



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE"

DECEMBER 2021 | ISSUE 3



Top left: Elementary principal Kristin Goethals alongside her senior picture. Bottom Right: Middle School teacher Linnea Steverlynck with her 6th grade KMS school picture. Above, left to right: Melissa Newell, Julie Lint, and Molly Dunham.

Stag Spotlight: District Staff Full of Former Kingsley Schools students

Kingsley prides itself on its teachers who really care. Many have roots that run deep: more than a dozen teachers grew up in Kingsley Schools and returned to their hometown to work after college.

"Before I even graduated college, I knew I wanted to teach in Kingsley," said Ms. Linnea Steverlynck. "I have such pride for my hometown and school!"

"I love our sense of community and pride in what we do. As a staff we help one another both professionally and personally. As a student, I felt like my teachers truly cared about me and challenged me in my learning. Being a small school, you know most everyone and that contributes to this sense of togetherness."

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Stag Spotlight (continued)

All of the teachers say it was difficult at first to return to their alma mater and see their former teachers as colleagues.

"I still wanted to call them 'Mr. or Mrs. so-and-so.' However I soon saw myself as their peer, and was thankful for our past relationship because it made me more comfortable with asking them for help as I navigated my first few years of teaching," said Mrs. Steverlynck.

"When I first came back to to teach, many of my teachers were still here so it felt a little weird being their colleague! It helped that I taught somewhere else to have experience and confidence," said high school teacher Mrs. Julie Lint.

Over the years, these staff members have seen Kingsley grow in many ways.

"When I attended Kingsley Schools, kindergarten through 12th grade was in one building, the current middle school. The number of students per grade has more than doubled!" said Mrs. Melissa Newell.

Third grade teacher Mrs. Molly Dunham attended Kingsley Schools from preschool all the way through high school graduation. The biggest change she's seen is the advance in technology and infrastructure.

"New technology in elementary school was moving from record players to tape decks for listening centers. In the late 80's, they put in a computer lab. Each computer had 3 1/2" floppy disk drives! Now we are one-to-one with Chromebooks."

One thing these teachers say hasn't changed is Kingsley's signature sense of community and belonging.

"I love Kingsley's family atmosphere! We are a team. Everyone works together to make this a place where kids are loved, feel safe, and exceed their potential!" said Mrs. Dunham.

"We have been blessed to have a community that draws people in. I love all the new faces coming in. I love the school pride we have, and I wouldn't want to send my kids anywhere else." said principal Goethals.

By Chloe Kiple



Kingsley Middle School Observes Veterans Day

On November 11, Kingsley Middle School honored veterans and active duty service members on Veterans Day. The school hosted Kingsley graduates LCpl Oscar Layer (left) and SPC Connor Hall (middle) and Kingsley father Ian Kesterson, AET 1 Coast Guard Traverse City (right). Principal Watson, an Army veteran who served two tours in Afghanistan, spoke about what Veterans Day means. Students also learned about the significance of the 13 flag folds.



Lance Dubay and Andy Evans led the middle school band and choir in the Star Spangled banner, America the Beautiful, and Taps, while the Kesterson sisters led staff and students in the Pledge of Allegiance.





Kingsley Elementary

FALL INTO READING

At the end of October, our young learners walked to the Kingsley Branch Library for storytime with Miss Beth.



Miss Beth's enthusiasm for reading was contagious, and the kids were very excited to continue reading at home!

-Mrs. Molly Dunham, 3rd grade teacher



October Reading Month

During Fall into Reading, students took a tour of the library and heard a story. Each student in grades K-4 also received a free book from their teachers to take home and read.

Outside Storytime

The children sat outside while Miss Beth captivated them with her great book choices! Thank you, Beth Anderson, and the Kingsley Public Library for supporting our fall reading celebration!

Kingsley Band Notes

by Jena Van Wagner



13 Kingsley Band Members accepted to District Band

The Kingsley High School Band will be well-represented in the upcoming MSBOA District II Honor Band. 13 students were accepted to the band. Congratulations to Annabelle Skrzypczak, Isabelle Goldammer, Mara VanWagner, Emma Reuther, Helene Kirkpatrick-Johnson, Hannah Crawford, Jacob Durga, Kati Smith, Kaitlyn Wysocki, Caylan Schaub, Trent Wazny, Nik VanWagner, and Marisa Graham! This is one of the largest showings for Kingsley students! The December 5 concert is open to the public at the Harbor Springs High School auditorium. The guest band director is Dr. Stephen Grugin, Director of Bands at Northern Michigan University.

Middle School Band Performs during Veterans Day Assembly

Great job to the Kingsley Middle School Band and Choir for their show at the Veteran's Day Salute on November 11. Both groups sounded amazing. A special shoutout goes to Mary Bauer and Levi Sterk for their performance of "Taps."

The Middle School Jazz band has started their "zero hour" rehearsals and is bringing a lot of enthusiasm to 7 a.m.!

