

SchoolMatters



Special Insert
November 2015

School News for Residents of the Kimberly Area School District



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Superintendent

Welcome to this Special Insert section to our School Matters newsletter. Last week was American Education Week and we took the week as an opportunity to highlight the countless hours of volunteer service our students and staff provide to the community. Student service clubs are just the tip of the iceberg. I could go on for pages about the ways our students and staff give back to the community: blood drives, food collections, enhancing the quality of life for senior citizens, etc. Our students and staff dedicate countless hours giving back to the community that gives so much to them.

-- Bob Mayfield

Serving the Community: Students Give Back to the Community that Gives them so Much

During the National Education Association's (NEA's) 94th Annual American Education Week, November 16-20, the Kimberly Area School District joined millions of educators, parents, students, and community leaders nationwide in raising awareness about the critical need to provide every child with a quality public education. This week was an opportunity to say "Thank You" to the community for your past, current, and continuous support. Students in Kimberly public schools accomplish so many things in academics, the arts and co-curriculars. We took the week to highlight the countless hours of volunteer service our students and staff provide to the community. Below are a few examples of the ways students of all ages give back to the community that gives them so much.

At Kimberly High School (KHS), countless community service activities take place. Last year, KHS won an award from the Community Blood Center as the "Most Improved High School" for increasing the participation in their blood drives. Several student clubs at Kimberly High School volunteer their time to improve the life of elders in their community. Members of the Key Club volunteer at the monthly Senior Quest program, an event put on by the school district in partnership with the Village of Kimberly for seniors citizens in the community. Other KHS students work with staff to offer technology education to District seniors through the ForeverYoung program.



Athletes at KHS receive the support of so many parents and businesses. There is a great deal of pride in seeing those student athletes give back to the community. They are spotted at many special events such as assemblies and reading events at schools in the lower grade levels, serving as mentors to younger students who look up to them. Through Difference MAKER camps, athletes involve children of all ability levels in a healthy activity together. The baseball and football camps, spearheaded by KHS students, are for students of all ages and with all types of disabilities. Their siblings are also welcomed to attend. Participants are joined by KHS students, staff

and members of the teams where they learn new baseball or football skills in a fun setting. The camps take place at a special location for our community – on the turf field at Papermaker Stadium. KHS also hosts an event called "Spread the Word to End the Word" basketball game. The Ravens Special Olympics team plays the Kimberly High School All-Stars in the fundraiser for Special Olympics and SOAR (formerly the Arc).



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Students at J.R. Gerritts Middle School and Woodland Intermediate School have been busy collecting cans of food as part of the Thrivent Cans Hunger program. All of the non-perishable items are donated to local food pantries. To date, the students at JRG have collected 2,527 cans of food and students at Woodland have collected over 4,157 non-perishable food items to support those in need. That's over 6,000 food items donated to local pantries.

Together, about 80 students from the Kimberly High School Key Club and J.R. Gerritts Middle School organized a Halloween Party for area children. The event drew a crowd of about 185 kids with their families – the greatest turnout yet. The party included trick or treating in the hallways, pumpkin and cookie decorating, a photo booth, hay ride, face painting, games and crafts. The proceeds from the event totaled over \$800 and were donated to UNICEF's ELIMINATE Project, which seeks to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus – a deadly disease to mothers and babies across the world.



This year marked the 5th year that fourth graders from Woodland Elementary School participated in a service project with The Family radio station and Culver's in Darboy. The students work with volunteers and their parents during the service project to tie fleece blankets. The blankets are packaged with other donated items and distributed to people who are in hospitals over the holidays.

At Mapleview Intermediate School, the active Secret Service Club volunteers at many events at local nursing homes such as holiday parties. Other students from the school combine developing their literacy skills with their volunteering by helping at the local public library while others read to young students at the 4K Center for Literacy. The club rakes leaves for community members in the fall and rings bells for the Salvation Army red kettle collections around the holidays.

Members of the student council at Sunrise Elementary School also ring bells for the Salvation Army. This fall, the Sunrise Student Council raised over \$3,000 for the Pasta for Pennies campaign for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society of Wisconsin. The student council has sponsored this program for the last few years. They had some fun contests during their 2 week campaign: students were able to enter a drawing for an ice cream party, guess how many paper clips were in a jar, and one class even won having Principal Fitzgerald teach in their classroom for an hour. Over the years, the school has raised over \$25K for the Pasta for Pennies program.

During the month of October, students at Westside Elementary School participated in "Socktober" - a national effort to help homeless Americans keep warm this winter. "Socktober" was inspired by "Kid President." As independent problem solvers, they sought to help address a need in our community. The student council's goal was to collect 500 pairs of socks. The students smashed that goal with a grand total of 1,045 pairs of socks to be donated to local shelters.



Janssen Elementary School students, staff and parents go to extra lengths to help those within their school community facing difficult times. They fundraise and collect items to help school families who cannot afford Thanksgiving meals, they collect items to create care packages for families in need, they donate gift cards for gas and food for Janssen families going through tough times, and they make greeting cards for veterans, crossing guards, aides and bus drivers. In order to support these efforts, students and families plan and organize spirit days and run a school store several times during the school year to raise funds for their community service projects.

The United Way is a great partner in our community and for our schools. Since 2008, the United Way PATH for Students (Providing Access to Health) program has helped nearly 1,000 students in the Fox Cities by placing mental health counselors in schools. A District-wide fundraising campaign for United Way is being conducted to support the organization's programs. Thanks to the generosity of many KASD staff members – the District has not only surpassed the number of people donating, but we have officially met and exceeded our District's fundraising goal for 2015.

Through service learning, students gain hands-on experience and can see first-hand how their efforts make a difference in the community. They also learn compassion as they see the challenges people in our community are facing, such as homelessness or the impact of a life-threatening illness. Through these experiences, their learning goes beyond the walls of their classroom, students learn that they too are citizens who can positively impact the community through their efforts.