

# The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL | COMSTOCK ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | CELA



## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

From the Superintendent  
**page 2**

Board Briefs  
**page 3**

Comstock Remembers Former Superintendent  
**page 5**

School News  
**pages 6-11**

Comstock Sports Schedules  
**page 12**

Athletic Department News  
**page 13**

Comstock Library News  
**pages 13-14**

## MORE NEWS

*Turn over to read  
Center Point*

A newsletter about the Comstock Community Center



# From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Community,  
On Tuesday, May 5, 2020, voters in the nine school districts in the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) service area will vote on whether to renew a three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage. This enhancement millage supports the operations of the public school districts and charter schools in this area including Comstock Public Schools. Given the critical nature of this funding to our district's operations, I dedicate this column to providing information to our residents about this important upcoming ballot.

This is not a new millage or a millage increase. It's a renewal. Voters approved the original three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage in 2005 and then again in 2008, 2011, 2014 and most recently in 2017. Now, three years later, the millage is set to expire. Accordingly, the ballot measure is a request to renew the millage for another three years. If approved, taxpayers would continue to pay the same millage rate they have been paying since 2005.

Each local school board decides individual district budget needs and priorities. Funds raised by this millage are used to support instructional services, support services, and other district priorities.

As the fiscal agent, KRESA distributes the tax revenues to the school districts and charter schools on a per-student basis. Each school district and charter school receives the same per-student amount, which is about \$364 per student. For Comstock Public Schools, this translates into approximately \$700,000. If voters reject the renewal, we would need to cut that amount from

the budget before the start of school in August.

Since the enhancement millage is a renewal, it would not cause any increase in tax rates, if approved. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their homes, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays \$112.50 per year, which is about \$9.38 per month.

Any registered voter who resides in a school district within the KRESA service area can vote in this election. This includes all districts in the county: Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft, and Vicksburg.

The last day to register to vote in any manner other than in person for this election is Monday, April 20, 2020. Voters may register in person through election day - May 5, 2020. Voters wishing to vote absentee may request a "no reason" absentee ballot in writing and submit the request to their city or township clerk.

If you have any questions about the enhancement millage, please reach out to me either via email, phone call, or personal visit. I can be reached at thoenesj@comstockps.org or 269-250-8906.

If you happen to see me at a school event or in the community, please take the time to say, "Hi," and allow me to introduce myself. I look forward to our conversation!

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes  
Superintendent  
"It's a great day to be a Colt!"



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS  
www.comstockps.org

Dr. Jeff Thoenes  
Superintendent

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Pamela Dickinson, President  
Shirley Amos, Vice President

Dori Scholly, Secretary  
Karen Howes, Treasurer  
Saralyn Brown, Trustee  
Paul Lamphear, Trustee  
Matt Schreiner, Trustee

Faye Goldner, Appointed Recording Secretary  
Michelle Darnell, Appointed Treasurer

## 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 Dr. Jeff Thoenes at thoenesj@comstockps.org or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at phyllisarose@aol.com.

## What Dr. Thoenes is reading:

- *A Better Way to Budget: Building Support for Bold, Student-Centered Change in Public Schools* (2015) by Nathan Levenson.
- *The Admirals: Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy, and King-- The Five Star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea* (2013) by Walter R. Borneman.



@comstockPS

## Community Auditorium Events Open to the Public

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>April:</b></p> <p>4 Borgess Marathon Run Camp, 7 a.m.-Noon, Colt Center.</p> <p>14 West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Spring Band/Choir Concert, 7 p.m. (includes band, orchestra, choir) Tickets: \$3 at the door.</p> <p>20 FOP #98 Country Music Concert, 7 p.m. Tickets: At the door or call 381-3587.</p> <p><b>May:</b></p> <p>1-2;<br/>7-9 <i>Honk</i> - Homeschool Performing Arts, 7 p.m. Also Matinéés (May 2 and 9) at 1 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472.</p> <p>11 Kalamazoo Christian High School Choir/band Concert. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. House at 7 p.m. Concert at 7:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p>12 Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Choir Concert: 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Free.</p> | <p>13 Comstock STEM/Comstock Middle/High School Choir Concert, 7 p.m. Free.</p> <p>14 Comstock High School Honors Convocation, 5 p.m. Free.</p> <p>19 Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Musical: Performance: 12:45 p.m.; 7 p.m. For ticket information, call 544-2332.</p> <p>20 STEM/Comstock Middle School Band Concert, 7 p.m. Free.</p> <p>21 Comstock High School Band Concert: 7 p.m. Free.</p> <p>26 Barclay Hills Graduation, 7 p.m.</p> <p>27 Compass High School Graduation, 6 p.m.</p> <p>28 The Montessori School Concert, 6 p.m. Free.</p> <p>30 Comstock Celebration of the Arts: Student Group Performances: 1-2 p.m.; African Drumming 3-5 p.m. Free.</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## School Board Candidate Filing Deadline

The annual school election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020. There will be three (3) seats on the ballot. All three (3) seats are four-year terms, January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024. The incumbents are: Pamela Dickinson, Karen Howes, and Paul Lamphear

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 21, 2020.

For more information on how to become a board member, please call Comstock Township Clerk, Michelle Moheny, at 381-2360.

## Board Briefs

**REGULAR MEETING**

**December 9, 2019**

- Recognized Students of the Month.
- Approved the purchase of a lease from GM Financial for a facilities service vehicle.
- Approved changing the Superintendent's quarterly evaluation from January 27 to March 23.
- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations with the CEA and the Superintendent's evaluation.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**January 13, 2020**

- Elected the following officers:  
Pamela Dickinson - President  
Shirley Amos - Vice President  
Secretary - Dory Scholly  
Karen Howes - Treasurer
- Appointed Faye Goldner as recording secretary and Steve Edison as acting treasurer.
- Appointed Dori Scholly as the Board's Legislative Network Liaison for 2020.
- Established standing and ad hoc committees.
- Approved Board of Education 2020-2021 calendar.
- Approved signatories, depositories, legal counsel, school physician, and auditor.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**January 13, 2020**

