

Karen's Closet Wins Big at High School Charity Event

Community members, staff, and students raised \$4,445 to benefit Karen's Closet, the high school food and clothing pantry, during a charity volleyball tournament, silent auction, and bake sale held at the high school on January 26.

Karen's Closet was so named to honor Karen Hodgman, the founder and long-time supporter of the teen closet, after she passed away in 2020. She was also the wife of Richard Hodgman, a local doctor and school board trustee, and the mother of Mary Deb Rabourn, administrative assistant to the high school principal, Staci Short.

"My mom who inspired the teen closet, died of Covid, and for so long we couldn't hold these types of events because of Covid," Rabourn said. "It is so healing to the soul to be able to be a part of community events again where people come out and just have a good time. I loved watching everyone have fun and she would have

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▲ The KHS foreign exchange students bonded together to form a team, called The Foreigners. They may not have won many games, but they did have a great time participating in the tournament for a worthy cause. The students are top row L to R) Milan Claus, Emil Koehnen, Lucian Caspari, (top, right) Luciana Federico, Audrey de Lira Matulja, (left, front) Sarah Haas, Riho Iimura, and center Isaac Boks with "Champ" Rungkittanasan on his back.



▲ Silent Auction — The silent auction and bake sale were also popular with the people, which contributed much to the overall total donated to Karen's Closet.



▲ Each of the 14 teams who participated in the volleyball tournament paid an entry fee, all of which will go to benefit Karen's Closet. However, there was only one team who claimed bragging rights and this nice trophy for winning first place — The Twelve Bad Knees. They are (left to right) Tabitha Cecil, Gabby Hoaglund, Alexa Wagner, Makenna Hogerheide, Laura Wilson, and Emilee Scott.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

BULLETIN

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

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Special visitor surprises before break



◀ Our talented Mrs. Muraida taught our Rockstars some holiday melodies. The students learned to read music and play the melodies using bells. Then they put on some performances in the main lobby of the school for all to hear and enjoy! RCE Rockstars had a special visitor right before dismissal for a well deserved winter break. Our surprise guest visited every classroom spreading laughter and cheer. In honor of National Compliment Day in January, RC students and staff were challenged to compliment one another throughout the day and observe the reactions. The results filled our building with smiles, contributed to our personal kindness buckets and will hopefully spread outside of our building to our families and community. This helps our Rockstars understand that a single compliment can brighten someone's whole day or give them the confidence to be successful. On Saturday, February 25, Rapid City Elementary's PTO will be hosting their 19th annual "Winter Carnival." This event will begin promptly at 1 p.m. and will continue till 4 p.m. There will be a bake sale, cake walk, Cold Cash Hill, games, and prizes. There will also be face painting and a raffle. All profits from the Bake sale will benefit the RCE Music room. ALL ARE WELCOME to join the festivities! The Rapid City PTO will be accepting donations in the form of baked goods, fruit, rice krispie treats, trail mix, granola bars etc. We would also appreciate anyone looking to volunteer for the event and spend the afternoon getting to know our Rockstars.





Rapid City PTO's 19th Annual

Winter Carnival

Saturday, Feb. 25th 1pm - 4pm



- Kids Cake Walk
- Fun Games
- Outdoor Obstacle Course
- Face Painting
- Bake Sale
- Kids/Community Raffle



Cold Cash Hill



Rapid City Elementary School
5258 River St. Rapid City, MI



Career Days showcase many professions

The counseling department is focusing on a school-wide initiative on “manners” in January. Each lesson taught is helping develop manners inside and outside of the classroom and school.. We are inviting all students to play “Good Manners BINGO” during the month of January.

