



# THE KEY

## TK Schools Implementing Positive Behavior Support System

By **Kim Chausow**  
Director of Curriculum

Please take a minute and think about the answers to the question below:

**Why teach behavioral expectations?**

*If a child doesn't know how to read...we teach.*

*If a child doesn't know how to multiply...we teach.*

*If a child doesn't know how to swim...we teach.*

*If a child doesn't know how to behave...we punish?*



Thornapple Kellogg Schools is in the process of implementing a district wide Positive Behavior Support System (PBIS). PBIS is one of the foremost advances in school-wide discipline with an emphasis on school-wide systems of support to include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. It is our goal to provide a continuum of positive behavior support and education for all students within Thornapple Kellogg Schools and is implemented in areas including the classroom and non-classroom settings (such as hallways, buses, and restrooms).

PBIS is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Teams from each building have been working with trainers from the Kent Intermediate School System (KISD) to learn the process, as well as develop plans to implement with all staff and students for the 2015-2016 school year.

PBIS is part of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). As the district's Intervention Specialist and MTSS Coordinator it has been exciting to see how the systems Thornapple Kellogg Schools has been using for academics parallels the behavior systems we are developing. Thornapple Kellogg Schools Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) will promote a positive and consistent culture of learning and success for all students.

We look forward to sharing more with all of you as we begin implementation of PBIS next fall. Research has shown that the implementation of punishment, especially when it is used inconsistently and in the absence of other positive strategies, is ineffective. Introducing, modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important step of a student's educational experience. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm. Please continue to follow our website and building updates to learn more about what each school is doing to help promote positive behavior and grow our TK Pride!

# DISTRICT NEWS



## School Start/Dismissal Times

High School	7:30 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.
Middle School	7:30 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.
McFall Elementary	8:45 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.
Lee Elementary	9:00 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.
Page Elementary	9:05 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## Thornapple Kellogg Schools Directory

### Administration Building

Tom Enslin, Superintendent	795-5521
Robert Blitchok, Dir. of Finance	795-5521
Kim Chausow, Dir. of Curriculum	795-5522

### School Buildings

Tony Petersen, HS Principal	795-3394
Kelli Wegner, HS Asst. Principal/ Alternative Education Director	795-3394
Dave Chrisinske, HS Athletic Supervisor	795-5432
Brian Balding, MS 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/Operations	795-5535

## Board of Education

David Smith.....	President
Anne Hamming .....	Vice President
Donald Haney.....	Treasurer
Cindy Ordway .....	Secretary
Kristen Cove .....	Trustee
Jeff Dickman.....	Trustee
Alexis Snyder.....	Trustee

## Upcoming Board Meetings

May 11, 2015  
June 8, 2015

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 web site [www.tkschools.org](http://www.tkschools.org) or email through SchoolMessenger Instant Alert.

### In the event of a two hour delay:

- There will be no a.m. preschool.
- 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.

## The Best Part of My Week



In my first days as superintendent, one of my first acts was to build into my weekly calendar opportunities to meet with kids...all buildings, all grades. Each week, I go to a different building to spend time with a different group of students, and you might be surprised by what I learn from them. My questions are simple, and mostly revolve around three questions:

1. What do you like?
2. What don't you like?
3. What can we do differently?

The first thing I noticed, and a trend that has continued with every ensuing conversation, is that they appear to genuinely enjoy the opportunity to talk to “the boss”, as they like to say. Predictably, there are those requests that surface with an element of frequency (more recess, better lunches, less homework, etc.), but it's the outlying and less predictable intangibles that have been so rewarding and appreciated.

Students at TK, at every level, and in every conversation, remark how much they appreciate their teachers and support staff. They aren't afraid to use names, and I'm never shy about sharing what I learn with those they reference, either. They feel supported, cared about, and appreciated, and the sentiments are shared with me from kindergartners through seniors. They tell me they are smart, silly, and funny (their words, not mine), but mostly they just like telling me that they like them. I thought I might hear more complaining, because that's what kids do, right? I have been pleasantly surprised by how infrequently that happens.

