



Snowcoming

cures the winter blahs

Student Council put together another amazing week of activities for students and staff at the high school, leading up to the Snowcoming Game against Harbor Springs on February 24.

Students dressed up for Spirit Days all week, except for Thursday, which was supposed to be Country Club/Cowboy Day, but a snow day was called instead. They will have to save those outfits for next year. The remaining Spirit Days were: Monday—Adam Sandler Day, Tuesday—Everything—But—A—Backpack Day, Wednesday—Destination Day, and Friday was (of course) Blue and White Day.

“Snowcoming is a great time to have some fun as a school as the winter sports seasons wind down,” said Principal Staci Short.

Along with the Spirit Days, students also decorated the halls to represent their class’ destination and an assembly was held on Friday. The Middle School teachers came over and defeated the High School teachers in basketball for the second year in a row, each of the winter sports teams and the drama club were introduced, and various games were played. The dance team also performed their annual co-ed dance and a dance number with the teacher of their choice.

“Overall, I would say the week was a success,” said Senior Class President Delaney Denike, who emceed the assembly and performed as a member of the dance team.



▲ Birch Street Elementary students recently celebrated the 100th day of the 2022-2023 school year.



From Upper Left — Middle School Principal Ryan Moore pulls up to take a shot on KHS Spanish Teacher Wes Bassett. Sophomores Alaina Berkshire and Mustafa Boerue paired up for the coed dance that has become a Snowcoming Assembly tradition. Sophomore Isabella McMahon and her chosen staff member, Principal Staci Short, perform in the dance team/teacher dance during the assembly. The 2023 Snowcoming Court: Madison Birgy, Will Baker, Nate Babich, Anna Hunter, Thorston Booy, Michelle Michelin, Milan Claus, Brooklyn Whiteford, Brad Elkins, and Ellie Holka. Band Students led the student body down to the gym where they kicked off the assembly with several songs, including the KHS Fight Song. Photo Credits: Alyssa Anderson

INSIDE THIS EDITION

BULLETIN

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

PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CADILLAC MI PERMIT #147

BOX HOLDER
KALKASKA MI 49646

Fabulous February celebrated at RCE



◀ RCE Rockstars had a “Fabulous February!” Fabulous February is celebrated with “Warm up Wednesdays” and “Fun Friday” events every week. Every Fun Friday, students participated in different centers set up throughout the school. The centers were not only fun, but also encouraged essential cognitive and social emotional skills, such as problem solving, teamwork, perseverance and mental flexibility. Kindness and gratitude were in the air for Valentine’s Day at RCE. All Rockstars were given the opportunity to design and decorate their own goodie bags and celebrate friendships with the exchange of Valentines. Congratulations to our 2nd quarter Gold Honor Roll Rockstar recipients! Amelia Widrig 5th, Carter McKinnon 5th, Ransom Comfort 4th, Gwendalyn Finley 4th, Trey Freeland 5th and Brennan Bielski 4th. Congratulations to our very own Rockstar Principal on becoming a Rockstar Grandmother on Thursday, February 9th to a precious baby boy! Congratulations Mrs. Gehman, and welcome to the world baby Nolan!



March is the best month to pick up a book

The more you read, the more things that you'll know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go. — Dr. Seuss

March is National Reading Month. Our theme this year is Blast Off With a Good Book. Throughout the month students will be celebrating reading by participating in the following activities:

- Space Themed Spirit week
- A hunt for Astronaut Mrs. Zenner
- Working to get our school rocket to the moon with a daily reading challenge
- Guess the Mystery Reader

We have joined with Kalkaska Public Library again as part of our celebration. The Library will be giving each student an alien coloring page; if students bring it to the County Library they will receive a prize along with helping their grade level earn the most visits. The grade level with the most visits will win a cookie decorating party!

Upcoming Events

- ★ March 9 — ½ day students. Dismissal is at 11:25 a.m. — Parent Teacher Conferences 12:15–8 p.m.
- ★ March 10 — ½ day for everyone — Dismissal is at 11:25 a.m.
- ★ March 24 — Spring Break Begins
- ★ April 3 — School Resumes



Photos include our Bingo Winners, the Kindergarten Royal Ball, and 100's Day.



