



Kalkaska Blazer Bulletin

December 2021 | No. 2
#GoBlazers



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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

Karen's Kids Pantry wins grant

Mrs. Rabourn applied for a \$2,000 grant from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund and was awarded this grant. The grant was to purchase a refrigerator for the Karen's Kids Pantry and for money to fill the refrigerator to supply students in need with food to take home. Kalkaska High School would like to thank The Great Lakes Energy People

The \$2,000 grant will allow for the purchase of a refrigerator.

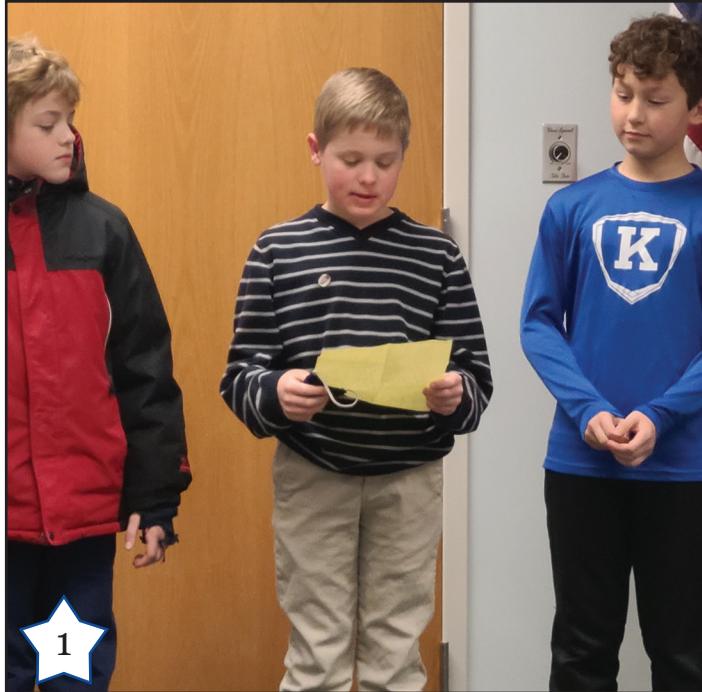
Fund for choosing us to receive this grant. This refrigerator will enable us to continue to help students. Jamie Dunn and her volunteers have worked countless hours and

put so much thought into making this pantry a place any student can go and get something they want or need. The Great Lakes Energy People Fund has contributed to this wonderful program.

■ Special to the Blazer Bulletin



KHS received a grant to purchase a refrigerator for the Karen's Kids Pantry. Great job!



KPS students have had fun during the busy holiday and winter season. All of us at KPS wish all of our families the very best holiday season and an incredibly HAPPY NEW YEAR! 1 – Students deliver information about the CSI Buttons for a Cause project at the December Board Meeting; 2 – Students at BSE listen to a story; 3 – Birch Street students and 4 – Rapid City Elementary students enjoy the outdoors!

Inside this edition

Karen's Kids Pantry	1	Library Ad	4
KHS News	2	Teen Health Ad	5
Norte Ad	2	RCE News	6
KMS News	3	BSE News	7
Blazer News	4	CSI News	8

BULLETIN

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

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**BOX HOLDER
KALKASKA MI 49646**

HS students visit Central Michigan

Mrs. Lugiewicz introduced students to college life

Over 30 KHS students took a field trip with Mrs. Gail Lugiewicz to Central Michigan University to get a taste of college life. The students watched a presentation in the four-story library, followed by a tour of the campus. They ended the morning with an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet at Woldt Hall. Thank you to Mrs. Chrystal Bilkey for chaperoning.



NORTE GOES TO SCHOOL

2021-2022

Norte offers our school partners and their families programs all year.

SEPTEMBER

- SEPT 10: Fantastic Fridays begins
- SEPT 13: Fall Northern Michigan Youth Mountain Bike Team starts (1st-12th graders)
- SEPT 20: Adventure Bike Club starts (3rd-8th)
- SEPT 20: Bikes for All starts
- SEPT 27: Balance Bike Program starts (pre-k)

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- OCT 6: Nomi Walks To School Day
- OCT 10: Explore Academy begins (teens)
- NOV 19: Final Fantastic Friday of 2021
- DEC 1: Grand Traverse Kids' Bike Library closes for winter

