



Forest Area Community Schools

# Forest Area Focus

Serving the Communities of South Boardman and Fife Lake • Spring 2025

## The Joy of Reading Year-Round



In March, our 4th and 5th graders read their favorite stories aloud with younger elementary students as we celebrated National Reading month. Reading is a gift that extends beyond National Reading Month, and summer is the perfect time to form a routine

for the entire family. Local libraries are a valuable community resource, offering summer programs and a vast selection of titles for all ages. Read on!



### FREE PRESCHOOL AT FIFE LAKE ELEMENTARY

We have GSRP Preschool slots available for students who turn 4 on or before September 1.

For more information contact  
Michele Knight at (231) 879-3362 ext 311  
or e-mail at [MKnight@forestarea.org](mailto:MKnight@forestarea.org)






## Music on a Larger Scale

Last fall, the Forest Area High School Choir performed at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC). They had the privilege to work with four other northern Michigan high school choirs along with the Grand Traverse Chorale and NMC Chamber Singers and orchestra. This is not something students get to experience often, so we are thankful for Mr. Jeffrey Cobb, Director of Music and Choirs, to invite us each year for this collaborative event. The students performed "Missa Festiva" by John Leavitt and "How Can I Keep From Singing," arranged by Mr. Cobb.

## From the Superintendent

Dear Forest Area school families,

With the arrival of spring, Forest Area Community Schools (FACS) is buzzing with activity as we celebrate the successes of the 2024-25 school year and look forward to the bright future ahead for our students. The coming weeks will be filled with exciting athletic events, recognition and awards ceremonies, a community carnival, and the highly anticipated graduation of our remarkable Class of 2025.

### Celebrating the Class of 2025

A busy spring season will all culminate with the graduation ceremony for the Forest Area Class of 2025. I have had the pleasure of watching this class grow, mature, and prosper over the course of three years that I've spent at FACS. They are talented, motivated and have the skills to chase their goals and aspirations. As they prepare for their time at Forest Area High School to come to an end, I would like to thank the Class of 2025 for the leadership and enthusiasm they brought to our schools on a daily basis.

### Strengthening Our Community Connections

One of the things that sets our school district apart is the strong sense of community and family that exists within our walls and beyond. We made it a priority this past year to encourage and promote opportunities, not only for our students to get involved in their community, but

also the community to engage with the school.

This spring, we are excited to continue promoting these opportunities. We have several events planned to connect with parents and community members, including athletics, musical performances, a carnival, and awards ceremonies to list a few.

### Preparing for the Future

As we look ahead to the 25/26 school year, I am excited to announce that FACS will be engaging in a strategic planning process. Beginning in the fall, we will be reaching out to focus groups of staff, students and community members to gather input on where we stand as a school district and where we want to go in the next three to five years. I am excited to engage in this process and create goals and a plan that will guide us in making this district the best it can be for our community.

In closing, I wish you all a fun and exciting spring, and I look forward to celebrating the continued success of our students as we move into the final stretch of the school year. GO WARRIORS!

Best regards,  
**Mike Moran**  
Superintendent  
mmoran@forestarea.org



*Congratulations to our newly inducted members of the Forest Area National Honor Society. Thank you to our current members for their role in our recent induction ceremony.*

## Warriors Athletics

Visit the Warriors Athletics website to find school sports schedules, photos, videos, and more.

**forestareawarriors.com**

You can also find athletic updates on the Forest Area Warrior Facebook page. Like us!