Middle School Celebrations

◀ Congratulations to our February Musicians of the Month! L-R Sophie, Isaac, Reece, Lily, Andrea, Afton, and Nivaya.



▲ Congratulations to our Q2 4.0 kiddos! This morning we celebrated with donuts! 6th Grade: Elizabeth, Ethan, Asher, Deagan, Macy, Scott, Isabella, and Addison (not pictured). 7th Grade: Kenny, Abigail, Kade, Kaylee, Joselynn, Owen, Alivia, Leah, William, Charles, Xavier, Afton, Easton, and Andrea (not pictured). 8th Grade: Nathaniel, Caylee, Emma, Lane, Alivia, Courtney, and Raelynn (not pictured).



◀ Congratulations to our KMS February Pride Students of the Month! Back Row 8th Grade L-R: Naomi, Emma, Karley, David, and Kevin (not pictured). Middle Row 7th Grade L-R: Kenneth, Destiny, Angel, Marissa, and Heston. Front Row 6th Grade L-R: Jacob, Weston, Trenten, Haylie, and Kait (not pictured).



◀ Congratulations to the MSBOA District 2 Middle School Honors Band students! They will be performing on March 7 at KHS for the day/evening. L-R: Angel (Flute), Cecelia (Euphonium), Courtney (Trumpet), and Zachary (Tenor Saxophone).

Community supports UP student–athletes

Sports fans, sports boosters, and custodians provide huge assist

The winter sports season is drawing to a close, and we are thankful for the support of our community. Thank you very much!

KHS HOSTS MHSAA VARSITY GIRLS DISTRICT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, BOYS TRAVEL

The road to the Breslin Center went through Kalkaska! District tournament games were held at KHS on March 1 and 3. For more information about the tournament schedule, navigate online to www.mhsaa.com. Go Blazers! The varsity boys basketball team will compete in district tournament play at Cheboygan High School the week of March 6–10. For more information about the tournament schedule, navigate online to www.mhsaa.com. Go Blazers!

ESCANABA BENEFIT NIGHT

On January 27, parents Jerry and Tara Weaver from Escanaba were traveling to watch their son play basketball at Sault Ste. Marie when their lives ended tragically in a fatal car accident. Since then, schools throughout the north have been organizing fundraisers for the surviving Weaver children. On February 17, when we hosted boys basketball games against St. Francis, we offered admission based on donations to this worthy cause. Our community generated nearly \$2,400 in donations, and combined with a generous donation from the Sports Boosters, we were able to donate over \$3,500 to the Weaver family.

SPRING SPORTS ARE ON THE HORIZON

The first official day of practice for all spring sports at the middle school and high school is Monday, March 13. This is a reminder that each athlete needs to have a completed sports physical form on file with the Athletic Department, in order to practice. The pay–to–participate fee will be required no later than the first date of competition. Athletes trying out for teams should bring their own water bottles, and be properly attired for practice.

The first official day of practice for all spring sports at the middle school and high school is Monday, March 13.

C'MON REF! THAT WAS A TERRIBLE CALL!

It's not uncommon to hear this at our sports events — and not the great sportsmanship we hope our fans would exhibit. Here is an opportunity to be a part of the solution! 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: www.mhsaa.com/i-am/officials or visit www.nsoa.org to learn more.

School's Closing. Blizzards! Ice! Windchill!

Make sure your contact information is updated

Thank you for understanding why we have decided to close school recently. The weather did not cooperate with us. Not only have we had to cancel school but also events. Whenever we are faced with the decision of closing school, we look at many factors. We will always choose based on student safety.

We look at the current weather, the forecast, and check with other professionals who understand the weather. We also talk to school officials at nearby districts to determine what they are thinking. In fact, we always communicate with our most proximate schools.

What happens on a day we close

Whenever we close, we automatically cancel middle school–level games and practices. On most occasions when **BOTH** (KPS and opponent) schools are closed, we will not play a high school event. However, as the day goes on, we work with our opponent schools to determine whether to play a high school (JV/Varsity) event. We will always err on the side of caution.