Of course, I do hear about the realities of their world, including social pressures, concerns about transitions from buildings/grade levels/high school, various obstacles they encounter, and other such matters. Often, suggestions for me include anything under the sun, but almost always involve resources/money. This often leads to healthy (depending on the grade level) conversations regarding 21st century economics. I often ask students how much they think it takes to run our school district for one year. Yeah, that's always interesting...answers vary anywhere from a thousand bucks to a few million. I don't recall any student answering near the reality of roughly \$27 million.

Mostly, though, these conversations serve to revitalize me. We adults tend to complain about younger generations, but I tell my friends about how my faith in our youth is restored with each of my weekly interactions. The really young ones are just plain fun, but it's the secondary students who have made the greatest impressions on me. I know our students to be intelligent, insightful, creative, empathetic, and generally virtuous beyond the perceptions of so many who are removed from the realities of their world. I know, because I talk with them, and it's the highlight of my weeks as superintendent of TK Schools.

Warmest Regards,

Superintendent TK Schools



### Connect with Us



TK Schools



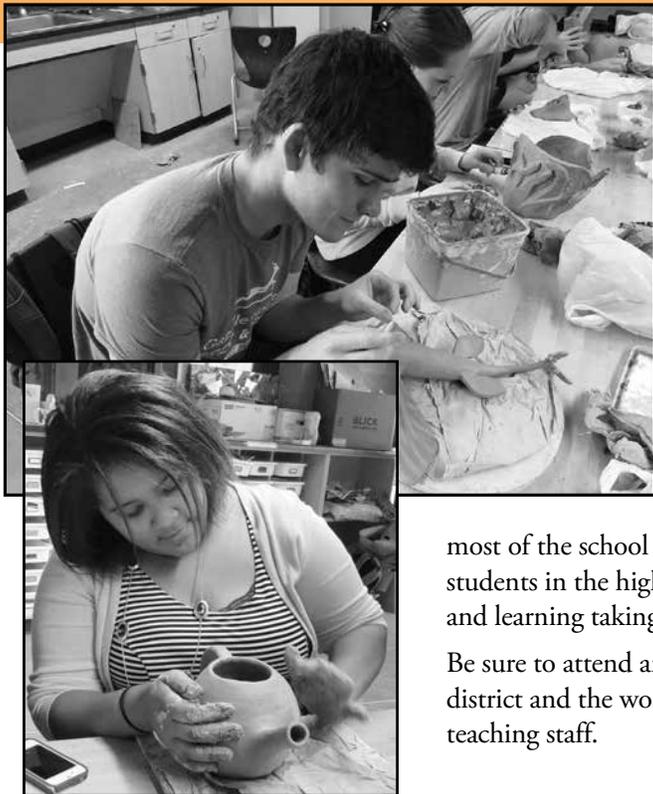
@TomEnslin



@TKSchools



www.tkschools.org



## Annual District Arts Festival Showcases Talent

Creative and talented Thornapple Kellogg students from throughout the district will display pieces of artwork, woodworking, computer aided drafting and architectural projects at the annual district Arts Festival from 3 to 6 p.m. May 17.

This is an event where the community is invited to explore the many talents of TK students. There will be musical performances in the auditorium. Throughout the High Schools' Main Street gallery art works from all grades will be displayed - from clay and ceramics, to pencil drawings, watercolor paintings and much more.

From the industrial technology department, students will share their completed woodworking projects. Many of those projects have taken most of the school year to complete. There will also be drafting projects on display created by students in the high school program and architectural projects completed to showcase the talent and learning taking place.

Be sure to attend and be amazed at the many wonderfully talented and creative students in the district and the work they've done throughout the year under the guidance of the very dedicated teaching staff.

## TK Advances Two OM Teams to World Finals

Two Odyssey of the Mind teams from Thornapple Kellogg Schools will advance to the World Final competition May 20-23 at Michigan State University.

The high school team and one middle school team both advanced after taking first place honors at the state contest hosted at TK.

