



# KALKASKA BLAZER BULLETIN

April 2024  
Vol. III | No. 7  
#GoBlazers

BUILDING TRADITIONS EVERY DAY!



## Celebrating a month of reading



### KALKASKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Birch Street Elementary and Kalkaska Upper Elementary celebrated March is Reading Month with many activities and a lot of reading. Thank you to everyone who was able to provide special reading to our students!



### RAPID CITY ELEMENTARY

Please see the article about RCE's March is Reading Month celebrations! You can see there were many great reading opportunities!

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

### BULLETIN

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

PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CADILLAC MI PERMIT #147

BOX HOLDER  
KALKASKA MI 49646

# RCE enjoys reading

## Rockstars enjoy reading in March

Rapid City students celebrated March is Reading Month with lots of fun events and activities! Every week teachers switched classrooms, reading their favorite books to all the students. We were also fortunate to have multiple guest readers from the Kalkaska County Library and Clearwater Township Fire Department.

RCE Family Literacy Night included a pizza dinner, craft stations, read alouds and a children's play. A big thank you to Title I teacher Britany Root for organizing this fun event!

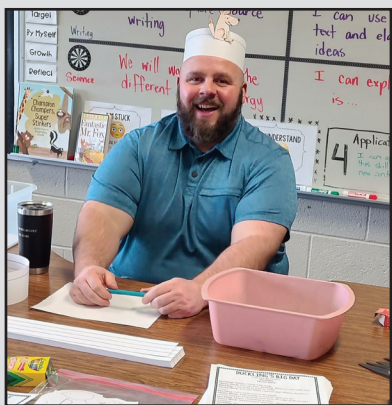
Mrs. Zamaites's 5th graders have been visited several times throughout the school year by representatives from the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies. Rockstars have been discovering the importance of preserving, protecting,

and restoring Northern Michigan's native resources. This month, the Au Sable Institute will be providing RCE with 1,000 native plants that students will be planting in our very own school garden.

Mrs. Steinhoff's second and third grade class had a special visitor this month. 7&4 News Meteorologist Heather Bricca presented to the class. The students learned about weather, the job of a meteorologist, and they were featured on the news! Check out our Rapid City Facebook page to see the news segment featuring our students.

**Heather Bricca @h\_bricca · 17h**  
 Today's Heather's Weather Lessons brought us to Rapid City Elementary School in Kalkaska! This 3rd grade class was so fun. Thanks for having me! 🇺🇸 🍌

@upnorthlive

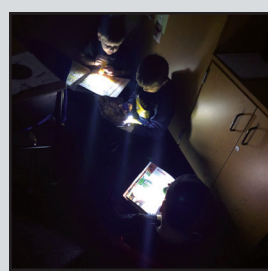
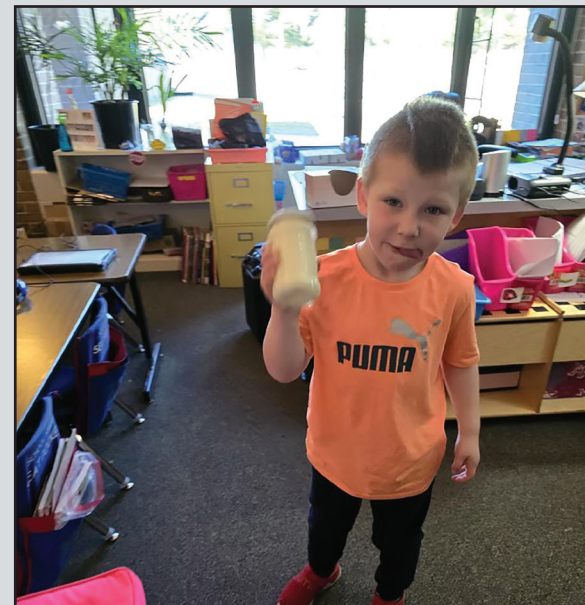
### LITERACY

Staff emphasized literacy during March is Reading Month with many activities for the community and school.

# Spring Time

*What can you do during the spring?*

Are you ready for Spring? We sure are here at Birch Street. Here are a few things you could do outside of school to keep the learning going: rock painting, make a wind chime, a DIY rain gauge, or a nature sound map. Enjoy the weather!



