszkowski, NAACP representatives Howard West and the Rev. Jack Thompson, and KHS Principal Tom Normile. —



Hands-On Science

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they will need all the skills they've been learning to complete the task."

Ms. Scorben was also high in her praise of the SSI kits, claiming they allow for "less talking by me and more doing by them."

"We discuss a concept and I tell them here's the materials, let's see you do it" she said. "They're having so much fun sometimes they don't even realize how much they're learning." —

Bridging Cultures

Students prepare "Charity Jars" for Helping Hands of Keansburg during the month of Ramadan. Keansburg High School and Bolger Middle School students created "Charity Jars" as a means of collecting donations to brighten the holiday season for local families.

The month of Ramadan is a time of fasting, refection and charity for Muslims worldwide.



New Before/After School Programs At Bolger

Student performance on the upcoming GEPA (Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment) is sure to be aided by the new After School Remediation Program at Bolger.

Students identified as being at risk for the test will attend a nine-week program of remedial assistance in Language Arts and Math. The program focuses on the types of skills needed to pass the standardized test, and will continue right up to the week of the GEPA itself.

Also just introduced is the XL (Excel) Program. XL is a before and after school opportunity for students to receive extra help, spend additional time in the computer labs, do their homework, or simply work on extra credit assignments. —

Perfect From Day One!

The following KHS students have been recognized for perfect attendance (no absences, no tardies) since school began this fall.

Todd Ambula
Ivan Ayala
Sergio Ayala
Daniel Bennett
Dawn Marie Brand

Jessica Cooney
Amanda Gadecki
Crawford King
Clayton Matich
Jessica Mauceri
James Neelan

Nicholas Neelan
Zahida Parveen
Valere Pedde
Sarah Sarafian
Bryan Scott
Curtis Sherman

Muzaffer Sipcikoglu
Peter Smith
Danniel Vazquez
John Zummo III



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Community Outreach A Way Of Life At High School

High school students continue to give back to their community through a multitude of extra-curricular student activities.

Through "Warm Hand Warm Hearts," a project of the KHS National Honor Society, (NHS) students collected and distributed hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for elementary school students who were in need of those items.

NHS students also answered the call when the Booster Club needed assistance, selling refreshments during high school and Pop Warner football games. The students also joined the high school Chorus for a round of caroling at local senior citizen facilities during the holiday season. The students also brightened the holidays for local families through their generous donations of food to the Kitchen at St. Marks.

"Our high school should be the focal point of the town and a visible vehicle for spreading good will," said Director of Student Activities Tom Stark. "These students understand that and continue to reach out accordingly."

Under the able and enthusiastic leadership of advisor Eileen Lidon, the Student Council has become highly visible in community service. Ms. Lidon contacted the Borough Council and requested the council be informed whenever the town requires their assistance.

The Student Council has been active in the collection of personal care items for Madonna House, which serves homeless mothers and their



National Honor Society members during "Warm Hands Warm Hearts" project. Seated: Greg Geiger, Christina Wanis, Thomas Wilson and Victoria Frantz. Standing: Marissa Cassidy, Meghan McAvoy, Daniella Minervini, Mark Meier, Jonathon Maldonado, Christopher Caro, Marissa Abrusia.

children. The students are also volunteering on Saturdays, serving meals at the St. Marks Church soup kitchen.

Led by advisor Jennifer DeMaria, the Key Club has scheduled trips to the Bayshore Manor Assisted Living facility where they will be providing recreational activities for the residents. The Key Club also assisted the Municipal Government with their annual "Monster Bash" during Halloween, and assisted further with the town's holiday tree lighting ceremony. The group has also been very

active in beach clean-up campaigns. In addition the Key Club regularly provides child care services during Caruso School parent conferences.

Principal Tom Normile who, along with Mr. Stark is a Keansburg High School graduate, understands the value of "giving something back."