Members of the middle school team are Ellie Essenberg, Bennett Halle, Sam Morton, Lila Nelson, Christel Hoskins, Reese Verlinde, and Annabelle Rickert.

The high school team members are Joey Lambert, Amy Cutlip, Braedon Halle, Jager Flikema, Emily Davidson, Haley Smith and Aaron Czarnecki. There are three seniors on the team, all with several years of experience in OM. Amy Cutlip has participated in OM for 11 years, Jager Flikema for eight years and Joey Lambert for four years.

Overall, teams from TK have done very well in the OM competition this year. The district fielded 11 teams in all - two at the primary ages, five elementary teams, three middle school teams and one high school team.

The Region 10 competition was held at Forest Hills Central with four of TK's teams advancing to the state finals. From there, one middle school team and the high school team earned the right to continue to the world contest.

The two advancing teams are working together to raise funds for their stay at the world contest. A GoFundMe account has been created, allowing people to donate directly to the group. They will also be hosting other fundraising efforts to help cover expenses.



## **Construction Projects Begin Soon** *By: Robert Blitchok, Director of Finance and Operations*

We are pleased to inform you that the fruits of our community's generosity and support will soon be seen in the form of several new construction projects throughout the district. Starting in late May, construction will begin on several projects as a result of last May's bond passage. The project list includes enhanced building entrances designed to limit access to unauthorized individuals from entering our buildings. We place a high priority on making our schools safer and these new entrances will be a strong step in that direction. In addition, we look forward to the construction of a new press box for our stadium, as well as new state-of-the-art turf to replace our existing and very tired playing surface. Along with the new upgraded turf, we will be resurfacing the running track and extending one running lane. We are confident you will be very impressed with the results!

Beyond the brick and mortar, our Technology Department has been quite busy this year with the purchase of new and upgraded desktop computers, laptops, iPads, new network servers, and a new district website. These technology improvements and tools are designed to expand and enhance our classroom instruction, as well as better serve the community. We are especially excited about the new TK website. We hope that our website's improved functionality, organization, and look will provide our community members pertinent and exciting information regarding our district. Please check us out at [www.tkschools.org](http://www.tkschools.org).

We would again like to thank our community for providing the resources that allow us to make such outstanding facility and technology improvements.

## **TK Athletic Boosters Sponsor Golf Outing**

The TK Athletic Boosters are hosting their 6th Annual Golf Outing, scheduled for Saturday, May 16 at Yankee Springs Golf Course. Golfing begins at 9 a.m. with "shotgun start" and the format is best ball.

The outing provides 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch and dinner, water and soft drinks and lots of opportunities for door prizes and raffles.

All proceeds from the outing directly support TK Athletic programs through the Athletic Boosters. The Boosters are looking for both golfers as well as hole sponsors. Team entry forms are available on the TK Athletic website at [www.tkathletics.com](http://www.tkathletics.com). Deadline for team entry is May 10.

Anyone interested in a hole sponsorship or to make other donations may contact [tkathleticboosters@hotmail.com](mailto:tkathleticboosters@hotmail.com) or call 269-615-8634. Come join us for a fun day of golf and community camaraderie.

## **Join Athletic Boosters to Aid Student Athletics**

The TK Athletic Boosters invite all members of the community to join the Boosters to support and promote the athletic programs and student athletes of Thornapple Kellogg Schools.

Booster fundraising in the past two years has contributed more than \$30,000 directly to our athletes in the form of uniforms, scholarships, and key training equipment.

In order to continue these efforts and meet the financial aid requests of TK athletic teams, we need more community members to become part of this important volunteer group.

The Boosters meet the first Monday of every month except July (second Monday if holiday or break) in Room 403 of the High School.

Upcoming meeting dates are May 4, June 1 and August 3.

Look for the Booster table at school organizational events such as Meet-the-Team nights. Join us and see what you can do for our student athletes, make some new friends, and be an active part of your community! There is no cost and no forms to join – just come to our meetings and see what we are all about. Contact us at [tkathleticboosters@hotmail.com](mailto:tkathleticboosters@hotmail.com).



