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Kenmore -Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

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October 2012

Ken-Ton Schools Begin School Year with New Academies

The Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD has received formal approval from the New York State Education Department to offer three new Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to students starting with the 2012-2013 school year. Offered as Career Academies, these new programs include the Computer Networking & Technology Academy, Pre-Engineering Academy, and Virtual Finance & Business Academy. Each CTE program or Career Academy offers students a variety of unique opportunities as they prepare for post-high school education and future careers.

Over the past two years, a select group of faculty members worked to complete an exhaustive program approval process that included curricula review, crosswalks with New York State Learning Standards, and staff development and training. Additionally, each program was reviewed by an advisory board composed of representatives from business, industry, government, and the school district. By granting formal approval, the New York State Education Department verifies that the District is indeed offering well-planned and highly-rigorous programs to students as they prepare for college and careers.

Starting with the 2010-2011 school year, the District has been able to take advantage of funding available through the New York State Carl D. Perkins Grant. This helped to fund program development efforts and upgrade facilities at Kenmore East and Kenmore West High

Schools. Academy and CTE Program planning also coincided with the District's investment in the internationally-recognized Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Pre-Engineering Program. The PLTW Program is now open to Pre-Engineering Academy and non-academy students alike. The PLTW Program is in its fifth year of implementation offering five unique engineering and design courses to students, including topics such as robotics, three-dimensional modeling, product development, and the engineering design process.

Students participating in a Career Academy have a number of advantages as they prepare for post-high school graduation plans. Academy students have the opportunity to earn college credit through a variety of "hands-on" courses. Additionally, Career Academy students have a variety of opportunities to gain valuable experience through work-based learning opportunities that include job shadowing, internships, workplace visits, and cooperative learning. Finally, among a number of other advantages, students completing program requirements will receive a unique CTE diploma endorsement attesting to their high level of achievement and learning.

On a typical day at both Kenmore East and West High Schools, students in Introduction to Engineering Design classes can be found producing components for their designs using a three-dimensional printer. Designs are created in engineering design labs using state-of-the-art modeling software. Technology education students have a wide variety of courses, including courses on digital electronics, robotics, construction, manufacturing, and an open-ended capstone design course for high school seniors.

At Kenmore East High School, students in Nancy Pray's Business classes use business productivity apps on Apple iPads purchased using grant funding. Ken-Ton's Virtual Enterprise and Finance Academy provides a unique learning environment where students begin to learn how to be successful in today's business environment. In

each Career Academy, students gain real-world experience using industry-standard technology.

With the start of the new school year, over 100 Ken-Ton students have enrolled in a Career Academy. Enrollment is always open to eligible students and further information may be found on the District's website or by going to tiny.cc/KenTonSchools. Additionally, students and parents are encouraged to contact a guidance counselor if they are interested.



Andy Robinson uses an Apple iPad in his Business Education class as part of Kenmore East High School's Virtual Enterprise and Finance Academy.

Looking down the road, the District has ongoing plans to expand Academy offerings, including an Information Technology Academy that is still in the approval process. "The Ken-Ton Academies are an integral part of our Multiple Pathways initiative that works to offer all students meaningful educational opportunities that prepare them for college or career", indicated Superintendent of Schools Mark P. Mondanaro. "The first participating students in the history of our District will also be graduating from Ken West this year with International Baccalaureate Diplomas and Ken East is just now starting the same offering. Additionally, hundreds of students are taking Advanced Placement courses annually and almost three hundred students attend Vocational Training courses through Erie 1 BOCES."

During the coming year, efforts will continue to educate students, parents, staff, and the Ken-Ton community about the new opportunities available to students. Additionally, work is underway to recruit additional assistance from the business community to strengthen the business-to-education connection that makes these Career Academies a meaningful educational opportunity.



Shannon Munley (left) and Sara Taylor (right), both in their second year of the Project Lead the Way Program, inspect prototype created using a three-dimensional printer at Kenmore East High School.

Ken-Ton LOTE News

It's a busy time of year for teachers and students of LOTE (Languages other than English)!

