



Robert Kerr Elementary School

9591 E Monroe Road ~ Durand, Michigan 48429

Office: (989) 288-2805 ~ Fax: (989) 288-3461

Building Highlights

Safety Day Success

Robert Kerr held its annual Safety Day on October 1. Students engaged with first responders and local community professionals, exploring emergency vehicles and safety procedures. Special thanks to Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Whitehead, Mr. Gardner, and Mrs. Lach for organizing the event, and to our Specials teachers for providing a staff luncheon for volunteers.

Staff Appreciation

For over twenty years, Nurse Kay has been a cornerstone of the Durand Area Schools community—caring for us, supporting our efforts, and keeping us safe and healthy. Her compassion isn't loud, but its impact is felt every day. Through every assessment, every bandage, and every kind word, she reminds us that small acts of kindness ripple out and change lives.

We are honored to present her with the Starfish Award—a symbol of gratitude for all she does. Thank you, Nurse Kay. Your service, heart, and stability mean more than words can say.

NED's Resiliency Ride Assembly

Students enjoyed a high-energy character education assembly, NED's Resiliency Ride, focused on three key life messages: Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. The performance combined storytelling, humor, and yo-yo tricks to promote resilience and kindness.

Benchmark Meetings and Academic Focus

Grade-level PLC meetings are now being held during the school day to reduce missed instructional time. Teams are using a new Grade Level Problem-Solving Guide to reflect on Tier 1 instruction. Reading, math, and small-group interventions have begun to provide targeted academic support.

Behavior and MTSS Updates

Staff reviewed first-month behavior data to identify trends and strengthen interventions. Tier 2 supports include social skills groups led by Mrs. Kelly Johnson and the continued success of our Check-In/Check-Out program. Mrs. Osmer is also leading a positive behavior group that focuses on building positive peer relationships.

Student Activities and Recognition

Homecoming Spirit Week

Robert Kerr students and staff showed outstanding school spirit during Homecoming Week. Grade-level winners included Mrs. Baker (2nd), Mrs. Inman (3rd), Mrs. White (4th), and Ms. Fornari (5th). Students also enjoyed a special morning visit from the DHS band, cheerleaders, and football players.

Student Leadership Opportunities

Mr. Howard continues to lead the 5th Grade Safety Patrol and our newly established Student Council. Both groups provide opportunities for students to demonstrate leadership and responsibility within the school community.

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PBIS Focus of the Month: Responsibility

This month's PBIS focus is Responsibility. Students are encouraged to contribute to a positive school environment by keeping it neat, participating in activities, following expectations, and cooperating with others.

Instructional and Enrichment Experiences

Title I

Our Title I intervention groups are up and running for the 2025–2026 school year. Students were identified using Acadience and NWEA data. Small groups are focusing on targeted reading and math skills to support foundational growth. Instruction is being delivered through pull-out support, based on student need. Staff are using data-driven instructional strategies and progress monitoring to ensure effective, research-based interventions. Collaboration between classroom teachers and Title I staff continues to strengthen Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports, aligning with our building-wide MTSS framework.

MTSS Data Day

Members of our MTSS Data Team attended a professional learning day at the RESD to review beginning-of-year data on academics, attendance, and behavior. The team's goals include improving attendance and academic achievement through curriculum alignment, fidelity, and engagement. Notably, there have been improvements in school-wide discipline data compared to previous years. Professional Development will support curriculum vertical alignment in the area of math.

Positive Office Referrals

Our Positive Office Referral program is underway. Each week, students are recognized for kindness, positive behavior, and leadership. Students receive a small prize and are featured in our school newsletter.

Field Trips and Enrichment

Second grade students attended Project RED at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds.

Third and fifth grades visited AgroLiquid IQ Hub for STEM learning.

Fourth grade attended Rural Education Day and will visit Mott Park later this month.

Book Fair and Literacy Focus

Our Fall Book Fair will run from October 14–17, promoting literacy and family engagement across grade levels.

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Upcoming Events

October 8: PTAC Meeting / Popcorn Day

October 9: Picture Retakes

October 10: IRIPs sent home (Grades 2–3)

October 13: PD Day – No Students

October 14–17: Fall Book Fair

October 17: PBIS Reward – Extra Recess

October 20–24: The Great Rivalry – U of M vs. MSU

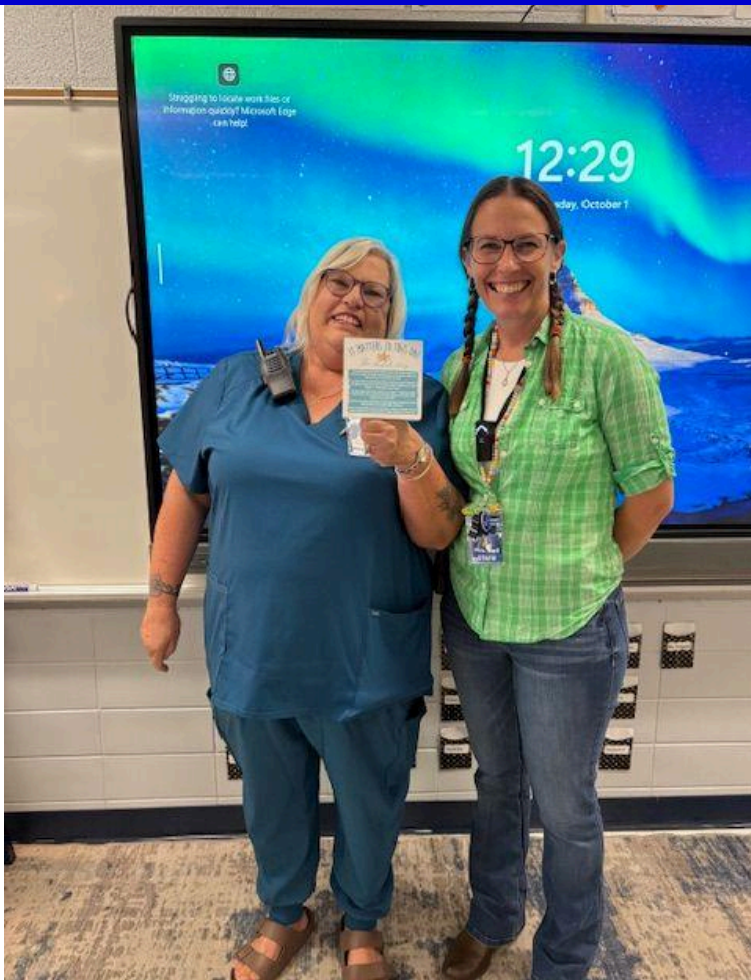
October 27–31: Hearing & Vision Week, Field Trips

October 30: Classroom Parties, Halloween Parade to DHS

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