

# MACKINAW CITY COMETS

609 West Central Avenue, Mackinaw City, MI 49701 \* 231-436-8211 \* [www.mackcity.k12.mi.us](http://www.mackcity.k12.mi.us)

NOVEMBER 2020

## IMPORTANT DATES

THANKSGIVING BREAK  
NOVEMBER 25-27

CHRISTMAS BREAK  
DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 1

EXAMS-NOON DISMISSAL  
JANUARY 20 & 21

MAKE-UP EXAMS  
NO SCHOOL  
JANUARY 22



Due to COVID-19 this year, our elementary students were not able to visit Pinecrest on Halloween as usual. Instead, they dressed in their costumes, gathered in the gym, and video recorded their Halloween songs. The video was sent to the residents of Pinecrest. Kudos to Miss Anderson and the elementary staff who made this happen!



## **SUPERINTENDENT SPOTLIGHT**

By: Jeff Curth

We have successfully completed the first nine weeks and have been able to remain in school. This is a great accomplishment and the entire community deserves credit.

While safety continues to remain our number one priority in our school, we also acknowledge the important role that our school serves in the community. Our school is essential for meeting the social, emotional, academic, and physical needs of all of our students and families and we must do everything in our power to keep our school safe and stay open. As the number of Coronavirus cases rise in our region, the Return to Learn Committee and School Board will continue to follow the science and guidelines set forth by the State of Michigan Health Department. As new mandates continue to change, we will do everything to keep the community informed. The school utilizes several platforms to keep everyone updated; we use Facebook and our school website: <https://mackcity.k12.mi.us>.

It is my belief that continuing to follow the mask and safety protocols will enable us to continue in person learning. As a school district, we are also prepared to provide an accessible and rigorous virtual curriculum to all of our students. We have instituted a one computer to one student policy, so every student in Kindergarten through Twelfth grade has their own computer to take home and use. We have also purchased a Learning Management system, Schoology. It is a powerful platform that will enable students and staff to communicate, monitor, and complete assignments. As your Superintendent, I will continue to make the safety of our school a top priority.

### **Financial Audit**

Our yearly independent school audit has been completed and the auditor presented to the School Board during our October meeting. He reported that our school is in SOLID financial shape! We added \$268,000 to our fund equity (savings) and that puts us at \$524,000 or 23% fund equity. This year's budget includes another significant increase to our fund equity. The fiscal health of our school district is critical to ensuring our longevity. If you have questions regarding our financial stability, I encourage you to call or have a conversation with a school board member. We are very proud and will gladly spend time with you to discuss this amazing school.



# Mackinaw City MS/HS

## 2020-2021 School Year

### Quarter 1 Honor Roll Students

(Students that earned all A's or B's in all subjects)

\* Indicates students that earned all A's in all subjects.

#### 12th Grade

\*Elena Alexander  
\*Evan Cronk  
\*Jillian Lidy  
Kal O'Brien  
\*Traci Rogala  
Rose Siebigteroth  
\*Caroline Somers  
Carissa Sroka  
\*Jenna Wiertalla

#### 11th Grade

Gabi Bell  
\*Ella House

#### 10th Grade

\*Britanya Clayton  
\*Larissa Huffman  
\*Lars Huffman  
\*Marlie Postula  
\*Jeffrey Siebigteroth  
Madison Smith  
\*Julia Sullivan  
\*Cooper Whipkey

#### 9th Grade

\*Gracie Beauchamp  
Jersey Beauchamp  
\*Lucas Bergstrom  
\*Amelia House  
Sabastian Pierce  
Ella Poumade  
Trystan Swanson

#### 8th Grade

Sean Postula

#### 7th Grade

Braylon Currie  
Tyler Hingston  
Naomi Knack  
Draeven Leithauser  
Tanyon Pierce  
\*Ben Strittmatter

#### 6th Grade

\*Tyler Allaire  
Giada Lieghio  
Gavin Smith



*Lars Huffman and Caroline Somers were both named Academic All State for Cross Country by the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association. Both have over a 3.5 GPA, qualified for State Finals, and finished in the top half of their respective races.*

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

## SEPTEMBER

### **Elementary: Addyson Wheeler** (5th Grade)

Addyson has made great progress and matured significantly. She interacts with her peers and adults in a productive and personal way. Addyson has a positive attitude. One word to describe: Wonderful