Preparations for Oktoberfest celebrations are under way as German Clubs at Kenmore East, West, and Hoover Middle anticipate sampling German sausage, home-cooked sauerkraut, potato salad, and black forest cake. Get out your Lederhosen! Students at Kenmore West and East are also looking forward to the arrival of their German partners from the Franken-Gymnasium in Zülpich, Nordrheinwestfalen, who are scheduled to arrive on October 14 for a ten-day stay.



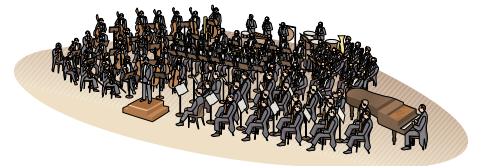
French students are signing up for the biannual trip to Québec, February 10-13, which will be during the Carnaval de Québec. Dog sledding, a tour of old Québec, a visit to the famous ice hotel and dinner at a sugar shack are some of the activities students will enjoy as they try out their French and explore French-Canadian culture.



Students in Spanish Club will be attending a performance of the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba at the UB Center for the Arts in October, and planning is well under way for IB and upper level Spanish students to travel to Costa Rica in spring 2013!

Studying a foreign language helps students understand English grammar better and improves their overall communication and problem-solving skills. Beyond the intellectual benefits, knowledge of a foreign language facilitates travel, enhances career opportunities, and enables one to learn more about different peoples and cultures. (National Research Council 2007).

Did you know that parents can help their children in foreign language, even if you don't speak the language they are learning? Visit <http://www.nysaftl.org/parents/> to find out how!



New PLTW Course Offered

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), in their Job Outlook 2012 Report, the top five attributes employers look for on a candidate's resume are: ability to work in a team, leadership, communication skills, problem-solving skills, and strong work ethic. Fortunately for Ken-Ton students, the opportunity to develop these skills is available in a wide variety of technology education courses offered at the middle and high school levels. Furthermore, with the 2012-2013 school year, a new opportunity for students to be college and career ready is available, building and developing these employability attributes, in a course called Engineering Design & Development.

The 2012-2013 school year is the fifth and final year of implementation of the internationally recognized pre-engineering program called Project Lead the Way (PLTW) at the high school level. The addition of this program to the district's high schools has ushered in a wide-range of new opportunities for students. Over the past five years there has been a noticeable change in high school technology education classrooms, as new equipment and computer software has become available



Preparing students for the global economy

for student use. Additionally, the curriculum has been updated and teachers have benefited from high-quality training at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) that has transformed the learning environment to the benefit of students.

Engineering Design & Development, or PLTW EDD as it is known, is a capstone design course where students put into practice the interdisciplinary knowledge and skills they have developed throughout their coursework, including the integration of mathematics, science, reading, and writing. Students, working in teams, identify a problem or opportunity requiring a technical or engineered solution and work towards creating a functional prototype that satisfies the recognized need or want. At the completion of the design project, all student work groups will be evaluated by the PLTW advisory board, which is composed of representatives of business and industry.

Adding PLTW EDD to the course offerings has been funded through the district's Carl D. Perkins Grant, which is provided by the New York State Education Department to create and improve Career & Technical Education (CTE). This funding has been used to create the district's four Career Academies (go to tiny.cc/KenTonSchools for more Career Academy information). A significant component of the funding has been dedicated to curriculum and staff development.

The addition of PLTW EDD brings the total number of PLTW courses offered to five. Courses offered include: Introduction to Engineering Design (formerly known as DDP), Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Principles of Engineering, and Digital Electronics. Students completing these courses are highly prepared for college and careers in technical fields including, but not limited to, engineering. Students interested in hands-on learning, high-tech careers, the opportunity to develop highly-valued employability attributes, or simply looking for a unique learning experience are encouraged to speak with their counselor or find their closest tech teacher.

What's Happening in the Business Department at KW

The Business Department's new **Virtual Enterprise & Finance Academy** is underway where the **Virtual Enterprise** students have studied Entrepreneurs and are currently presenting their research on famous entrepreneurs.

In Mr. McPhee's **Business and Personal Law** courses, students are learning civil trial procedures and will be conducting a mock trial.

