

# 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 Parents,

According to the New York State Department of Education (MDE) and Michael Flanagan, state superintendent, announced that for the 2015-16 school year, the state will be administering the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) as opposed to the American College Testing (ACT) exam. In the world of high school assessments and college entrance exams, this is a huge change.

After the MDE received proposals from testing companies last March, an evaluation team from the MDE, local school districts and ISDs evaluated the proposals for several months and recommended the SAT. One of the major reasons cited for this recommendation was a \$15 million cost savings over three years versus using the ACT. In addition to the cost savings, SAT is providing student and staff support items which with the ACT would have been additional charges.

I want to assure every parent in the district that the board, administration and staff of Comstock Public Schools will be working tirelessly to help our students do as well as they can on the SAT. The Board of Education has been presented with

information regarding the change and has directed me to take the necessary measures to ensure our students are prepared and ready to take the SAT. Jill Ansel, director of curriculum, assessment and instruction, has already been researching and communicating to staff about the change and what we need to do to support our students.

The College and Career Academy Deans are preparing plans on how to manage the change for students and parents. There are several initiatives in the works. I want to assure all parents that the Comstock staff is working hard to assist their students through this change.

As I mentioned in my last letter, the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) is now the state assessment test for all students in grades 3 through 8.

There is now information on the district website that provides information regarding the test and how students can do additional preparation at home. Please visit [Comstockps.org/curriculum](http://Comstockps.org/curriculum) for more information regarding the district wide campaign - called #STEPupyourgame - to prepare and motivate students.

Sincerely,  
Todd D. Mora  
Superintendent



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS

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

Todd Mora  
*Superintendent*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jackie Wahl, President

Mike Hicks, Vice President

Shirley Amos, Trustee

Larry Foster-Goodrich, Trustee

Richard Hathaway, Trustee

Rich House, Trustee

Paula Johnson, *Appointed Treasurer*

Faye Goldner, *Appointed Recording Secretary*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Comstock Public Schools is to provide excellence in education for all students through innovation and creativity

## VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be a national leader in quality public education.

## 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).



@comstockps.org

## Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

**October 13, 2014**

- Received the 2013-2014 audit report from district auditors, BDO Seidman.
- Approved Bill Otto as assistant JV football coach.
- Approved retirement request of Rick VanDis, elementary physical education teacher.
- Approved Serena Graham as parent representative on the KRESA Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.
- Set Staff Recognition for March 9, 2015.
- Ratified the 2014-1015 bus drivers' agreement.

REGULAR MEETING

**November 10, 2014**

- Members of the National Junior Honor Society were recognized by the Board of Education.
- Sue Duncan, auditorium manager, presented highlights of recent improvements, financial information, and facility improvement needs for the auditorium.

SPECIAL MEETING

**November 24, 2014**

- Mary Grintals, STEM teacher, reported on the creation of a STEM Science Olympiad, with parents helping as coaches. Next school year, 2015-2016, will be the team's first year of competition.
- Approved a loan from Mercantile Bank at 2 percent interest for purchasing four buses and a truck.
- Holly Pence, Chartwell food service director, shared information about changes in the food program, challenges in serving healthy and delicious foods, and meeting Federal guidelines.
- Superintendent Mora highlighted positive achievements and successes at each of the buildings. Included in that was that high school teachers, Tracy Daniel and Rich Bailey, have received the 2014 Wolverine Conference Distinguished Service Award.

REGULAR MEETING

**December 8, 2014**

- Building principals reported on the positive events and successes in their buildings, including the fact that the Mackinac Center has ranked the high school #1 in the area and 80th overall.
- Approved the agreement with Kalamazoo County Early/Middle College Consortium Program.
- Thanked Val Lauer and Brenda Austin for their service to the school and community. Both recently retired from the Board of Education.
- Introduced the newest board member, Rich House.
- Introduced David Yarnell who has submitted a letter of interest in being appointed to one of the two vacant seats on the board.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING/REGULAR MEETING

