



KENTFIELD VIEW

UNLEASHING THE LEARNER WITHIN

SUMMER 2017

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VISION:

Kentfield School District will deliver a quality education that empowers our students to reach high, work hard, and be kind.

MISSION:

The Kentfield School District's mission is to inspire and challenge all students to live, learn, and lead to their fullest potential.

From the Superintendent



Liz Schott

We are excited to announce that this fall we will launch a public outreach program designed to improve communication with the Kentfield community and allow us to work directly with you as we plan for the school district's future. Our schools are a key component of our great community, and we want to learn more about your feelings about the school district, its academic accomplishments, and its financial management.

To that end, we will be attending community events, hosting town hall meetings, and talking one-on-one with our neighbors throughout Kentfield and Greenbrae. Stay tuned to learn more about how you can weigh in. If you would like to be contacted when we launch the program, or are a member of a local group that would like us to attend one of your meetings, please email me at lschott@kentfieldschools.org.

From the School Board

In 2014, we were gratified that the Kentfield community voted overwhelmingly to support a bond measure aimed at improving our educational facilities. We are already moving ahead with many of the projects that were outlined in the bond and that will make a big difference to our students.

One portion of the bond was dedicated to a classroom expansion, based on forecasted enrollment increases. As you will see in this newsletter, we recently learned that enrollment isn't increasing at the rate that was projected and the classroom expansion is not needed. Instead of spending public money to build classrooms we don't need, the School Board decided to hold off on this project and not issue additional bonds to cover these costs.

As a result, you will see a lower than expected amount on your tax bill. As is our practice, we were fiscally prudent and responsible to the voters that put their trust in us. We look forward to engaging with you and appreciate your continued interest in the future of the district.



Board of Trustees: Heather McPhail Sridharan, Ashley Paff, Juli Kauffman, Cynthia Roenisch, and Quoc Tran

SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION

Contact Details
Agendas/Minutes
Resolutions/Policies

www.kentfieldschools.org
and click "School Board"

DISTRICT AT-A-GLANCE

Students	
Bacich	641
Kent	568
Certificated Staff	
Bacich	41
Kent	43
District Office	2
Classified Staff	
Bacich	19
Kent	14
District Office	5

Adopted Budget, June 13, 2017

Bacich Elementary School



Principal Sally Peck

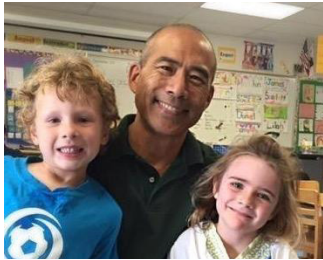
Bacich is a vibrant and cohesive school community with a strong sense of partnership nurtured by our parents, our staff, and our students. There is a sense of energy, anticipation, and excitement that fills the air on our campus. Bacich is a special place for our young Kentfield and Greenbrae students to learn and grow!



Project-Based Learning

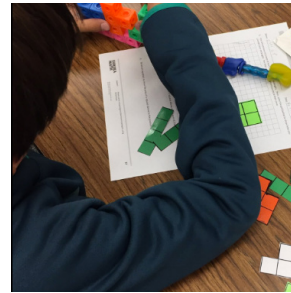
We are an educational community that believes in a culture of continuous growth and improvement both in the quality of the education we provide our students and the meaningful, relevant professional development in which our teachers engage. We know that the most direct correlation to student success is excellent teaching. We believe that teacher collaboration involves thinking deeply and broadly about curriculum and student engagement.

We are preparing to launch the Next Generation Science Standards this fall and our classrooms are steeped in Project Based Learning experiences, including a study of the Bacich marsh and research on rainbow trout. After a year of a careful study of social-emotional programs, we have adopted Institute for Social Emotional Learning (IFSEL) to complement our Character Counts! program.



Engaged Educators

We have spent the past year engaging our students in deep and transferable knowledge. We embed these practices in our mathematics, reading, writing, science, history, and specialist programs. We have strengthened our mathematics program with the guidance and expertise of our Math Coach and we have enhanced our technology and Maker experience with our Innovation and Integration Specialist. Additionally, we are piloting an arts integration program to enrich our visual arts program.



Innovative Mathematics

With an eye to the future, we know we must prepare our students for a healthy and successful life in a multicultural, complex, and rapidly changing world. It is our hope that by providing a well-rounded, academically challenging, and supportive program we can help our students move forward confidently to middle school and beyond.



