

Kewanee Schools Foundation

ALUMNI UPDATE

Volume #22 Number 1

Spring/Summer 2018



NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED FOR 2018 GRADUATES

Fifty-two members of the KHS Class of 2018 earned over \$91,000 in local scholarships administered through the Kewanee Schools Foundation. The Foundation Board has established a goal of \$100,000 for graduation 2019. Please go to kewanee-schoolsfoundation.org for more information about this year's recipients and how you can help reach next year's goal!

New scholarships established for 2018 included:

The **KEWANEE SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP** given by friends and community members who love the game of soccer to a senior who exemplifies their competitive spirit, demonstrates teamwork, shows concern for their fellow students and have been involved in Kewanee Soccer Club and KHS soccer for multiple years. This year's award was given to Nicholas Sierra.

The **PATRICIA (SNIDER) SULLENS CHEERLEADING AWARD** is established by Dr. Chris Sullens in honor of his mother Patricia (Snider) Sullens

who was a KHS cheerleader. Given to a senior in recognition of their outstanding participation as a cheerleader for at least three years, and who demonstrates school spirit, outstanding leadership and who is enrolled in a college, university or technical training institution. The amount awarded this year is \$1,500 and was awarded to Hope Thorp, Jessica Hogeboom and Iesha Crowe.

The **KEWANEE MUSIC BOOSTERS SCHOLARSHIP** is an effort to encourage students to engage in a continued pursuit of excellence and a lifelong love of music. Recipients must have completed at least two years in band and/or choir classes at KHS, be enrolled in a college or university, and be committed to joining a college affiliated musical ensemble. For 2018, the scholarship was \$500 and awarded to Alex Toutant.

The **KEWANEE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP** recognizes outstanding academic leadership, school/community service and is funded by donations and gifts through the Kewanee Schools Foundation. It succeeds the Superintendent's Service Scholarship established

in 2007. Multiple students may be selected each year to receive the scholarship. Recipients must show evidence of enrollment in an accredited community college or university. The scholarship amount in 2018 was \$1,000 and was awarded to Mitrese Smith.



Pictured left to right Mitrese Smith and Missy Vail-Frakes, KHS Guidance Counselor.



140 GRADUATE FROM KHS

The 140 seniors in the Kewanee High School Class of 2018 made it official as they participated in graduation ceremonies at HF Brockman Gym on May 13.

This year's valedictorians are: Josie Heeren, Cullen Marshall, Mitrese Smith, Elizabeth Gustafson and Sydney Hand. Salutatorians are Kasey Jones and Albert Kelly.

Elizabeth Gustafson, daughter of Craig and Margaret Gustafson, plans to attend Monmouth College to study business administration. She is the recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Award and the Elk's Lodge Student of the Month Award, and is an Illinois Scholar. She was a group interpretation all-sectional and all-state cast member, the National Honor Society vice president, and the Key Club's distinguished secretary and Distinguished Sophomore board member. She was named second-team all-conference and academic all-conference in volleyball. Her activities included volleyball, basketball, track, musical and competitive theater, FCCLA, Key Club, Student Council (class officer), YMCA Youth Board, LEAD, 4-H Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Sydney Hand, daughter of Jessica Hand and John Hand, plans to attend Bradley University to study mechanical engineering. She is a member of the National Honor Society, had highest honors on the honor roll and is an Illinois State Scholar. Her extracurricular activities include robotics, band, volleyball, Key Club and

Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Josie Heeren, daughter of Andy and Cathy Heeren, plans to attend college after graduation to study anesthesiology. She is a two year National Honor Society member, an all-state group interpretation cast member, a four year all-conference musician, and was drum major in 2017. Her extracurricular activities have included band, treble choir, chamber choir, theater and jazz band.

Cullen Marshall, son of RaeAnn Tucker and Court Marshall, plans to attend Black Hawk East to earn an associate in arts degree before transferring to Augustana College to study business administration. He has earned the Honor Roll's "highest honors" for four years, was selected Elks Student of the Month and named an Illinois State Scholar and is a former KHS Student of the Month recipient. He also was an all-state cast member for group interpretation, was the 2016 regionals champion for dramatic duet acting and a speech sectionals finalist in dramatic interpretation, was the 2016 regionals champion for dramatic duet acting and a speech sectionals finalist in dramatic interpretation. Extracurricular activities include Key Club, Student Council, LEAD, National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Group Interpretation, plays and musicals.

