



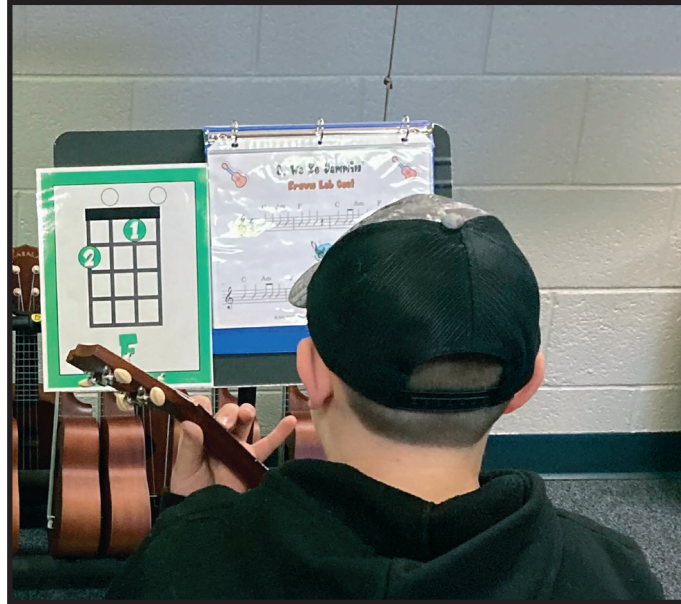
# KALKASKA BLAZER BULLETIN

February 2024  
Vol. III | No. 6  
#GoBlazers

BUILDING TRADITIONS EVERY DAY!



## Playing music the ukulele way



### FIFTH GRADERS LEARNING

5th grade students at KUE have been working hard learning how to play the ukulele. Pictured are Mayson and Jailind when they came into the music room before school started because they wanted extra time to work on some more advanced songs. The students work in a whole group setting during their music rotation to learn new skills, and then break into smaller groups for individualized practice. Mrs. Muraida is particularly impressed with the students who team up together and take turns listening, performing and teaching each other. Keep up the great work!



### 100 DAYS

Elementary students celebrated 100 Days of School. You can see Birch Street Elementary and Rapid City Elementary students celebrating with their teachers!

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

### BULLETIN

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

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# Rapid City celebrates 100 Days

## Rockstars year in motion

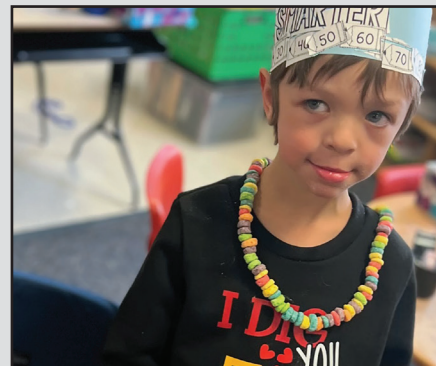
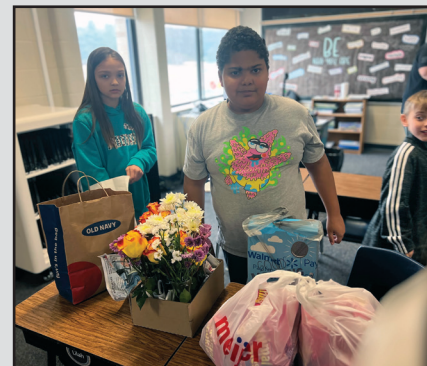
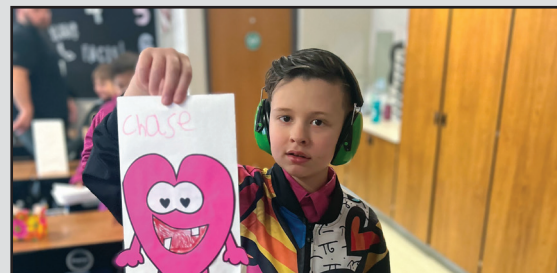
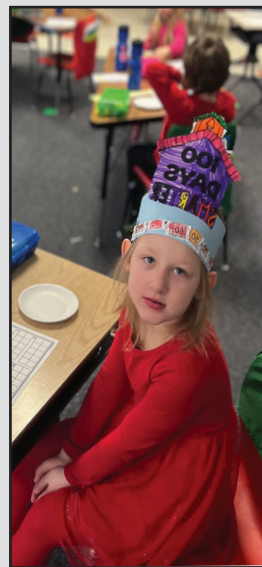
Rapid City Rockstars started the new semester by celebrating 100 Days of School and Fabulous February! Every Friday in the month of February, students participated in an hour of crafts, games, and sporting activities.