JANUARY-MARCH

- JAN 5: Winter Walk Wednesdays begin
- JAN 12: Balance Bike Program starts (pre-k)
- FEB-MAR: Solution starts (middle school)
- FEB 11: International Winter Bike To Work and School Day
- MAR 23: Winter Walk Wednesdays ends

APRIL-MAY

- APR 6: Spring Balance Bike Program (pre-k)
- APR 9: Fantastic Fridays starts again
- APR 12: Grand Traverse Regional Kids' Bike Library opens for the year
- MAY 9: Fall Northern Michigan Youth Mountain Bike Team starts (1st-12th)
- MAY 11: Nomi Bikes To School Day
- MAY 16: Bikes for All starts
- MAY 16: Adventure Bike Club starts (3rd-8th)

JUNE

- June 1: Nominations for Walk and Bike To School Hero Awards open
- June-August: 2022 Summer Bike Camp - Roll with Norte all summer!

For full details on any of these programs and much more, please visit elgruponorte.org

Questions? Please email programs@elgruponorte.org or call 231-883-2417



NORTE GOES TO SCHOOL

2021-2022

In addition to community services and after-school programming, Norte offers direct services to meet school children's health goals.

NORTE IS ABLE TO PROVIDE:

- Transportation solutions & safe routes planning
- Bike parking assessments
- Bike racks, local made, very orange
- Youth-focused walk and bike audits
- Data collection and analysis (i.e., commute survey, travel tallies)
- Innovative grant assistance and collaboration
- In-school educational programming (i.e., balance bike lessons, field days)
- Bike mechanic skill training, what we call Solutions
- Review and consulting on school-based active transportation policies



Contact us today to start a conversation and explore how Norte can help your school inspire active-for-life kids and families. We're here to help and are ready to create the right program for your goals and budget. Contact us at hello@elgruponorte.org or call 231-883-2404.

NORTE
More than After-School Programs

HAPPY • HEALTHY • STRONG

YOU can make Kalkaska Public Schools YOUR school of choice.



Cookies with **Santa** a success

KMS has lots of activities in November and December

Saturday, December 4 was a very successful Cookies with Santa! Community members were served hot chocolate and cookies! Children were able to tell Santa their Christmas wishes, pick out a book, make crafts, and play games! The Advisory Elves are hard at work decorating their ugly sweater doors for the contest! Results for the winning door will be announced next week!



Clockwise from top left — Science activities, door decorating, Cookies with Santa, door decorating, SANTA!, more Cookies with Santa (two pics), and science activities (two pics).

Middle school awards

November students, musicians of the month



Congratulations to our November Musicians of the Month! L-R: Spenser, Violet, Courtney, and Olivia (not pictured).



Congratulations to our November KMS Pride Students of the Month! Back Row L-R 8th Grade: Alexander, Zachary, Hunter, Cash, and Olivia (not pictured). Middle Row L-R 7th Grade: Alivia, Madilyn, Nicolas, Izabela, and Arabella (not pictured). Front Row L-R 6th Grade: Marissa, Lily, Leah, Afton, and James.



The Fuel Up to Play 60 club meets to talk about ways to make the student body know more about healthy eating and physical activity. We are getting ready to start up the snack cart next week





Scenes from around KPS. A great deal of activities have been happening all fall. Please check out some pictures of what's been up! 1-2 — students at Birch Street; 3-5 — science activities in the middle school; 6-7 and 9-10 — students and activities at Birch Street. 8 — The Cherry Street Intermediate School Student Council, who are selling Buttons for a Cause. The students in Mrs. Brusco's middle school science class were doing experiments this week. Students were dropping marbles into flour mixtures to simulate meteors crashing into the moon soil. They have to take measurements such as width and depth of crater, height dropped, mass of meteor. They are learning how speed and mass of meteors impact crater size.



What can Blazer Libraries do for you?

Parents, did you know...
your students' school library has merged with the public library!



What does this mean for you?

- Convenience - return books anywhere!
- Free access to thousands of eBooks!
- DVDs • Audiobooks • STEM Kits
- Tech help - for parents and students!

Have any questions?
Call us at (231) 258 - 9411






Sometimes winter shows up ... and sometimes it disappears as quickly as it arrived. We have seen interesting weather so far in December, including some incredibly high winds that lead to power outages. Please make sure to continue to send your children to school prepared for whatever weather might show up on any given school day! Top photo shows winter fun at Rapid City Elementary and the bottom picture shows fun in the snow at Birch Street Elementary.