"Our school district receives a great deal from the community," he said. "We have to give back and that means getting involved. Our students fully embrace this philosophy as their actions clearly show." ■

Portfolio Assessment Implemented At Caruso and Bolger



Language Arts teacher Erin McNulty goes over monthly quality work portfolio with fifth grader Megan McParland.

Caruso School and Bolger Middle School have implemented a new Portfolio Assessment system to track student work. Students now have a "best works" portfolio that will follow them from third through eighth grades.

The portfolios will serve as an assessment of student progress in all subject areas through an analysis of their finest work. Each month students meet with their teacher to select submissions to their monthly

"Quality Work Folder." All work from this folder will make up the student's portfolio. At the conclusion of eighth grade, the portfolio will accompany them to the high school.

"This is an ongoing process that gives children an opportunity to reflect on their work over a period of time," said Language Arts teachers Erin McNulty. "They determine strengths and weaknesses, set goals and monitor their progress throughout the year." —

Mobile Laptops Expand Technology

Technology has expanded dramatically at Bolger with the introduction of 40 mobile laptops. The laptops are used by all teachers in all subject areas, and are assisting students in a multitude of research projects and daily assignments.

"The laptops reinforce classroom learning in a way that provides students with confidence and independence," said science teacher Sandy Gomez. "They love them and can't wait to get their hands on them."

A desire shared in equal measure by their teachers. The machines are in constant use, with laptop appointment schedules a new way of life at Bolger.

The laptops have expanded the availability of technology in a school where the use of technology has never

been a stranger to begin with.

With the aid of the laptops, Ms Gomez used various chemistry websites that featured games and exercises to test student knowledge of chemistry vocabulary.

"It's wonderful to be able to bring the technology right into the science lab where we haven't the space for permanent desktops," she said. "To say it enhances student motivation is to state the obvious."

Teachers received extensive training in use of both the laptops and "smart boards," another new learning



Eighth graders work with laptops in Bolger science lab.

tool in use in many classrooms. The latter are huge boards which, when hooked up to a teacher's computer, respond to touch and display information from the desktop to the larger screen. —

"Sports People Of The Year"

Keansburg High School coaches, athletic directors and administrators, along with those of Howell and the Freehold Regional School District have been named the 2002 Asbury Park Press Scholastic Sports People of the Year.

With Keyport's football team headed for the Group I playoffs, and its field unusable due to refurbishing, Director of Student Activities Tom Stark, after consulting with the administration, offered the Titans home field to Keyport for the playoffs. Weeks later Howell High School followed suit for the title game.

Keyport Athletic Director Jim Zdaniewicz called the two administrations "honorary members of our squad who share in our championship."

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Bolger Holds Annual Career Day

Bolger students were once again exposed to an excellent array of professionals in a variety of exciting fields during the school's annual Career Day.

Eighth graders were divided into small groups and traveled from presenter to presenter during the full day event.

"We want our students to discover the multitude of career opportunities that exist out there," said School Facilitator Elaine Feyereisen. "These are the things they will work toward as they move into high school."

The excellent mix of approximately 20 speakers included professionals from the fields of chemistry, law, social services, medicine, nursing and school psychology. Also on hand were a flight attendant, dental hygienist, a representative from the Barbizon School and an army recruiter. —

Preschoolers Learning Through “Key Experiences”

Watching a child at play is a pleasant experience for any adult. But in the Keansburg preschool program, teachers are being trained to observe a lot more than just the simple joys of childhood.

“Young children naturally engage in certain activities,” said Director of Early Childhood Amy Goerl. “Watching a child naturally explore their world provides clues to what types of experiences are significant to their overall development.”

Key Experiences, a component of the preschool’s High/Scope curriculum, breaks down children’s play into identified “key experiences.” As children play (fit things together, take them apart, make things, pretend etc.) they build knowledge and gain a sense of competence. Teachers are taking these “key experiences” and using them as tools for observing, describing and supporting children’s development in shaping their own work with the students.

