



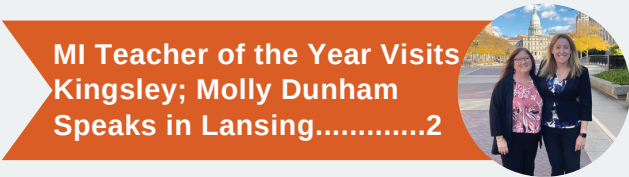
KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE" November 2024 kingsleyschools.org

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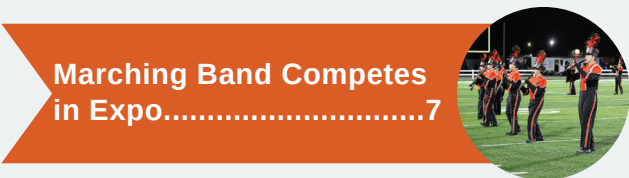
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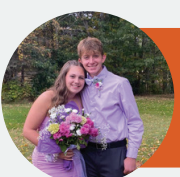
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CELEBRATING THE FALL SEASON

Fall Fun! First graders enjoyed a trip to Pahl's Pumpkin Patch in late October. Top: Josalyn Brooks picks her pumpkin; below: Kathy Stein and students Isaac Hosler and Colton Jarrett; first graders run through the corn maze, October Hedger meets Pahl's goats; Savannah Sisk poses in the pumpkin patch; students ride the Pahl's express.



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Kingsley Elementary Students Out-Reads 26 County Schools to Win TADL Summer Reading Championship



Our Kingsley Stags are readers and leaders!

At the October 14 Board of Education meeting, the Traverse Area District Library presented Kingsley Elementary with the Summer Reading Club 2024 championship banner.

The Summer Reading Club challenges readers across the county to log their reading minutes to earn prizes and foster a love of reading.

Of all 26 elementary schools in Grand Traverse County, Kingsley had the highest percentage of students who participated and read at least 600 minutes over 6 weeks.

- 665 students participated in the program, up 10% from the summer of 2023. 115 of them were pre-readers, aged 0-5 years old.
- More than a third of all readers achieved or surpassed the 600-minute goal.

The Kingsley Branch Library would like to thank the students for their diligence; school librarian Wendy Sterk for instilling a love of libraries and encouraging them to continue reading through the summer; and especially the teachers and staff who promoted the program in a myriad of ways!

2024-2025 MI Teacher of the Year Tours Kingsley



Third grade teacher Molly Dunham, left, and MI Teacher of the Year Kelley Cusmano, right, tour Mrs. Rushlau's Kindergarten classroom.

On Friday, October 4, Kingsley Area Schools was proud to welcome the Michigan Department of Education Teacher of the Year, Kelley Cusmano, for a tour of the district. Kingsley is the first of nine stops the Rochester High English teacher will make across the state.

Cusmano is touring the districts of the other nine 24-25 Regional Teacher of the Year honorees. Today, she was guided by Kingsley Elementary's third-grade teacher, Molly Dunham, the Region 2 Teacher of the Year.

"As a regional Teacher of the Year honoree, I'm really excited to share the good things we're doing here in Kingsley," said Dunham.

As honorees, Dunham and Cusmano are representing the voice of teachers statewide as they work directly with the Department of Education to solve Michigan's most pressing educational issues.

Their day began before the school bell even rang, as Dunham and Cusmano greeted enthusiastic elementary students as they arrived. The two educators spent the day immersed in classrooms, observing and celebrating the learning happening within the district.

Cusmano says her first impression of the district is how strong the community ties are.

"I've just noticed so much Kingsley pride with all of the signs and their

S.T.A.G acronym posted everywhere [Safe, Trustworthy, Acts Responsibly, Gives Respect]," said Cusmano. "I could see the community pride from the minute I walked in the door."

The 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year says she hopes these tours and experiences will help inform her ahead of state and national meetings with education stakeholders.

"I want to be able to talk about districts other than my own when I'm at the table in discussions with the Department of Education. I want to be able to have experiences from Michigan schools to connect the dots so to speak when it comes to statewide initiatives," said Cusmano.

"Here in Kingsley, there's been some rock star teachers doing some really cool work."



In October, Mrs. Dunham and Mrs. Cusmano went to the State Department of Education in Lansing to present on the importance of mentorship.

KHS' Carolyn Wolf Takes the Podium at National Retired Racehorse Competition



This fall, KHS junior Carolyn Wolf competed in the Retired Racehorse Project Thoroughbred Makeover National Championships competition in Lexington, Kentucky.

The national competition tasks trainers from all over North America to train and compete with horses who have recently retired from the race track. The event, hosted at the Kentucky Horse Park, is the largest event of its kind and attracted 396 competitors this year.