- Recognized Students of the Month.
- Heard a presentation from Jeff Hoag, GMB project manager, on the proposed plans for the upcoming bond projects at the middle and elementary schools.
- Approved following personnel changes:  
Hiring Carly Baldwin as a third grade teacher  
Hiring Claudia Caranci as a second grade teacher  
Resignation of Sarah Lyster, CES kindergarten teacher.
- Ratified the 2019-2020 agreement with the Comstock Education Association.
- Approved resolution supporting the KRESA Enhancement Millage on the May ballot.
- Granted permission for Superintendent Thoenes and Meadow Nuyen to participate in the Confucius Institute Trip to China in April, 2020.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**January 27, 2020**

- Approved Darienne Coffee for the CHS Interim Guidance Counselor position.
- Steve Edison, director of finance, presented a budget update.
- Approved the virtual courses offered by the district.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**February 2, 2020**

- Rick Terres from the Michigan Association of School Boards, facilitated a workshop on how Michigan school budgets are developed and how districts are financed. He explained the differences among state, local and federal funding, as well as how millages and sinking funds differ.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**February 10, 2020**

- Recognized Sam Rabick for his perfect ACT score.
- Recognized Students of the Month.
- Recognized school counselors during National School Counselor Week.
- Appointed a Finance Committee consisting of Trustee Lamphear, chairperson; Vice President Shirley Amos and President Dickinson.
- Appointed a Policy Committee consisting of Trustee Matt Schreiner, chairperson; Secretary Scholly, and Treasurer Howes.
- Approved extending the superintendent's contract, extending it from 2019 to 2022.

## School Buses Receive Top Rating from Inspectors

All of Comstock's buses have received a 100 percent rating from State Police inspectors. This inspection is conducted yearly to ensure that only the safest vehicles are transporting students to and from school, athletic events, and field trips.

During the inspection, buses are assigned a green, yellow, or red tag depending on their condition. A green tag indicates the bus is in excellent working order; a yellow tag means repairs and/or modifications are required; and a red tag means the bus is immediately grounded.

Comstock received all green tags indicating not only the condition of the buses and equipment but also the drivers' files and paperwork.

"This is a major accomplishment," said Superintendent Jeff Thoenes. "Congratulations to Transportation Supervisor, Christy Sliger; Router, Chantle Pelletier; Mechanic, Gordy Waterman; METS Field Representative, Trevor Bulmer, and all of our incredible drivers. Outstanding!"

This superior rating is due to the combined efforts of the school's transportation department and the Michigan Educational Transportation Service (METS).



## SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Become a School Bus Driver! METS, the transportation employer for Comstock Public Schools, is currently hiring school bus drivers for part-time assignments starting at \$14.75 per hour.

No experience is necessary and training will be provided to qualified candidates.

Apply today by sending your resume to: [recruiting@contractbusdrivers.com](mailto:recruiting@contractbusdrivers.com).

For more information, please call (269) 250-8690, or toll free at (888) 996-8586

## News Regarding the Recent Shutdown

Due to the governor's order designed to contain the spread of the corona virus, Comstock Public Schools will be closed until April 5 and then also the following week for spring break. It is anticipated that schools will reopen on Monday, April 13.

Here is what you need to know to date regarding the shutdown:

- Daycare will be closed. Pre-K and childcare services at the Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA) will be suspended during this time. There will not be any Friday playgroups. Daycare will re-open during spring break from Monday, April 6, to Friday, April 10.
- Spring sports are suspended. There will be no team practices or games during this time.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are postponed.
- Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy is open. Students taking advantage of Comstock's virtual school program should continue to work on their courses during the shutdown.

For updates on the shutdown, please go to the district's website, [www.ComstockPS.org/CoronaVirus](http://www.ComstockPS.org/CoronaVirus).



Come join our  
AYSO Region 212 - River Oaks Soccer Family  
For the 2020-2021 Season!



## OPEN REGISTRATION

for Playground, Schoolyard Jamboree, & Core Programs

Early Bird Registration

May 1 - May 31, 2020

Regular Registration

June 1 - July 12, 2020

Visit [www.ayso212.com](http://www.ayso212.com) to register today!

**AYSO Region 212 - River Oaks provides the following programs:**

- ★ **PLAYGROUND PROGRAM:** 3 year old players with parent/guardians, Fall Season
- ★ **SCHOOLYARD JAMBOREE PROGRAM:** 4 year old players with parent/guardians, Fall Season
- ★ **CORE PROGRAM:** Divisions - U6 B/G, U8 B/G, U10 B/G, U12 B/G, U14 B/G/Co-Ed, U16/19 Co-Ed (Fall Season), Fall/Spring Season
- ★ **EXTRA PROGRAM:** Playing in the WMYSA league, includes travelling within Southwest MI, tryouts

Everyone Plays 🏀 Balanced Teams 🏀 Open Registration  
Positive Coaching 🏀 Good Sportsmanship 🏀 Player Development

# Comstock Remembers

## Former Superintendent, Bob Hamet

With the passing of former superintendent Bob Hamet on March 11, many have been reflecting on the impact his life had on them and on education, not only in Comstock but in the larger Kalamazoo community.

Kind, respectful, relationship-oriented and funny are all words used to describe Dr. Hamet, who served as Comstock's superintendent from 1976 to 2001.

"Bob was a very kind and thoughtful person," said BJ Mohberg, who served on the board of education for 12 years. "He always knew when people's birthdays were. When something was wrong like someone's mother or dad died, he really tried to keep track of those things and sent the staff member a note or called them."

The birthday cards always contained a personal note, added Faye Goldner, Bob's administrative assistant.

"Keep in mind that back in those days, we had close to 300 employees," she said. "I remember well as I was the one who would go and buy the birthday cards each month."

Howard Ewles, who served as Dr. Hamet's assistant superintendent for 16 years, described Bob as a bridge builder.

"No matter what differences we had with people in the community, Bob worked extremely well in building a bridge that people could cross and get together," he said.

In the community, he was instrumental in bringing the schools and the township together for meetings.

"We would meet with the township once or twice a season," said Ms. Mohberg. "We'd have a simple dinner with them and discuss things."

When the community was asked to vote on building the auditorium, the district worked closely with the township to be sure they understood the purpose of the auditorium, she said.