Preschool teachers observe and document a child’s play in relation to the High Scope Key Experiences. For example, a child with a great interest in football recently noticed teams missing from a team matching game prepared by his teachers. He created his own cards for the game, copying them from an NFL magazine, and writing the team names himself. Cute and creative of course, but a whole lot more as well. According to teacher Darlene Westhelle, it was a fine example of two Key Experiences, “Creative Representation,” and “Classification.”

“This child was relating models, pictures and photographs to real

places and things,” she said. “He was describing objects and their relationships through drawing, while creat-

added people on top, it rang a bell for teacher Laura Koenig.

“Grasping the concept of the drawbridge, the child showed his interest in the changing shape and arrangement of objects,” she said. “As he added people, he displayed an understanding of how people and things relate to objects from different spatial points of view.”

Teacher understanding of Key Experiences contributes to the planning and supporting of play activities that in turn reinforce a child’s perception of the world.

“Key Experiences guide us in determining what a child knows and does not know,” said Ms. Goerl. “Using this information, a teacher guides a

child’s learning accordingly. The result is a play environment that enriches the opportunity for strong healthy development.” —



The Key Experience is “Initiative and Social Relations” as Kason Kelley and Stephen McCoy create and experience collaborative play in the classroom Observation Area.

ing signs and symbols through his own writing.”

No one says the concept is an easy one to grasp. This is why the entire preschool staff is involved in an intensive ongoing training program. Five days intensive summer training is followed by additional training in specific areas of focus. Since this past summer, there have been 10 training days, including regular follow-up observation. Teachers practice and analyze over and over again the skills of observation, interaction and assessment that drive Key Experiences.

“The critical nature of the teacher’s role necessitates the intensive nature of the training component,” said Ms. Goerl. “Teachers must learn and actively practice highly sophisticated strategies to make this work.”

A simple thing like a child’s drawing speaks volumes to the trained teacher’s eye. When a student drew a drawbridge, and then



Blake Podzielny works on his NFL team matching game, a Key Experience example of “Creative Experience” and “Language and Literacy.”

PARENTS/EMPLOYEES OF THE

November Employees of the Month

Port Monmouth Road School

Sharon Conley – Ms. Conley is a “professional” in every sense of the word. She is quick to share her knowledge with others and is a master teacher in the field. Flexible and willing to learn new things her dedication to her students and to the community is evident in all her daily actions.

Joseph C. Caruso School

Bernadette White – Mrs. White has done a remarkable job in whipping our office into shape. She is patient with students and staff and will always take that extra moment to make certain a task is completed efficiently. In addition to her excellent organizational skills, she has succeeded in creating a warm and friendly atmosphere in the main office.

Joseph R. Bolger Middle School

Debra Kaplan – Debra is the integral component that drives our technology department. She consistently provides assistance and service to all who are in need and enhances learning opportunities for students and staff alike. She is the driving force behind the integration of technology throughout our curriculum. Her work ethic, creativity and knowledge form a total commitment to our learning community.

Keansburg High School

Carrie Mazak – After just two years Ms. Mazak’s contributions to our students are already legendary. She has an uncanny ability to make math fun while recognizing the importance of providing the highest quality instruction to her students. She is also always there when people need help. She chaperones school activities and provides volunteer tutoring both before

and after school. Ms. Mazak is a teacher of the highest quality and makes certain that no student is ever left behind.

November Parents of the Month

Port Monmouth Road School

Brenda LeComte – Mrs. LeComte volunteers on a weekly basis and shows herself to be a most caring and supportive parent. She also comes in to do a monthly craft with students. For the last two years she has volunteered her time to better the lives of our children. We are truly fortunate to have her consistently loving support in our classrooms.

Joseph C. Caruso School

Lorraine Hassane – Mrs. Hassane always donates items for class parties and projects without even waiting to be asked. She volunteers her time during school fund-raisers and is always available to chaperone school events. She is a concerned, caring parent whose full energies are always devoted to her daughter’s academic success.

