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# THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Spring 2017

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
KIRTLAND, OH 44094

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## ISSUE 1: WILL NOT RAISE TAXES

### What is Issue 1?

Issue 1 is a 7.07-mill, five-year renewal operating levy on the May 2 ballot. Issue 1 will continue to generate \$2.28 million annually for general operating expenses – about 16 percent of the Kirtland Local Schools’ total budget. Issue 1 will allow the district to maintain its current level of academic excellence without raising taxes.

### What will dollars fund?

Operating levy dollars are used for the following expenses:

- Direct classroom instruction
- Student services (nurses, counselors, media specialists)
- Diverse and well-rounded extracurricular programs
- Safety and security
- K-12 transportation
- Daily operating expenses

### What has the district done to operate more efficiently?

The Kirtland Local Schools and the Board of Education take fiscal responsibility to the community seriously. Since this levy was first approved in 2012, annual expense growth averages 1.55 percent, compared to

the statewide average of 3 percent to 4 percent. We achieved this through the following actions:

- A reduction of 11 positions
- Utilize shared services to meet district needs (treasurer, bus mechanic, food service)
- Grant opportunities (Straight A grant, EPA bus grant)
- All spending decisions must meet the Board’s five fiscal management beliefs:
  - » All fiscal decisions are made in the context of the five-year fiscal projections
  - » Management options are attached to every dollar spent
  - » Every dollar spent must add value to teaching and learning
  - » Focus on aggressive management of the largest expense areas
  - » Aggressively pursue avoidance of deficit spending

Issue 1 is endorsed by Kirtland City Council.

You can track your absentee ballot, find your polling location, view a sample ballot and check your voter registration on the Lake County elections site, [www.lakecountyohio.gov/lakeelections](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/lakeelections).

## FOLLOW US

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Kirtland High School Principal Lynn Campbell on Twitter @KirtlandHS-Prin  
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Kirtland Athletics at [www.kirtlandhornet.org](http://www.kirtlandhornet.org) | Kirtland Local Schools at [www.kirtlandschools.org](http://www.kirtlandschools.org)



**ISSUE 1**  
**KIRTLAND SCHOOLS**  
**VOTE ON MAY 2!**  
**OPERATING LEVY RENEWAL:**  
**NO NEW TAXES!**  
**WORKING TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

To Our Kirtland Schools Families,



It's hard to believe we are in the final quarter of the year. I am proud of all the hard work our students, teachers and staff have accomplished, and look forward to a strong finish.

My first year has afforded me many opportunities to get to know our school community. I am impressed with the educational excellence and am

looking forward to working together with our community to continue to move our district forward.

In the coming months, we will begin our strategic planning and encourage any community member who wants to be a part of this initiative to contact my office. Strategic planning involves bringing together a cross-section of community stakeholders to establish district priorities and provide an outline of goals and initiatives to set the course for the district's future.

Under the leadership of the Board of Education, the Kirtland Local School District placed a 7.07-mill renewal operating levy on the May 2 ballot.

Issue 1 is a five-year renewal of a 2012 levy that expires at the end of this year. It's important to note Issue 1 will **NOT** raise taxes, but it will generate \$2.28 million annually – about 16 percent of our annual budget.

Our district takes its fiscal responsibility to the community seriously. Following the Board's fiscal management beliefs, the district has held its annual expense growth to an average of 1.55 percent – half of the state average. We also look for ways to cut expenses, including sharing services and looking for alternative funding opportunities.

Issue 1 will allow the Kirtland Local Schools to maintain educational excellence into the future. The Kirtland Local Schools have a tradition of excellence that is only possible through our supportive community. If you have questions about Issue 1, please contact myself or Treasurer Daniel L. Wilson.

Bill Wade  
Superintendent

## QUALITY PROFILE

The Kirtland Schools' community places a high value on education and expects its schools to provide well-rounded, world-class experiences that prepare students for success in college, career and life. The Quality Profile is a companion to the Ohio Local Report Card that helps characterize the overall educational value of public education beyond standardized testing. The Quality Profile captures highlights of academics, the arts, athletics, extracurricular, student services, community support and financial information that demonstrate the values that are important to the Kirtland Schools' community. Look for a digital copy of the Quality Profile on our website, [www.kirtlandschools.org](http://www.kirtlandschools.org).



## KEY COMMUNICATOR

In an effort to increase communications with all of our stakeholders, the Kirtland Local Schools have launched the Key Communicator e-newsletter. The Key Communicator is a tool we hope will become a two-way form of communication to share the good news going on in our classrooms and district, and also to provide our community with facts about school and district events. Subscribe to the Key Communicator e-newsletter by emailing [keycommunicator@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:keycommunicator@kirtlandschools.org).

## PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

A Preschool Open House for new families will be held Thursday, April 20, from 4-6 p.m. in the Kirtland Elementary School Preschool room E103. To register, please call 440.354.7090.

Kindergarten registration for the 2017-2018 school year will take place on May 5. Call the Kirtland Elementary School office at 440.256.3344 x. 2000 to set up an appointment. Your child must be 5 years old by Sept. 30. All required enrollment documents are on the Kirtland Local Schools website at [www.kirtlandschools.org](http://www.kirtlandschools.org) under the "Parents" tab. If you need paper copies of enrollment documents, stop by the Kirtland Elementary School office. Parent(s) and child must both attend the registration appointment.