**January 12, 2015**

- Elected the following board officers: Jackie Wahl, president; Mike Hicks, vice-president; Shirley Amos, treasurer/secretary.
- Appointed Faye Goldner as recording secretary and Paula Johnson as treasurer.
- Heard reports from building principals about the positives happening in their buildings.
- Approved Tatum O'Dell as the physical education teacher at North/Green Meadow.
- Approved Kayley Nollar for a speech therapist position.
- Assigned new school board trustee, Rich House, as the high school's board liaison, replacing retiring board member, Val Lauer.
- Approved adding grades 7 and 8 to the STEM Academy.
- Approved the following coaches: Michael Gahry, assistant track coach at the middle school; Jordan Phares, middle school wrestling; Ashley Cross, eighth grade girls basketball.

## House Takes Seat on the School Board



Rich House, newly elected member of the school board, has lived in Comstock all his life, graduating from the high school in 1983.

He decided to run for the school board position because he has children in the schools and likes to stay involved.


"I was also aware of a real need for board members and wanted to do my part to serve my community and schools," he said.

Working for Motion Industries, he is the site manager at American Axle in Three Rivers.

"We purchase spare parts for them to keep their equipment running," he said.

He and his wife, Tammy, who is a customer service representative for the printing industry, have two children, Mason, a sophomore and Abby, an eighth grader.

They enjoy bowling, golf, and camping at Sandy Pines.

"These are all activities the whole family enjoys," he said. "They allow  to spend a lot of quality time together."

## Want A Chance To Win \$5,000?

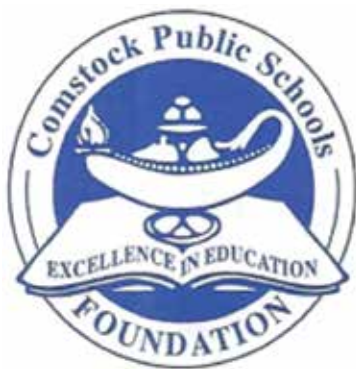
Comstock GradBash 2015 is selling raffle tickets with a cash prize of \$5,000 for one lucky winner and an equal amount going to GradBash.

Tickets are \$10 each. We will sell 1,000 tickets and are confident that with the help of our community, we will attain this goal. Raffle tickets will be available at various Comstock High School and community events.

Can't attend one of the events? Please text or call Vicki Groll at 823-3447 or Denise Jordan at 303-4797 to purchase a lucky ticket.

# Comstock Public Schools 2014-2015 School Calendar

February 27	Mid-Winter Break		No Students, No Staff
March 23	Elementary Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 24	Middle School /High School Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 25	Elementary Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 26	Middle School / High School Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 27	Professional Development A.M. ~ K-12 Work Day P.M.~ K-12 Teachers		No Students K-12
April 3 – 10	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		No Students – No Teachers



## Foundation Awards Four Mini-Grants

Every year the Comstock Public Schools Foundation awards four mini-grants to staff members who have submitted project ideas to further our students' education. Congratulations to the following award winners:

Travis Law, Comstock High School English Teacher. Travis is using his grant to purchase equipment to videotape students in his public speaking, drama and basic media classes. By viewing and analyzing their performances, students will be able to improve their confidence and presence in public speaking.

Lacey Ramsey, Comstock High School Biology Teacher. Lacey is using her grant to purchase Clan of the Cave Bear books for a book study with a book that isn't a textbook but relates to science and connects with the current content in her curriculum. Lacey wants to help her students associate reading with science.

Christopher Coash, Compass High School English Teacher. Chris is using his grant to purchase books for the Comstock Book Club. The book club was started last year and continues to grow. The book club reads a new book every six to eight weeks and students are able to earn up to one full credit per year.

Lynn Miller, Program Coordinator for Nurse Aide Education. Lynn will be using her grant to purchase new DVDs to incorporate more information on dementia and communicating with people with dementia into the program.

Everyone is welcome at the Comstock Public Schools Foundation meetings. Please come and see what is going on at one of our next meetings.

Upcoming meetings are: February 3; March 3; April 14; May 5; and June 2. All meetings are on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building on Gull Road. Hope to see you there!

