

# The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL | NORTH ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | GREEN MEADOW ELEMENTARY



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## MORE NEWS

*Turn over to read  
Center Point*

A newsletter about the  
Comstock  
Community Center



# From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Schools Community,

We are in the middle of Series 1 of the 2016 Bond Issue and the progress on the initial projects is very exciting. As you can see from the following list of estimated completion dates, this spring is going to be very exciting:

Building	Project	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
HS	Office/Entry Renovation/ Addition and Secured Entry	August 2017	April 2018
HS	Locker Rooms Renovation	April 2018	September 2018
HS	Toilet Rooms Renovation	June 2018	September 2018
NEMS	Office/Entry Renovation/ Addition and Secured Entry	August 2017	Completed – January 2018
NEMS	Toilet Room Renovation	June 2018	September 2018
North El	Office/Entry Renovation/ Addition and Secured Entry	October 2017	February 2018
North Elementary	Toilet Room Renovation	June 2018	September 2018
GM	Office/Entry Renovation/ Addition and Secured Entry	December 2017	March 2018
GM	Toilet Room Renovation	June 2018	September 2018
STEM Academy	Office/Entry Renovation/ Addition and Secured Entry	June 2018	August 2018
STEM Academy	Toilet Room Renovation	June 2018	September 2018
Compass HS	Office/Entry Renovation/ Addition and Secured Entry	June 2018	August 2018
Compass HS	Toilet Room Renovation	June 2018	September 2018

And with the new Series 2 bonds that will be issued in 2019, the following projects are on the schedule:

Building	Project	Estimated Construction Cost
High School	Site Improvements (Parking Lots – Partial & Athletic Fields)	\$1,290,000
High School	Remodel Stadium Restrooms	\$204,000
High School	Electrical Upgrades	\$211,035
High School	Technology Equipment, Fixtures & Furniture	\$250,000
Northeast Middle School	Site Work	\$740,000
Northeast Middle School	New Building Sig	\$35,000
Northeast Middle School	Building Remodeling	\$9,540,000
Northeast Middle School	Technology Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures	\$200,000
North Elementary	Playground	\$150,000
North Elementary	Technology Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures	\$150,000
STEM Academy	Technology Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures	\$100,000
Green Meadow Elementary	Technology Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures	\$100,000
Compass High School	Technology Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures	\$100,000

The future projects are in the planning and design phase at this point. As plans are finalized, they will be shared with the District. If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to share them with me or a building administrator and we will forward them on to the Board.

With Colt Pride!

Todd Mora, Superintendent



**COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS  
[www.comstockps.org](http://www.comstockps.org)

Todd Mora  
*Superintendent*

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brandy Brown, President  
Jeff VanGoeye, Vice-President  
Matthew Schreiner, Secretary  
Pamela Dickinson, Treasurer  
Karen Howes, Trustee

Paula Johnson, *Appointed Treasurer*

Faye Goldner,  
*Appointed Recording Secretary*

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Public Schools is to serve our community by supporting, inspiring, and challenging every person within the school district to reach his/her full potential through education.

### VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be an educational community where every person is empowered to reach his/her full potential.

### QUESTIONS?

If you have questions concerning your schools, the answer is only a telephone call away:  
269-250-8907

### STORIES OR INFORMATION

The Comstock Communicator is published by Comstock Public Schools. Information may be sent to Todd Mora at [morat@comstockps.org](mailto:morat@comstockps.org) or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at [phyllisarose@aol.com](mailto:phyllisarose@aol.com).



# Students Rave About Compass Book Club

Compass High School students are excited about the school's book club which meets every other Thursday. Led by teachers, Michele Coash and Chris Coash, club members nominate novels they want to read, keep a journal about what they've read, and read 10 or more pages a day on their own.

Students recently read "Kindred" and "We Are the Ants." "Kindred" is about a 26-year-old African-American woman who experiences time travel, going back to the past to determine what her purpose in life is.

"We Are the Ants" is about a boy, Henry, who has the power to end the world. Abducted by aliens who tell him the world will end in 144 days, he must decide whether or not to push the big red button to stop the destruction.

Of "Kindred," Compass student Lidia Hernandez said, "The story is filled with action, lust, and emotion that will make you not want to put your book down."

But the club is about more than just reading the novels.

Student J.D. Durden said, "I like this class because no one holds back. To succeed is what we all want - go to school to get it and flaunt it - but this class I can say today has changed my life in a major way."

Before participating in the club, J.D. said he had never read a book before or written poems,



Compass teacher, Chris Coash, leads a session of the school's book club.

but now "this reading and the class responses keep me going."

Student Beretta Tomky describes the club as a wonderful experience with a warm and comforting atmosphere.

"It's not boring and there has not been a time where I have seen anyone upset or not interested," she said. "I love this program because I can be part of a group, but also because you get to knock out credits you don't have yet. This book club is very unique. It maintains my interest by allowing me different choices for journals and projects."

Lidia encourages others to join the club.