### **Middle School: Grace Sroka** (8th grade)

Grace is doing a great job this year. She is more focused and is taking more time on her work. Grace is definitely putting forth a great effort. One word to describe: Mature

### **High School: Anna Julian** (10th grade)

Anna is happy to have any person as a working partner, and strives to do her very best on assignments. One word to describe: Welcoming

## OCTOBER

### **Elementary: Addlee Livermore** (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

Addlee compliments her classmates and teachers every day. She is kind hearted and loves school. Addlee works hard on all her assignments and always participates in class. One word to describe Addlee: Kind

### **Middle School: Giada Lieghio** (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Giada has been on task, helpful, and behaves in class. One word to describe Giada: Studious.

### **High School: Rose Siebigteroth** (12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Rose is respectful, mature and a joy to have in class. One word to describe Rose: Mature.



*The First grade class spent some time at the Hathaway Property last month learning about animals and their habitats.*

# FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

By: Ronnie Budzinski



*The Second and Third grade classes with Fire Pup and MCFD Firefighters*

The Elementary students from Preschool-3rd grades had the opportunity to attend a Fire Prevention Program at the Rec Center on Thursday, October 22. Fire Fighter Greg Vieau coordinated the program along with Amy Thompson, JB, and Fire Pup. The children got to see the Mackinaw City Fire Truck with all the tools the fire fighters use. Each child received a goody bag with lots of information and fun activities. The important messages about what to do in the event of a fire, calling 911, and having a family meeting place were all emphasized. Thank you Firefighters for all you do!



*The Pre-school, Kindergarten, and First grade classes with Fire Pup and MCFD firefighters*

# PUMPKIN FUN

By: Ronnie Budzinski

The 2nd Graders with the help of Mrs. Krueger had a fun afternoon carving pumpkins at the Pavilion. The pumpkins were grown at Mrs. Budzinski's farm. Each student designed the face they wanted on their pumpkin and Mrs. Krueger put her artistic magic to work. The jack-o-lanterns were so cute. Happy Halloween!



*Lailah Vrooman*



*Clayton VanOrman*



*Mrs. Krueger and Wyatt Jackson*

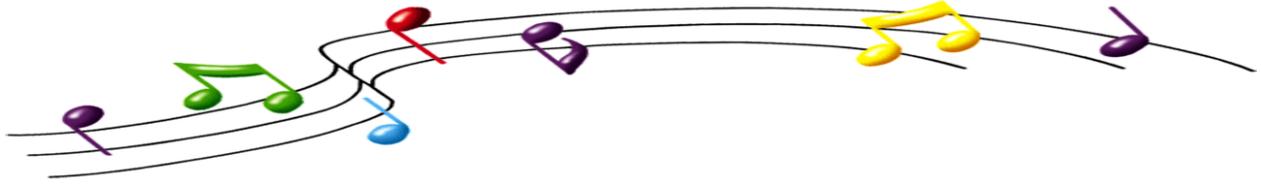


*Ava Thompson*



*Mathew Odell*





## **MUSICAL MELODIES**

By: Katie Anderson

We received 15 ukuleles from a Straits Area Federal Credit Union grant. They will be school owned and will be used as a supplement to the students' wind and percussion playing. Thank you so much to SAFCU for the wonderful donation!

The Mackinaw City Band is starting their annual fall fundraiser. We are selling coffee and hot chocolate. All proceeds go into students' band accounts to help pay for the band trip. See your local band student to order! Donations are also accepted.

The band students at Mackinaw have had a few drumming days in the last few weeks. The goals of the drum circle were to emphasize pulse, rhythms and creativity. The students were encouraged to feel the pulse and then expand on what they heard and felt. Students brought in their own drums or drum-like objects to use. It was great fun!

The band has received some donations recently. Thank you to Val Dullack for the trumpet and Enbridge for the monetary donation.



# WATERSHED WONDERS

By: Brooke Vieau

Our high school Biology students had a really great experience participating in Watershed Academy on October 15th. Students conducted water quality testing measuring nitrate, pH, and oxygen levels in Mill Creek. Additionally, they collected and identified macroinvertebrates to ultimately determine the quality of water in our local watershed. This is the 5th consecutive year our Biology class has participated in this outdoor learning experience.