## Contact Us . . . . .

**District Office** • Ph 369-4191 • Fax 369-4153  
**Middle/High School** • Ph 369-2884 • Fax 369-3646  
**Fife Lake Elementary** • Ph 879-3362 • Fax 879-4825  
**Website** • [www.forestarea.org](http://www.forestarea.org)

### Administration:

Konrad Molter,  
Middle & High School Principal  
Email: [kmolter@forestarea.org](mailto:kmolter@forestarea.org)  
Amberle Eaker,  
Elementary Principal  
Email: [aeaker@forestarea.org](mailto:aeaker@forestarea.org)

*Forest Area Focus is provided periodically during the school year and on our website ([www.forestarea.org](http://www.forestarea.org)) for residents of the Forest Area Community Schools District. Staff, students and community members write the articles. Newsletter editing and layout is provided by the Communications Department, Northwest Education Services. Printing for the newsletter is provided by Forest Area Community Schools. Questions about the newsletter should be directed to the superintendent at (231) 369-4191.*

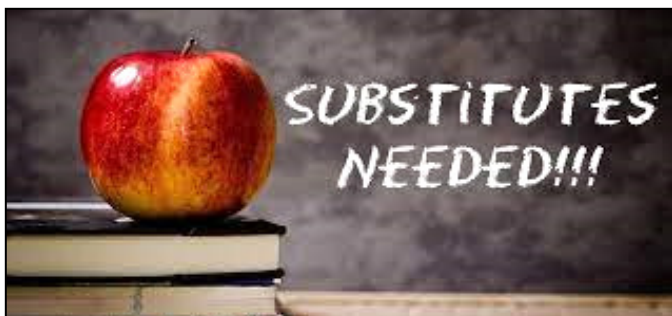




## Middle School SEEDS

Learning came to life in Mrs. Robbins middle school SEEDS class as they began planting for spring! Students gained practical experience with plant propagation by starting vegetable and flower seeds indoors, preparing for their eventual transplant outdoors when the weather warms up.

In addition, students are fascinated by the “zombie plant,” which when touched, the plant dramatically folds its leaves and droops, mimicking death before quickly recovering. This remarkable defense mechanism provides a tangible lesson in plant adaptation and response to environmental stimuli.



## Substitutes Needed

Forest Area Community Schools is seeking substitute teachers, bus drivers and support staff members. If you are interested in applying to be a sub for the 2025-26 school year, please contact FACS main office at 231-369-4191.

## Cheer for the Warriors!

Visit the Warriors Athletics website to find school sports schedules, photos, videos, and more.

[forestareawarriors.com](http://forestareawarriors.com)



## Elementary SEEDS

Ms. Amanda brought a hands-on learning experience to holiday fun at SEEDS this year! At Fife Lake Elementary, SEEDS students explored scientific principles by forming hypotheses about whether different Thanksgiving Feast foods would sink or float. Students loved getting to cheer for their favorite food as they learned if it would sink or float. Science in after-school programming invites kids to move around, explore and have fun while learning!



In April, students had the incredible opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich history and culture of Washington, D.C. This educational trip offered firsthand insights into the nation's capital, allowing students to deepen their understanding of American history, governance and culture.

According to Carolyne Woodhams, "We had a wonderful trip to Washington, D.C." Students visited iconic museums and monuments, including sites that showcase pivotal moments in U.S. history and advancements in science, art, and culture. Each stop enriched their learning, bridging classroom lessons with real-world experiences.

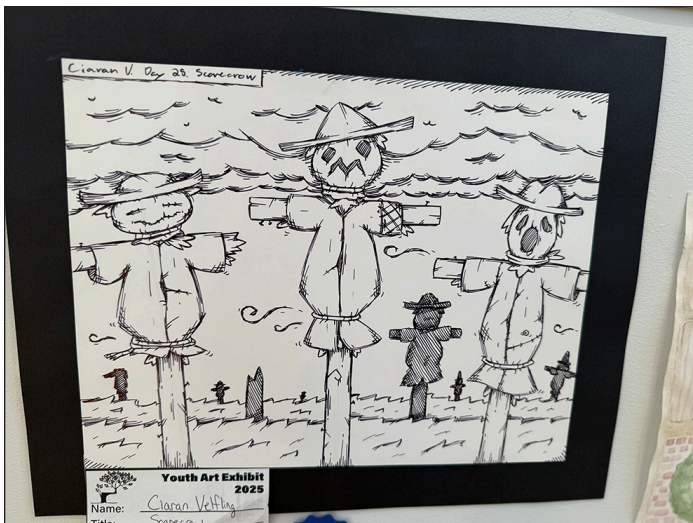
The trip also included moments of leisure and camaraderie, like attending a Washington Nationals baseball game — blending fun with education to create lasting memories. This experience not only broadened the students' horizons but also inspired a deeper appreciation for the significance of D.C.'s landmarks in shaping the nation's identity.