We will ...

- ...always cancel MS games and practices on “snow days”
- ...make decisions on other events by 1 p.m. (if possible) and school buildings will notify families
- ...no matter what, make the best decision for kids

Except in extenuating circumstances, we do not make a decision on a snow day until the morning. We try to make a decision by 5:15 a.m. and send out a School Messenger phone blast by 5:30. We make the decision and phone blast sooner, if possible.

We will...

- ...send out the phone message (School Messenger Phone Blast)
- ...place the message on several media outlets, including 9&10 and 7&4 as well as many radio stations

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school. We will keep your children's safety as our first concern, always.

Odyssey of the Mind second in region

Culture Club

¡Hola! Culture Club has visited four exciting countries this month: China, Greece, France, and Mexico. While visiting China, we talked about the Chinese New Year celebrations and the year of the rabbit. When stopping by Greece, we tasted phyllo dough and saw pictures of the Mediterranean. In France, we drew our best Eiffel Towers and tried Pain au Chocolat, or chocolate croissants! Seeing pictures of cenotes, or underground limestone caves, while tasting plantain chips made us all dream of a Mexican vacation. Our next travels will take us to South America to learn about Brazil and the connection to Mardi Gras celebrations that take place worldwide. We have been fortunate enough to start welcoming in guests who have connections to countries, near and far, to share their experiences. This month we will welcome Mrs. Boger to share about her time living in Brazil. Learning about other parts of the world sure is giving us a list of places to travel someday!

Mrs. Stewart's Science Class

Have you ever wondered what bacteria is growing all around you. Our scientists in Mrs. Stewart's class embarked on solving that mystery. They created their own petri dishes, walked around the school, swabbed potential bacterial hiding places, and watched and waited for the bacteria to grow! It was a fun and exciting way to remember that there is a microscopic world all around us and a friendly reminder to wash your hands from time to time!

Seeds Robotics

Robotics Club with SEEDS EcoSchool is in its sixth week and learners have completed creating the basebot and an autonomous robot! Some groups finished building their robots more quickly than others, but upon reflection they all agreed that having clear roles and responsibilities for each member was essential for their teamwork.

March is Reading Month

We are "Reading Around the World" for March is Reading Month at CSI. There will be quite a few events throughout the month to celebrate reading.

To kick off the month, the 4th and 5th graders will be competing in a Penny Wars challenge to raise money for the Kalkaska County Library. The winning grade will receive extra recess on the first "no coat necessary" day.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be here March 6 through the 10. Students and families will have many opportunities to shop and help raise money for our school and books for all students. The fair will be open during Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 9 and during our Donuts with Grownups event on the March 7. Each student will be able to RSVP to bring up to two guests to enjoy donuts, conversation, and shop the fair.

On March 15, students will be participating in our annual Book Swap. Everyone is invited to bring in gently used books to swap for "new to you" books. Students will be able to swap up to three books.

At the end of the month our students will participate in a Passport Day where they will rotate through the classrooms to hear about other countries and hear a story from that country. The last week before spring break, we will have a pajama day and a flashlight read around the school.

We are looking forward to all the exciting adventures that reading can bring us and all the places we can go in stories.

CSI is Reading Around the World

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	March 1 Penny Wars Starts! Wear Gold or Silver!	2 Read Across America Day Wear Red, White, and Blue!	3
6 Book Fair Begins	7 Donuts with Grownups Begins at 9:25am	8 Read My Shirt Day Wear a shirt with words on it!	9 ½ Day Parent Teacher Conferences 12pm-8pm	10 ½ Day
13 Fairy Tale Day Dress like your favorite fairy tale character!	14	15 Book Swap Today!	16 Book Covers Due Today!	17 St. Patrick's Day Wear green!
20	21 Crazy about Books Crazy Hair Day!	22 Penny Wars Ends!	23 Snuggle Up with a Good Book Wear your PJs and bring a flashlight!	24



▲ Our scientists in Mrs. Stewart's class embarked on solving that mystery. They created their own petri dishes, walked around the school, swabbed potential bacterial hiding places, and watched and waited for the bacteria to grow!

