



## KALAMAZOO AREA MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE CENTER

*Keeping KAMSC Families Informed*

### From the Director, Dr. Michael Tanoff

Referring to this as the “Winter” edition of the *KAMSC LINKAGES* Newsletter may seem a bit odd, given the weather we’ve had over the past few months, but I am, again, delighted to be a part of our second newsletter of the academic year. Our first semester at KAMSC ended a few weeks ago, but the memories of many exciting events — some of which are detailed in *KAMSC LINKAGES* — remain fresh. Over thirty of our students qualified for Part II of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition; *forty-five* of our students made a tremendous impact at the third annual High School Programming Contest held at Eastern Michigan University; over fifty of our students began their KAMSC Research Team participation, performing individualized research projects under the mentorship of local community members; our annual Class Clash — an event of “friendly” competition between our four student cohorts — was followed by a pre-Thanksgiving dance; our seniors introduced impactful people in their lives at our annual KAMSC Mentor Tea held at downtown Kalamazoo’s Cityscape; and KAMSC hosted fifty area sixth and seventh grade girls at our annual GISMO (Girls Investigating Science and Mathematics Opportunities) Conference. Calendar year 2011 ended for KAMSC on two alumni high notes: a reunion luncheon for former KAMSC faculty and staff, and a well-attended alumni day for our twenty-five years of KAMSC graduates. And just as we ended the calendar year with our many alumni, the start of 2012 finds us in the midst of recruiting *future* alumni for the class of 2016! Close to four hundred local eighth grade students sat for the KAMSC entrance exam, and many of these students are currently applying for admission to KAMSC. And, as is the case with so many of the events listed above, we could not have begun to undertake the process of selecting future KAMSC students without the diligent and faithful help of our many KAMSC parents and guardians who served as proctors and monitors during our entrance exam day. We are indebted to all of our parents and guardians who give of themselves to the institution, beyond what is necessary for their own student’s education. As always, I remain available for your questions, comments, and concerns at (269) 337-0004, or MTanoff@kamsc.k12.mi.us. Enjoy this edition of *KAMSC LINKAGES*!



### Michigan Math League Contests

During the school year KAMSC students have an opportunity to participate in the Michigan Math League Contests. There are six contests during the school year, which take place after school. The contest consists of six questions, which may require algebra, geometry or trigonometry knowledge. The last remaining contest will be on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The school receives a school score based on the top five student scores, but there are also prizes for individual students. As of the fifth contest, Sujay Dewan has the highest cumulative score and Phoebe Huang has the second highest. Students do not need to participate in all six contests and do not need to pre-register. Please see Mrs. Kalnins, if you have any questions regarding the contests.

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## KAMSC Research Team

KAMSC Biology, Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics, AP Biology, Microbiology and Biomedical Science classes are actively engaged in designing their research projects. The KAMSC RESEARCH team has been working on their research projects since the beginning of the school year. Some topics of research include:

Determination of a genetic correlation between anther exertion and other various traits in wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*)

Evaluation of cell-mediated Immunity induced by Porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2)

Using the Grobner basis to represent Sudoku and Ken Ken

Cytokine or bacterial antigen effects on cytokine receptor expression in canine keratinocytes

Digital images and laser tracking technology for structural evaluation

And many more...

Come see these fascinating student research projects at the annual Southwest Michigan Science and Engineering Fair to be held at Western Michigan University College of Engineering and Applied Sciences on March 19, 2012. For more information contact Dr. John Goudie, Fair Director at 337-0026.



## Attention Pi(e) Lovers



The KAMSC 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pi Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2012 in the CEC lobby area from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. There will be math activities for elementary age children and a pie auction. Local chefs, celebrities, and KAMSC parents donate the pies for this delicious event.

