

# 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)

FEB/MARCH 2020

## IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 17 @ 7pm  
6-12 BAND CONCERT

MARCH 23-27  
SPRING BREAK

APRIL 10-GOOD FRIDAY  
11:00 DISMISSAL

MAY 7 @ 6:30  
SPRING CONCERT



## *Cold and Flu season is here!*

In order to protect both yourself and others and reduce illness in schools, MCPS is asking that you and your children take the following steps:

1. Please wash hands regularly and cover coughs and sneezes. Washing hands before and after eating are particularly important.

2. **STAY HOME** for fever of 100.4 or higher, especially along with cough or sore throat, or for any episodes of vomiting or diarrhea. **Please wait until you or your child are symptom and fever free for 24 hours (without the need for medication) and feeling better before returning to school or attending extra-curricular activities.**



## Superintendent Spotlight-Recreation Center

By: Jeff Curth

The school is currently in discussions with the Village regarding gaining access to the Recreation Center. As you are aware, the recreation center offers 25,000 square feet of space that isn't being utilized on a regular basis. The recreation center potentially offers the school expanded gym space that we are desperately in need of.

From the start of practices in August through May, we have on average four to five teams that require access to the gym every day. Scheduling gets more complicated when athletic contests begin most evenings at 5:00 pm., thus restricting gym availability even further. Some practices have even spilled into the multi-purpose room causing a conflict with our drama club and elementary dance program. Not to mention that our light fixtures have suffered damage from the multi-purpose room serving as our auxiliary gym.

The recreation center offers a large enough space that we could schedule all practices without conflicts and get our student athletes home much earlier every evening. With this goal in mind, we have engaged the Village in a conversation about the recreation center.



*One possible plan for the Rec Center based on the school's vision.*

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### November

#### **Elementary: Kyle Valot** (5th Grade)

Kyle is a great student to have in class. He is kind, courteous, respectful, and a hard worker. Word to describe Kyle: Courteous

#### **Middle School: Emily Anderson** (7th grade)

Emily is kind, helpful, funny and always on task. She is a joy to have in the classroom. Word to describe Emily: Kind

#### **High School: Carissa Sroka** (11th grade)

Carissa is doing an excellent job in all classes and she is helpful, kind, and mature. Word to describe Carissa: Helpful

### December

#### **Elementary: Nathaniel Petoskey** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Nathaniel has been dedicated, helpful, and on task. One word to describe Nathaniel: Dedicated.

#### **Middle School: Mia House** (8th Grade)

Mia is very hardworking and always pushes herself to do her very best on everything she does. She is helpful to others and is very respectful of staff and peers.  
One word to describe: Industrious

#### **High School: Lars Huffman** (9th grade)

Lars is a hardworking and polite leader among his peers. He is willing to work with anyone and goes above and beyond the assignment's requirements. Lars respects the atmosphere of the classroom in that he is quiet when it's quiet time, he participates when it's discussion time, and he listens and makes eye contact when it's instruction time. He is a model student. Word to describe Lars: Outstanding

### January

#### **Elementary: Ethan Zynewicz** (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

Ethan works hard and does what needs to be done. He tries to get along with everyone and seldom passes judgement on others. Word to describe Ethan: Diligent

#### **Middle School: Jersey Beauchamp** (8th Grade)

Jersey is focused in class, a great role model to the other students, and always helpful if asked to help. One word to describe Jersey is mature.

#### **High School: Marlie Postula** (9th grade)

Marlie is a very diligent student. She is hardworking, polite, and helpful to others. Word to describe Marlie: Thoughtful

## **School Liaison Officer-John House**

Officer John House has been with the Mackinaw City Police Department for 20 years. Along with patrolling and other duties, he has recently taken on the role of school liaison officer. With three children currently attending the school, and one who graduated in 2019, he is already familiar with the student body and staff making for a smooth transition. He currently spends most of his school time teaching safety curriculum to students in the K-5 classrooms. The courses cover bike safety, fire safety, computer safety, personal safety, stranger safety, gun safety, drugs, alcohol, and the role of police officers, as well as answering any questions the students may have. His favorite question so far has been “Why are you going bald?”



Officer House is also working with the school officials on security and safety planning. He often attends lockdown, fire, and tornado drills and is working with the rest of the police department to familiarize them with the school procedures. He also attends many sporting events and extracurricular activities and has even been seen chaperoning a few dances. He is hoping to extend the safety curriculum to the middle and high school classes in the near future.