"We wanted to let everyone know when we were voting for that, that it was a community theater," she said. "It was not just for the school system."

Bridge building was also part of his contribution to education in the Comstock schools.

"He put together a great administrative team working with the staff to provide a quality education program for kids at Comstock," said Mr. Ewles.

Ms. Goldner, whom Dr. Hamet hired 34 years ago as his administrative assistant, recalled what she learned from him.

"One of the most valuable things he taught me from the very start was to build relationships," she said. "It was very important to him. He lived by it and led by example."

He had a way of seeing good in everyone, even when dealing with difficult staff issues.

"When he was dealing with staff issues, he never shared or spoke negatively of the person involved," she said.

The relationships he had with the administrative teams and the boards of education were like family, she said.

"The administrators and boards all worked well together, got to know each other on a personal level," Ms. Goldner said. "We celebrated many times on a social basis throughout the year."

It was also important to him to get to know staff members by name and to know something about them and their families.

"When he was superintendent, he wrote all the retirement resolutions for every retiree," she said. "I was always amazed at how he could personalize the resolutions like he did."

Family was also important to Dr. Hamet. He and his wife, Carol, had four children, Molly, Amy, Peter, and Ryan.

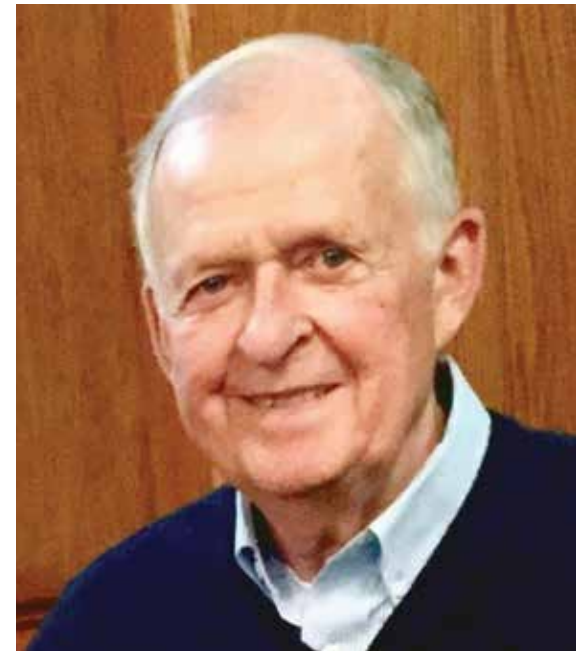
"His commitment and love for them was undeniable," said Ms. Goldner, who also recalls how they shared about her two sons, Jason and Matt, who were the same age as Peter and Ryan.

"We were always sharing the trials and tribulations of them growing up," she said. "We would share the laughs, the accomplishments and the frustrations."

Ms. Mohberg recalled how Bob would rush to the Monday night meetings, changing clothes on the run from his coaching attire to his superintendent's attire.

"Whatever the season was, he coached one of his kids' teams," she said. "He always tried to be a good family man and a good husband."

In the larger community, Dr. Hamet was well respected, often sought out by the Kalamazoo Gazette for his opinion on what was going on in Comstock, said Ms. Goldner. He was often called on to mentor new superintendents.



Dr. Hamet was also well thought of outside the district, said Ms. Mohberg, whose work with the school board brought her into contact with educational groups across the state.

"He was always well thought of throughout the state," she said. "They all thought the world of Bob Hamet."

But Dr. Hamet wasn't always the serious superintendent type. He was "quite the jokester and instigator of fun," said Ms. Goldner.

"It was not uncommon for him to gather staff in the office for a quick chicken dance or a macarena," she said.

Ms. Mohberg recalls Bob's love of popcorn.

"He was at practically every sports event there was," she said. "If there was popcorn, Bob had popcorn."

Two months ago, when Ms. Goldner visited Bob, he was playing Bingo and eating popcorn.

"He didn't let one kernel get away," she said.

Even though Dr. Hamet retired 19 years ago, he leaves behind a legacy as a wonderful colleague, friend, and educator.

A celebration of Dr. Hamet's life will be scheduled for a later date. More about him can be found in the obituary at [www.joldersma-klein.com](http://www.joldersma-klein.com) or at [mlive.com](http://mlive.com).

Memorial contributions can be made to the Comstock Public Schools Foundation or the First United Methodist Church.

# District Extended Learning Opportunities

Comstock Families,

With Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-5 mandating the closure of all of Michigan's public schools for three weeks, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic has begun to have a serious influence on our lives and routines here in Comstock. Because we are navigating new educational waters with this shutdown, the Comstock Educational Community is banding together more than ever and has contributed to the creation of our district's *Extended Learning Opportunities*.

The *Extended Learning Opportunities* are intended to outline potential resources and optional activities for students and families to support educationally enriched learning while away from school. We realize these ideas will not replace the engaging environments that our teachers provide our Colts each and every day; instead we look upon this plan as a temporary support during the shutdown. On behalf of the Board of Education and Colt Cabinet as well as our teachers, paraprofessionals, administrative assistants, and staff, we appreciate your patience and steadfast support during this time. Stay healthy!

## TRADITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### General Advice

Students of all ages are accustomed to following a set schedule and daily routines. An effective first step is to maintain your child's and family's normal habits and activities as much as possible. This helps to stabilize emotions and reduce anxiety.

### For Early Childhood Students

- Read to/with your child for a minimum of 20 minutes per day
- Count with or listening to your child count
- Practice letter identification (uppercase and lowercase)
- Practice number identification to numbers 10 or higher
- Draw or color a picture together
- Create a scavenger hunt
- Write or draw with sidewalk chalk outside
- Have your child trace letters (uppercase and lowercase) and numbers to 10 or higher
- Have your child practice printing letters and numbers
- Have your children practice printing their names (first and last, if they're ready) or practice without tracing
- Allow your child to help cook or prep meals, set the table or get dishes ready
- Have a picnic with your child and look for items outside in nature

### For Primary and Secondary Students

- Read daily for a minimum of 30 minutes
- Complete a reading log
- Review basic math facts using math flashcards
- Assist with preparing meals; including measuring units, utilizing appliances and maintaining equal ratios

for family size.