*Anna Julian*



*Marlie Postula, Julia Sullivan, Britanya Clayton, and Lily Wallace*



*Noah Valot*



*Cooper Whipkey*



*Jeffrey Siebigteroth*



*Jalen DeWitt*



*Nathan Straus*

## Mackinaw City Seniors Receive Multiple Honors

Evan Cronk and Caroline Somers have been named Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation were recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2021 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2019 PSAT.

Evan and Caroline also earned National Rural and Small Town recognition from the College Board. This award based on their 2019 PSAT scores, cumulative GPA and geographic location. Although this recognition is not a scholarship, it will provide each of them with potential scholarship opportunities at various colleges and universities.



## Quiz Bowl 2020

This year's Quiz Bowl team recently began competition for the Quiz Central game show, which appears on our local PBS station. Each year, teams travel to the campus of Central Michigan University to compete; however, this year's competition is done virtually through Zoom. Episodes will appear during the winter and spring months on WCMU's television channel, and the broadcast dates will be shared with the community when we are notified of an upcoming episode.

Although we can't share the results and spoil the anticipation of the Quiz Central season, we will recommend that you tune in to see how our Mackinaw City team fares against the competition! Our school is grateful to have been selected to compete this year, as COVID-19 greatly reduced the number of schools allowed to participate. This year's team consists of seniors Evan Cronk, Rose Siebigteroth, and Caroline Somers, as well as sophomore Jeffrey Siebigteroth. This year's alternates are Ella House and Damon Morse.

## New Computer Science Courses in Mackinaw City

This year's sophomores are enrolled in a new course this year - Introduction to Computer Science. This course offers students an introduction to some of the main concepts of computer science, with a focus on programming. Students are learning to create computer programs using the Python programming language. This course was made possible by the Amazon Future Engineer program, which provided the online curriculum at no cost to our school district. This year's juniors and seniors had the opportunity to take a new AP course offered in our school. After offering AP Computer Science Principles since the 2017-18 school year, this year we have several students enrolled in AP Computer Science A. This course focuses on programming using the Java language. Students will have the opportunity to take the AP exam in May 2021 with the potential to earn college credit for this course.



\*All sections of this page were written by Lisa Rivera\*

## ATHLETIC ACCOLADES

By: Elijah May

As the summer was coming to an end we were unsure of many things. We were hopeful that volleyball and cross country would have their seasons but we were waiting on approval from the MHSAA and our governor. We ended up being able to participate in a full volleyball & cross country season! Our teams experienced great success and our Fall athletes did an excellent job representing Mackinaw City Athletics.



*Pictured here are the Middle School Cross Country runners, L to R: Rian Esper, Kyle Valot, Chase Swanson, Myran Thompson, Kenzlie Currie, Ben Strittmatter, Gavin Smith, Cynthia Thompson, and (in front) Wesley House. (Not pictured: Connor Keiser and Isaac Valot.)*

Our Cross Country teams both finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Northern Lakes Conference and 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference. Coach Barrett said “In a year full of injury, sickness and new rules and regulations, I couldn't be more proud of how my athletes adjusted and performed. All of my athletes made great strides and had immense personal growth this season. We grew immensely as a team this year given all of our trials and tribulations. I look forward to a great end of season, as well as what 2021 has in store.” The Boys Cross Country team qualified for the regional finals this year and we had two individual girl runners qualify. We wish them the best of luck at regionals and states!



*Varsity Cross Country runners, L to R: Cooper Whipkey, Myran Thompson, Keanu Jones, Larissa Huffman, Jaren Valot, Trystan Swanson, Lars Huffman, Caroline Somers, Jeffrey Siebigtheroth, and Sebastian Pierce. Pictured in the front are Jillian Lidy, Cynthia Thompson, Isabella Lieghio, and Gabi Bell. (Not pictured: Noah Valot.)*

Coach Vieau did a tremendous job with our JV Volleyball athletes this year. The JV Volleyball team is currently 13-0, and 11-0 in the Northern Lakes Conference. This is the third consecutive year they have gone undefeated and won the NLC. The amount of improvement these athletes have made both as a team and as individuals is absolutely amazing; each player has adapted to her new role well, and with an eagerness to make positive contributions to the team. Unfortunately, we were not able to attend any of the 3 tournaments we were originally scheduled to attend, but the girls did not let that dampen their spirits, and made the most out of the challenging situation COVID has presented us with. The team consists of 8 players: junior Maya Robertson, sophomores Julia Sullivan (captain) and Anna Julian, freshmen Mia House, and Ella Poumade, and 8th graders Grace Sroka, Vanessa Groenewoud, and Elivia Maida.