The students in Mrs. Brania's **Web Design** class just finished learning about the World Wide Web and Internet Safety. This week the students are starting to learn HTML (hypertext markup language) to create their very own Web pages.

Business Math students have mastered the Skills Workshops and are now learning about their paychecks, what to do with all that money they earn, and how to keep track of what they have.

Students in Mrs. Brania's **Work-Study** program are learning about jobs and careers. Over the next few weeks, various guest speakers will be coming in to talk to the students about career exploration, interviewing for success and résumé tips.

Our future accountants from Mrs. Herr's **Accounting** class are well on their way to reconciling balance sheets, debits, credits, T-accounts and oh, don't forget ALOE!

Students taking **Keyboarding Personal Documents and Computers & the Internet** are really getting some hands-on experience learning the keyboard. Why they're almost finished with the letters and will soon be learning numbers – without looking at their hands!

Mrs. Herr's **CEIP (Career Exploration Internship Program)** interns are going in all directions: Cora, Amanda, and Patrick are headed back to elementary school in kindergarten, 5th grade and physical education classes and speaking of sports, Kelcei is getting very involved with her mentor as a sports trainer at Nichols School. Nickel, bronze, steel, that's what Justin will be working with as he tries his hand at machining with Ace Specialty. Steven will be using different materials to make signs as a graphic artist and you might see Courtney putting up "Sold" signs or hosting an open house with Hunt Reality. Sabah wants you to have a bright and shiny smile while she interns at Kenmore Dental, and Mikhayla is really smiling because she is excited about her placement with the North Tonawanda Police Department. All these Ken West interns are learning about their career choices right here in the KenTon community. Their experiences are truly hands-on, what more could you ask for!



All About Wellness

What is your definition of wellness?

More than ever before, we hear this word in the news, on billboards, in conversations with colleagues, and even with the students in our schools. There is no universally accepted definition of wellness, but it is thought of more as an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a more successful existence.

This year, the Kenmore-Tonawanda District Wellness Committee will be working with individual school Building Wellness Teams to meet the goals and objectives of the Carol M. White Physical Education Program. The Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD was awarded a \$381,000 grant from the federal government to expand and enhance physical education and nutrition programs in our schools and community for students in K-12th grade. Lessons and activities will be taught to students in the curricular areas of Physical Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Health Education.

In an attempt to raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, the Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD Wellness Committee will also be participating in Red Ribbon Week during the week of October 22-26. This year's theme is "The Best Me Is Drug Free".

You can be a part of creating a drug-free America by taking the Red Ribbon Pledge:

1. As parents, we will talk to our children about the dangers of drug abuse.
2. We will set clear rules for our children about not using drugs.
3. We will set a good example for our children by not using illegal drugs or medicine without a prescription.
4. We will monitor our children's behavior and enforce appropriate consequences, so that our rules are respected.
5. We will encourage family and friends to follow the same guidelines to keep children safe from substance abuse.



For more information on Red Ribbon Week, please visit <http://redribbon.org>

Updated Wellness information will be posted on the Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD website throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

Hoover Middle School Unites to Stop Bullying

On October 10, 2012, Hoover Middle School staff and students joined PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center in observing Unity Day. Unity Day is dedicated to bullying education and prevention. Students participated in various activities from wearing orange to signify their commitment to end bullying to signing "The End of Bullying Begins with Me" petition. "Students have important work to do each day at school in order to become college and career ready. This work can easily become compromised when a student feels threatened, worried or unsafe. Unity Day gives us another chance to teach students about the lifelong impact bullying can have and empower students to create a positive culture where bullying is unacceptable," said Principal Carmelina Persico.



Official T-Shirt of National Bullying Prevention Month

Kenton Music News

Last Spring over 6,800 10th and 11th grade students from across New York State auditioned for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Music Ensembles. The Ken-Ton District Music Department is proud to have six students from our district selected for these ensembles & 2 students selected as alternates.

Kenmore East Band Director Phil Aguglia announced that Michael Christie and Dan Bub have been selected for the All-State Jazz Ensemble and Nathan Weller is an alternate for the Ensemble.