## LOOK AT THE SUN!

Events at BSE include first grade flashlight reading, second grade math games, kindergartners making homemade butter during a CKLA unit, and students outside learning about the solar eclipse.

**BIRCH STREET ELEMENTARY HOSTS THREE GREAT START TO READINESS PROGRAM (GSRP) PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS!**  
**GSRP IS A FREE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**  
**FOR CHILDREN 4 YEARS OLD BY SEPTEMBER 1ST**

### WHAT DOES GSRP OFFER?

- Research validated core curriculum with objectives aligned to social-emotional, language, literacy, and mathematic development
- Aligned to the state's Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Preschool
- Child to adult ratio of 1:8
- Ongoing and individualized student assessment of growth
- Child led learning and engagement
- Multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS)
- Play based learning with embedded academics
- Family Participation Groups
- GSRP Associate Teachers have a Child Development Associate Credential
- Lead and Associate Teachers complete annual 16 hours of LARA training
- Lead and Associate Teachers are CPR and First Aid certified

### Tuition for 3 - 5 Year olds + GSRP Blend

**Angie Bromley**

- Currently Enrolled at Grand Canyon University to pursue A Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education
- 2 Years Lead Tuition Teacher
- 10+ Years experience in Early Childhood Education
- Child Development Associate (CDA) credential

**Peggy Schaub**

- Associates Degree General Liberal Arts & Science
- Associates Degree Early Childhood Education
- 13 Years GSRP Teacher Assistant
- 6 Years Tuition Based Preschool Lead Teacher
- GSRP/Tuition Lead Teacher

### GSRP for 4 Year Old Children

**Abby Preston**

- Currently enrolled with Grand Valley State University to obtain Teaching certificate
- 7 years Lead teacher experience in GSRP
- 2 Years Associate Teaching experience GSRP
- 16 Years experience working with young children
- Researched and written numerous educational grants
- Continuous partnership with community programs
- Collaborates with outside agencies for family resources

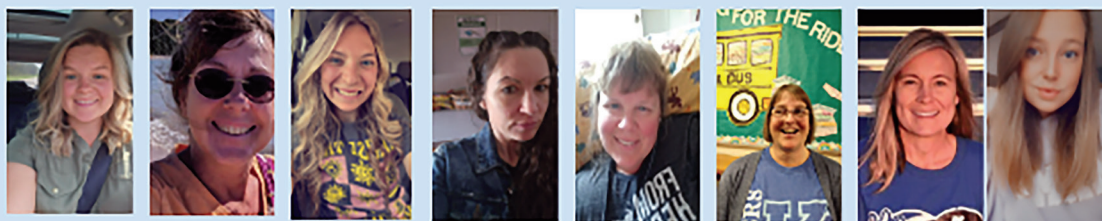
**Deborah Meyer**

- Currently enrolled with Grand Valley State University to obtain Teaching Certificate and Master's Degree in Elementary Education
- Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management and Communications
- 2 Years substitute teaching for GSRP and Kalkaska Public Schools
- 6 Years Small business owner of DAM Good Baking
- 3 Years as Early Childhood Classroom Assistant