Back Row: Ella Poumade, Elivia Maida, Anna Julian, Julia Sullivan, Coach Vieau, and Mia House. Front Row: Grace Sroka, Vanessa Groenewoud, and Maua Robertson.



Back Row: Anna Julian and Coach Grooters. Middle Row: Ella House, Marlie Postula, Jenna Wieralla, Maya Robertson, Madison Smith, Olivia Lidy, Larissa Huffman, Carissa Sroka, and Julia Sullivan. Front: Raeann Hingston.

The Lady Comets Varsity Volleyball team won the Northern Lakes Conference Championship this year. This is the third varsity volleyball conference title for our school. The first title was in 2000 and our second was in 2015. When asked about this year's team Coach Grooters said "Our MCHS team consists of an amazing group of talented, athletic young women. We have had great support from our families, friends, and MCPS staff this season. It hasn't been easy with all of the new rules and regulations. I can speak for the girls and say that we were all glad when the decision was made that we could play volleyball. The season was definitely one to remember and one for

the books! All the ladies worked hard and pushed themselves at every game and in each practice. We finished off our season with an overall record: 19-9 and conference record: 14-0. Districts will be on Wednesday, November 4th. I am looking forward to watching our Lady Comets in our future seasons and for years to come! The sky's the limit for these ladies!"

Overall we had a fantastic Fall Athletics season here at Mackinaw City. We are hopeful and excited to see what the winter sports season will bring our way!



COPESD School Leaders Community Partnership Message on Health and Safety  
November 2020

Dear Cheboygan, Otsego and Presque Isle County School Families and Community Partners,  
As superintendents representing the public schools throughout the three county region, we'd like to first thank you for continuing to entrust the education of our region's students to our dedicated staff, in spite of the ongoing spread of COVID-19. Together, we've been able to serve students and families through these first months of the school year despite the unprecedented challenges. Your willingness to work with us during this pandemic has been critical in keeping our schools safe and open across the region. Our community schools are at their very best when we are closely working together, and it is with this in mind that we are reaching out to you. We want to keep our schools open to meet the needs of students and families in our region, and we all need to pull together if we want to make that happen!

While our districts stand ready to transition to remote learning if needed, the importance and value of face-to-face instruction and serving our students in school each day cannot be overstated. The collective work of school staff, students, families, churches, agencies, businesses and government has made a significant difference and we must continue our efforts in the challenging days ahead if we want to keep our schools open. Despite the ongoing fatigue that is being felt, given the recent rise in positive cases, we cannot afford to let our guard down given what is at stake. As you may have recently heard, our region's health experts and partners at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and DHD#4, are reporting significant increases in positive cases while sounding alarms about the weeks that lie ahead. While all of this may feel overwhelming, please know that by taking simple measures such as social distancing, limiting gatherings, and wearing masks can help mitigate the spread within our communities.

While everyone looks forward to the day when this current pandemic can become part of a history lesson, in the meantime, our communities' diligence will play a key role in putting this behind us. Through ongoing collective efforts and diligence in following the attached CDC guidance, we can and will get through this together and mitigate any further spread.

Our schools plan to continue to provide the opportunity for as much in-person instruction as possible throughout this school year. We all know just how important the overall educational experience is for the students we serve, as witnessed this past spring throughout the closure period. Our local schools serve vital roles in meeting the multifaceted needs of students, families and communities. Let's continue to work together to keep ALL opportunities available for our children, both academic and extracurricular.

Thank you for your continued efforts, understanding and partnership to keep our schools healthy and safe in order to meet the educational needs of our region's students during these challenging times.

Yours in Partnership and Education,  
Superintendents of the Cheboygan Otsego-Presque Isle Educational Service District

Paul Clark, Cheboygan Area Schools  
Jamie Huber, COPESD  
Brian Pearson, Gaylord Community Schools  
Brad Jacobs, Inland Lakes Schools  
Katy Xenakis-Makowski - Joburg-Lewiston Area  
Jeff Curth, Mackinaw City Public Schools  
Rod Fullerton, Onaway Area Schools  
Michelle Wesner, Posen Consolidated School  
Nicholas Hein, Rogers City Area Schools  
Lee Sandy, Vanderbilt Area School  
Matthew Baughman, Wolverine Community School