"If you are looking for a fun way to earn credit or are just a bookworm would you join?" she said. "I did and I think it's a great way to educate and challenge your thinking. That's why I joined book

club."

Book club members are Beretta Tomky, Lidia Hernandez, Sannray Lee, Larry Buell, Grace Garcia, Akira Douglas, Brenda Avila, JD Durden, Nicole Myler, Katie Griswold, and Yolanda Valle.

## School Board Candidate Filing Deadline

The annual school election will be held Tuesday, November 6, 2018. There will be four (4) school board seats on the ballot. All four seats are for four-year terms, January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022.

If you are interested in running for a board seat, you must obtain a petition from the Comstock Township Offices located at 6138 King Highway, Comstock, or, pay a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee. The petitions are available anytime and are due in the township office no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, 2018.

For more information on how to become a board member, please call Faye Goldner at 250-8907.

## Board Briefs

### REGULAR MEETING

#### November 13, 2017

- Approved hiring the following personnel:
  - Justina Harris, Kindergarten teacher, Green Meadow
  - Meadow Nuyen, Reading Intervention, North
  - Todd Ide, Alternative education, Compass Middle School
  - Minda DeHaven, Special education, North
  - Kayla Carnaghi, K/First grade teacher, North
  - Michael Batsie, 7th grade science, NEMS
  - Amy Vlieg, Social worker, NEMS
- Approved the following coaching positions:
  - Becky Simison, Varsity softball, freshman girls basketball
  - Anne-Marie Shumaker, JV girls basketball
  - Greg Waddell, 9th grade boys basketball

- Approved following resignations:
  - Ben Hill, Special education, North
  - Daniel Houvener, 7th grade science, NEMS
  - Kate Callaghan, Special education, NEMS
- Approved trip for the boys baseball team to play against Buchanan at the Notre Dame baseball stadium on April 30.
- Approved the Green Revolving fund resolution and purchase agreement in the amount of \$75,000. The Green Revolving Fund is a vehicle for funding future energy conservation projects through actual savings of energy costs.

### WORK SESSION

#### November 27, 2017

- Approved hiring Ken Greenwood as business manager.

- Approved hiring Melinda McDaid, 7th grade math, NEMS
- Approved increasing Green Meadow Principal Susan Caswell's base salary to \$85,000 based on how she has improved the climate, test scores.

### REGULAR MEETING

#### December 11, 2017

- Ken Greenwood, new business manager, was introduced.
- Approved purchase of additional Chromebooks, carts and accessories.
- Approved Optimal Solutions for providing hardware, installation, and migration of district servers.

# Wellness Program Benefits Staff



Bernice Musche improves her back stability, hamstring flexibility and strength with physioball leg curls.



CHS maintenance man, Doug Ludwick, works hard on his overall strength, flexibility and stability with functional trainer standing cable presses.



CHS Athletic Assistant Shirley Doorlag in circuit training works on hip flexibility and strength with landmine deadlifts.

Current and former staff members are participating in a wellness program conducted on Mondays and Wednesdays after school by Tracy Daniel, physical education teacher.

“We have so much fun,” said Ms. Daniel. “I’m so proud of their efforts and focus on their health and wellness. We would love to have more staff members join us.”

## Student Lighthouse Team By: Kaitlyne Burns | CHS Lighthouse team



The district becoming a K-12 Leader in Me District has been an exciting change for the high school as 11 students were selected to be on the very first Student Lighthouse Team.

When the new school year started last fall, the team moved ahead full force. With construction in the high school and a new temporary wall in place, the Lighthouse team had an opportunity to brighten up the school. The students painted a beautiful mural with a positive quote and a lighthouse scene with boats representing each of the seven habits from the Steven Covey book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

The team reached out to involve the whole school in the project with the result that many students came to help prime and paint the wall.

“It was a very rewarding process for me,” said the team coordinator, Abbi Jepkema. She was also very excited to see all of the help and positive feedback from the entire school.

Positive feedback from students and staff included comments such as “thought-provoking,” “awesome and motivational,” “eye-opening,” and “original.”

The Lighthouse Team has inducted 12 new members so the team is bigger and taking on more tasks to improve the school and community.

### Comstock High School

## Students Raising Salmon in Classroom

Thanks to a program through the DNR, Comstock High School students are raising salmon in their classroom. There are approximately 150 salmon fry in our tank and we are looking forward to watching them mature in time to be released this spring.

Check out our live feed on the Comstock YouTube channel.

## High School Students Volunteer at Gospel Mission

Comstock High School students have been volunteering at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. They worked in the kitchen, the store, and warehouse, helping sort donations into specific categories.

Students researched areas of need in our community and ways they are able to have a positive impact on those who live in the Kalamazoo area.

## Ski Club Enjoys Bittersweet



High school student, Hunter DeLeon, gets ready to enjoy the slopes.



STEM students Will Meeus, Thomas Meeus and Alex Lennon

## Comstock High School

## Students Job Shadow at Mann+Hummel

Mann+Hummel, a world-wide filtration manufacturer with a local facility in Kalamazoo, has become the latest partner in the Comstock College and Career Academy's initiative to provide a post-secondary plan for all graduating seniors.