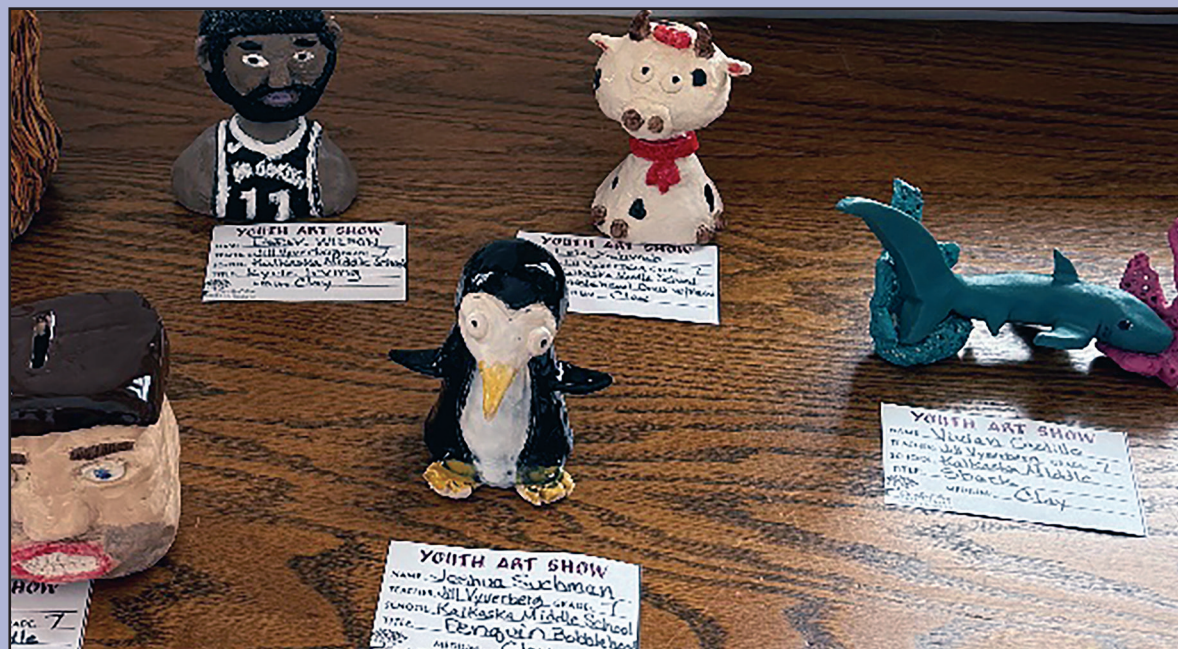
### Strong Beginnings for 3 Year Old Children

- Master's in the Art of Teaching with an emphasis in Literacy
- Bachelor's of Science Degree in Education with endorsements in Early Childhood Education, Reading, and Mathematics
- Valid Professional Teaching Certificate
- Fourteen years teaching experience with ten years at the preschool level
- GSRP GURU and mentor for Northwest Education Services
- Nominated Michigan Teacher of the Year

### Preschool Support Staff and Associate Teachers



Rylie McKinley 10 Years	Lena Mohyla 20 Years	Kortney Way 4 Years	Krystal Tinker 13 Years	Kristine Stanula 12 Years	Terri Liddle 10 Years	Michelle Smith 10 Years	Cheyenne Hickman 8 Years
----------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------

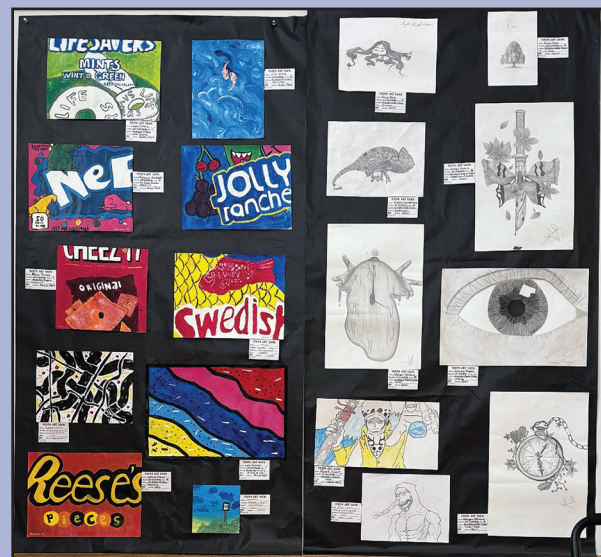


**A LOT GOING ON RIGHT NOW AT KMS**

KMS 8th Grade Science Teacher Bryan Karazia (Top left, 2nd from right) was one of the few teachers in the area recognized for the 2024 Outstanding Person in Education (OPIE) Award. The MEA hosted a nice ceremony at TC West. It was a proud moment to have KMS represented and a pleasure to see him receive his well-deserved award.


During the School Board meeting on March 18, KMS Principal Scott Morey presented secretary Sara Waterman, along with students (L-R) Bentley Biallas, Xavier Simpson and Lily Smith with Kalkaska Public School District Recognition Awards.

Several of Mrs. Vyverberg's KMS Visual Arts students had artwork on display at Crooked Tree Arts Center in Traverse City from March 5–April 5. Marissa Manchester was honored on March 10 with Awards from the Kendall College of Art & Design and Crooked Tree Art Council for her Ceramic Highland Cow.



