

COMMUNITY GHOST STORY



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On Friday, May 20, students from Kaukauna High School braved some tough weather to participate in a day filled with activity, cheering, and community support as they swam, biked and ran in the school's annual "Breaking Boundaries" triathlon.

This adaptive triathlon was created to give high school students with disabilities the opportunity to learn about achieving difficult goals through dedication, goal-setting, determination and hard work. With the support of their student peer mentors, last March, triathlon participants started training during the high school's Flex Time each week. Athletes prepared by first connecting with their peer mentors and learning more about the event. The groups then set goals together and began their training to meet those goals.

But it wasn't just the athletes and peer mentors that got involved in the event and celebration.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

A NEW BASECAMP

This is a new space for me. This letter is the last I'll write to you, the Kaukauna Community, as the Superintendent of the Kaukauna Area School District.

I'm humbled by the support, the well wishes, and the messages of gratitude I've received entering into my final days as your Superintendent. I'm grateful for my years here; the success that our school community has experienced together, along with the empowering and unconditional trust that I have received will always be my most cherished professional gift.

Today, as I write this final note, I feel like I'm at "the summit." It is, in a sense, the summit of my career in public education. I've spent the last several weeks reflecting, feeling now as though I've reached the top of a wonderful, challenging, thrilling, heart-filled climb, and I'm standing strong, admiring the view and the work and how far we've come as a community over the past ten years; how far I've come in my 34 years in public education.

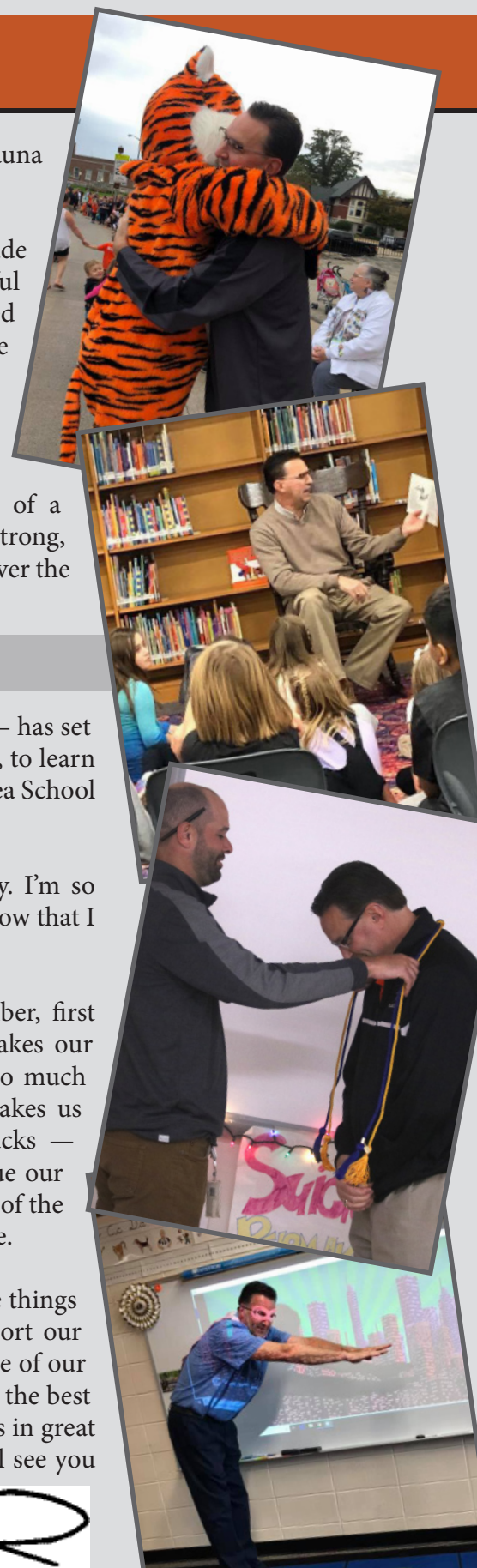
But this isn't really the summit.

The work over all of these years — the work of both yesterday and today — has set a new basecamp for tomorrow's success; I will continue to climb, to listen, to learn and to grow every day, and I will continue to be a part of the Kaukauna Area School District as a member of the community that supports it.

Honestly, I cannot wait to embark on this new journey with my family. I'm so excited about the road — the journey — that is ahead of me; but please know that I am forever grateful for the climb that got me here.

As we move forward as a District and as a community, please remember, first and foremost, to take care of each other. It's one of the things that makes our community shine. Remember to put in the time; collectively, we have so much talent, but it's the effort and the work that sets us apart ... it's what makes us Kaukauna Strong. Remember that we're all going to experience setbacks — failures — as we make our way through this process, and as we continue our climb. Do not let those deter you. Mistakes and failure are an integral part of the road to success, and learning from our past helps us better build our future.