Seven CHS students and three Compass students have been selected to participate in a job shadow program that will lead into full-time employment once the seniors earn their high school diplomas in the spring. These students were selected because of their talents and interests in the trades and manufacturing.

Students attend paid, monthly training sessions while still in school to learn about the manufacturing process and how to properly execute daily tasks.

On their first day at Mann+Hummel, students had some preliminary paperwork and housekeeping issues to complete. After that, they were given a tour of their future place of employment and began their first attempts at operating the machines on the line.

This is a partnership that will be continued yearly, so if any underclassmen are hoping to find employment in the skilled trades, keep the Mann+Hummel Job Shadow program in mind. Many of the opportunities at Mann+Hummel are also jobs that have increasing opportunities in southwest Michigan. For more information on these "Hot Jobs," go to <http://milmi.org/research/Regional-Hot-Jobs-for-2024>.



CHS and Compass seniors, accompanied by their College and Career Academy deans and Mann+Hummel supervisor, are welcomed to the Mann+Hummel campus.

## Teachers Participate in Teacher Leaders Training

Several high school teachers are participating in the Teacher Leaders Training presented by KRESA staff. The five-day training lasts for three hours in the evening throughout the school year.

Staff members volunteer their time to become teacher leaders in their building. The purpose of the training is to create a culture of practice, feedback, and continuous improvement. The focus areas are learning targets and success criteria, active student engagement, meaningful preparation, and instructional routines.

Once staff members complete the training, they may begin to support other teachers within their building and encourage them to attend the next session during the 2018-19 school year.

The sessions are taught by KRESA staff members, John Vail, MiBLSi instructional specialist, and Mindy Miller, assistant superintendent for special education. This is the third year they have provided the training to county staff.



High school teachers participating in the Teacher Leaders program are Emily Kellerman, Steven Rand, and Colleen Grueter.

## Northeast Middle School

## NEMS Students Re-enact Revolutionary War



Fernando Torres Morales (left), the British captain, surrenders his flag and allows Brayden Snow, portraying George Washington, to win the Revolutionary War. Watching the proceedings are Jonathan Torres Morales and Jordan Bice.

Eighth graders once again participated in a game of Capture the Flag based on events of the American Revolution. The 100 eighth graders from five different U.S. History classes taught by Elizabeth Norton participated in six rounds of the game.

The activity incorporates aspects of the traditional game where two teams each have a flag with the object being to capture the other team's flag which is located at the team's base. Once they've captured the flag, they must bring it safely back to their own base. An enemy player can be "tagged" by players in their home territory; these players are then out of that round until the next round starts.

The version our eighth grade students played was changed to reflect the situation they were reenacting. The object of this exercise was to have the students spread out and to capture the flags from either the British or American armies.

A third team, the French, was involved as well and joined the American team after a few rounds had been played. Participating in this "hands-on" exercise gave students a new perspective to this historical event. After re-creating the event, students had a new appreciation for the event taking place in 1776 that they read about in their history books.

Northeast Middle School

## Sixth Graders Rewarded with Trip to Movies

Sixth grade students who met certain behavior expectations, spent a relaxing morning enjoying the film, “Wonder,” at Celebration! Cinema in Portage.

The movie is based on the novel of the same name which tells the story of Auggie Pullman, a fifth grader with a rare facial deformity who, after being home-schooled for several years, enters a prep school in the fifth grade. As he endures bullying, the novel takes readers on an amazing journey, from fear and ignorance to education and empathy and, finally, love and understanding.

This book provides the opportunity to step into someone else’s life, however briefly, and see the world from someone else’s eyes and to feel another’s feelings.

“Wonder” is a profound reminder that all people face struggles of their own, whether visible or not, and that a bit of kindness and empathy can

make a world of difference

We read the book to all sixth graders during writing class. Our students had great conversations about the book and wrote frequently about their own thoughts and connections to the themes and ideas presented.

Students made connections between The Leader in Me program we’ve implemented at our school. Several characters in the book demonstrate strong leadership skills, as well as principle-centered life skills such as honesty, respect, integrity, courage, determination, responsibility, and fairness.

Special thanks to the Comstock Foundation and the Gull Lake Rotary Club for grant donations which allowed us to offer this experience at minimal cost to our students.

The sixth grade staff members also thank our WMU interns, Mrs. Gilland, Ms. Mylar, and Mr. Costigan, for chaperoning the trip.

## North Students Chosen to Shop with a Hero



Isabella Diaz and Brady Buell prepare to go shopping with two Michigan State Police officers as part of the Shop with a Cop program.

Two lucky North Elementary students, Brady Buell and Isabella Diaz, were chosen to participate in the Shop with A Cop program sponsored by the Michigan State Police in partnership with Meijer and other agencies.

For 13 years, this program has provided a special Christmas shopping experience for hundreds of students across the state. Officers pick up the children from their schools and each student is given \$100 to spend at Meijer on gifts for themselves, their friends and their families.

