



Snowcoming traditions



SCENEST FROM SNOWCOMING

(Clockwise from top left) Gavin Guggemos and Ruby Short were crowned Snowcoming King and Queen at the basketball game on Jan. 26 and then represented the student body that voted for them at the Snowcoming Dance on Jan. 27. Senior Tripp Wagner is the guest partner of Dance Team Member Myah Little as they perform in the traditional "Boy/Girl" dance for the high school and middle school before the Snowcoming Game. Junior Ricky Hiller struggles with the Hula Hoop during a Snowcoming competition that pitted the boys and the girls Snowcoming courts against each other. The boys ended victorious as the students cheered them on from the stands. Freshman Xiana Buyze-Prieto shows off her Snowcoming school spirit on Blue and White Friday. Exchange Student Giorgia Battaglia and math teacher Kerry Wilson take part in another Dance Team tradition — the Student/Teacher dance. Drum Major Octavia Kurth leads the KHS Marching Band and the entire student body into the gym for the Snowcoming Assembly.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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

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Rapid City Christmas Recital

RCE students rocked their Christmas recital the Monday right before Winter break. The concert was an exciting and successful event thanks to the talents of our beloved music teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Muraida.

RCE will be hosting Rapid City PTO's 20th Annual Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 24, from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. This annual event will be the most exciting one yet. Along with the popular Cold Cash Hill, Bake Sale and Obstacle Course, volunteers will be providing new and exciting games that have never been offered. For any questions, donations or information, please contact Rapid City PTO via Rapid City Elementary Parent

Teacher Organization on Facebook.

RCE's very own Ms. Kari Traylor is now a grandma! On the morning of January 13, 2024, precious 6 lb, 13oz Alaina Michele Marie was welcomed into the world. Congratulations Ms. Kari, we bet she will be as special as you are!

Congratulations to the Rockstar 2nd Quarter Honor Roll!

- ★ 3rd grade: Wyatt Maeder and Glenn Howe
- ★ 4th grade: Dyson Dyell
- ★ 5th grade: Ammelia Amidon, Brennan Bielski, Kieley Babbit, Ransom Comfort, Aubrey Drinkwine, Gwen Finley, Alexis Freeland (not pictured)

Dayton Freeland and Clair McKinnon

These Rockstars glowed with school spirit during spirit week.



There has been a lot of great activities and achievement at RCE! Great job, students and staff!

“Self Control”

January focuses on developing skills

During the month of January, the counseling department is focusing on a school-wide initiative on “self-control.”

With new year/new goals, our first goal is increasing our knowledge on self-control. Coming off of a longer break can be difficult for a lot of students. They may struggle getting back into the routine, may get frustrated in the classroom and at home, or simply refuse directions.

January is perfect to focus on self-control so our students can develop the skills needed to recognize their emotions and behaviors, think about “the now”, and make a responsible choice.

Preschool is focusing on Community helpers this month and we would like to extend thank yous too...

- ★ Kalkaska County Sheriff’s Department
- ★ Detective Foerster
- ★ Kalkaska County Fire Department
- ★ Mason Moses
- ★ Crystal Lake Family Practice
- ★ Dr. Debra Swoverland

MSU Health and Wellness has been visiting 2nd grade and preschool students to teach them about the five senses.



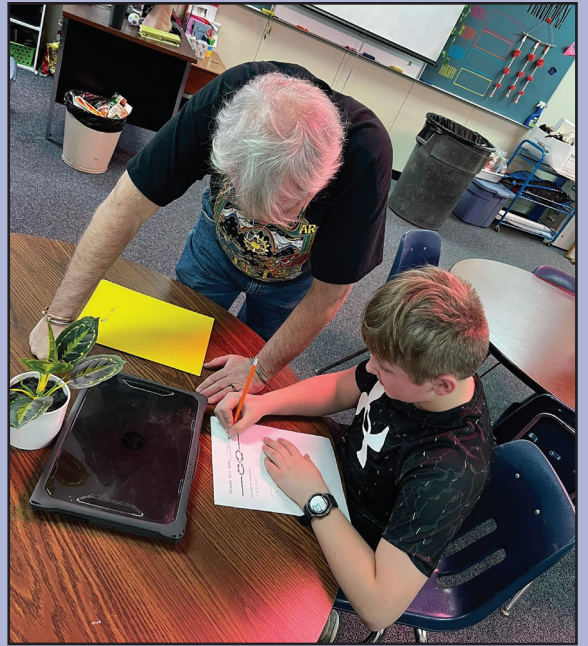
THANK YOU!

