

# REACH OUT RAPID RIVER

## Rapid River Public Schools' Newsletter

November 2020

### COVID-19 UPDATE

Rapid River Rocket Families:

As you are all hearing, there has been a substantial increase in the number of positive COVID 19 cases in Delta County. Here in the school, we have also seen an increase in positive cases, and as important, an increase in the number of close contacts who are required to quarantine. Our concern is twofold: we want to ensure that there is no spread of the virus within the building, and we want to ensure that we have enough staff to effectively cover the needs of our students.

Very thankfully, we have not yet had to seriously consider closing a grade level or an instructional wing of the building. We believe that our students and staff understand the need to be vigilant about hygiene, washing hands frequently or using hand sanitizer, wearing masks, and doing their best to maintain social distancing. For those students and staff who have had to quarantine, we certainly appreciate the effort that has been made to keep students engaged and to maintain remote learning.

This is a very challenging time, for families and for the school, but we know that by working together we can overcome and persevere. Please stay in contact with your child's teacher[s] and reach out directly to Principal Bill Warning.

[bwarning@rapidriver.k12.mi.us] or  
Superintendent Jay Kulbertis  
[jkulbertis@rapidriver.k12.mi.us].

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay Kulbertis

### KEY CLUB

Key Club service has still been happening behind the scenes safely through the pandemic, even though most of our normal events had to be cancelled. Our club members still found ways to serve by holding a can drive in the spring and fundraising over \$800 for the Rapid River Community Christmas Angel Tree Project. The community donated even more cans during the summer, and so we were able to contribute toward the Kiwanis Rosebush Replanting effort and the It Takes a

Village Project. Other service projects our members have been involved in include painting at the Masonville Fire Hall, highway trash pickup, animal shelter help, school cleaning, volunteering at the Ensign Township Firehall and more. We've welcomed new members this year from the Freshmen, Junior and Senior classes.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for future events and opportunities. We plan to participate in some fun Christmas projects/events. If anyone would still like to join Key Club and be a part of a community-minded student-led club, contact Taylor VanOss.

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held virtually or by phone. When we have more details we will be sure to let parents/guardians know. Rapid River's web and Facebook pages are great resources. If you have specific questions concerning your child contact their teacher or Bill Warning, Principal.

### LIBRARY

Thank you to the following for their monetary donations to the library: Calvary Church's Perry Peterson Foundation, Larry and Chris Lundin (in memory of Glen and Mildred Lundin), Lisa Boudreau, Linda Erickson, Diane Kuchan and Karen Lundquist (in memory of Rita Kulbertis), and the American Legion Post 301. These generous donations are what make our school library so special! Thank you, too, to our wonderful library volunteers Janet Lundin, Karen Lundquist, and Julie Olson. I couldn't do it without them!

### EARLY DISMISSAL

Rapid River early dismissal days for the 20/21 school year will be 11:45, with lunch being served.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 6** – End of Grading Period Q1

**November 12** – 11:45 a.m. Dismissal

**November 16** – No School – Deer Day

**November 25-27** – No School –

Thanksgiving Break

### INDIAN EDUCATION

Please remember our tutorial program is here for all students. If you feel your young person could use some extra help, please call 474-3572 or email us at mpilon@rapidriver.k12.mi.us and leskofski@rapidriver.k12.mi.us .

We received a very generous check from the Sault Tribe of Chippewas last June despite the early lockdown in mid-March. We are very grateful for this 2% gaming monies grant which funds our cultural presentations in addition to extending our tutoring.

If there are any new students who have American Indian ancestry, please look on our school's website for parents, then forms, and download the Indian Education 506 form. You may also call or email us to request one, and it will be sent home with the student. There is no cost or obligation of any sort to being in our program which is funded by Indian student count. Again, any questions please call or email.

Thank You!

-(Mii-gwetch) Lollie-Program  
Director/Coordinator.

### PTC

The PTC spent \$31,000 and received four items for the playground, including the Zip Krooze that we have been working towards for 3 years!!! Thank you to our generous community and staff members who helped make this possible!

Here are some important dates to remember:

**Week of November 4:** Little Caesars Pizza Kits will need to be picked up between the hours of 3-6pm near the elementary bus drop off. Call April at 399-9884 with questions.

**November 21:** "Paint the Tiles" 1-4pm -Bring your Mom, Dad or the whole family and enjoy an afternoon of showing your creative side!

**November 23:** PTC Meeting @ 3:30 in PTC Room. All are welcomed.

**December 1:** Saykly's fundraiser forms & money due back.

**December 1 & 15:** Come and stock up on your favorite Rocket apparel & gifts during the JV/V basketballs games.

**December 17 & 18:** Students can do their Christmas shopping for their family and friends in Santa's Secret Workshop, during the school day.

## **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Regular Mtg. September 14, 2020**

Superintendent Jay Kulbertis provided an update on the District Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan.

Rapid River School Board thanked all businesses and individuals who donated money, supplies and time for the Village Project.

George Kanyuh commented on the hire of, Rich Poma as varsity boys' basketball coach.

Brooke Lindbert provided an update on the PTC's installation of elementary playground equipment and named the new PTC President.

