



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE"

OCTOBER 2021 | ISSUE 1



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cover Story page 2

Local donut shop owner starts teaching 3rd grade page 3

Inside the Lunchroom page 4

- Kingsley Schools offers free breakfast and lunches for all students
- Supply Chain Issues disrupt food service

Band Notes page 5

New Faces at Kingsley Schools page 6

Bus Drivers needed page 7

Stag Snapshots page 8

Navigating New Waters: International Canoe Racer joins Kingsley Schools

Being a Kindergarten teacher requires patience, kindness, enthusiasm, and above all else, lots of energy.

New hire Mary Schlimmer is uniquely qualified for the job.

As an elite international canoe racer, she has the stamina to keep up with her young students.

An Upstate New York native, Ms. Schlimmer has been racing in canoe marathons since she was a teenager.
(continued on page 2)

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New Waters (continued)

Now, she races around the world with her fiancé, who is also a prolific canoe racer.

Canoe Racing

The marathons can last anywhere from one to three hours, with larger events lasting more than 16 hours, and covering dozens of miles.

Ms. Schlimmer is one of just two women to finish Grayling's Au Sable River Canoe Marathon in under 15 hours. This year, she placed 14th in the women's race, while her fiancé, Weston, finished second in the men's division.

"Between March and September, we're training almost every day for a couple of hours a day on the local rivers like the Boardman, Au Sable, and Manistee river," said Ms. Schlimmer. "Our canoes are state-of-the-art and made of carbon fiber, so they are super lightweight and fast."

Dragon Boats

A few years ago, Ms. Schlimmer got recruited to join a Dragon Boat racing team. The sport gained popularity in Asia and has taken her to races around the world.

"The Dragon Boat has 20 paddlers on the left or the right side, then there's a dragon head on the front and a dragon tail on the back, with a drummer who sits in front," she said. "It's kind of a strange sport!"

In 2019, she competed in a Dragon Boat race in Thailand, and she's also visited Hungary and Europe to race.

2020 halted a lot of international competitions, but she hopes to get back to business in 2022.

On her bucket list is the Massive Murray race, a 200+ mile canoe marathon in Australia and the Yukon Race, a 100+ mile course in Canada. As if that's not enough, she also wants to do a marathon on land.

"That's the next goal. I've done the half-marathons, so I kind of want to focus on running and training properly."

"It's nonstop!" she said.

But if anyone is up for the challenge, it's Ms. Schlimmer. She says she is thankful to start her career as Kindergarten teacher in Kingsley Schools.

"It's kind of been my dream job, actually. I love the age group and I'm super excited to start out my big-girl career," she said.

Ms. Schlimmer has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education from SUNY Cortland and has previously worked in Great Start Readiness Programs in NW Michigan.

By Chloe Kiple



“
I'm always
chasing
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FROM DONUT SHOP OWNER TO THIRD GRADE TEACHER: MR. SCHNEPF'S SWEET NEW ADVENTURE

"I just really enjoy spending time with kids and getting to know them and learning from them. That's why I have entered into the world of elementary education,"

By Chloe Kiple

Mr. John Schnepf says donuts are "probably the funnest foods."

If you've ever visited his shop, Peace, Love & Little Donuts on Front Street in Traverse City, it's easy to see what he means.

His mini bites make you happy just by looking at them.

"Anybody that walks in, walks out with a smile on their face," said Schnepf. "

Mr. Schnepf opened his shop in 2016. He ran his shop alongside his wife, Christina, while also working as a vendor to some of the country's biggest restaurants.

When he wasn't making donuts, he was selling bacon, pickles and peppers to restaurants like Arby's, Subway, Burger King, Domino's, and Sonic.

Things were all smiles until the pandemic hit Michigan in March 2020.

"Restaurants didn't do so well. I lost my position selling pickles, peppers, and bacon." he said.

With more time and freedom at his disposal, Mr. Schnepf decided it was time to realize a longtime dream.

"I guess I sort of repressed the fact that I wanted to be a teacher. I took this opportunity to earn my interim teaching certificate so that I can now become an elementary teacher."

He got his feet wet as a substitute teacher in the spring of 2021, and now, he's running his own third grade classroom at Kingsley Elementary.

Mr. Schnepf says he is excited to finally lead his own students, which he has affectionately nicknamed his "Distinguished Dozens."

He says his overall goal is to become more involved in the Grand Traverse community.

He and his wife, Christina, will continue to run their donut shop and Mr. Schnepf says he'll still be helping out and in the store on the weekends when he's not in the classroom during the weekdays.





News from the Lunchroom

ALL STUDENTS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR FREE BREAKFASTS & LUNCHES

We are pleased to announce that Kingsley Schools is participating in the Seamless Summer Option as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for the School Year 2021-2022.

The GREAT NEWS is that ALL students enrolled at our school can receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at NO CHARGE to your household each day.

We still need your household to fill out and sign the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application.

This information is critical in determining the amount of money that our school receives from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs like Title I A, At-risk (31a), Title II A, E-Rate, etc.

These supplemental programs have the potential to offer supports and services for our students including, but not limited to: instructional supports (staff, supplies & materials, etc.), non-instructional services (counseling, social work, health services, etc.) professional learning for staff, parent and community engagement supplies and activities, technology, and pandemic-EBT.

We are asking that you please complete and submit it as soon as possible to ensure that additional funding for our school is available to meet the needs of our students.

Fill out the form at <https://familyportal.cloud>.

All information on the application submitted is confidential. Without your assistance in completing the application, our school cannot maximize the use of available State and Federal funds. If you have already submitted an application there is no need to submit another. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact your school office, or Food Service Director Kristy Donner 231-263-5262 ext. 4055.