★ We also want to give a big THANK YOU to our grounds and maintenance crew, along with our custodial staff, for making sure our sidewalks and parking lots are taken care of during our Northern Michigan snowy months.



SO MUCH FUN

The community helps and MSU Health and Wellness spent a great deal of time working with and educating students at BSE!



(Clockwise from top left) On January 5, KMS welcomed students back to school after the holiday break with a P.R.I.D.E. Assembly where Principal Scott Morey discussed the core values at KMS which are: Prepared, Respectful, Involved, Dependable, Effort. The entire student body then stepped onto the gym floor for a massive game of Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Cup until the last student was standing — our very own, Tyson Steiner. He held the “final” cup and won a \$15 Taco Bell gift card. Community In Schools of Northwest Michigan (CIS) is now offering a Homework Club Monday – Thursday after school. CIS provides students with help on their academics by allowing one-on-one tutoring from teaching staff the students already know and work with, as well as friendly faces from other buildings within the district. Musicians of the Month: Abbygale Walters (6), Victoria Wellman (7) and Alivia Perrin (8). P.R.I.D.E Students of the Month representing the KMS core value of “Involved” are Parker Fondren (6), Gabriel Ollanketo (7), and Helena Fisher-Andrews (8).

FAFCU cookbook art contest winners

Young artists learn about art and books

Forest Area Federal Credit Union (FAFCU) held a cookbook art contest for their upcoming cookbook sale. Students were encouraged, during their art class with Mrs. Zemsta, to draw pictures of food in the following categories: Front Cover, Drinks, Desserts, Soups, Main Dishes, Sides and Breads and submit them to the FAFCU team.

Several entries from students in grades 3–5 were collected and entered. FAFCU chose the following students as winners (left to right): Brooklynn Matte (4th grade), Alayna Draper (3rd Grade), and Hunter Mittenberger (3rd grade). Students were rewarded with a certificate and an Amazon gift card. Go Blazers!



Let's get ready to wrestle!

K

alkaska High School is honored to be selected as a host site for the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Regional Tournament!

16 of the top wrestlers in Division 3 will make their way to Kalkaska on Saturday, February 17 to compete for a chance to go to the state finals at Ford Field in Detroit. Check mhsaa.com for more tournament details.

SENIOR NIGHTS HONORING WINTER ATHLETES FROM CLASS OF '24

We are closing in on the final weeks of the winter sports season, and that means it is time to mark your calendars for celebrating the careers of our winter sports athletes from the Class of 2024.

- ★ Friday, Feb. 16 – Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Grayling
- ★ Thursday, Feb. 22 – Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Glen Lake

WINTER WEATHER AND SPORTS

Michigan's variety of wintry weather wreaks havoc on the school sports landscape. There are numerous factors taken into consideration when deciding



The girls basketball team takes a timeout during the team's game against Boyne City.

whether to continue as scheduled, or to cancel and reschedule. Locally, our admin team consults with the sheriff's office, road commission, National Weather Service, transportation department, and our partners at schools with whom we have events scheduled. These decisions are not made lightly. Careful consideration is given, and it is our priority to put safety first. For more information, please contact Athletic Director Bryan Hawkins (athletics@kpschools.com).

POSITIVE CHEERS > NEGATIVE JEERS

There is a striking contrast between schools with vibrant game day

atmospheres, where parents and students cheer FOR their teams with positive energy, versus schools that wallow in negative energy, heckling opposing players and yelling at the referees with every toot of the whistle. It has nothing to do with teams winning or losing. It has EVERYTHING to do with the attitude of the people in attendance. Adults are the role models and set the standard. Please keep that in mind when coming to our games. Nothing makes a better impression about our school and community than a positive atmosphere on game days.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

These Blazers were selected as high school Athletes of the Week during the month of January:

- ★ Brendan Piechocki (JV Boys Basketball) and Kylee Moore (Varsity Girls Basketball)
- ★ Zach Porter (JV Boys Basketball) and Aubrey Manchester (Varsity Girls Basketball)
- ★ Noah Patnode (Freshman Boys Basketball) and Courtney Borden (JV Girls Basketball).
- ★ Evan Carlson (Varsity Wrestling) & Katie Matheson (Varsity Girls Basketball)