Upcycling Creations



Active Readers



Hands-on Art

Kent Middle School



Principal Skip Kniesche

Kent Middle School continues to be a community of dedicated and innovative educators. We pride ourselves on providing rigorous and inspiring academics, and, perhaps one of our most distinguishing qualities, a student body wholeheartedly committed to community service. Our students believe in being good role models for their peers and younger students and meeting our high expectations for behavior and academic performance. They

also serve our broader community by actively participating in community service. As we say at Kent - "Walk the Squawk, Fly High and RAK It Up, Falcons!"



Community Builders

This year, our entire teaching staff participated in Responsive Classroom training to help us discover new, creative ways to connect with students and help them focus in the classroom. Methods, including physical and mental warm-ups and breaks, resulted in more academic engagement and personal connection. We continued our partnership with NoBully.org by participating in staff training, student assemblies, and parent workshops.



Cultural Explorers

We excel academically by promoting a growth mindset for all of our staff and students. Many fifth through eighth grade teachers attended workshops on Project Based Learning, an approach in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex challenge. All of our fifth grade history teachers have now attended

the Williamsburg Teaching Institute, where they developed a deeper understanding of colonial times in America. We continue to send teachers to the Columbia Teachers College Summer Institute to hone their skills in teaching language arts. This professional development has revitalized teachers' thinking, and most importantly, encourages our students to lead rich and literate lives.

Kent's fully implemented Common Core Math classes teach students to understand the "why" of math rather than rote memorization of formulas. We also encourage collaborative, project-based work to prepare them for mathematics in high school, college, and beyond. Our newly created "sheltered English" math support class provides intervention for English language learners.

Science teachers have implemented the Next Generation Science Standards. NGSS is "rich in content and practice, arranged in a coherent manner across disciplines and grades to provide all students an internationally benchmarked science education." We are proud of our teachers' adeptness in transitioning from traditional methods to fully integrating science in a meaningful way.



Daring Scientists

Our students demonstrate success not only through their presentations and projects in school but also through participation in extracurricular academic challenges. A number of our students participated in the annual Marin County Margie Burke Speech Tournament and returned with medals and ribbons. Students also participated in the Bay Area Rotary Club's Phillips Writing Contest and earned two awards, including the Grand Prize in sixth grade. Our Kent Mathletes dominated at the year-long Marin County math tournament, earning first place for the second year in a row.

In short, Kent has worked diligently this year to continue our goal of "Walking the Squawk, Flying High, and RAKing It Up" by providing fulfilling opportunities for both students and staff.

Measure D: 2016-17 Progress

Where are we in the planning process?

During this academic year, the School Board's work on Measure D projects focused on the design of significant improvements to both Bacich Elementary School and Kent Middle School. Our Design Committees, comprised of administrators, parents, teachers, and students, worked closely with the project architect, Quattrocchi Kwok Architects (QKA). Together the team developed designs and prioritized improvements to maximize the impact of bond funds at each school. We look forward to breaking ground at Kent Middle School this summer. Projects at Bacich Elementary School will commence in the summer of 2018.

What is happening with enrollment?

An unexpected development in this planning process is the discovery that our current enrollment trends are inconsistent with the enrollment predicted in the KSD 2014 Demographic Study. While our enrollment varies moderately from year to year, the gap between actual enrollment and what was predicted in 2014 is almost 200 students.

How has the board responded to this development?

It is, therefore, no longer necessary to move fourth grade to Kent. The need for an 8-classroom building to accommodate this move is eliminated, thereby saving community taxpayers millions in bond issuance.

What happens to the rest of the projects?

All other building projects will continue at Kent, including construction of a new music classroom, modernizing all classrooms, and relocating the administrative offices to the front of the campus to improve campus security.

There are no expected changes to the plans for building projects and modernization scheduled at Bacich.

How does this decision affect class size and campus density?

In planning campus design, it is ideal to have enrollment that is less than school capacity, as we do now. Both campuses will still be slightly under capacity after bond construction and modernization projects are completed.

Class size will remain at the current average of 25 students per class.

Scan QR code
for 2013-2018
Enrollment/Facilities Timeline



PROJECT TIMELINE

** Some dates are approximate.*

November 2014	Voters approved Measure D bond
June 2015	Board approved Facilities Master Plan
October 2015	Board selected QKA as architects
Spring 2016	Programming meetings with Site Committees
December 2016	Kent project submitted to Division of State Architect (DSA)
Summer 2017	Kent project to be approved by DSA and construction begins
	Submit Bacich project to DSA
Winter 2018	Bacich project to be approved by DSA
Summer 2018	Kent project complete
	Bacich construction begins
Summer 2019	Bacich project complete

What Do Local Revenues Fund?

Bond Measure D

The \$30,000,000 general obligation bond passed in November 2014 to address enrollment, safety issues, and facilities modernization. Bond revenue may only be used for facility construction and improvements.