Michael Christie, a senior at Kenmore East, will be performing in the All-State Jazz Ensemble on the trumpet. Michael performs in the Kenmore East Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Honors Jazz Band and Concert Band.

Dan Bub performs in the Kenmore East Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Honors Jazz Ensemble. He is a junior and will play Baritone Saxophone in the All-State Jazz Ensemble.

Senior Nathan Weller has been selected as an alternate on the Drumset for the Jazz Ensemble. Nathan plays in the Kenmore East Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Honors Jazz Ensemble.

Jacqueline Harning has been selected to play violin in the All-State Symphonic Orchestra. She is in her senior year at Kenmore East and performs in the Orchestra and String Ensemble under the



Left to right: Bryan Goyette, Jacqueline Harning, Nathan Weller, Michael Christie, Dan Bub and Kathleen Kane

direction of Gail Bauser.

Also from the Kenmore East Orchestra and String Ensemble is senior Bryan Goyette. Bryan will be playing cello in the All-State String Orchestra.

Aaron Schuman will be performing in the All-State Symphonic Band on the Trumpet. Aaron is a senior at Kenmore West where he performs in the Wind Ensemble and Select Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Kenneth Belote.

Kenmore West flautist Charles Henneberger is an alternate for the All-State Ensembles. As a junior Charles performs in the Kenmore West Wind Ensemble.

Kathleen Kane performs in

the Select Choir at Kenmore East under the direction of Jill Neuhaus. Kathleen is a senior and will be singing in the alto section of the All-State Mixed Chorus.

These students will attend the NYSSMA conference from November 29th through December 2nd in Rochester. After three days of rehearsal, they will perform in a showcase concert for all of the music educators from across the state.



Left to right: Charles Henneberger, Aaron Schuman

BFMS Family and Consumer Science Classes to Pilot a New Junior Achievement Program for 7th Graders

Junior Achievement of WNY is excited to partner with Ben Franklin Middle School to pilot a new Junior Achievement (JA) Program, JA Career Ready: Tools for Tomorrow. Only 16 Junior Achievement areas across the United States were invited to pilot this new material and provide feedback toward the final changes. Ben Franklin's Family and Consumer Science Department's four seventh grade classes participating in the pilot program this fall are representing WNY in the development process.

JA Career Ready: Tools for Tomorrow provides practical information about preparing for the working world while still in middle school. The following key topics are discussed: personal branding; career mapping; work ethics and professionalism; job hunting tools; and skills, interests, working environ-

ment, and job forecasting in career selection.

The four classes, taught by Mrs. Amy Donn, are each receiving six lessons presented by local business professionals: Michael Barrett Winter, Premier Relationship Manager at HSBC Bank; Terrance Farrell, Foreclosure Specialist at M&T Bank; Jim Nowak, Field Training Manager at Pepsico; and Leslie Segarnick, former President of Action Employment Resources. Along with teaching the pilot curriculum, the four volunteers will also share their "real world" experiences with the students. By creating partnerships between educators, the business community and volunteers, JA empowers students with the skills they need to own their economic success.

Throughout the six lessons, students will participate in many hands-on activities such

as interviewing one another, designing their own logos, creating job murals, making recruiting posters for a career fair, conducting a job hunting scavenger hunt, and receiving journals. Their feedback, along with Amy Donn's, the JA volunteers' and JA staff members' input, will be reviewed carefully by JA USA as they make final changes to the program, which will be launched nationwide in Fall 2013.

Not only does JA value the opportunity to pilot this program at Ben Franklin Middle, but JA is also pleased to maintain its longstanding relationship with the Ken-Ton School District this year, providing students in grades Kindergarten through 12 with financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship programs. For more information about JA, please visit www.jawny.org.



District Math Night

All Parents Welcome!



WHO:	All parents of K-5 students in the Ken-Ton District
WHAT:	A night designed for parents to learn about your child's math program
WHERE:	Hoover Elementary School Auditorium 199 Thorncliff Rd. (via Sheridan Dr. entrance)
WHEN:	Thursday, October 18th from 6:15—8:00 <i>*** Registration is at 6:15***</i>
WHY:	To help support your child 's math education at home.