Solo & Ensemble Quickly Approaching

Kingsley has the honor of hosting Solo & Ensemble on February 5, 2022. This full day event will take place at the High School and is a great experience for musicians to participate in and watch. Mark your calendars now, it will take many volunteers to make this a great showcase of Kingsley pride!



Calendar

Honor Band Concert

December 5 at 1 p.m. at Harbor Springs High School

High School Band and Choir Concert

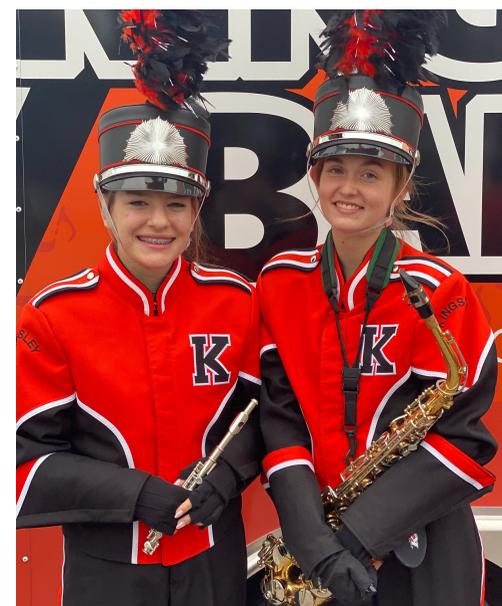
December 9 at 7 p.m. in the KHS gym

Middle School Band Concert

December 16 at 7 p.m. at Middle School

High School Jazz Band Concert

at Grand Traverse Resort
December 18 - Time TBD



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KHS COACHES' CONER

featuring Coach Tim Woer

If you ask Kingsley students, staff, or area residents what football means to this town, you'll hear words like family, love, and community.

"On Friday nights, you could go door to door and nobody would be home because everyone is at the football game," said senior band member Nik Van Wagner.

Varsity head coach Tim Woer says there's an energy at Rodes Field that is "almost fanatical."

"It's electric. It's hard to explain unless you're there. Rodes Field is a very intimate setting. There's no track around the field, so everybody's right on top of the game," he said.

"Our community loves the game of football. And I think they love the style that we play. We are blue collar. We try to be smash-mouth and physical, and I think our community appreciates that. I think that kind of speaks to the makeup of our community."

2021 marks Woer's 31st season with the Stags. As a coach, he preaches values of family and resilience.

"We try to be more than a football program. We teach our kids that football is a platform to help and appreciate others,"

"Our culture is family, love, and incredible hard work. When you use the word love... there's, there's love, and there's tough love. And our kids understand that that it's not always easy."

When times are tough, Woer reminds his team that winning and losing is just a part of life, and they need to pick themselves back up again and fight.

The Stags lost the 2021 Division 5 regional title against Frankenmuth on November 13.

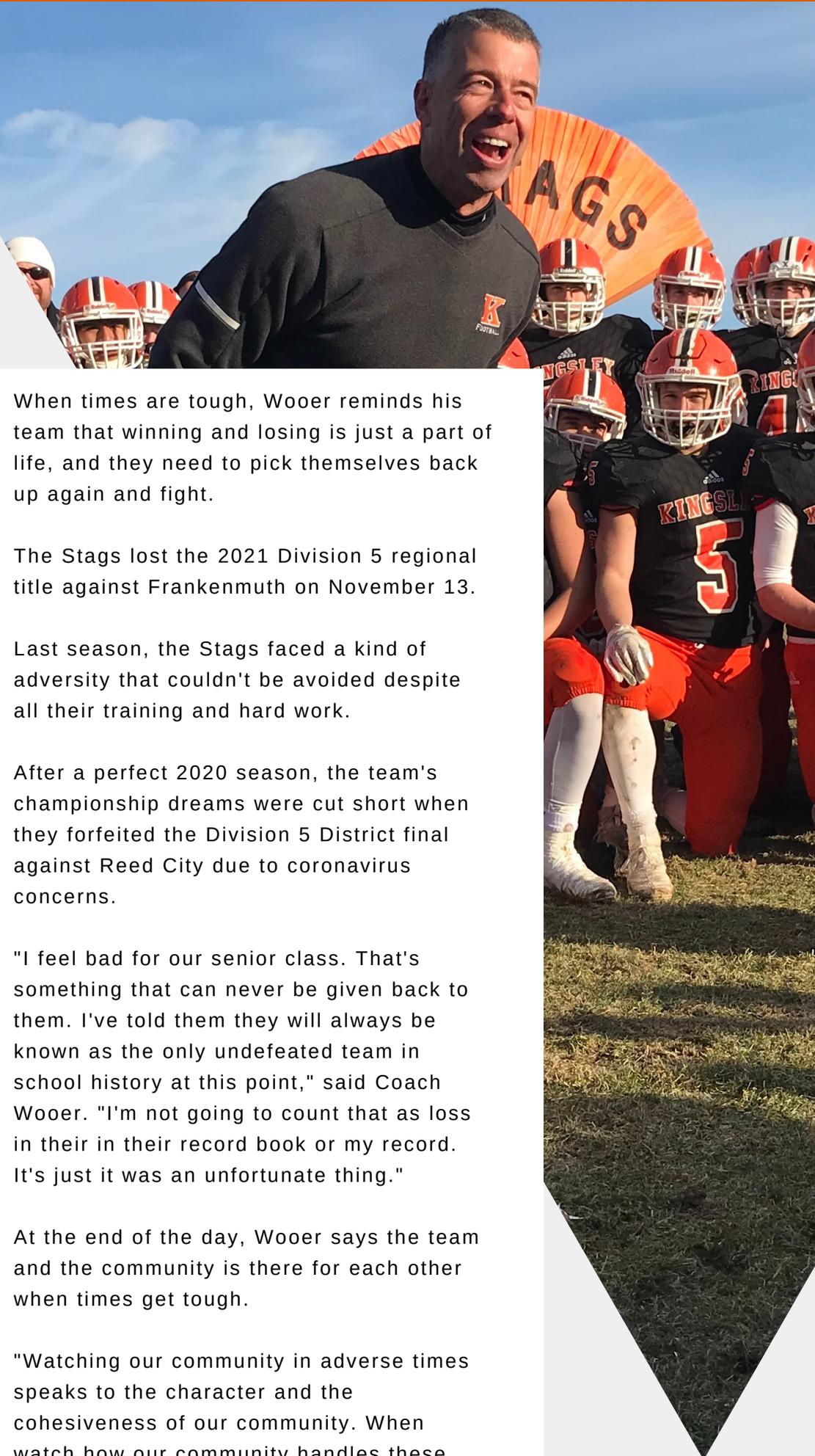
Last season, the Stags faced a kind of adversity that couldn't be avoided despite all their training and hard work.