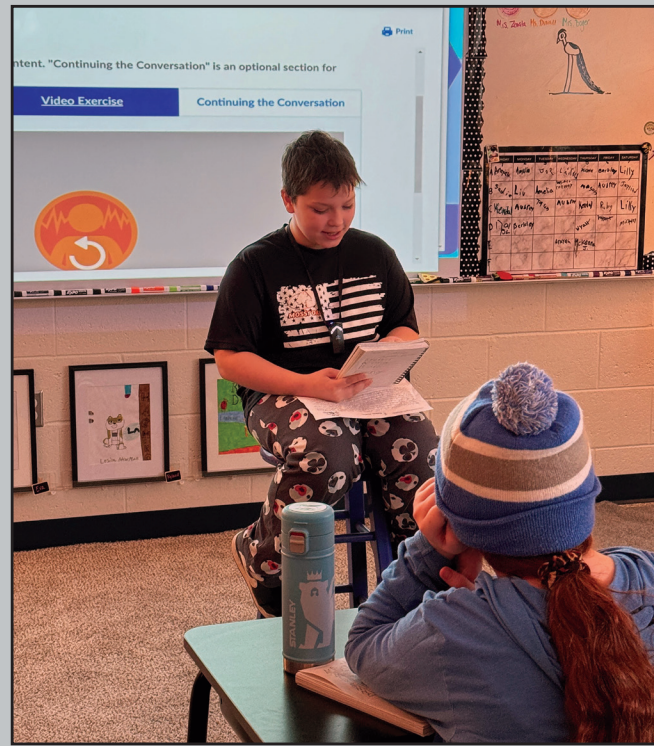
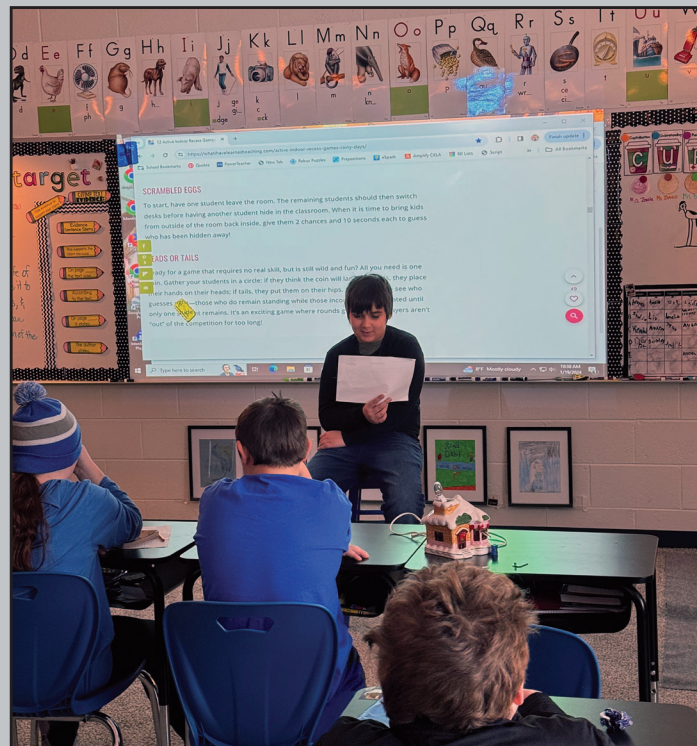
#BLAZERPride

Poetry Slam wraps up fifth grade unit

Fifth Grade students recently wrapped up their poetry unit with a "Poetry Slam." Poets performed their work for their peers. It was good to see the students' pride in their work!

Last week Blazer Boost mentors and mentees spent time creating origami heart bookmarks for our friends at the Commission on Aging in celebration of Valentine's Day. Each week, 2nd and 5th graders partner under the guidance of Ms. Bridson and Mrs. McGlone to engage in learning games, STEM activities, and community service projects.

Fifth grade student council members led a 'Pins with a Purpose' fundraiser during the month of December. They held a drawing contest, then they made the winning design into a pin for sale. They raised \$218 for the K.A.I.R. organization!



FUN AT KUE

Several fun events have been happening at Kalkaska Upper Elementary School. Great job on all the hard work, students and staff!

