

Kewanee Schools Foundation

# ALUMNI UPDATE

Volume #17 Number 2

Fall 2015

## SCIENCE FAIR HELD AT IRVING SCHOOL

Irving School third grade teachers wanted to do more to help their students meet the recently released New Illinois Learning Standards for Science – and thus a Science Fair was born! The teachers' goal was not only to promote science learning, but also family involvement in their students' learning as well.

Funds received from the Harry Anderson Trust and administered through the Kewanee Schools Foundation were used for the purchase of additional science curriculum materials and tri-fold display boards for every third grader.

Teachers started at the beginning of the school year promoting the November 10 event and helped students to understand the importance of experimenting and using the scientific process, thus meeting the state standards for science. Students were very excited about the event and enjoyed working with teachers and parents to create amazing projects.

The project was deemed a success with over 90 percent of the third grade students at Irving School and their families participating in the science fair!



Pictured are Irving School third grade students and their families

## KEWANEE FFA'S GARDEN FILLING FOOD PANTRY SHELVES

The Kewanee FFA spent the summer giving back with a garden project. Every Thursday they deliver freshly picked vegetables to the Kewanee Food Pantry.

Kewanee High School ag teacher and FFA chapter advisor Joe Schneider said the program is a project of the National FFA Organization called Farm to School.

"The program is designed to supply and supplement the vegetables used in the school cafeteria to show students what fresh vegetables taste like versus vegetables that have traveled from the west coast or elsewhere," Schneider said.

The garden was planted this spring behind the agriculture department's greenhouse on the east side of the school and covers roughly a quarter of an acre.

Twenty eight students helped plant the garden during finals week in May. Schneider explained that since the garden was planted so early all of the food produced — about 480 pounds so far — has been donated to the Kewanee Food Pantry.

In the garden, students planted 600 red, yellow and white onions, green beans, wax beans, green and purple cabbage, broccoli, red beets, fall and summer squash, pumpkins, eggplant, seven types of peppers and seven types of tomatoes.

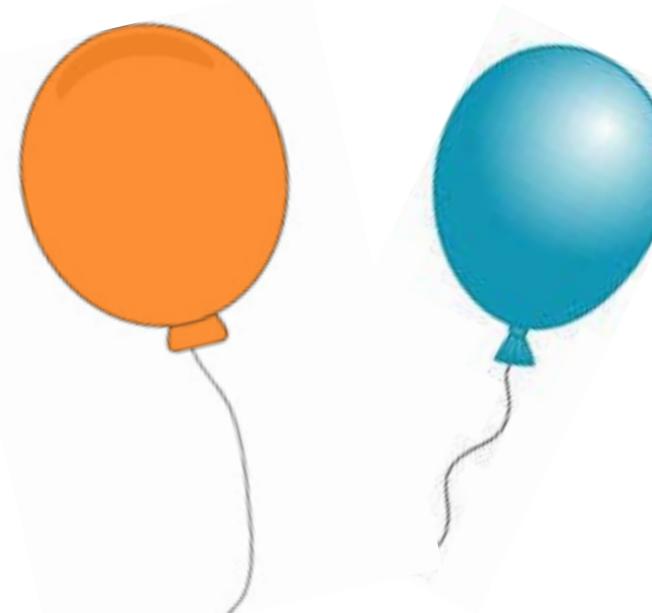
Students picked the garden once a week and delivered the harvest to the food pantry.

## STUDENTS, TEACHERS PAY TRIBUTE TO KHS TEACHER ANNA SHEAHAN

For the past 32 years Anna Sheahan has been a teacher of Spanish at KHS. Daily, she displayed a passion for her teaching and shared her love of learning with her students. Sadly Mrs. Sheahan passed away on November 8, 2015 after a long illness.

Anna also took student groups to Europe on educational tours, and especially loved volunteering with the show choir and high school musicals. She was the pianist for many shows and plays, as well as helping to direct. She displayed an incredible musical talent and enjoyed working on all aspects of the productions.

It was only fitting that on November 19 students and staff met in the Petersen Auditorium for a celebration of Anna's life and contributions to Kewanee High School. At the end of the program they joined together on the football field to release 500 balloons in her honor.