Congratulations to the following girls for joining the 5th grade volleyball team: Alexis Freeland, Mona Inman, Gwendalyn Finley, Jadeyn Meyer, Clair McKinnon, Karmen Zirkle, Danica Brunham. Their first tournament was Saturday,

Feb. 24!

A huge shout out to Mr. Bontrager and the SEEDS crew! The RCE SEEDS program provides students with the opportunity to experience Hip Hop Dance Classes every Tuesday, gymnastics classes every Wednesday, and volleyball skills classes every Thursday.

Friendship, kindness, and love filled the halls as Rockstars exchanged cards, treats and little tokens of appreciation for one another.



Friendship, kindness, and love fills the halls as Rapid City students exchanged cards, treats and little tokens of appreciation for one another.

# 100 Days!!!

## Woohoo! Celebration Time!

Birch Street Elementary School celebrated the 100th day of school on February 12, and kindergarten had so much fun with it. The kids were excited to dress up with suspenders, bow ties, long dresses, aprons, spectacles and walking canes. They have learned to count to 100 by 1's, 5's and 10's.

### Calling all Superheroes!

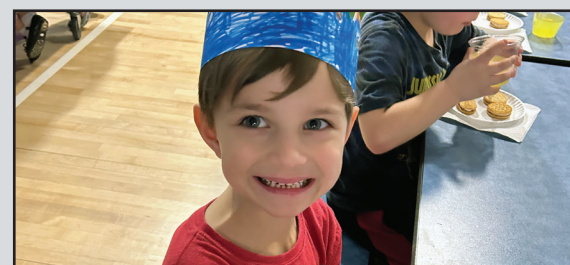
March is National Reading Month. Our theme this year is Reading Is My Superpower. Throughout the month students will be celebrating reading by participating in the following activities:

- ★ Superhero-themed spirit week
- ★ A hunt for The Super Principal, Mrs. Zenner
- ★ Working to complete the Superhero Mission with a daily reading challenge
- ★ Guest readers will be visiting to read a super story during library time
- ★ A rescue mission assembly at the end of the month

We have joined with Kalkaska County Library again as part of our celebration. The library will be giving each student a "Superhero Animal" color page. If students bring it to the county library they will receive a prize along with helping their grade level earn the most visits. The grade level with the most visits will win a party!

Thank You:

- ★ To The Knights of Columbus for the coats that were donated.
- ★ To Robert and Marilyn Larson for the coats that were donated.





(Clockwise from top left) —Congratulations Musicians of the Month for February: Connor Nichols, Luciano Fortuna, and Zach Little (missing). Congratulations Students of the Month for February representing our Dependable Core Value: Afton Staley, Amelia VanHorn and Madi Andrews. KMS's second Pastries with Parents was a great success, even allowing for a little more blustery weather in our community. Thank You all for supporting your students and our school. Mr. Karazia and his Advisory, including students Bentley Malbouef and Landen Brown, used the classroom 3-D printer to create heart-shaped word-inspired keychains that they sold for a \$1 each (and with a magnet, \$2) with proceeds going to the Kalkaska Dialysis Center. Student Council sold wooden hearts for Valentine's Day and matched proceeds for a total donation of \$200. Student Council also put on a terrific after-school Valentine's Day dance with concessions.



# #BLAZERPRIDE

# Winter sports are wrapping up

## WINTER SPORTS RECAP



Congratulations to varsity wrestler Gabe Buyze–Prieto, Lake Michigan Conference champion in the 132–pound weight division!

Good luck to the varsity boys and girls basketball teams as they begin their postseason tournaments! For more information, visit the basketball page at [mhsaa.com](http://mhsaa.com), or check out our schedule at [kalkaskablazers.com](http://kalkaskablazers.com) website.