- Read to a younger sibling
- Practice math facts with a younger sibling
- Develop and assist with laundry and dishwashing skills
- Establish a physical exercise program to be completed daily: jumping jacks, walk a certain distance, sit ups, push ups, etc.
- Teach a younger sibling a new game/sport
- Establish a game night that includes board games and card games, no electronics

## INTERNET-BASED OPPORTUNITIES

### For All Ages and Interests

<http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/?s-fns=mo> A comprehensive list of online resources

### For Early Childhood Students

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html> Scholastic Reading  
<http://amazingeducationalresources.com/> Educational websites for learning at home  
<https://www.storylineonline.net/> Books read aloud by celebrities  
<https://homeschoolhideout.com/educational-shows-on-netflix/> Educational videos on Netflix  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vT-List of virtual field trips> <https://eblireads.com/non-fiction-read-alouds/?f-> Nonfiction read aloud, Pre-K - 3rd grade

### For Primary and Secondary Students

Comstock Elementary School provides two opportunities for students to practice their reading and math skills at home using devices that can access the Internet. MobyMax is an online website our students use to practice their general reading and general math skills. i-Ready is an online website our students use to complete their individualized online math instruction that is aligned with our math curriculum. Both websites can be accessed through our district website at [www.comstockps.org](http://www.comstockps.org).

To access MobyMax and i-Ready, students should go to the district's homepage and hover their cursor over the tab labeled "Parents & Students." This will cause a list of links to appear. Your child should click on the link labeled Clever. This will cause a new window to open with the option to "Log in with your Comstock Google Account." Once your child clicks on this button, he/she will need to enter his/her User Name followed by @[comstockps.org](mailto:comstockps.org) and his/her Password to log in to Clever. Clever will then open and the icons for i-Ready and MobyMax will appear.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/> Khan Academy

<https://www.mobymax.com/> MobyMax

<https://www.ixl.com/math/> IXL

### Math/ELA

[www.iready.com](http://www.iready.com)

[www.khanacademy.com](http://www.khanacademy.com)

[www.mobymax.com](http://www.mobymax.com)

[www.prodigy.com](http://www.prodigy.com)

### Science/Social Studies:

[www.datanuggets.org](http://www.datanuggets.org)

[www.nearpod.com](http://www.nearpod.com)

[www.edpuzzle.com](http://www.edpuzzle.com)

[www.Nobelprize](http://www.Nobelprize)

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

[www.MysteryScience.com](http://www.MysteryScience.com)

<https://www.seterra.com/>

[www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com)

### Other/Miscellaneous

[www.Code.org](http://www.Code.org)

<https://www.breakoutedu.com/> (search for digital games)

[www.Typing.com](http://www.Typing.com)

<https://www.common sense.org/education/digital-compass>

<http://www.renaissance.com/> - Renaissance Learning has some free resources.

<https://michiganvirtual.org/learning-continuity/> - Michigan Virtual also has free resources

### Compass High School

Students at Compass High School may work on their Odysseyware online class. Staff will be checking flags and correcting assignments to move students along. Students should go to the following website to access their account: [comstock.owschools.com](http://comstock.owschools.com)

### Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy

Students enrolled in Comstock's Virtual Academy are to continue working on assignments at home. The lab is closed until school resumes.

### Resources for free or inexpensive internet services:

Comcast Internet Essentials <https://www.internetessentials.com/>

Spectrum Internet Assist <https://www.spectrum.com/browse/content/spectrum-internet-assist>

Access from AT&T <https://www.att.com/shop/internet/access/#/>

Verizon Innovative Learning <https://www.verizon.com/about/news/verizons-covid-19-relief-efforts>

FCC's Lifeline Program - Put in your zip code and find low-cost options from providers in your area <https://data.usac.org/publicreports/CompaniesNearMe/Download/Report>

## Comstock High School

# High School Students Honored for Perfect Attendance

Twenty Comstock High School students were honored recently for their commitment to education through perfect attendance. The students were recognized on the morning announcements and received gift cards and Valentine's Day candy provided by the Michigan Department of Health and

Human Services. We thank these students for their hard work, and our staff for supporting their educational journeys.

The honor was based on attendance data from September 3, 2019, to February 12, 2020.



Left to right: (back row) RJ Baker, Kelsey Miltzer, Emma Schelb, Nyaira Ballinger; (front row) Madigan Webster, Taylar Stratton, Khefera Ambrose.



Left to right: Kyla Owens, Maya DeYoung- Foster, Saydee Peterson, Adam Kreitlow.



Left to right: Bryce Carter, Julia Kruis, Brianne Doud, Carson Rodriguez.



Left to right: Alex Paton, Lydia Kruis, Genesis Pelfresne, Kyle Mortimer.

## Junior Scores Perfect 36 on the ACT

Junior Sam Rabick earned a perfect score on the ACT, joining 4,879 students from across the nation and the world in doing so. This year, nearly 1.8 million students took the ACT, a standardized test used for college admissions in the United States.

In a statement, Sam thanked the community for their support, including all of his teachers, saying they have all gone above and beyond to provide a constructive classroom environment.

"The STEM Academy, in particular, helped prepare me for a rigorous high school career through its accelerated curricula," he said, noting that the

STEM academy also fostered his interest in programming, leading him to seek out a local FIRST robotics team, Strykeforce.

"The support of my teachers and a wonderfully accommodating administration allowed me to seek further academic pursuits in ATYP, KAMSC, and dual enrollment," he said.

CHS's post-secondary dean, Mr. Cotter, was instrumental in facilitating his participation in these activities, he said.

But, Sam was also encouraged to become a well-rounded person through athletics and music.

"My soccer coach, Mr. Ansel, and marching band director, Mr. Fritz, both worked with me so that I could participate in their programs, while recognizing that academics had to come first," he said.

He also notes that fellow students have been wonderfully friendly and encouraging. His family, he said, has supported him and inspired him "to be the best version of myself."

His future plans include pursuing his interest in STEM in college and in a related career.