Parcel Tax

Since 1987, parcel taxes have been used to maintain low class size, upgrade technology, expand and maintain music, art, and drama programs, and fund school libraries. Local funding from the parcel tax provides 25% of the Kentfield School District's budget. The district's current parcel tax expires in June 2019. Parcel tax revenue may only be used for teacher compensation, enrichment programs, student services, and operating costs.

Grant Grover Settlement

Funds from the recent Grant Grover settlement may only be used for capital projects. The School Board will decide how to utilize the proceeds in the fall of 2017.

Scan QR code for more
budget information or visit website here.



Measure D: Design Phase

Kent Middle School Projects



KENT MAIN ENTRANCE



KENT MUSIC CLASSROOM

At Kent Middle School, construction on a variety of improvements and modernizations begins this summer. Kent’s administration office will be housed in a new prominent location that combines new and renovated space at the front of campus next to the Library to allow for better campus supervision and access. The current administrative offices will be renovated into new classrooms and offices.

The east side of campus will feature a new music classroom, a renovated science lab, and new student restrooms. A modern Maker Space will replace the woodshop and will connect to the art classroom to foster collaborative, multidisciplinary projects.

In addition to new construction, all existing instructional spaces will be renovated. New ceiling fans and heating units will improve energy efficiency, while integrated audio-visual systems will enhance interactive capabilities and presentation quality. All classes will also benefit from new flexible furniture to facilitate engaged learning.

Bacich Elementary School Projects



BACICH MAIN ENTRANCE



BACICH OUTDOOR LEARNING

At Bacich Elementary School, our architects designed six classrooms to replace the outdated round building and a new administration building at the front of campus for increased security and easier access for parents. The six new classrooms are paired into “learning suites” with breakout spaces to provide dynamic 21st century learning environments. The new building surrounds a creative play area that will provide a quiet and more nature-based alternative to the current playground and outdoor learning opportunities. A Maker Space will be housed in the new building to support STEAM projects at all grade levels.

In addition, all existing classrooms will receive renovations including new ceiling fans, integrated audio-visual systems, heating units, and updated furniture. Construction at Bacich will begin in the summer of 2018 and will continue through the summer of 2019.

Measure D: Citizens Oversight Committee Report

Kentfield School District's Measure D General Obligation Bonds were authorized in the general election of November 2014. Seventy percent of voters in our school district approved the issuance and sale of bonds with a principal amount not to exceed \$30,000,000.

Proposition 39, approved in 2000 by California voters, provided that the governing board of a school district may pursue the authorization and issuance of bonds by a 55% vote of the electorate.

In accordance with the requirements of Proposition 39, the District established a Citizens Oversight Committee to actively review and report on the expenditure of bond revenues. Members of the committee represent the constituencies prescribed by Proposition 39.

History of Measure D

In response to growing enrollment at Bacich, the Kentfield School Board commissioned a demographic study in 2014 which predicted a growth of 20 students per year for the next 10 years. Based on this information, Measure D was placed on the November 2014 ballot, requesting taxpayer approval of \$30,000,000 in bonds to accomplish three goals: relieve campus overcrowding, increase security and safety, and modernize our aging facilities. A component of relieving overcrowding was to move fourth grade to Kent and build classrooms there to accommodate this redistribution of students.

Upon passage of Measure D, the Board engaged the services of CSDA Design Group to lead the community through facilities master planning, and subsequently hired Quattrocchi Kwok Architects, Counterpoint Construction Services for construction management services, and Lathrop Construction as its builders. An inclusive design process engaged staff and parents in planning additions and improvement over the past nine months, and modernization and safety improvements are scheduled to begin at Kent this summer and Bacich next summer.

Recent Developments

The District has not experienced the growth in enrollment that was projected in its demographic study. The gap between actual enrollment and projected enrollment is almost 200 fewer students than expected. As a result of this unanticipated and significant change in enrollment, which is consistent with recent housing and affordability trends across Marin County and the Bay Area, the School Board decided in April to cancel the move of fourth grade to Kent. Further, they called for work to stop on a planned 2-story, 8-classroom building at Kent, which is no longer needed.

The Board exercised its fiduciary responsibility by ensuring that Kentfield's campuses are not overbuilt. They opted to leave unissued bonds and undeveloped property so as to give future Boards options for responding to future enrollment growth. While bonds that have been issued must be spent

CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
Name	Constituency
Renee Marcelle, Chair	Parent/PTA
Allison Salzer, Vice-Chair	Business Owner
Ross McKenna	Senior
Debra Fletcher	Community-at-large
Dan Calahorro	Parent
Greg Feller	Parent
Tracy Coombe	Parent
Vacant	Taxpayer Organization Member

To apply for vacant position, visit www.kentfieldschools.org, click: Local Funding, Measure D, Citizens Oversight Committee

or encumbered within three years, unissued bonds remain available indefinitely and do not affect residents' tax bills. Prefabricated buildings, such as what was planned for Kent, require 15-18 months to build. Given that enrollment surges start in the early grades, this leaves ample time to respond and prepare for this eventuality.

