

KALKASKA BLAZER BULLETIN

June 2022 | No. 6
#GoBlazers

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



Congratulations to the Blazers softball team for advancing to the MHSAA Division 3 Quarterfinals. As this edition of the paper went to press, the Blazers were getting ready for a chance at history! #GoBlazers

Thanks to Jennifer Porter for the photograph.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '22



INSIDE THIS EDITION

BULLETIN

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SUMMER READING KICKOFF 2022

DON'T MISS THE OPENING EVENT OF OUR SUMMER READING PROGRAM!

- ★SIGN UP FOR SUMMER READING
- ★SEE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- ★FREE T-SHIRTS & BADGE BOOKS
- ★LIVE ANIMAL SHOWS

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN OF ALL AGES WELCOME!

JUNE 21
RAILROAD SQUARE, DOWNTOWN KALKASKA

1:30 – 4 PM
PROGRAM SIGN UP

2 & 3 PM
LIVE ANIMAL SHOWS

(231) 258-9411 info@kalkaskalibrary.org



▲ Congratulations to Xavier, our chocolate bar fundraiser \$100 cash winner!

Books For Kalkaska County Children Under Age Five

At No Cost To Parents

- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is now available for children from birth to their fifth birthday who reside within the borders of Kalkaska County.
- Their parent or guardian can register them online at www.imaginationlibrary.com.
- Each child will receive a book in the mail every month until their fifth birthday.
- All costs are covered by generous donors to the local affiliate, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library GTR (Grand Traverse Region).
- Sign up online now so your little one can begin receiving their books!



BLAZING A TRAIL TO EXCELLENCE

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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
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Sara Waterman, Secretary	3201
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Arica Zenner, Principal	4204
Tracy Dimon, Secretary	4200
Melissa Patnode, Secretary	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



KPS Breaking Ground

The Project Begins!

On a rainy morning in June, several Board Members, leaders from the bond campaign, administrators, and students and staff from Birch Street Elementary celebrated the beginning of the construction project by "breaking ground." It was an exciting day, and the first step toward the new and improved elementary school in Kalkaska!



CSI students visit the Island

Our 5th graders traveled north to Mackinac Island to explore all of its awesome sights. Students had a full day of fun and great weather. They took a carriage ride up the island to see the Mackinac Butterfly House. On their way back they received a tour of the fort and all the history that surrounds it. Afterwards, they received free time to explore the village and hang out with friends!



KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BE PROUD AND CELEBRATE YOUR
AWESOME ACCOMPLISHMENT!



**Congratulations to
the Class of 2022!**

—KPS Board of Education and Staff—

HOME OF THE BLAZERS

CLASS OF 2022

CLASS OF 2022

The Class of 2034





◀ Rapid City Elementary students enjoyed field day.



▲ CSI students participated in market day in late May.

May student awards announced



◀ (Far left) Congratulations to our May Musicians of the Month! L-R: Skyla, Leah, Xavier, Cecelia, and Kylie. Congratulations to our May KMS Pride Students of the Month! Back Row L-R 8th Grade: Coltrane, Ronny, Zachary, Miles, and Alaina. Middle Row L-R 7th Grade: Ephraim, Sofia, Willow, Izabela, and Esme. Front Row L-R 6th Grade: Aliyah, Helena, Destiny, Addyson, and Alexis.