## **Free Sports Physicals Being Offered**

Free sports physicals for any middle and high school student athlete will be conducted Thursday, May 28 in the big gym at the high school. These physicals will be good for the 2015-16 school year.

Girls will have physicals between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Boys will have physicals between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m.

This year the physicals are being offered FREE to all middle and high school students thanks to a generous anonymous donation. The donor wanted specifically to assist all athletes with free physicals.



## **Election Day is May 5**

Don't forget to vote May 5. Proposal 1 concerning road funding with an impact on school funding is on the ballot for all TK district voters.

# ELEMENTARY



Lee Elementary School has met a technology goal of one-to-one computing. This means all 420 students at Lee now have access to computers in

their classrooms. This is an important goal reached to continue meeting needs and providing tools needed for our students.

This year, Lee Elementary took on yet another Recycle Challenge! Students collected clear plastic bottles, inviting their families and the community to also take part in the challenge. Students are learning about ways they can make a difference in their world by doing their part to recycle.



McFall 1st grade teacher Jen Reifinger is pictured with her class receiving a \$500 check from Annie Halle on behalf of the Barry Community Foundation. The funds will be used



in the classroom to assist students with different writing challenges. A big thank you to the Foundation for supporting TK students!

Several families attended McFall's literacy night where they made book marks, went on a scavenger hunt, picked out new books, ate ice cream sundaes and were entertained with a theatrical reading of "Green Eggs and Ham." Students wrapped up March is reading month with ice



cream sundaes, a movie and a visit from a favorite book character "Pinkalicious." Students earned the treats by meeting the school reading challenge of 1,000 hours logged for the month.



Sarah Keizer's Page Elementary class received a \$1,000 grant from the Barry Community Foundation Education Matters. The grant will help purchase Bricks4Kidz.

Representatives from Bricks4Kidz will be visiting the school June 1 and 2 with every class getting a one-hour lesson using Legos with the subject of earth, moon and sun. Bricks4Kidz has specially designed project kits and theme-based models. The activities engage students in curiosity, creativity and problem solving. Congratulations to the class for writing the grant and thank you to the Barry Community Foundation for continued support in education!



Page Elementary students LOVED the month of March when they engaged in lots of reading! There were several activities throughout the month including the popular hallway "stop everything and read."

Page students spent a day buddy reading with kindergarten and first grade students at McFall. Page also reserved 180 seats for students to listen to an accomplished children's author, Christopher Paul Curtis, and participate in a variety of writing workshops at the Michigan Reading Association annual conference at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. The month wrapped up with the annual Battle of the Books challenge. We love March at Page!



## Starting the Day with Music

Nothing starts the day like a little jazz. These students meet each Wednesday before school for Jazz Club. These seventh and eighth grade band students learn more about playing jazz music. They learn how to improvise solos as well as learning the basics of jazz and blues style music.



## Teen Leadership Students Clean up Grounds

Middle School teen leadership students made sure the TK School grounds looked great prior to the state Odyssey of the Mind competition. After all the snow melted, students picked up trash and made sure the grounds looked awesome for all the visitors. The students are from Mrs. Francisco's and Mrs. Knorr's classes. Students were very willing to help with this community service project! The teen leaders are also involved in another community service project. They are conducting a sock drive to collect new socks of all sizes and colors. The socks will be donated to the Barry County United Way to help people in need.



## Middle School Students Present Spring Play

TKMS 6th and 7th graders will present, "The Adventures of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi" at 7 p.m. June 3 in the High School Performing Arts Center. Due to the high interest in theater at the middle school, this is the second spring play for the school. To create

a connection between the middle and high school theater programs, this show is being directed by TKHS junior, Jacob Emery. "I'm very excited for this opportunity because I get to work with these students and help them prepare for something that I love to do! I hope to pass on to them a love for theater and I look forward to developing their characters both on and off the stage. I'm very thankful to have the opportunity to direct a play and I look forward to the coming months," said Jacob. Be sure to mark your calendars for this. You won't want to miss it!