Brady and Isabella also got a full tour of the police car including the sirens, had a fantastic time shopping, and were treated to a pizza lunch with the officers.

This program has two purposes. In addition to putting a smile on hundreds of children’s faces, the officers have the chance to bridge the gap between the police and the community.

## Grand Re-opening of the North Library

North is bursting at the seams with new classrooms. So, when construction began in the fall for our new, safe entryway, the office had nowhere to go but the library. Mrs. Philipsen welcomed everyone with open arms, but it has been a hardship on students checking out materials.

A plan was created to rectify this situation. Staff came in over winter break and got to work. They rearranged and restacked some of the bookshelves to make it a new, improved library/office space where students will have access to the books.

With this new arrangement, Mrs. Philipsen will be better able to meet the literacy needs of the students.

North Elementary

## Santa Comes for Breakfast



The Morrison family enjoy breakfast.



Michael and Mason Willis give Santa their lists.

North Elementary had a special visitor come for breakfast recently. He wore a soft, red suit, had a long, white beard and a jolly, HO, HO, HO! You guessed it! It’s Santa!

The school was transformed with holiday spirit for this annual event. The main hall was turned into a giant present mural and snowflakes and evergreen trees were in abundance. Community and staff volunteers wore their most festive holiday garb.

Families enjoyed pancakes and sausages provided by Julianna’s Restaurant. There were games galore. Snowball bowling was a big hit. The art room was the place to be to turn a clay pot into a reindeer.

The music room was jamming with holiday tunes as students showed off their best dance moves.

But, of course, the main attraction was the “North Pole” located in the gymnasium. Everyone was excited to spend a moment or two on Santa’s lap to let him know what they wanted for Christmas. Cameras captured the children’s joy of seeing Santa in person.

Approximately 200 students and their families attended. A big thank you to all who donated supplies and/or volunteered their time to make this event possible for the children.

Special thanks to Julianna’s and the Fraternal Order of Firefighters and Police for their donations. We couldn’t have done it without your generosity.

## North Elementary

## Guest Readers Share Love of Reading



Principal Mark Wilke reads "The New and Improved Santa."

Staff and community members visited Cathy Buscher's kindergarten class during the holidays to read their favorite stories to the students.

Comstock superintendent, Todd Mora, read "Twas the Night Before Christmas." It was a great vocabulary lesson for the students because they asked many questions about words they don't normally hear.

Children enjoyed when North principal, Mark Wilke, read them a funny story about Santa Claus.

Community volunteer, Ronda Louallen, read a story about what dogs want for Christmas and the kids ate treats shaped like dog bones while she read.

Retired Comstock teacher, Joanne Griffioen, read "Snowmen at Night" and did a writing/craft project with the kids.

Other readers included Chris Freed, secretary at North; Denise Philipsen, North media clerk; Wendy Shreve, academic coach; Nancy Justin, volunteer; David Small, Comstock High

School student; Jill Ansel, curriculum director; Fireman Mike from the Comstock Fire Department; Bernice Mussche, North paraprofessional; Natalie Hosbein, community volunteer; Jill Zonts, Department of Health and Human Services employee; Meadow Nuyen, North teacher; and Nicole Kalmbach, KRESA literacy coach.

This event is a wonderful way to expose our students to different kinds of literature and to enjoy listening to others read.

## STEM Academy

## Fourth Grade Buddies Help Kindergartners



Buddies enjoy reading outdoors.

The kindergarten class at STEM Academy has fourth grade buddies this school year, meeting most Fridays for buddy time.

The fourth grader leaders teach their buddies how to be successful with new things they are learning. This year the buddies have trained their kindergartners how to get onto our math IXL pro-

gram independently and how to take Accelerated Reader tests.

They have had fun doing science investigations with the pumpkin investigation and STEM challenges with the sailboat challenge.

The fourth graders are great leaders and the kindergartners sure appreciate their buddy time.

COMSTOCK  
Public SchoolsComstock Community  
Auditorium Events  
Open to the Public

## February:

7: Compass High School graduation:  
6 p.m.

10: Comstock Athletics Father/  
Daughter Dance: 5:30 p.m. -  
Tickets: 250-8712

11: Traci Phelps Dance Studio  
Competition Showcase: 2-3:30 p.m.  
Call Studio for details.

23-24: The Story-by Vessel for Arts, 8  
p.m. Tickets: [www.vesselforarts.org](http://www.vesselforarts.org)

28: Comstock High School Winter Band  
Concert: 7 p.m.-FREE

## March:

16: The Lion King Kids-Home-School  
Performing Arts, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets: 1-855-472-1472

9-10: Heritage Christian Academy  
Musical: Sound of Music March 9-10 at  
7:30 p.m.- Also a matinee on March 10  
at 2:30 p.m. Tickets: 372-1400

22-24: The Wizard of Oz: Kalamazoo  
Christian High School Musical-  
7 p.m. Tickets: Call Kalamazoo  
Christian High School at  
269-381-2250

27: STEM Academy Music Program:  
7 p.m.-FREE

## Green Meadow Welcomes New Teacher



Justina Harris, a Comstock High School alumna, is now a kindergarten teacher at Green Meadow. She has taught in California and in Parchment. We are excited to have her with us.