Compass High School

## Compass Book Club Receives Foundation Grant

Compass High School's Book Club, founded last year by English teacher, Chris Coash, has received a \$250 grant from the Comstock Public Schools Foundation.

Student response to the student-led, after-school club has been positive and the group has continued to grow. As a result, Principal Jay Birchmeier has decided to offer book club for academic credit.

Comstock Middle

## CMS Students Create Topographical Maps with LEGOS

Students in Cindy Bloom's social studies classes recently made topographical maps using LEGOS.

This activity was led by WMU geography professors, Dr. Lisa DeChano-Cook and Dr. Adam Matthews, who have been working with Ms. Bloom to help students learn about maps, cartography, and topography.

In the LEGOS activity, students used topographical maps as a starting point, and then with a model to use as an example, they created 3D landscapes with the LEGOS.

Students were highly engaged and came away with a much deeper appreciation of maps and mapmaking.

Comstock Middle

## Sixth Grader Wins Geography Bee



Winners of the CMS Geography Bee were (left to right): Aiyana VanOrder, third place; Devlin Driscoll, first place; and Nathan Harger, second place.

Sixth grader, Devlin Driscoll, won the annual Geography Bee at Comstock Middle School, an annual event coordinated by Cindy Bloom, social studies teacher.

Seventh grader Nathan Harger took second place while eighth grader Aiyana VanOrder took third place.

The preliminary events to the finals included testing the geography knowledge of all the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders.

Other students who qualified for the finals were Shubh Patel, eighth grade; Kylie Schascheck, seventh grade; Breeze VanHorn, seventh grade; and Ahnikah Ware, seventh grade.

Placing first in the final round qualified Devlin

to take the state qualifying test in January. Those results have not yet been tabulated but he could qualify for the Michigan State Bee.

Winners of the State Geography Bees will compete in the national competition in Washington, D.C. in May.

The Geography Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society which also prepares materials for the competition.

According to the Society, the event is "designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject and increase public awareness about geography."

## Comstock Public Schools 2019-2020 School Calendar

April 3-10	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		No Students/Teachers
May 7	Comstock High School Conferences	3:00-7:00 p.m.	
May 14	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00 p.m.	
May 25	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>		No Students / No Staff
June 8-10	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students & Teachers K-12
June 10	<b>LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS</b>		
	Records Day P.M.		Half Day Students A.M./ Staff Records Day P.M.



## Comstock Middle

## Students Study Effects of Height and Energy

Students in Michael Batsie's seventh grade science class recently conducted an impact basin lab. In this lab, students observe how increasing the height from which an object is dropped can increase various types of energies.

Before beginning the experiment, students formed a hypothesis relating to the height from which a golf ball was dropped and what variables changed depending on the height from which the object was dropped. These variables included the diameter of the impact basin, depth of the impact basin, ejecta ring and ejecta ray. Ejecta ring is the material ejected from the impact basin for additional diameter of projectile material. Ejecta ray is the material emitted from the impact basin composed of streaks or "ejects" during the formation of the crater.

Students explained why these variables were affected by the energy transformations. Students kept track of data, creating a double line graph, plotting their group and another group's data in relation to single variable changing.

Students also wrote a conclusion, determining if their hypothesis was correct or not.



Aidan Taylor, Alayna Richardson, and Jasmine Demecillo drop a golf ball from two meters.



## A NOTE FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS



### GREETINGS COLT COMMUNITY,

#### Here are some strategies for talking to your children about the Coronavirus:

- Keep it simple. It's best to give a clear, basic overview of the health crisis in simple terms. Keep children informed, without creating reasons to be stressed.
- Emphasize safety. It's not their job to worry. Let them know that adults are working hard to keep them safe and healthy. The best thing they can do is to simply wash their hands! Giving students opportunities to engage in different activities empowers them with a sense of control over the current circumstances.
- Try your best to limit exposure to news coverage and screen time where they may have access to social media that could create panic. Try to avoid the repetitive news. Also, try to limit worried adult conversation. Kids pick up on nervous energy. You want them to hear your words and not feel your worry. Minimize conversations where you express your own stress and worry when they might hear what you are talking about.
- Routine. Keep young people engaged in their normal routines. This may be difficult right now so create new routines. Keep things as normal as possible.
- Model good hygiene. Lead by example and encourage kids to take part in healthy practices with the entire family. Emphasize that we must all wash our hands. Remind them to sneeze into their elbows and to avoid touching their face.
- Take good care of yourself. You can't keep your family healthy if you are not healthy. Try to stay in normal self-care routines to keep yourself energized and your immune system strong.
- Find time for JOY! Take a walk outside, play with your pets, call or video chat your friends and family, garden, play board games, read, draw, paint. Do what provides you some peace throughout this ordeal.

Sincerely,

The Comstock Counselors

Mrs. Julie Sorenson  
SorensonJ@ComstockPS.org

Ms. Darienne Coffee  
CoffeeD@ComstockPS.org

Comstock Early Learning Academy

# CELA Students Learn About Clothing

As part of the clothing unit in CELA's Creative Curriculum, students made paper clothing and learned about other tasks related to clothes. They made paper weaves that simulated clothing weaves, pretended to wash and dry laundry, and ironed and hung up clothing. Students even helped make homemade laundry soap.



Blake Ponton contemplates a fabric weave.



Delilah Thomas hangs up her laundry.



Dmitri Brown, Aiden Schoennher, James Mulder, Hunger Sabin, Hudson Momcilovich and Principal Nuyen with their homemade laundry soap.



Za'Kyah White shows off her fabric weave.



This washer and dryer were created for Dramatic Play in one Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) classroom.

## 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

## STEM Academy

# STEM Third Graders Make Maple Syrup

STEM Academy third graders recently learned the steps in making maple syrup. They tapped trees, collected sap, and eventually tasted the finished product. Under the leadership of Principal Christopher Chopp, students discussed ideal conditions for tapping the trees and used the appropriate tapping tools.

The students collected and analyzed data on how many gallons of sap they collected, the percentage of sugar in the sap, and the temperature during the season.

Finally, everyone sampled their hard work with a pancake/maple syrup celebration.



Third graders get final directions before tapping the trees.