RAPID CITY ELEMENTARY PTO PRESENTS

WINTER CARNIVAL

SAT 2/24 1-4PM

AT RAPID CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Family Fun Lasting Memories
 Bake Sale & Cake Walk Cold Cash Hill
 Games & Crafts Silent Auction
 Face Painting Obstacle Course

Volunteers and Donations needed

- *Items for Auction
- *Cakes and baked goodies for cake walk/bake sale
- *Volunteers to help set up, run games, and clean up

Donations for the auction can be dropped off at RCE during school hours. Baked goods the day before please.

Volunteers, please call
 Kendra @ 231-331-6121 ext. 6205 (leave a message)

Follow Rapid City Elementary PTO on Facebook for more details and events

Teen Health Corner

Helping kids find the help they need

WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

We offer primary medical care services to 10-21 year olds and their children at our Kalkaska location and 5-21 year olds and their children at our Forest Area location. We offer behavioral health services at our E3 site on the campus of Kalkaska Middle School for those 5-21 years old.

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.

Teen Health Corner takes pride in providing compassionate and comprehensive care for youth in a teen friendly setting.

- *Physicals/Well Check ups
- *Immunizations
- *Rapid Strep, Flu, Covid-19 testing, etc
- *Concussion Screening
- *Urgent care
- *Counseling
- *Labs
- *and more

Our medical providers each have over 15 years of experience providing quality care to teens.

Parents, would you like to have more input on the services the Teen Health Corner provides to youth? If so, please contact us at one of our three locations.


CONTACT US:

(231) 258-7791 Kalkaska
 419 South Coral St
 Monday-Friday

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

(231) 369-2000 Forest Area
 7741 Shippy Rd, Fife Lake
 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Three convenient locations





KTFD STATION 7 DISPLAYS OUR KPS BLAZER LOGO ON NEW RIG

The brand new Kalkaska Township Fire Department Station 7 firetruck features the Kalkaska Blazers logo! Fire Chief Derek Hoyerheide proudly shows off the new truck. We appreciate and applaud your exemplary service to everyone in Kalkaska County.

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KPS

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.

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BLAZERS

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

YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY HAS PLAYAWAY BOOKS!

WHAT ARE PLAYAWAYS?

Playaway books are all inclusive audiobooks! Every Playaway is its own portable device that lets you listen wherever you are. No more messing with multiple discs or scanning to get to the spot you left off. Perfect for long car trips, Playaways make reading audiobooks easy!

WHY USE PLAYAWAYS?

Playaways help build better readers! Vocabulary acquisition, pronunciation, fluency, increased text complexity, multi-tasking for tactile learners, shared reading experiences, less stress and greater confidence!

Playaways are currently shelved in the Middle and High Schools. Elementary teachers are welcome to request particular titles, just ask your building librarian!



QUESTIONS?

Contact the Kalkaska County Library by phone or email:

231-258-9411
info@kalkaskalibrary.org

Saturday School new at KHS

Seeking consistent attendance

■ By Alaina Berkshire

According to a recent article published in *MLive.com*, student attendance rates in schools across the state are rising, but have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. Kalkaska High School Principal Staci Short decided to take on the problem of chronic absenteeism by both rewarding those students with perfect attendance and enforcing consequences on those who have missed too much school.

The current policy at the high school states that any student with 10 or more unexcused absences will have to make up that time in order to earn credit for their classes. Students will make up time during Saturday School, and the first one will take place February 17. Saturday School may cause people to think of the movie *The Breakfast Club* from the 80s — and like the movie, it will last for eight hours each Saturday it is held. The amount of time a student needs to make up will determine how long they need to stay.

Short will supervise Saturday School and students are advised to bring homework, a book to read, or she will find jobs around the school for them to do.

“Achievement is correlated with minutes of direct instruction,” Short said. “Attendance is a work skill, and if you don’t go to work you don’t get paid or may even get fired.”

Short believes the new consequences will encourage students to show up to school more because she does not think students want to make up time and attend school on the weekends. She also does not want attendance to just be a punishment, so she will be rewarding students with perfect attendance by entering their names for a drawing for gift cards, free dance tickets, passes to sporting events, a free yearbook, and more.



THANKS YOU TO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOR DONATIONS

Jesse Koehler and Don Dzwik from the Knights of Columbus graciously donated several bags of new coats and handmade hats for our students in need. We appreciate your kindness and thinking of our kids.