## Students Enjoy Education for the Arts Adventures



A scene from "Polar Bears Go Up." (Photo by Richard Davenport.)

Comstock's Community Auditorium was the place to be when Education for the Arts presented Fish And Games' production of "The Polar Bears Go Up."

Green Meadow kindergarten, first grade, and PACE students had classes with aesthetic education teachers from KRESA before attending the performance. These classes helped students to recognize elements of storytelling, acting, and how sound works with pantomime.

"The Polar Bears Go Up!" has no dialogue, but students actively watched and interacted with the program. After the performance, students retold the story, acted out parts of the performance, and even created short stories using pantomime.

Green Meadow teachers attend professional development days sponsored by KRESA's EFA program and those volunteer hours help pay for students to attend performances and see works of art throughout the school year.

Education for the Arts also has a grant program that we use to help pay for transportation. Discover more about EFA at <http://www.efa-rep.org/>.

### Green Meadow Elementary

## Green Meadow Getting New Entrance



Green Meadow's temporary entrance is on the side by the parking lot.

The signs are up and Green Meadow is getting a new entrance area. Mrs. Connor and the office have been moved to a temporary home in the library until construction is finished.

There is no entrance in the front of the building, so please enter at the side entrance until further notice.

Check our Facebook page for updates.

## Green Meadow Science Club Visits WMU

The Green Meadow Science Club explored future possibilities in engineering and science on a field trip accompanied by school board member and WMU professor emeritus, Dr. Richard Hathaway. The third and fourth graders went to the Engineering and Sciences campus where WMU engineering students were their hosts and guides.

Students learned about plastics, injection molding, sound waves, computer programs, and paper making sciences. Students went through the process of making paper and put a stamp on a Frisbee using a machine.

There was even a shake table which twenty people fit on. The anechoic chamber was a favorite activity of one of the teachers because it is silent in there. There was also a pizza lunch.

On our way to the buses, we encountered a Comstock Public Schools parent who works for WMU, Steve Keto, who shared about how the outside campus was environmentally engineered to encourage more biodiversity. It was an exciting trip and students were given much to think about concerning future education goals.

Field trips such as these are terrific ways to open students' eyes to new potential careers and educational focuses. Green Meadow is thankful to have Dr. Hathaway and the Science Club!



A WMU student demonstrates coding skills to Green Meadow students on the computer.



Students saw these frisbees being made and then got to take them home.



## Green Meadow Enjoys Holiday Traditions



Aiyla Kirkpatrick and Peyton Rugg enjoyed cookie decorating.



Mrs. Caswell, who loves reading to students, read a story about the importance of kindness at our assembly this year.

From Thanksgiving to Christmas, Green Meadow students and staff enjoy several annual traditions.

The last day before Thanksgiving break, Mrs. Caswell reads a story to the whole school. Then, everyone sits in the hallway and enjoys pumpkin pie with whipped cream. This has become a beloved “GM Family Tradition.”

The first Saturday in December was the date for Breakfast with Santa with pancakes, fun crafts, and photos with the big man: Santa Claus. The pancakes were courtesy of Niko’s Landing and cooked by the teachers. Over 100 people came out to Green Meadow to enjoy the festivities.

We are thankful to have the folks at Niko’s Landing help make our Breakfast with Santa a success.

Another wonderful holiday tradition is courtesy of high school music teacher, Beth Stachura, and the high school choir. Students and staff are excited to see the high school choir. Students enjoyed singing along to the songs they recognized. The high school choir did an excellent job of kicking off winter break.

## GM Student Project Benefits Humane Society



Green Meadow’s Student Lighthouse Team with all the collected donations: Rajanae Durden, Cayla Nash, Taleana Cieslak, Triniti Wallace, Koryssa Martin, Gabe Liedeke, Colleen Wilson and Alyssa Gettys-Lewis.

The Green Meadow Student Lighthouse Team sponsored a community service project recently to benefit The Humane Society of Kalamazoo.

For this project, named Operation: Santa Paws, Green Meadow students were asked to donate \$2, a new pet toy, or pet food to help out local animals in need. Those who were able to donate were treated to a special dance party in the gym.

The students and staff raised \$250 for the Humane

Society. In addition, they collected a large amount of animal food, treats and toys.

For the party, 166 students let loose, laughed and synergized in the gym to celebrate their service.

“We really had fun dancing and singing to our favorite songs as a school,” said Shaelyn Miskowski, a Student Lighthouse Team Member and fourth grade leader. “Operation: Santa Paws was a totally amazing experience.”

## Hazardous Weather Communications



With hazardous weather conditions just around the corner, Comstock Public Schools is encouraging all parents to talk with their children about the possibility of school closing due to bad weather. In the event that school must be closed early on any given day, please have a plan developed with your children so they arrive home safely.

