



# ALKASKA

## BLAZER BULLETIN

October 2022  
Vol. II | No. 2  
#GoBlazers



SUPPORTED FAMILIES,  
SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

Kalkaska Public Schools  
315 S. Coral St.  
Kalkaska, Michigan 49646

# Blazers trounce the Ironmen, 44-0



Homecoming Week is undoubtedly the most anticipated week of the fall season, and this year's events ended with an amazing Blazer victory on the football field and a newly crowned King and Queen.

Seniors Tim Anderson and Delaney Denike were crowned Homecoming King and Queen during halftime of the homecoming contest against Mancelona, which the Blazers won, 44-0. Since this is the first time the Blazers won their Homecoming game since 2016, it made the event more special for Denike.

"It was nice being crowned queen because I was happy to know that people thought I would be a good representative of our class," she said. "And the fact that we won the game made the night even better."

Denike, who also serves as Senior Class President, said there were new events added throughout the week, including a Battle of the Bands lip-sync competition, that built upon traditional competitions of Class Wars, Spirit Week, and float building.

By far, her favorite event, though, was getting together with her friends Monday night and decorating their white overalls to wear for Blue and White day. This senior tradition started a few years ago and its popularity, and



The juniors won the float competition with their rendition of an 80s theme. Neon colors, Pac-Man, and cassette tapes definitely captured the era and helped bring them top honors. The KHS Marching Band led the Homecoming Parade down Cedar Street before the game. The parade introduced the Homecoming Court and the many clubs and sports teams throughout the district to the community. The girls on the Homecoming Court prepare to compete against the boys in a game during the Pep Assembly. Their decorated overalls were just a few examples of the seniors special Blue and White attire. Seniors Tim Anderson and Delaney Denike were crowned Homecoming King and Queen during halftime. The entire court, including representatives from the other classes, braved the rain and frigid temperatures as they waited for the big announcement. These seniors posed for pictures early in the week after they were voted to represent their class on the Court. Isabella Grezner, Tim Anderson, Amelia Hahnenberg, Ryan Snyder, Delaney Denike, Cooper Swikoski, Julia Moore, Christopher Gay, Alyssa Anderson, and Landen Hart were all elected to the 2022 court. Seniors wore their best blue and white attire to show their school spirit during Blue & White day, which is always on Homecoming Friday. Their participation during Spirit Week led them to win the overall Homecoming Cup!

the elaborate decorations on the overalls, seems to grow each year.

"Homecoming Week was an overwhelming success," Denike said.

■ By Kristin Hall, Yearbook staff member

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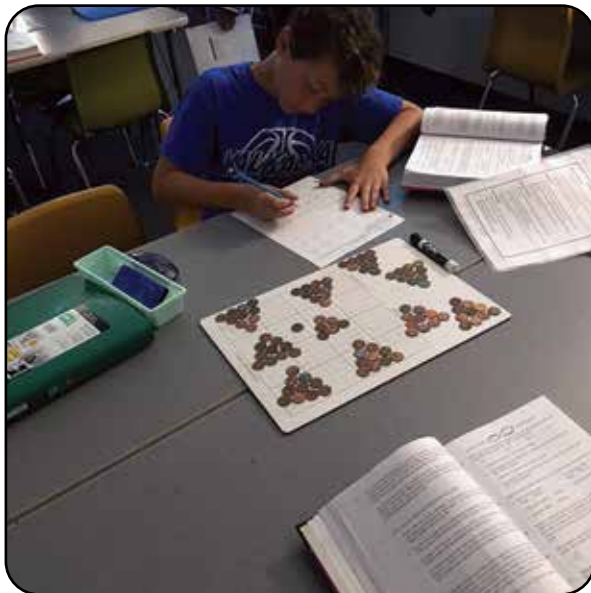


▼ The Three Lakes Association presented certificates to KHS students who took part in their summer learning/work program. Navaeh, Maddie, Freddie, and Mr. Bretz are featured in the above photograph. The Association presented the awards to our students at the September Board Meeting.



◀ Students at Birch Street Elementary School have been spending a lot of time in the early days of the school year reading. Our partnerships with the Kalkaska County Library and the Kiwanis Club help to get reading materials into our students hands every single day. We know that the more a student spends time reading, the better a reader he/she will become.

▼ (Below) Middle school students figured out how to arrange pennies into easy to see groups and did our first Gallery Walk to see the other groups work.



