



Students encouraged to make good choices



▲ (Top Left, then clockwise) Matt Moore was one member of the Michigan Youth Alive that performed several songs at the high school assembly. After the assembly, the Senior Class of 2023 had their class picture taken on the football field. Sophomore Alexea Ingram, Senior Jamal Bernard, and Sophomore Jaydynn Houston share the stage with KHS Math teacher Nathan DeJong during the lip-syncing part of the assembly program put on by Michigan Youth Alive on Oct. 28.

On Friday, October 28, KHS held an assembly featuring performers from Michigan Youth Alive. Their program was designed to show students the importance of preventing substance abuse, preventing bullying, and making good choices. It included musical performances and testimonials by several group members on a variety of topics.

Principal Staci Short arranged for the group to come last May. She said she wanted the students to hear some key things from their message.

“Some things I hope the students take away from this are some coping mechanisms, other than substances, and empathy for other students,” Mrs. Short said.

Overall the students liked the assembly and responded to the main message.

“You should treat people nicely because you never know what they’re going through,” said sophomore Carly Arsnoe.

The assembly ended with students and teachers on stage lip syncing to songs chosen by the Michigan Youth Alive representatives. Junior Anna Hall enjoyed that portion of the program the most.

“Personally the best part of the whole thing was when Mrs. Little was on stage singing ‘Let It Go’ from Frozen and pulled out her braid like Elsa,” Hall said.

■ By Kristin Hall, Yearbook Staff Member

INSIDE THIS EDITION

BULLETIN

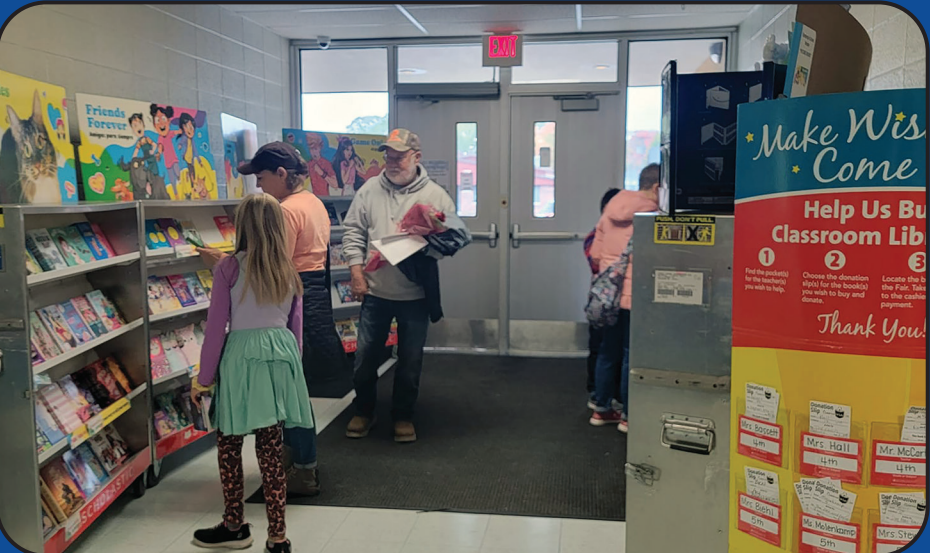
Kalkaska Public Schools

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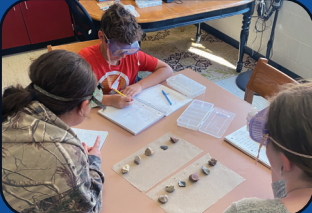
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▲ (Above left and clockwise) Spirit Week at Birch Street, the Grand Event at CSI, Grass River Trip at CSI, Spirit Week at CSI, the book fair at CSI. Learning to draw at KMS, Inland Seas event at the MS, and RCE Superheroes. CSI staff and students enjoyed a quality Halloween experience! KMS students learned about the scientific process. Finally, congrats to the KMS football team who finished the season 6-0.



Transportation department eyeing exciting changes

Kalkaska Public Schools has three new buses coming soon — two school (yellow & black) and one awesome decked out special trip bus! The buses were paid for by bond funds and the special decals and upgrades on the trips bus were made possible by generous donations from a community member and great supporter and brought to us through the Kalkaska Area Educational Foundation (KAEF), who also donated toward the bus. Furthermore, the Les and Ann Biederman Foundation contributed to the special bus purchase, as well.

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 Vandefifer. We will help you get your license to be able to drive a school bus!

Finally, thank you to all of our KPS and Kalkaska Area Transit (KAT) bus drivers for getting our kids to and from school safely. They are a great crew!

Our partnerships with the KAEF, KAT, and many other local groups helps Kalkaska Public Schools provide great opportunities for our kids.