The following Blazers were selected as our high school Athletes of the Week, sponsored by Big Boy of Kalkaska, during the month of February:

- ★ Tommy Olds (Varsity Boys Basketball) and Kylie Robinson (Varsity Wrestling)
- ★ Mya Alexander (JV Girls Basketball) and Jacksin Osborne (Freshman Boys Basketball)
- ★ Gabe Buyze–Prieto (Varsity Wrestling) and Kayla Alexander (JV Girls Basketball)
- ★ Tyler Smith (Freshman Boys Basketball); Cam Moore and Drew Shetler (Varsity Boys Basketball)

## HELP WANTED!

We are in the middle of an unprecedented shortage of sports officials. Each year in Michigan, over 1,000 new referees and umpires are needed to replace those who have retired or moved on from officiating.



The boys basketball team upset Cheboygan in the first-round of the MHSAA District.

## Simply put: no officials, no games!

It is easy to spot the fans in the bleachers who make all the calls and are not afraid to tell the world about it. Get in the game! You will even get paid to do it!

Officiating is a great way to be a part of the action, stay in shape, and so much more. Signing up is easy! To become a registered official, log onto [mhssa.com/i-am/officials](http://mhssa.com/i-am/officials).

## OPEN COACHING POSITIONS

Kalkaska athletics is currently accepting applications for the following open coaching positions:

- ★ Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball Head Coach
- ★ Varsity Boys Soccer Head Coach
- ★ Varsity Football Assistant Coach

If you, or someone you know is interested, please check the Job Postings section of the [kpschools.com](http://kpschools.com) website under the 'About Us' tab. Job descriptions and instructions for submitting candidate materials can be found there.

## THINKING SPRING

Spring sports are on the horizon, so athletes need to be sure to have a physical form on file with Mrs. Colvin in the Athletics Office at KHS prior to practicing. Middle school athletes can turn their forms into Mrs. Waterman in the KMS office. The official start date for spring practices is Monday, March 11. Pay–to–participate is due by the first date of competition.

# Spanish students teach KUE students

## Spanish Lessons

Kiera Curneal and Celina Castenada from the High School's Spanish 5 class have come into Mrs. Bassett's room to teach the students Spanish. This is a great example of students teaching students. Our 4th graders love this!



## Science and Technology

Mr. Burkam's Science and Technology class learned about Newton's Third Law. This is the law that focuses on Action and Reaction. "For every action (force) in nature, there is an equal and opposite reaction." Mr. Burkam's class demonstrated and analyzed this concept using balloon rockets on string.



## Electricity

The 4th grade is currently studying electricity and circuits. To help bring these to life, Mr. Moore visited the 4th-grade classes and gave a demonstration with an apparatus borrowed from Mr. Karazia's 8th-grade science class. This allowed the students to see how electricity can be generated and explore how we can use circuits to transfer and use electricity. The students had a shockingly good time.







### SHOCKING!

Several fun events have been happening at Kalkaska Upper Elementary School. While learning about electricity, the students had a shockingly good time!



## READING IS MY SUPERPOWER

 <p><b>March is Reading Month!</b></p> <p>Help students get <b>SUPER</b> excited about reading all month long with these <b>AWESOME</b> activities!</p>	<p><b>Guest Reader</b> ????????????</p>  <p>A "Guest Reader" will be visiting to read a <b>SUPER</b> story during library.</p>
<p><b>WHERE IS MRS. ZENNER THE SUPER PRINCIPAL?</b></p> <p>Keep your eyes out for "Mrs. Zenner" hidden in the most unusual places.</p> 	 <p><b>"SUPERHEROES" AT THE KALKASKA COUNTY LIBRARY!</b></p> <p>To complete the <i>Superhero Mission</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Color the "Superhero Animal" sent home</li> <li>• Take it to the <b>KALKASKA COUNTY LIBRARY</b> and collect your reading month <b>PRIZE!</b></li> <li>• The grade level with the most students to complete their <i>Superhero Mission</i> will win a <b>CLASSROOM PARTY!</b></li> <li>• KPS students already have a library card! Check out books with just their name!</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPiRiT DAYS</b></p> <p>March 1st - March 8th (See Back)</p>	 <p>Watch for the log to come home.</p>
<p><b>D.E.A.R. TIME CELEBRATION</b></p> <p>Grab your book and read! If "caught" reading each day, students will enjoy a <b>rescue mission</b> assembly at the end of the month!</p>	



**THANK YOU!**

The students at BSE benefit when folks like Robert and Marilyn Larson make awesome donations! Thanks for your kindness!

