



KAUKAUNA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
Community Ghost Story
 WINTER 2017

KASD serves all or portions of these communities

City of Kaukauna
 Town of Kaukauna
 Village of Sherwood
 Town of Buchanan
 Village of Harrison
 Town of Holland
 Town of Vanden Broek
 Town of Woodville
 Village of Combined Locks
 Village of Little Chute

Leadership Team

Superintendent
 Mark Duerwaechter
 Business Manager
 Robert Schafer
 Director of Elementary Education
 Kelli Antoine
 Director of Secondary Education
 Matthew Smith
 Director of HR, Legal Services
 Scott Mikesh
 Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
 Sarah Newberry

Principals

KHS – Corey Baumgartner
 River View – Daniel Joseph
 Haen – Holly Magness
 NDLC – Abbey Frischmann
 Park – Ken Kortens
 Quinney – Stacy Knapp
 Tanner – Elizabeth Thoreson

Board of Education

President: Giovanna Feller
 Vice President: Chris Bouressa
 Treasurer: Kathy Breitzman
 Clerk: John Moore
 Board Members:
 Chad Berken
 Sue Gertz
 Sam Kelly

Contact Us

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LET'S TALK ABOUT ... VISION

The District Vision Committee recently wrapped up its most recent step in the exploration process ... a survey in which we asked all of you — our community members — to help guide us into potential next steps for KASD. Thank you to all those that participated; we've received a very good response (with a rate slightly higher than that of the 2014 survey), and some very strong data to help guide us into the action process.

Here are a few key take-aways:

- Overall satisfaction with KASD has increased tremendously. In 2014, 64% of all respondents said that they were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with KASD; in 2016, that percentage increased to 85%. The jump moved us from the **bottom third** to the **top third** of the more than 300 districts surveyed by School Perceptions.
- The “Our Promise: Kaukauna Strong” comparison data showed significant growth in all six categories, the largest of which resulted from the statement, “I believe KASD is headed in the right direction.” Growth over +0.2 is considered significant; this statement yielded growth of +0.43.
- The “Facility Planning” and “Transportation” data give us clear direction toward areas KASD should **explore**, such as converting Tanner, to serve 4K through 4th grade, modifying start and end times, and investing in the future of River View, updating the existing building, renovating educational spaces to better serve our students and examining grade-level configuration.
- The Programs and Services data will continue to help guide us to improve programming for students with learning challenges, gifted and talented students, and students and families with mental wellness needs.

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WHERE THANKS IS DUE

Welcome to winter in Wisconsin ... and what a year it's been already! The snow, ice and cold temperatures have been wreaking havoc on our roads and our routines!

Throughout the unpleasant conditions that are created during these times of inclement weather, there are some members of our community who work very hard to keep us safe during what could be dangerous commutes. These deeds often go unnoticed, and we'd like to take a moment to extend our appreciation!

To the city, village, municipal and public works employees, who clear the snow and ice from our streets and keep our walkways and commute routes clean:

Thank you.

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

There's no denying it — KASD has the best teachers and staff around! Let's get to know another one of our "Staff Member of the Year" honorees!



Jacquelyn Clark
Special Educational
Assistant at Park
Community Charter
School

Years at KASD: 3

Favorite Kaukauna Pastime: The Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings and live music at Hydro Park on Wednesday evenings!

Favorite Teaching Moment: My favorite learning moments as an Educational Assistant come while watching our AMAZING teachers model loving guidance at its best! I believe it's important to build connections with our students in order to help them feel safe, loved and successful in their learning!

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? To me, Kaukauna Strong means to persevere, rise to challenges and strive to do my best every day.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- 2/28 River View Band Recital
7th Grade Band, 6:00pm
8th Grade Band, 7:30pm
- 3/10 Kaukauna High School Only
11:30am Dismissal
- 3/13 School Board Meeting
5:30pm, District Office
- 3/15 NO SCHOOL
- 3/27 School Board Meeting
5:30pm, District Office
- 3/27 KHS Pops Concert
5:30pm, KHS Auditorium
- 3/29 Senior Citizen Computer
Class, 6:30pm, KHS
- 4/10 School Board Meeting
5:30pm, District Office
- 4/12 - NO SCHOOL
- 4/17 Spring Break

STRONG *Kaukauna* IN OUR SCHOOLS



New Directions Learning Community: Students and teachers alike dressed as their favorite literary character on "Book Character Day." Teachers teamed up to dress as the crayons from *The Day the Crayons Quit* and everyone was part of our character parade!



River View Middle School: 6th grade students performed as part of their very own "Wax Museum." Each of the students was tasked with researching a historical figure and in January, dressed in character and presented from that historical figure's point of view. It was a fun opportunity for them, and a great chance for parents, teachers and other students to learn about some very influential historical figures.



Victor Haen Elementary School: 4th grade students at Haen take a minute for a picture with one of the very talented KHS Orchestra stars (who happens to be the daughter of their teacher, Mrs. Hietpas). The KHS Orchestra students performed a holiday show for Haen students.



Park Community Charter School: 2nd grade students used their keyboarding skills to type their three-paragraph opinion pieces about Conscious Discipline. They then videotaped and presented themselves sharing those opinion pieces. Principal Ken Kortens says:

"I am so proud of their determination and perseverance to put their keyboarding skills into meaningful application, integrating reading, writing, speaking and listening and technology! They are passionate and feel strongly about their Conscious Discipline opinion writing! Way to go second graders!"



