



THE KEY



Matt’s Safe School Law

By Tom Enslin, Assistant Superintendent

A new bill, recently passed through the House and Senate and then signed by the governor, requires Michigan schools to adopt a policy that prohibits bullying at school. Under the new law, known as “Matt’s Safe School Law,” all school districts have six months from the effective date of the new

law to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting bullying at school.

In anticipation of such action, the Board of Education took steps in 2008 to revise the bylaws and policies regarding bullying. The current Thornapple Kellogg bylaws and policies are in compliance with the bill that requires each of the following components:

1. A statement prohibiting bullying of a student;
2. A statement prohibiting retaliation or false accusation against a target of bullying, a witness, or another person with reliable information about an act of bullying;
3. A provision indicating that all students are protected under the policy, and that bullying is equally prohibited without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus;
4. The identification, by job title, of school officials responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented;
5. A statement describing how the policy is to be publicized;
6. A procedure for providing notification to the parent or legal guardian of a victim of bullying, and to the parent or legal guardian of a perpetrator of the bullying;
7. A procedure for prompt investigation of a report of a violation of the policy or a related complaint, identifying either the principal or the principal’s designee as the person responsible for the investigation; and
8. A procedure for each public school to document (in our current guidelines) any prohibited incident that was reported, and a procedure to report all verified incidents of bullying and the resulting consequences, including discipline and referrals, to the Board of the school district on an annual basis.

School officials of Thornapple Kellogg regard matters of bullying as serious and intolerable, and believe that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. The district is committed to re-evaluating and adjusting procedures accordingly, while maintaining a focus on character education and prevention of bullying. For further information, please visit the district’s website at www.tkschools.org. The policies are found under “Quick Links” on the left side of the page.



Responding to Cardiac Emergencies

By Brian Balding, TKHS Assistant Principal

As a result of the attention given to cardiac emergencies in schools recently, there has been

a focus on dealing with these events in schools around the state, and Thornapple Kellogg is no exception. In the past two years, TK has made a concerted effort to be prepared in the event that a cardiac emergency happens in one of its buildings. This comprehensive effort includes the purchase and updating of AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators), the training of staff in CPR/AED, the recent implementation of cardiac emergency drills, and the hosting of a heart screening program by National Diagnostic Services in January.

Each building in the district has at least one AED, strategically placed for easy access in the event of an emergency. The high school has four (one of which is always with the athletic trainer) while the middle school, elementary buildings, and Learning Center each have one. The high school requires more due to the size of the building and the nature of the events that are hosted there. Each building has a number of staff, including office personnel, teachers, administrators, and custodial staff, who are trained in CPR and how to use AEDs. The district has made every effort to ensure that there is trained staff present if a cardiac emergency were to occur. In addition, TK’s athletic trainer Ashley Aspinall (who also trains district staff in CPR/AED) will be holding cardiac emergency drills for trained staff to prepare for these types of situations.

On January 20th and 21st, National Diagnostic Services will be parking its Heartmobile in the parking lot of the high school. They will be doing heart screening for adults and students from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. The cost for an adult screening is \$199 (compared to \$2000 at most hospitals) or \$40 for a student. Each adult screening will result in one free student screening. This screening is intended to identify undiagnosed heart problems before they cause a cardiac emergency. Please call the athletic office (269-795-5432) for more details.

Our first priority as a school district is to ensure the safety of our students. The steps that have been taken to be prepared to respond to cardiac emergencies contribute to this effort.

DISTRICT NEWS



School Start/Dismissal Times

High School	7:40 am – 2:25 pm
Middle School	7:40 am – 2:25 pm
Page, Lee, McFall Elementary	8:55 am – 3:40 pm

Thornapple Kellogg Schools Directory

Administration Building

Gary Rider, Superintendent	795-5521
Tom Enslin, Asst. Superintendent	795-5522
Christine Marcy, Dir. of Finance	795-5521

School Buildings

Tony Koski, HS Principal	795-3394
Brian Balding, HS Asst. Principal/ Alternative Education Director	795-3394
Dave Chrisinske, HS Athletic Supervisor	795-5432
Mike Birely, MS Principal	795-3349
Jamie Langschieb, MS Asst. Principal	795-3349
Mike Gelmi, Page Principal	795-7944
Angie Jefferson, Lee Principal	795-9747
Jon Washburn, McFall Principal	795-3637
Mari Price, Special Education Director	795-5571