# State Develops New Assessment Test



In June 2014 the Michigan Legislature required the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to develop a new test for spring 2015. The new assessment system is called the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP.

The M-STEP will include summative assessments designed to measure student growth effectively for today's students. English language arts and mathematics will be assessed in grades 3–8, science

in grades 4 and 7, and social studies in grades 5 and 8. It also includes the Michigan Merit Examination in 11th grade which consists of the ACT Plus Writing, WorkKeys, and M-STEP summative in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Comstock Public Schools is promoting #STEPupyourgame as a district-wide campaign to encourage students to do their best on the Spring Assessments.

### What can students do STEP up their game?

#### Grades K-8:

- Try some sample SBAC problems at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>
- Practice Reading Skills at individualized NWEA RIT band level at <http://www.sowashco.k12.mn.us/ro/pages/studentlinks/map/reading.htm>
- Practice Math Skills at individualized NWEA RIT band level at <http://www.sowashco.k12.mn.us/ro/pages/studentlinks/map/>

#### Grades 9-11:

ACT prep online programs we recommend are located at MeL.org, Quizlet.com and actstudent.org/testprep.

#### ALL Students:

Learn the Academic Vocabulary and High Frequency Word List at \_\_\_\_\_

### Spring 2015 Testing Schedule for Summative Assessments

	Week Beginning																		
	2/9	2/16	2/23	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30	4/6	4/13	4/20	4/27	5/4	5/11	5/18	5/25	6/1	6/8	
Grades 5 and 8																			
Grades 4 and 7																			
Grades 3 and 6																			
Grade 11																			
MI-Access Alternate Assessments																			
College Entrance: ACT Plus Writing*																			
Accommodations Testing																			
Work Skills: WorkKeys*																			
Accommodations Testing																			
WIDA Access for ELLs																			
WIDA Alternate Access for ELLs																			

Online testing has the flexibility of testing any time during the testing window designated for each grade level. Paper and pencil tests must be administered on the dates specified for each content area in the window designated for each grade level.

\*ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys have been extended for one year. The initial testing dates for Spring 2015 are March 3<sup>rd</sup> for ACT and March 4<sup>th</sup> for WorkKeys. The makeup dates are March 17<sup>th</sup> for ACT and March 18<sup>th</sup> for WorkKeys. The accommodations testing window is March 3–17 for ACT and March 4–18 for WorkKeys.

# Comstock Schools Teacher Features

*In our Teacher Features this month, we are pleased to introduce you to Cindy Bloom, NEMS; Linda Foster, STEM Academy; Dorinda Scholly, North Elementary; and Laurajane VanNiman, Green Meadow.*


## Shirley Gilland



Shirley Gilland can't imagine a better way to spend the day than with kids. It's something she's been doing at Comstock for 22 years, having taught second, third, and fifth grades at Gull Road, North and East, and now at Northeast Middle School.


"I love working with kids," she said. "Interacting with them on a daily basis keeps you feeling young and sometimes reminds you not to take things so seriously."

She gets excited as she watches students apply something they've learned to their lives. And then there's the fascination of all the different personalities she interacts with each day.

"Sharing my culture and background with students helps us all to realize that as different as we may be, when we come into our classroom our  becomes one," she said.

A favorite classroom memory centers around a student who hated to read but she kept trying to find books that would interest him. Finally, after several months, the student's father came in to tell her that he had just checked out several library books in the series that his son was now reading.

"Their gratitude and appreciation I have never forgotten," she said. "It reminds me never to give up on a child."

She's inspired to become a better teacher  by her own children, others she comes into contact with and her own life experiences.

"When former Comstock students come to visit me or I run into them at a store or restaurant, the hugs, smiles, or looks of disbelief on their faces make everything worthwhile," she said. "Many times they're taller than me and they have become very independent since fifth grade."

Inspiration is needed in education today because of the many challenges teachers face, such as finding the right way to challenge students and ignite their curiosity, she said. Today's students also face many challenges that in the past maybe only a couple of students in a classroom faced.