A NOTE FROM CHARTWELL: SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES MAY AFFECT SCHOOL LUNCHES

Industries, including food and foodservice have been impacted by manufacturing and labor shortages. At Kingsley Schools, students and families can continue to count us for great-tasting meals kids love to eat every day, but as you may have already seen, **there will likely be more frequent menu changes based on product substitutions from our suppliers.**

These supply chain challenges will likely continue for the next several months. We're doing everything we can to proactively address issues before they inevitably arise.

Some of the proactive steps we have taken, include:

- Changing our ordering schedules to allow distributors more time to identify new sources for out-of-stock products in the event it occurs.
- In June, we planned menus for this fall and began placing orders for food at that time. This process was designed to help suppliers and distributors plan well ahead for stock we need to serve kids now.

One additional note for families with students who have allergies: please remind your child to be sure to check with the cafeteria manager regarding product substitutions that may not be reflected in the menu posted. We will make every attempt to update Nutrislice in real-time, but out of an abundance of caution, please do not solely rely on the digital nutrition panels to accommodate allergies or medical conditions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Kristy Donner at Kdonner@kingsleyschools.org.

Thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility during this time.

FRESH FACES AT KINGSLEY SCHOOLS



MRS. AIMEE BALL

Navigating the first year of teaching in a new district is daunting. Starting in the middle of a pandemic is even harder! Mrs. Aimee Ball joined Kingsley Schools as a second grade teacher in 2020. She says her favorite part about teaching is "getting to know my students and watching their wonder and excitement for learning grow throughout the year." She says she lives by this quote: "The power of Yet.... I can't do that YET, means anything is possible."



MRS. MAGGIE RASBERRY

Mrs. Rasberry is our newest 8th grade special education teacher and joins us from her previous position at Davison Middle School. Mrs. Rasberry and her family have relatives in Williamsburg and Maple City and have been dreaming of moving to Northern Michigan for years. "We just thought, you know what? If we're going to make this move, which we had been kind of toying around with for a few years, let's do it now, instead of when we're 70," she said.



MRS. ERIN BACH

Mrs. Bach might be a newcomer to Kingsley Schools, but she is a Northern Michigan native with more than a decade of teaching experience. She spent the first part of her career as a teacher in Traverse City and joined Kingsley Schools as a fourth grade teacher in 2020. Her favorite part about her job is watching her students "get excited about learning, and have that 'ah-ha!' moment."



MR. JIM BURNOR

Kingsley High School's new woodworking teacher has a personal mantra: "honesty is the best policy." In Mr. Jim Burnor's classroom, his students learn more than how to build a birdhouse, or a table, or a wooden box. They learn craftsmanship. And that craftsmanship is built on integrity. At the end of the semester, they can proudly take home their projects, and skills they can use for the rest of their lives. When he's not in the workshop, you can find Mr. Burnor exploring Northern Michigan.

Kingsley Band Notes

by Jena Van Wagner



The high school band hosted the middle school band for our first annual Middle School Marching night.

The middle school concert band was invited to join the Marching Stags at the 9/24 home football game to play in the stands and support the team.



The Marching Stags practice their set in the High School parking lot.

Calendar

Marching Expositions:

October 11 at Thirlby Field in Traverse City

October 16 in Allendale

Fall High School Concert:

October 13 at 7 p.m. in KHS gym

Fall Middle School Concert:

October 20 at 7 p.m. in KMS gym

Planned date for Band Carnival:

March 18, 2022

Starting the Season with a Bang!

The Kingsley Bands are looking forward to a great school year!

You can catch the Marching Stags Celtic themed show at home varsity football games and marching expositions this fall.

The 2021 program will feature the songs Lord of the Dance, Cloud Song, Home and the Heartland, Victory, and Riverdance.

The fall high school concert will feature our marching show and a selection of works by the Jazz Band.

The fall middle school concert will include sixth through eighth grades, as well as the middle school jazz band.

As we look forward to the year, watch for a band gear sale happening this fall (shirts, hats, etc.), as well as the meat raffle in the spring. Planned date for Band Carnival is March 18, 2022.

Shop online? You can now select Kingsley Band Boosters as your AmazonSmile charity! Every time you buy, you can support our band!



BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Are you looking for a way to help your child, school, and community?

What about a part-time job driving a school bus?



Starting wage is \$15.34 an hour
PLUS a \$1,500 signing bonus



Paid training, CDL, and physical



Morning and afternoon hours
Holidays and Weekends off



Be on the same schedule
as your kids!

If this sounds interesting to you, please apply online at:
www.applitrack.com/kingsley/onlineapp



STAG SNAPSHOTS



The Kingsley equestrian team are district champions!



Skyler S. and her parents pose after the second Mini Stags XC meet on 9/28.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Varsity Football

- Friday 10/15 @ Tawas 7 p.m.
- SENIOR NIGHT:
 - Friday 10/22 vs St. Francis @ KHS 7 p.m.

Varsity Volleyball

- Monday 10/11 @ Petoskey 5 p.m.
- Tuesday 10/12 vs North Bay @ KHS 6:30 p.m
- Tuesday 10/19 @ Leland 6:30
- Thursday 10/21 @ Reed City Quad 5:30 p.m.

Varsity Boys Soccer

- Monday 10/11 @ North Bay 5 p.m.

Varsity/MS CROSS

- Tuesday 10/12 NWC Jam @ Benzie Central 4:15 p.n.
- Saturday 10/23 @ No. Michigan Championship 10 a.m.