High School Attendance	795-5431
High School Counseling	795-5428
Middle School Attendance	795-5469
High School/Public Library	795-5434
Community Education Office	795-3397
Transportation	795-5540

Board of Education

David Smith.....	President
Donald Haney	Vice President
Joyce Bobolts.....	Secretary
Scott Kiel	Treasurer
Kim Selleck	Trustee
Cindy Ordway	Trustee
Josh Thomas	Trustee

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 9, 2012
February 13, 2012

All meetings are at 7:00 p.m. in Middle School Room 1616, unless otherwise noted.

School Closings and Delays

Adverse weather conditions and other emergency situations may make it necessary to cancel school, to delay the beginning of school, or to send students home early. Our transportation department is out early in the morning to check road conditions. They are in contact with neighboring school districts and the superintendent. The final decision is made by the superintendent.

Whenever it is necessary to delay or close school, notice will be communicated through TV channels 3, 8, 13, 17 and 41, radio stations WOOD and WBCH, and the district website www.tkschools.org.

In the event of a two hour delay:

- There will be no a.m. preschool or a.m. ECSE.
- Busses will pick up students two hours later than normal.
- All classes will start two hours later than normal.
- No morning breakfast will be served.

In the event of school closings:

- A decision will be made early in the afternoon regarding contests, evening programs and practices.
- The public library and pool is closed during school delays and closings.

Tornado Watch

- All students will be kept at school if the watch is issued during the school day. Students will be dismissed at the regular time on regular bus routes.
- All after school activities will be moved inside or cancelled if deemed necessary by the superintendent. Should the watch expire before the event is scheduled, it may be held.

Tornado Warning

- Students will be instructed to take shelter within the building until the ALL CLEAR is signaled.
- All after school activities will be cancelled.



The Key is published by Thornapple Kellogg Schools and is dedicated to informing the district residents of the activities and programs of the TK School District. Questions or comments regarding this publication should be directed to: Erica Dudik at 795-5521.



A Marriage Made in Heaven – Strategic Planning and School Improvement

By Gary Rider, Superintendent

Last year at this time, I wrote an article about the importance of “Strategic Planning” and that we were getting ready to go through the process ourselves. Well – we did and I wanted to let you know how well it went.

First of all – we decided to do something a bit different. We adapted a planning method outlined in the book “Mastering the Rockefeller Habits” by Verne Harnish from the business world. We decided to go this direction after long discussions with local districts that had recently completed the process utilizing this method. What is different as a result of this work is that there is an intentional connection between the principles of Strategic Planning and School Improvement. Both have been important parts of driving the direction of any school district, but in the past there had been no deliberate connection between the two. We dove into the work just before the beginning of this school year and we are very glad we did.

Our facilitator, Monica Verplank, was a former Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and has led several districts through this process. She and our Assistant Superintendent Tom Ensen spent a great deal of time reviewing our newly completed “School Improvement Plan” so that she would become familiar with its contents. We then focused on how to infuse those elements into our “Strategic Plan.”

Our administrative team conducted a book study on the process, and we held focus group meetings of parents, members of the community, support staff and teaching staff. A “Core Team” of members of the district School Improvement team and administrators was formed to do the

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Three New TAEF Scholarships available for TK Graduating Seniors

Thanks to the support and generosity of the Thornapple area community, the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation (TAEF) is able to award three additional scholarships this spring. The new scholarships are The Francisca C. Vrona Memorial Scholarship, TK Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund, and Katherine & Edward Wieringa Friendship and Community Scholarship. All of these new scholarships will be awarded to Thornapple Kellogg graduating seniors. In addition to these new scholarships, TAEF offers scholarship opportunities for students in a variety of areas and specialties including the medical field, business, the arts, education, engineering, agriculture, and general studies.