Every effort is made to make a decision to close school by 5 a.m. and to notify the news media immediately. However, the district has no control over how quickly the information is disseminated by the media.

Below is a list of the multiple ways you can be notified of early closings, or school closings:

You may sign-up to follow Tweets at <https://twitter.com/ComstockPS> regarding school closings or go to our website at [www.comstockps.org](http://www.comstockps.org).

Make sure your Infinite Campus portal is current with correct contact information in order to receive ShoutPoint notification.

For the latest school closings, turn your radio or television to the following stations:

### CALL LETTERS

98.5 FM, 96.5 FM (WNWN, WFAT)  
 100.9 FM (WQXC)  
 903 AM, 1400 AM (WBCK, WRCC)  
 106.5 FM, 590 AM, 1470 AM (WQLR, WKZO, WQSN)  
 107.7 FM, 103.3 FM (WRKR, WKFR)  
 TV 3 WWMT-TV  
 TV 8 WOOD-TV  
 TV 4 WOTV

# Comstock Township Library Events

**\*Please call to confirm our hours before venturing out in inclement weather.**

## ADULT DEPARTMENT

Can't get Internet at your home? The library now has hotspots available for circulation to Comstock Township Library patrons. Ask one of our staff members for more information! There is a \$10 fee and a \$10 deposit upon check-out.

We now have a **notary service** at the library during business hours. The cost is \$5 per notarial transaction. Call 345-0136 for more information.

Check out our OVERDRIVE eBooks and audiobooks! <https://smdl.overdrive.com/>

**Free Income Tax Preparation and Electronic Filing** services provided by IRS-certified community volunteers since 2003 for individuals and families with household income of up to \$54,000 in 2017. Services include completion of federal and state returns including credits. Direct deposit is available at all locations. Dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment, or go online to [goodwillswmi.org](http://goodwillswmi.org) and click on the tax link for more information on locations, times, what to bring, or how to complete and electronically file your own return for free.

\*The Kalamazoo Tax Initiative will be at the Comstock Township Library on the following dates:

**Tuesday, February 20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**

**Tuesday, March 13, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**

\*You must schedule an appointment by dialing 2-1-1.

**Adult Craft: Wednesday, February 7, at 5:30 p.m.** Heart Pallet Hanger. Decorate a wooden-heart pallet to adorn your walls or doors. Registration is required and began on January 22 at the adult reference desk. Space is limited. Call 345-0136 for more information.

**Feel the Love Valentine's Week Book Sale: February 12-17, 2018.** Help us empty our book sale room! Hardcover books: 20 cents; paperback books: 10 cents; DVDs, CDs and audiobooks: 50 cents.

**Quiltfest 2018: March 21-24:** Comstock Township Library will host Quiltfest: a showcase for local quilters and their wonderfully creative and colorful quilts. People's Choice Award (\$25 gift

certificate) will be awarded to the top nominated quilt, and one door prize will be awarded to a guest, drawn from the quilt ballots. Winners need not be present. The drawing will be from all four days of the event and be held at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. **Quilter Registration:** Quilters are invited to register for this event February 12 in person or by calling the library. Space is limited; one quilt per person please. Quilts must be dropped off by March 19. Volunteers are needed to assist in set up and for "quilt sitting". Your help would greatly be appreciated. Just give us a call at 345-0136 or come sign up at the library. Various time slots are available.

## Quiltfest Program:

Wednesday and Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - 8:15 p.m.  
- View Quilts

Friday: 10 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. - View Quilts

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - View Quilts

**Adult Craft: Beaded Rain Chain, Wednesday, March 14, at 5:30 p.m.** Decorate your downspout with a beaded rain chain. Hang this from your gutter and watch the rain trickle down the chain. Registration is required and begins on February 26 at the adult reference desk. Space is limited. Call 345-0136 for more information.

## EVENTS IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

**STORYTIME: Ages 1-5.** Registration for winter storytimes began Monday, January 8. Register your child for a 45-minute session, which includes 30 minutes of stories, songs, and other activities followed by a 15-minute craft. Storytimes began Monday, January 16, and run through Thursday, April 26. There will be no story time the week of April 2 due to spring break. We will have some drop-in activities that week.

Storytime sessions are as follows:

**Mondays:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. - 1-3 year olds

**Tuesdays:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. - 1-3 year olds

**Wednesdays:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. - 3-5 year olds

**Thursdays:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. - 3-5 year olds

## 1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN:

**Pre-Kindergarten.** Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents to read 1000 books to their young children before they begin kindergarten. Along the way they can earn prizes. Reading to children beginning at a young age is the single most important thing parents can do to help their children become successful readers as they get

## CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Monday, February 19, for Presidents' Day and on Saturday, March 31.



Call the library to make sure we are open if there is inclement weather.



We now have tutor rooms and Wi-Fi available! Call 345-0136 for more information.



We now have a fax service! Must use credit or debit card to send.