"Learning about the First Americans and their challenges seems irrelevant when students are thinking about the Americans in their homes that don't have jobs or food to put on the table," she said. "My job is to make the past relevant and find various ways to connect it to the present day life that children are experiencing."

Part of her job is also to help students to understand that they need to come to school and do their best daily, she said.

"A solid education will help them to make the best choices and hopefully eliminate some of the challenges that they will face," she said.

Mrs. Gilland is a graduate of Western Michigan University where she majored in elementary education with a minor in science. She also has a master's degree in reading.

## Sara Howard



"Teaching is my calling," said Green Meadow second grade teacher, Sara Howard. "I am grateful to know that about myself because every day I get to go to work and know I am doing what I am meant to do."

In her eighth year of teaching, seven of those at Green Meadow, she enjoys the many positive ways her career allows her to contribute to society.

"To be able to influence children to make responsible choices in their lives and to expand their knowledge is so rewarding," she said.

While there are many special things about being a teacher, she especially enjoys the Turkey Notes which staff members receive around Thanksgiving.

"I hope the Middle School knows how special these notes are to staff members," she said.

Conferences are also a fun time especially when older siblings of current students come back to the building.

"It is fun to catch up with former students and hear them brag to their old teacher about their successes," she said. "It is also nice to catch up with former parents, grandparents, and other family members that I have made connections with over the years."

Inspiring her on a daily basis is thinking about the future.

"I like to think that my daily teaching, combined with the efforts of everyone else in the lives of our students, helps kids take baby steps toward building a brighter future for themselves and for our world," she said. "I realize that a huge impact may not be able to be made daily but I sure do get up every morning to try to make a difference."

Part of making a difference is meeting the needs of diverse learners in the classroom, one of the biggest challenges for teachers today.

"Every day I reflect on what I could have done differently, what I could have done better, or what other strategies I could have used to help my students," she said. "I am constantly learning and trying to make improvements in the classroom myself."

She credits her colleagues in the district for helping with that momentous task.

"I am thankful to work with a group of educators willing to meet consistently to review data, to share ideas, and to collaborate in order to meet the needs of every student," she said.

Mrs. Howard and her husband, Chad, who teaches in the Young Adult Program, have a son, Ben, and are expecting their daughter, Nina, in April.

"My husband and I are like kids ourselves again while we try to keep up with our toddler," she said. "We play outside a lot, build with blocks, play with trains, read,

dance, dance some more, sing, and just enjoy time well spent with our family."

She also enjoys baking, working on home projects, spending time at the lake, walking or finding new ideas on Pinterest.

"Baking is probably my favorite hobby and Ben really likes to help with anything in the kitchen," she said. "He constantly craves learning new things so lucky for him that he has two teachers as parents!"

## Ann Juzwiak



With many fond memories of her 32 years of teaching, Ann Juzwiak, third grade teacher at North, especially enjoys creating gingerbread houses every December with her students, something which has been a tradition at North for 30 years.

"It's always a special time to spend with the students," she said. "We marvel at the beautiful creations and I'm always impressed with the way students share and help one another with their projects. Every house is unique and reflects the personality of the student who built it."

Other aspects of teaching including helping to shape the future of the community, building relationships with students and seeing the joy in their faces when they learn something new.

"My favorite subject is math and I am really good at showing students the relationships between number concepts and strategies," she said.

Mrs. Juzwiak has a bachelor of science and a master of arts degree in elementary education from Western Michigan University. After graduating from WMU, she taught for six years at St. Augustine School and then came to North Elementary where she has taught third grade every year except last year when she taught second grade.

"I moved up to third grade with many of my students this year and that was very beneficial for the students and for me," she said. "I already knew what they had learned last year and I knew about the students' strengths and weaknesses. We saved a lot of time in the fall getting to know each other and instruction was more quickly tailored to each student's needs."

The hardest thing about teaching today is trying to prepare students for the new state assessments which will be given in the spring, she said. But she's inspired each day by her colleagues.

