



High School Student Council organizes a day of holiday fun



Members of the High School Student Council led their classmates through various holiday activities, assembly games, and cookie decorating to end the week before Christmas Break on a festive note.

“This was one of the greatest days of my life, and I’ve been to a Pitbull concert,” said sophomore London Birgy.

Although she may have been exaggerating slightly, students did enjoy the variety of activities and spending time with their friends on Friday, December 16 — the last school day of 2022.

The day began with a mini-band concert in the auditorium and then students rotated in small groups to different stations where they played board games, competed in holiday trivia, and made various crafts and cards. An assembly featured a visit from Santa Claus and games everyone participated in with small prizes awarded. Students also decorated cookies and had the choice of watching the movie *Last Christmas* or playing more games in the gym to finish out the afternoon.



▲ (Top Left, then clockwise) The library proved to be the perfect place to hold the board game station. Santa Claus and select KHS students deliver a holiday greeting to the rest of the student body. Senior Kayle Bilkey takes her turn to unwrap the gifts planned for the seniors during the assembly while Austin Johnson looks on. The students lined up by class and each had a chance to unwrap the mega gift and everyone received some type of prize by the end.

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BULLETIN

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

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**BOX HOLDER
KALKASKA MI 49646**



▲ Congratulations to our Q1 4.0 students! KMS celebrated their academic success with donuts. In no particular order, 6th Grade: Abigail, Layla, Vera, Elizabeth, Ethan, Asher, Deagan, Addison, William, Macy, Lola, Macy, Scott, Isabella, and Brookelyn. 7th Grade: Abbigail, Skyla, Kaylee, Riley, Joselynn, Owen, Alivia, William, Charles, Xavier, Eli, Easton, Baylen, and Kaden (not pictured). 8th Grade: Caylee, Emma, Raelynn, Grace, Izabela, Lane, Courtney and Nivaya (not pictured).



▲ Scenes from CSI — The SEEDS Thanksgiving Dinner was a rousing success as was CSI's Teachers' Thanksgiving.



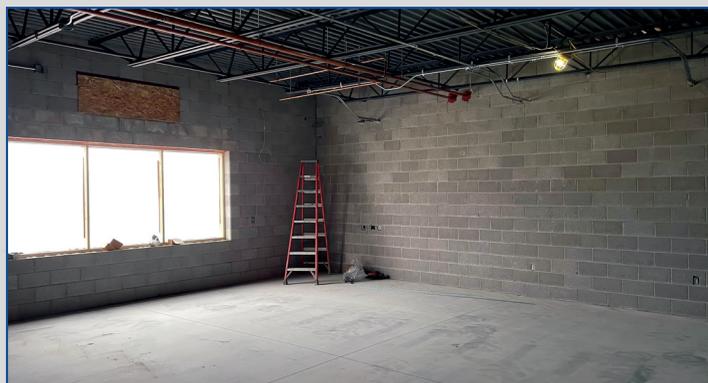
◀ Congratulations to our holiday door decorating contest winners!!! The CIS room won this year with their snow globe door! Mrs. Crawford's advisory was in 2nd place, and Ms. King's in 3rd.



KPS Buildings Going Up



KPS has been busy! Work began on Birch Street Elementary the day after school ended last year and continued throughout the summer and into the fall. Much has been done on the new auxiliary gymnasium and the new classrooms! We will keep you updated here in the *Blazer Bulletin* every month! Work on Cherry Street Intermediate will begin in June!



Transportation department seeks drivers

Kalkaska Public School is looking for some adults — parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. — who would like to drive your 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 Vandeffier. We will help you get your license to be able to drive a school bus!

KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORTED FAMILIES. SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

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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.

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Buttons for a Cause Return

Buttons For a Cause

Cherry Street Intermediate student council is back to selling buttons for local charities! Last year, our students were able to raise \$1500 for the different groups. We are hoping to have a repeat performance!

Our first button is to raise money for the Father Fred Foundation. Father Fred supports our students in our school through weekly Blessings in a Backpack. The program delivers a weekend's worth of food to over 20 of our students to take home. They also support our students through Back to School Shoe events. They are a wonderful group and deserve our support!

The holiday buttons were designed by Alexia Kniss and Brynn Foerster. Their design was chosen from a selection of 50 entries by our students. All our students did a great job coming up with top notch designs! The buttons cost \$1.

KAIR Festival of Trees

Our wonderful CSI community was able to participate once again in the "Festival of Trees." Our tree looked amazing! Our tree was called "Cozy Up with a Good Book," and featured books and delicious snacks to eat while reading! Special thanks to Paula Emery, Alyssa Rogers, and Lucy Rogers for putting up the tree!

Lunch with a Cop

We continue this wonderful program with Officer Rohring and other officers. The program has reached over 50 kids so far and we have many more waiting their turn to have lunch with a local officer!

