



HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING!

# Happy Halloween

It's hard to believe that as this issue gets ready to be printed, November is on the horizon. We began the school year in the month of August and now we're nearly a quarter way through the year. As this edition was being finished up, our school buildings hosted Halloween and fall celebrations.

We spend a lot of time in education focused on academic outcomes, student growth, and social and emotional learning; sometimes we forget that just simply having fun with classmates and honoring traditions can contribute to the aforementioned growth. Through celebrations of traditions, students learn how to interact with others. Furthermore, they learn to understand why we celebrate certain things. Halloween is special because as children we get dressed up as someone we're not (an alter ego!) and roam our neighborhood with friends trick or treating the grownups. Lots of candy is received and consumed.

Blazers! We hope you enjoyed being with friends, and hope you enjoy your well-earned collection of sugar.



In addition to the volleyball contests and silent auction, the Pink Out fundraiser also includes a live auction of homemade items created by each of the sports teams. Counselor Jeremy Guggemos calls the bids for each item, the proceeds of which are donated to the fight against breast cancer. This year, \$3,486.50 was raised.



From Left — Rapid City students had a fun holiday. KMS students had a great time. The KUE students and staff enjoyed the festivities, as well.

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

### BULLETIN

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# Tree planting event goes well for many groups at Rapid City

RCE families, the PTO, and community members joined together to plant trees at Rapid City's Heritage Park and Rapid City Elementary. On the rainy morning of October 7 this group of super volunteers began the day with apple cider and donuts at Heritage Park before embarking on their journey to improve air quality and spruce up the community.

Thursday, October 12, RCE received a special visit from Clearwater Fire Department where students and staff were educated on fire safety and given a tour of the fire engine. Along with goody bags, students walked away from the event with a new awareness and respect for fire safety.

Kalkaska Substance Free Coalition joined the Rockstars on October 24 to celebrate Rapid City Elementary's commitment to eliminating stigmas and maintaining healthy lifestyles.

Huge Rockstar shout out to our newest PTO members for supporting Rapid City Elementary, arranging a calendar of fun community events and keeping the school bright and festive. Rapid City Elementary Parent and Teacher Organization is always looking for members to join our team of enthusiastic individuals committed to supporting our students, staff and community.



October has been a busy month at Rapid City Elementary School. So many good things are happening!

## BLAZER FIGHT SONG

Smash right through that line big Blue  
Watch the points keep growing.  
Blazer teams are bound to win.  
They're fighting with the vim. Rah, rah, rah!  
See that line, it's weakening.  
We're going to win this game.  
Fight, fight, rah, team fight!  
Victory for Blue and White!



# KES Kid's Closet now available for everyone

Birch Street Elementary is proud to announce the creation of our very own Kid's Closet. We here at BSE believe in a healthy, strong, and positive relationship with our community. And like everyone else, there are times where some of us may struggle to provide for our loved ones. To take part in the Kalkaska community, BSE Kid's Closet offers free resources to our students and their families. The Kid's Closet is created through local donations and local funds. We provide everything from clothes, school supplies, toiletries, blankets, and more.

When in need of assistance for your student(s) with this free program, please contact Mr. Clothier at [kclothier@kpschools.com](mailto:kclothier@kpschools.com). Any questions or for more information on how to donate, please contact Mr. Clothier at [kclothier@kpschools.com](mailto:kclothier@kpschools.com). If you would like to make any donations, we only ask that clothing be washed and cleaned.

## Conferences

Thank you for your partnership and participation in your child's education. **We are happy to announce we had a 91% attendance turnout for conferences!**

### EVENTS

- ★ November 23 - Thanksgiving Break begins
- ★ November 28 - School Resumes
- ★ December 1 - ½ Day - Staff Professional Development
- ★ December 20 - Winter Break begins
- ★ January 3 - School Resumes



Students at BSE enjoy the festivities! October was busy at BSE.



## Pastries for Parents Brings Parents into KMS to See Middle Schoolers

KMS's first ever Pastries with Parents (guardians and caregivers) was a huge success thanks to Principal Mr. Morey, Food Service Director Ms. Jenny Patton, art teacher Mrs. Vyverberg, and many others. Thank You to everyone who came in with their student.

Live Well Kalkaska Drug Free Coalition, promoting National Red Ribbon Week 2023, and the message of personal responsibility, healthy living and more, visited with students during lunchtime, passing out red sunglasses and lollipops.