## KIRTLAND BOOSTER CLUB NEEDS YOU!

Did you know the Kirtland Booster Club funds the majority of Kirtland Local Schools' middle and high school athletic budgets? The nonprofit club also provides support to many extracurricular and community activities, but they need new members to continue providing this level of district and community support.

An Athletic Booster membership is only \$50 per year. Membership includes:

- Discount tickets to home athletic events
- Invitations to all Booster-sponsored parties and fundraisers
- Hornet souvenir
- Listing in future programs and the website
- Kickoff Reverse Raffle ticket

Consider joining and occasionally volunteering your time to help out at Kirtland Booster Bingo. Visit [www.kirtlandboosters.com](http://www.kirtlandboosters.com) and pay for your membership online, or print and fill out a membership form.

## KHS STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL ROTARY SPEECH CONTEST



Madison Zdravec represented Kirtland High School in the regional Rotary 4 Way Test Speech Contest at Aurora High School. She earned the spot by placing first in the Willoughby Rotary Club's local speech contest in March for her eloquent and impassioned speech on youth engagement in politics.

The Rotary speech contest challenges students to solve an ethics problem using the principles of the Rotary's 4 Way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

While Madison did not advance to district competition, she was lauded for her oratory skills and important message. She was honored at the April Willoughby Rotary Club luncheon and presented with a \$250 check for her local first-place win.

## KES INVENTORS ADVANCE TO STATE COMPETITION

Three Kirtland Elementary School fifth-grade students won the first round of Invention Convention, which joined forces with Invention League.

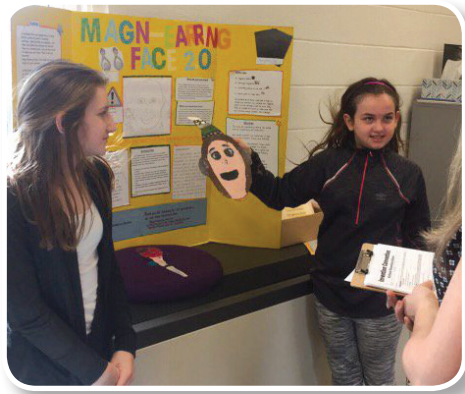
Tabitha Blankenship's "Set Preserver," Adriana Freitas and Lily Hocevar's "Magn-Earrings," and Lily Whittaker's and Nora Withrow's "Fun Mops+" will go on to compete in the state competition at the Ohio State Fairgrounds this summer.

Invention Convention recently joined forces with Invention League to inspire curiosity, confidence and creative problem-solving in youth, and to advance invention and entrepreneurial education. Winners at the state competition will participate in national competition next June.

In addition to the winners above, four other teams were selected to send a video of their inventions for a chance to compete at the state level. They are:

- Daniel Bak for "Bumper Sticker Protector"
- Sophia Wojnar and Nina Loncar for "The Hairbrush Hairtie Holder"
- Nathan Ream and Vinny Kastelic for "Clean Your Screen"
- Drew Torzok for "Laser Lineup"

Advisor Kristi Reilly, gifted intervention specialist, said the project revolves around 21st century problem solving combined with engineering and designing, plus public speaking.



## KES STUDENTS CELEBRATE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

During the school year, students throughout the Kirtland Local Schools participate in a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) program to increase positive behaviors throughout the school day. Students are challenged by the six tenets of The HORNET Way – to be hard working, open minded, respectful, noble, engaged and trustworthy.

Kirtland Elementary School students are rewarded for displaying one of the behaviors with a "Golden Ticket" from their teachers. Golden Ticket recipients are celebrated at school through various rewards, and all students who receive a Golden Ticket during the fall semester are invited to attend a special dinner in their



honor, which is organized and served by KES teachers, staff and PBIS committee members.

In February, more than 800 students and their family members were treated to a taco dinner in the Kirtland High School cafeteria. After dinner, students were treated to games and activities in The Nest, courtesy of the KHS National Honor Society, while parents were able to catch up with friends and relax.

## DISTRICT MONITORING STATE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The State of Ohio's school funding model places the primary responsibility for funding primary and secondary education on local communities. The Kirtland Local Schools receive 91 percent of its funding from local sources, 6 percent from the state, and 3 percent from miscellaneous income, such as investment income, fees and other sources.

Our district and Board of Education carefully monitor our two primary income sources for any variances. The district is analyzing its annual property tax collections to determine if Board of Revision actions and delinquent tax amounts will create unexpected budget challenges.

This spring, the Ohio Legislature is developing a state budget that includes a proposed reduction of \$294,000 over two years. Although our Board of Education actively oversees prudent management of expenses and aggressively pursues avoidance of deficit spending, the district does not control local and state sources of funding. Those two primary income areas have a significant impact on fiscal management.

We will continue to report to the community on this issue as additional information becomes available. If you have questions about district finances, contact Treasurer Daniel L. Wilson at dan.wilson@kirtlandschools.org or 440.256.3360 x.1003.

