

# HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS *Newsletter*



EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EQUIP  
**Students for Life**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS**

- Beau Bess, *President*
- Barry Smith, *Vice President*
- Erin Allwardt, *Secretary*
- Don Myers, *Treasurer*
- Dr. Dale Borders, *Trustee*
- Brad Halverson, *Trustee*
- Sara Wallace, *Trustee*

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Rob Ridgeway, *Superintendent*
- Laura Williams, *Asst. Superintendent of Instruction*
- Ed Greenman, *High School Principal*
- Mike Seedorff, *High School Vice Principal*
- Kris Meeker, *Center for Academic Achievement*
- Kim Thayer, *Middle School Principal*
- Jason O'Farrell, *Middle School Vice Principal*
- Nneka Daniels, *Beadle Lake Elementary Principal*
- Shalen King-Short, *Sonoma Elementary Principal*
- Brent Swan, *Wattles Park Elementary Principal*
- Michelle Burkhardt, *Data Coordinator*
- Tammy Chapman, *Human Resources*
- Stacy Hendon, *Transportation*
- Jim Maynard, *Technology*
- Ginger Obermyer, *Finance*
- Melissa Feasel, *Athletics*
- Jim Robinson, *Facilities*
- Rebecca Schneider, *Communications*

**SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION**

7454 B Drive North  
Battle Creek, MI 49014  
Telephone: 269.441.6550  
Fax: 269.962.6034  
Website: www.harpercreek.net  
Facebook: Harper Creek Schools  
Twitter: Harper Creek Schools

**In This Issue...**

Message from Superintendent Rob Ridgeway..... 1

Harper Creek Kindness Day..... 1

Being Kind at BLE..... 2

Sonoma Elementary – Fun, Kindness, and Learning..... 3

Wearing PJ's for the Kendall Street Pantry..... 3

Calendar of Events..... 4

Harper Creek Holiday Project..... 4

Stockings for Veterans..... 4

## Message from Superintendent Rob Ridgeway



As the school year moves along many things are returning to normal. Students and staff wake up every day ready to learn and teach. Buses make pick-ups and drop-offs, and school cafeterias are filled with hungry kids every day. This is the way that schools operate the very best. Busy hallways, gyms, and playgrounds signify that we have survived and even thrived learning to re-learn school in a post covid era.

Now what? As we ponder what is optimum for our students and community I reflect on the next steps. One lesson keeps coming to mind. It is simple and everyone can do it. It is to Be Kind. Earlier in the year we celebrated BE KIND HC Day by wearing a great shirt with that message. Being kind is putting simple ideas into action.

The word Kind originates from Middle English and means friendly and deliberately doing good to others. What does that look like as we move toward being ambassadors of kindness in our community?

Kindness is something that provokes a feeling in those receiving it and those offering it. There are many ways to express kindness, and we all need to find our own methods to deliver it. You can put your shopping cart back in its place, say please and thank you, throw your trash away, send a card to someone you miss, let someone go ahead of you in line and the list goes on.

As Students for Life, each one of us is equipped to offer kindness to others, we can educate others on ways to be kind, and empower our fellow citizens with acts of kindness. May our goal show the world that Harper Creek Community Schools are leaders in the fight for kindness. The best things in life are simple and free, and kindness is one of them.



## Harper Creek Middle School

### Harper Creek Kindness Day

By Kim Thayer, Middle School Principal

In conjunction with National Kindness Day 2022, Harper Creek Middle School math teacher and Harper Creek High School Girls Varsity Basketball Coach, Kayla Whitmyer, organized a district-wide Harper Creek Be Kind Day. Because kindness should not be promoted just one day a year, many teachers have taken Ms. Whitmyer's lead and are working with their students to create a climate of kindness at Harper Creek Middle School.







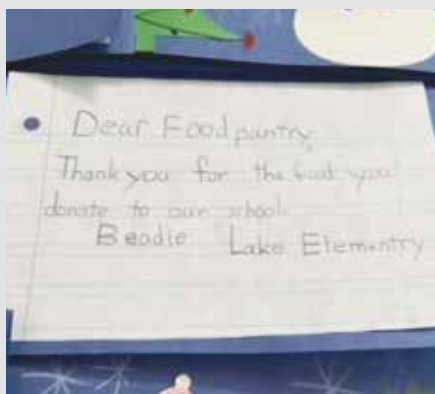
# Beadle Lake Elementary

## Being Kind at BLE

Students at Beadle Lake Elementary were caught doing the right thing which includes being kind to each other and community members.



Beadle Lake Elementary students sent thank you letters to Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry for sharing food with us and for all their kindness. Students also sent fire prevention pictures to let our local firefighters know how important fire safety is and to let them know how much we care about them



## HC Countdown to Kindergarten Coming Soon

Contact one of our elementary schools for event details.