▲ (Above and right) Students were in teams of four and had a 24-piece puzzle together. The captain (who was blindfolded) was the only one who could touch the puzzle pieces. The other kids on the team had to communicate with them to help them put the puzzle together. It was fun and they really enjoyed it.



# KPS is Growing Quickly

KPS has had a busy summer! Work began on Birch Street Elementary the day after school ended in June and continued throughout the summer. Much has been done on the new auxiliary gymnasium and the new classrooms! We will keep you updated here in the *Blazer Bulletin* every month!





# Cherry Street students off to a great start

## Cherry Street Visits Au Sable

Our 5th grade had the opportunity to visit the Au Sable Institute and learn about ecosystems. Our students did activities to visualize food chains and food webs. They then went on a rotation between three different ecosystems learning about local animals and plants. Students had the chance to use different materials to catch and release local lake organisms and captured insects with a net. We had so much fun and we can't wait to keep learning about our ecosystems with Au Sable throughout the school year.

## Cherry Street Parent Teacher Conferences

We will be having our fall conferences on October 20. We will have two different sessions, afternoon and evening. We will be releasing sign ups for times soon!

## Clubs and Sports - Coming soon!

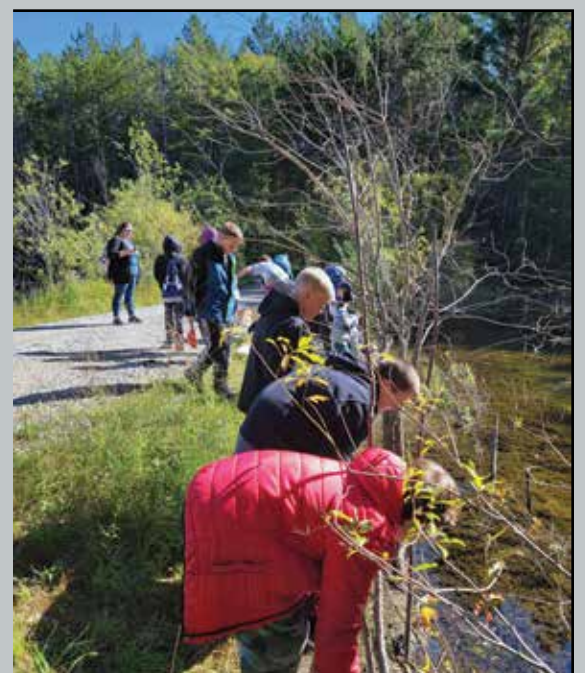
In the next few weeks, we will be starting our extracurriculars and after-school programs. We will be sending information home about the following clubs and sports in the upcoming weeks:

Boys and Girls basketball, Odyssey of the Mind, Brain Jam - after school help, Publishing Club, and Student Council.

## Thank you

We have had an amazing start to this school year. We have enjoyed getting to know our students and starting our educational journey. We have made it through beginning of the year testing and now look forward to getting to work and learning as much as we can over the next few months!

Big thank you to the staff that make each day possible and to our Cherry Street families and students who make our school a great place. We are going to have a great final year here at Cherry Street and we look forward to our new home connected to Birch Street.



▲ Cherry Street Intermediate students have had many fun experiences already this school year. They have spent time searching rivers and walking fields and woods — all as they researched and studied ecosystems with the Au Sable Institute.







▲ (Above left) Congratulations to our September Musicians of the Month! L-R: Brookelyn, Kaelei, Helena, Zachary, Scott, and Alexander. (Above right) Congratulations to our KMS September Pride Students of the Month! 8th Grade Back Row L-R: Caylee, Nathaniel, Raelynn, and Lane. 7th Grade Middle Row L-R: Abbigail, Ava, Addison, Owen, and Landen. 6th Grade Front Row L-R: Audric, Scott, Lukas, Asher, and Thomas (not pictured).

▲ The KMS Boys' and Girls' Cross Country teams both competed Wednesday, September 28th at the Traditional Elk Rapids - Kalkaska Battle. The boys ran up against a very strong Elk Rapids team placing 2nd with a score of 17-38. Many ran personal records despite a slow and soggy course. The girls' team brought home the beautiful, handcrafted traveling trophy given out yearly to the winner of this race with a score of Kalkaska 19 to Elk Rapids 39. Check out the amazing Trophy created by our very own talented Coach Mr. Brown.



▲ Ms. King has been doing a lot of fun team building/icebreaker activities with the kids. Everyone seems to be having fun!