## KAMSC Moves to Pinnacle

Parents and students recently received 1<sup>st</sup> Semester report cards that were produced using Pinnacle, our new student information software. Throughout the semester, you also made use of the PIV online component to keep track of student progress in their KAMSC classes. The Pinnacle system allows us to perform the tasks of managing student registration information, maintaining the student class schedules, taking attendance, managing teacher grade books, creating various reports, and communicating with home. All of this can now be done with a single software package, rather than the several different systems that we had been using.

This is a great improvement in efficiency, and centralizes all of our student recordkeeping into one platform. Using the new system has been a learning process for our office staff and teachers, so please be patient with us as we work out any bugs in implementation.

Our next big learning step will come in using the online course request feature – via PIV – to allow students to choose the classes they will take next year. The process will begin in February, and information will be sent home with students detailing the process.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Once again, appointments can be made by you, utilizing [www.schoolbookings.net](http://www.schoolbookings.net). Additional information will be mailed home the beginning of March.

## Student Senate Activities

The Student Senate would like to thank all of the wonderful parent-chaperones who helped out at The Class Clash last fall. The Class Clash is a great event that gives students from all classes, the chance to meet and spend time with each other, plus it helps students bond with their classmates as they work together to compete against the other classes.



The Student Senate would also like to thank everyone who donated to the annual holiday food drive. They were able to donate over 1000 cans/boxes of non-perishable food items, weighing two-thirds of a ton, to Loaves & Fishes!

The annual KAMSC semi-formal dance will take place on Saturday, March 3 from 8-11:00 pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor gym. This year the theme is Alice in Wonderland. We hope all KAMSC students will join us for a magical, whimsical night.

## 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition



In October, KAMSC had 223 participants for Part 1 of the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, sponsored by the Michigan section of the Mathematical Association of America. The top 10%, of Part 1 scorers statewide, were invited to take Part 2 in December. The following students qualified for Part 2:

Grace Beck	Isaac Bertman	Darcy Billian
Jeremiah Boswell	Erin Brown	Carter Chamberlain
Riley Claffin	Mitchell Curtiss	Tyler Dougherty
Aaron Eshleman	Marie Freudenburg	Nicholas Gaunt
Abhay Goel	Lucas Hamelink	Stephen John
Abhiram Krishnan	Alex Lim	Riley Lundquist
Helena Mills	Jacob Naranjo	Trisha Ramsdell
Amber Salome	Tom Sandell	Grady Sertic
Ethan To	Raoul Wadhwa	Matoska Waltz
Taryn Withers	Kyle Sunden	Steven Vorbrich
Daniel Woodworth		

Tyler Dougherty, Lucas Hamelink, and Kyle Sunden shared the honors for KAMSC's high score of 24 (out of 40) on Part 1. Congratulations to all!

## Parents/Guardians and Volunteers--



Special thanks go out to all of the parents/guardians and volunteers who sacrifice their time helping out with multiple undertakings at KAMSC. Without your assistance, we would be short-staffed and face challenging deadlines while trying to accomplish the necessary tasks, all which contribute to the success of KAMSC. You are a very important part of the equation and we could not be as effective without your help!

## A Special Thank You.....

The KAMSC staff would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of copy paper, markers, boxes of tissue, etc. Your generosity is very much appreciated!



## Technology Highlights

Congratulations are already in order for several students on KAMSC's 2011-12 computer teams. Among their accomplishments so far:

\* **EMU-MACUL**: KAMSC placed 5 teams in the top 8 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Eastern Michigan University-Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning High School Programming Contest. Placing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall were **Sujay Dewan, Abhay Goel, Raoul Wadhwa**; 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tyler Dougherty, Sarah Manski, Will Sawyer**; 4<sup>th</sup> **Thomas Finch, Kyle Sunden, James Wright**; 6<sup>th</sup> **Quin Colwell, Abhiram Krishnan, Daniel Woodworth**; 8<sup>th</sup> **Riley Lundquist, Grady Sertic, Jake Siebers**. KAMSC had 45 students in the November competition.