Board member Karen Lundquist, resigned as board member effective September 7, 2020

#### **Motion made and approved:**

-to approve the hire of Kelli Anderson, as kindergarten teacher.

-to adopt Committed Fund Balance Resolution.

-to approve instruction of all courses listed in the course catalog(s) as traditional/seated courses to be adapted for delivery in a virtual format for the 2020-2021 school year.

-to approve the RREA and RRESP proposals.

### **Special Board Meeting September 30, 2020**

Board members asked interview questions to board seat candidate Betty Jo Proehl.

School board members commented on a transportation letter, vacant 2 year board term and State budget.

#### **Motion made and approved:**

-to appoint Betty Jo Proehl to the Board of Education.

### **Regular Mtg. October 12, 2020**

Betty Jo Proehl recited the Oath of Office.

Facilities, Grounds, and Transportation Manager Matt Scheuren noted that the building is running smoothly, discussed open custodial position and heating project.

Superintendent Jay Kulbertis reported for Principal Bill Warning that fall benchmark testing for 9th -12th grade students starts next week.

Superintendent Jay Kulbertis provided information on State budget, budget amendment 1, COVID guidelines and snowplowing.

George Kanyuh noted that Jill Harris is the elementary secretary/accounts payable clerk, and Renee LaChance as Junior Class Advisor.

The new playground equipment will be installed the week of October 19th and

homecoming will be celebrated during basketball season.

#### **Motion made and approved:**

-to elect Steven Lenaker as Board treasurer.  
-appoint Betty Jo Proehl to Finance, Policy and Personnel, and Dual Superintendency committees.

-to adopt Committed Fund Balance Resolution.

- to accept a letter of resignation from Matthew Spreitzer as Science Olympiad Advisor.

#### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the Indian Education Program and Sports Boosters for their financial contribution to the Rapid River Reach Out during 2019-2020.

We would like to thank the Rapid River Business Association for their donation last year to the Food Service Program. They paid all students negative lunch balances for the end of the year. Your support of Rapid River Schools is greatly appreciated.

#### **SPORTS BOOSTERS**

This year has definitely been different from the usual. We were only able to have concessions for two home football games due to COVID restrictions. At this time, we are still unable to do indoor concessions, but we are hoping that may change before basketball season begins. We want to thank everyone for your patience during this time and we hope to be back up and running indoors soon! We also are looking forward to some new fundraising opportunities, especially since our funds will be tighter due to the loss of games. If you are interested in helping work concessions in the future, please contact Brooke at 280-7875. Go Rockets!

#### **VILLAGE PROJECT**

HUGE shout out to everyone who donated money or items to the Village Project; especially some of our local businesses who donated hundreds of dollars, along with a 10% donation of their daily sales on Friday! This project has generated many items that our teachers would not have had access to without it. Some of these items include supplies for classrooms, clipboards and mats to have class outside, shields for desks plus lots of sanitizing items. We are forever grateful for the generosity of these individuals and businesses. We are blessed to live in our small community that makes such a big impact!

#### **ELEMENTARY DROP OFF**

Students who are being picked up will be waiting at the double doors that are located just before the Elementary/Admin Office. They will be sent outside to you.

## **VISITOR REMINDER**

Visitors/parents are only allowed to visit the Elementary/Admin Office and the High School Office at this time due to our COVID policy. Thank you for your understanding. Your students' health and well-being is paramount.

## **RAPID RIVER SCHOOLS FOUNDATION** **What is the Rapid River Schools**

**Foundation?** Your foundation is a charitable, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to support students of the Rapid River school system by funding programs aimed at providing an extra edge in today's competitive world. The Foundation encourages alumni, area residents and friends to help give special benefits to our students.

#### **Vision Statement**

The vision of the Rapid River Schools Foundation is to provide an enhanced educational experience to every Rapid River student, which will empower them to reach their greatest potential, through the creation of an Endowment Fund, which will support educational programs and projects, year after year.

#### **Once a Rocket, Always a Rocket!**

The Rapid River Public Schools are an academic institution to be proud of! As a former student, it's where you learned to read and write, where you got your start in the life you lead today. Rapid River has a fine tradition of offering its graduates a firm foundation on which to build, and this tradition means the same thing to students of today, as it did when you were enrolled.

The objective of the Foundation is to provide resources that might otherwise be unavailable because of budget constraints public schools often face. The Foundation is unique in that most of its resources will be used to fund projects proposed by innovative teachers who are in the classroom each and every day providing the quality educational experience that we have come to know and expect from the Rapid River school system.

It means something to be part of the Rapid River community. You can help ensure that this fine tradition continues by providing the resources our innovative teachers need to enhance the education of the next generation of Rapid River Rockets. Keep the tradition of a superior education alive--donate to the Rapid River Schools Foundation today! If you have any questions, please contact Jay Kulbertis at 906-474-6411.

#### **Contribute to the Rapid River Schools Foundation**

Contributions can be made payable to the Rapid River Schools Foundation. Mail your gift to: **Rapid River Schools Foundation**, 10070 US Highway 2, Rapid River, MI 49878