## Now Available

OverDrive! Download free audiobooks and e-books from home using your computer, MP3 player, e-book reader, and other compatible devices. Check out our OVERDRIVE eBooks and audiobooks! <https://smdl.overdrive.com/>



## Computer Help

Have a question about the computer? Would you like to learn how to use the computer? Please call 345-0136 to set up a block of time for one-on-one help. Must be a library cardholder.



## Need Resume Help?

Please call to schedule an appointment or visit the adult reference desk to do so. We will help you write a cover letter or resume, or just proofread one you already have. Call 345-0136 for further information. Must be a library cardholder.

older. Any child can participate until s/he enters kindergarten. Pick up your tracking sheet at the Young People's Desk today!

## WINTER READING OLYMPICS PROGRAM:

**Began Monday, December 11, and runs through Saturday, February 24, all ages.** Reading this winter can earn you prizes at that library! Pick up your log at the library.

## TEEN ADVISORY BOARD: Every month on the first Friday, Sixth through Twelfth Graders.

Earn community service hours helping us plan programs for teens and other youth! Must be in sixth through twelfth grades to register for this free event! Meeting dates are:

# Comstock Township Library Events *(continued)*

**Friday, February 2, 4-5 p.m.**

*(Registration began Monday, January 29.)*

**Friday, March 2, 4-5 p.m.**

*(Registration begins Monday, February 26.)*

**LEGO CLUB: Every month on the third Friday, 4-5:30 p.m., all ages.** Use your imagination and build a Lego creation for us to display in the Young People's Department! Children under the age of 5 should have an adult helper with them. Registration is required for this free event. Lego

Club dates are as follows:

**Friday, February 16, 4-5:30 p.m.**

*(Registration begins Monday, February 5.)*

**Friday, March 16, 4-5:30 p.m.**

*(Registration begins Monday, March 5.)*

**SPRING CRAFT: Saturday, March 10, 11 a.m.-Noon, all ages.** Join us to make a spring craft that will remind us that winter is almost over. Registration is required for this free event and all ages are welcome. Children under five will need

an adult helper. Registration begins Monday, February 26.

**VALENTINE CRAFT: Saturday, February 10, 11 a.m. to Noon, ages 0-18.** Join us for a Valentine craft! We will provide all materials. Children under the age of five should have an adult helper with them. Registration is required for this free craft and begins Monday, January 29. Space is limited.

## EFE Courses Offer Media, Communications Training

Public Media Network offers media and communications courses each year in partnership with Kalamazoo RESA's Education for Employment program. Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is now open. The EFE Courses are open to all juniors and seniors attending Kalamazoo-area high schools and can be taken for up to two years.

Two different courses are offered for students interested in media communications. The Radio Broadcasting course explores all aspects of the radio broadcasting industry and offers students

the opportunity to work on the student-run radio station 89.9 FM WKDS. This course is perfect for any student interested in broadcast journalism, sportscasting, podcast hosting, or any other radio broadcast career path.

The Video Production course offers students the chance to gain skills in the rapidly-growing field of video and film productions. Student projects will focus on documentaries, educational programming, and television journalism. This course is perfect for any student interested in

animation, film production, TV journalism, YouTube production, or any video production career.

Courses take place during school hours at Public Media Network, located in the Kalamazoo Epic Center. Students who complete the course will receive visual performing and applied arts credit.

Enrollment should be completed through the Guidance Counseling office.

## Comstock Public Schools 2017-2018 School Calendar

February 23	<b>MID-WINTER BREAK</b>		No Students / No Teachers
March 6	High School Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 20	NEMS Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 22	NEMS Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 23	Half Day Students A.M./ Professional Development P.M.		Half Day Students K-12
March 26	Green Meadow, North & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 28	Green Meadow, North & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 30 – April 6	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		No Students/ No Teachers
May 10	High School Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
May 28	<b>MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE</b>		No Students / No Staff
June 8	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students & Teachers K-12
June 11	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students & Teachers K-12
June 12	<b>LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS</b> (High School Exams) Teachers' Records Day P.M.		Half Day Students K-12 Last Day for Teachers

# COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

## Girls Varsity Basketball

Thu, Feb 1	@ Buchanan HS	7:30PM
Tue, Feb 6	Harper Creek High School	7:30PM
Fri, Feb 9	Parchment High School (Snowcoming)	6:00PM
Tue, Feb 13	Paw Paw Home	6:00PM
Thu, Feb 15	@ Bridgman Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue, Feb 20	@ Otsego HS	6:30PM
Wed, Feb 28	MHSAA District Semi - at Pennfield vs Marshall	5:30PM
Fri, Mar 2	MHSAA District Final - at Pennfield	TBA

## Girls JV Basketball

Thu, Feb 1	@ Buchanan HS	6:00PM
Tue, Feb 6	Harper Creek High School	6:00PM
Fri, Feb 9	Parchment High School	4:30PM
Tue, Feb 13	Paw Paw	4:30PM
Thu, Feb 15	@ Bridgman Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue, Feb 20	@ Otsego HS	5:00PM

## Boys Varsity Basketball

Fri, Feb 2	@ Buchanan HS	7:30PM
Fri, Feb 9	Parchment High School (Snowcoming)	7:30PM
Tue, Feb 13	Paw Paw	7:30PM
Fri, Feb 16	@ Bridgman Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue, Feb 20	Otsego HS	7:15PM
Thu, Feb 22	Brandywine High School	7:45PM
Tue, Feb 27	@ Plainwell Schools	7:15PM
Thu, Mar 1	@ Hopkins High School	7:15PM

## Hall of Fame Inductees, 2018

Congratulations to Larry Vallier, Class of 1966; Garry Lane, Class of 1970; Pam Davan, Class of 1988; Nick Carlin-Voight, Class of 2000; David Nelson, Class of 2000; Lynsey VanSweden, Class of 2003, for being voted into Comstock's Athletic Hall of Fame.