# ALL BIRCH STREET & UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS!!

# READING IS MY SUPERPOWER!

**MARCH IS READING MONTH - AND WE HAVE A SPECIAL MISSION FOR YOU:**

- 1. COLOR YOUR SUPERHERO OR CAPE**
- 2. BRING IT TO THE KALKASKA COUNTY LIBRARY\***
- 3. GET A SUPER AWESOME PRIZE!**

**\* BEFORE APRIL FIRST!**

**THE GRADE LEVEL WITH THE HIGHEST PARTICIPATION WILL EARN A MEGA-COOL PAR-TAY!**

## STUDENTS ARE SUPER!

**ALL BLAZER STUDENTS ALREADY HAVE COUNTY LIBRARY CARDS! WE JUST NEED YOUR STUDENT'S NAME TO BORROW BOOKS!**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE LIBRARY!**

**247 S. CEDAR ST, KALKASKA**  
**231-258-9411    INFO@KALKASKALIBRARY.ORG**

# KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

<p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid blue; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>Board of Education</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 60%;">Rachael Birgy</td><td style="width: 5%;">—</td><td style="width: 35%;">President</td></tr> <tr><td>Regan Foerster</td><td>—</td><td>Vice President</td></tr> <tr><td>Sarah Dudek</td><td>—</td><td>Secretary</td></tr> <tr><td>Mary Scobey</td><td>—</td><td>Treasurer</td></tr> <tr><td>Richard Hodgman</td><td>—</td><td>Trustee</td></tr> <tr><td>Wendy Watson</td><td>—</td><td>Trustee</td></tr> <tr><td>Steve Ordway</td><td>—</td><td>Trustee</td></tr> </table>	Rachael Birgy	—	President	Regan Foerster	—	Vice President	Sarah Dudek	—	Secretary	Mary Scobey	—	Treasurer	Richard Hodgman	—	Trustee	Wendy Watson	—	Trustee	Steve Ordway	—	Trustee	<p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid blue; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>Middle — 258-4040</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 80%;">Scott Morey, Principal</td><td style="width: 20%;">3205</td></tr> <tr><td>Sara Waterman, Secretary</td><td>3201</td></tr> <tr><td>Nickey Torrey, Secretary</td><td>3203</td></tr> </table>	Scott Morey, Principal	3205	Sara Waterman, Secretary	3201	Nickey Torrey, Secretary	3203
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Superintendent: Rick Heitmeyer

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# BLAZERS



# Reality hits the Class of 2024

## Event highlights “life”

■ **By Ava Bole**

Reality hit seniors on February 16 when Forest Area Federal Credit Union came to the high school.

As part of the half-day activity, seniors were given a career, annual income, and a set amount of money in their account to work with for the month. They began by finding a place to live, where they had a few options, including whether or not they wanted a roommate. Students then went station-to-station buying things, deciding how they would eat and dress themselves, and giving to charity.

At the end, students took their information to a financial adviser. If they ended with a positive amount, they had won against reality. If they were in the negative, they would have to give some things up or find a part-time job.

FAFCU representatives planned the event. They met with counselor Jeremy Guggemos and gave him a list of careers to have the seniors choose from. Students chose their careers earlier this year. The event took a long time to schedule. Everyone was a volunteer, and the coordinator had to fit everyone’s schedules.

Kerry Wilson teaches Personal Finance at the high school. In her class, students complete many activities to help them learn how to manage money. Students were able to bring their knowledge from this class to the reality fair.

Senior Evan Hardy enjoyed the reality fair, “It was nice because it was similar to things we have done in personal finance.”

Wilson decided to join the students and participate in the event. She thought it would be easier to have conversations with students about the activity. As she walked around the fair, she noticed that the students were confident in their choices.