## Moving on to High School

Eighth graders will have their own graduation ceremony on the last day of school, June 5. Their ceremony will take place in the high school auditorium with friends and family invited to attend the ceremony starting at 9 a.m. The ceremony marks the beginning of another chapter for the students who will move into the high school next fall as the class of 2019.



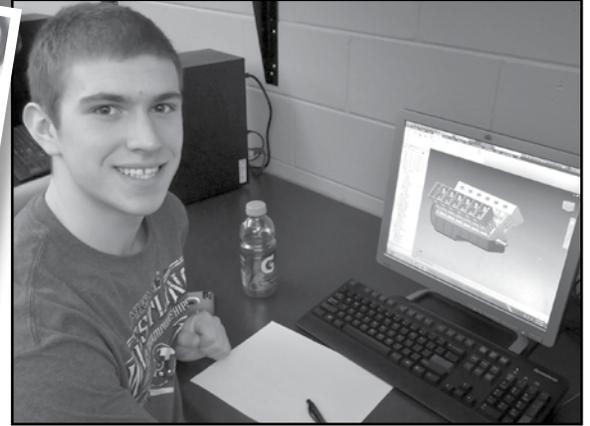
## Students Take on Project-Based Learning

Students from Stephanie Langschied's middle school social studies class gave a presentation to the Board of Education about using project based learning in their classroom. Students in the class collaborate and work in teams to complete projects. They conduct research, develop and revise their presentations, and learn to make presentations as a group. Teamwork is a main focus. The class has studied units on West Michigan, Veteran's Day, freshwater and ecosystems, and education in different areas. The team presenting to the board chose to look at the education system in Finland. Langschied told board members project based learning is different than traditional learning styles and this is the first class in the middle school using this model. She hopes there will be more classes like this in the future.

# HIGH SCHOOL

## Students Prepare for MITES Contest

Thornapple Kellogg High School students are putting the finishing touches on projects for the annual Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Association competition. Students showcase their completed woodworking, drafting, engineering and architecture projects at a regional competition. Those earning high honors will advance to the state contest. Historically, TK student work has competed very well at both the regional and state levels. Many of the projects have taken students a full year to complete. These projects will be on display during the district's art festival May 17.



## TKHS Students Earn Write Away Contest Honors

Thornapple Kellogg High School students competed in the Write Away competition and several won awards. There were 16 students placing in the competition and were invited to the awards ceremony at the Barry Community Enrichment Center in Hastings April 21. The Write Away competition was created to encourage Barry County high school students to develop an appreciation for, and to provide an incentive to express their ideas through creative writing. Students placing in the competition were Cynthia Arrieta, Saige Redd, Carrie Finholm, Emily Lowery, Miah Dammen, Nicole Hair, Michael McNee, Lauren Hager Sarah Sabri, Joshua Swanson, Brooke Berg, Levi Walker, Aaron Czarnecki, Alex Wilkinson, Rachel Chapman, and Emery Shepherd.

## Class of 2015 News

It's hard to believe the end of the school year is very near and especially for the graduating class of 2015. Graduation ceremonies will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21 in the large gymnasium at the high school. There is plenty of seating available for family and friends. Prior to graduation, seniors will take part in the TK Honors Night. This takes place at 7 p.m. May 19 in the high school auditorium. This is a night when many of the seniors are recognized for their extracurricular, academic and athletic achievements during their four years of high school. Several scholarships are awarded to seniors who have committed to continuing their education. The last day of school for seniors is May 15. Congratulations to all members of the Class of 2015 and good luck in your futures!



## TKHS Student Qualifies for National BPA Contest

Congratulations to TKHS senior Tony Reed for earning third place at the state Business Professional Association competition. He has qualified now to compete at the national BPA competition in May in Anaheim, Calif.

