



KALAMAZOO AREA MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE CENTER

Keeping KAMSC Families Informed



From the Director, Dr. Michael Tanoff

September greetings to all members of the KAMSC community! I am excited to be a part of the first KAMSC LINKAGES newsletter for the 2011/2012 academic year. Our newsletter contains information regarding the multitude of exciting activities at KAMSC, and important items concerning many KAMSC policies and procedures. I reiterate how delighted I am to be a new member of the KAMSC community, and I continue to look forward to working with all of the KAMSC constituencies — our teachers, our staff, our parents, our local school districts, and most importantly, our students. As I've mentioned in earlier communications, the door to my office remains open to you and your questions, concerns, and comments. My e-mail address is MTanoff@kamsc.k12.mi.us and my phone number is (269) 337-0004. Enjoy the first edition of our KAMSC LINKAGES newsletter!



New Students Welcomed

The KAMSC First-Year orientation was held at the Kalamazoo Nature Center on Monday, August 29, 2011. The event, developed and led by KAMSC staff, included five activities: three team building activities, a tie-dyed T-shirt station, and a question and answer panel led by current students and KAMSC graduates.

Following the fun activities, the new students and their facilitators joined KAMSC staff members for an ice cream social. The day was planned to allow students to meet each other and get to know staff members. The afternoon sped by and the weather was great. Thanks to all the people who helped make this day a great success!

Welcome to our New Staff Members!

KAMSC is delighted to welcome new staff members Christopher Chopp, Rebecca Joyce, and Marlene Ingles to our family. Mr. Chopp joins our science team as the Honors and AP Biology teacher. He holds dual bachelor degrees in Secondary Education and Biology from Indiana Wesleyan University, and a MEd degree in Educational Leadership from Baruch College. Mr. Chopp brings to KAMSC teaching experience from New York City and Allegan. Ms. Joyce joins the KAMSC team as our Student Advocate. Among her many responsibilities, Ms. Joyce coordinates our college visits, meets individually with our seniors to prepare them for and assist them with college application procedures, and provides support for all our students on an as-needed basis. Ms. Joyce was a member of the first KAMSC graduating class of 1990, a Heyl Scholar at Kalamazoo College where she received a degree in biology, and has taught in the Kalamazoo Public School system. Ms. Ingles joins our administrative staff as a new KAMSC administrative assistant, bringing a wealth of experience to the position from other Michigan school districts and the banking industry. Among her many responsibilities, Ms. Ingles coordinates our student records, assists in the administration of our summer outreach programs, and administers much of the coordination between KAMSC and the Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers Network. Please welcome, enthusiastically, our new staff members as you meet them!



Apple Tree Donations

The KAMSC Staff would like to **THANK YOU** for donating items that were picked off the Apple Tree! We greatly appreciate your generosity. There are many items still available if you missed this wonderful opportunity to donate much needed supplies for KAMSC.

KAMSC Parents Organization President's message and reflections

Welcome members of the KAMSC community to the new school year!

As parents and guardians of school age children we all know that our lives are governed by the school year calendar. We also know that this is the time of year that is so full of promise, when spirits are high, and when the beginning of school (notwithstanding the nervousness that may be associated with it) is an exciting time for everyone. September at KAMSC is always that way. It is no different this year and there is more to look forward to than ever before.

We welcome the class of 2015! As always we are excitedly looking to the incoming First-Year class of promising students, anxious to start their adventure at KAMSC. Fundamentally, they are just as idealistic, just as courageous, and just as excited as they were in the first class of KAMSC.

Listed below are some highlights from the 2010-2011 school year. This is all well and good, sustaining that mood and building and improving on these not only through the year but the next 25 years.

This brings us to the 25-year anniversary celebration held this past May in conjunction with the "Project Day" and cake cutting ceremony. Over 300 guests attended including alumni, retired staff members, parents and dignitaries.

The first class of KAMSC alumni and some of the retired teachers and guests gathered in May to open the "time capsule" that was sealed in the wall near the office by the graduating senior class of 1990. It was a lot of fun for all to see the things that were encapsulated and hear the recorded predictions and aspirations (from back then) and compare them to where things are now. The senior class of 2011 refilled the time capsule and sealed it to be opened in 2031. They alone know what is in the "time capsule".