Please join us!!!



Blue Devil Softball Coach Receives High Honor



Long-time Ken-Ton teacher and coach, Matt Chimera was recently honored by Section VI and the Niagara Frontier League (NFL) for his displays of good sportsmanship throughout his softball coaching career. The honor of Most Sportsmanlike Coach in the NFL was presented to Coach Chimera at a banquet on August 29.

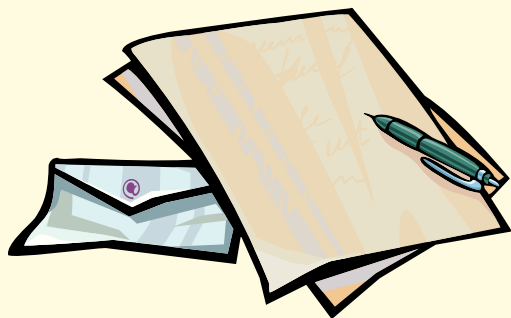
Chimera was chosen by the NFL athletic directors out of 160 varsity coaches. Now in his 19th year as head softball coach, Chimera has established a program where academics, sportsmanship and success go hand in hand. His teams have annually earned recognition from New York State for carrying a collective grade point average of 90% or higher, have captured 11 NFL titles, 4 Section VI Championships and 1 State Championship (2002).

Coach Chimera went over 300 career wins early last spring and we are proud of his career, his teams and their accomplishments. Congratulations Coach Chimera!

An Open Letter Complimenting a Ken-Ton Coach

I am the varsity volleyball coach at Clarence and wanted to pass on a compliment to your Kenmore West girls' volleyball coach, Kelly Strong (PE teacher at Lindbergh Elementary School) and to one of her players. In the playoffs of the Frontier Tournament we were in a tight game to 30-points. At approximately 22-22 a ball was hit out by one of my Clarence players. At the time we thought that the Ken West player had touched it. Neither referee had seen the touch so Kenmore West would have scored a point and been that much closer to beating us. However, your player (setter) called the touch on herself and Clarence was awarded a point. Clarence eventually won the match.

Volleyball is one of a very few sports where athletes will make an honor call, and I see fewer and fewer coaches who encourage this practice. Your coach has obviously instilled a strong sense of sportsmanship and fair play in her girls and both she and the player should be commended.



Happenings At Holmes!

Holmes Elementary School kicked off the school year with a remodeled exterior! New windows and bricks gave the school a much needed facelift.

Students and faculty also celebrated the kickoff of their brand new school-wide behavior program "It Starts with Me". The program is based upon the school's mission statement and the book *Leader in Me* by Stephen Covey. Students are nominated monthly for being outstanding role models for the school community and receive school-wide recognition.



Sweet Beginnings at Hoover Middle School



Mark Begovich (left), Bailey Begovich (right), HMS 7th grader

Going back to school was a little sweeter for students at Hoover Middle School. On September 13, 2012, Hoover Middle School's Student Council and Home School Association (HSA) hosted an Ice Cream Social Family Night featuring Mr. Softee's ice cream truck while promoting literacy and extra-curricular programs. Events included a fair highlighting activities offered during and after school, HSA's first Scholastic Book Fair of the year, and the grand opening of the Hoover Middle School Book Exchange in which students

traded-in books from home for new books. Hoover's ELA teachers and library staff also presented informational sessions on the online reading enrichment program, Scholastic Reading Counts.

