



Constructing The Future of Kalkaska Learning

With a few final tweaks in the brand new Kalkaska Elementary School kitchen, the District 10 Health Department was able to stamp a final approval on the project — and our cooks are finally able to cook in the new kitchen.

Due to some components not included in the architectural drawings, three important pieces were not placed in the kitchen while it was constructed, and the repairs put the kitchen several weeks behind. Once a grease trap and two drains were installed into the already completed concrete, the kitchen could be completed — then the process for putting all of the appliances (ovens, refrigerators/freezers, dishwasher, etc.) could be installed.

The staff prepared hot meals at the high school kitchen and transported them to the KES kitchen for the month of September. As October rolled around, the health department was able to give the “stamp.”

The project at KES is nearly completed, with a few components and repairs still to happen. In the meantime, the project to convert Cherry Street Intermediate School into a state-of-the-art early childhood center is in full motion. Much work has occurred outside and recently the crews got going on the inside of the building, as well. The new center should be complete by February.

At that point, work will begin on the small projects at Rapid City Elementary School, the middle school, and the annex. The annex building will become the new alternative high school building. So, while this year has included a transition to the new KES, next year will bring the new early childhood center, the new alternative high school, and a whole new atmosphere.



KMS teacher Miss King's math class participated in an activity involving movement by variables on a coordinate plane.



From Left — The KHS Band is making noise, the Spanish class is learning to dance, and the high school student section has SPIRIT! Go Blazers!

INSIDE THIS EDITION

BULLETIN

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Trunk or Treat will be here soon!

Rapid City Elementary School, PTO, and SEEDS are teaming up with The Clearwater Township Heritage Committee for our third annual Rapid City Trunk or Treat event! This year's event will provide the trunk or treating directly in front of RCE, a hot dog and hot cocoa station sponsored by SEEDS and two separate walk-through Haunted Halls organized by the Heritage Committee. Anyone interested in volunteering a trunk for treats, setting up Haunted Halls or anyone who would like to participate in the Haunted Halls please contact Char Finley at cfinley@kpschools.com or Heritage Committee's Andrew Hulburt at (231) 320-0121 or you can email support@rapidcityheritagefestival.org. The event will take place on Friday, October 27 at 6 p.m. Anyone volunteering in the Halls or providing treats we ask that you please arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. Trunks & stations will be lined up along the front of the school, Haunted Halls will be held inside of the Rapid City Township Hall. Parking will be located in the back parking lot.

A huge shout-out to our 5th grade Rockstars who competed in this year's Cross Country season. Danica Burnham, Gwen Finley, Karmen Zirkle, Alexis Freeland, Brennan Bielski, Ammelia Amidon, Jayden Myers, Caitlyn Ager, Mona Inman, Sam Belongia and our Coach Zamaites.

Another shout-out to our very own Mrs. Zamaites for researching and applying for grants that will support several exciting Rock Star field trips. Mrs. Zamaites wrote a grant to the Three Lakes Association. This grant will allow the 5th grade class to take part in the REYS program (Restoration Ecology for Young Students) at Au Sable Institute. Their first trip was September 26. Grants will also fund trips to Grass River or Au Sable this Spring for K-4th graders as well!



#BLAZERPRIDE

Welcome to fall!

Parent Engagement — Fall Learning Activities

Friends, fall is here! School is up and rolling, after-school activities are in place, and we are BUSY!! But before you blink and the holidays are here, how about really taking time to appreciate this beautiful season with your family?

- Write a list and keep a pen or pencil close by. Cross off items as you accomplish them, and day by day, you will realize you've had the best fall ever—filled with family fun!
- Drink apple cider
- Read five books about fall
- Find a red, orange, yellow, green, and brown leaf
- Help a neighbor clean up the yard
- Scavenger hunt

We are hoping that this mix of activities will keep your family reading, counting, learning, and observing through September, October, and November.

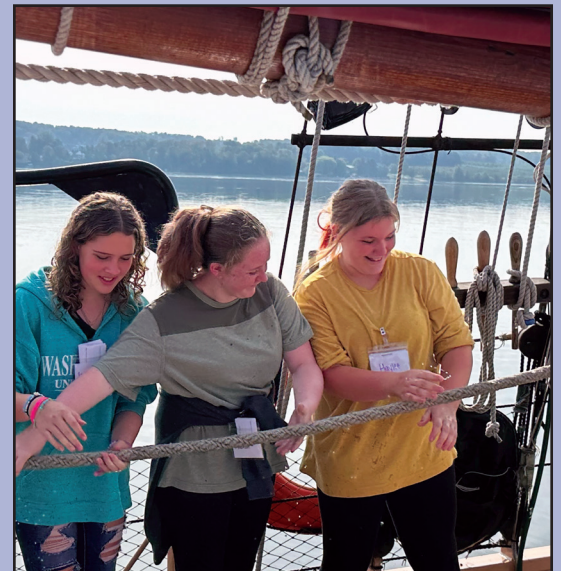
Happy fall!