KPS is Growing Quickly

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 next June!





KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUPPORTED FAMILIES. SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

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Cherry Street brings back the Grand Event

Grass River

Our 4th grade had the opportunity to venture out to the Grass River Natural Area. Students were able to explore our local ecosystems and do some hands-on learning!

Student of the Month

Congratulations to our September Students of the Month! These fantastic kids exemplified Blazer PRIDE and started out the school year strong!

Back Row: Chase, Nick, Robert, Nic, Aila

Front Row: Tristan, Bentley, Ellianna, Alivia

Spirit Week

For Homecoming Week, students showed their Blazer pride by following our spirit days. Some of our favorites are highlighted.

Grand Event

We brought back our Grand Event to CSI. Our students were allowed to bring up to two special people to our school for some activities at the end of the day. It was great to meet some of the amazing people that help our students be successful.

Our students showed them the school, did a scavenger hunt that allowed our students to get to know their Grand People event better, a photo booth, and some cider and donuts.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Thank you to all the parents for coming in and meeting with our staff. It was a phenomenal turn out and we look forward to fostering more opportunities for our parents and staff to work together to promote student success.

We had a station for parents to write notes to their students. It was great to see all the support for our students and read through all the positive messages.

Lunch with a Cop

Mrs. Boger has helped bring a regular rotating opportunity for our students to interact with our local law enforcement. Our students get the chance to eat lunch with a police officer and go outside and have fun on the playground.

Super Hero Academy

Our students had the opportunity to go to an assembly called "Super Hero Academy." The program was promoting teamwork, being kind, and using our own unique talents for good. The students were up and moving, participating in games, and they were enjoying every second. Thank you to Michigan Youth Alive for coming out and speaking with our students.

Congratulations to Josiah!

Our students participate in a program called Rocket Math. The program is designed to help students practice math fluency at their own personal pace and level. Rocket Math has 16 different paths to complete to finish the program. We have never had a student finish the program. Until now! Josiah completed all 16 paths and received a diploma, trophy, and recognition from Rocket Math. Great job Josiah!



▲ Cherry Street Intermediate students have continued to enjoy many fun experiences this school year.



▲ While some students chose to do step by step fall drawing during the first Exploratory Wednesday, October 12, others learned about K'Nex Alternative Energy with Mrs. Clark. Still more students chose to learn how to make no bake cookies with Mrs. Vyverberg the same day; in addition, students chose to build with and create with Stem Kits. Students learned how to crochet with Mrs. Bruso while other students were able to ice skate at the Kaliseum during Exploratory Wednesday October 26. The 7th grade students knocked it out of the park the first week of October with their engagement, interest, inquiry, and great behavior. Huge shout out to Inland Seas Education Association for another amazing adventure aboard your schooner Inland SEAS. Mrs. Bruso's fourth hour used hydrochloric acid to test for the presence of calcite in sedimentary limestones. They are currently studying clues that rocks hold to determine the story of a place! Thank you Newton's Road for providing the Stem Kits.

Top Left: Congratulations to our October KMS Pride Students of the Month! Back Row L-R 8th Grade: Caleb, Alivia, Izabela, Jared, and Gavin (not pictured). Middle Row L-R 7th Grade: William, Thomas, Alivia, Easton, and Lily. Front Row L-R 6th Grade: Trent, Isabella, Peighton, Parker, and Alex. (Upper right) Congratulations to our NJHS Executive Officers L-R: (President) Courtney, (Vice President) Dixon, (Secretary) Jared, and (Treasurer) Nathaniel! (Above) Congratulations to our October KMS Musicians of the Month! L-R: Kaedynce, Alexis, Macy, Payton, Olivia, Xavier, Luciano, and Skyler (not pictured).

RCE up and running for the new year

RCE Rock stars had a visit from local heroes from the Clearwater Township Fire Department. Students were given tours of a fire rescue vehicle and learned more about what these heroes do to protect our community.

RCE K-5th graders were all given the opportunity to attend Superhero Academy where they graduated and mastered the attributes of a superhero. Our very own Freya, Felicity and Otis demonstrated the power of Teamwork against Superboy in a game of Tug-of-war.

The "Giving Tree Food Drive" runs through the month of November at Rapid City. Rockstars are collecting canned goods and non-perishables that can be donated to our local food pantry for the holidays. Each class will be competing for an ice cream party.



▲ Rapid City Elementary has had a lot of cool activities so far in the 2022–2023 school year!

WHAT'S NEW AT THE KPS LIBRARIES?

A LOT, ACTUALLY!

WE BRING NEW ITEMS INTO OUR COLLECTION EVERY WEEK — SO KALKASKA STUDENTS CAN ALWAYS READ THE HOTTEST NEW BOOKS AS SOON AS THEY'RE AVAILABLE!