\* **USA Computing Olympiad**: After 3 monthly rounds of Internet competition **Sujay Dewan**, leads fellow Silver Olympians **Abhiram Krishnan, Daniel Woodworth, Grady Sertic, Abhay Goel, Kyle Sunden, Raoul Wadhwa, Jake Seibers, Matthew Weaver** and **Will Sawyer** in the USACO Internet Elite Competition. **Gagan Gupta** currently leads all Bronze Elite competitors where KAMSC has almost 60 participants so far this year.

\* **American Computer Science League** teams are off to a commanding lead with perfect team scores after two of four monthly rounds. Kudos to the following students who have received perfect *individual* scores:

\* Programmers: **Alan Alvarez, Grey Braybrooks, Jon Brelje, Matthew Cartier, Quin Colwell, Samir Deshpande, Sujay Dewan, Tyler Dougherty, Mary Farner, Zac Folsom, Anirudh Ghantasala, Marty Graube, Gagan Gupta, Andrew Hepp, Phoebe Huang, Brennan Kerkstra, Subhodh Kotekal, Abhiram Krishnan, Katie Lee, Alex Lim, Riley Lundquist, Paige Maguire, Sarah Manski, Helena Mills, Colleen Orwin, Farzad Razi, Will Sawyer, Grady Sertic, Jake Siebers, Manak Singh, Sam Sly, Luke Stull, Kyle Sunden, Reinie Thomas, Steven Vorbrich, Raoul Wadhwa, Matthew Weaver, Laura Wheeler, Allyson Williams, Daniel Woodworth** and **James Wright**.

\* Classroom Team (1 round so far): **Emily Campbell, Andrew Labadie, Ryan Brozovich, Brianna Buller, Rachel Chang, Aaron Claussen, Alex Ensing, Edward Escandon, Jake Fenton, Emily Fletcher, Ella Freudenburg, Nick Gaunt, Angus Gibbs, Abhay Goel, Carley Gordon, Spencer Henning, Kitu Komya, Mac Lee, Tyler Leverton, Kyle Milka, Jacob Naranjo, Rachael Noteboom, Marie Pinto, Rachel Polus, Katherine Rothe, Amber Salome, Thomas Sandell, Genevieve Sertic, Maria Stull, Meredith Stutz, Ethan To, Linden Waling, Sarah Westman, Taryn Withers** and **Katherine Wu**.

## Forthcoming Events

**Saginaw Valley State University** will host their annual Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) High School Programming Contest Friday, **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Everyone gets to go to this one and represent your home school or KAMSC! The teams are trios.

**University of Evansville-IN** will host an ACM on Saturday, **March 17<sup>th</sup>** (CodeWarriors only-travel Friday PM *if* we go). The teams are quartets.

**University of Michigan-Dearborn** will host the Computer Science, Engineering and Web Design contests for high school juniors and seniors on Saturday, **March 24<sup>th</sup>** (limit 12 students each contest division, but there may be extra openings in CS later). The teams are pairs.

**Miami University-Oxford, OH** will host an ACM contest Saturday, **April 14<sup>th</sup>**. The teams are quartets.

**AP Computer Science Exam** is Tuesday, **May 8<sup>th</sup>** (don't forget to sign up).

**ACSL All-Star Contest** will be hosted near Philadelphia on Saturday, **May 26<sup>th</sup>** (Reserved for a minimum of 10 top ACSL performers, possibly more--Travel May 25-27).

