

MACKINAW CITY COMETS

609 West Central Avenue, Mackinaw City, MI 49701 * 231-436-8211 * www.mackcity.k12.mi.us

MAY 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 22

Last day of instruction for
Seniors

JUNE 5

Last day of instruction for
grades K-11



Superintendent Spotlight

By: Jeff Curth

The world sure has changed in the last two months. Everyone has had to adjust to the closing of schools, businesses, and stay at home orders due to the pandemic. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family doing well. As a community we have always supported each other and rallied around any obstacle that we have encountered. As we face the uncertainty of what lies ahead for us as a community and a nation; please know the school will always be here to support our families and continue to provide a world class education that prepares all of our students to be successful.

Congratulations!

Junior Class

According to the College Board, our junior class scored in the TOP 2.5% on the PSAT Test among high school junior test takers in the country! As a result, several of our students have been invited to participate in the College Board National Recognition Program.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

March

Elementary: Reegan Thompson (2nd Grade)

She is a hard worker. Reegan is helpful to others, makes good choices, and is always on task. Reegan gets her work done and returns papers that need to be brought back from home. Word to describe: Responsible

Middle School: Lucas Bergstrom (8th grade)

He is a hardworking and diligent student. Lucas works to do his best at all times. Lucas is involved in extracurricular activities and is on the JV Basketball team. He is a leader in his class with a great personality and sense of humor. Word to describe: Lighthearted

High School: Cooper Whipkey (9th grade)

He is cooperative and a hard worker in class. Cooper asks questions and interacts with in class. Cooper has worked hard in his academics and is a willing partner in groups. Word to describe: Studious

April

Elementary: Jacob Cross (4th Grade)

Jacob has been a wonderful addition to our school this year. He's an organized, efficient, and engaged student who is a friend to *everyone*. Jacob always has a smile on his face and eagerly participates in all of our classroom discussions. He's been a positive influence on the 4th grade class, and his joy of learning is infectious. Even with the challenge of distance learning, Jacob has continued to be an active participant in *each* of our Google Meet discussions, and he continues to submit all his online work in a timely manner. Keep up the great work, Jacob! Word to describe Jacob: Enthusiastic

Middle School: Katelynn Cross (8th Grade)

Katelynn has done an excellent job of keeping up with her assignments and participating in the live online classes we have. She has been very thoughtful, thorough, and complete in her answers and work. Katelynn is very astute and smart. Word to describe: Persevere

High School: Brooke Whipkey (12th grade)

Brooke is consistently in online classes and very conscientious in her participation and work. She is doing an outstanding job on her work and quizzes. Brooke is extremely intelligent, kind and caring. She stands up for what she believes is right and has been a behind-the-scenes force for the welfare of other students in our school for many years. Word to describe: Persistent

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!



Brooke Whipkey-Valedictorian
North Central Michigan College

Ariel Durant-Salutatorian
University of Findlay (Ohio)
Pre-Veterinarian Medicine



Lauren Backus
Grand Valley State University
Diagnostic Medical Sonography

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!



Calysta Bell
North Central Michigan College
Photography/Business



Kyra Cryderman
Ferris State University
Radiography

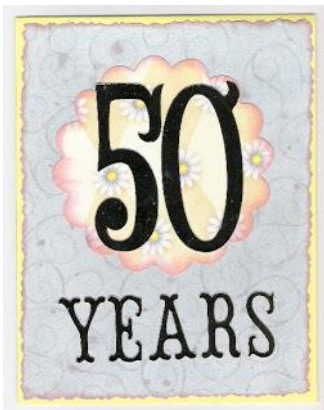


Nolan LaLonde
United States Navy



Johnathon Russ
United States Navy

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 1970!



Roger Bly

Janet Cole Schaeffer

Susan Darrow Romanowski

Paul Desy

Neil Downing

Linda Hingston Moore

Karen Holbern

Linda McVey

Ken Newsome

Randy Paquet

Theresa Phillips Brightman

Richard Powers

Jim Ranville

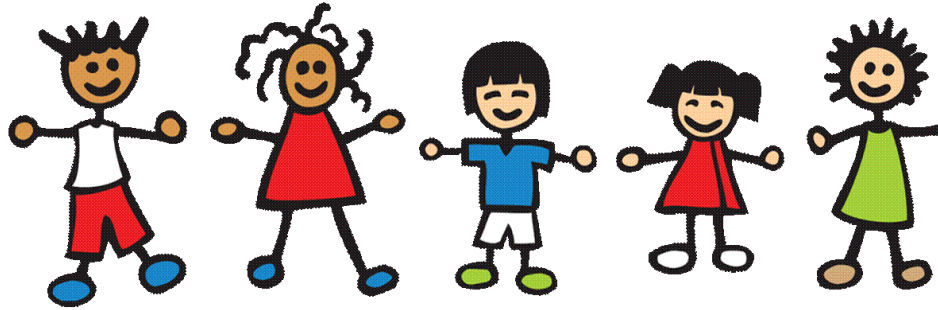
Pat Scott

Gail Smith Lusk

Virgil Snider

Sherry Sommer Paquet





PRE-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION

The pre-school open house and registration have been canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. If you would like to register a child for the fall, or have any questions, please call the school at 231-436-8211.

*Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1st, 2020

Free Meal Program

By: Patti Watchorn

Mackinaw City Public School is providing free meals to students during the current school closure. The free meals are provided through the USDA Summer Food Service Program Unanticipated School Closure. Meals are available to kids and teens ages 18 and younger. Each student receives seven breakfasts, lunches and dinners following USDA nutrition guidelines each week. Meals are picked up at Cheboygan High School on Tuesdays and distributed from 11am to 12pm at Mackinaw City High School. This program will run to the end of June. Registration is necessary. If you would like to be added to the list for this service, please call the school at (231) 436-8211.



Patti Watchorn and Nelson Thompson (not pictured) hand out food on a snowy spring day.



Spanish Fun through Virtual Learning

By: Lisa Rivera

This year's Spanish 2 class had plans this year for a class activity. After learning about a Mexican holiday tradition, the students were eager to try it themselves. The tradition is called "cascarones", in which egg shells are colored and filled with paper confetti. The eggs are hidden like a traditional Easter egg hunt. After participants have gathered their "cascarones", the fun part is smashing them onto each other's heads. This year's class was going to complete the craft of making the eggs, and Señora Rivera had planned to do an egg hunt during class one day.



Unfortunately, school was closed before the activity could take place. Instead of creating the eggs together, Señora Rivera ordered some online. Because of the pandemic, however, the shipment took almost a month to arrive. Last week, Señora Rivera took a trip to hide some eggs in each student's yard. Although the activity couldn't be done together as a class, the students were able to experience a little bit of the popular tradition.

Cinco de Mayo with the Spanish 3 Class

By: Lisa Rivera

This year's Spanish 3 group would have spent May 5 enjoying some authentic Mexican cuisine during class, as they would have celebrated the Mexican observance of "Cinco de Mayo". Unfortunately, this year's class was unable to have a class "fiesta". Señora Rivera decided to share some of her homemade black beans and rice with this group of students. She posted a form on their Google classroom page to fill out, indicating if they would like a delivery and choosing a time slot for doing so. Señora Rivera made a "no contact" delivery, placing a bowl of warm food with a note on the students' doorsteps.

Although "Cinco de Mayo" is commonly celebrated in the U.S. and advertised by restaurants with food specials, it is less commonly celebrated in Mexico. Many people mistakenly believe that it marks the date of Mexico's independence from Spain. This holiday actually celebrates a single victory by Mexico over the French in a battle in the city of Puebla. Although it didn't play a major factor in the overall war against France, it symbolized the tenacity and fighting spirit of the Mexican government.



Musical Melodies

By: Katie Anderson

All band events for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year have been canceled due to Covid-19 orders. This includes the Memorial Day parade and playing at graduation. Hopefully there will be a small graduation ceremony and our three band seniors this year will get to play their final song together.

Our band seniors this year are Brooke Whipkey, Calysta Bell and Nolan LaLonde. We wish them well in their futures and know they will be successful graduates!

All band students, check your mail! You will be receiving info about our summer calendar fundraiser. Make sure you read it! Without fundraising from our calendars and fall coffee/jerky, we would not be able to go on the band trips. There is a band trip scheduled for Spring of 2021, more details will go out later this summer or early next fall.

If you have a school owned instrument and want to give it back to the school for the summer, you may drop it off when you drop off your student's Chromebook. A drop-off date will be released soon, so watch the announcements. If you keep your instrument for the summer, you are responsible for damages and bringing it back in the fall.

The best way to contact me if you need anything is my email, kanderson@mackcity.k12.mi.us, or sign up for Remind. Remind is an app and texting feature that sends information quickly and securely to band members and their parents and guardians. There are 2 ways to receive reminders about band events and details through Remind:

Text @bc8h34 to 81010 in your regular text messaging feature on your phone

Download the Remind app, create a profile or sign in to your existing profile, click "join a class" and type in @bc8h34. You will then have joined the class named "Mackinaw City Band".

Next year's band schedule is in the works, and will be ready in early June, if not sooner.

Thank you to everyone who made this year wonderful! I am proud of all our students and miss seeing them on a daily basis.



Pop Can Drive

The PTO is holding a pop can/bottle drive. Items can be dropped off in the vestibule inside the high school doors at any time.

Chromebook Care

Students in grades 3-12 have had the opportunity to use Chromebook devices to complete class work during our school closure. If you have a Chromebook in your home, please make sure you are taking proper steps to keep it in good condition. Always make sure to keep food and beverages away from the device – Chromebooks are not waterproof. Keyboards can easily be damaged by crumbs and dust that fall between the keys – please make sure they are staying clean.

There have been many system updates by Google for the Chromebooks. Please make sure the device is updated properly. To do so, go under the “three dots” menu in the upper right corner of the Chrome browser. Choose the “Help” menu, and select “About Google Chrome”. This will bring a window open on the screen which will allow you to check for and install updates. Note: Many major updates from Google require the device to be restarted to finish installing – make sure the Chromebook is shut down completely or restarted at least once a week.



Tips for Online Learning

It is much easier to get distracted during the learning process when the instruction occurs outside the classroom. Below are some ideas for maintaining focus and experiencing success:

- Check the announcements on our school website each day to keep track of scheduled live classes and other important information
- Create a list of important due dates to keep track of upcoming assignments
- Try to find a quiet location for schoolwork – turn off the television, music, etc.
- Make it a priority to attend any live classes scheduled online
- Avoid distractions – put phones or other computerized devices away during work, unless required for an assignment
- Set a timer to allow a specific amount of time to devote to a task, and allow for a short break before resuming work
- Communicate clearly to a teacher with details if there is confusion or a problem completing a task
- Set a regular schedule for doing work, and stick to it – following a routine is essential