# McTeacher Night Returns

*Slated for Trout Thursday, April 25*

 McTeacher Night has been a tradition in Kalkaska for years although it was postponed a few years back due to COVID-19. The special night made a huge comeback last year, so the tradition will continue on April 25.

McTeacher Night is a fun and exciting way to raise money for the journalism program, and it is an easy and hands-on way to help keep yearbook prices down for KHS students and families.

The event has been held on Trout Thursday for more than a decade and is loved by all of Kalkaska. Throughout the night, local teachers cook and serve food, drinks, and desserts. Along with their meal, patrons can also make donations to our school and journalism program. Journalism students pitch in by selling pies and cleaning up tables around the lobby.

Several teachers participate year after year in the event, including social studies teacher Matthew Olds.



## MCTEACHER NIGHT 2023

Tom Holka of McDonald's presented a check for \$1,900 to Stacey Hicks, journalism teacher, to benefit the journalism program at the high school. Emily Wood, a 2023 KHS grad, posed with pies she helped sell at last year's McTeacher Night. Math Teacher Kerry Wilson takes orders during McTeacher Night.

"I believe it is going to be a night of fun, a night where our community comes

together to support our local school and our school supports our community," Olds said.

Last year, McTeacher Night raised \$2,300, with \$400 alone generated from pie sales. The additional \$1,900 was donated by McDonald's.

Journalism teacher Stacey Hicks said, "Teachers support the event by working in shifts alongside McDonald's employees, and if they're not working, they bring their families in to eat. Students come throughout the night to support us, especially after practice."

"Overall, our local McDonald's goes above and beyond to make the special night work for our community and the journalism program, and we are tremendously grateful for their support," Hicks added.

McTeacher Night will be 4-7 p.m. on April 25. We hope to see you there.

# PRIDE

# Fifth graders learn about erosion

An ongoing collaboration between fifth-grade students at KUE and the AuSable Institute involves a comprehensive planting project. For their final project, students will strategically plant native plants alongside the walking trail close to the Kaliseum. In these pictures, students are engaging in a simulation of erosion processes, demonstrating the vital role played by plants in mitigating its adverse effects.

March is Reading Month ended with an epic race between the Birch Street and KUE principals. Cheering on Mr. Moore in the principal race was a favorite activity.

Kalkaska Upper Elementary also ran a penny war between grades 3-5. All combined, the three grades raised \$500 to donate to the Kalkaska County Library!

The annual culminating activity of flashlight reading utilized the new gym this year.

The students love this as they are able to bring any type of light from home, and sit anywhere in the dark gym to read. While not as scary as reading in the Cherry Street basement, the kids had a lot of fun.

Donuts with Grown-Ups brought in the special grown-ups in our students' lives to have a donut and juice during — 158 students participated with 245 adults attending!



## KUE HAPPENINGS!

Several fun events happened at Kalkaska Upper Elementary School. Fifth graders have learned about erosion, the whole school celebrated reading, a penny war raised money for the Kalkaska County Library, and Donuts with Grown-Ups brought in special adults for KUE students.





**Teen Health Corner**

## TEEN HEALTH CORNER

Helping kids find the help they need

**It's PHYSICAL TIME...get it done NOW**  
for next year's school sport's season!

Call today and schedule, **do not wait** until July or August.

**K 231-258-7791/FA 231-369-2000**

-A physical completed anytime after April 15th is good for the entire following school sports seasons. (Scan the QR below for the MHSSA form)

-Physicals screen for anemia, vision difficulties, joint/muscle conditions that may lead to injury, and potential heart conditions, that could cause sudden death.

-Each visit allows enough time for teens to address all their concerns which may include immunizations, acne, asthma, stress, moods, and sleep.

-Labs, X-rays, and specialty referrals, are just a few services available as well.

-Easy appointments to set up at Teen Health that fit your busy schedule.

**CONTACT US:**

 (231) 258-7791 Kalkaska  
419 South Coral St

 (231) 258-7922 KMS-E3  
Behavior Health services ONLY  
Kalkaska Middle School  
1700 West Kalkaska St

 (231) 369-2000 Forest Area  
7741 Shippy Rd, Fife Lake

**Three convenient locations**



We accept all insurances, provide Medicaid enrollment assistance, offer a sliding fee scale for the uninsured, and do not turn you away for an inability to pay.