STEM student Isabella Papierz hammers in a spile while tapping the tree.



Principal Christopher Chopp and STEM student Sara Swinehart collect the boiled syrup to be cooled.



STEM student Ashlen Manni uses a drill to make a hole for the spile.

## STEM Student Earns State Honor

STEM Academy seventh grader, Makenna Martin, has been named state champion in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition. She and a team of other students, supported by teacher adviser, Jeannine Roys, are preparing to advance to the national level of the competition.

The winning school also receives a \$15,000 price package including Samsung technology and classroom resources.

The Solve for Tomorrow event “challenges public-school sixth to twelfth graders to solve a pressing problem in their community using science, technology, engineering and math (STEM),” according to Samsung’s website.

## STEM Academy Future City Team Earns Honor

The STEM Academy’s Future City team, led by social studies teacher Drew Perkowski, won the Best Use of Green Principles award at a recent competition in Novi.

Future City is a project-based learning program where students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades imagine, research, design, and build model cities of the future. School teams participate regionally for the opportunity to qualify for the state and national-level competitions.

# Students & Employees of the Month

Congratulations to the following students and staff members who were honored this school year by the district.

## STUDENTS

### October 2019

CELA – James Mulder – Pre-K  
 CES – Jace Plane – 4th Grade  
 STEM – Reece Salter – 8th Grade  
 CMS – David Coleman – 8th Grade  
 CHS – Alexis Hofacre – 12th Grade  
 Compass – Melanie Warner – 12th Gr.

### November 2019

CELA – Cecillia Warr – Pre-K  
 CES – Jorge Coronado – 4th Grade  
 STEM – Abbie Peters – 3rd Grade  
 CMS – Breeze VanHorn – 7th Grade  
 CHS – Alexander Patov – 10th Grade  
 Compass – Lila Phillips – 12th Grade

### December 2019

CELA – Dimitri Brown - Pre-K  
 CES – Maleah Wade – 3rd Grade  
 STEM – Oscar DelVecchio – 3rd Gr.  
 CMS – Michaela Hartselle – 7th Gr.  
 CHS – Jessica Sivley – 12th Grade

### January 2020

CELA – Nyla Collier – Pre-K  
 CES – Darrell Jackson– 3rd Grade  
 STEM – Carter Cook – 2nd Grade  
 CMS – Havana Rolstone – 7th Grade  
 CHS – Shelby Alexander – 11th Grade  
 Compass – Madison Autrey – 9th Gr.

### February 2020

CELA – Aiden Schoenner – Pre-K  
 CES – Aayiah Welch – 5th Grade  
 STEM – Dominic Ciaravino – 1st Gr.  
 CMS – Gabriel Davis – 8th Grade  
 CHS – Zoe Vandrey – 12th Grade  
 Compass – Connie Brown – 12th Gr.

### March 2020

CELA – Mason Cobb - Pre-K  
 CES – Jada Campbell – 2nd Grade  
 STEM – Trinity Hagenbuch - 6th Gr.  
 CMS – Ryder Rice - 8th Grade  
 CHS – Brandon Bavin - 12th Grade  
 Compass – Donovan Anderson - 12th Grade

## EMPLOYEES

### March 2020

Emily Jones, CES Teacher  
 Chris Freed, CELA Administrative Assistant

# COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

## Girls Varsity Softball

Tue, Apr 14	Buchanan HS	4:15PM
Thu, Apr 16	@ Athens High School	4:00PM
Tue, Apr 21	Parchment High School	4:15PM
Thu, Apr 23	@ Quincy High School (Single Game)	4:00PM
Fri, Apr 24	Constantine High School	4:30PM
Tue, Apr 28	Bridgman Public Schools	4:15PM
Fri, May 1	@ Benton Harbor High School	4:30PM
Tue, May 5	@ Brandywine High School	4:15PM
Thu, May 7	@ Galesburg-Augusta HS	4:00PM
Fri, May 8	@ Michigan Lutheran HS	4:30PM
Tue, May 12	@ Berrien Springs HS	4:15PM
Wed, May 13	Climax-Scotts	4:00PM
Sat, May 16	Comstock JV Softball Tourney	9:00AM
Mon, May 18	@ Battle Creek Central HS	4:00PM
Fri, May 22	@ Allegan Public Schools	4:00PM

## Boys Varsity Baseball

Tue, Apr 14	Buchanan HS	4:15PM
Thu, Apr 16	@ Athens High School	4:00PM
Sat, Apr 18	@ Bridgman Round Robin w/Coloma	10:00AM
Tue, Apr 21	Parchment High School	4:15PM
Thu, Apr 23	@ Quincy High School (Single Game)	4:00PM
Fri, Apr 24	Constantine High School	4:30PM
Tue, Apr 28	Bridgman Public Schools	4:15PM
Fri, May 1	@ Benton Harbor High School	4:30PM
Sat, May 2	@ Bangor Invitational	10:00AM
Tue, May 5	@ Brandywine High School	4:15PM
Thu, May 7	@ Galesburg-Augusta Middle School	4:00PM
Tue, May 12	@ Berrien Springs HS	4:15PM
Wed, May 13	Climax-Scotts	4:00PM
Mon, May 18	@ Battle Creek Central HS	4:00PM
Fri, May 22	@ Allegan Public Schools	4:00PM

## Boys Varsity Golf

Tue, Apr 14	BCS Comstock Jamboree - Eastern Hills	4:00PM
Thu, Apr 16	@ Delton-Kellogg Invite - Mullenhurst	10:00AM
Fri, Apr 17	Comstock JV Golf Invite - Hickory Ridge	9:00AM
Wed, Apr 22	@ BCS Parchment Jamboree -East. Hills	4:00PM
Fri, Apr 24	@ Parchment Coach-Kid Scramble - Eastern	9:00AM
Mon, Apr 27	@ BCS Buchanan Jamboree - Orchard Hills	4:00PM
Wed, Apr 29	@ BCS Berrien Springs Jamboree - Brookwood	4:00PM
Thu, Apr 30	Centreville HS	3:30PM
Wed, May 6	@ GK Golf Invitational - Stonehedge North	9:00AM
Thu, May 7	@ Three Rivers Dual - Sauganash	4:00PM
Thu, May 14	@ BCS Brandywine Jamboree - Plym Park	4:00PM
Fri, May 15	@ Parchment JV 2 Man Scramble - Eastern	9:00AM
Mon, May 18	@ Allegan Dual - Cheshire Hills Allegan Dual - Cheshire Hills	4:00PM
Thu, May 21	@ BCS Conference Meet - Hampshire	9:00AM