**Parent drivers are needed for all events**

## Eastern Michigan University – MACUL SIGCS Team



**Fall 2011 - Forty-five programmers from the Kalamazoo Area Math Science Center's computer teams competed with Michigan's best at the 3rd annual EMU-MACUL SIGCS High School Programming Contest. Those competing included Seniors: Samir Deshpande, Tyler Dougherty, Dylan Hawthorne, Riley Lundquist, Sarah Manski, Will Sawyer, Grady Sertic, Jake Siebers, Kyle Sunden and James Wright, Juniors: Hannah Abell, Alan Alvarez, Grey Braybrooks, Jon Brelje, Brice Calco, Matthew Cartier, Quin Colwell, Sujay Dewan, Thomas Finch, Zac Folsom, Anirudh Ghantasala, Marty Graube, Gagan Gupta, Andrew Hepp, Jared Hoffman, Phoebe Huang, Abhiram Krishnan, Katie Lee, Alex Lim, Helena Mills, Manak Singh, Sam Sly, Reinie Thomas, Raoul Wadhwa, Steven Vorbrich and Daniel Woodworth, Sophomores: Ansh Chaudary, Ben Dunham, Abhay Goel, Kyle Milka, Humza Mirza, Katherine Rothe, Hanna Rumora and Genevieve Sertic, and Freshman: Subhodh Kotekal.**



### ***A very special ten-year anniversary The KAMSC Science Fiction Film Festival returns again...***

After a decade of unqualified and – at times, never-ending – pain, the Annual KAMSC Science Fiction Film Festival will once again be held from 7:00 PM, Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>, until approximately 5:00 PM, Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. As we have done for the past ten years, we will be showing a series of classic (classically bad, that is) science fiction movies along with one of the few outstanding scifi films ever made. All KAMSC graduates, students, parents, and faculty at the Math & Science Center are cordially invited to attend, and the KAMSC Student Senate may or may not offer beverages and snacks as part of their fundraising efforts this year (you'll have to attend to find out if they've got anything for sale). Once again, this will be a "sleepover" event and students will have the wonderful opportunity to gag their way through some of the worst science fiction films ever inflicted on humanity. And as usual, expert commentary will be provided by any and all members of the audience (a la *Mystery Science Theater 3000*) throughout each screening. Of course, we always need parent chaperones to help out during this unique +18-hour marathon of movie madness. For more information or to volunteer to help out during the Festival, please contact Mike Sinclair at 337-0004. See you at the movies!



## College Planning News

Senior families: Received assistance filling out their FAFSA (financial aid) form at College Goal Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at WMU's Schneider Hall in the Business Court.

Juniors: Want your college admissions essay to stand out? Tips for Writing the College Admissions Essay presented by Scott Friesner and PLUS of Southwest Michigan at the KRESA building, 1819 E. Milham Road, Portage on February 27, 2012 at 7:00 pm. Visit [www.plusofswmi.org](http://www.plusofswmi.org) for more information.

Junior families: Over 150 colleges will be represented at the huge West Michigan National College Fair at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids on Thursday, March 29 from 8:30-11:30 am and 6-8 pm (no KAMSC classes that day due to P/T conferences).

Scholarship Information: The Kalamazoo Foundation's Scholarship Guide at [kalfound.org](http://kalfound.org) has local scholarship information. Fast Web is one of the free scholarship searches available at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). Beware of sites that ask you to pay a fee for information.

All students: Be sure to check the bulletin board outside Ms. Joyce's room for information on everything from summer camps to scholarships to poetry contests.

Students and Parents: The following college planning books are available to check out. Please see or email Ms. Joyce at [rjoyce@kamsc.k12.mi.us](mailto:rjoyce@kamsc.k12.mi.us).

- Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges Pope, Loren (Great food for thought)
- Crazy U Andrew Ferguson (For parents who want to laugh and learn at the same time)
- The Insider's Guide to the Colleges, 2012: Students on Campus Tell You What You Really Want to Know, 38th Edition Yale Daily News Staff
- 8 First Choices: An Expert's Strategies for Getting into College Joyce Slayton Mitchell
- How to Be a High School Superstar: A Revolutionary Plan to Get into College by Standing Out (Without Burning Out) Cal Newport
- Fiske Guide to Colleges 2012, 28E Edward Fiske
- The Complete Book of Colleges, 2012 Edition (College Admissions Guides) Princeton Review

## Academic Success News

Communicate with your teachers! Students, your first stop if you need help in a class is to talk to your teacher. Communicating with your teacher sets you up for success in high school and college.