Carolyn acquired her racehorses from Monmouth Park race track in New Jersey in September of last year. Carolyn spent more than a year training her two retired racehorses, teaching them how to compete in dressage and show jumping. She competed in the junior division and earned second place in dressage with her horse Antonov and third in show jumping with Royal Urn. Overall, she placed 28th out of 101 dressage riders, most of which were professionals.

“What was most exciting was seeing all the hard work pay off, because these

are horses that I've trained myself,” said Carolyn. “They're like my kids, I'm constantly worrying about them, and caring for them. It consumes my life. They give me more of their heart when we go out there to compete, and that's really cool.”

Growing up in Kingsley, Carolyn's passion for horses started when she was in second grade and joined The United States Pony Club. She's been active in the equestrian community for more than ten years and travels to state competitions on the weekend and national competitions in the summer. She has even trained under Olympic rider, Boyd Martin.

“It would be awesome to go to the Olympics one day,” said Carolyn. “I don't know what will happen, but when you put the hard work in, it does all come together.”

Congratulations, Carolyn!



Fractured Fairytales

Kellie Little's high school Creative Writing students visited the elementary to read their “Fractured Fairytales.” Students were tasked with taking a new spin on classic fables and creating their own books with illustrations. The kids loved it!

Middle School Journalism Club

November Interviews



Andrew Sias - KMS Teacher

What are your interests and/or hobbies?

I like to play music, I play mandolin and guitar, I like camping and hiking and I like hands-on projects including art and fixing up the house.

What do you love about Kingsley?

We are situated in a very beautiful place, we are a small peaceful community and it's better than my hometown.

What's one fun fact about you?

I like international travel.

What is a dream or goal you have?

To live in a fairly secluded place in the upper peninsula.

What is one thing you want the community to know about you?

I'm here to support my students in whatever way I can to help support their growth and development.

Taylor Tanaka - Student

What are your interests and/or hobbies?

I like surfing and skateboarding.

What do you love about Kingsley?

I like that there are a lot of people and that I have a lot of friends in the school.

What's one fun fact about you?

I went surfing and I couldn't see at all at Cocoa Beach.

What is a dream or goal you have?

To become a pro in surfing and skateboarding.

What is one thing you want the community to know about you?

I want to be there to support my friends whenever I can and when I become a pro surfer I'll give Kingsley a shoutout.

ATHLETIC DEPT. NEWS

➔ Natalie Sterk



Natalie is a senior cross country runner and was the top finisher for Kingsley earning Northern Shores All Conference honorable mention. Natalie is also a member of the new NJROTC at Kingsley while carrying a 4.0 grade point average.

➔ Chase Bott



Chase is a senior tight end/defensive end on the varsity football team. Chase had two receptions for 56 yards and a touchdown on offense, and an interception and fumble recovery for a touchdown on defense in their

dominating 57-29 win over Benzie Central. Chase also excels in basketball and track at Kingsley while carrying a 3.17 grade point average.

➔ Isabelle Seitz



Isabelle is a junior libero on the varsity volleyball team. She has 476 digs on the season, and is a 96.6% server with 64 aces helping Kingsley win the conference championship. She also excels in track while carrying a 3.85 grade point average.

➔ Cross Country Seniors



Congratulations to our senior runners, Sayla Bender, Norah Galton, Natalie Sterk, Mara VanWagner, Alaina Mitchell, Logan Face, Grant Johnson, Tyler Kanakis, and Nathan Peters, on a wonderful final season!



Above: senior Gavin Lewis makes his way into the end zone for a touchdown in the first half. Bottom left: Natalie Crawford and Taylor Smith from the new sideline cheer team rev up the crowd. Bottom middle: Fans cheer on the Stags. Bottom right: Kingsley High School's new Naval Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps. present the flags during pregame.



Lady Stags Volleyball Team Wins Conference Championship



Congratulations to the KHS Varsity Volleyball team who beat Elk Rapids to take the first Northern Shores Conference Championship, going 7-0 on the season. Left: the Varsity football team came out to support and cheer on the team.

Kingsley Community Board



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KHS Christmas Concert
Tuesday, Dec. 10 @ 7:00PM
High School Gym

KMS Christmas Concert
Thursday, Dec. 12 @ 7:00PM
Middle School Gym

Kingsley 
Choir 

Winter Concert
Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7:00PM
High School Gym



LET'S GO TO
Ireland and England
KMS Travel Club Summer 2025

Middle Schoolers & incoming sixth graders, you're invited to the 2025 KMS Travel Club trip to Ireland and England! Contact Andrew Sias at asias@kingsleyschools.org for more information.
****This trip is led by EF Tours which is not affiliated with Kingsley Area Schools****




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STAG SNAPSHOTS



Elementary Launches S.T.A.G Initiative

If you walk through Kingsley Elementary, you may see posters encouraging students to show S.T.A.G. behavior, which stands for Safe, Trustworthy, Acts Respectibly, and Gives Respect. The administration and counseling team will lead interactive S.T.A.G. assemblies, challenges, spirit weeks, and more, to encourage kids to show good behavior.