This District of ours, it's a special place. Our students are doing incredible things inside and outside of the classrooms. Our staff works tirelessly to support our students and help them find success — which looks different for every one of our 4,000 students. With all my heart, I believe that we have the best students, the best staff, the best families, and the greatest community, and that our District is in great hands as we continue to move forward. And when the time comes, I will see you all at the summit. Take care, from this forever Galloping Ghost.



The Kaukauna Area School District will educate students to be effective life-long learners who can successfully meet the challenges of their lives and be positive contributors to society.

BREAKING BOUNDARIES (CONT.)

Prior to the event, student and peer mentor lockers were decorated with locker signs. On the day of the event, Kaukauna High School hosted a send-off parade for all participants, complete with the band, along with KHS staff and student body cheering on athletes as they headed for the buses bringing them to the YMCA for their first event.

Just before the first event, the national anthem and starting ceremonies kicked things off; then the participants hit the pool for their swim, followed by the biking and running/walking events along the CE trail to the Bank of Kaukauna Stadium (and, thanks to the weather, the KHS gym, too).

The CE trail was filled with elementary students, family, friends and members of the community cheering all of the participants on. The atmosphere was magical.

"This is such a memorable event, not just for our participating students, but for their peer mentors and for everyone here cheering these kids on," said Andrea Kioski, a speech and language pathologist and one of the event organizers. "Watching our students set and reach their goals, and seeing the excitement on their faces as they're celebrated by our community is a priceless experience."

Each student then ended their day at the finish line, greeted and presented with a medal by KHS Principal Chris McDaniel.

Thanks to many sponsors and supporters throughout the community, this event is provided at no cost to student athletes and their peer mentors. We look forward to creating this opportunity for our students for years to come.



Breaking Boundaries: Possibilities for All Abilities

LET'S TALK ABOUT ...

MENTAL WELLNESS RESOURCES

At KASD, the mental wellness of our students and staff is a priority.

Physical, emotional and mental wellness are all critical to success, and our District understands the importance of creating and maintaining mental health initiatives that support wellness and growth. In support of this effort, the Kaukauna Area School District has established a Student Assistance Program (SAP), a District Wide multidisciplinary team whose mission is to shape and create District systems that support and educate students, family, and staff about social, emotional, and mental wellbeing in order to increase student success.

Student Assistance Programs originated as substance abuse prevention and intervention models. During recent years, the Kaukauna Area School District model has changed from a specific focus on substance abuse to a more global approach to prevention, early intervention and support services for non-academic issues including mental wellness, family and other relationship troubles and issues bullying and other school violence, self-esteem, and general and basic life needs.



In pursuit of the Student Assistance Program's Mission, the following includes examples of the outcomes the team has had:

- Coordinated Diversity and Bias Training for District staff
- Organized District Mental Wellness Summits
- Promoted Social and Emotional Learning for all KASD students
- Facilitated training for District staff on strategies to support student mental health

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) team includes Kaukauna Area School District Pupil Services staff members, Building Administrators, and District Administrators.

As part of the District's quest for continuous improvement in all areas, in May 2021, the SAP team entered into a collaboration with the CESA 6 AMHE Allies in Mental Health Education to assess the comprehensiveness of our school mental health system and identify priority areas for improvement in order to better provide a comprehensive support system for students, families and our school community. With support from emergency relief funds, a School Mental Health Quality Assessment covering seven domains of school mental health was completed and analyzed, and an action plan has been implemented to examine the resources available in the District so the gaps or needs can be identified and addressed next.

We're excited to continue learning and growing to continue offering comprehensive support for students.

Want to learn more or find help now?

Visit: www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/families/mental-wellness.cfm

KAUKAUNA STRONG THE FUTURE LOOKS STRONGER

In March 2022, the Kaukauna Area School District, with the support of School Perceptions (an independent survey research company, released a survey to gain insight on community ideas and perceptions relating to Kaukauna Area School District, both in its present state and for the future.



Nearly 1,200 people including staff, parents and Kaukauna residents without students attending KASD schools responded to the survey.

The first part of the survey requested insight into our Kaukauna Strong promise, a vision we've been working on as a District since 2015. We're pleased to report that survey respondents agreed they felt more welcomed in Kaukauna Schools, and that KASD has been working to build strong community partnerships and higher-quality educational experiences.

Respondents' overall satisfaction with the Kaukauna Area School District and the direction in which we're heading has increased nearly 5% since 2014.

Thank you. We are proud to serve you, pleased to know that our commitment to improvement is being realized, and excited for what the future holds for KASD.

“ There are a lot of great things happening in our schools; but we also read many comments and suggestions for areas of improvement. We hear you and we are listening. ”

The second half of the survey focused on facility planning surrounding enrollment projections, potential capacity issues and school maintenance needs. One scenario presented and requesting feedback in the survey was moving River View Middle School's home to a new location. This change would allow the existing RVMS building to serve as a new home for a variety of programs and services, including New Directions Learning Community (an opportunity to address both NDLC's program expansion needs and capacity concerns at Tanner and EQ Elementary Schools), District Office, District At-Risk Educational programming, and Special Education.