Eighth grade science teacher Mr. Karazia demonstrated Newton's third law: action and reaction using a skateboard and leaf blower!



Clockwise from top — Pastries for Parents was a huge success. Students received some prizes from Livewell Kalkaska Drug Free Coalition. Mr. Karazia illustrates the law of action and reaction. As you can see, every day there are lots of great activities going on at KMS!

# KHS to begin winter sports, focus on benching bad behavior

## WINTER SPORTS SET TO BEGIN

Tryouts and practices are starting soon for our high school winter sports teams. Wrestling and boys basketball begin on Monday, November 13. Girls basketball begins on Monday, November 20th. All athletes need to have a fully completed sports physical on file with the Athletic Department in order to participate. Middle school boys basketball is already in progress, having started on October 23rd.

## BENCH BAD BEHAVIOR

In collaboration with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), we are joining the campaign to restore civility in our schools and make it clear that bad behavior will not be tolerated. Bad behavior at athletic events has to stop. Enough is enough. It's time to bench bad behavior. We expect this from our students and athletes. It's beyond time to expect this from adult spectators. Please join us in emphasizing this urgent message all year long! To learn more, visit [www.benchbadbehavior.com](http://www.benchbadbehavior.com).

## HELP WANTED

With a full slate of home sports events coming up for winter sports, our need for event workers has never been greater. Ticket sales, score-keeping, scoreboard operations, and announcers are needed. These are paid positions, and include perks such as free sports passes and Blazer apparel. You also get the best seat in the house! Please email Athletic Secretary Linda Colvin ([lcolvin@kpschools.com](mailto:lcolvin@kpschools.com)) for more information.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The following athletes were selected as Athletes of the Week during the month of October:

- Isac May (JV Football) and Alyssa Steiner (Varsity Girls Golf)
- Gavin Guggemos (Varsity Boys Cross Country) and Emily Cannon (Varsity Girls Golf)
- Ruby Short (Varsity Volleyball) and Dylan Iott (Varsity Football)

## FALL POSTSEASON TOURNAMENTS

Good luck to our varsity volleyball and varsity cross country teams as they begin their postseason championship runs. Visit [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com) for tournament information and updates.

## REMINDERS WHEN VISITING OUR FACILITIES

Please park in designated lots and parking spaces only. Do not park on the grass, or in spaces not marked for parking. Please do not bring a pet to our events. We love pets, but it is against district policy for pets to be on school grounds for sanitary and safety reasons. Reminder: the main access road between the high school and Kalkaska Elementary School is now a one-way street. Please observe and obey the new signs and pavement markings. Spread the word! Especially after dark on event nights, pedestrians and motorists need to be aware.



# KUE changes student council process

## Student Council

Student council had its election. We ran a slightly different format than what has been done in the past. Fifth grade students run for president and vice president. Speeches were done via Google Meet, and were streamed into the classrooms for students to view prior to voting. This was probably the most creative poster campaign I have seen in a long time!

## 5th Grade Field Trip

The fifth graders at Kalkaska Upper Elementary School are participating in a six-part interactive series with the AuSable Institute and REYS (Restoration Ecology for Young Students) program. To kick off the year-long investigations and field work, students traveled to the AuSable Institute in Mancelona for lessons including native trees/plant identification, food webs/chains, and habitat restoration. Our next trip will take us to a site the students will help to restore. Students will study native plants, and decide which will help prevent erosion and contribute to the site's biodiversity.

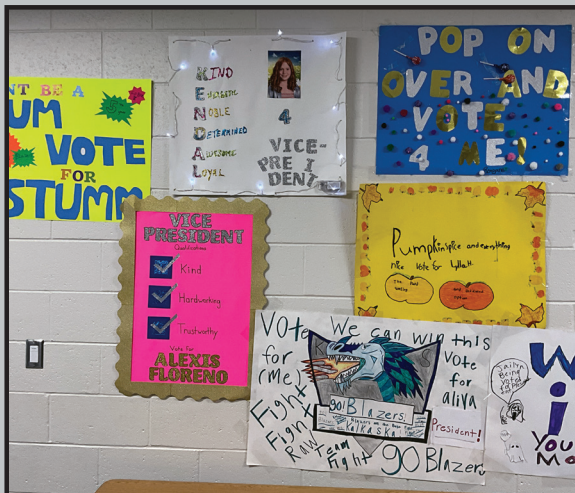
## 4th Grade Field Trip

Students learned about food webs. Enjoyed some hiking, and had lunch at the Kalkaska Public Schools Forest.