The health of our students is important. KAMSC believes that an organized athletic program is an integral part of a secondary school education. Friendships formed on the playing field, the self-confidence gained by team sports, and the sheer joy of play are vital experiences that enrich the lives of those who participate in a sport or activity. This had been something that KAMSC had not been able to accomplish until 2011. Mr. Sinclair (Physics teacher), in his infinite wisdom, had tirelessly pursued this ideal and thanks to his tenacity, KAMSC has now successfully launched the first ever high school cricket team(s). In 2011 approximately 90 KAMSC students signed up to play. Four teams, gentlemen and ladies teams, were formed and practiced and learned the sport of cricket. The parent organization, along with alumni, supported Mr. Sinclair's efforts to have an athletic event specifically for KAMSC students. The first series of matches between the class teams were held in May and the young men's senior class of 2011 were the overall winners and the combined class girls team won their division event, all coached by our own outstanding cricket coach of the year, Mr. Sinclair.

During the annual "Alumni Day Luncheon" many alumni made the annual pilgrimage back to KAMSC to give presentations and talk to current students about their college experiences and provide guidance. The alumni day serves as a source of reunion for the alumni and also benefits the current students in realizing and that there is life after KAMSC through the pursuit of higher education.

We bid a fond and bittersweet farewell to the class of 2011. Although, they all part ways and go to colleges across the country, we know from past classes that the friendships they forged with the KAMSC community, the memories of the days spent at KAMSC climbing the 84 steps, will stay with them for a lifetime.

Lastly thanks for being volunteers as mentors, ambassadors, advisors, coordinators, proctors and friends. Every single one of you helped KAMSC as a leader, even without an official title. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the outgoing board members. Their guidance and tireless efforts made 2011 a memorable and resounding success. On behalf of the parents, students and staff we sincerely thank the departing board members and welcome the new board members.

Zaf Khaja, President
KAMSC Parents Organization

KAMSC Parents Organization 2011-2012

President- Zaf Khaja

Secretary- Doris Beck

Treasurer- Robin Perault

Ambassador Coordinator- Sandy Wachowski

Volunteer Coordinator- Mary Anderson

Student Senate Advisor- Dr. Hsimin Huang

Senior Activities Coordinator- Char Crandell

The Parents Organization meets at 6:15 p.m. the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the KAMSC Presentation Center. Please get involved early. New ideas and talents are welcome!

KAMSC Parents Organization Meeting Schedule

October 19, 2011

November 09, 2011*

December 14, 2011

January 25, 2012*

February 15, 2012

March 21, 2012

April 18, 2012

May 09, 2012*

* exceptions

* Tentative dates to be finalized due to: P/T Conferences, no open lab, and other events.

KAMSC Annual Contribution and Senior Dues

1. **Annual Contribution** (funds support the events and activities for all students):
\$30 per year - except seniors

2. **Class Dues** (exclusive use for your senior):

First-Year class of 2015: \$35/year

Sophomore class of 2014: \$35/year

Junior class of 2013: \$30/year

Senior class of 2012: \$30/year

(note: the difference in amounts is due to future rising costs)



Parents of Senior Class of 2012 – Please make your senior dues payments if you have not already done so. Now is the time to get caught up so the Senior Committee can plan accordingly.

Seniors – Please mark your calendars for these dates:

Mentor Tea – Sunday, November 13, 2011 (tentative)

Staff Luncheon – Friday, April 27, 2012 (tentative)

Recognition – Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Parents of Juniors, Sophomores and First-Year Students – Please get involved early with the Senior Committee so you will have a better idea of the process when your student's recognition (graduation) event arrives. (It will be here before you know it!) The Senior Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month during Open Lab in the Resource Room. For more information, you may contact Mr. Sinclair or Mr. Milka.

KAMSC Cricket: A New Winning Tradition



2011 saw the start of a new institution at the Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center: Cricket! After organizing and spending untold hours practicing (if even practicing at all), the Center's Men's and Women's teams surprised the pundits and swept the 1st Annual Michigan State Cricket Championships in Kalamazoo in May. Coach Mike Sinclair – who was also named the High School Cricket Coach of the Year in Michigan – proudly pointed out that “Since no other teams existed, it was a clear victory for our KAMSC athletes.” The Senior Men's team defeated a spirited underclassperson squad by 8 runs while the Women's team picked up a 3 wicket victory.