Mitrese Smith, daughter of Michael Smith and Teresa Morgan, plans to attend North Central College upon graduation to study psychology and criminal justice. She is a first-team all-conference and all-area volleyball and basketball player, won the

bronze medal at FCCLA state, was the Peoria Journal Star's 2nd team all area player and has earned numerous other athletic awards, including Star Courier Player of the Week. She also was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FCCLA, and was LEAD counselor, class vice president and participated in plays, musicals and competitive theater.

Salutatorians Kasey Jones, daughter of Sue Rose and Alan Jones, plans to attend college and major in spanish education. She is a National Honor Society member, had highest honors on the honor roll and is a member of National Art Honor Society. She competed in poms, competitive dance and tennis, and participated in robotics.

Albert Kelley, son of Ruth Kapacinskis and Patrick Kelley, plans to earn an associates degree at Black Hawk College East Campus before transferring to the University of Illinois to study mechanical engineering. He is a member of the National Honor Society, earned highest honors on the honor roll and is an Illinois State Scholar. He also worked on the KHS yearbook, was a member of the Student Council and served as school mascot.

For a complete listing of the 2018 scholarship recipients, please go to kewaneeschools-foundation.org.



MEMORIAL DONATION HELPS KEWANEE SCHOOLS LIBRARY



Pictured left Dr. Jeff Johnson and Ruth Kapacinskis, KCUD School Librarian.

Kewanee students will have the opportunity of receiving their own books to read at home as a result of a generous donation in memory of Mrs. Janelle Johnson '55, from her children, Dr. Jeff Johnson and Mrs. Jackie Callahan!

Dr. Johnson met with district librarian Ruth Kapacinskis this spring with the intent of making a significant impact to reading with his mother's memorial money. Mrs. Johnson was an avid lifelong reader and strong supporter of literacy and education. Ms. Kapacinskis proposed that the gift be spent entirely on books to be given away to students in grades kindergarten through third because having books at home has been proven to have a great impact on a child's educational achievement. Jackie loved the idea of allowing young readers to choose books

of their own as a tool to improve literacy.

To maximize the number of books to be purchased through the Johnson Memorial Reading Grant, Ms. Kapacinskis selected books through an organization called "First Book" - a nonprofit organization which makes brand new books available exclusively to schools and programs serving children in need, for only the cost of shipping and handling.

Some of the books were delivered in time to distribute to students during the annual end-of-the-year book giveaway held in the Belle and Irving school libraries. The remaining books will be distributed during similar giveaways during the 2018-19 school year.

Books truly do change lives! Research shows in middle-income neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children. Academically, children growing up in homes with no books are usually three years behind children in homes with lots of books. A child who lives in a home with only 25 books will, on average, complete two more years of school than would a child from a home without any books at all.

The generosity of the Johnson family is a tremendous investment in our younger students which will significantly enhance their education for years to come!

THANK YOU TO THE CROWELL FAMILY FOR YOUR DONATION TO THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

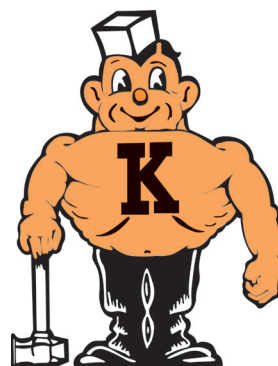
Knowing the importance of music and what it means to many musicians both young and old, the family of Howard Crowell graciously have made a financial donation to the Kewanee music department to add to the variety of instruments for student use.

This generous donation enabled instructor Mr. Alex Binek to purchase electric and bass guitars with the funds donated. Student lessons have begun with these new instruments that will help to ensure that the music program continues to be an important part of the school's curriculum.

Go to our Foundation website for information on how you can help enhance the education of our Kewanee students!

KHS CLASS REUNIONS

Several classes will be having their class reunion this summer and early fall. For more information on upcoming reunions, please go to the Foundation website and click on Class Reunions.



ALL SET

By Jill Bartelt
For The Star Courier

It takes a village to stage a show—especially an elaborate show like “The Little Mermaid,” performed by the Kewanee High School theater department.

But it’s not just the actors who make the show a success.