DON'T HAVE THE TITLE YOU WANT AT YOUR SCHOOL? NO PROBLEM!

SINCE ALL THE LIBRARIES ARE ON THE SAME SYSTEM, YOU CAN EASILY REQUEST BOOKS FROM OTHER SCHOOL BUILDINGS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO YOURS!

QUESTIONS?

✉ INFO@KALKASKALIBRARY.ORG

☎ (231) 258 - 9411



Teen Health Corner has flu shots available, come get yours NOW!

Don't forget both the Kalkaska and Forest Area Teen Health Clinics provide general medical care, complete and annual physicals, sports physicals, immunizations, urgent care, mental health services, COVID-19 testing, Medicaid assistance, and so much more. We provide services regardless of ability to pay and accept all insurances, and provide sliding scale fee for all uninsured.

School closed?

We are STILL OPEN!

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

Where can I make an appointment?

In person visits, walk-ins, or video visits:

Teen Health Corner (KMHC)	Forest Area MS/HS Campus
419 S. Coral Street	7741 Shippy Road SW
Kalkaska, MI 49646	Fife Lake, MI 49633
Monday-Friday	Mon/Wed/Thursday
231-258-7791	231-369-2000
	Kalkaska Middle School
	Counseling Only
	231-258-7922

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

Birch Street families look for fun this fall

Parent Engagement

Fall Family Activities with Learning in Mind

What is your family's favorite way to celebrate fall? Depending on where you live, fall weather can vary – one day it can be beautiful, but it can also involve snow and cool temperatures – making it tricky to think of and plan family-friendly activities for the season. Try these fun, indoor and outdoor ideas that will help support your child's learning and development.

Make a Game with Pumpkins ...

Visit a pumpkin patch! In addition to your pumpkin for carving, pick out a variety of mini pumpkins and gourds with your child. Create a sorting game and have your child sort by color, shape, and size. You can also introduce the concept of comparison by having your child arrange the pumpkins and gourds from smallest to largest – and vice versa.

Go on a Scavenger Hunt...

What better time to go for a nature walk or hike than now? The leaves are changing color and the air is crisp, making it the perfect time to get out there and explore. Set up a scavenger hunt and challenge your child to find and collect natural items as you walk, such as leaves, acorns, and pine cones.

Make a Nature Art Project...

The same items you picked up on the scavenger hunt can be used as art supplies. Put them out, along with paper, paint, and glue, and see what your child creates! Leaves are especially versatile – show your child the different things you can do with them, like using crayons to create leaf rubbings, tracing them onto paper, or creating a nature collage.

Challenge the Senses...

Help your child explore different textures and develop fine motor skills and vocabulary by putting a collection of objects together in a bin or box for them to touch and look at. These objects can include dried ears of corn and/or kernels, dried beans, leaves, acorns, rocks, gourds, or mini pumpkins. Then, add tools like tongs or scoops that can be used to move the objects around. In addition, provide additional containers so students can move objects from one to another.

Cook with Fall Flavors...

Go on an apple picking adventure and bring some home to bake an apple pie. Lay out the appropriate measuring tools and help your child read the amount of each ingredient you will need. Then, have them scoop the ingredients into a bowl and mix it all together.



▲ Birch Street Elementary students have enjoyed Spirit Week, a preschool field trip to Rennie Orchards and a kindergarten field trip to Rennie Orchards. Students and staff at BSE have had a lot of fun so far!



Upcoming Events

- ★ November 23 – Thanksgiving Break begins
- ★ November 28 – School Resumes
- ★ December 2 – ½ Day – PD Staff

Blue Blazers fall season winds down; winter sports next

The fall sports season is winding down, and the winter sports season is right around the corner. We appreciate the generous community support, and look forward to seeing you at one of our sporting events.

HELP WANTED!

One question that gets asked frequently is, “Why don’t we have an athletic trainer?” The answer is that despite the position being posted on both the Munson Kalkaska Memorial Health Center and Kalkaska Public Schools websites since November 2021, there simply have been no applicants to fill the position. We are not alone. Many high schools, colleges, and universities around statewide have their ‘Help Wanted’ signs out too. There simply is a shortage of certified athletic trainers.

With that being the case, we would welcome any interested, caring volunteers who could be present for home games and tend to our injured athletes with basic first aid needs. You don’t have to have a medical background to help, though it would be preferred. Email Athletic Director Bryan Hawkins (athletics@kpschools.com) for more information.

MORE HELP WANTED!