Budget Overview

In fulfillment of its duties, the Citizens Oversight Committee reviewed the School Board-approved annual financial and performance audits (June 30, 2016) of the Measure D Building Fund and confirmed that bond funds are being expended only for the purposes described in the ballot measure.

As of March 31, 2017, \$12,042,000 in bonds (of the \$30M approved by Measure D) have been issued, and \$1,409,613 have been spent. The majority of the spending has been on architecture costs, bond issuance fees, and construction management. In addition, there has been \$59,477 in interest earned on unspent revenues. This leaves a balance of \$10,691,864 from the initial bond issuance.

Bond Sale Proceeds	\$12,042,00
Interest	\$59,477
Expenditures	\$(1,409,613)
Bond Balance	\$10,691,864

For planning documents and a detailed breakdown of expenditures you may scan the QR code to access the Measure D information on the Kentfield School District Website.



Supporting Public Education



This year, the **Kentfield School District PTA** created opportunities for community connections and family engagement.



Kentfield Invests in Kids (kik) is the non-profit foundation that supports the Kentfield School District through an annual Business Campaign, Annual Giving (family donations), and a Spring Auction Event. Thanks to the generous donors in our community, **kik** successfully raised \$1,050,000 last year. The Fund-A Need at our Spring Event raised over \$65k for the purchase of new iPads for our schools.



Innovative and Entertaining Events

New family socials and back-to-school coffees welcomed families to Kent and Bacich. Local businesses and volunteers supported these events and others, such as Walk to School days, the Crafts Fair, Chinese New Year Celebration, and Family Maker Night, so that all members of our community could enjoy time on campus and get to know other families.

School families also took advantage of KSPTA Parent Education events discussing important topics: Staying Connected to Your Teenager, Social Media Risks and Best Practices, Vaping and Prescription Drugs, and Mindful Parenting. Over 500 community members joined KSPTA. Their dues, combined with other fundraising, supported music, dance, PE, and English language development programs. Volunteers gave their time to the library, the Book Fair, a recess game room, and art class.



Quality Enrichments Funded

In addition, to raising crucial funds, **kik** hosts community events that bring families together. Our Family Fun Day and One Mile Fun Run in September had a fantastic turnout. Kentfield families love reconnecting with old friends and meeting new families at our selected grade-level-focused Heart of the Community events.

Unfortunately, the State of California does not provide enough funding for the level of education that we value for Kentfield students. The \$1,050,000 raised by **kik** funds valued enrichment programs including art, PE, music, technology, Maker Space, and more.



Community Service

As the school year came to a close, KSPTA celebrated our teachers and staff with a community-sponsored lunch and notes of appreciation. In addition, volunteers worked on school gardens and KSPTA organized the Kentfield Music Festival to showcase home grown music.

Thank you to all who shared their talents with our schools!



Studio 54 Event

kik and KSPTA contribute vital resources that allow our District to offer students outstanding and innovative learning opportunities well beyond standard public education.

Thank you to our community for another successful year!



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www.kentfieldschools.org

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IMPORTANT DATES

Please visit our district calendar at
www.kentfieldschools.org

AUGUST 2017

22	School Board Meeting, 5 pm
29	TK/Kindergarten Back to School Night, 6-7:30 pm
30	Bacich 1 st -4 th Grade New Family Welcome, 6-7:30 pm
31	Kent 5th Grade Orientation & New Family Welcome, 9 am-12 pm 9 am students arrive, parents' meeting at 11:15 am

SEPTEMBER 2017

5	First Day of School
	Bacich Coffee Morning by KSPTA, 8:15 am
6	Kent Coffee Morning by KSPTA, 8:30 am
	Bacich 1 st -4 th Grade Back to School Night, 6-7:30 pm
7	Kent Back to School Night, 6-8:30 pm (0 period music class begins at 5:45 pm)
10	kik TK/Kindergarten Event, 10-11 am
12	School Board Meeting, 5 pm
14	KSPTA Bacich Games & Pizza Night, 5:30 pm
24	kik Family Fun Day, 10 am

Download KSD Mobile App

- Online Calendar
- Full Staff Directory
- PowerSchool Portal
- School News



Kentfield School District educates 1,210 students in Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade at Bacich Elementary School and Kent Middle School.

Our teachers offer innovative, award-winning programs that engage our students' creativity, character, and curiosity, and empower them to reach high, work hard, and be kind.