



Principal Message:

As we move into February, I want to thank our families for your continued partnership and support. This time of year brings steady learning, growth, and many opportunities for our students to shine—both in and out of the classroom.

In the coming weeks, results from the most recent i-Ready diagnostic assessments will be sent home. These reports provide helpful insight into your child's academic progress and assist teachers in planning instruction that meets individual student needs. If you have questions after reviewing the information, please reach out to your child's teacher—we're always happy to connect.

I'm also proud of the many ways our students are extending their learning beyond academics. Our Student Council and REPS Club continue to show leadership, service, and care for our school community. Additionally, our 3rd/4th grade boys basketball team and 5th grade boys basketball teams have represented Homestead Hills with effort and sportsmanship. Being part of a team teaches important life lessons—perseverance, teamwork, responsibility, and respect—that carry well beyond the court.

I'd like to welcome Ms. Julie Brown, our new Lead Cook, to Homestead Hills. We are excited to have her leading our kitchen and supporting our students each day through her work.

Finally, I encourage families to review the overview of Benzie Schools' Strategic Plan included in this newsletter. This plan outlines our district's shared goals and priorities as we continue working together to support student learning and growth.

Thank you for all you do to support our school community. Your encouragement and involvement truly make a difference.

Steve Graetz, Principal

FEBRUARY

CALENDAR

2/11 PTO Meeting in
Room 3 @ 4:15

2/13 Half Day for Stu-
dents/ PD day for Staff.
Student Dismissal @
11:50am

2/13 Boys Night

2/16 No School

2/27 Preschool Prom

All **BLUE** events are PTO
sponsored. Please direct
questions to
[huskyhelperspto@gmail.c
om](mailto:huskyhelperspto@gmail.com)

**Teachers will keep
you informed of
classroom dates and
activities.**

*** The 26-27 school
year calendar has been
attached to this news-
letter. PLEASE make
note of the changes it
contains, such as start-
ing school PRIOR to
Labor Day for the 26-
27 school year!

ATTENTION

If you ordered PIZZAS via our fundraiser, they will be delivered on :

February 11 and will be available AFTER 12pm.



Kindergarten is a DOG GONE GOOD TIME!

Homestead Hills will hold kindergarten round up on Monday, April 13th between 9 am and 3:30 pm. To sign up please use this [LINK](#). If you do not have a *Sign Up Genius* Account, you will need to create one (they are free). Our PTO will use *Sign Up Genius* as well.

Your student will need to be present at round up, as well as a parent or legal guardian. Please plan for approximately 40 minutes to allow time to travel between stations.

After you sign up an enrollment packet will be either sent home with your pre-school student or mailed to you. Please feel free to stop by the office or call with any questions!



2/1 Yvonne Holmes
2/1 Bradley Brinkman
2/3 Hayden Gallagher
2/5 Kash Eichenberg
2/5 Isabella Jewell
2/7 Scarlett Ritthaler
2/8 Charlotte Gottardo
2/8 Sienna Villarreal
2/12 Silas Hamilton
2/15 Aria Jackson
2/16 Hunter Whitton
2/16 Lucas Whitton

February Birthdays

2/20 William Miilu
2/21 Gunnar Vezina
2/21 Lauren Corey
2/22 Angelina Denune
2/23 Levi Ballard
2/24 Evelyn Cooper
2/27 Grady Smith
2/28 JaKolby Williams

2025/ 2026 SCHOOL YEAR



GRAND TRAVERSE REGION

Your Neighborhood Network of Playgroups by County

ANTRIM COUNTY

Grass River Natural Area
6500 Alden HWY, Bellaire
1st & 3rd Thursday, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Mancelona Township Library
202 West State Street
Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Thursdays, 3:00 - 4:00 PM
** in conjunction with story-time

Lakeland Elementary School - Way to Grow
616 Buckley St, Elk Rapids
Contact Bbiryg@erschools.com for newsletter updates

BENZIE COUNTY

Benzie Early Head Start
9938 Honor HWY, Honor
1st & 3rd Thursday, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Cognition Science and Discovery Center
232 N Michigan Ave, Beulah
2nd & 4th Thursday, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Lake Ann United Methodist Church Community Center
19900 First Street
2nd & 4th Friday, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

The Curiosity Place, Powered by The Children's Museum
Grand Traverse Mall, near Macy's
2nd & 4th Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Mill Creek Academy - Way to Grow
9039 Old State Hwy 72, Williamsburg
Contact Bbiryg@erschools.com for newsletter updates

LEELANAU COUNTY

Playgroups facilitated by Parenting Communities. Subscribe to their calendar for exact dates and locations.