3 Locations:

- 419 South Coral St
Kalkaska, MI
231-258-7791
Monday-Friday
- 7741 Shippy Rd
Fife Lake, MI
231-369-2000
Mon, Wed, and Thurs
- Kalkaska Middle School, Behavioral Health Services ONLY
231-258-7922
Tues-Friday

COME SEE US!

Open on school snow days, holiday breaks, summer break, and unforeseen school closures.



Teen Health Corner

Your health matters to us.

We provide medical care 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 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 would like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season

Flu Signs and Symptoms

- * Fever or Chills
- * Cough
- * Sore throat
- * Runny or Stuffy Nose
- * Body Aches
- * Headaches
- * Fatigue

"I have the flu now what?"

- * Stay home from school until you are fever free for atleast 24 hours
- * Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- * Avoid close contact with others

The single best protection against the flu is to get a flu vaccine each year. Anyone 6 months older should be vaccinated. Call us to make an appointment.



Just for Fun!
Did you hear the joke about the germ?

I'm not telling you, I don't want to spread it around.

BLAZING A TRAIL TO EXCELLENCE

Board of Education

Rachael Birgy	—	President
John Rogers	—	Vice President
Wendy Watson	—	Secretary
Mary Scobey	—	Treasurer
Richard Hodgman	—	Trustee
Regan Foerster	—	Trustee
Sarah Dudek	—	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
Mary Deb Rabourn, Secretary	2173
Rhonda Wurtz, Secretary	2102

Blazer Bulletin

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.

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Middle — 258-4040

Ryan Moore, Principal	3205
Linda Colvin, Secretary	3203
Sara Waterman, Secretary	3201

Birch Street Elementary — 258-8629

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

Cherry Street Intermediate — 258-9146

Matthew Rogers, Principal	5106
Sue Woodruff, Secretary	5107

Rapid City Elementary — 331-6121

Laura Gehman, Principal	6103
Robyn Czuk, Secretary	6101

RCE enjoys learning, giving

School prepares to help community through ambitious food drive

Ms. Morgan Dix is one of our fantastic paraprofessionals at Rapid City Elementary. She teaches small reading and math intervention groups and helps out in our GSRP classroom. She is from South Korea and has visited each RCE classroom to teach our students about this country using maps, family pictures and even some snacks! Ms. Morgan often reminds us how important it is to celebrate the uniqueness of each student. She created a bulletin board this winter with each student's picture on an individual snowflake.



Helping your child read at home

Reading during the holidays is incredibly important

Tips for Parents

Here are some creative family engagement ideas for the holiday season

- Christmas preparation
 - ◇ Bake Holiday Treats – By cooking with your child, he/she can apply reading and math skills along with working on following directions.
 - ◇ Holiday Ads – Kids love to look through flyers and find what they would like for Christmas, put the flyers out and have kids write down the things they would like. This helps them apply their reading and writing skills.
- Snow Day Missions
 - ◇ Kids love snow days!! When our students are out of school because of a snow day, there are great activities for all family members to experience. From baking cookies, to building snowmen and snow angels together, these fun activities keep students busy and parents involved in their learning.
 - ◇ Crafty Decorations/Gifts – Find different ways to make crafts for gifts or decorations that kids and families can enjoy together. Kids love to make things and this helps them with reading and following directions.
- Nightly reading
 - ◇ Nightly reading time creates memories, helps families connect, establishes a reading

routine, and also helps to build reading fluency. Most of all, it helps children learn to love reading!!!

How to Support Your Student's Learning at Home

You as a parent are your child's first and most important teacher. Parents help to shape a child's social, emotional and physical development so that they can thrive in school and beyond. Families, schools and the community work together to support student success.

- Set up daily family routines
- Support healthy eating
- Get enough sleep at night
- Provide a place and time at home for homework
- Communicate with your child's teacher about assignments, homework and projects
- Talk each day with your child about his/her activities
- Promote literacy by reading with your child
- Limit and monitor TV watching, gaming, social media and computer time
- Attend parent-teacher conferences, Open House and Back-To-School events
- Visit your local library

It takes a village! Support your child at home to ensure their success at school.

Thank you

- For all of the donations for Christmas parties.
- To parents for donations of clothing and winter gear.
- All of our Volunteers and the PTO

who helped out at Santa's Secret Shop

- Mark Holston from Station 7 drove 4 lucky students to school with one of the Fire Trucks after the students' names were put into a drawing for returning their fire safety papers.
- To all of our Kindergarten families who helped support the Penny War fundraiser. We raised approximately \$2046.12!! This will cover busing for the Kindergarten classrooms to go on field trips for the rest of the school year.
- We are grateful for our partnership with the Kalkaska County Library. Students are excited for their weekly visits to the school library to listen to a story and check out new books.