6th Graders Find their Cosmic Address

Mrs. Roussety's sixth graders used their phones and iPads to locate stars and constellations to answer the guiding question, 'What is My Cosmic Address?'

They examined the relationship between the Earth's tilt, Polaris, Ursa Major, and Ursa Minor, while having lots of fun and staying on task! Great job, students.



Sustainable Science Cooks with Pumpkins

Students in Tiffany Smith's class are putting every part of the pumpkin to use this fall. They started by gutting their gourds and harvesting the seeds to make several flavors of toasted pumpkin seeds. They used the meat of the pumpkin to make chili. All of their guts and excess were put into the class compost so nothing went to waste.

Thank you to Olds Paradise Farms for donating pumpkins to Sustainable Science class!



Middle Schoolers Tour NMC

Eighth graders got a taste of college life during a recent visit to Northwestern Michigan College. Students learned about different degree and certification pathways and even toured a dorm! Afterwards, they enjoyed hot dogs and had team building time at Grace Macdonald park.



Soccer Team Visits Cleary University

The Kingsley High School soccer team recently visited Cleary University. Our players were invited to practice with their team, consisting of players from England, Wales, Brazil, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, Zimbabwe, and Michigan. The Stags toured campus and watched Cleary beat Cornerstone University 1-0.

Thank you Cleary Coach Dan Bulley and his players for making our kids feel welcome on campus. It was an amazing experience for our team!



Hispanic Heritage Month

High school Spanish students in Mrs. Augilera-Adamczak's class recently celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with presentations and informational booths during lunch.



Third Graders Construct Shelters

Third graders in Mrs. Hetherington's class are learning about traditional Native American shelters. They recently built their own wigwams and longhouse villages to learn about the similarities and differences between the two. Wig Wams are domed, round structures while longhouse villages were long multi-family units.

Groundbreaks at Brownson Memorial Park

Kingsley kids helped break ground on the new Brownson Memorial Park at a ceremony on October 1. The updated park will include a new playground and fitness loop as well as updated infrastructure. The project is funded by a variety of state and community partners, including two students who donated their own money to make this dream a reality. Right: students in Mrs. Hetherington's class cheer as the ceremony kicks off.

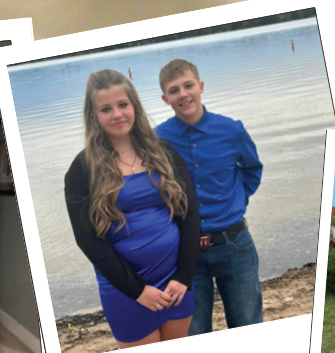
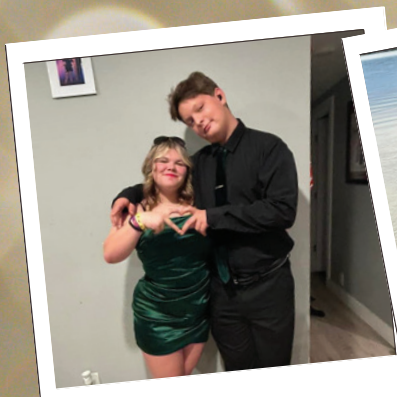
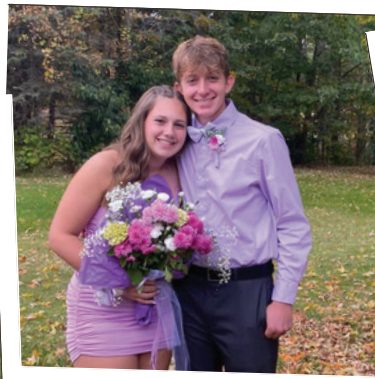


Students Participate in Walk to School Day

Hundreds of Kingsley students made the trek to class on Wednesday, October 9 for the national Walk or Bike to school day. Students who bus were dropped off by the football field to make their way to the elementary or high school. The daily commute to school is an obvious way to increase the amount of activity for our children, a way to enjoy our beautiful community, and most of all, fun! Thank you to the local law enforcement officers who joined us to make sure everyone stayed safe.



On October 7, the Kingsley Marching Stags performed at the Marching Band Expo at Thirlby Field, performing their set, "KTV Live" featuring Toxic by Britney Spears, I Want it That Way by the Backstreet Boys, Everybody by *NSYNC, and Thriller by Michael Jackson. Left to right: Trombonist Sideon Holland; students prepare to take the field; the horn section and color guard; and Madelyn Abend




Homecoming
2024