Productions such as this one have a group of talented, dedicated people working behind the scenes.

For more than 40 years, retired Kewanee art teacher Sue Blake has designed sets for KHS musicals and plays.

“My goal is to design a stage environment that suits the director’s vision,” said Blake.

“Does he or she want a minimal set or full stage coverage? Dark colors as in ‘Tales of Edgar Allen Poe’ or bright, cartoonish colors as in ‘Seussical’?”

Throughout the design process, Blake collaborates with the director as well as the construction supervisor. For *The Little Mermaid*, she also worked with former KHS student Johnny Williams, who brought skills gained at Monmouth College to the effort.

Once the layout has been planned, set construction begins. Brad DeWolfe, KHS industrial tech teacher, builds the main set pieces.

“Most set construction takes place at the KHS woodshop, while larger pieces are assembled on stage,” said DeWolfe.

The set designers and constructors have more room to work, now that a grand piano and a set of choir risers formerly kept backstage have been moved to

newly built storage areas.

With the main structures in place, Blake and her team paint the set, turning cardboard and plywood into a coral reef, candy factory or medieval abbey.

“We often start with the 15’x40’ backdrop mural,” said Blake. “The design is drawn on paper and then painted by the stage crew and members of the cast.” Next, the smaller set pieces are decorated.

Lighting then further transforms the stage. For ten years, Larry Flannery (of the KHS IT and custodial departments) has specialized in this area.

“Light can be used to capture and enhance whatever feelings the actors are conveying,” says Flannery.

“Red can emphasize anger. Blue can feed a feeling of loneliness.”

In other words, Flannery translates emotions into light.

He stressed that Petersen Auditorium’s brand new lighting system offers much greater flexibility in design than the old system.

“It’s like jumping from a horse and buggy onto a space ship,” he said. “The new system uses computerized LED fixtures. They produce brighter light, generate no heat, and use very little energy.”

Along with lighting, music also underscores a show’s mood and action. For musicals, KHS band choir director Alex Binek leads a combined orchestra of students and adults.

Binek said that conducting such an ensemble presents unique challenges. “We only get a few rehearsals with the full pit orchestra.” In addition, the

actors’ timing varies slightly day to day. “I have to make sure the orchestra knows when to move on to the next section.”

Together, the elements of the set, lighting, and music help bring a show to life—yet the individuals involved are humble about their work. They’re quick to praise each other as well as the students.

“It’s a privilege to work with them,” said Flannery.



For more pictures of the musical, check out Kewanee High School Theater & Music page on Facebook.



KHS FFA MAKES DELIVERY OF 1,500 POUNDS OF PORK SAUSAGE



Pictured Claudia Chamberlain, Alysa Gorden, Gage Behnke, Harley Johnson and Dana Chamberlain show off a few of the vegetables, eggs and sausage that have been donated to the food pantry

Kewanee FFA Chapter recently gifted the Kewanee Food Pantry and the Kewanee High School Food Pantry 1,565 pounds of ground pork through their “Hogs for Hunger” program at the high school.

The Kewanee High School food pantry serves 22 families of students who attend the high school, and Kewanee Food Pantry serves 286 families throughout the community.

The meat was donated during the months of September, October and November of last year, which worked out well since neither food pantry had any meat to give out other than the sausage donated because of the hurricanes in the southern states.

The cost of the processing was offset by the “Pork Power” Program implemented by the Illinois Pork Producers Association, made possible with contributions from the Illinois Corn Marketing Board and the Illinois Soybean Association Checkoff Program.

The Kewanee FFA Chapter farm is located on the east edge of Kewanee. The chapter has no farm kids but the chapter supports a farm on school grounds where they take care of a butterfly garden, and a regular garden that started in 2015 and has produced over 10,000 pounds of vegetables in the last three years. All of the vegetables were donated to the Kewanee Food Pantry.

The FFA Chapter also has a greenhouse where they sell bedding plants in the spring, 11 acres of land (corn/soybean) rotation on no-till ground, a 3 acre cattle pasture, poultry facility and hog lot where they are able to raise up to 15 hogs comfortably.

Wanting to do more for the hungry in their community, the Kewanee High School FFA Chapter started the Kewanee FFA “Hatch for Hunger” program in April of 2016. The chapter purchased 150 chicks in hopes of raising eggs to help feed the hungry in their community, and that they certainly have done that. Over the summer of 2016 the chicks grew into laying hens and students began collecting eggs on Sept. 4, 2016.