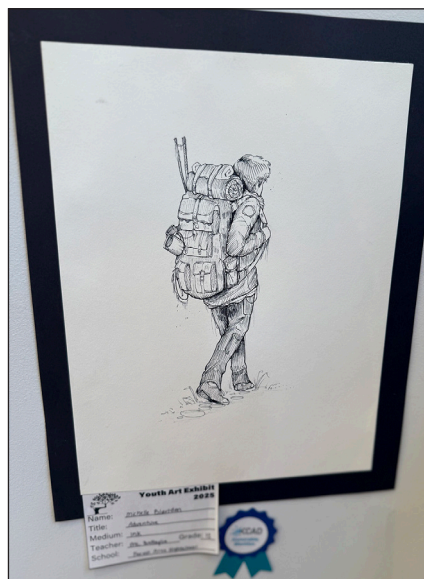
## Traversing the Forest and Dunes

Mr. Sharp and Mrs. Magee led their high school students on an engaging, hands-on ecological study at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, generously sponsored by the National Park Service. This field trip allowed students to directly compare two distinct ecosystems: the dynamic dune environment and the adjacent forest. Using scientific methodology, students collected and analyzed abiotic (non-living) factors such as ground temperature, snow depth, and wind speed in both habitats. They also conducted biotic (living) observations, noting the diverse plant and animal life present in each. The adventure provided a valuable opportunity for students to learn about winter ecosystems through direct observation and participation. In addition, the students experienced snowshoeing, a quintessential northern Michigan activity!



## Art Honors

Michelle Blandon, Ciaran Vlefling, Pennie Bell and Mackenzie Tobian recently earned recognition for their artistic submissions to the Crooked Tree Youth Arts Show. Michelle Blandon earned two awards, one from Kendall College of Art and Design for her work titled "Adventure," and the other from Crooked Tree for two works submitted to this year's art show. This included a \$100 cash award from Crooked Tree Arts Center. Ciaran Vlefling, Pennie Bell and Mackenzie Tobian also earned recognition awards from Kendall College of Art and Design for their Inktober drawings.







***Community Service** - Little helpers making a difference! Our first grade spread some birthday cheer throughout the school year by creating special gift boxes. Thank you to Trace Cakes and Papano's Pizza for donating supplies.*

## Reminder for Class of '25 Grads

### Dates to Remember:

**May 3** - Prom, Hulwick Events Center, 7- 11 p.m.

**May 14** - High School Awards, Gymnasium, 6 p.m.

**May 23** - Last Day for seniors

**May 23** - Senior Trip to Chicago

**May 29** - Senior Day, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Seniors Only)

- Breakfast in Commons
- Open time capsules
- Walk through elementary, middle and high school
- Graduation practice (Required if participating)

**June 1** - Graduation, Gymnasium, 3 p.m.



*The annual Jazz Dinner on April 23rd was a fantastic evening of great music and good food, courtesy of the talented Forest Area music department. We'd love for you to join the fun next year for an experience that's music to your ears (and your taste buds)!*

**chartwells**  
serving up happy & healthy

## FREE Summer Meals

Available for all children 18 and under. Each box will provide breakfast and lunch for 7 days. Sign up on-line at [forestarea.org](http://forestarea.org)

**Pick-up Dates:** Every Thursday from 4:30-6 p.m., June 12 - August 21

**Questions?** Contact Director of Food Service Shelly Ritchie at 369-4191.

## Forest Area Fitness Center

The Forest Area Fitness Center is open to members of the community! Just contact the district office at (231) 369-4191 to make sure you have a waiver on file with the school. Users who have completed a waiver can enjoy the use of Forest Area exercise equipment and locker room facilities year-round.

### Hours of Operation\*

Open 7 Days a Week

5:30-7:30 a.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m.