Officer House has been a fabulous addition to our staff.

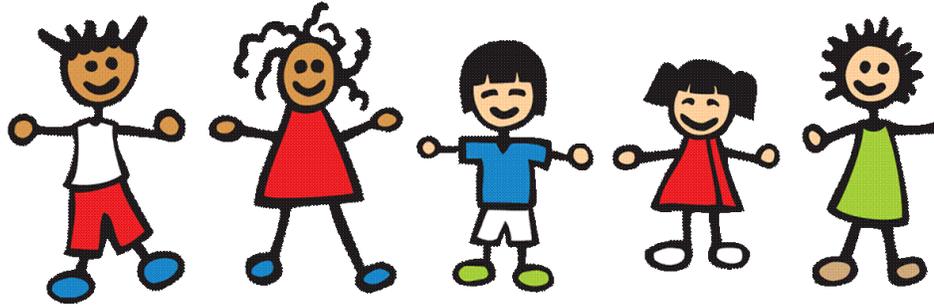
## **School Therapist-Stephany Peffers**

Thunder Bay Community Health Services, Inc. in partnership with Mackinaw City Schools, is pleased to announce Stephany Peffers is available to provide counseling and therapy services for enrolled students. Stephany Peffers is a Limited License Master's Social Worker who achieved a Master's degree in social work from Spring Arbor University. She is certified by the National Association of Social Workers. She works with children from Pre-k to first year in college.

Services offered include:

- Screening for emotional and behavioral difficulties
- Behavioral health counseling
- Individual and family counseling
- Comprehensive behavior assessments
- Crisis intervention
- Case management, prevention, intervention and treatment
- Confidential services

Services will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday at the school and throughout the summer months. If you would like your child to be able to access counseling services at the school, or for more information, please contact the school at (231)436-8211.



## PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
4-6 pm

\*Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

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### First Grade-Favorite Books

By Christy Beauchamp

My favorite book so far this year and why....

Mathew: Pete the Cat Rockin' in my School Shoes. Pete has a guitar and we sing along.

Max: Knock, Knock Jokes. The jokes are about food.

Abigail: Which Is Which. I like the pigs names and they are triplets.

Ava: Yes, But... The squirrels friend decorates her home for her.

Lailah: Junie B. Jones. Because they are silly books.

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The annual 1st and 2nd Grade campout will be on April 30th and May 1  
at Wilderness State Park. We look forward to this fun experience.  
Outdoor education is the best!

## Second Grade News

By: Ronnie Budzinski

The 2nd graders have pen pals in Galveston Island, Texas. Mrs. Duepner's class has 21 students. Mrs. Klose's 3rd graders joined us in this writing activity. We learned that Galveston Island is 27 miles long and 3 miles wide. It is a tourist town, just like Mackinaw City. They have a ferry boat to Pelican Island. Their school has 650 students from Pre K-4th grade. We look forward to hearing from our friends.

The students did oral book report presentations in January. They did a marvelous job on this project. They chose from 5 options: puppets, diorama, poster, dressing up, posters, or a picture story.



On February 4th our class went snowshoeing at the Hathaway Preserve. Sarah from Little Traverse Conservancy led our group. We looked for tracks and identified bunny tracks, mouse tracks, deer tracks, and coyote tracks. We measured the tracks and Sarah verified that there was a picture of a coyote on the trail camera. It was so much fun and the weather was perfect.



## Winter Fun in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

By: Mrs. Powers

On Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, the fourth grade class spent a chilly afternoon on the Marina Lawn creating snow sculptures for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Winterfest in Mackinaw City. This year, the 11 fourth graders in Mrs. Powers' Class chose to make a basketball with flames to represent a comet, two delicious cherries, and one chunky monkey. The students arrived at the Marina Lawn at 10:00 a.m., where they first learned about the various carving tools they'd be using through a brief introduction by Rob Most, member of the Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. With this new understanding, the kids got right to work. Once again this year, the snow conditions proved a little difficult to work with; and the lack of snow prior to January, along with bouts of melting and refreezing, created more of an ice carving than a snow carving experience. But, despite what Mother Nature gave them, the kids worked *very hard* throughout the morning—chipping, shaving, and sculpting their blocks. At noon, we all paused for a lunch break at B.C. Pizza, provided generously by the Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau, before returning to the Marina Lawn to complete the finishing touches. This included adding some food coloring to our sculptures to help them come alive! We headed back to school shortly before 2:00. All in all, it was a great experience, and the kids had a lot of fun! Special thanks to our parent volunteers: Jennifer Cole, Heather Wallace, Mike Helmer and Ashley Leese; Chamber Members: Rob & Judy Most; The Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau; and to Mr. Demasi for providing our bus transportation.