Staff Member Recognition

In November, Cherry Street recognized one of our own for all of her hard work for our students. Ashley Boger has worked at Cherry Street for the last few years as our special education teacher. Every day she works so hard for her students and tries to impact not only their learning, but their lives. She handles each situation with care and compassion and we are so proud and honored to have her here in our building. Thank you for being part of our Blazer community!

Thanksgiving Dinner

It is tradition here at Cherry Street for teachers to come down and celebrate thanksgiving with our students with a delicious turkey dinner meal prepared by Ms. Stephanie and Ms. Debbie. It was fun to all sit down and have a nice meal together!

Our after-school program, SEEDs, also had a thanksgiving dinner. However, this time, our students made dinner for their families. They made mac and cheese, stuffings, rolls, and turkey meatballs! They did a great job. The meal even had special helpers, as Mr. Heitmeyer and Mrs. Roberts from central office came down and served the meal with the help of Mr. Roberts from the library.



Students of the Month

▲ Congratulations to our November Students of the Month: Karlyn Headapohl, Jayce Bittenbender, Joncee Arnold, Gabe Shelly, Kennedy Manchester, Alexis Floreno, Barrett White, and Parker Fondren.



▲ Cherry Street Intermediate has been busy throughout November and December.



▲ Our 8th graders had a wonderful visit to the Career Tech Center Wednesday, November 9! During our Exploratory Wednesday December 7, some kids chose to create plastic ornaments and decorate and eat yummy Christmas cookies in the Media Center. Some of our students went ice skating for Exploratory Wednesday, November 9. Looks like they had a blast!!! Hunter Safety has just wrapped up for Exploratory Wednesday at the middle school. Around 40 students went through the five-week course of sessions to be able to get their hunter safety certificate before opening day of rifle season. Students worked through the course work each week during Exploratory Wednesday, and even had to take home some extra homework. They went to the shooting range to show their skills and practice gun safety. Thank you to Deputy Regan Foerster and Cpl. Michael Hearn for organizing this course and getting our students certified for hunting.

Top Left: Congratulations to our November KMS Pride Students of the Month! Back Row 8th Grade L-R: Nolan, Emma, Dawson, Erica, and Lucille Middle Row 7th Grade L-R: Elijah, Skyla, Emma, Carson, Joselynn Front Row 6th Grade L-R: Brayden, Jackson, Brodie, and Lola. Congratulations to our World's Finest Chocolate Bar Fundraiser Top Seller, Maddy. She sold 14 boxes of chocolates and earned herself this huge smart tv. Good job Maddy! Thank you for all who showed their support.

RCE Rockstars enjoying school year



▲ RCE Rockstars enjoy spending quality time with Officer Rohring. Rockstars look forward to his visits and discussing what inspires them, what they want to do in their future and what great things they are doing now. RCE Rockstars and PTO have had a successful "Giving Tree" event. Rockstars collected canned goods and nonperishables that will be donated to our local Food Pantry and local families for the holidays. Our very own Rockstar SEEDS Coordinator Brett Bontrager (Mr. B) was featured in "4 Heartwarming Moments from 2022." Our Rockstar SEEDS program continues to strive in building positive relationships while nurturing a passion for nature and education.

Merry Christmas

FROM THE
KALKASKA COUNTY LIBRARY

KEEP YOUR STUDENTS READING!
VISIT THE LIBRARY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

- ✓ ALL KPS STUDENTS HAVE VALID LIBRARY CARDS
- ✓ RETURN ITEMS ANYWHERE -- SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LIBRARY
- ✓ QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT (231) 258-9411 OR INFO@KALKASKALIBRARY.ORG

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST - MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND

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

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

COME SEE US!

Teen Health Corner

Helping kids find the help they need.

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.

COVID-19 or Flu?

There are no hard-and-fast rules about COVID-19 symptoms because the coronavirus tends to affect people differently. Here's what experts know now:

- A sudden loss of smell or taste may be the first sign of COVID-19.
- Flu symptoms tend to strike abruptly, whereas those associated with COVID-19 start out mild and gradually worsen.
- People who have the flu may be more likely to experience nasal congestion and a productive cough than those with COVID-19. A cough associated with the coronavirus tends to be dry.
- Shortness of breath is common in people with the flu and COVID-19
- Weakness is more common in people with COVID-19 versus the flu.
- Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are more common in COVID-19 patients than in those with the flu.
- Visit your PCP, Urgent care, ER for any question or concerns regarding your health and symptoms, or for testing and plan of care

The single best protection against COVID-19 or the flu is to get your vaccination. Call Teen Health Corner with questions or to make an appointment for a vaccine.

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

Birch Street students enjoy new climber!

Parent Engagement

[Recharge your family reading routine....](#)

Reading with your children builds skills they will need in every school subject. For a change of pace to your regular reading routine, read news articles - either in print or online and play a few games!