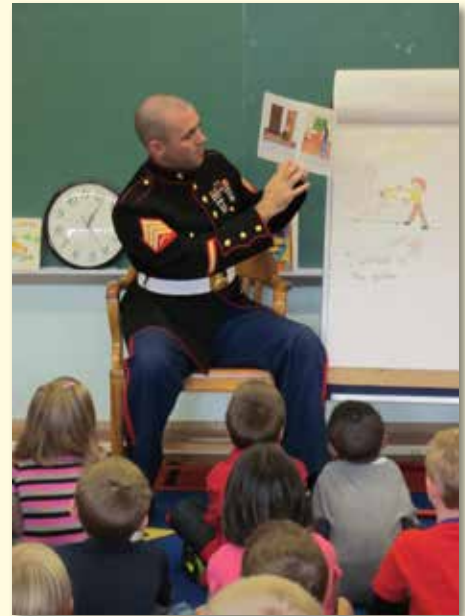
"This event continues the building of positive connections between home and school. Our mission is to develop self-directed, lifelong learners of good character. Parental support and student connections are key elements in reaching this goal," explained Principal Carmelina Persico.

Sing for America/ Read with a Hero Assembly

Hoover Elementary School Commemorates 9/11



Det. Bob Goetz – Town of Tonawanda Police Department



USMC Sgt. Matthew Clanton

Students, faculty and community members held a program on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, to commemorate the eleventh anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The assembly included the singing of patriotic songs, led by Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Feathers and Mrs. Moore, music staff, and a brief explanation of what happened that tragic day. The second part of the program was “Read with a Hero”. Guests included Town of Tonawanda Supervisor Anthony Caruana, police and paramedics, Twin City Ambulance EMT’s, The Red Cross and military personnel. The program began at 8:45 in the Hoover auditorium, then the guests read with the students in their classrooms. The assembly was coordinated by Sue Busch and Linda Gianturco, Hoover Elementary Reading Teachers.

Red Ribbon Week at Hoover Middle School Encourages Students to Be Drug-Free

Hoover Middle School students and staff are gearing up for Red Ribbon week, October 22, 2012 through October 26, 2012. “Each day of the week is dedicated to students showing their commitment to staying healthy and drug-free from wearing crazy socks to superhero dress up day. This week not only raises school spirit but gives us a unique opportunity to discuss difficult topics such as drug use and the long-term effects it can have upon lives,” says Bryan Strauss, HMS teacher and Red Ribbon Week Coordinator. Red Ribbon Week will kick off with an assembly featuring national speaker, Mark O’Brien, who now works for DiVal Safety in Buffalo, NY. O’Brien, a U.S. Marine Corporal and Purple Heart recipient, will speak to students about R.O.A.R.S, the school’s character education program which emphasizes Respect, Ownership, Attitude, Responsibility and Safety and the relationship these traits have to making good choices at school, home, and in the community. Hoover Middle School is located at 249 Thornclyff Road in the Town of Tonawanda.



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 Stephen Bovino, Asst. Supt.,
 Human Resources Fax: 874-8546
 Robin Zymroz, Director of
 Student Services..... Fax: 874-8615
 Barbara Battaglia, Director Data,
 Research..... Fax: 874-8624
 Alan Erzkus, Director of
 Special Education Fax: 874-8615

Green Acres Building

205 Yorkshire Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150-8350
 KTA837-3710
 * 835 Englewood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14223
 KTSEA..... 837-3850

Longfellow Building

..... Fax: 874-8568
 255 Myron Road, Buffalo, NY 14217-2440
 Family Support Center.....874-8510

Sheridan Building

.....874-8411
 3200 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo NY 14217-1174
 Big Picture Program Fax: 874-8609
 Robin Zymroz, Director of Student Services
 Staff Development Center Fax: 874-8506
 Elaine Altman, Director
 Teresa Crawford,
 Attendance Counselor Fax: 874-8609
 Jennifer Kladke,
 Medical Director Fax: 874-8609

Transportation Building

.....874-8611
 1680 Military Road, Kenmore NY 14217-1128
 Jack Burns, Supervisor Fax: 874-8618
 Physical Education..... 871-3082
 Fax: 873-1259
 Brett Banker, Director/School Health & Welfare

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Franklin Elementary School.....874-8415
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 Patricia Kosis, Principal ... pkosis@kenton.k12.ny.us

Franklin Middle School.....874-8404
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Lindbergh Elementary School.....874-8410
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Roosevelt Elementary School874-8409
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 Tracy Spagnolo, Principal
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Regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:30 PM.

Call 874-8400, ext. 5338
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at www.kenton.k12.ny.us to confirm time and location