## HALL OF FAME WEEKEND FOR KHS ATHLETICS

A record crowd enjoyed a weekend of festivities to honor the 2015 Kewanee High School Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. At this year's induction ceremony, four teams, three coaches, three distinguished alumni, four female athletes, four male athletes, and two friends were the honorary inductees. Those inducted are as follows:

### Teams

1926-27 Football Team  
1937-38 Golf Team  
1951-52 Football Team  
1999-00 Football Team

### Coaches

Greg Christakos  
Chris Gustafson  
Bill Taylor



### Distinguished Alumni

Gary Johnson  
Don Peden  
Bob Prusator



### Female Athletes

Brooke (Bryner) Jewell  
Autumn (Salisbury) McGarvey  
Lindsey Osborne  
Rachael Toliver



### Male Athletes

James Hart  
Hayden Johnson  
Tom Prusator  
Jerry Warner



### Friends

Sue Blake  
Betsy Tocha

## 2015 KEWANEE GRAD WELCOMED INTO REGIMENT OF MIDSHIPMEN

On Saturday, August 8, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at Kings Point welcomed 243 "plebe candidates" of the Class of 2019 into the Regiment of Midshipmen as they took USMMA's Corps of Cadets Oath administrated by Rear Admiral James A. Helis, Ph.D., Superintendent of USMMA, during the Acceptance Day Ceremony and Parade.

Among the candidates was William Kelley, a 2015 graduate. The congressionally nominated plebe candidates began a rigorous, 20 day regimen of academic, military, and physical training known as Indoctrination — their first step toward becoming future leaders and licensed merchant marine officers. Following the ceremony the new Plebes joined the Regiment of Midshipmen and marched past the Reviewing Officer, Rear Admiral Whitney, who was joined by Maritime Administrator, Paul N. Jaenichen, Rear Admiral Helis, and the Acting Commandant of Midshipmen, Captain Bob DeStafney.

The Academy is the only federal service academy where graduates earn three graduation credentials — a Bachelor of Science, an Officer's commission in any branch of the military and a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) license as a Deck or Engineering Officer. In preparation for USCG license exams, each midshipman will spend a minimum of 300 days at sea aboard U.S. flagged vessels involved in global trade or military operations.

As part of their service obligation, Kings Point graduates serve five years on active duty in the military or sail five years as officers in the U.S. Merchant Marine and six years in the reserves.



William Kelley '15

### OUT WITH OLD, IN WITH NEW

The new gym at Central School is a sight to behold and we've heard many compliments about the bright, up to date facility.

There are still a number of Kewanee folks; however, who attended and remember the old high school building that once stood on the spot.

As referenced from the Thursday, Oct. 15, 1965 Star Courier, plans were to remove the old building and build an addition onto the south end of what is now Kenneth Sullens Gym at Central. That was actually the gymnasium of the old high school.

The article included a map showing the tentative proposal for what was called the "Central School project" as suggested by a Citizens Committee and approved by the Kewanee Board of Education at its regular meeting held

earlier that week in the Central School library. Dr. Del Meyer, a local veterinarian, was chairman of what was called the Central School Citizens Committee.

At the time, the plans for the proposed addition included a new boiler room and heating plant, a cafeteria area including lunch room, kitchen and storage, a large 38x80' room to be used for girls physical education and other purposes, locker and shower facilities for girls, and two additional classrooms. The plan was essentially the vision of what is there today — gym, cafeteria and two classrooms that, until this year, housed the superintendent's and administrative assistant's offices.

The new heating plant was needed because Central was still heated by the obsolete, 40 year old boilers in the basement of the vacant high school building which was closed in 1956 when the present high school was built.

The proposed plan also included some rehabilitation work in Central School property, which then housed elementary and junior high students, to bring it into compliance with minimum standards of the school safety code. It also included "wrecking of the old high school building, and grading and blacktopping of a new playground area measuring approximately 300x160' east of the school."

The story stated that five separate studies of building needs had been made since 1946. Each stated that the high school old building was "unsafe as well as outmoded and should be razed."

The sprawling, four story brick building was built in 1904 "and is poorly planned and constructed for a modern school," the studies concluded. It was also considered a fire hazard and "occupies an area which is needed desperately for playground and outdoor activities by the pupils at Central School," the committee said.