Since that time, more than 2,000 dozen eggs have been collected and donated to the Kewanee Food Pantry and the high school’s food pantry. About 200 dozen eggs were donated to the FCCLA last year, where the students use them in baking different items for fundraisers.

Last year local farmers donated eight piglets and the chapter bought an additional two to raise. Students on a daily basis took care of the pigs during school and weekends. During the summer months they showed

their hogs at the local county and FFA Vo-ag fairs.

Any fair premiums that they win were theirs to keep for the work that they contributed towards the project during the year. When the pigs become market weight they are slaughtered and made into whole hog sausage, thanks to “Pork Power” with the IPPA.

Each day, Illinois food banks provide access to healthy and nutritious food to keep families across Illinois from going to bed hungry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends meat and egg protein as part of a nutritious and healthy diet. But because of the limited supply and the fact it would have to be refrigerated it is often difficult for food banks to provide adequate access to protein.

The Kewanee FFA Chapter is planning for next year, although the chapter has quite a few money makers during the year. Donations are always welcome that will be used to keep the program running and the chapter paying it forward.



KEWANEE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLER LEWIS ROBINSON 2ND PLACE AT STATE

For the second straight year, Kewanee's Lewis Robinson earned a runner-up finish at the IHSA state wrestling tournament. The senior dropped a 5-4 decision in the 152 pound class 1A state title match to ArieH Hart of Anna-Jonesboro to finish the season with a sparkling 42-3 record. Robinson concludes his prep wrestling career with the most wins in Kewanee High School history with 133.



WASTE NOT... STUDENTS FIND NEW RECYCLE OPTIONS

The students in Bree Summers's fifth grade class know all about recycling—in fact, they've raised it to an art form.

In observance of Earth Day, Summers asked her students to complete a project.

"Their task was to utilize everyday materials that they may normally discard and repurpose them into a recycled art form," said Summers. "I wanted them to look at waste items, view them in a new light, and discover a way to

reuse them."

With landfills at capacity, and trash—such as plastic bags and tinned Spam—accumulating even in the deepest ocean trenches, Summers felt compelled to teach her students the three R's: reduce, reuse, and recycle. What's more, she wanted them to have a visceral connection to these issues. "I'm hopeful that being involved in this hands-on project will inspire them to keep finding new uses for so-called 'trash' items."

Summers knows from personal experience that lessons learned early in life can stay with a person forever.

"My inspiration for this project was my maternal grandfather," she said. "He was always mindful of everyday items around him and how he could recycle them. For example, he used old nylons for supporting tomato vines. He also shredded old newspapers for garden mulch and composted kitchen garbage to enrich his garden soil. He taught me from an early age not to be wasteful. I began to recognize the value of recycling and its benefits for our environment."

Summers hopes to instill her students with a similar sense of mindfulness. As they move forward in their lives, she wants them always to consider how their actions might affect the planet. "If this classroom project teaches them to stop and think about how they could repurpose an item before they throw it away, that's one more step in securing a better future for our environment."

So far, students are embracing the idea.

"Recycling is important

because it helps keep the Earth clean," said Tristynn Murray. Murray suggested that an old, clean milk jug could be repurposed as a fishbowl, if someone lined the bottom with pebbles and filled it partway with water. Her classmate, Katrina Fondaw, found a different use for an old milk jug: when cut in half, it could be turned into a caddy for art supplies. Kristina Armstrong advised donating unwanted toys instead of throwing them away.

Along with their art project, Summers's students have engaged in writing exercises related to Earth Day.

"I had them write a letter to our governor asking him to help save our state insect, the monarch butterfly," she said. In the letters, the students asked the state to stop mowing interstate medians and roadways; these areas serve as habitat for milkweed, the host plant and lone food source of monarch caterpillars.

"There's a strong need to change our wasteful habits and be proactive in connecting with our environment," said Summers. "As activist Terri Swearingen states, 'We are living on this planet as if we had another one to go to.'" Instead, Summers advocates preserving the one we have.