Joseph R. Bolger Middle School

Margaret Flint – Mrs. Flint is always found to be very supportive of all school related functions and activities. She is also highly involved in many community activities involving Bolger students as well. Always there to lend a hand her generosity and positive influence is an asset to our entire school and community.

Keansburg High School

William and Barbara Collins – You can always find Mr. and Mrs. Collins and the entire family cheering on the KHS teams. Very active with both the boys and girls Cross Country teams, they assist in time keeping, act as main

cheerleaders and serve refreshments after every race. The time and investment they have made in their children’s lives and those of so many others at KHS is a source of admiration to all.

November District Employee of the Month

Carrie Mazak

December Employees of the Month

Port Monmouth Road School

Karen Jossalyn – Mrs. Jossalyn has been a dedicated employee in the district for fourteen years. She makes a positive impression on all the students she has worked with. A “professional” in every sense of the word, her dedication to her students and the community of Keansburg is clearly evident in all of her everyday actions.

Joseph C. Caruso School

Amy Zielinski – Amy’s expertise in music has made a wonderful contribution at Caruso. Thanks to her, students are now playing the recorder. She provides lessons during her free time and makes learning fun for all. Always smiling, she never fails to display a caring and warm manner towards all her students.

Joseph R. Bolger Middle School

Jennifer Riegler – One would be hard pressed to find a teacher who approaches their work with more enthusiasm, dedication and creativity than Jennifer. She is an innovative educator who challenges herself to explore and implement creative lessons and activities. Ms. Riegler sets high standards for her students while modeling the expectations necessary for high achievement.

MONTH

Keansburg High School

Victoria Britto – Consensus in the main office is that Victoria Britto is a priceless addition to the staff and faculty. Each day a pleasant greeting awaits you in the morning and every request is met with a smile and a willingness to help. Vicky is so organized and willing to help everyone that one wonders how the office made do without her in the past. Active in a variety of additional areas of school life, her warm and witty personality has become a valued staple of the entire high school.

December Parents of the Month

Port Monmouth Road School

Gina Povalac – Mrs. Povalac exhibits all the traits of a supportive and caring parent. She is a huge help in so many ways that it is an honor and privilege to have her as part of our school community. We consider ourselves lucky to have her support and collaboration in our classrooms.

Joseph C. Caruso School

Christine Blum – Mrs. Blum somehow always finds time to help out at Caruso. Instrumental in helping to create crafts for the third grade Craft Fair, and continuously contributing to every special event, her time and energy is well appreciated by anyone she comes in contact with.

Joseph R. Bolger Middle School

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Young – Mr. And Mrs. Young are very active in all school activities, chaperoning class trips and attending many school related functions. They never fail to volunteer their time and support for all programs relating to the academic and co-curricular activities of their children.

Keansburg High School

Richard and Robin Hosey – Richard and Robin Hosey have been making major contributions to our school and community since they attended and graduated from KHS. Their children are fortunate to have such valuable role models. They are always present to cheer on their freshman daughter at Cross Country meets and Girls Basketball games. Always conscious of the needs of their children and all of their classmates as well, the Hosey family is truly a unique asset to our entire community.

December District Employee of the Month

Jennifer Riegler

District Holds Professional Development Day

In January, the district continued its **commitment** to professional growth with a full day of professional development workshops. Teachers chose from a complete and highly diversified schedule covering all disciplines on all grade levels.

Among other things teachers gathered to discuss, teaching strategies for maximizing the effectiveness of Literacy Blocks, focused on the basis of Differentiated Instruction and mixed ability classrooms, explored research based teaching strategies to “develop and support a community of mathematicians,” and touched on methods of classroom management for behaviorally challenged students.

“Staff development is the name of the game,” said Bolger School Facilitator Elaine Feyereisen. “We always are looking to improve and especially to build upon all the things we already do well.”