Would like to talk about your academic goals, college questions or other issues? Email Ms. Joyce at [rjoyce@kamsc.k12.mi.us](mailto:rjoyce@kamsc.k12.mi.us) to set up an appointment.

KAMSC alumni say attending open lab was a key part of their success. If you need help arranging transportation to open lab on Wednesdays, please contact Ms. Joyce or the KAMSC office staff.



## Sizzlin' Summer Science 2012 Update

Brochures for the KAMSC Sizzlin' Summer Science 2012 Program will be available in March through the schools. If you're not already on the mailing list, families can get one sooner by e-mailing their postal address to [sfisher@kamsc.k12.mi.us](mailto:sfisher@kamsc.k12.mi.us).

### An Excellent Investment: Help a Student Develop a Math/Science Interest!

The KAMSC Sizzlin' Summer Science and Math Program is always looking for businesses, organizations or individuals to help make our summer classes available to students whose families cannot afford tuition. Financial assistance is given to students who meet school lunch need criteria; this investment can be supported in increments of \$35 or by specifying a seat in a specific class. If you or your organization would like to help out, please contact Susan Fisher at 337-0031 or e-mail [sfisher@kamsc.k12.mi.us](mailto:sfisher@kamsc.k12.mi.us). **THANK YOU!**

### Annual Alumni Reunion

On December 23, approximately 100 KAMSC alumni and several former faculty members came "home" to KAMSC for an opportunity to see one another and interact with our current students and faculty. The fantastic turnout included alumni spanning 25 years, plus two former KAMSC directors attended this record-breaking day. In addition to the fun of seeing familiar faces, this event is an educational and networking event for current students. Many of the alumni, representing colleges and universities from coast-to-coast, served on panels in the early afternoon. The panelists spoke of their college experiences and answered questions from current KAMSC juniors and seniors. Everyone had time to socialize, visit and munch on a delicious spread of snacks that were generously provided by KAMSC parents. The Alumni Reunion is an annual event which benefits everyone and we are grateful to both the alumni and the parents for making it possible.

Former KAMSC Placement Specialist, Jon Streeter, wrote: *"From the liberal arts, to medicine, law, engineering, performing and visual arts et al it was abundantly clear that the footprint of this small half day pull-out program in the mid-west is truly massive. The record distance, that I am aware of, was Tom Anderson (West Point - Oxford) currently stationed in Italy (via Miami to get his sister) - then driving straight through (23 hours) just to be here. The chemistry of today's participants was nothing short of amazing. Arguably, the most impressive tale I was told was that Dr. Malini Daniels (Harvard, Oxford, Stanford Med) will soon be on the board of Directors of the AMA – yes, that AMA (American Medical Association). A medical student at Stanford, she was chosen over countless others to occupy that designated chair. Having been at every event ever I cannot recall a better over-all scene. Though I always find this day among the most emotionally draining experiences of the year, it is simultaneously stimulating and most rewarding. A lot of amazing things happen at KAMSC, but today was tangible evidence of what we have achieved together."*



Left:  
Dr. Brenda Earhart,  
Dr. Michael Tanoff,  
Dr. Wayne Schade

Right:  
Class of 1990 (L to R)  
Laura Zemrowski Korten  
Ms. Bones  
Rebecca Joyce  
Daria Coleman Howard  
Arianne Babcock





## Bring in your Artwork

All KAMSC students are cordially invited to submit their personal works of art for display in the halls of the Center. We accept photography, painting, pen-and-ink, collage and anything that demonstrates your creativity. We would love to see your art hanging in our halls! For more information or to arrange a showing, please see Mr. Sinclair in the Physics Room (430) anytime.

## KAMSC Public Calendar

Check the KAMSC calendar for upcoming events and days we are not in session. Go to the KAMSC website ([www.kamsconline.com](http://www.kamsconline.com)), at the bottom of the page click on 'links' and then choose KAMSC Public Calendar.