EVENTS

- ★ November 1 - No School - PD Staff
- ★ November 22 - No School - Thanksgiving Break
- ★ November 27 - School Resumes



The different events at BSE: Scavenger Hunts, 2nd Grade Field Trip to Hartwick Pines, Kindergarten Nursery Rhyme Olympics, Good Manners Bingo Winners. The students are having a great time every single day!



KMS announces Pastries for Parents

Kalkaska Middle Schoolers traveled to Suttons Bay to sail aboard the “Inland Seas,” an educational research vessel run by the Inland Seas Education Association.

The students arrived at the dock and were given important instructions about what it means to be a sailor on the Great Lakes. They were taught the parts of the ship along with the basic commands that are necessary for a safe and fun trip. The students then began their time as research scientists. They collected samples from Suttons Bay that included fish, water, zoo plankton, micro-plastics and sediment samples using the tools that scientists in these fields use daily. Once all the samples were collected and recorded in the students’ log book it was time for the students to raise the anchor so they could begin sailing.

With a call of “Heave” and a response of “Ho” the anchor was pulled off the bottom of the bay. The sails were raised and the Inland Seas was now sailing. The students then rotated through various learning stations where they were taught seamanship and examined the many samples that were collected earlier in the day. Using the microscopes, testing the pH and dissolved oxygen of the water, identifying the morning haul from the Otter trawl, steering and seeing the workings of the wheel box, were all highlights of the adventure aboard “The Inland Seas” Schooner. The day was a successful learning experience for our students and they did a great job representing KMS.

Attention — Parents, guardians, and caretakers of our 6th–8th grade students. You are invited to a new event at KMS called Pastries for Parents. Please join us on Tuesday, October 24, from 7:30-7:55 a.m. in the MS Gymnasium for a special breakfast with your student. We will have pastries, yogurt, milk, juice, and coffee. We will also have music and a photographer to take family photographs. We will be emailing invitations with parking instructions and a link to RSVP very soon, so keep an eye on your email.



KHS to host varsity volleyball district in late October

HELP WANTED

In order for the Athletic Department to host the type of high quality events our community can be proud of, we need additional helpers. Ticket sales, scoreboard operations, and official bookkeepers are needed. Please email Athletic Secretary Linda Colvin (lcolvin@kpschools.com) if you are interested.

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.

Remember: There has been a change to the traffic pattern on our main campus. 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 beware.



TOURNAMENT HOST WITH THE MOST

One significant point of community pride is that we have beautiful athletic facilities. Because of this, Kalkaska has been chosen as the host site for multiple upcoming championships:

- Conference Girls Golf Championship at Twin Birch Golf Club, Sept. 28th, 10:00 a.m.
- MHSAA District 34 Volleyball Tournament at KHS, Oct. 30, Nov. 1, and 2.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The following athletes were selected as Athletes of the Week during the month of September: Cade Ponstein (Boys Varsity Soccer) and Maria Elena Vasquez (Girls Varsity Golf); Abigail Minion (Varsity CC) and Nolan Seidelman (JV FB); Logan Leadmon (Varsity Football) and Ally Sutton (Varsity VB); and Lucy Hall (Equestrian & Varsity VB) and Ryan Perry (Varsity Soccer).

BLAZER ATHLETES of the week





Nolan Seidelman
Junior Varsity Football

Abigail Minion
Varsity Cross Country

BLAZER ATHLETES of the week





Logan Leadmon
Varsity Football

Ally Sutton
Varsity Volleyball

BLAZER ATHLETES of the week





Cade Ponstein
Varsity Soccer
10th Grade

Maria Vasquez
Girls Varsity Golf
Senior



Kalkaska Upper Elementary

The Upper Elementary dismissal continues to improve. We have had a few days where we were about nine minutes to clear the students out. Parents, please have your blue number cards ready when you are in line, so we can enter the number into our system. This lets your student know that you are in line, and students know to line up accordingly. (We project this in the cafeteria.) Students are released as parents pull up into the loading area, next to the building.

We are in the midst of fundraising. The World's Finest candy bars are selling like hotcakes! We appreciate all of the help and support selling them. The money from this fundraiser will go toward supporting our students.

Congratulations to our Rocket Math kids who have completed at least one track! We are well on our way at Kalkaska Upper Elementary in showing fact demonstration. Did you know your student can practice at home every night?