PASSINGS

CLASS OF '35

Mildred F. (Anderson) Rogers – 1/30/18

CLASS OF '39

Margaret (Zablackis) Gillespie – 1/20/19

CLASS OF '40

Bernice P. Widar – 1/28/18

CLASS OF '41

Arlene (Krause) Furnald – 5/28/18
Ilene (Reiff) Gosch – 3/17/18

CLASS OF '42

Elizabeth (Charlet) Suitts -

CLASS OF '43

R. Thomas Krumtinger – 2/27/18

CLASS OF '44

Harold A. Dillon – 12/15/17
Lloyd R. Dyer - 6/8/18

CLASS OF '45

Audrey Jean (Smith) Bunker – 2/15/18
William E. Frank - 6/10/18
Maxine (Gleason) Kallas – 1/9/18
Leona (Hedger) Lewis – 1/21/18

CLASS OF '46

Donald E. Currier – 2/10/18
Keith Robert Jones – 12/8/17

CLASS OF '47

Mary Lou (Yermolkaitis) Hill – 3/8/18
Wanda “Janie” (Holmes) McCormick – 2/10/18

CLASS OF '48

Romelle (Larson) Hintz – 12/19/17
Dorothy (Heise) Warren – 11/18/17
Mary (Millman) Weber – 12/7/17
Paul Adkins – 2/11/18

CLASS OF '49

Jeanneane (LaRue) Nance – 4/16/18

CLASS OF '50

MaryAnn (Kubinsky) Pratt – 1/2/18

CLASS OF '51

June (Peach) Girkin – 1/14/18
Wanda Lee (Stevenson) Wallace – 5/1/18

CLASS OF '52

LaVerne J. Charlet – 12/20/17
Charles “Don” Draminski – 5/24/18
Richard Van Overberg – 8/23/17

CLASS OF '53

Rita (Jones) Fischer – 4/7/18
Alice (Stead) Hammons – 1/3/18
Kenneth M. Jacobson – 3/7/18

CLASS OF '54

Phil Snider – 5/16/18

CLASS OF '55

Mary “Katie” (DeConinck) Johnson – 1/8/18
Carolyn (Davis) Pruett – 6/14/17
Nancy (Ensley) Whitsell – 1/25/18

CLASS OF '56

Dianne (Thiessen) Getter – 5/31/15

CLASS OF '57

Frances (Ouart) Cambron – 6/2/18

CLASS OF '58

Glenn Addis – 11/10/17

CLASS OF '60

William C. DePauw – 12/21/17

CLASS OF '61

Robert C. Hultgren – 12/28/17

CLASS OF '62

Gary D. Washburn – 3/5/18

CLASS OF '63

Don R. Martin – 12/6/17
Roxie (Marsh) Holt – 10/23/17

CLASS OF '64

Ronald E. Fenwick – 10/31/17
Dr. Steven L. Hepner – 10/13/17

CLASS OF '66

Eva Ruth Busboom – 1/21/18
Thomas Kirley – 11/2/17
Nancy (Willis) Modder – 3/29/18
Ronald Shinkevich – 12/12/17

CLASS OF '68

Stephen M. Padilla – 2/28/18

CLASS OF '70

Thomas “Tommy” Boss – 3/15/18
Jay Kemerling – 2/11/18

CLASS OF '71

Steve Peart – 6/6/18

CLASS OF '72

Bruce Jones – 1/26/18
Gary Dean Petty – 1/5/18

CLASS OF '75

Elaine (Jane) (Jackson) Damm – 3/12/18

CLASS OF '76

Michael J. Camey – 4/22/18
Thomas J. Schwerbrock – 4/28/18
William J. Trussen – 12/12/17

CLASS OF '79

Bruce J. Ainley – 5/10/18

CLASS OF '81

Leah (Hadsall) Arnold – 5/3/18
Jeffrey Warner – 5/10/18

CLASS OF '83

Daryl Tuttle – 1/9/18

CLASS OF '88

John R. Peed – 3/14/18



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Pictured are Neponset Grade School students with their donation to the Food Pantry.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Go to kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org and click on **How You Can Help** for more information on ways to enhance the education of Kewanee students; Dual Credit college class tuition assistance, scholarships, teacher projects, music, athletics, theater or your special idea!

- 1_ By credit card online at www.kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org
- 2_ By check using this form. Please make your check payable to the Kewanee Schools Foundation.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____



Please accept my gift of \$10.00, \$ _____
KHS Alumni Class of _____