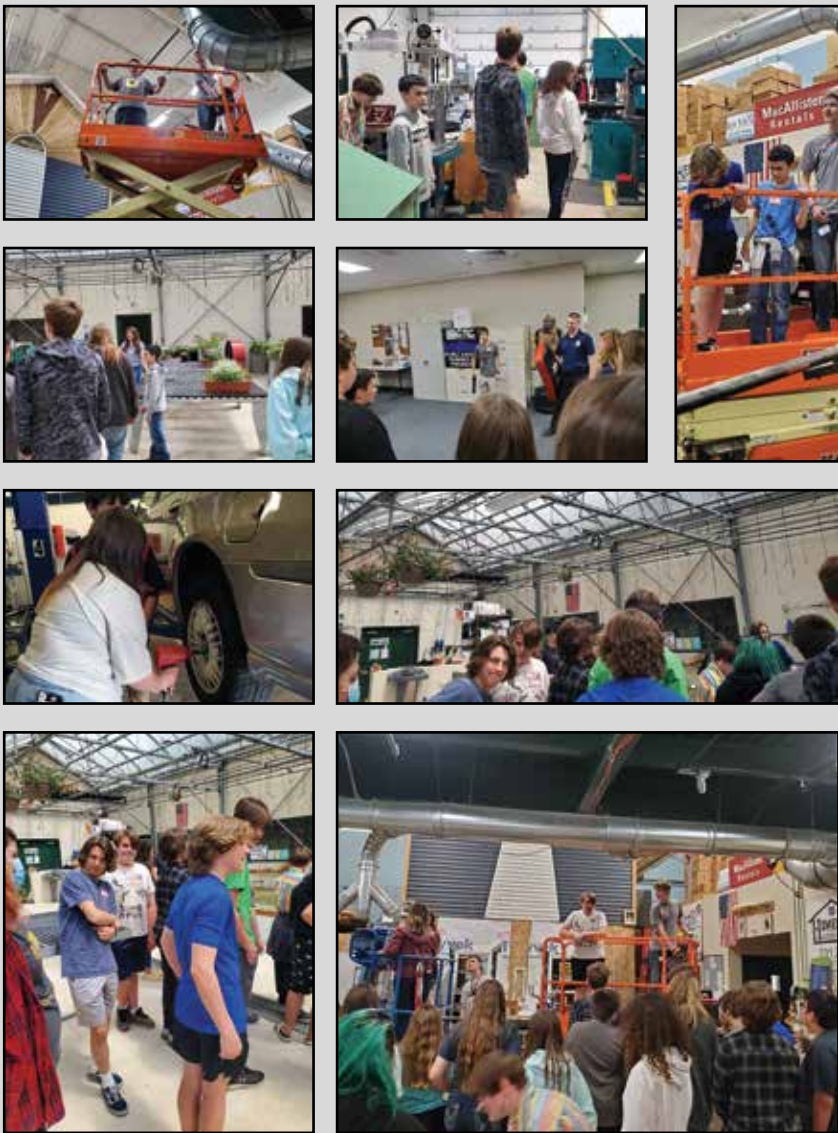
◀ Local professional photographer Leah Holston joined exploratory May 4th to teach a group of students all about her profession and even shared some tricks of the trade! Thank you Leah for continuously joining KMS year after year and sharing your talent!

► Congratulations to our top chocolate bar seller Maddie! She was pretty excited to win this Samsung TV!





▲ (Far above) The eighth graders had a farewell picnic in early June. (Above Left) Mrs. Patten's 3rd-grade class came over to help assist with our 2022 KHS Robotics Competition. The 3rd graders were terrific and it went very well. (Above Right) Kali, Ryley, and Brooke were very surprised Tuesday, May 31 to meet Mrs. Wilmers and to hear to what degree their community service project meant to her and her father. In December the three girls collected donations and purchased fuzzy blankets and socks for residents of the long term care. Mrs. Wilmers brought in a beautiful card expressing how much this meant to her family. She also donated a check to continue the good deed in the future. Thank you for the donation Mrs. Wilmers!



▲ The eighth graders visited the Northwest Education Center's Career Tech Center.

Middle school drama club builds forts



RCE students hit the sand dunes

Rapid City Elementary students hit the dunes for an all-school field trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes on Tuesday, May 31. It was beautiful weather for our Field Day on Friday, June 3. We kicked off the fun with a picnic lunch including hot dogs grilled by our own Mr. B. Then the fun began with eight different activities. The water games are always everyone's favorite!



YOU can make Kalkaska Public
Schools **YOUR** school of choice.

Summer Activities

- ★ Bike rides. Take your kids out for a fun bike ride, either near your house, or if the kids are older, take them on a bike trail. Make sure to take water for those hot days!!
- ★ Meet friends at the local playground. Call up your friends and let the kids hang out together at a local playground, where they can play on swingsets, merry go rounds, and more. Plan a Picnic!!
- ★ Sidewalk chalk murals. Get some fun colored chalk for your kids and you can create some really fun chalk murals and designs.
- ★ Backyard camping or Build a Fort: Your kids may be too small to go camping at a campsite or park, but why not start in the backyard? Push your couch and chairs together to make an inside Fort.
- ★ Water balloon baseball. Sometimes, combining two summer activities can make for an exciting way to play outside. Just take a wiffle ball bat and fill up some water balloons. So Much Fun!!
- ★ DIY bird feeder. This kid friendly bird feeder is toilet paper rolls, spread with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed. Your kids can watch as the birds come and get something to eat!
- ★ Visit your local library. The library has more than just books for children. There are activities and toys designed for each age. They also offer audiobooks and educational computer games!
- ★ Do a puzzle together. It can be a wonderful time to bond with your kids and work together to solve a puzzle. Make sure to purchase the appropriate age group for your child.
- ★ Paint rocks. Have fun painting faces or designs on rocks with your kids. You could use these as door stoppers or paper weights!
- ★ Go to the Farmer's market and Learn how to plant Flowers and Vegetables.. Going to your local farmer's market can be a fun outing as well as a way for showing them all of the different and colorful foods, and they can plant their own plants and vegetables, and watch them grow.
- ★ Craft with pipe cleaners. By simply taking different colors of pipe cleaners and fluff balls, you can create different creatures. The Kids' imagination will run wild with making their own creations