▲ Mrs. Bruso's classes were working on team building and attempting a Cup Stacking Challenge. Students had to use strings attached to a rubber band to lift, flip and place plastic cups in pyramid and column formations.





# RCE up and running for the new year

## RCE Student Attendance Policy

- ★ Breakfast is served from 7:30-7:45 a.m.
- ★ School starts at 7:50 a.m.
- ★ Students arriving between 8:00-8:15 a.m. are marked tardy.
- ★ Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. are marked absent for the ½ day morning session.
- ★ Students who are signed out before 2 p.m. are marked absent for the ½ day afternoon session.
- ★ School is dismissed at 2:50 p.m.

Please call the school office [(231) 331-6121] to let us know when your child is absent. Ms. Robyn is calling all families of absent students to check on them. If your child has an appointment, please get a note from the doctor's office. This will excuse the absence.



## Upcoming Events

- ★ October 14 — Popcorn Friday
- ★ October 20 — ½ day for students, dismissal at 11:10 a.m.
- ★ October 20 — Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12 p.m – 8 p.m.
- ★ October 21 — ½ day, dismissal at 11:10 a.m.
- ★ October 28 — Trunk or Treat in the school parking lot, 5:30 p.m.



Friday, October 28 is our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat! We're teaming up with the SEEDS after school program and Clearwater Township to expand the fun. If you want to participate with a decorated car and give out treats, please contact the school office or email Char Finley at cfinley@kpschools.com. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m.

▲ First day of school smiles! Also, RCE students had a great opportunity to check out an incredible rainbow during school one day!



Behind the scenes at the library! Ever wonder how all those new books make it onto your school library's shelves? Say Hello to Jadyn, the library's chief technical services staff person! One of Jadyn's jobs is to catalog books, which involves much more than it might seem. When a book arrives, someone has to figure out which building it belongs to, assign a Dewey Decimal number so it can be sensibly discovered, give it a barcode and RFID tag so it can be tracked system-wide, upload it to the library's online catalog, sometimes assign a Lexile number, and then wrap the book in a protective cover. Jadyn does this thousands of times a year. When we're busy, like we are now at the start of the school year, we must be extra careful walking past Jadyn's work area, because one careless motion and poor Jadyn could be buried under a book avalanche! When she's not cataloging books she's part of the library team at Rapid City Elementary. Thanks for all your hard work, Jadyn! We couldn't make library happen without you!

## Teen Health Corner

*Your physical and mental health matter to us!*



A yearly flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting yourself and your family against flu viruses. If you are 10-21 years of age, you can get yours at the Teen Health Corner. Please call 231-258-7791 to schedule your appointment.

All services are billable to all insurances or we offer a sliding scale fee for those with no insurance. We also offer assistance with applying for Medicaid.

**YOU can make Kalkaska  
Public Schools YOUR school  
of choice.**



# Birch Street is reading every day!

## Reading with your child at Home!

- ★ Encourage your child to read another book — Find ways to encourage your child to keep reading. If he or she likes one book, find another book with a similar subject or by the same author. Ask a librarian or teacher for book suggestions.
- ★ Take turns reading — Once your child can read, have him or her read aloud to you every day. You can take turns – you read one page and your child the next.
- ★ Make connections to your child’s life — Help your child make connections between what he or she reads in books and what happens in life. If you’re reading a book about a family, for example, talk about what happens in the story being the same or different from what happens in your family.
- ★ Give your child an incentive to read — At bedtime, encourage your child to read. Offer a choice between reading or sleeping. Most kids will choose to read, as long as you don’t offer something more tempting (like TV).
- ★ Try different types of books and magazines
- ★ Encourage your child to read different types of books, articles, or stories. Some kids, especially boys, prefer nonfiction books.

### Upcoming Events

- ★ October 20 – ½ day students — Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:15-8 p.m.
- ★ October 21 – ½ day for everyone — Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.
- ★ October 27 – Picture Day
- ★ October 31 – Happy Halloween!
- ★ November 1 – No School — PD Staff



▲ New dictionaries.



▲ Reading



▲ Reading in the library



▲ Thank you to the Kalkaska County Library for a great kick off this week, the kids have had great fun!



▲ We want to give a big thank you to Kiwanis for their annual donation of dictionaries to our 3rd graders.

# KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORTED FAMILIES. SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

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### Blazer Bulletin

Published by KPS

Superintendent: Rick Heitmeyer

The Blazer Bulletin is published during the school year from September—June. If you have any suggestions, or questions, please contact the office at (231) 258—9109 between the hours of 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

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# Staffing changes add to the winning team at KHS

Kalkaska High School started the year with some new faces on staff as well as some familiar faces stepping up to serve the students in different roles. Here is a brief rundown of our new staff and the positions they will fill for the 2022-23 school year.

## Ms. Katie Little

Ms. Little served the past two years at the high school as a parapro and Dropout Prevention Specialist, but this year she is teaching Biology, Honors Biology I & II and AP Biology. Before becoming a teacher, she worked at Munson Medical Center in cardiology for 17 years. One of her favorite things about teaching here is building relationships with the students.

## Mr. Nathan DeJong

Mr. DeJong brought his seven years of teaching experience in Colorado home to Michigan when he was hired to teach math at KHS. This year he teaches Algebra I and Geometry. Although he loves teaching, if he were to consider another career, he said it would be something in the engineering field. One of his favorite things about teaching here is engaging with the students.

## Ms. Barb Crambell

Ms. Crambell came out of retirement this year to add to her 35 years of experience teaching art. Many of the students at the high school are familiar faces to her since she had them when she taught art at the elementary levels. In fact, that is the thing she loves best about teaching here—watching students grow.

## Mr. Aaron Ostrander

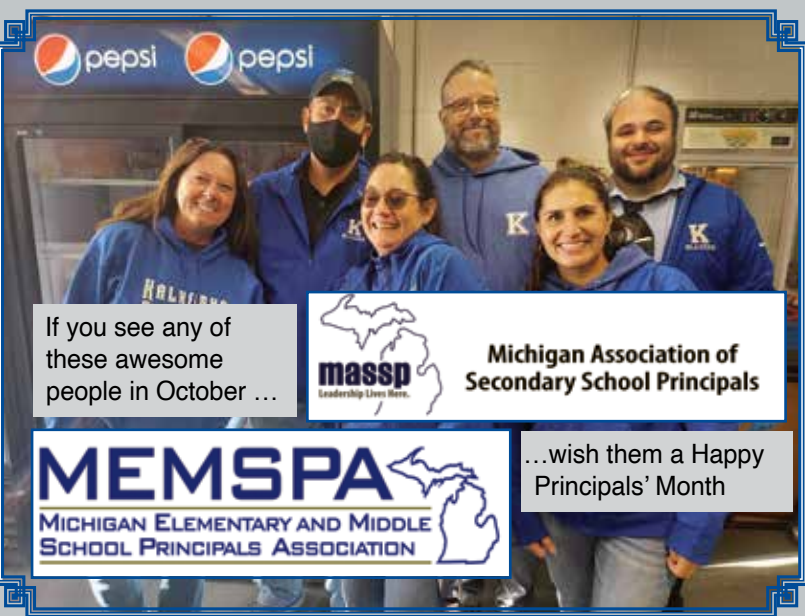
Mr. Ostrander moved into the Vice Principal position half way through the year last year after teaching English/History at KHS for 14-½ years. He has 23 years of teaching experience altogether. One thing he likes about KHS is that he feels at home here and all his friends are here.

## Ms. Gina Dellatte


Ms. Dellatte taught English for 17 years in New York and California before hiring in at KHS half-way through the year last year. She took over for Mr. Ostrander when he moved to the VP position. Before she became a teacher she was a NYC EMT-III and had a career in managed care. One thing she likes about teaching here is the welcoming atmosphere and the school pride.

## Ms. Melanie Dean-Dellatte


Ms. Dean-Dellatte started her 23rd year of teaching this year at KHS in the Special Education Department. She previously taught English in California, but moved to KHS half way through the year last year. If she wasn't teaching, she said she has considered



If you see any of these awesome people in October ...



**Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals**



...wish them a Happy Principals' Month



▲ Little



▲ Dellatte



▲ DeJong



▲ Dean-Dellatte



▲ Crambell



▲ Ingersoll

being an author, photographer, midwife, guidance counselor, social worker, and an attorney. One thing she likes about teaching at KHS is the kids here are so good.

## Mr. Zach Ingersoll

Mr. Ingersoll began his first year teaching American History this fall, but he also served as a long-term sub for the last two years, so he is a familiar face at KHS. Before he became a teacher he pursued a career in nursing, but decided that wasn't the best choice for him. One thing he likes about teaching here is that he graduated from KHS, so it's nice to return and teach the future generation.



▲ Ostrander

■ By Kristin Hall, KHS Yearbook staff member