## 1000 Days of School

While most of the elementary classes were celebrating the 100th day of this school year, our fifth graders celebrated their 1000th day of school. Just over five and a half years of school, since the beginning of kindergarten, is how long it takes to reach this momentous milestone. In honor of this notable event, our fifth grade class studied 1000 in a number of ways. We made a chain with 1000 paper links and wrote 1000 words of poetry. We calculated multiples and factors of 1000, as well as how many points per year Kal O'Brien must have scored to reach the 1000-point goal before his junior year of basketball was over. We also calculated that it will be in the fall of their junior year of high school when these students reach their 2000th day of school. Maybe I will challenge my students to calculate how many days of school I've attended as a 25-year teacher, who has attended five years of college as well. Then again, maybe that number is too scary and is better left unknown!

Other suggested activities by the students included:

- \*1000 minutes of reading
- \*1000 science experiments
- \*1000 math problems
- \*1000 minute party
- \*1000 chocolate bars
- \*1000 dollars
- \*1000 dogs
- \*1000 IQ

Little do the students realize, we have probably reached some of these totals, and we would be happy to accept donations of others, although none would be accomplished in one day. A final suggestion was to try to say 1000 words in a day, and as the same student noted, that would be "easy for some of us."

While working toward our goal of writing 1000 words of poetry, we were short by 49 words when I decided to write a little poem myself. With "inspiration" all around me, this is how we reached our 1000-word goal:

*Fifth Graders ~ by Mrs. Mills*

*Creatures abound!  
They crawl, they hype,  
They hit the woah, they yeet!*

*They think, they argue,  
They defend, they commend.*

*Singing, proclaiming, sometimes lazily learning.  
Like horses lead to drink...knowledge.*

*But do they?  
Will they take a sip?  
Will their spongy brains absorb  
All the wisdom?*

*They will!*

## 1000 Days of School Cont.

When asked their thoughts about reaching their 1000th day of school, as usual, the fifth graders had plenty to share. Some were surprised about our discovery. Others were not very enthused about the realization. Still yet, most were proud and inspired:

“I never thought I would reach 1000 days of school.”

“Will I make 1000 points too?”

“...I'll save the date for my 2000th day of school.”

“It is very scary, but I feel smart and strong. I think that all of us can have the potential to be hardworking.”

Heather Mills

Proud 5th grade teacher

Mackinaw City Schools



## New AP Computer Science Course to be Offered Next Year

By: Lisa Rivera

Mackinaw City is in the third year of offering AP Computer Science Principles to upperclassmen, which offers students the opportunity to earn college credit if they earn a passing score on the national AP exam. The course introduces students to programming in the JavaScript language, and also includes topics such as digital information, data privacy and how the Internet works. AP Computer Science Principles was first offered nationally during the 2016-17 school year, and Mackinaw City began offering it in the fall of 2017.

AP Computer Science A is another course available through the College Board, and has been taught nationally since 2004. This course focuses on using the Java programming language to design applications. Recently, Infosys Foundation, in coordination with Google, offered teachers the opportunity to apply for fully-funded training and support for teaching Computer Science A in the fall of 2019. Twenty-five teachers were selected to attend the "CS Awesome" portion of the Pathfinders Winter Institute, held in Providence, Rhode Island from February 16 through February 20; Mrs. Lisa Rivera traveled to take part in this intense workshop. The group represented 19 states, and Mackinaw City was the only Michigan school district selected. As part of this program, Mrs. Rivera will be required to complete 5-10 hours of online professional development for the next seven weeks. All curriculum materials are provided, and students next year will access all course resources.

The United States is facing a large shortage of qualified employees for jobs in the computer science field. As a result, many major corporations and non-profit foundations have developed programs to promote computer science education in schools. The state of Michigan recently formally adopted K-12 computer science standards, joining 28 other states in the country who already have implemented these standards into education.