## Father-Daughter Dance

The Comstock Girls Basketball team will be hosting the Father-Daughter dance on Saturday, February 10, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Comstock High School. Pictures can be taken at 5:30 p.m. and food will be served from 6-7 p.m. Dancing and games will happen from 6-8 p.m. and a movie with popcorn will be shown from 7-8:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The cost per couple is \$25 and includes pizza and refreshments. You can sign up in the athletic office or call Shirley Doorlag at 269-250-8712 for more information.

Mon, Mar 5	MHSAA District Quarter @ Marshall vs Pennfield	7:00PM
Wed, Mar 7	MHSAA District Semi - at Marshall	TBA
Fri, Mar 9	MHSAA District Final - at Marshall	TBA

## Boys JV Basketball

Fri, Feb 2	@ Buchanan HS	6:00PM
Thu, Feb 8	Parchment High School	7:30PM
Mon, Feb 12	@ Paw Paw	6:15PM
Fri, Feb 16	@ Bridgman Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue, Feb 20	Otsego HS	5:45PM
Thu, Feb 22	Brandywine High School	6:15PM
Tue, Feb 27	@ Plainwell Schools	5:45PM
Thu, Mar 1	@ Hopkins High School	5:45PM

## Boys Freshman Basketball

Fri, Feb 2	@ Buchanan HS	4:30PM
Mon, Feb 5	Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	5:30PM
Thu, Feb 8	Parchment High School	6:00PM
Mon, Feb 12	@ Paw Paw	5:00PM
Fri, Feb 16	@ Bridgman Public Schools	4:30PM
Tue, Feb 20	Otsego HS	4:15PM
Thu, Feb 22	Brandywine High School	4:45PM
Tue, Feb 27	@ Plainwell Schools	4:15PM
Thu, Mar 1	@ Hopkins High School	4:15PM

## Girls Varsity Soccer

Tue, Mar 27	@ Olivet	5:30PM
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## Varsity Wrestling

Sat, Feb 3	@ BCS Conference Meet	9:00AM
Wed, Feb 7	MHSAA Team District - at Parchment	TBA
Sat, Feb 10	MHSAA Individual District - at Constantine	TBA

## Varsity Competitive Cheer

Sat, Feb 3	@ Kalamazoo Central Invitational	9:00AM
Sat, Feb 10	BCS Conference Meet at Berrien Springs	9:00AM
Wed, Feb 14	Vicksburg Invitational	6:00PM
Sat, Feb 17	MHSAA Districts - at Paw Paw	4:00PM

## Boys & Girls Varsity Bowling

Mon, Feb 5	Martin (Sunset-Templin in Allegan)	3:30PM
Wed, Feb 7	Hackett Catholic Central (Continental)	4:00PM
Mon, Feb 12	Parchment High School (Eastland Bowl)	5:30PM
Wed, Feb 14	Schoolcraft High School (Continental)	4:00PM
Fri, Feb 16	KVA Bowling Tournament - Airway Lanes	TBA
Fri, Feb 23	MHSAA Regionals - Team	TBA
Sat, Feb 24	MHSAA Regional - Individual	TBA

## Girls Varsity Softball

Mon, Mar 26	Martin Public School	4:00PM
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## Girls Varsity Tennis

Sat, Mar 24	Brandywine Indoor Invitational	TBA
Tue, Mar 27	Galesburg-Augusta HS	4:00PM

## News from the Athletic Department

### Mother Son Bowling

The Comstock Bowling team will be hosting the Mother Son bowling event on Saturday, February 3, from 3-5 p.m. at Eastland Bowl. This event includes two hours of bowling, pizza and cookies from 3-5 p.m. Check in begins at 2 p.m. The cost per couple is \$23 and an extra son is \$7 more. There is a cap of 148 people so register ASAP. You can call Shirley Doorlag at 269-250-8712 for more information.

### Winter Sports Awards Banquet

The winter sports awards banquet will be held on Wednesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Comstock High School Auditorium.

### H.S. Spring Sports Start Date and Physicals

A reminder that your son/daughter has to have a physical on file with the athletic office in order to be able to participate in a spring sport. All spring sports at the high school begin on Monday, March 12. Middle school track will begin Monday, March 26.

### Spring Sports Parent Meetings

Spring sports programs will conduct their parent meetings individually. Please stay tuned for that information from each program.