## Girls Varsity Soccer

Tue, Apr 14	@ Maple Valley High School	5:30PM
Wed, Apr 15	@ Covert Public Schools	5:30PM
Mon, Apr 20	@ Brandywine High School	5:00PM
Thu, Apr 23	Parchment High School	6:30PM
Fri, Apr 24	@ Schoolcraft High School	5:00PM
Mon, Apr 27	Lake Michigan Catholic HS	5:00PM
Wed, Apr 29	@ Buchanan HS	5:00PM
Fri, May 1	@ Saugatuck High School	6:00PM
Mon, May 4	Bridgman Public Schools	6:30PM
Wed, May 6	New Buffalo High School	5:00PM
Thu, May 7	@ Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM

Tue, May 12	@ Michigan Lutheran HS	6:00PM
Wed, May 13	Cassopolis High School	6:30PM
Fri, May 15	Lawton Community Schools	6:30PM
Mon, May 18	@ Bangor Public Schools	5:00PM

## Girls Varsity Tennis

Mon, Apr 13	@ Otsego HS	4:00PM
Tue, Apr 14	Buchanan HS	4:30PM
Thu, Apr 16	Brandywine High School	4:30PM
Sat, Apr 18	@ GK Invitational - PC & PN GK Invitational - PC & PN	9:00AM
Mon, Apr 20	@ GK Invitational Finals at PC or PN	TBA
Tue, Apr 21	@ BCS Rain Date	TBA
Thu, Apr 23	Berrien Springs HS	4:30PM
Fri, Apr 24	Plainwell Schools	4:00PM
Tue, Apr 28	@ New Buffalo High School	4:30PM
Wed, Apr 29	@ Schoolcraft High School	4:30PM
Thu, Apr 30	@ BCS Rain Date	TBA
Mon, May 4	@ Galesburg-Augusta HS	4:00PM
Tue, May 5	@ BCS Rain Date	TBA
Thu, May 7	@ BCS Conference Tournament at Berrien Springs	9:00AM
Fri, May 8	@ BCS Conference Tourney Rain Date	TBA

## Boys/Girls Varsity Track & Field

Tue, Apr 14	BCS Comstock Dual vs Berrien Springs w/ Covert	4:15PM
Thu, Apr 16	Comstock Invitational	4:00PM
Wed, Apr 22	BCS Comstock Dual w/ Parch & Buch	4:15PM
Fri, Apr 24	@ Schoolcraft Invitational	3:00PM
Wed, Apr 29	@ BCS Berrien Springs Meet vs Buchanan	4:15PM
Fri, May 1	@ Quincy Invitational	4:15PM
Wed, May 6	@ BCS Parchment Meet vs Brandywine	4:15PM
Mon, May 11	Comstock Invitational	4:00PM
Wed, May 20	@ BCS Conference Meet at Lawrence	3:00PM

## Athletic Department News

### Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Dawayne Heath, Class of 1962; Glenn Thomas, Class of 1968; Martin Johnson, Class of 1971; Tracy Daniel, Comstock Teacher and Coach, 1987-2018; and Bryan Crosby, Class of 1985, for being voted into Comstock's Athletic Hall of Fame.

**The Hall of Fame induction banquet scheduled for April 25, at the WMU Fetzer Center has been cancelled. The banquet will be rescheduled for a later date.**

### High School and Middle School 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 sports. Physicals for the 20-21 school year must be dated after April 15, 2020, to be good. Physicals done before April 15, 2020, are only good for the 19-20 school year.

### Spring Sports Awards Banquet

The spring sports awards banquet will be held on Tuesday, June 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the

auditorium. All spring high school and middle school sports will be invited to attend the banquet.

### MHSAA State Qualifier

Congratulations to Coach Jason Hayes and Cody Bavin for representing Comstock in the MHSAA Wrestling State Finals.

## Comstock Township Library Events

**Comstock Township Library is closed through Sunday, April 5, 2020, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community. All programs and public use of meeting rooms from outside groups are also cancelled. After April 5, check with the library to see the status of upcoming events in case the shutdown is extended.**

### The Comstock Township Library is now fine free!

As of March 3, 2020, the library has stopped charging fines for overdue materials, with the exception of mobile hotspots and Playaway Launchpads. Also, all outstanding overdue fines have been waived. We believe this change will further our mission of allowing equitable access to information for all.

If you have long overdue library items, you may now bring them back without penalty, or if you have just not visited the library in a long time, we welcome you back! Come visit and see all we have to offer.

### What does fine free mean?

- You will no longer be charged a daily late fine on overdue items, with the exception of mobile hotspots and Playaway Launchpads.
- You are still responsible for returning your items. **We do want all items back.**
- You will not be able to check out other items once you have overdue items on your account.
- The library will send you a series of reminders to return your items.
- Items that are overdue by 31 days or more will be considered lost and you will be billed for them. If you return the items, the bill will be cleared from your account.
- Your account will be referred to the library's collection agency approximately 21 days after you receive a bill, if your total bill is more than \$25. This

information is not reported to credit bureaus.

- If you return your items after you have been referred to the collection agency, you will not have to pay your bill on those items, but you will be charged a \$10 collection agency processing fee.

### Why fine free?

**It's good for our community.** We believe our community is stronger when all people have equal access to the information, resources, and programs that the public library provides. When users incur overdue fines, those who are able, pay those fines and keep using the library, while those who cannot afford to pay, simply stop using the library. It is our hope that a fine free structure will encourage prior users to come back to the library and attract new users to experience what we have to offer without fear of penalty.

**Late fines are not effective.** Studies have found little evidence to suggest that fines have any effect on the timely return of library materials. In fact, much of the research suggests that fines instead deter people from borrowing materials in the first place. Users who tend to return items on time and those who return items late continue to do so, regardless of whether the items incur overdue fines.