\*School events may affect these hours.

Now Enrolling for  
**Summer SEEDS!**  
at Fife Lake Elementary

**SEEDS** is a FREE nature based program offered to students enrolled in grades K-3.

- Programming offered Monday - Thursday
- 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Free Breakfast and Lunch
- Nature Based Activities
- Field Trips



  
**seeds**  
Ecology & Education Centers

Contact Information:  
Site Coordinator - Amanda Gordon  
[amanda@ecoseeds.org](mailto:amanda@ecoseeds.org) 701-590-2864





## The Magic of Hot Air Balloons

By Konrad Molter

The excitement was electric as Forest Area Elementary students, grades K-5, filled the gym, their voices buzzing with anticipation. This was no ordinary school day—it was the day the RE/MAX Balloon Program was bringing the magic of hot air balloons right to them!

A professional RE/MAX balloon pilot took center stage, and introduced students to the fascinating science behind hot air ballooning. The pilot explained how balloons rise, the role of heat in flight, and the incredible mechanics that make soaring through the sky possible. The gym echoed with “oohs” and “aahs” as the students soaked in the exciting lessons.

The grand moment for certain was the balloon inflation demonstration. Right there, indoors, the massive, colorful balloon began to unfold, fill with air, expanding taller and taller until it dominated the gym. The students watched in awe as the pilot described each step of the process, explaining the teamwork and expertise required to operate a balloon safely.

As the fully inflated balloon stood majestically inside the gym, students pointed, gasped, and imagined themselves floating high above the school. The experience sparked curiosity, excitement, and a sense of wonder that will stay with our students for a long time.

The excitement of the day wouldn’t have been possible without the incredible effort behind the scenes. A huge thank you to Board vice president Chrissy Ingersoll for organizing this unforgettable event and bringing such a fun and educational experience to our students.

COME ONE! COME ALL!

**Fife Lake Elementary School**  
**CARNIVAL**

GAMES. PRIZES. FOOD. CAKE. WALK. POPCORN. COTTON CANDY.  
DUNK TANK AND MORE!

**Tickets:**  
**\$1 a Ticket**  
**25 for \$20**

Games and Food  
average from 1-5 tickets

**Friday**  
**May 17th, 2024**  
**5pm - 8pm**  
Fife Lake Elementary School



## Community-Based Learning

Earlier this school year, Mrs. Magee’s high school students embarked on a community-based learning experience sponsored by Kalkaska’s Knights of Columbus. The day began at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC), where students explored various degree and certificate programs. Thanks to Mimi Kinney at Northwest Education Services and Augusta Cummer at NMC for their help in organizing the tour.

Afterward, the group enjoyed a delicious lunch at The Upper in Fife Lake, where April and her team provided excellent service. Next, the students toured Gil Roy’s, gaining insights into various trades and their potential career paths. Daniel, a knowledgeable guide, shared information about the history of the building, the demand for skilled tradespeople, and the necessary training for different careers.

The field trip was a valuable experience for the students, allowing them to explore local opportunities and gain practical knowledge. The class extends a big thank you to Rick Magee for chaperoning and Stacy Muth for providing transportation.

# April - June 2025

| MONDAY                                 | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY           | THURSDAY                | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY                                       |
|--|---------|---------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| APRIL 21                               | 22      | 23                  | 24                      | 25   | 26   |
| 28                                     | 29      | 30                  | MAY 1                   | 2  | 3  |
| 5                                      | 6       | 7                   | 8                       | 9  | 10   |
| 12<br>Board of Education<br>Mtg, 6:30p | 13      | 14<br>HS Awards, 6p | 15                      | 16   | 17<br>Fife Lake<br>Elementary<br>Carnival 5-8p |
| 19                                     | 20      | 21                  | 22                      | 23<br>Senior Trip to<br>Chicago<br><br>Last Day of School<br>for Graduating<br>Seniors | 24   |
| 26<br>No School                        | 27      | 28                  | 29<br>Senior Day, 9a-1p | 30   | 31   |
| JUNE 2                                 | 3       | 4                   | 5<br>HS Exams           | 6<br>HS Exams  | 7  |
| 9                                      | 10      | 11                  | 12                      | 13   | 14   |
| 16                                     | 17      | 18                  | 19                      | 20   | 21   |
| 23<br>Board of Education<br>Mtg, 6:30p | 24      | 25                  | 26                      | 27   | 28   |
| 30                                     |         |                     |                         |  |  |