The Center will be preparing for the upcoming State Championships again with an organizational meeting in October followed by months of intense practice prior to the competition in April 2012. All interested students are encouraged to meet with Mr. Sinclair and/or attend the information meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Presentation Center.



KAMSC 2011 Women's State Cricket Champions

Left to right: Kitu Komya, Rachel Polus, Tess Johnson, Katherine Rothe, Captain Fatima Mirza, Helena Mills, Leah Peirce, Jennie Kwon, Colleen Unsworth, Gauri Rangrass, Kendall Gordon

KAMSC 2011 Men's State Cricket Champions

Back row: Patrick Smith, Matt Craven, Captain Faiz Khaja, Coach Mike Sinclair, Ben VanderSloot, Raj Brueggeman, Tibin John, Alex Robinson, Jacob Texel, Mitchell Coulter
Front row: Ben Wang, Willie Vorbrich, Eliot Nagler, Calvin Studebaker

25th Anniversary!



25th Anniversary Cake



Time Capsule



Opening of the Time Capsule

Student Senate 2011-2012

The Student Senate provides an opportunity for KAMSC students to become involved in both school and community. All students are invited to join in the fun. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, following Open Lab, in Room 424. The Class Clash is one of the upcoming activities; the date is Saturday, November 19. Mr. Mike Sinclair is the faculty advisor and Dr. Hsimin Huang is the parent advisor, if you have any questions, or alternatively talk to one of this year's Student Senate members.

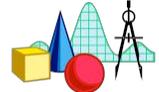
President: Jasmine Johnson
Vice President: Phoebe Huang
Secretary: Erin Brown
Treasurer: Young Chiang

Senior Representative: Robert Heidelberg
Junior Representative: Sujay Dewan
Sophomore Representative: Ally Peirce
First-Year Representative: TBD—elections coming soon!

Parent Ambassadors

Climax Scotts	Michelle Lantis	Malanta@aol.com	746-4739
Comstock	Mike Mussche	Mrmito@aol.com	
Galesburg-Augusta	Venus Buller	vbuller@comcast.net	962-2760
Gull Lake	Deb Sunden	kenanddebsunden@comcast.net	377-2392
Hackett Catholic	Janet Balaguer	jmbalaguer7@yahoo.com	323-1240
Heritage	Penny Kerkstra	tpkerkstra@gmail.com	720-7491
Home School	Sheryl Freudenburg	skfrued@yahoo.com	762-4523
Kalamazoo Central	Sandy Wachowski	sandwach@sbcglobal.net	342-8015
Loy Norrix	Tammy Brozovich	tkbroz@charter.net	382-6686
Parchment	Shawn Hinga	hinga-waling@charter.net	381-6068
Portage Northern	Deanna Rothe	rothegd@comcast.net	375-9426
Portage Central	Jean Johnson/Dodie Raycraft	jean@johnsonlc.com/draycraft@me.com	
Schoolcraft	Renee Schwartz	r.schwartz@wmich.edu	679-3558
Vicksburg	Jill/Mike Blanchett	jill.blanchett@stryker.com	649-0937

Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC)



Part 1 of the 55th Annual MMPC will be given at KAMSC on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. **KAMSC requires all first-year students and sophomores to participate in this competition and will pay the registration fee for each of them.** Interested juniors and seniors pay a \$4 fee and will be excused from their home school that morning. The competition itself consists of 40 math problems ranging from pre-Algebra to pre-Calculus. Participation is a good experience for students. It gives them a gauge of how they compare to their peers statewide, and prepares them for similar exams they will take as they apply to college. The top 10% of scores on Part 1 are invited to take Part 2 on Wednesday, November 30. From there, participants having a combined score in the top 100 will attend an awards banquet. A small scholarship will be awarded to the best performers by the Michigan section of the Mathematical Association of America.



Bring in Your Artwork!

This year at KAMSC, we would like to cordially invite, not only students, but parents and staff members, to submit their works of art for display in the halls of the center. Some types of artwork you may consider bringing in are photography, paintings, drawings, collages – anything that demonstrates your creativity. For more information, please see or email Mr. Sinclair. He's in room 430 and his email address is msinclair@kamsc.k12.mi.us.