▼ Seeds EcoSchool: — Learners have been learning about Health throughout the month of February. We kicked off our monthly theme with goal-setting and a fitness challenge. It was amazing to see them so excited about exercise and overall health! On March 1st, learners will reflect on progress made toward their goal and try to score higher than their personal best from the original fitness challenge.



▲ Student of the Month —Congratulations to our January Students of the Month! We are so proud of these kids who work hard to go above and beyond in their daily lives at Cherry Street! Back Row: Austin, Tommy, Sara, Hailey, and Chloe. Front Row: McKenzie, Megan, Owen, and Abby.

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!



▲ Did you know that as a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district, KPS students have the opportunity to eat a free breakfast and lunch every single day? March is School Lunch Month, and we would like to send a special thank you to all of our food service staff for providing a great opportunity on a daily basis.

Well Child/Physical Appointments

Regular checkups are an important way to keep track of your child's health and physical, emotional, and social development. Your well-child will include 4 focus areas: Determining whether your child has any health concerns; offering ways to keep your child from developing health conditions; providing support for your child's overall health and well-being; and talking through health information and offering advice.

The experienced Teen Health Corner staff take pride in providing compassionate and comprehensive care for youth ages 10-21 and their children at our Kalkaska location, and ages 5-21 and their children at our Forest Area location. At all locations, we strive to provide a teen friendly setting. We accept all insurances and provide a sliding scale fee for the uninsured. Please call to schedule today.

258-7791 K 369-2000 FA

IT'S READING MONTH AT BIRCH STREET ELEMENTARY!

THIS ALIEN LOVES TO READ!

YOUR BIRCH STREET SPACE MISSION

- COLOR YOUR ALIEN!
- BRING YOUR ALIEN TO THE KALKASKA COUNTY LIBRARY!
- COLLECT A COOL SPACE PRIZE!

The grade level with the MOST students to complete the space mission will win a school bus full of REAL ALIENS who will do your HOMEWORK and HOUSE CHORES in exchange for CANDY BARS! *

Reading Month is February 27th through March 23rd

Students are special in Kalkaska! All Kalkaska Public School students already have a county library card. If you want to check out books just tell us who you are and where you go to school!

Questions? We love questions! Call or email the library at (231) 258-9411 | info@kalkaskalibrary.org

*The Kalkaska County Library is located in downtown Kalkaska at 247 S. Cedar Street, Kalkaska, MI 49646

* How cool would that be? You get a super fun cookie decorating party, actually.

Thanks to the Kalkaska Area Educational Foundation for supporting KPS

BETTER RESEARCH = SMARTER STUDENTS
Ask your librarians how they can help

In Your School Library
We're adding new books every week. Need help finding something? Just ask!

Online Resources
Trouble knowing where to start? Help finding trustworthy, accurate sources? We can help!

At Your Public Library
Students have full access to everything at the Kalkaska County Library, too!

PSST, THE LIBRARY'S HERE TO HELP. PASS IT ON.

kalkaskalibrary.org/eResources

(231) 258 - 9411
INFO@KALKASKALIBRARY.ORG

Kalkaska High School Drama Club Presents:

THE BOLD, THE YOUNG & THE MURDERED

March 9, 10, 11 at 7:00 PM
KHS Auditorium

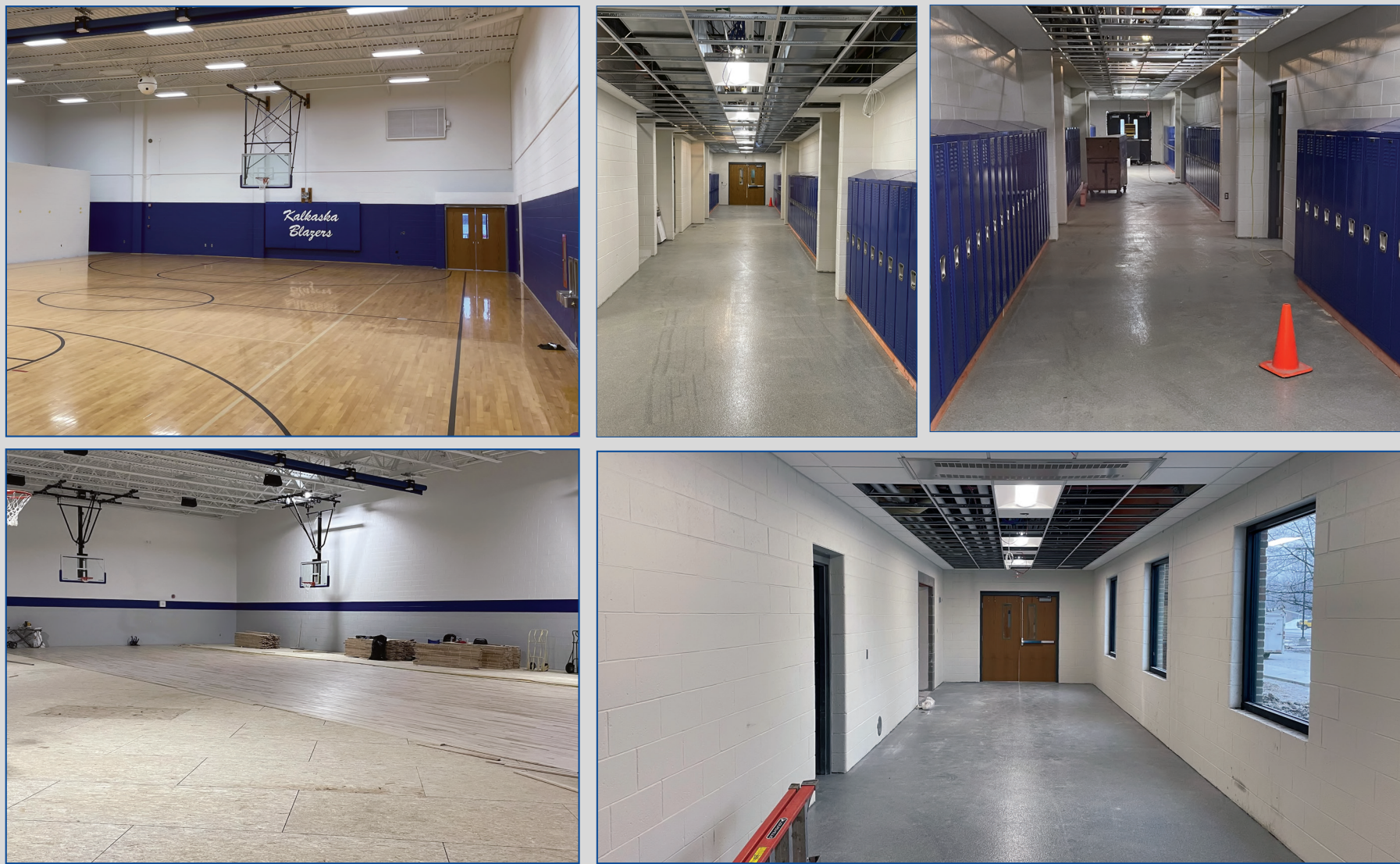
Written By: Don Zolidis
Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

THANK YOU TO THE KALKASKA SPORTS BOOSTERS

FOR SUPPORTING OUR KPS STUDENT-ATHLETES

Lockers arrive, gym floor in process

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.

Board of Education

Rachael Birgy	—	President
Regan Foerster	—	Vice President
Wendy Watson	—	Secretary
Mary Scobey	—	Treasurer
Richard Hodgman	—	Trustee
Sarah Dudek	—	Trustee
Steve Ordway	—	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
Aaron Ostrander, Assistant Principal	2170
Mary Deb Rabourn, Secretary	2173
Rhonda Wurtz, Secretary	2102

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. Editorial assistance provided by Kalkaska County Library Director John P. Roberts.

All content copyright © MMXXIII by Kalkaska Public Schools



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, 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