We are excited to share that this year's winner of the Outstanding Person in Education is Mr. Beach, one of our very own second grade teachers. Congratulations, Mr. Beach!! Very well deserved! We are incredibly lucky to have you!

Thank you:

Glen and Gwen Catt for presenting and donating 80 books "Dog Park Days," to the Second Grade classrooms written by Gwen Catt. To parents for donations of clothing. Mr. Urqhart's class for letting Ms. Patten's class visit KHS to cheer on the 2022 KHS Robotics Competition.



▲ Kindergarten Field Trip; Second Grade Cemetery Trip for Memorial Day; 1st Grade Sand Dunes; Glen and Gwen Catt presentation; ; Mr. Beach Opie Award.

Book tasting event proves books are delicious!



AuSable and 5th Grade

Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies have partnered up to bring real-world science to Cherry Street Intermediate. Every few weeks, they have been visiting our 5th graders and have been teaching our students about ecosystems and biodiversity. The students have done hands-on activities to learn about the dangers of limiting or destroying our ecosystems and how we can build them locally to help our native plants and animals.

On May 31, our students took that knowledge and created a 600 sq foot native plant garden on our school grounds. They planted natural grasses and flowers that will be food and home to many of our local animals. We are excited to keep working with Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies to maintain and manage the garden for years to come!

Market Day

By Alyssa Rogers

On Friday, May 20, Cherry Street Intermediate School's fourth-graders participated in a grade wide Market Day. This day was created to wrap up a

social studies unit on economics. The students learned about goods and services, producers and consumers, the different types of resources, importing and exporting, and supply and demand. Throughout the unit, the students worked on creating their own product to sell to their classmates. They earned "money" by doing classroom jobs and completing daily tasks. The students used a program called Bankaroo, as a banking system. They were able to set goals and keep an eye on their account. They had to spend overhead money on their materials and a business license. The students also had to pay for hallway advertisements. On Friday, the kids took to the gym to set up their shops and sell to their classmates. They were creative and very excited about earning and spending money. Some of the products included bookmarks, stress balls, necklaces, pet rocks, bows, baked goods, and even a mini coffee shop, decaf, of course! The students will be able to turn in their profits for classroom coupons and prizes.

Book Tasting

Have you ever wanted to try a different kind of book? Have you ever not known what to read next?

Mrs. Stewart's class can help you! They held a book tasting! They turned their classroom into a restaurant and students tasted from the different genre plates to find their just right book. Kids learned about how to preview a book and the different genres that are available!

4th Grade John Ball Zoo

Our 4th graders took the bus down to the zoo in Grand Rapids to see all the animals and conservation efforts being made. They were able to do a "WILD encounter" of some of the zoo friends and got to touch a few of the animals.

Publishing Club

Ms. Molenkamp and Mrs. Stewart started a publishing club for 5th graders interested in creating their own pieces of art, stories, or both! Our students worked



hard in groups and as individuals. We wanted to share all of their amazing work, so take a picture of the QR code to visit a folder with all their published work! Great job students!

Sweet Treat

We want to give a big thank you to Sweet Shannons for having our 4th and 5th graders over for an ice cream treat to celebrate the end of the year!

Running Club

Our 4th and 5th graders this spring joined Ms. Hixson for Running Club! Over 30 students participated and ran every Tuesday and Thursday after school. It was all leading up to the BayShore Marathon. Each student ran over 25 miles at practice and the last 1.2 miles came at the marathon in Traverse City. We are proud of our students' dedication and drive to become better athletes, learn a lifelong habit, and complete a full marathon! Great job to Ms. Hixson and her runners!