Early Art Exploration
Friendship Community Center, Suttons Bay
2nd & 4th Monday, 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Glen Lake Community Reformed Church
4902 W MacFarlane Rd, Glen Arbor
Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Northport Public School
104 S Wing St, Northport
Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Kewscuit United Methodist Church
3376 S Center Hwy, Suttons Bay
Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

West Bay Covenant Church - Baby Feeding Group
12720 S W Bay Shore Dr.
Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

KALKASKA COUNTY

Kalkaska County Library
247 S. Cedar Street
Fridays, 10:30 - 11:30 AM
** in conjunction with story-time

Kalkaska Early Head Start
424 S. Cedar Street
2nd & 4th Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Clearwater Township Hall with Leap of Faith Gymnastics
5440 River St NW, Rapid City
2nd Friday, 3:00 - 4:00 PM



Traverse Bay

The Neighborhood Network of Playgroups is a Great Start Collaborative initiative that brings families and local partners together to play, connect, and build community in a fun and welcoming environment. Find event calendars at GreatStartKids.com



This program is funded through a grant provided by the Michigan Department of Licensing, Regulatory, and Potentials. The materials are funded through a grant provided by the Michigan Department of Licensing, Regulatory, and Potentials.

BC
BENZIE CENTRAL
SCHOOLS

HOMESTEAD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026

January 5	School Resumes
January 12	Surprise Fundraiser
January 14	PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15
January 16	Half Day for Students/Records Day Staff. End of Semester 1, Dismissal @ 11:50 am
January 19	No School
January 29	Movie Night at the Garden Theater
January 30	Half Day for Students/ PD day for Staff. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am
February 11	PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15
February 13	Half Day for Students/ PD day for Staff. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am
February 13	Boys Night
February 16	No School
February 27	Preschool Prom
March 11	PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15
March 16-20	Reading Month Spint Week
March 27	End of Third Marking Period
March 27	Half Day for Students and Teachers. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am
March 28-April 6	Spring Break
April 7	School Resumes
April 8	PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15
April 24	Half Day for Students/ PD day for Staff. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am
April 24	Girls Night
May 4-8	Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser/Teacher Olympics
May 4-8	Spring Book Fair **tentatively
May 11-15	Teacher Appreciation Week (Volunteers needed to provide meals for staff)
May 22	Half Day for Students/ Full Day Teachers
May 25	No School- Memorial Day
May TBD	Fifth Grade Camp
June 9	Field Day **tentatively
June 10***	Last Day of School- Half Day for Students. Dismissal @ 11:50 am

Community Activities
We encourage you to get
OUT AND HAVE FUN!