The story is accompanied by a map which shows the outline of the proposed addition on the south end of the old Central gym and along Burr Boulevard.

It also shows, but does not mention in the story, an area labeled "future expansion" bordered by a broken line between the south wall of the addition and Lyle Street. Before the new gym was built, that area was a playground. It is now the front of the new gym.

The map also shows a shaded outline of the old high school "to be removed". It also shows in broken lines the location of "The Tunnel" which connected the two buildings.

The Citizens Committee recommended authorization of \$380,000 in school building bonds to cover the project to be paid off over 10 years. The committee pointed out that the average cost to taxpayers over the period would be an extra 4.7 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on their property.

An open house to give the public an opportunity to view the plans was scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23 at Central School. The old high school was torn down and the addition to Central School was built and it looks like the outcome closely followed the plan.



The picture above shows the imposing Kewanee High School building, built in 1903. It was closed in 1956 and torn down to make room for an addition to the south side of Central School. The new Central Gym now occupies the site of the old high school.



### CENTRAL, IRVING SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPRESS KINDNESS THROUGH 'BUTTERFLY EFFECT'

During the month of June, students in summer school in second through sixth grades at Irving and Central schools implemented a kindness program.

They were taught to make butterflies out of colored paper. Before folding the butterflies, kind words were written on them, either a kindness that a student may have extended to someone or a kindness that was extended to the student.

Each class accumulated their butterflies in their classroom.

All butterflies were sent to Chris Rosati, a motivational

speaker from North Carolina who started a program that he calls the "Butterfly Effect".

Rosati gives out \$50 grants to any child who promises to use the money to spread kindness.

Together, Central and Irving students made 660 paper butterflies, which were sent to Rosati.

Students were encouraged to write about everyday kindnesses often overlooked or taken for granted.

Examples included: "My mother gave me a ride to baseball practice," I helped my dad mow the lawn," and "I prayed for my aunt who has cancer."

"The choice to send the butterflies to Mr. Rosati (who has advanced ALS) was done in appreciation of his efforts to spread kindness around the world," said Robin O'Connor, Kewanee District 229 social worker.



## INSITE HELMET SENSORS HELPS KHS FOOTBALL TRAINING STAFF STAY ON TOP OF CONCUSSION ISSUES

Minimizing the risk of head injuries is at the forefront of every football safety discussion.

Thanks to a concussion management grant proposal funded by the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network, Kewanee High School's football training staff has taken great measures to ensure the safety of Boiler football players taking the field on Friday nights.

OSF Saint Luke Medical Center's Amanda Kocis (DPT, CSCS) and Ian Swindler (ATC/L ITAT) applied for the grant in April and received \$7,000 funding in June.

Kocis said Swindler identified a couple of trends relating to increased concussions in the Kewanee High School football program, and the grant was pursued to increase awareness and enhance player safety.

"When I first started, it was two to five concussions a year. In the past couple of years, it's been 10 plus. And they've been bad," said Swindler, who has worked with the Kewanee football program for seven seasons.

"I used to love going to the football games because I enjoyed the sport, but the past couple of years it's been, 'Okay, how many concussions are we going to get tonight.'"

Swindler said several factors could be leading to increased concussions — faster and stronger athletes, and lighter helmets that allow for more and quicker head movement.

"We wanted to get this grant

so we could get some resources and further education on identifying the problems," Swindler said.

"We received approximately \$7,000 to enhance our current program, including the purchase of Riddell InSite sensors to be fit in the Kewanee High School football program helmets," Kocis said.

The grant allowed for the purchase of 12 sensors — 11 going to varsity players and one for a JV player. The sensors were put in the helmets of six players in the program with a concussion history, and the remainder went to players at high impact positions, such as running back or linebacker.

"The big thing with our grant is the sensors," Kocis said. "I don't know if the kids realize the protection they provide."

Swindler is alerted through a hand held monitor when a player receives a significant hit to the head. The system alerts Swindler where on the helmet the hit occurred, along with the number and position of the player.

"If it does go off, we know to pull that player and check them," Swindler said.

The sensors met with some early resistance from the players.

"The kids are afraid that once it goes off, they are done," Swindler said.

