

District News

April 3, 2014

In this issue:

District News

Strategic Planning
CAC, FAC & Kaneland Foundation
Membership
Parent Satisfaction Survey

Elementary School News

KST Tanzania Fundraising Effort
KBK Career Writing Day
KSS 1st Grade Ocean Learning
KME 1st Graders Enjoy Genius Hour
KST Welcomes Margaret Fox

Middle School News

6th Grade Energy Expo

High School

Smart Start Speakers Series

Kaneland Arts Initiative

Fine Arts Festival
Cavern Beat

Attachments

Please see the attachments section for a complete list.

Strategic Planning – Since the creation of its first strategic plan in 1991-92, Kaneland Community Unit District 302 has been in transition as a result of growth, greater community diversity and expectations, and advancements in the process of teaching and learning. Improvements in technology, advancements in research, knowledge related to learning and instruction; and changes in federal and state laws, learning standards and assessments have each had a major impact on the education of our students.

In response to these challenges and changes, the District has continued to engage in a strategic planning process to determine short-term and long-term needs in order to chart a course for the Board of Education and District's annual plan of work. Our current plan, called Vision 2014, runs through the end of this calendar year. Recently, a core planning team comprised of district administrators, building administrators and board members developed a timeline and process for the renewal of the strategic plan. The overall process is adapted from a strategic planning book called *Stakeholder-Driven Strategic Planning in Education* by Robert Ewy.



There are four products that emerge from the strategic planning process: the renewal of the District mission statement, system performance targets, strategy map and student keys to college and career readiness. The core planning team has again recommended that we use a similar process of focus group discussions to gather input for district goals and areas of focus and then a survey to help prioritize feedback. The list of focus groups has been broadened beyond just the Board Advisory Groups consulted in 2011. The core planning team has identified a number of stakeholder groups and a facilitator who will lead the discussion with each of those respective groups through the spring. Additionally, there will be open community forums in the evening of May 15, and the morning of May 17, for any interested community members not able to participate in another focus group.

All input will be collected into one document that the core planning team will use to develop the survey this summer and administer it to all community members at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. The feedback will then be utilized in the fall to develop the performance targets, strategy map and student keys document. The goal is to have a complete strategic plan by the end of the 2014 calendar year.

KST Welcomes Artist-in-Residence MARGARET FOX – More than 100 enthusiastic third graders were given an insider's view of music performance when Mezzo-soprano, Margaret Fox, visited John Stewart Elementary on March 18, in an event sponsored by the Kaneland Arts Initiative.

A recipient of numerous awards, Ms. Fox holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in vocal performance from Illinois Wesleyan University and The University of Wisconsin Madison respectively. Known for her expressive singing, luminous stage presence and distinctive vocal tone color; she made her operatic debut with the Florentine Opera in 2009 as the Third Spirit in Mozart's *Magic Flute*.



Photos by KST Media Tech Students



Ms. Fox captivated her young audience with an interactive presentation that included vocal demonstrations of many different languages, styles, and characters. Students learned about all aspects of opera and musical theatre, including fascinating demonstrations of costuming and staging.



A question-and-answer session concluded the presentation, with many students staying to meet the artist "up close and personally." The students were especially excited to learn that Ms. Fox will be joining them in concert April 10, at the John Stewart Elementary Open House.

Middle School News

Sixth Grade Energy Expo – On Thursday, March 20, the sixth grade red team presented an "Energy Expo", an interdisciplinary unit, for their families and friends during 1st and 9th periods.



Students were divided into groups during their literature classes and assigned a kind of energy from five renewable and four nonrenewable energies. After more than a month of work in their five core classes, the groups were able to display their researched items on trifolds and make brief speeches for their guests.

Each trifold contained three maps: national and international from social studies class, a diagram and paragraph of the process of obtaining the energy from science class, and three different kinds of paragraphs/ lists from communication skills. The students used Chromebooks to display bar and line graphs done in math class. All of these items were researched using three different sources in their literature, science and communication skills classes.



The trifolds were assembled, speeches practiced and bibliographies completed in literature and communication skills classes before the big day. All parts of the project were some of the new common core objectives.