“It was fun, high energy, and the kids had a good time,” she said.

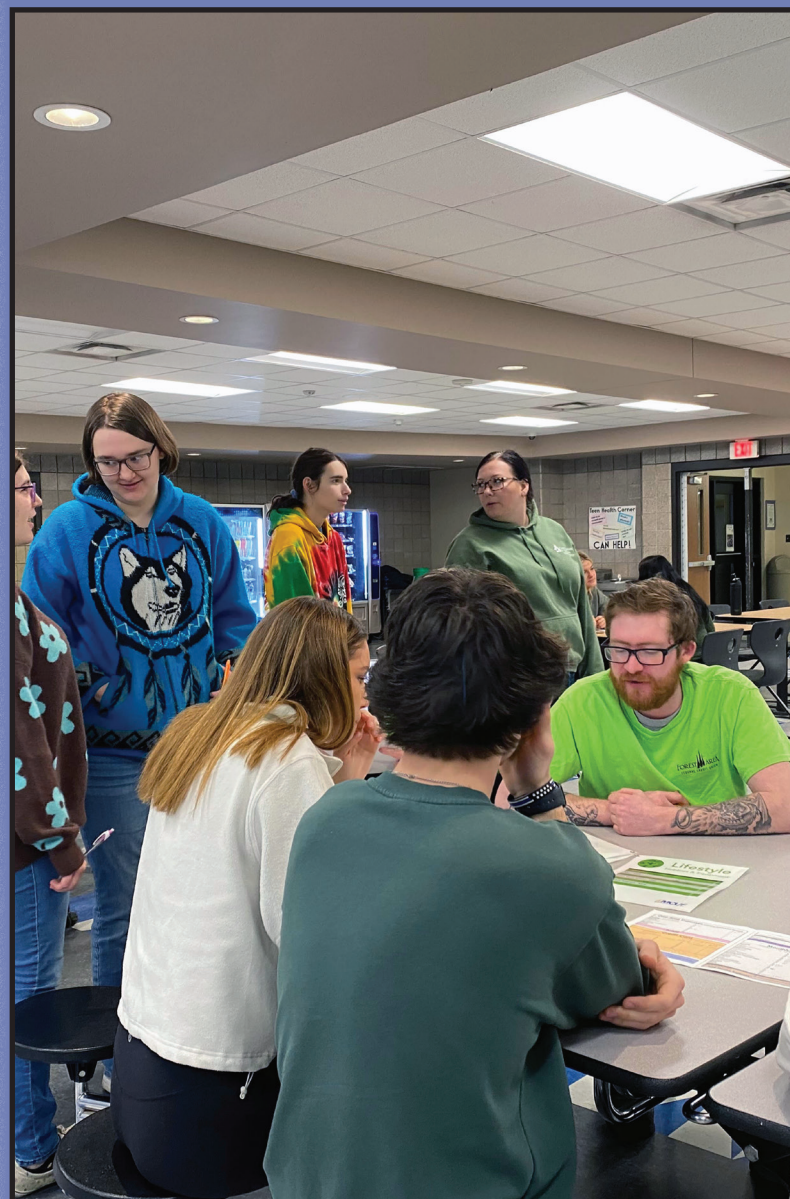
Although it was fun, some of the student body felt that it could have had a few minor changes. One student felt that there should have been more options. You had to buy something from every station. They felt students should have been able to opt out of buying some things.

Students enjoyed the break from the classroom to do a less traditional activity

“It was fun to do something different,” said Senior Cadence Campbell.

Wilson added that the Reality Fair was just the latest in many activities FAFCU has developed to promote fiscal responsibility over the years.

“Forest Area does a great job supporting the community,” said. “They were always active in my classroom every year.”



## A DOSE OF REALITY

(Top) Clara Lafayette, from Forest Area Federal Credit Union, explains to Seniors Gavin Guggemos and Camden Moore what they can add to their monthly budget as part of the Reality Fair held at the high school on Feb. 16. Seniors Michaela Farnsworth and Carson Hillier (seated) get the results of their monthly budget choices from a financial adviser from Forest Area Federal Credit Union. Seniors Sophia Brautigam and Jenna Rabourn (standing) wait their turn to find out their results.