Events

- January 3 – School Resumes
- January 17 – No School – PD Staff
- January 20 – Exams – 1/2 Day
- January 21 – Exams – 1/2 Day

Save the Dates

- February 18 – 1/2 Day
- February 21 – No School



BSE has had many activities throughout the fall season.

CSI students create Buttons for a Cause

The Cherry Street Intermediate Student Council has started a new program to raise money for causes close to our hearts at Cherry Street. Our students brainstorm, design, create, and sell buttons that represent a cause and donate 100% of the proceeds to the charity of the month.



Last month, we raised money for Diabetes Awareness month. We used the month to learn about diabetes, its causes, and effects on the human body and how we can be supportive to our friends and family members who have type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

Our students raised over \$370 dollars to give to the American Diabetes Association. Our donation was matched by CVS pharmacy and a total of \$740 will be donated by Cherry Street students. Great job students and staff!

We will be releasing a new button every few months! Make sure to collect them all!

New Teachers to CSI



My name is Heather Roesstorff and I am a

fifth grade resource room teacher at Cherry Street Intermediate. This is my 18th year of teaching. I have taught in Mancelona and Grayling previously and have now happily come "home" to the community I have lived in for the last 19 years. I have been married to my husband since 2011. Together we have a charismatic daughter who is in third grade this year. We also have a dog and two cats. Our family enjoys camping, being outside, and looking for rocks (so we can splash our feet in the water on a hot summer day). We cherish our time with family and friends and consider each day a gift with them.



My name is Rebecca Stewart and I am thrilled to be teaching 5th grade at Cherry Street Intermediate School! I received my Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and my Master's degree from the University of Illinois. For the past 12 years, I taught Family & Consumer Science, English, and Yearbook at Traverse City West Middle School. I live in South Boardman with my husband, Scott, and our two dogs, Malcolm and Rex. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, cooking, beekeeping, playing

the piano, tap dancing, sewing, and practicing Japanese.

My name is Carly Molenkamp and I am a fifth grade teacher at Cherry Street Intermediate School. This



is my third year of teaching and my first year in Kalkaska. I received my Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. Previously, I taught at Bridgeway (formally Oak Park School) in Traverse City for two years. I am new to the area and have loved getting to know the community of Kalkaska. I have a dog and cat. In my free time, I enjoy reading, crocheting, and of course walking my dog.



Mrs. Kim Biehl has taught for over twenty years ranging from preschool to sixth grade. She has been at Kalkaska for the past seven years, where she taught third grade at Birch Street and is currently teaching fifth grade at Cherry Street Intermediate. Mrs. Biehl enjoys teaching ELA and making school enjoyable and challenging for all her students. She and Mr. Biehl live in Mancelona and they

have four children, two dogs, and two cats. She enjoys coffee with lots of creamer, walking with her friend Lori, and spending time with her family.

4th Grade Creates a Lego Tree for Festival of Trees

Our 4th graders worked hard at collecting lego kits for our very own tree at KAIR's Festival of Trees in Kalkaska. Our students also designed and created lego ornaments to add to the tree. The tree was put together at the site by Mrs. Boger, Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Rogers. Thank you to everyone who donated to make this tree happen!

4th and 5th Grade Girls Basketball

Our Cherry Street girls basketball team is working hard and getting better each day. They compete at the YMCA every Saturday and face other local area teams.



Top Row — Adalyn Griffore, Isabella Wegener, Amelia VanHorn; Bottom Row — Abbygale Walters, Aila Staley, Grace Tullar, Eiley Sheets.

Student of the Month

We had great months in October and November at CSI with all of our students, but a few really did a great job and we want to give them some extra recognition. Here are our October Students of the month: Emilia, Brennan, Blaine, Gabe, Jacob, Macy, Skyler, and Chase. Elizabeth, McKenzie, Karly, Mason, Harper, Victoria, Reece, and Macy are the November students. Great job, everyone.



Congrats, Mrs. Rogers

Mrs. Alyssa Rogers earned her Masters degree in Literacy Education and Reading Specialist. Congratulations to her from all of the Cherry Street Staff and Kalkaska Public Schools! She graduated at U-M on December 17.