Dates and times subject to change



**WARRIORS**

## School Day Start/End Times

**Fife Lake Elementary**  
Start Time 8:00 a.m.  
End Time 3:00 p.m.  
1/2 Day 8:00-11:45 a.m.

**Forest Area Middle/High School**  
Start Time 8:25 a.m.  
End Time 3:20 p.m.  
1/2 Day 8:25 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

## Visit Websites

[forestarea.org](http://forestarea.org)  
Lunch Menus  
School Calendar  
Staff Directory

[forestareawarriors.com](http://forestareawarriors.com)  
Sports Schedules  
Event Results  
Photos

## FACS Board of Education

The Board of Education meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the high school commons or via teleconference as needed. Special meeting dates/times/ places as published.

**Meeting Dates:**  
May 12, 2025  
June 23, 2025

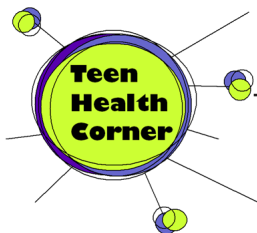
**Board of Education:**  
Dan Smith, President  
Chrissy Ingersoll, VP  
Travis Tracey, Secretary  
Joanna Durfee, Treasurer  
Hannah Bird, Trustee  
Adam Schaefer, Trustee  
Kari Morgan, Trustee



Forest Area Community Schools  
7741 Shippy Road SW  
Fife Lake, MI 49633

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## Postal Patron



### TEEN HEALTH CORNER

Helping kids find the help they need

Did you know the Teen Health Corner provides health care services for kids ages 5-21 at your school? Services include:

- ★ Primary care provider
- ★ Immunizations
- ★ Well child/Annual physical
- ★ Sick visits/Urgent care
- ★ Orders for x-ray
- ★ Onsite Lab testing
- ★ Injury care/Concussion
- ★ Specialty referrals
- ★ Mental Health counseling/therapy

Please inquire at your child's school office, stop in (at the gray building), or call if you child needs services. All insurances accepted. Medicaid enrollment, & sliding fee available.



### SENIORS we are still here for **you...**

needing immunizations or a physical before going off to college or feeling overwhelmed with your life changes....come see us.

**Sports physicals** can be done anytime after

**April 15** for the next school year. So don't wait!



Watch for our new temporary location within the middle/high school building during the summer.

#### CONTACT US:

(231) 258-7791 Kalkaska  
419 South Coral St, Kalkaska  
(231) 258-7922 KMS-E3  
Behavior Health services ONLY  
Kalkaska Middle School  
1700 West Kalkaska St, Kalkaska

(231) 369-2000 Forest Area  
7741 Shippy Rd, Fife Lake

Three convenient locations

All services are billable to all insurances or we offer a sliding scale fee for those with no insurance. We also offer assistance with applying for Medicaid.





## Kindergarten Round-Up

HAPPENING NOW

### at Fife Lake Elementary

## ATTENTION FOREST AREA FAMILIES WITH 3-5 YEAR OLDS

We would like to invite families with any child turning 5 by **September 1, 2025**, or by December 1 with a waiver, to schedule a Kindergarten Round-Up appointment to register their child by calling (231)879-3362.

- Contact the office to make a round up appointment for April 30.

**Appointments May 5 and May 6**

**Call (231)879-3362**

*If your child attends FLE GSRP, complete the paperwork that is being sent home and return with required documents.*

Fife Lake Elementary also offers **FREE** Preschool for students turning 4 on or before September 1st. Registration appointments can be made with Michele Knight by calling (231)879-3362, extension 311.