To assist TK students and parents of graduating seniors, a representative from TAEF will be available during the Thornapple Kellogg Financial Aid Night on January 12, 2012. The on-line application process for TAEF scholarships begins on January 1, 2012 and will conclude on March 15, 2012. To apply or to find out more specific information regarding TAEF scholarship qualifications, please visit our website at www.thornapplefoundation.org. The Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation is a geographic affiliate of the Barry Community Foundation.

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month. Thornapple Kellogg Schools is joining 552 local and 57 intermediate school districts across the state to thank these community volunteers for their untiring dedication to public education.

Board members contribute hundreds and hundreds of hours each year leading their districts. The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend leading their districts. They spend many hours on professional development to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours at extracurricular events. They continually advocate for the children of our state, and in the past year school board members made more than 4,000 passionate pleas to legislators, speaking out against budget cuts and pushing for smart reforms.

This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today’s students to be tomorrow’s leaders. In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools.

TK Board members and their years of service are:

David Smith – President	18
Donald Haney – Vice President	12
Scott Kiel – Treasurer	11
Joyce Bobolts – Secretary	1
Kim Selleck – Trustee	18
Cindy Ordway – Trustee	8
Josh Thomas – Trustee	1



ELEMENTARY NEWS



Twice a month, Mrs. Weibel's kindergarten class visits their reading buddies in Mrs. Leep's 1st grade class.



The students are integrating technology and collaboration into their everyday learning in Mrs. Langschieb's 5th grade classroom using Google Docs for math and writing.



Lee Elementary 2nd grade students will use their experiences at Charlton Park for their winter writing prompts.



Mrs. Smith's 4th grade students are helping create the "Page Elementary Cookbook." They have sorted and collected recipes from Page students and staff to type up and create the cookbook.



Mrs. Reifinger's Thanksgiving Family and Friends Feast is a wonderful opportunity for students to share and perform their knowledge of the Pilgrims and Native American's "First Thanksgiving." It is an authentic way to tie together history, culture and tradition with a real feast shared among 75-80 of our classroom families and friends. The opportunity to make learning come alive is enjoyed by one and all!



Mr. Dock's Teen Leadership class visited Mrs. Hannapel's 3rd graders. After a fun getting-to-know-you activity, high school students shared self-authored books about life lessons they learned in class and then facilitated discussion of what it means to be a leader.



Middle School Student Council members helped organize the annual holiday donation drive. This year, middle school students had the opportunity to donate to the Children's Miracle Network. All proceeds were donated to the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital to help children in need.



The 7th grade General Music class has been learning how to compose music. To culminate their learning, they worked as a class to write a song about an important issue: abuse. They composed all of the music and wrote the lyrics themselves, and then created a blueprint for the music video which they recorded as a class.



In 7th grade science the students are studying weather. They are learning about the four different weather fronts by researching, writing and performing a skit that illustrates the weather fronts. Pictured are: Danielle Seeber, Leann Lucas, Christopher Ochoa and Jayden Deabay.

A Marriage Made in Heaven – Strategic Planning and School Improvement (continued from page 3)

By Gary Rider, Superintendent

majority of the work that would need to be done and a large “Task Force” of students, parents, community members, teachers, Board members and administrators met to kick off the process and set the direction for the project. Draft copies of the plan that resulted were presented to all employee groups for their input and we are at the point where the plan is ready to be presented to the School Board and implemented.

One interesting product of this work is the format of the plan. In the past there would be several pages that would be put in a binder and sit on the shelves of offices across the district. The new plan is a clear and concise one page document essentially in the form of a “placemat.” It includes all the elements of a traditional Strategic Plan, but also includes specific short term and long term actions and priorities customized for each department and/or building in the district.

The left third of the document contains the elements of the Strategic Plan that apply throughout the district: Vision, Purpose, Core Values and Beliefs. The middle third contains long and short term targets (goals) for buildings and/or departments, along with strategies for accomplishing them. The final third is for the priorities of each individual for supporting the accomplishment of those goals.

A copy of the template of the plan can be found on our webpage at www.tkschools.org. Look on the left hand side of the page for the “Quick Links” and click on “TK Strategic Plan.”

