



KENT CITY SCHOOLS

UPDATE

News for Kent parents from Superintendent Joe Giancola

Dear Kent Community Members,

This month we greet the 2010 New Year with a bit of reflection on events from the first semester. Like Letterman's "Top Ten" lists, here are ten 2009 events from our first semester, in no particular order.

Dr. Cathy Hamilton's Opening Day message taught us to focus on students' safety, emotional security, and critical thinking--all of which must be addressed in that order.

Three Roosevelt seniors received recognition as National Merit Commended Scholars: **Angela Goodhart, Andrew Lisonbee, and Aleksandra Sobieska.**

Farewell wishes were shared with 20-year board member, **John Flynn**, and words of welcome were extended to new board member, **Dr. Marlene Dorsey.**

Stanton Counselor **Laurie Knuth** received national recognition as a member of the Elite Eight in the American School Counselor Association.

Laws of Life state contest winners were **Ethan Long, Sarah McClure, and Todd Tederous.**

Federal "stimulus money" was awarded to Kent City Schools for a two-year period: approximately \$400,000 in Title I funds and \$800,000 in IDEA/special education funds.

H1N1 flu resulted in an average absentee rate in October of 30% per building, and the H1N1 school vaccination clinics were provided by the Portage County Health District.

Roosevelt's *U.S. News and World Report's* Bronze Award brought national recognition to the high school and Kent City Schools.

Kent City Schools Alumni Association began its charter year by hosting a reception at Homecoming, 2009, on October 16th.

Support was offered by our teachers on the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) grant, which required an endorsement by a school district's teachers in order to apply for the grant.

In closing, these are only some highlights. I recognize, thank, and congratulate all of the above named individuals, as well as many others whose events were not mentioned above. We are hoping for a great second semester, as we anticipate an excellent performance on the Ohio Achievement Tests and the Ohio Graduation Test.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Giancola".

Dr. Joe Giancola
Superintendent