[Recreate cartoons....](#)

Read a comic strip with your child, then cut apart the panels so your child can put them back in order.

[Retell Stories....](#)

Read a short story out loud. Can your child summarize what it says?

[Mix it up...](#)

You don't have to wait for bedtime to read together. Read books anytime, even in the morning at breakfast.

[Celebrate what you read...](#)

Hang a paper "reading tree" on the wall and add a leaf for each book your family reads. Plan a special dinner around a book's theme.

[Thank You](#)

We want to give a big thank you to the TC Energy Foundation Grant for the new climber! A huge THANK YOU to the parents who volunteered to help out with the Secret Santa Workshop!!



[Upcoming Events](#)

- ★ December 19 — January 2 No School - Winter Break
- ★ January 3 — School Resumes



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Each station and event was planned by the student council members under the leadership of Adviser Melanie Dean-Dellatte.

“The student council members stepped up with great ideas and devoted a lot of time and energy to make sure this day went smoothly,” she said.

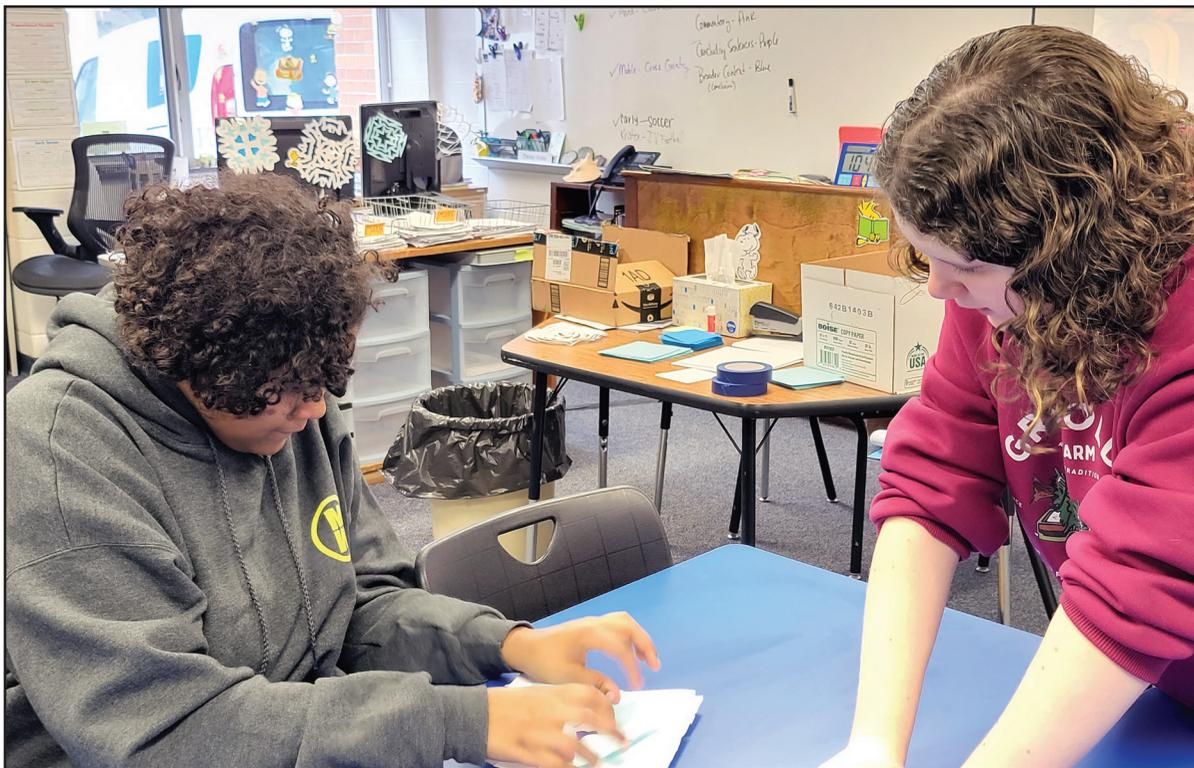
Sophomore Class Representative Emma Potvin led the snowflake activity in Mrs. Hicks’ room and also helped with the assembly games.

“My favorite part was the gym assembly and being able to help and participate with the games,” Potvin said.

Junior Celina Castaneda, another Student Council member, also had positive things to say about the day.

“The stations were fun, but the cookies were the best,” she said.

Overall, the students and staff agreed that the day was a complete success and a great way to ring out 2022.



▲ Sophomore Emma Potvin (right) helps Freshman Zikayah Brammer with a question on the snowflake activity she led in Mrs. Hicks’ room as part of the holiday activities organized by the Student Council. Cookie decorating was a huge hit. Each student received two cookies and enough frosting and sugar to decorate them. This proved to be the perfect treat after (or before) lunch. Juniors Tripp Wagner and Gavin Guggemos craft their snowflakes to hang on their lockers as part of the rotation of activities students took part in on Friday



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