Kocis said the InSite sensors are not a diagnostic tool, but just alert the training staff that a player suffered a hard hit and needs to be checked for a concussion. "We alert the coach and try to get the player off the field. We do a subjective/objective assessment," Swindler said. "We just try to get an overall sense of how they are doing. If we sense there

is something wrong, we will sit them for 15 minutes and make sure they don't get worse. If they get better or seem fine, typically they go back in the game."

If there are multiple concussion symptoms or other red flags, the night is over for the player.

"It's always a judgement call," Swindler said.

"He's very thorough with the kids," Kocis said. "They are not always happy, but he's very thorough."

In addition to alerts for one significant hit, the InSite sensors also measure multiple impacts and let Swindler and Kocis know if a number of smaller hits are starting to add up.

The InSite sensors purchased through the grant last four years. When that time expires, Kocis hopes more funding can be accessed to continue providing concussion management.

"The end game is to be the go-to place for concussion management," Swindler said.

For parents of football players, Swindler advised them to take head injuries seriously.

"More than likely their money maker isn't going to be them playing football," Kocis said. "Their money maker is going to be their brains."

Swindler and Kocis also partnered with the Regional Office of Education to host a concussion seminar in late July. This was an excellent opportunity for teachers, administrators and coaches to receive free continuing education about the issue. Parents and healthcare providers were also invited to learn more about concussion management.

## PASSINGS

### Class of '34

Margaret (Johnson) Gano – 10/2013  
Arlene (DeValkenaere) Henkins  
Fred Fulton – 8/1/15

### Class of '36

Neena (Ptasnik) Fleming – 7/17/15  


### Class of '37

Evelyn (Shurnis) Matalon – 7/12/15

### Class of '38

William Welch – 7/10/15  
William P. Mumford – 2/23/15

### Class of '42

Teresa (Bruen) Naughtin – 10/19/15  


### Class of '43

Joseph F. Gusman – 7/12/15  
Philip J. Miler – 10/22/15

### Class of '44

Leonard Weiss – 11/20/15  
Lois (Moulton) Egbert – 6/26/15

### Class of '46

Carol "Jean" (Cully) Peterson – 11/6/15  
Mildred (Engel) Mock – 4/22/15

### Class of '47

Bette (Hoffman) Bennett – 10/31/15

### Class of '48

Jean (Smith) Coleman - 11/3/15  
Class of '49

Lawrence F. Larson – 10/22/15  
Class of '51

Roy F. Schueneman – 7/13/15  
Donald Nyert – 8/6/15

Class of '52

Lois J. (Harlan) Ferns – 6/26/15  
Class of '54

Frank Majeske – 2/27/15  
John (Jack) Sherbeyn – 10/25/15

Class of '56

Carol (Currier) Roser - 12/7/15  
Class of '57

Janice (Ziegler) VanDierendonck – 7/11/15

Class of '58

Judith (Raley) Welbourne – 10/13/15

Class of '60

Carol (Boswell) Froke – 4/27/15  
Dennis L. Rogula – 11/14/15

Class of '61

Leon Starberg – 3/2/15  
Class of '64

Richard Rotz – 6/7/15  
Class of '66

Gene F. Nanninga – 7/5/15

Dennis P. DeToye – 11/20/15

Class of '67

Janice K. (VanStechelman) Haga – 7/3/15

Alana (Bickers) McNeely – 7/18/15

Raymond W. Osborne, Jr. – 6/6/15

Class of '70

Steve A. Jacobs – 10/19/15  
David C. Melchin – 10/17/15

Class of '71

Ralph Padilla – 10/8/15

Class of '75

Jerome Baker – 2/19/15

Class of '80

Robert A. Grabbe – 11/13/15

Class of '81

Julia (Fleming) Longford – 8/23/15

Cynthia (Betz) Slusser – 9/27/15

Class of '94

Megan (DeBord) Stuckey – 9/22/15

## REUNIONS



Members of the Class of 1955 who celebrated their 60th reunion on June 13, 2015.



KHS CLASS OF '65  
50 YEAR REUNION  
The Class of 1965 celebrating their 50th reunion on September 19, 2015.

See more class reunion pictures at [www.kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.kewaneeschoolsfoundation.org)

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