For many years we have talked about developing a “Culture of Excellence” at Thornapple Kellogg. That is, developing TK into an organization that does its best and is always looking to do better. We should all be very proud of how far we have come. We are all so fortunate to be part of an incredibly supportive community with an outstanding school district. However, we should always remember that we must continually critically analyze ourselves in order to best serve the needs of our children.

As you are reading this we are in the midst of getting ready for the busy holiday season. It's a great time for all of us to reflect on our blessings, be thankful for all we have and, once again, renew our resolve to be the best we can be. Happy Holidays to you and your family and best wishes for a wonderful 2012!

HIGH SCHOOL



2011 DAR Recipient

Patriotism, service, dependability, leadership - the Daughter of the American Revolution Award has long stood for such qualities which are found within its recipients. Thornapple Kellogg High School is proud to announce that Erin Ellinger has been named the recipient of this prestigious distinction.

Erin is involved in many activities at TKHS such as National Honor Society, volleyball, basketball and track and field. In her spare time, she is very active in the Barry and Kalamazoo County 4-H, and Interstate Exchange 4-H Teen Club. Erin is undecided as to which college she will attend, but knows she wants to become a Physical Education teacher.

Erin is the daughter of Tom and Deb Ellinger.



TK Welcomes New National Honor Society Members

On November 17th the Thornapple Kellogg Elizabeth Thurber Chapter of the National Honor Society held its 2011-2012 induction ceremony.

Selection to National Honor Society is an honor recognized throughout the nation. In the induction ceremony students are recognized for their accomplishment and make a public commitment to continue excellence both in and out of the classroom. Being a part of the NHS is both an honor and a pledge. NHS members demonstrate not only academic excellence, but also are positive leaders. Students are asked to commit their time and talents to serve their community, their school and their fellow classmates while upholding principles of the highest standards.

With the sixty-nine new inductees, TK's NHS Chapter is 117 members strong.



Veterans and students gather for the Veterans Day program at Thornapple Kellogg High School.



Army veteran John Loftus salutes the flag during the Veterans Day program.



Army veteran William H. Warner greets another veteran during the Veterans Day program.

Important Parent Dates at TKHS

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

2nd Trimester, January 25 & 26 and 3rd Trimester, April 26

Parent Advisory Dates:

January 6, February 2, March 2, April 13 and May 4

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

Pre-registration is required for classes with registration deadlines listed. Classes are offered on a first come-first served basis. A class may be cancelled on the deadline if the minimum number to hold a class is not met so please call promptly to register. **Payment is due one week prior to first class except where noted otherwise.** Classes are self-supporting; therefore, no refunds can be made after the first night of class. You will be notified, and a full refund will be given, if class is cancelled or filled. Please call 269-795-3397 to register. Make checks payable to TK Schools and mail to TK Community Ed, 10375 Green Lake Rd, Middleville, MI 49333. Please call 795-5578 to register.

Please note: When school is closed due to inclement weather, enrichment classes are automatically cancelled and a make up date will be scheduled.

Youth Classes

Youth Self-Defense/Karate Session #3

This self-defense and karate class emphasizes developing awareness, power of the voice, handling aggressive situations, safety on the street and at school, personal safety and basic escapes. The class is for children 5-10 years of age. This is the last of three sessions offered this school year.

Dates: Mon. 2/6-3/30

Duration: 8 weeks

Cost: \$50

Time: 5:30-6:30 pm

Min: 10 Max: 20

Location: McFall Cafe.

Registration deadline: Jan. 27

Instructor: Nancy Hammond

Young Champions Cheerleading

Join the fun! This course is designed to teach choreographed pom-pom and dance routines. Students will also learn popular jumps, leaps and other skills. Ages 4-15 years. Registration & first class will be held Wed., February 8 at the following times; Divisions 1 & 2 for ages 4-9 will meet at 6:00 pm. Divisions 3 & 4 for ages 10-15 will meet at 7:00 pm. \$7 registration fee plus \$7 class fee due at registration. Weekly class times will be assigned on registration night according to age and/or skill level.

Dates: Wed. 2/8- 6/6

(No class April 4)

Cost: \$7 class fee per lesson

Location: Page Elementary Gym & Cafe.