For example Keansburg teachers have always made excellent use of the concept of books clubs and/or literature discussion groups to aid student literacy. A workshop on “Literature Circles,” as they are known today, emphasized the type of dialogue teachers can lead students towards to help them understand the book the group is sharing.

Technology will forever play a leading role in any Keansburg Professional Development Day. “Power Point For Beginnings,” and the skills required to create and insert tables and charts using Microsoft Word were among the day’s many technology driven offerings.

This year, the non-tenured teachers hosted a workshop for new teachers. The idea was a sharing of effective teaching and discipline strategies to provide support and a sharing of proven best practices.

“Students are not the only learners in a successful school district,” said Schools Superintendent Barbara Trzeszkowski. “Our teachers have all have maintained their enthusiasm for learning. “They must do so if they truly hope to pass it on daily to their students.” —

“Sports People Of The Year”

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“The people at Keansburg and Howell bent over backward for our program,” he said. “We cannot thank them enough.”

Mr. Stark and KHS Principal Tom Normile know what it means to be minus a home field. Both are 1976 Keansburg graduates and once played an entire baseball season on the road.

“This was all Tom’s doing,” said Mr. Normile. “He put a positive spin on things, and made it very convincing to everyone that it was the right thing to do.” —

Awards Assemblies Recognize Caruso Achievers



Carol Halliday and Anne Flinn's third graders tell students to "Think Ecologic" during Caruso Awards Assembly.

It was a wonderful day of recognition and achievement at Caruso School as students, parents and teachers celebrated the school's monthly Awards Assembly. The assemblies are an ongoing part of Caruso's highly successful Student Recognition Program.

As is the case during each assembly, selected classes performed a themed skit. Carol Halliday's and Anne Flinn's third graders spun a lesson in song and story about paper, plastic, compost, glass and metals and the proper ways to dispose of them. In other words: ecology.

With the centerpiece a beautiful 12 foot tree, students taught their peers to "think ecologic" and think of

our world as "Spaceship Earth."

During the eagerly awaited awards presentation, a variety of achievement awards and prizes were handed out to the enthusiastic cheers of the students and guests. First the Students of the Month from all grades received their certificates.

Asked what she did to earn the honor, fourth grader Ruth Bakala said she was "organized and helped people around the classroom."

The Special Achievement Awards for those who "work hard and make progress," were followed by Class Attendance, Fire Drill and Lunch Time Awards and Academic Awards.

Clearly one of the more coveted honors was the monthly announcement of Safety Patrol Officers. As the new officers slipped on their bright orange belts, Principal Celeste Gagliardi praised the students and offered encouragement to all the others.

"These are the students who are our model citizens of the school," she said. "We all know what it takes to be a member of our Safety Patrol, and it's something everyone can strive for in the future."

Caruso's internal post office also doled out awards. The post office "workers" arrive 7:45 every morning to handle the almost 50 pieces of mail that pass through the system daily. The program, which encourages students to exchange "friendly letters and greetings" with classmates, has handled over 5,000 letters so far this year.

Students showing acts of "exceptional kindness" received Kindness and Consideration Awards, and the Student Council presented a special class award for School Spirit.

Finally top earners in the School Bank Program were recognized. The program allows students to earn "money" for such things as attendance, doing homework, following school rules and especially reading. Money earned may be exchanged for treats such as ice cream certificates.

"We like to give our children as many ways as possible to shine, and set a good examples, both inside and outside the classroom," said Ms. Gagliardi. "When they do so they should be recognized and rewarded for it. It's a really fun time for all of us." —

Students Honored For Community Service



Bolger Middle School Volunteer of the Year Michael Gagliardi (center) with Certificate of Merit winners James Hemphill and William Moran.

Student Michael Gagliardi was named Bolger Middle School Volunteer of the Year in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. In addition, students

James Hemphill and William Moran received Certificates of Merit for their volunteer community service.

Sponsored by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the awards recognize outstanding community service.