- Beadle Lake Elementary 269-441-3250
- Sonoma Elementary 269-441-7800
- Wattles Park Elementary 269-441-5850

Watch for more information about Harper Creek Community Schools

## Community Connections Luncheon

Spring 2023







# Sonoma Elementary

Fun, Kindness, and Learning



# Wattles Park Elementary




## Wearing PJ's for the Kendall Street Pantry

By Brent Swan,  
Wattles Park Elementary Principal

On December 21st, we collected \$1 from students and staff that wore PJ's to school. We were able to collect \$209 that will go to help support community efforts at the Kendall Street Food Pantry. Students have been learning the power of Encouraging Kindness everywhere they go. This donation is an example to students how they can collectively come together to do something for other people that need help. We held an assembly on January 11th to present the check to representatives of Kendall Street Pantry.

Bring a new or gently used stuffed animal to the boys' basketball game to toss at halftime!



# TEDDY TOSS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

**HC** | GIRLS VARSITY 5:30pm | **LC**  
BOYS VARSITY 7:00pm

Collected donations will go to local organizations to support children in need!





## Harper Creek Community Schools Calendar of Events

- February 7 ..... High School/Middle School Choir Concert  
7:00 PM • HS Auditorium
- February 8 ..... Wattles Park Elementary PTC Meeting  
5:30 PM
- February 10 ..... Wattles Park Elementary Family Dance  
6:00 PM • High School
- February 10 ..... Sonoma Elementary Valentine's Day Dance  
6:00 PM • Sonoma
- February 14 ..... WPE Grandparents Ice Cream Social  
6:00 PM
- February 15 ..... Middle School Conferences  
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- February 15 ..... Wattles Park Parent Teacher Conferences  
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- February 16 ..... High School Conferences  
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- February 16 ..... Middle School Conferences  
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- February 16 ..... Sonoma Parent Teacher Conferences  
4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- February 17 ..... Half Day of School
- February 17 ..... District-Wide Be Kind Day
- February 17 ..... Teddy Toss During Boys' Basketball Game  
7:00 PM • HS Gym
- February 18 ..... HS Winter Carnival Dance  
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM • High School
- February 21 ..... HS Conferences  
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- February 2 ..... Beadle Lake Conferences  
4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- February 21 ..... Sonoma McEducator Night - McDonald's  
4:30 PM – 7:00 PM • Beckley Road
- February 22 ..... MS MSVMA Choir Festival
- February 23 ..... Sonoma Parent Teacher Conferences  
4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- February 23 ..... Beadle Lake Conferences  
4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- February 23 ..... MS Pre-Festival Band Concert  
7:00 PM • HS Auditorium
- February 27 ..... No School – Mid Winter Break
- March 10 ..... HS/MS MSBOA Band Festival  
12:00 PM - 9:00 PM • HS Auditorium
- March 11 ..... HS/MS MSBOA Band Festival  
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM • HS Auditorium
- March 17 ..... MS End of Quarter 3
- March 24 ..... No School
- March 27 ..... Spring Break through March 31
- April 2 ..... HS Blood Drive  
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- May 11 ..... HS/MS Choir Concert  
7:00 PM • HS Auditorium
- May 16 ..... HS Spring Band Concert  
7:00 PM
- May 23 ..... MS Band Concert  
7:00 PM • HS Auditorium
- June 1 ..... Half Day of School
- June 2 ..... Half Day of School
- June 2 ..... High School Graduation!

**Go to [www.HarperCreek.net](http://www.HarperCreek.net) for an up to date list of events.**

## Harper Creek Holiday Project

Wow! The Harper Creek 2022 Holiday Project was a tremendous success due to the kindness and generosity of the Harper Creek Community. The project helped eighteen families with forty-five children have a Merry Christmas. The community came together to share in the spirit of giving. Teachers, students, staff, retirees, and community members gave bounteously. Kindness, teamwork, and joy were felt not only in the receiving but also in the giving. It is easy to see why Harper Creek is such a special place. May the spirit of kindness continue to bring us together throughout the year.



## Stockings for Veterans

This holiday season, the community pulled together to raise awareness and support the residents of Silver Stars Facility.

Silver Stars is a Complex that allows homeless veterans to live independently. This facility enables our local vets to have a nice place to live. However, many residents are alone over the holidays.

Terra King and Kris Harner partner with the idea to stuff stockings for the veterans this Christmas.

Over 180 veterans are residing at Silver stars. This project quickly became a community effort. Community members donated money and items to help make the holiday special. Beadle Lake and Sonoma Elementary had students in 2nd-4th grade make unique Christmas cards for the residents.

Terra and Kris were overwhelmed by the support they received for this project. They quickly realized how great the need was at Silver Stars and how generous so many in the community were. Each resident was given numerous self-care items, baked goods, and a handmade card from HCHS students.

The women have a goal of going even bigger next year. Terra King is the varsity volleyball coach at Harper Creek. She intends to do an event next season where community members can come watch a game and bring items to be donated for the Veterans Christmas project. More info to come as the season approaches. HCVB girls played a massive part in this year's project by packaging donations. Giving back to these veterans and raising awareness for Silver Stars is something Terra and Kris plan to do more than just in the holiday season. This effort was only possible because of the generosity of our outstanding community!