## 2015 THORNAPPLE KELLOGG SCHOOLS SUMMER CAMPS

SECTION	CAMP NAME	FACILITY	GRADE(S)	TIME	COST	DATES	
Elementary	Basketball - Boys	High School	3rd - 6th	8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	\$30	June 15, 16, 17, 18	
	Basketball - Girls	High School Small Gym	3rd - 6th	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	\$30	June 15, 16, 17, 18	
	Cheer	High School Small Gym	K - 8th	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	\$35	July 20, 21, 22	
	Football	Practice Field	Current Page & Lee	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	\$30	May 26, 27, 28	
	Tennis	High School Courts	2nd - 5th	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	\$45	June 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25	
	Junior Golf Clinic	Yankee Springs GC	2nd - 8th	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	\$6 per day	June 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 26	
Middle School	Basketball - Boys	High School	7th, 8th, 9th	10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	\$30	June 15, 16, 17, 18	
	Basketball - Girls	High School Big Gym	7th - 9th	2:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	\$30	June 8, 9, 10, 11	
	Cheer	High School Small Gym	K - 8th	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	\$35	July 20, 21, 22	
	Football	Weight Room/Stadium	Current 6th & 7th	2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	\$30	June 2, 3, 4	
	Softball	Softball Field	5th - 8th	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	\$15	June 23, 24	
	Tennis	High School Courts	6th - 8th	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	\$45	June 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25	
	Volleyball	HS Big Gym	5th - 8th	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	\$25	June 22, 23, 24, 25	
	Junior Golf Clinic	Yankee Springs GC	2nd - 8th	8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	\$6 per day	June 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 26	
	High School	Football - Skills Camp	HS Stadium	9th - 12th	7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	\$25	June 22, 23, 24
		Football - Boot Camp	HS Stadium	9th - 12th	2-Overnight; 3 Days	\$75	July 27, 28, 29
Soccer - Girls		HS Stadium/Grass Field	9th, 10th, 11th	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	\$25	June 23, 24, 25	
Tennis		High School Courts	9th - 12th	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	\$50	June 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25	
Volleyball		HS Big Gym	9th - 12th	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	\$30	June 22, 23, 24, 25	
AYSO/TASC	Soccer - Boys and Girls	Grass Field	K - 8th	6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	\$35	July 20, 21, 22 - Rain Date July 23	

**For this camp ->** *\*Must fill out form found on TASC website - <http://www.thornappleareasoccerclub.com> - Separate check needed*



Camper's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (Fall of 2015) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Male or Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Time Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: Circle one: Youth: Small Medium Large Adult: Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large

Please list camps attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Fees are payable upon registration - Cash or Check Payable to: Thornapple Kellogg Athletics **\*\*Due two weeks prior to camp**

**Mail to: Thornapple Kellogg Athletics - Summer Camps; 3885 Bender Road, Middleville, MI 49333**

I hereby voluntarily release and hold harmless Thornapple Kellogg Schools and all employees of Thornapple Kellogg Schools from all liability for all types of damages or injuries, whether foreseeable, or not, sustained by myself, my child and any other family members while participating, watching/traveling to or from this activity.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# BOARD NEWS

## Two New TK Board Members Begin Duties

Alexis Snyder and Jeff Dickman were sworn in as new members of the Thornapple Kellogg Board of Education April 21. They were both appointed to the board to fill unfulfilled terms of office.

The board interviewed five highly qualified individuals who expressed interest in serving. Snyder and Dickman will serve until the next regular school board election in November 2016.

Dickman's three children all started at TK through schools of choice. Since then the family moved into the district so they could be more involved.

Snyder is the co-founder of Parents for TK Schools and has three children in the district. Her care for TK Schools and public schools in general is what led her to apply for the open seat.

TK Board President Dave Smith said the board was pleased to have a number of strong candidates interested in serving. "It's great that

we had so many who want to give back to the community by serving on the school board. Two rose to the top and we're excited to have them join us on the board," he said.

The two will fill the vacancies of Josh Thomas and Joyce Bobolts.

Thomas resigned for personal reasons and time conflicts. Bobolts announced her resignation when she accepted a new job out of the district.

Congratulations to Dickman and Snyder!



# TEACHER FEATURE

## High School Teacher Takes Pride in Helping Students Prepare for Careers



When exploring options beyond high school, Scott Meyers never considered teaching and wasn't sure he even wanted to stay in the Middleville area.