Tanner Early Learning Center: January was a time to "Cozy up and Read" at Tanner. Family and friends were invited into our school to sit together, snuggle and read to one-another. One of our 1st grade students decided that it was a great time to lead in our next generation of young learners!

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER THE HALFWAY POINT



We've reached halftime. As an avid Packer fan, I always expect a strong first half, and Kaukauna Area School District didn't disappoint. While we don't have a giant scoreboard that brightly illustrates any defined "score," we certainly have plenty of evidence to show that we've had an excellent first half. **Let's examine:**

- The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Bank of Kaukauna stadium welcomed thousands to watch the first home football game of the varsity season and to tour the outstanding new facilities that are now in place to serve our students ... today, and for generations to come.
- We were proud to open this school year with a full-time principal welcoming students at Park Community Charter School, New Directions Learning Community and Victor Haen Elementary School. Staff, parents and students have been appreciating this new commitment.
- During the first half of this school year, we began rolling out our 1-to-1 Technology Plan, which begins the process of issuing a Google Chromebook to every student in grades 7-12. As part of this plan, students in grades 4K-6 will have access to one device per three students in each classroom.
- The District Vision Committee continued its planning work, launching a community survey seeking input on the future of the Kaukauna Area School District. While you can find the results from this community-wide survey in this newsletter, I'd like to personally note that I am extremely proud of the District's growth and am pleased that the community seems to recognize this as well. The results from this survey will provide excellent information and guidance for the District's ongoing improvement process.

- Kaukauna schools are brighter - LITERALLY. The new LED lights from the Energy Efficiency Project are being installed and have already made a significant difference throughout our schools.

- We are proud to report that, based on results from the 2015-2016 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction report cards, the Kaukauna Area School District **EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS**. Every school in the district met or exceeded state expectations and we saw marked growth over the two years since the last report cards were published. Congratulations to students, staff members, parents and community members; we all share in this achievement.

Great first half, KASD.

Now, for the second half: let's continue our forward progress. Let's not lose steam, rather use our momentum to push us to the next level — the highest level.

Success is not a number, a peak or an endpoint; success is a mindset that requires us to seek out challenges as opportunities to learn and grow; success is a process. Let's keep moving on this path and keep creating new opportunities for success, supporting and inspiring one another along this journey. Let's finish the year as we started it: **Kaukauna Strong**.

Enjoy the Community Ghost Story,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Duerwaechter'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mark Duerwaechter, Superintendent
Follow me on Twitter: @MrDuerwaechter

Vision ... continued from page 1

- The "School Feedback (Parents Only)" data shows "tremendous strides across the board," stated Bill Foster, School Perceptions, at the January 23rd meeting of the Board of Education. The comparison of responses from the 2014 and 2016 survey shows that from the seven schools and 63 possible items, the district saw no negative changes, 32 items improved and 31 items significantly improved.

In addition to the objective data, we're also working on analyzing and processing the comments, identifying the prevailing themes referencing similar issues and concerns. You'll be able to find all of the survey reports and data on the Kaukauna Area School District website. Simply visit www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us and click on the quick link on the right side of the page.

Overall, this survey will serve as a very useful tool in guiding the District Vision Committee and Kaukauna Schools as they continue moving forward. Thank you, again, to all those who participated, The voice of our community is important to us in understanding and defining our future and our success. 



EQ is turning FIFTY!

That's right ... the Electa Quinney building, constructed in 1966, is celebrating 50 years educating students here in Kaukauna. We're planning a special event this spring to celebrate, and we need your help!

*Do you have some memories or photos from your time at EQ, or know someone else that might? Please share with us the photo, date, and caption, along with your name and phone number by emailing us at eq50years@gmail.com. **Thank you!***

This publication was produced for the residents of the Kaukauna Area School District. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Residential Customer

SUCCEED WITH US

During January and February, Kaukauna Area School District, along with Little Chute and Kimberly Area School Districts, began a collaborative campaign highlighting the importance of public education. In the Heart of the Valley, our great public schools work to help every student, in every classroom, every day.

We believe in creating opportunities for success; in working together to learn, grow and create unique experiences for our students. **Believe with us.**

We inspire our students, guiding them to believe in themselves and leading them to inspire others. We work together to inspire each other. **Inspire with us.**

The future of our community is defined by the success of our children. **Succeed with us.**

Please continue to share the news about the great work being done in our public schools.



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To the crossing guards, who help our children get to and from school safely each day, even in the rain, snow, sleet and coldest of temperatures: **Thank you.**

To the bus drivers, who transport our students each day, cognizant of the road conditions and the precious cargo within their care: **Thank you.**

To the maintenance and operations staff of the Kaukauna Area School District, for their work keeping the buildings operating, and the sidewalks, playgrounds and parking lots safe for our staff and students: **Thank you.**

And to all of our staff members, who are flexible and work to maintain schedules, re-schedule canceled events, and keep the District and our schools running smoothly, even when outside forces make that difficult: **Thank you.**

We are one community; one spirit.
Kaukauna Strong.