## Lost & Found Items

Several items have been turned in to the lost & found, which is located in the office. Please feel free to stop by the office to see if anything belongs to you. Items found include: a violin (yes...a *violin* has been in the lost & found for a few weeks), hats, gloves, scarves, jackets, hoodies, binders, etc. Items not claimed will eventually be donated to Goodwill.



## Backpack Reminder

Students may leave backpacks in front of lockers and shelves only. Please do not block doorways, elevator, fire boxes, etc.

## Parking Stickers

Students who drive to and park at KAMSC are required to register their vehicle with the office and be issued a free KAMSC parking sticker. Students with cars not displaying a KAMSC parking sticker may be towed. Students, please remember to park in the student parking area, which is the north end of the lot (north of Dutton Street and along Pearl Street). If you have any questions, please contact the office at 337-0004.



## School Closings

Severe weather often brings school closings and early dismissals. If Kalamazoo Public Schools close due to bad weather, KAMSC will be closed. Full-day closing procedures start with an announcement at approximately 6:00 am on local broadcasting stations.

## Upper-Class Admissions Testing

Ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders who are interested in applying to KAMSC as upper-class students may register to take the KAMSC upper-class admission test by downloading the registration form from the KAMSC website ([www.kamsconline.com](http://www.kamsconline.com)). The test will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 2:30 pm.

## Tentative Rolling Calendar - Semester 2

DATE	DAY	DESCRIPTION	TIME
1/23	Mon	Semester 2	
1/26-27	Thurs-Fri	No Students	
2/7	Tue	AMC 10/12 (AM)	
2/8	Wed	State Count Day	
2/14-16	Tue-Thurs	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Research & Library Week	
2/24	Fri	Midwinter Break – No School	
2/27	Mon	2012-13 Schedules Assembly	
3/2	Fri	Saginaw Valley State University-CS trip	
3/6	Tue	Jr's – ACT/MME	
3/20	Tue	ACS/Research PM: AIME	
3/23	Fri	No Students	
3/27	Tue-Thurs	Parent/Teacher Conferences	5:30 - 8:30 PM
3/28	Wed	Parent/Teacher Conferences No <b>PM</b> Students	11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
3/29	Thurs	Parent/Teacher Conferences No Students	7:30 - 10:30 AM
3/30	Fri	No School	
4/2-6	Mon-Fri	Spring Break	
4/24-26	Tue-Thurs	C Block (PM)	
4/27	Fri	Senior Luncheon No <b>Jr.</b> Students	11:45 AM
5/1-3	Tue-Thurs	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Visitation	
5/4	Fri	Searching for Health Conference	
5/7	Mon	Spring Checkup - Juniors	
5/16	Wed	Project Drop-Off	6:00 - 7:00 PM
5/17	Thurs	Project Day & Awards Program	7:00 PM
5/21-23	Mon-Wed	Senior Exams Week	
5/23	Wed	No Open Lab	
5/24	Thurs	KAMSC Seniors Last Day	
5/25	Fri	Project K - Juniors	
5/28	Mon	Memorial Day – No School	
5/29	Tue	Senior Ceremony	7:00 - 8:30 PM
5/30	Wed	No Open Lab	
6/1	Fri	Elective Exam (PM)	
6/4	Mon	Math Exams	
6/5	Tue	Science Exams	
6/6	Wed	No Students-Summer Break	
6/14	Thurs	Staff Last Day	

Keep in mind that dates & times are subject to change. If you have any questions about events, please feel free to contact Ms. Jackson or Mrs. Ingles at 337-0004. To stay informed and up-to-date, please visit the KAMSC website.

*Keeping KAMSC Families Informed*

Phone: (269) 337-0004 ● FAX: (269) 337-0049 ● Website: [www.kamsconline.com](http://www.kamsconline.com)