Why is computer science so important? In 2018, there were nearly 65,000 information technology (IT)/computer science job openings in southeast Michigan alone. Through 2024, Michigan is expected to add 270,670 IT/computer science jobs, with an estimated \$20.8 billion in wage growth. Java and JavaScript computer programmers earn an average salary of almost \$80,000 per year. Our current and future AP computer science offerings in Mackinaw City can help provide the first step toward a rewarding career!

## Michigan School Data-Mackinaw City School Index 2018-2019

 Overall Index 95.88	 Support Category N/A
 Growth Index 94.40	 Proficiency Index 99.64
 Graduation Rate Index 97.91	 English Learner Progress Index N/A
 School Quality and Student Success Index 89.62	 Assessment Participation Index Assessment Participation 100.00 English Learner Participation N/A

MCPS FEB/MARCH 2020



## Musical Melodies



By: Katie Anderson

The middle and high school bands have been hard at work!

We have been playing at most of the home basketball games. The students 6th-12th grades are involved in pep band. We appreciate your support and listening ears!

High School Solo and Ensemble was Saturday, February 8th in Gaylord. We had a number of students attend and do exceptionally well! The students are judged and scored by a judge, and receive comments and feedback. Evan Cronk got a I on his solo, Jeffrey Siebigteroth got a I on his solo, Rose Siebigteroth got a II on her solo, Evan and Jeffrey got a I on their duet, and Jaren Valot, Evan, Rose and Jeffrey got a I on their quartet. If they received a I, they are eligible for State!

Middle School Solo and Ensemble is Saturday, April 18th. There are a number of students planning to attend. Wish them luck!

Band Festival is quickly approaching! The Middle and High school bands are going to be performing at Petoskey Middle School on Thursday, February 27th. Middle school plays at 5:20 and high school at 8:05. This event is free and open to the public, you are invited to attend! The bands will each play 3 prepared pieces to be judged and scored on, then sight read 1 piece. In sight reading, the band will have 5 minutes to look at, sing through, and ask questions about the piece, then they must play the piece in its entirety. All the scores are compiled to give a final rating.

A few of our middle school students have been nominated and selected to participate and perform in honors band. Damon Morse, Trystan Swanson, Connor Robertson, and Caylynn Hartman will be performing with other students from the northern Michigan area on Wednesday, March 11th in East Jordan.

Our March band concert is Tuesday, March 17th at 7 pm in the Mackinaw Gym. Come out and see our middle and high school students show you what they have prepared!

If you are interested in receiving band updates and announcements text @bc8h34 to the number 81010 in your regular messaging feature in your phone. You can also download the Remind app, create a profile/sign in, click "join a class" and type in @bc8h34, and you will have joined a class named "Mackinaw City Band".

If you are interested in band boosters our next band booster meeting is Tuesday, April 7th at 3:15 in the band room. If you're interested in helping but cannot attend the meeting, or have questions about anything, please email Ms. Anderson at [kanderson@mackcity.k12.mi.us](mailto:kanderson@mackcity.k12.mi.us), or sign up for the Remind and message through there.

<b>Band Festival</b>	<b>Thursday, February 27th, in Petoskey. Middle at 5:20, High 8:05.</b>
Middle School Honors Band	Wednesday, March 11th, all day
High School State Solo and Ensemble	Saturday, March 14th
<b>March Band Concert</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 17th, 7 pm, report 6 pm</b>
Middle School Solo and Ensemble	Saturday, April 18th
<b>State Band Festival (if we qualify)</b>	<b>One of the following dates TBD: April 23, 24, 25, 30, May 1, 2</b>
<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>Thursday, May 7th, report TBD</b>



**COMET CRAFTED**  
**MACKINAW CITY HS/MS**  
**WOODWORKING & SCIENCE**  
**WINTER UPDATE**

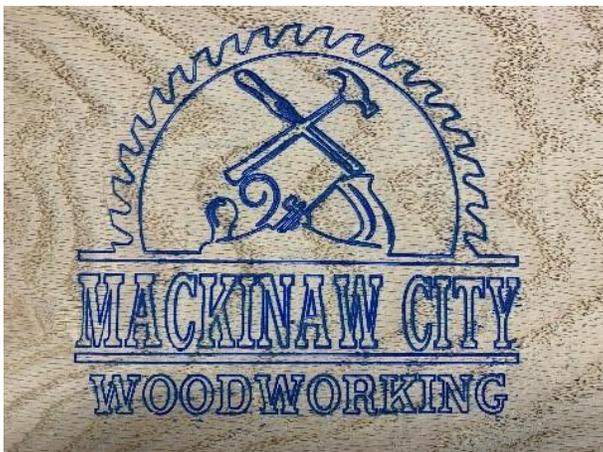
The students have to work hard to hone their skills in the shop and are starting to see the reward for their hard work as projects are coming together. With the support of Little Traverse conservancy, we are grateful for having had the opportunity to add a cnc router with laser capabilities to the shop program. Students now have access to another level of woodworking skills to development and the creativity is abundant.