Are you looking for other ways to support our athletes? Here are some options:

- ★ **Drive a sports bus!** We have the buses. Now we need the drivers. We will even help pay for your training. Contact Transportation Director Jim Vandefifer for more information: jvandefifer@kpschools.com
- ★ **Coach a team!** There are numerous coaching positions posted at www.kpschools.com; Click ‘About Us’, then click ‘Job Postings’.
- ★ **Become an MHSAA 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.
- ★ **Join the Sports Boosters!** Contact Chuck Hill for more info: chill@kso.org
- ★ **Become a donor!** Multiple opportunities for one-time or recurring sponsorships are available. Email athletics@kpschools.com for more information.
- ★ **Athletics schedules can be located at www.kalkaskablazers.com**

Please be aware of ongoing construction around our sports facilities and the impact on parking. Do not park in unauthorized areas or on the grass. Thank you for your cooperation!

KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Winter Sports Schedule

FRESHMEN BOYS BASKETBALL

12-15-2022	5:30 p.m.	@	Grayling
01-10-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids
01-12-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	East Jordan
01-17-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Boyer City
01-19-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	St. Francis
01-24-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Charlevoix
01-27-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Grayling
02-03-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs
02-07-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids
02-10-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	East Jordan
02-14-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Boyer City
02-17-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	St. Francis
02-21-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
02-24-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Harbor Springs

JV BOYS BASKETBALL

12-08-2022	5:30 p.m.	@	Glen Lake
12-12-2022	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Kingsley Area
12-15-2022	5:30 p.m.	@	Grayling
01-10-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids
01-12-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	East Jordan
01-17-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Boyer City
01-19-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	St. Francis
01-24-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Charlevoix
01-27-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Grayling
02-03-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs
02-07-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Elk Rapids
02-10-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	East Jordan
02-14-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	Boyer City
02-17-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	St. Francis
02-21-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
02-24-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Harbor Springs
02-28-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Pine River
03-02-2023	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Evart

MS BOYS BASKETBALL

11-07-2022	4:30 p.m.	@	Cherryland
11-09-2022	4:30 p.m.	Vs	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
11-14-2022	4:30 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs
11-16-2022	4:30 p.m.	Vs	Charlevoix
11-21-2022	4:30 p.m.	Vs	Grayling
11-28-2022	4:30 p.m.	@	Boyer City
11-30-2022	4:30 p.m.	Vs	East Jordan
12-05-2022	4:30 p.m.	@	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
12-07-2022	4:30 p.m.	Vs	Cherryland
12-12-2022	4:30 p.m.	@	Grayling

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

12-08-2022	7:00 p.m.	@	Glen Lake
12-12-2022	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Kingsley Area
12-15-2022	7:00 p.m.	@	Grayling
01-10-2023	7:00 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids
01-12-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	East Jordan
01-17-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Boyer City
01-19-2023	7:00 p.m.	@	St. Francis
01-24-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Charlevoix
01-27-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Grayling
02-03-2023	7:00 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs
02-07-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Elk Rapids
02-10-2023	7:00 p.m.	@	East Jordan
02-14-2023	7:00 p.m.	@	Boyer City
02-17-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	St. Francis
02-21-2023	7:00 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
02-24-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Harbor Springs*
02-28-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Pine River
03-02-2023	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Evart

VARSITY WRESTLING

01-04-2023	TBA	@	LMC Meet @ Charlevoix
01-13-2023	TBA	@	Benzie Central -
01-18-2023	TBA	Home	LMC Meet @ Kalkaska
01-20-2023	TBA	@	Benzie Central -
01-21-2023	TBA	@	Reed City
02-03-2023	TBA	@	Boyer Open Conf. Champ.

FRESHMEN GIRLS BASKETBALL

12-09-2022	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Charlevoix
12-16-2022	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Grayling
01-06-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs
01-10-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Elk Rapids
01-13-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	East Jordan
01-17-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Boyer City
01-20-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	St. Francis
01-24-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
01-26-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	Grayling
02-02-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Harbor Springs
02-07-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids
02-09-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	East Jordan
02-14-2023	4:00 p.m.	Vs	Boyer City
02-16-2023	4:00 p.m.	@	St. Francis

JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

12-06-2022	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Lake City
12-09-2022	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Charlevoix
12-13-2022	5:30 p.m.	@	Kingsley Area
12-16-2022	5:30 p.m.	Vs	Grayling
01-06-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs
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02-16-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	St. Francis
02-23-2023	5:30 p.m.	@	Evart

VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

12-06-2022	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Lake City
12-09-2022	7:00 p.m.	Vs	Charlevoix
12-13-2022	7:00 p.m.	@	Kingsley Area
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02-16-2023	7:00 p.m.	@	St. Francis
02-23-2023	7:00 p.m.	@	Evart