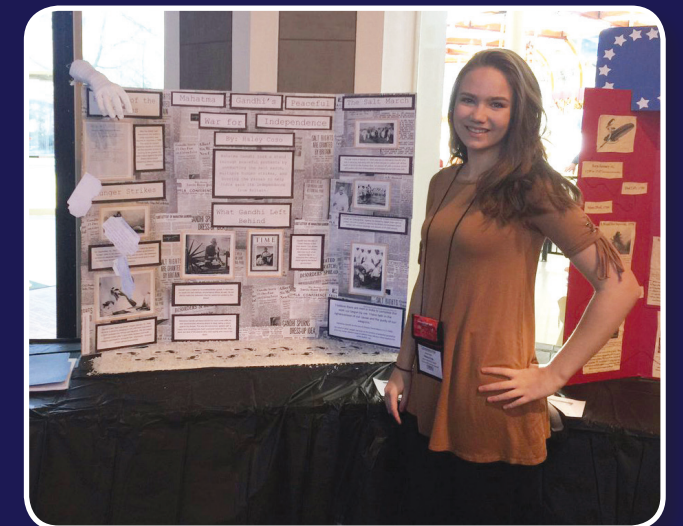
## KMS STUDENT "TAKING A STAND" AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY STATE CONTEST

Haley Coso advanced to the state contest for National History Day after earning an Honorable Mention at district competition for her individual exhibit about Mahatma Gandhi.

At Kirtland Middle School, all eighth-grade students participate in the National History Day project. The National History Day contest started in Cleveland in 1974 and has grown into a national program with more than half a million participants. National History Day encourages young people to explore a historical subject related to an annual theme.

This year's theme is "Taking a Stand in History." Students had to research primary and secondary source documents to create a product in one of five categories as an individual or group. Projects can include a paper, an exhibit, a documentary, a performance or a website.

This is the eighth year Kirtland participated in National History Day, and the fifth time a KMS student advanced



to the state contest. The state contest will be held April 29, where the winner will advance to the national contest in Washington, D.C. Social studies teacher Heidi Grunenberg oversees National History Day at KMS.

## KMS POWER OF THE PEN EARNS TOP AWARD

KMS Power of the Pen members competed against 160 middle school creative writers during district competition in February, bringing home the first-place award for the 7th grade level.

At the 7th grade level, Elin Conner took third place, Meara Polanski took 12th place and Angelina Giacomazza took 13th place. The team, with the support of members Ella Kessler, Chloe Latchaw and Kaley Ream, also brought home the first-place award for their level.

Dea Semaj placed 15th overall at the 8th grade level.



## KMS STUDENT NAMED 2017 LAKE COUNTY SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

Sixth-grade Kirtland Middle School student Michael Skalicki placed second in the Tri-County Spelling Bee in March. Michael powered through 17 rounds of intense competition to claim the runner-up award.

Michael made it to the regional spelling bee after lasting through 26 rounds, 93 words and beating out a series of students to emerge as the 2017 Lake County Spelling Bee Champion in February. Aside from being an accomplished speller, Michael also plays the piano and plays in several sports, including baseball, soccer and basketball.



## KHS KEY CLUB PUTS SERVICE FIRST



Service is a mainstay for the Kirtland High School Key Club. Key Club is the oldest and largest service program for high school students. The student-led organization teaches leadership through service to others.

- In March, Key Club worked with the Kirtland Middle School Builders Club and adviser Greg Bell to collect donations for the Homeless Veterans Outreach Program at the VA. The program collects hygiene and household items used to make starter packs for veterans in need.

Adviser Allison Eckerle says Key Club holds monthly meetings, participates in the Homecoming parade, and provides assistance with Kirtland Candidates' Night. Students also attend weekly Kiwanis meetings.



At KHS, 95 Key Club members have been working throughout the school year on a variety of service projects that impact the greater community-at-large:

- In the fall, Key Club collected and shipped more than 150 pounds of candy for Operation Gratitude, an organization that collects candy around Halloween to send in care packages to troops overseas.
- In December, Key Club collected food donations for the Kirtland Area Service Council. Twenty-two student volunteers organized and delivered the baskets of food to members of the community in need.

## WKES/THE KIRTLAND BUZZ PREMIERES AT KES

Kirtland Elementary School launched a weekly video announcement, turning fifth-grade students into a news crew for WKES (The Kirtland Buzz).

Teacher Bob Lasecki received a camera, a green screen and an editing program from the high school and Technology Department, paving the way for the new endeavor. The first broadcast involved student-created Google Slides. That attracted interest from more students interested in being part of the crew.

"I challenged groups of fifth graders to come up with a script using Google Slides," Lasecki said. "Each week I get a few crews interested. I also challenge them to come up with new commercials and segments, like Principal's Perspective, Tech Talk and Superintendent Talk. It has become a great thing for them to do in computer class and outside of school."

Lasecki handles the editing, but the rest is all students. He taught them how to use the camera, along with speaking and interviewing skills.

"The production skills that they learn are awesome," Lasecki said. "A great memory for the kids, and skills that they will use later in life."