WINTERFEST

— 2026 —
SATURDAY FEB. 14
DOWNTOWN BEULAH

- 10am -** **COOKIE & BAKE SALE** at Beulah Trailhead. Benefits the Darcy Library.
- 2pm** **PLAY LIFE SIZE CANDY LAND** at Darcy Library. A Huge Sweet Game, Treats and Prizes for All!
- 10am -** **NO FEE SNOWMOBILE POKER RUN** At Hungry Tummy. Donated Prizes - w/ best hand wins. No purchase required.
- 11am -** **FROZEN TURKEY BOWLING** Children & Adult Divisions - Awards & Prizes in Beulah Village Park.
- 8pm** **CHILI COOKOFF** Beulah Village Park. Sample Delicious Chili and Vote. WHILE IT LASTS! (Tasting Fee) To pre-register Call 231-383-1120 or go to CLCBA.org Website.
- 12pm** **HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES - FREE** Around Downtown Beulah. FUN for all! Rides start at Beulah Village Park.
- 12:30pm -** **SNOWBALL TARGET COMPETITION** Children & Adult Divisions - Awards & Prizes in Beulah Village Park.
- 12:30pm** **FROZEN FISH TOSS** Children & Adult Divisions - Awards & Prizes in Beulah Village Park.
- 1:30pm** **WINTERFEST PARADE** Line up Starts at 3:00pm. Bring your decorated Outhouse and enter in the Walking Valentine Contest & more! Please pre-register on CLCBA.org or call Kelly at 231-882-4147 if you have questions.
- 3:30pm** **WALKING VALENTINE CONTEST** Have fun-be creative & design your own Walking Valentine attire! Join the festivities, be in the parade and win prizes! Contest winners will be announced after the Outhouse Sprint and 50/50 Drawing at The Trailhead.

OUTHOUSE SPRINT RIGHT AFTER THE PARADE AT THE TRAILHEAD | **50/50 DRAWINGS** TICKETS DRAWN FOLLOWING THE OUTHOUSE SPRINT & FIREWORKS

FIREWORKS

7:15 ON CRYSTAL LAKE

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER OR THIN ICE - FIREWORKS WILL BE CANCELED. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES & DETAILS.

SPONSORED BY | **Crystal Lake**
Community Business Association
Questions? Call 231.383.1120 or go to CLCBA.org



RETURN BOTTOM SLIP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND BY FEB 11!

Student attending: _____

Additional student(s): _____

Name of guest: _____

\$15 for one student and guest

\$5 for each additional student

Please make checks payable to Crystal Lake Elementary PTA



VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness

Connects Community

Cultivates Learning

Shapes Tomorrow

Beliefs About Students

- **We believe each child can thrive in a positive, safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment that nurtures their growth and curiosity.**
- **We believe each student has the right to learn, achieve their personal greatness, and become responsible citizens.**

Beliefs About Staff

- **We believe our staff are dedicated professionals who build strong relationships through effective communication, collaboration, and care.**
- **We believe that our commitment to collective responsibility fosters a culture where everyone feels valued, supported, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.**

Beliefs About Community

- **We believe effective communication and collaboration with families and the community build trust and strengthen our schools.**
- **We believe a strong Benzie School Community supports student success through partnerships, engagement, and shared responsibility.**

Attendance Goal

Benzie Central fosters belonging and engagement by partnering with families and the community to remove barriers and ensure every student is present, supported, and inspired to achieve greatness.

Communication Goal

Benzie Central cultivates strong partnerships among students, families, staff, and community through timely, clear, consistent, and transparent communication that builds trust, celebrates success and inspires collective responsibility.

Instruction Goal

Benzie Central delivers robust instruction in all content areas, so every student receives high-quality, standards-aligned, engaging core instruction that meets their needs and improves outcomes.

BENZIE CENTRAL SCHOOLS
2026-2027
SCHOOL CALENDAR

July 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

School Resumes | 4
End of 2nd Marking Period | 22
Half Day Records | 22

January 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Staff Opening Day | 24
PD | 24, 25, 26
First Day Students | 31

Half Day PD | 12
No School | 15

February 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

September 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

No School | 4 & 7
Labor Day | No School 7

P/T Conferences | 11, 12
Half Days | 11, 12

Half Day PD | 11
Half Day PD | 25

Spring Break | 26 - April 2

March 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

P/T Conferences | 8, 9
Half Days | 8, 9
End of 1st Marking Period | 30

School Resumes | 5
End of 3rd Marking Period | 9
Half Day PD | 9
Half Day PD | 23

April 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

November 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

RSDD | No School Students | 2

Thanksgiving Break | 25, 26, 27

Half Day PD | 28
Memorial Day | 31
No School | 31

May 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

December 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Half Day PD | 4

Holiday Break | 21 - Jan. 1

Last Day | 9 Tentative
Half Day Records | 9

June 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				