If River View Middle School were to be converted, KASD would need to either build a new high school, leaving the existing high school as a new home for River View Middle School, or build a new middle school. For either scenario, the District must find and purchase land. Respondents, when asked for their feedback, agreed that purchasing property now with plans to build a new school in the future was a good idea (more than 50% agreed), with the highest priorities for updates given to addressing traffic flow and safety at River View and improving special education areas across the District to better serve our students moving forward.

Thank you to all who responded. Your feedback is important, and we will continue to listen.

STRONG MINDS. STRONG HEARTS. STRONG STUDENTS.
KAUKAUNA STRONG IN OUR SCHOOLS



Kaukauna High School Class of 2022 reflected on their journeys during the Tour of Graduates in May.



Students at Tanner Early Learning Center learned about crayfish from our friends at 1000 Islands Environmental Center.



Electa Quinney Elementary School students and staff had a blast at the annual color run/walk and festival, raising money for the school. The dunk tank was a hit!



NDLC 4th grade students spent weeks planning and preparing mini courses for younger classmates, a 10-year tradition!



Haen Hawks had a little fun celebrating music when the KHS Polka and Jazz Band stopped by.

River View Middle School held another successful Community Service Day at the end of May, working with several community organizations. Students picked up over 1,000 pounds of trash and debris throughout the day.



Park Community Charter School students worked to "keep it safe" during their annual Bike to School Day. Thanks to Mr. Skrupky, Ms. Vanevenhoven, Officer Romenesko and parents for their help during this annual fun day!



KAUKAUNA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

At the end of each school year, five Kaukauna Area School District employees are recognized and celebrated for their accomplishments. Employee of the Year award recipients were announced and celebrated at the District's closing ceremony on Friday, June 3.



Danielle Salm, Elementary Certified Staff
 Danielle, a first grade teacher at Victor Haen Elementary School, was nominated for her compassion and dedication to the success of every student. She is a proactive force in the District that uses her talents to engage students. Danielle is an active member of her school's leadership team and regularly contributes her ideas and her incredible artistic and creative talents and ideas.

Grace Luebben, Middle School Certified Staff
 River View Middle School 7th grade teacher Grace Luebben was nominated for her kindness, her dedication to her students, and her commitment to continuous improvement. She creates engaging lessons appreciated by her students and her colleagues, and her dedication to her students extends far beyond the classroom, creating strong bonds among students, the school, and the broader community. She is an extraordinary asset to River View and KASD.

Dan Mader, High School Certified Staff
 KHS science teacher Dan Mader takes on any challenge thrown his way. He teaches new classes to help the District with staff and his department make schedules work, he makes himself available to students both online and in person to help them with their coursework, and he's a pioneer in the technology realm, volunteering to help administrator technology tools and help KHS staff integrate technology in their own classrooms. He is selfless and dedicated, and an outstanding member of the KHS team.

Carol Wall, District Support Staff
 Carol, an administrative assistant at Tanner Early Learning Center, was nominated as an integral part of keeping Tanner and the District moving forward. She assists Tanner staff members with anything they need, welcomes new staff and supports the families of the District's youngest learners. Carol serves as an outstanding resource for other administrative assistants throughout the District, sharing her knowledge and experiences to help them be successful at their own schools. She does all of these things with a smile and with a positive attitude.

Holly Magness, Administrator
 Holly serves as the principal at Victor Haen Elementary School, and was nominated for her supporting, loving, innovative nature and her willingness to go above and beyond each day for her students and her staff. Holly was described as an advocate, always looking at the bigger picture, showing her deep passion for the success of everyone in her building. She enhances the lives of so many around her, using both the science and the art of learning to continue moving the school forward.

"Today has been filled with moments that define Kaukauna Strong. We receive so many nominations for these awards each year, and while it is difficult to make a final decision, I am humbled at how deeply you care about each other as a community. Thank you for your drive, your compassion, your teamwork, and for everything that you bring to the table each and every day for our students and for each other."

~Mark Duerwachter, Superintendent

**STRONG MINDS
STRONG HEARTS
STRONG STUDENTS**



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This publication was produced for the residents of the Kaukauna Area School District. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap is difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Residential Customer

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Meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Kaukauna Area School District's Board Room: 1701 County Road CE, Kaukauna. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. For agendas, minutes and additional info please visit: www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us.

KASD serves all or portions of these communities
City of Kaukauna
Town of Kaukauna
Village of Sherwood
Town of Buchanan
Village of Harrison
Town of Holland
Town of Vanden Broek
Town of Woodville
Village of Combined Locks
Village of Little Chute

Leadership Team
Superintendent – Mark Duerwaechter
Business Manager – Robert Schafer
Director of Elementary Education – Ty Maki
Director of Secondary Education – Matthew Smith
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services – Sarah Newberry
Director of Human Resources and Legal Services – Eloisa DeLeon

Principals
KHS – Chris McDaniel
River View – Luke Cromell
Haen – Holly Magness
NDLC – Abbey Frischmann
Park – Ken Kortens
Quinney – Stacy Knapp
Tanner – Elizabeth Thoreson

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