ECLIPSE!

KHS Principal Staci Short views the eclipse on Monday, April 8.



# Your Library s you!

Many thanks to our most excellent guest readers! You always make March is Reading Month something special!

# KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

Rachael Birgy	—	President
Regan Foerster	—	Vice President
Sarah Dudek	—	Secretary
Mary Scobey	—	Treasurer
Richard Hodgman	—	Trustee
Wendy Watson	—	Trustee
Steve Ordway	—	Trustee

Central Business Office — 258-9109

Rick Heitmeyer, Superintendent	1120
Cari Jo Roberts, Executive Assistant	1101
Jeffrey Scroggins, Director of Finance	1104
David Tucker, Human Resources Director	1116

Senior High — 258-9167

Staci Short, Principal	2103
Aaron Ostrander, Assistant Principal	2170
Mary Deb Rabourn, Secretary	2173
Rhonda Wurtz, Secretary	2102

Middle — 258-4040

Scott Morey, Principal	3205
Sara Waterman, Secretary	3201
Nickey Torrey, Secretary	3203

Birch Street Elementary — 258-8629

Arica Zenner, Principal	4204
Tracy Dimon, Secretary	4200
Melissa Patnode, Secretary	4202

Kalkaska Upper Elementary — 258-9146

Ryan Moore, Principal	5106
Sue Woodruff, Secretary	5107

Rapid City Elementary — 331-6121

Laura Gehman, Principal	6103
Robyn Czuk, Secretary	6101

Athletics — 258-9167


Bryan Hawkins, Athletic Director	2236
Linda Colvin, Secretary	2185

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. Editorial assistance provided by Kalkaska County Library Director John P. Roberts.

All content copyright © MMXXIV by Kalkaska Public Schools



# NHS Seniors Bid Farewell ...

## NHS welcomes new inductees

■ By Shaylee Wainman

The National Honor Society held its annual Senior Farewell and New Member Induction ceremony on April 3. As the name suggests, the event celebrates the senior members and their service to NHS and welcomes new members who will carry on NHS tradition.

The event began with the seniors lighting a candle for each pillar of NHS—Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. Each senior then reads a bio of each inductee. As part of the Senior Farewell, the teacher of their choice reads their bio as a way of saying goodbye and thank you. It was a very emotional event and several staff members and students started to tear up.

NHS adviser Jeremy Guggemos has led the organization for the past two years, and he said he likes NHS because it is fun to work with the most academically inclined students who make the school and community better for all. While he enjoys inducting new people, he said it is emotional to watch the seniors leave to make way for the new members.

Guggemos said he wants students to join NHS who are willing to put forward the work and effort



“I really enjoy NHS but it is difficult to find students that fit the criteria,” Guggemos said. “The main criteria is to take classes seriously. It is important that they do their best and they have to have a 3.3 or higher cumulative GPA for three consecutive semesters. Any students who are interested in joining need to be ready for hard work,” he said.

The students who are in NHS enjoy it as well. NHS president Alyssa Colvin, a senior, just bid farewell to the rest of the society. She stated that she enjoyed being able to be the president and being able to help out the community.

“It was really hard saying goodbye and having this be my last ceremony, but I’m really thankful for the memories I had, the friends I made, and the opportunities I was given that I would not have otherwise had,” she said.

Even though it was hard for her to say goodbye she was still happy to make way for the new inductees.

Vice President Celina Castaneda also bid farewell to the NHS community on the 3rd. Celina has been in NHS since her sophomore year and she really enjoyed having the opportunity to be able to represent the school and to be able to help out the community.

Her favorite part of NHS was hosting the blood drives because she felt like she was helping the community and giving students to do their part in the world.

“I will miss being able to do the blood drives and getting to work with the volunteers and students. I really enjoyed working with

Alyssa Colvin on everything. I felt like we made a good team,” she said.

Even though Castaneda also had to say goodbye she is very thankful for all of the memories she made and opportunities she was given.

**“It was really hard saying goodbye and having this be my last ceremony, but I’m really thankful for the memories I had, the friends I made, and the opportunities I was given that I would not have otherwise had.”**

**— Senior Alyssa Colvin**