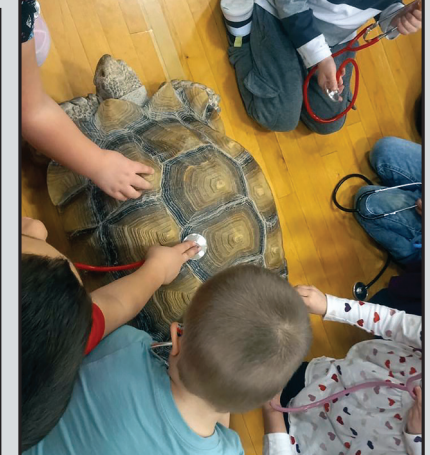
Preschool is focusing on Community helpers this month and we would like to extend thank yous too...

- Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department — Deputy Farrier, Deputy Rohring, and Deputy Vansloten
- Kalkaska County Fire Department — Mason Moses
- Crystal Lake Family Practice — Dr. Debra Swoverland
- Kalkaska Public Schools Superintendent — Mr. Rick Heitmeyer
- Kalkaska Animal Hospital — Dr. Leigh Ngirarsaol



Upcoming Events

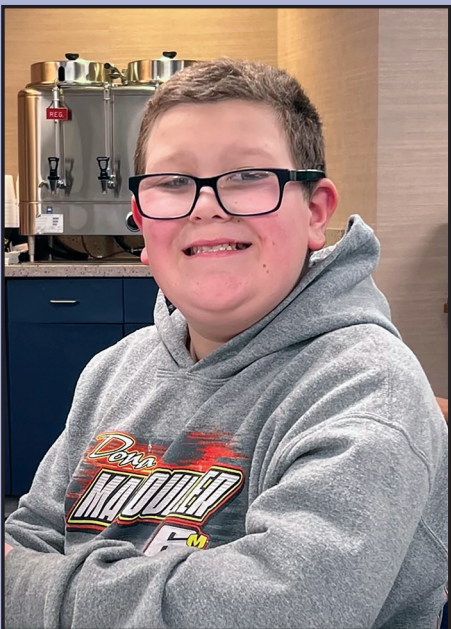
★ February 17 — ½ Day - PD Staff



▲ Lots of awesome activities at BSE during the month of January. Students have been learning about careers and manners — in addition to the everyday reading and math instruction! Every day is a great day for learning!



◀ KMS students learned about cosmetology/beautician careers with Ms. Audrey (a licensed professional)! The girls did gel nails, makeup and got their hair curled!



▲ Earlier this month three of our students (Emma, Jeanie and Carsen) were chosen in partnership with Communities In Schools of Northwest Michigan to travel to Lansing to partake in a student leadership training. They will be using their new skills to help facilitate healthy choices in our new school wellness club!

◀ Some of our students are taking snow mobile safety during exploratory. These kiddos are using the drunk driving goggles to learn how it impairs your vision.



Congratulations to our December Musicians of the Month! (Left) L-R: Aliyah, Cameron, Charles, Iris, Victoria, Brodie, and Layla. Congratulations to our December KMS Pride Students of the Month! (Right) Back Row 8th Grade L-R: Grace, Nivaya, Dannielle, Ephraim, and Olivia (not pictured). Middle Row 7th Grade L-R: Aliyah, Leah, Andrea, Charles, and Oliver. Front Row 6th Grade L-R: Iris, Skyler, Deagan, Kaedynce, and Elizabeth.



(Left) Congratulations to our January Musicians of the Month! L-R Gene, Skyla, Owen, William, Sophia, and not pictured Alex and Addison. (Right) Congratulations to our KMS January Pride Students of the Month! Back Row L-R 8th Grade: Dixon, Sophia, Lily, Isabella, and Xiana. Middle Row L-R 7th Grade: Alissa, Kaylee, Madison, Elizabeth, and Collin (not pictured). Front Row L-R 6th Grade: Brooklyn, Kattie, Erica and not pictured Amelia and Addison.

Bay Reps to play home game at Kaliseum

Hockey team to celebrate Valentines Day in front of Kalkaska crowd

The winter sports season is going strong, and we are proud of our athletes for the way they are representing our school and community. We also appreciate the fans coming out to support our teams. Thank you very much!