But fate had other plans and Meyers eventually found himself right back at TKHS where he graduated in 1995. He's in his 11th year now teaching industrial and tech education at the

high school and 21st Century Skills at the middle school. He even teaches engineering classes at Grand Rapids Community College. And, he said, he loves it.

"When I was in high school, I didn't like school very much. I wasn't a good student and when I graduated I never thought I would come back to Middleville," he admits sitting in his TK classroom surrounded by state-winning engineering and drafting projects his students have made over the years.

But it's his own experiences from high school that help him relate so successfully to his students today. "It helps me keep in mind that no matter what mistakes a student makes now, they'll learn from it. I count my mistakes as a blessing."

TK's industrial tech classes prepare students for futures in engineering, drafting and architecture and have them ready for college courses. Meyers said he's most satisfied when he hears from former students. "It makes me feel really good when I hear from them two or three years later and they tell me they know so much more than the other students in college. They're prepared. Not all high school students have opportunities to take these kinds of classes. It gives them an important leg up in college."

That's why Meyers said it's extremely important to continue the engineering and industrial arts program and also to keep up with technologies being used in industries today. One of the latest additions in the classroom is a 3D printer students use to actually make models of their designs.

Meyers said he realizes now TK feels like home. "I love being here. I love teaching the kids," he said.

His teaching career might never have been launched if it weren't for his mother, now a retired teacher from McFall Elementary. Her suggestion sent him to Grand Rapids Community College and Western Michigan University where he earned a teaching degree in industrial tech education and minor in drafting.

Meyers lives with his wife, Jessica, and their black lab, Bella in Wayland. They enjoy spending time on their boat on Gun Lake and Meyers also enjoys golfing. Here are a few more of his favorites:

**Favorite vacation ever** - Jamaica

**Favorite teams** - Michigan State Spartans and Chicago Bears

**Favorite book** - "Watchers" by Dean Koontz

**What one super power would he like to possess** - "The ability to read minds. I always wonder what people are thinking."

**If he could change one thing about his program at TK** - "I wish my classroom was on Main Street next to the art classrooms where everybody can see what we do."

**Best part about teaching at TK** - "It's the community. It's comfortable and not in a bad way. There's comfort knowing it's large enough you don't know everybody, but it's small enough to feel like everyone cares. And the support for the schools from the community is the best. I hope that always continues."

## TKHS Couple Helps Others Around the World



High school sweethearts Erica Carter and Zia Shook found friendship and love at an early age. Both shared a desire to help others and now they are putting that passion to work.

Together they've started a foundation called Pandora 4 Hope. The foundation focuses on health and

education issues including preventative health education in Afghanistan and other rural countries. "Many girls don't get to go to school. The Pandora Foundation provides medical care, education for girls and hopefully a better future for women and children," said Zia.

Zia, a 2001 TKHS graduate, always knew he wanted to give back to his native country. As a young child, his home in Afghanistan was bombed and shrapnel penetrated his lower back. Fortunately, Zia was one of the lucky few who was able to get medical treatment in the United States. He was adopted by David and Sally Shook and enrolled in TK Schools at about fourth grade. "I was someone who was helped by a foundation. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for them. I need to give back. I want to give back."

Zia said the vast majority of people in Afghanistan are victims who have very little if anything. "I would have been in the same position if I weren't allowed to come to the United States for treatment. Even if we can change one person's life, it's something and hopefully a start," he said.

Erica also works with the foundation and said she's proud of the work they've accomplished so far. She's also helping people in other ways. After graduation from TK in 2000, she went on to the University of Michigan for four years of undergraduate work, then continued at the U of M dental

school from 2005 to 2009. After a one-year residency in Minneapolis, she earned a spot at Oakland Highland Hospital in California as a maxillofacial surgeon.

She's now a faculty member at the Highland Hospital trauma center, and she also helps future surgeons by teaching at University of Pacific School of Dentistry. "It's interesting and challenging and at the same time I feel like I'm helping people. I love doing surgery."