(Tentative) Rolling Calendar-1st Semester

DATE	DAY	TIME	DESCRIPTION
8/29	Mon	2:00 - 5:00 PM	New Student Orientation
9/5	Mon		Labor Day - No School
9/6	Tue		No Students
9/7	Wed		KAMSC School Begins
9/14	Wed	6:30 - 8:30 PM	Open House
9/21	Wed	6:00 - 7:30 PM	Open Lab Begins (Every Wed night unless otherwise indicated)
9/21	Wed	6:00 - 7:30 PM	First-Year Mixer
9/28	Wed	7:00 - 9:00 PM	College Night
10/3, 4 & 6	Mon, Tue, Thurs		Bog Visit - 9 th graders
10/5	Wed		55 th MMPC
10/21	Fri		7 th KAMSC Olympiad
11/4	Fri		No Students
11/7	All Week		Spirit Week
11/13	Sun	2:00 - 4:00 PM	Senior Tea
11/16-18	Wed-Fri	5:30 - 8:30 PM 5:30 - 8:30 PM 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM	Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/18	Fri		No Students
11/23	Wed		No School
11/24-25	Thurs, Fri		Thanksgiving Break
11/30	Wed		MMPC-2 (AM)
12/6-8	Tue-Thurs		9 th Grade Research
12/7	Wed		No Open Lab
12/23	Fri		Alumni Day
12/26-1/6/12			Winter Recess
1/16-17	Mon-Tue		Exams (AM)
1/16-18	Mon-Wed		Exams (PM)
1/18	Wed		No Open Lab
1/20	Fri		No Students

Keep in mind, that dates & times are subject to change. If you have any questions about any events, please feel free to contact Mrs. Ingles or Ms. Jackson in the office at 337-0004. To stay informed, go to www.kamsconline.com.

2011 First-Year Student Mixer

As KAMSC continues to evolve and create an environment where all students have a sense of belonging, especially the newest members of our family, the ninth graders, we plan an evening of fun, food, new friends, games, and fantastic prizes at the "First-Year Student Mixer." The mixer was held on Wednesday, September 22. It provided an opportunity for the ninth graders to really get to know each other outside of class. Mrs. Kalnins, Mr. Cardwell, and Mr. Chopp prepared a variety of fun games to encourage the students to mix and mingle. The Parents Organization provided food to help keep the energy level high.

Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV)

This year KAMSC is utilizing Pinnacle for its Student Information System. Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV) provides access to the most current student information posted. As soon as an instructor posts a result, you as a student or parent can see it. We will mail information to you about accessing PIV from your home computer, a mobile device, or a local library. A helpful user manual is available through the downloads tab at www.kamsconline.com.

Just a few reminders...



Safety First!

On Wednesday evenings students are to be dropped-off and picked-up on Vine Street. Parents, please encourage your student to wait inside the building if you are not here to pick them up when he/she comes downstairs. A student should never wait outside alone. Remind students to always be attentive of their surroundings! Students must enter KAMSC via the Vine Street doors.

Student Parking

KAMSC students who drive to school are REQUIRED to register their vehicle with the office and be issued a parking sticker. Cars not displaying a KAMSC parking sticker may be towed. Registration forms are available in the office and there is no cost involved.

KAMSC students should park at the north end of the Community Education Center parking lot. Students who park at the south end of the parking lot may have their car towed. Please, do not park in handicapped spaces. A ticket for parking in a handicapped space costs \$75. Students and parents should not park in the reserved spots and the lot behind Bagel Beanery.

Parents, please remind students that when they're leaving the parking lot onto Dutton or Pearl Street, cars traveling on the street have the right-of-way. This means students must stop (even though there is no stop sign) before driving onto Dutton or Pearl Street.

Personal Items in Hallways

Please discuss with your student(s) the importance of not leaving personal items (cell phones, ipods, money, etc) in the hallways or common area. We cannot guarantee the safety of these items when left unattended. Students may leave backpacks in front of lockers and shelves only. Please do not block doorways, fireboxes, the elevator, etc. If an item has been found, please check with the office.