BAY REPS COMING TO THE KALISEUM!

Mark your calendars — On Tuesday, February 14, the Bay Reps hockey team, including 3 of our very own Kalkaska Blazers, will be playing a home game at the Kaliseum. We are excited to host the Bay Reps for the first time in several years. Join us for exciting ice hockey action!

KHS HOSTING MHSAA VARSITY GIRLS DISTRICT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The road to the Breslin Center goes through Kalkaska! District semifinals and finals will be hosted here at KHS on Wednesday, March 1 and Friday March 3 respectively. Go Blazers!

EVENT PARKING

With ongoing construction at Birch Street Elementary, along with piles of snow from clearing our parking lots, parking is limited. Please do not park in unpaved areas. Please park in a marked spot in one of our surface lots ONLY. The walk may be a bit further, but it is safer and keeps access open for emergency vehicles, if needed. We appreciate your cooperation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

- Are you looking for other ways to support our athletes? Here are some options:
- Operate a clock/scoreboard- You have the best seat in the house! Contact AD Hawkins for more information: athletics@kpschools.com
 - Join the Sports Boosters! Contact Chuck Hill for more info: chill@kso.org
 - Drive a sports bus! We have the buses. Now we need drivers. We will even help pay for your training. Contact Transportation Director Jim Vandefifer for more information: jvandefifer@kpschools.com
 - Become an MHSAA sports official! There is a critical shortage, and we can't have games without officials. Register to become a referee or umpire today! Navigate your web browser to: mhsaa.com/i-am/officials or visit nsoa.org to learn more.
 - Become a donor! Multiple opportunities for one-time or recurring sponsorships are available. Email athletics@kpschools.com for more information.

The most up-to-date game schedules can be found at www.kalkaskablazers.com.

Event, continued from Page 1

loved it, too!"

Jaime Dunn, who Rabourn said really picked up the torch of the teen pantry after Karen died, still volunteers her time and focuses on helping with fundraising and promotional ideas for Karen's Closet. She often picks up specific or specialty items for students when needed and is committed to helping the service continue.

The tournament was open to the entire community and many businesses and organizations paid the \$100 entry fee, along with staff and student teams, to benefit the cause. The "fun" of the event was evident on the court and with the names the teams gave themselves, such as: Setting Ducks, Guardians of the Principal, One Hit Wonders, and Spike Tysons.

Rabourn and Emilee Scott, KHS athletic secretary, organized the event and set a goal of \$3,000, which they more than exceeded. Rabourn said several participants said they would be willing to play again, so they will try to make it an annual event.

With the money earned, Rabourn said they plan to restock the clothing and shoes available for students as well as continue funding a new program that provides groceries to students who are in need.

"Kalkaska never fails to amaze me," Rabourn said. "I was so pleased with the number of people who chose to spend a long Thursday night here to raise money for our teens! The generosity of this small community is astounding, and it makes me extremely grateful to live here."

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!

Robotics up and running at Cherry St.

Building Times

Reminder to families that our school starts daily at 7:50. Our building officially opens at 7:30 when most of our staff report, but we have opened the cafeteria for students to have breakfast starting at 7:15. If you drop off your child before 7:30, please help us by instructing them to head to the cafeteria to eat and to be supervised by adults.

Kim Biehl

Our team at Cherry Street Intermediate would like to congratulate Kim Biehl, our wonderful 5th grade ELA teacher, for receiving her Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from GVSU. We are proud of her and all the work she has put in to accomplish the degree and professional endorsement. It is no easy task!

Robotics

SEEDS EcoSchool formed a Robotics Club which began on January 16. A total of 25 students will be using a system called VEX IQ to gain hands-on experience in robotics. They will participate in daily activities and weekly challenges over a total of 10 weeks that will teach them about engineering, coding, mechanics, teamwork, and more!

We are excited to have our robotics program be revitalized!