**It's fiscally responsible.** Overdue fines make up less than one percent of the library's annual budget and money collected from overdue fines has steadily decreased over the past few years. Often users keep

### CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Saturday, April 11.  
The library will be closed on Saturday, May 23,  
and Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day.



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.

items instead of returning them when they have overdue fines. It makes good fiscal sense to forgive a \$3 fine rather than lose a \$25 item.

**It's a nationwide movement.** Many libraries across the United States are now fine free. These libraries have recognized that the long held notion that overdue fines encourage items to be returned just isn't true. Libraries have reported many benefits from going fine free including increases in checkouts and new users as well as seeing fewer overdue items and more returned items.

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Comstock Township Library is taking part in the 2020 Library Hop during April! Visit other libraries in the vicinity and participate in their events. To obtain your passport, please visit the adult reference desk starting April 1.**

Interested in joining a Thursday evening or Saturday afternoon book club? Please inquire at the adult reference desk or call 345-0136.

**Decluttering 101, Wednesday, April 15, at 5:30 p.m.** Join Moxie Life Organizing to learn some tips and tricks and products to manage your life. Registration is required for this free event. On our website, go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also call 345-0136. Space is limited.

**Adult Program: Monday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m. Watercolor Quotes:** Come make a print of an inspirational quote that looks like you gave it some watercolor flair. Spoiler alert- it's not real watercolor, but nobody will be able to tell the difference, and it's so easy you'll want to make more at home! Registration is required for this free event. On our website, go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also call 345-0136. When you register, please pick two quotes from our pre-selected list on the registration page. Space is limited.

**A Matter of Balance Class, Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Runs for eight weeks, April 21 – June 9** Are you wondering what happened to your balance, wobbling a bit when you walk, or wavering some when you stand? Nearly one-third of seniors over the age of 65 will fall each year, and that percentage increases by 50 percent by the age of 80. Yet falling is NOT a natural part of aging. This class helps address and change the body's reaction to a number of causes for loss of balance. This is a popular eight-week workshop that helps older adults stay safe, active and independent. Registration is required for this free event on our website. Go to Programs and it will be

under "Upcoming Events." You may also call 345-0136. Space is limited. **Sponsor: Area Agency on Aging IIIA.**

**Adult Program: Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m.** Introduction to Tai Chi & Chi Kung. Join us to learn about balance and awareness with certified instructor Brian Hoff. This practice is great for people of all ages and any physical condition. Tai Chi is a gentle internal-style martial art that is based on Taoist principles of balance. Chi Kung exercises use similar easy movements to balance your internal energy. Together they bring strength and awareness to everything we do. Please wear loose-fitting clothing so you'll be ready to move. Class may be outdoors, weather permitting. Registration is required for this free event and begins April 28 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also call 345-0136. Space is limited.

**Adult Craft: Wednesday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m.** Bird House Key Hook. Decorate a cute little bird house upon which you can hang your keys! Registration is required for this free event and begins April 27 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also call 345-0136. Space is limited.

#### YOUTH & TEEN EVENTS

**STORY TIMES:** Ages 0-6. Storytimes include a half hour of stories, songs, rhymes and other early literacy activities. Each story time is tailored to a specific age group but younger or older siblings are always encouraged to attend as well. Each storytime is followed by a sensory playtime that lasts around 20 minutes. Please note: Storytimes end for summer reading prep on May 7.

Mondays: 10:30-11:15 a.m., Preschool Storytime  
Tuesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m., Wee Ones Storytime  
Wednesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m., Toddler Storytime  
Thursdays: 10:30-11 a.m., \*NEW\* Musical  
Mayhem  
1-1:45 p.m. - Preschool S.T.E.A.M (Registration required)

**\*NEW\* Musical Mayhem:** Ages 0-6. Get ready to wiggle and rock with fun action songs, musical instruments, parachute time and a short story. Parents and siblings are encouraged to join in! This is a drop in program every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. during storytime sessions.

**1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN:** Reading to your children at a young age is the single most important thing parents can do to help their children become successful readers as they get older. Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents

to read 1,000 books to their young children before they begin kindergarten. All children can participate until they enter kindergarten. Pick up your tracking sheet at the Youth Desk today.

**Spring Break at the Library - April 6 - 10:** Check our online calendar to keep busy during Spring Break! We'll have a number of activities for all ages in addition to regular storytimes.

**Fancy Nancy Tea Party - Saturday, April 18. at 11 a.m.:** Oo là là! Children ages three and up are invited to wear their fanciest attire as we enjoy an afternoon of chic activities and superb treats! Registration is required and opens on April 1.

**May the 4th Star Wars Crafts - Monday, May 4 at 11 a.m.:** Do you love baby Yoda, lightsabers and The Force? Join us for some out-of-this-world crafts that will please all little padawans. Drop in program that runs from 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. while supplies last.

**Mother's Day Gift Making - Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8: Drop in from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.** and make mom a cute wreath or mini bird bath. For children of all ages, while supplies last.

**Drop-In Sensory Play Date - May 13, 20, 27 and June 3 and 10 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.:** Drop in for a fun filled sensory playdate with other families! We'll have all of our sensory toys and manipulatives out for an hour of self-paced play and music. No registration required. Ideal for ages six and under, but all ages and abilities are welcome.

**T(w)een Drop in Video Gaming: Wednesdays after school.** Drop by and test your gaming skills on various Nintendo Switch games. Open to ages 11 and up or grades sixth through twelfth.

**T(w)een Drop-in Volunteer Hours.** Need volunteer hours during the school year? Our teen volunteer program is super flexible and works around your busy school schedule. Drop in to talk to Miss Traci or Miss Liz and we'll get you started with a volunteer application.

**Summer Volunteer Applications - Available in May:** The library is looking for responsible and interested teen volunteers (ages 13 - 18) for our summer reading program. All teens who join the program earn volunteer hours and help us plan and prepare for summer reading events. This is a great opportunity for teens to learn about responsibility and how to give back to their community. Applications for teen volunteers will be available Monday, May 4. Stay tuned for an updated application and due date.