"We're extremely proud of these students and all the eighth grade students who performed community service," said Bolger Principal Nicholas Eremita. "Their hard work and dedication to their community sets a glowing example for all to follow."

Michael Gagliardi is now eligible for the New Jersey Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. During a special

assembly, Michael was recognized for his creation of a website dedicated to writing and emailing our men and women in the armed forces who are currently overseas. James Hemphill was recognized for organizing the implementation of a cadet program for his local EMS, while William Moran was recognized for creating a "Firebox" program that will effectively lower the statistics of firefighter injuries in the community.

"These students practice a lesson we hope all young people as well as adults will emulate," said NASSP Executive Director Gerald Tirozzi. "Volunteering within the community is an essential part of one's life," —

Project Based Learning Update

Both Caruso School and Bolger Middle School have adopted the Conect Whole School Reform Model with its focus on "project-based learning." The following is a project-based learning update for Bolger. In our next issue of the Beacon we will tune in on project-based learning at Caruso.

Students studied the Census process in a "Population and Census" project. They used population figures to learn about different regions of the United States. Utilizing a variety



Band members show classmates how their instruments work for "Build An Instrument Project. L-R Julian Booth (saxophone), Angelica Robinson (clarinet), Coln Hollingsworth (trumpet), Bridget McAvoy (trombone).

of subject disciplines, each student chose a region and made an in-depth report of population, physical attributes, products and history. Students created hand drawn maps to show key information such as deserts, rivers, elevation and climate.

Another fascinating study was the "Build An Instrument" project, a component of the student's Sound and Light unit. Members of the school band demonstrated how their instruments work, and Band Director Traci Grimaldi gave students a presentation on how different sounds are made. Students then were asked to invent and build a musical instrument.

"Weather and Climate" was studied by means of the school's rooftop weather station. The students collected daily data and charted the various types of weather with an emphasis on what causes it and how it is predicted.

For "Systems of the Human Body," students made life size replicas of human beings. The "people" were displayed in the hall, and students drew and inserted the different organs and systems of the body as they were studied.



Markishia Johnson and Anthony Booth add rib cage to life size human being during ongoing "Systems of the Human Body" project.

For their annual "Holocaust Project" sixth graders built a museum displaying photos, reports, artifacts and memorials. The entire community was once again invited to inspect the results of this intensive research project.

Students took a "Voyage From Mexico" for their Immigration Project. They followed a family as they prepared to immigrate to the United States. In the process students studied the reasons for immigrating, aspects of the family's life in Mexico and how things changed as they began a new life in America. —

SSI Grant Supports Hands-On Science

Port Monmouth Road students are having marvelous experiences in scientific discovery this year, using kits and materials purchased through the school's SSI (New Jersey Statewide Systematic Initiative) hands on science grant.

"These are wonderful materials and really get the students engaged," said teacher Karen Jacobs. "They learn through doing and pick things up much quicker."

The SSI kits are specifically created to promote student exploration of scientific terminology and concepts through hands-on learning. The kits come complete with a teacher's manual packed with experiments, entire units and, according to Ms. Jacobs,

"some really great ideas."

Ms. Jacobs used one of those ideas to present a component of her Liquids and Solids Unit. To familiarize the class with the properties of solids, the students worked cooperatively studying trays of different objects. Using "all your senses except taste" the children explored the objects, sorted and labeled them and discussed the different properties. Among the common objects were some that were transparent and opaque. The experiment was actually geared to reinforcing the meaning of those two scientific terms.

Meanwhile, just down the hall, Stacy Scorben's class was coming to terms with the use of a beam and fulcrum to balance objects. The students



Amanda Burdick and Ryan Semmens attempt to balance cubes using a beam and fulcrum.

moved the beam over the fulcrum attempting to balance unequal weights. Eventually students will learn where to place objects along the beam simply by weighing them.

"These lessons are designed to build upon one another," said Ms. Scorben. "In the final experiment

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