The Upper Elementary Cross Country continues to show success. We are very excited to help grow the upper programs.

Kalkaska Upper Elementary students have been running during the fall cross country season. As you can see, the students are participating! From the right, then clockwise: all of the KUE runners; the fifth grade, the fourth grade, and the third grade Rocket Math students. Way to go, KUE! Keep it up!



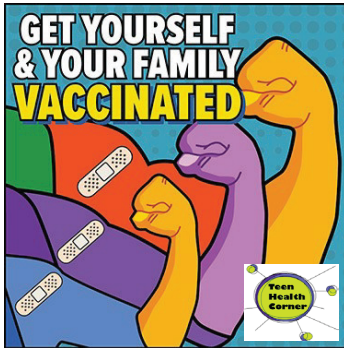
Supporting families to build successful students.

KPS seeks school bus drivers

KPS is looking for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. who would like to drive children to school and home safely. **AND GET PAID TO DO IT!**

If you are interested, please contact the Kalkaska Public School Bus Garage at (231) 564-1518 and ask for Jim Vandefifer. We will help you get your license to be able to drive a school bus!

Fighting the Flu, it starts with you!



Children who are sick should not attend school. Students who are sick should remain home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines. Keeping your child home allows your child to rest and recover. If your child's symptoms become severe, you should contact your child's health care provider.

WASH YOUR HANDS. Wash your hands often during flu season. Always wash them after using the restroom and before eating or preparing food. In between, you can use an alcohol based hand sanitizer, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

COVER YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU SNEEZE. When you cough or sneeze, viruses release into the air and other people inhale them. Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your inner elbow reduces the viruses that enter the air. By using your inner elbow or a tissue instead of your hand, you are not spreading the viruses to the things you touch.

DON'T GO TO WORK OR SCHOOL SICK. When others are sick, avoid contact with them. And when you are sick, keep your distance from others. Stay home from work, school, errands, and other events. Plus, getting plenty of rest will help you recover faster.

We have flu shots.

Call today for an appointment!

Teen Health Corner

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



NEW BOOKS!

"A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them." – Lemony Snicket

FALL SCAVENGER HUNT

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- teachingmama.org

FALL SCAVENGER HUNT

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- teachingmama.org

STR8 Talk brings inspirational message

Addiction is a sad reality for a lot of people, and unfortunately, it is common right here in our own community. To combat this problem, mother and son, Corey Warren and Jaque Liebner, go school- to- school giving riveting performances to spread their message. Corey and Jaque tell their story to prevent students from taking the steps towards addiction.

On September 14, STR8 Talk traveled to Kalkaska High School. With music, colorful lights, and smoke machines, they were able to reach students with their message: stay away from addiction. Corey fell into addiction in high school. With a lack of love for himself and a need to fit in, he turned to drugs. He became sick, and it was negatively affecting his life in every way possible. It wasn't just impacting him but the people around him. His mom had to rack her brain on where she went wrong and how to help her son. At 17, he was sent to rehab. However, rehab did not immediately turn his life around. He struggled for years to find sobriety.

Now sober and taking it one day at a time, Corey uses his past to prevent other kids from taking the path he did. In 2013, Corey and Jaque started STR8 Talk. Some people have doubts about school assemblies and their effectiveness, but Corey thinks this is the best way to reach students. With lots of statistics and data to back their methods, he feels like it's working. He was tired of people coming into schools and talking at students, so he took matters into his own hands. Instead of talking at students, they give a presentation that feels like a concert, a play, and a one-on-one conversation all at once. STR8 TALK gives around 30 performances a year. They mostly perform at high schools but also do community performances and work with alternative schools.

Corey says that his favorite part of what they do is the interaction with students. He is able to get a crowd of high school students engaged like no other. Students were up on their feet, singing along, flashing flashlights, and answering questions from the audience. But the engagement goes beyond auditoriums. Students often reach out to their social media, saying they can relate and share their stories.

The students were fascinated by the STR8 Talk presentation and loved having the troupe at our school.

"It was a very eye opening experience, being able to see different perspectives of drug abuse," said Senior Cadence Campbell. The music was an enjoyable break from our daily routines, and their message resonated with students.

When asked what he thinks the most important thing students should take away from the assembly was, Corey responded with: "Be there for one another. Support one another. Have fun, but be smart about it."

In just an hour, STR8 Talk was able to save lives with their message at Kalkaska High School.



Corey and Jaque sing a duet of Landslide and show the crowd family pictures. Corey throws free t-shirts at the cheering crowd. Corey shares his inspirational story with the crowd.

■ By Ava Bole

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