I am also excited to share that Mackinaw City has been selected as the host site for the Regional Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society contest (shop fair) where students will compete for top four honors in each woodworking division and the chance to compete at state level competition. The contest will be at the Mackinaw recreation center on Friday, May 1. Public viewing hours will be from 1-5:30 pm.

Science classes have been studying and exploring the processes that shape and change our planet, including volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics and continental drift. As always GO COMETS!

Amanda Munger  
Woods/Science Teacher

Pictured below:  
A student created cnc engraved design



## Athletic Accolades

By: Jake Huffman

As the winter season is quickly winding down, we reflect back on what has been a very exciting season for both boys' and girls' basketball.

The boys' basketball team is currently 11-7, 11-4 in the conference with two games to go. This has been a very successful team after losing a large senior class last year and returning only 1 starter. All players have stepped up and made this an exciting season.

The girls' basketball team is 15-3, 13-0 in the conference. They have had a strong season and are now back to back Northern Lakes Conference Champions. Strong teamwork and strong defense has led to the success of the 2020 Lady Comets.

The girls start their districts on March 2 at 7pm vs. Burt Lake NMCA in Pellston. The boys start their districts on March 9 at 6:30 pm against DeTour in Cedarville.

Baseball/Softball/Golf season is right around the corner. We are hoping for favorable spring weather to get games in this year.

Go Comets!

### MACKINAW CITY HIGH SCHOOL GOLF SCHEDULE 2020

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Mon, April 20	Fairview	4PM
Thu, April 23	Mancelona	4PM
Mon, April 27	Inland Lakes	4PM
Thu, April 30	Mackinaw City	4PM
Mon, May 4	JoBurg	4PM
Wed, May 6	Athletic Banquet	
Thu, May 7	Band Concert	
Thu, May 7	JoBurg	1PM *18 Hole Meet
Mon, May 11	Mackinaw City	4PM
Thu, May 14	Mancelona	4PM
Mon, May 18	Rogers City	4PM
Thu, May 21	Rogers City	10AM *Conference Tournament
Wed, May 27	Regionals TBD	TBD

## MACKINAW CITY COMETS BASEBALL/SOFTBALL 2020

Day	Date	Team	Home/Away	Time
Tue.	April 7	Pellston	Away	4:00
Thu	April 9	Sault JV	Home	4:00
Fri	April 10	NMCA(non conf BB) Rudyard SB	Away Home	4:00 4:00
Tue.	April 14	Atlanta	Away	4:00
Wed	April 15	Petoskey JV	Away	4:00
Fri	April 17	Boyne City JV	Away	4:00
Mon.	April 20	Wolverine	Home	4:00
Thu	April 23	NMCA BB	Home	4:00
Thu	April 23	St. Ignace SB	Away	4:00
Fri.	April 24	Alba SB Boyne City JV BB	Home Home	4:00 4:00
<b>CLOSE UP: Saturday April 25th through Sunday May 3rd, 2020</b>				
Tue	April 28	Soo Night Hawks BB	Home	Scrimmage 4
Tue.	May 5	Harbor Light	Home	4:00
Wed	May 6	ATHLETIC BANQUET-Audies 6pm		
Thu	May 7	SPRING CONCERT		
Fri.	May 8	Ellsworth	Away	4:00
Sat	May 9	St Ignace Tournament SB Mackinaw City BB Tournament		10:00AM
Tue.	May 12	Boyne Falls	Home	4:00
Fri.	May 15	Alanson	Away	4:00
Mon	May 18	Petoskey JV BB Rudyard SB	Home Home	4:00 4:00
Tue.	May 19	SR GRAD NIGHT		
Wed.	May 20	Brimley	Away	4:00
Thu.	May 21	Atlanta	Home	4:00 PARENTS NIGHT

DISTRICTS: May 26 - May 30