After a perfect 2020 season, the team's championship dreams were cut short when they forfeited the Division 5 District final against Reed City due to coronavirus concerns.

"I feel bad for our senior class. That's something that can never be given back to them. I've told them they will always be known as the only undefeated team in school history at this point," said Coach Woer. "I'm not going to count that as loss in their in their record book or my record. It's just it was an unfortunate thing."

At the end of the day, Woer says the team and the community is there for each other when times get tough.

"Watching our community in adverse times speaks to the character and the cohesiveness of our community. When watch how our community handles these situations, it speaks to the class of Kingsley."



Q&A with Dave Hall

2021 marked Varsity Volleyball coach Dave Hall's 23rd season of winning 30 or more games with the Stags

Q: What is your coaching philosophy, and has it changed over the years?

A: I guess the biggest thing for me is, is trying to get the most out of the talent that we have. I used to get all hung up on, you know, 'we have to win 50 games, and we have to win six tournaments,' and now, it's more just try to over achieve with the talent level we have. The kids are really working hard and playing together and we're getting a lot of mileage out of kids that are just hard workers.

Q: What values or culture do you try to foster on your team?

A: Our biggest thing is just team; sacrifice for the team and do everything you can for team success. Volleyball in general is kind of a family feel. Because you're in the gym all day, and every Saturday you're together, so we really kind of preach the family aspect and enjoy time together.

Q: Does your team have any mottos or rallying cries?

A: On the state finals team, we started preaching what we call 'no floor volleyball.' We try to play the defense where you can't find a *place* to put the ball on the floor on our side. There's gonna be a hand and arm a foot something there. There's not going to be any floor over here for you to get the ball down on. So we say that in every huddle, every timeout, that this is 'no floor volleyball.'



Q: What is your favorite part about being a Kingsley coach?

A: Just seeing the kids get better, going from day one to the end of the season to see the growth. You know, it's it's really rewarding to see all their hard work turn into success on the court.

To learn more about Kingsley Athletics, go to www.kingsleystags.com

2021 All Conference selections

The Kingsley Athletic Department would like to congratulate all of our All Conference award winners for the 2021 Fall Season.

Boys Soccer
1st Team - Sam Belanger

Girls Cross Country
1st Team - Lauren Woer
2nd Team - Kelsey Saxton, Isabell Peltier, Grace Hillier.
Honorable Mention - Kelly Huis, Brianna Bender, Mary Webb.

Boys XC
2nd Team - Kaden Kolarik, Winston Pelloski. Honorable mention: Branden Stock, Braxton Zenner.

Volleyball - Team NWC
Co-Champions
1st Team - Angel Zoulek, Coral Bott, Lexie Sattler.
2nd Team - Chloe Morgan
Honorable Mention - Paityn VanPelt

Northern Michigan Football Conference

OFFENSE
RB - Sam Goethals
OL - Lukas Bogart
OL - Kaden Patterson

DEFENSE
DL - Trevor Lewis
DL - Alex Smith
LB - Brett Peterson
DB - Phillip Brown

Co-Defensive Player of the Year - Brett Peterson
Honorable Mention - True Beeman (O), Evan Douglass (D)

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