Instructor: Tina Joy with Young Champions



Adult Classes

Aqua Aerobics

This fun, low impact, high intensity workout for adults is geared to tone, strengthen and increase flexibility. This is an excellent workout for men and women. Certified instructor Tammy Sirk will tailor the workout to meet your needs.

Dates: Tues. & Thur. thru school year

(No class 4/3, 4/5, 5/24)

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

Cost: 12 visit pass \$35 or \$5 per visit (Passes are valid for 12 consecutive visits from date of purchase)

Register and purchase pass from instructor at pool.

Location: TK High School Pool

Note: When school is closed for inclement weather, Aqua Aerobics class is cancelled also.

ZUMBA "Exercise in Disguise"

ZUMBA is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness class that incorporates Latin and International music and dance movements, which create a dynamic, exciting, and effective fitness system! This class format combines fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body in an aerobic/fitness fashion to achieve a unique blended balance of cardio and muscle-toning benefits. No dance background required-just a willingness to have fun! Please bring a water bottle to class. This is an adult leisure class; please do not bring children to class as childcare is not provided.

Dates: Mon. 1/16-2/27

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

Cost: \$42/7 weeks

Location: Page Elementary Cafe.

Registration & payment deadline: Jan. 9

Instructor: Rachel Carter, Certified instructor



ZUMBA Gold

Zumba Gold is designed to take the exciting Latin and International dance rhythms created in the original ZUMBA program and bring them to the active, older adult, the beginner participant, and other special populations that may need modifications for success. Please bring a water bottle to class.

Dates: Mon. 1/16-2/27

Time: 6:00-6:45 pm

Cost: \$42/7 weeks

Location: Page Elementary Cafe.

Registration & payment deadline: Jan. 9

Instructor: Rachel Carter, Certified instructor

Hall Walking

The halls of TK High School are open for walking Monday through Thursday, 6:00-8:30 pm through March 29. Come in from the cold and walk for your health. Walkers should enter the athletic lobby on the south side of the high school off of Bender Road. Halls are not open for walking if school is closed due to holidays, in-service days or inclement weather. No need to pre-register.



BOXHOLDER

COMMUNITY POOL

Minimum participation is needed to keep the pool open. Please call the Pool Hotline, 795-5400 ext. 4442 for all pool information and updates. Schedule may change without notice. In case of tornado watches or warnings, pool events will be automatically cancelled without further notice.

ADULT LAP SWIM

Monday – Thursday 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 – 9:00 pm.

OPEN/FAMILY SWIM

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Swimmers must be 8 years old or accompanied by an adult.

AQUA AEROBICS

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 – 8:00 pm
This is a fun, low impact, high intensity workout for adults.

SWIM LESSONS

In conjunction with the YMCA of Barry County, swim lessons are offered on Saturday mornings.

You may go to the YMCA website www.ymcaofbarrycounty.org to view the different swim levels and scheduled dates.

Questions and registration information can be directed to Ryan Rose at the YMCA office at 269-945-7436.



POOL RENTAL

Pool rentals are available. Please contact the Operations Department at 269-795-5535 for date and/or time availability.

POOL FEES

Per Visit Pass:

TK district children and senior citizens \$1.00
TK district adults \$2.00
Out of district children and senior citizens \$2.00
Out of district adults \$3.00

Passes:

TK district children and senior citizens \$18 for 20 visits
TK district adults \$38 for 20 visits
Out of district children and senior citizens \$38 for 20 visits
Out of district adults \$56 for 20 visits

January 2012

- 2 No School – Winter Break
- 3 School Resumes
- 9 School Board Meeting, 7 pm, MS Rm 1616
- 12 Financial Aid Night, 6:30 pm, HS Auditorium
- 16 No School for Students – Prof. Development Day
- 21 MS Band Performs for GR Griffins at Van Andel Arena, 5 pm
- 24 MS Parent Advisory Mtg, 9 am
- 25 HS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8 pm
- 26 HS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8 pm
- 26 MS Activity Event, 2:30-4:30 pm

JAN./FEB. 2012 CALENDAR

February 2012

- 6 ACT Prep Class, 5:30-8:30 pm
- 13 School Board Meeting, 7 pm, MS Rm 1616
- 20 No School for Students – Prof. Development Day
- 23 7 & 8th Grade Band Festival