Before starting the foundation, Zia attended Eastern Michigan University and earned a degree in physical education with a minor in health education. He worked as a personal trainer.

Both say Thornapple Kellogg Schools prepared them for their bright futures. Zia said even though he was an English second language student, teachers worked diligently with him. He missed almost four years of school, but teachers at TK never gave up on him. "Teachers really worked with me and were very caring. They made sure I got caught up and didn't fall through the cracks. I appreciate all the work they did to help me."

Zia said even though Middleville is a small town and the district not very racially diverse, he never felt unwanted. "I never really noticed any kind of racial divide. I felt at home," he said.

Erica said she too felt very prepared to pursue her dreams "I definitely feel I was prepared for college after high school. I really had a solid foundation and my high school teachers were amazing. I had a great knowledge base to build on," said Erica. She is the daughter of Debra Wierenga and Robert Carter.

The two recently purchased their first home and are expecting the birth of their first child this summer.

To learn more about their foundation, visit [www.pandora4hope.org](http://www.pandora4hope.org).

Know an alumnus we should feature in an upcoming edition of *The Key*? Contact us at [jmakarewicz@tkschools.org](mailto:jmakarewicz@tkschools.org).

## TK COMMUNITY POOL

Swimming is great exercise and a fun family activity. Please be aware that the pool schedule may change without notice due to water conditions and weather, so please call the Pool Information line at 269-795-5400, ext. 6643 for information and updates. In case of a tornado watch or warning, all pool events will be automatically cancelled.

### ADULT LAP SWIM

Monday – Thursday 5 – 6 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 8 – 9 pm

### OPEN/FAMILY SWIM

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

### AQUA AEROBICS

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

### POOL RENTAL

Pool rentals are available, and detailed information is available on the Operations page of the TK web site at [www.tkschools.org](http://www.tkschools.org). Please contact the Operations Department at 269-795-5535 for additional information.

### POOL FEES

#### Per Visit Pass:

TK district children and senior citizens \$1  
TK district adults \$2  
Out of district children and senior citizens \$2  
Out of district adults \$3

#### 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

### 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](http://www.ymcaofbarrycounty.org) to view the different swim levels and scheduled dates.

Questions and registration information can be directed to the YMCA office at 269-945-4574.

**BOXHOLDER**

**MAY / JUNE 2015**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 TKHS Night with the Stars 7 p.m.  TKHS parent advisory meeting 8 a.m.	2
3	4	5 <b>Election Day</b>  TKMS 6th grade orientation for parents 6 p.m.	6 TKMS 6th grade orientation for parents 9 a.m.	7 Lee 2nd grade special person day  McFall Y5 and kindergarten special person day	8 Lee 3rd grade special person day  McFall 1st grade special person day	9
10	11 School Board Meeting 7 p.m. MS 1616	12 TKHS Symphonic Band Concert 8 p.m.  TKMS parent advisory 9 a.m.	13	14 TKHS Jazz Band Concert 8 p.m.  TKMS Activity Event 2:30-4:30 p.m.	15 <b>TKHS Last day for SENIORS!</b>  Lee 3rd grade to Ag Awareness	16
17 Spring Pops Concert/TK Arts Festival 3-6 p.m.	18	19 TKHS Honors Night 7 p.m.	20	21 <b>TKHS graduation 7 p.m.</b>	22 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	23
24	25 <b>MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL</b>  TKMS band in Memorial Day Parade 10 a.m.	26	27	28 TKMS choir concert 7 p.m.  FREE sports physicals 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. girls 7:30-8:30 p.m. boys	29 Lee 2nd grade to Holland Tunnel Park  McFall field day	30
31	JUNE 1 6th grade band concert 7 p.m.	2 7th grade band concert 7 p.m.  8th grade band concert 8 p.m.  Lee 3rd graders to Yankee Springs	3 6th/7th grade play 7 p.m.  Lee 3rd graders to Yankee Springs	4 Lee Field Day	5 <b>Half Day - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!</b>  8th grade graduation 9 a.m.	6