Students learned about soil and potato storage at the Iott Seed Farm in Kalkaska.

## Fundraiser

We would like to thank all of the students who took part in our annual fundraiser for the upper elementary. The money raised goes back to the students in the form of supplies, field trips, and equipment. Thank you, everyone!



Lots of activities are happening at KUE, including the student council campaign, field trips, and the annual fund raiser.

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**IT'S NATIONAL PEANUT BUTTER LOVER'S MONTH!**

Peanut butter has been making its way into the hearts of Americans since the early 1900s, and with good reason! This spread is not only tasty, but it's also high in protein, heart healthy fats, fiber, vitamins and minerals. Look for a natural style product with no added sugars and oils.

**HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO ADD THIS HEALTHY SPREAD INTO YOUR DAY, BEYOND A PB & J.**



- Spread it on whole wheat toast in place of butter
- Mix it in smoothies or yogurt
- Top it on oatmeal
- Add it to a muffin or pancake mix
- Add it to sauces for Asian flare
- Add it to whole wheat crackers
- Top it on apples, bananas or celery sticks

November also marks the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and summer in the Southern Hemisphere. Known for Thanksgiving in the U.S., it's a time of gratitude and family gatherings.


**How do you practice gratitude?**



Information provided to you by Teen Health Corner. Teen Health Corner takes pride in providing compassionate and comprehensive care for youth in a teen friendly setting for 10-21 year olds at our Kalkaska Clinic and 5-21 year olds at our Forest Area Clinic, and Behavioral Health care ONLY at KMS for 5-21 year olds. Call us today for more information or an appointment. K 231-258-7791/FA 231-369-2000




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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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# Student leaders meet at KHS

Students meet at KHS for first ever Leadership Council as new conference comes together

The high school Student Council and National Honor Society hosted its first annual Leadership Council on Oct. 17. Student leaders from seven different schools traveled here and took part in various activities and workshops designed to generate ideas for creating a positive culture in their schools.

“The purpose was to learn what it means to be a student leader and to get ideas from other schools,” said Junior Jelena Marshall, who serves as KHS Student Council Executive Treasurer and Secretary.

The day began with the keynote address, *The Power of Student Leaders*, delivered by Joe Castaneda of Crossroads Farm. Student Council Adviser Melanie Dean-Dellatte said she appreciated Castaneda’s willingness to speak to the group of students, many of whom said it was one of the best parts of their day.

“I really liked it, and a lot of people said it was their highlight,” said Aubrey Manchester, Junior Class President.

Marshall said she felt his talk really engaged the students and was relevant to them.

“It was amazing. I could literally listen to him talk for hours,” commented one attendee.

After the address, students split up into small groups to attend specialized student leadership workshops that included such topics as *Stay Lit: How to keep from burning out when you are involved in everything* and *Fuel the Fire: The role of student leaders in promoting school spirit*.

After two workshop rotations, they participated in more large group discussions about creating a positive school culture through small acts of kindness and specific activities.

Students appreciated the opportunity to learn from each other and discuss challenges they face in their respective schools.

“My favorite part of student council is the way it is run, but my least favorite part is the pressure,” said Jackie Swadily, of Harbor Springs.

Between the workshops, speakers, and discussions with other student leaders, participants came away with better strategies and ideas to improve the culture of their building. The goal is to make this an annual event.



Clockwise from top — Junior Sara Bissonette adds to a workshop discussion as Harbor Spring's Jackie Swadily and other student leaders from the area turn to listen. KHS hosted the first annual Leadership Council on Oct. 17. Seniors Chase Banko and Lucy Hall were crowned this year's Homecoming King and Queen during halftime of the Oct. 13 game. The Blazers lost the contest against Kent City 24-6. Senior Carson Hillier just misses a block against the Varsity Girls Volleyball team in a friendly contest for a good cause. The Pink Out game pits all of the fall sports teams against each other to raise money to fight breast cancer. The KHS Marching Band braved the elements with the rest of the crowd to support the team for the Homecoming Game. KHS Principal Staci Short leads a session on how to have the best pep rallies as student leaders from area schools listen.