Culture Club

Bonjour... Hola... Konnichiwa! A group of curious, culture-hungry fifth graders inspired the creation of a 'Culture Club' this year at Cherry Street Intermediate! Each Wednesday, inquisitive students pile into

Mrs. Stewart's classroom to explore different countries and cultures. While eating their lunch, students look at currency, clothing, art, and photographs to get the feel of a unique place. They also learn a few words and sample identifying foods from each nation.

"I've traveled to 20 countries, and keep artifacts in my classroom for my students to look at and engage with. They have endless questions and are so eager to know about the world outside our borders, that it was clear we needed to make time in the day for them to learn about people and places they've dreamed of," said Rebecca Stewart who leads the group.

"We have visited Japan, England, and France, and are looking forward to exploring more of the world throughout the year. Bon Voyage!"

March is Reading Month

We are excited to announce that our March is Reading month theme is "Reading around the World." We will be sending home a calendar of activities and events soon!

Scheduled Days for 4th and 5th Grade Field Trips

Our students have been doing a wonderful job fundraising for their trips this year. We have been working closely with different groups that help put on these end of the year trips and we have the dates locked down and selected. 4th grade John Ball Zoo Trip: June 6; 5th grade Mackinac Island Trip: June 9. More information will be coming in the next few weeks with your students, but we wanted to share those dates with you!



▲ Cherry Street Intermediate has been busy throughout January including Robotics and the Culture Club. Congratulations to these awesome Cherry Streeters hockey players! These 10U Rhinos made Kalkaska history by winning the District 7 Championship! We are seriously so proud of their hard work and tenacity!



▲ Students of the Month — Congratulations Back Row: AJ, Landen, Brynn, and Joe. Front Row: Wyatt, Josh, Avery, Kennedy, and Kason. We have the most amazing students here at Cherry Street!

Don't Miss out....


Order your yearbook today!

Cherry Street Intermediate School

GO TO:


store.geskusphoto.com

Use Code: **YB121**



And order your yearbook for only \$8

Geskus Photography, Inc., 0-11310 1st Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49534






▲ Outdoor student gear was recently provided by the Kalkaska Knights of Columbus. Business Manager Jeff Scroggins and Human Resources Director David Tucker received the donation from Jesse Kohler from the K of C.

#BLAZERPRIDE

▼ The high school's Equity Club, advised by Mr. Dougg Wright, recently donated 25 blankets to Kalkaska Area Interfaith Resources (KAIR) to assist those in need.





TEEN HEALTH CORNER

Helping kids find the help they need

WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

We offer primary medical care services 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 offer behavioral health services at our E3 site on the campus of Kalkaska Middle School for those 5-21 years old.

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 takes pride in providing compassionate and comprehensive care for youth in a teen friendly setting.

*Physicals/Well Check up *Immunizations
 *Rapid Strep, Flu, Covid-19 testing, etc
 *Sports injury *Concussion screening
 *Urgent Care *Counseling *Labs *and more

Our medical providers each have over 10 years of experience providing quality care to teens.



Parents, would you like to have more input on the services the Teen Health Corner provides to youth? If so, please contact us at one of our three locations.

CONTACT US:

 **(231) 258-7791 Kalkaska**
 419 South Coral St

 **(231) 258-7922 KMS-E3**
 Behavior Health services ONLY
 Kalkaska Middle School
 1700 West Kalkaska St

 **(231) 369-2000 Forest Area**
 7741 Shippy Rd, Fife Lake

Three convenient locations



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Core Playaway collections are currently available in the Middle and High Schools. For more information or to request particular titles, just contact your building librarian!



QUESTIONS?

Contact the Kalkaska County Library by phone or email:

231-258-9411
info@kalkaskalibrary.org

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KPS Building Project Coming Along

KPS has been busy! Work began on Birch Street Elementary the day after school ended last year, continued throughout the summer into the fall, and through the winter. 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!



KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORTED FAMILIES. SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

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Published by KPS

Superintendent: Rick Heitmeyer

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