"They inspire me to start each day with enthusiasm and the goal to inspire students to reach and raise their potential," she said.

Mrs. Juzwiak and her husband, Paul, have two children. Emily is a freshman at Michigan State majoring in genetics while Matt is a sophomore at Portage Northern who loves to play golf.

She enjoys traveling, attending her children's sporting events and reading.



## Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Training

Comstock Public Schools Community Education Center, 3010 Gull Road, offers a Certified Nurse Aide Training **monthly**.

Our intensive 80-hour course meets all of the requirements of the State of Michigan Certified Nurse Aide Training program.

Course content includes: long-term care facilities, physical and emotional needs of residents, resident rights, communication skills, death and dying, special needs including dementia care, vital signs, infection control techniques, observations, medical terminology, body mechanics, transfers, walkers, canes, positioning in bed, nutrition, intake and output, elimination needs, skin care, foot care, dressing, bathing, bed making, mouth care and first aid. Homework is required.

Class consists of 10 classroom days from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Three nursing home days from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. are required.

Class size is limited to 24 students. Tuition is \$700, due at the time of registration. You get to keep the book.

A nurse aide uniform, appropriate shoes and a watch with a second hand are required. Students who desire state certification pay an additional \$176 to the State of Michigan to take the state test.

Upcoming class dates: Febr 2, March 2, March 30, April 27, and June 1

Please call 269-250-8930 with questions.

## Students Enjoy Relaxing, Learning About Psychology

Comstock High School



Students in the College Psychology 150 class listen to Dr. Dama.

Imagine students entering their psychology class stressed out from teen life today as they try to balance school, homework, and jobs, but leaving an hour later feeling calm and renewed.

Juniors and seniors in Kimberly Adams' dual enrollment/KVCC Psychology 150 class experienced that during a presentation by Dr. Richard Dama, counselor and clinical hypnotherapist.

One student said, "Wow! I came into the class today all hyped up from all the pressure and work I need to do in all my classes and **life and** am walking out of here feeling like I just slept for days. I am totally calm and can think clearly to do what I need to do today. So cool!"

But it was also a learning experience for the students through Dr. Dama's presentation which explained treatments for stress and anxiety management, fears and phobias, sleep issues, confidence and self-esteem, depression and anger management, public speaking and stage fright, and even test-taking performance and recall. He said, too, that hypnosis is considered by many professional and medical associations to be a valid treatment method for many different conditions.

He demonstrated this by placing a volunteer into a "trance" or hypnosis, an activity all students had been informed of and agreed to prior to Dr. Dama's visit. While most students prepared to relax and/or participate in the demonstration, some were still skeptical and questioned the validity of the **experiment and** chose to observe rather than engage in the hypnosis themselves.

Later, those observers all agreed Dr. Dama's calming voice had an effect on **them and** were surprised that several classmates truly went "under or into a **trance**" and appeared to be completely calm and relaxed.

After the presentation, Dr. Dama answered questions and students reported they were in awe of how relaxing his time with them was. But they also learned a lot.

"He was fantastic," said senior Coree Hamstra. "I just learned so much!"

Another student, Jordan Baker, said, "Can't we have him back? I want to learn so much more!"

Dr. Dama had been invited to speak to the class by the instructor, Ms. Adams. Having done two presentations to the class this fall, he will be returning later in the year to do more teaching about psychology.

"He's just a fantastic speaker for my students to learn some of the practical applications of psychology," said Ms. Adams. "I believe my students learn so much more from a speaker, in the field of study, that supports what I or the book may present in class. And he is a lot of fun.

"We are so grateful to Dr. Dama for taking time out of his schedule to share his information, wisdom and insight into the field of psychology."

Dr. Dama, a board certified advanced clinical hypnotherapist with over 35 years of experience, is a regular presenter at colleges and universities and at regional, national and international conferences. He also writes a blog on Facebook.

# NEMS Students Take Top Honors in Geography Bee

Northeast Middle School

Audrey Rabick, Aleeshia McClinton, and Daniel Wiggins took the top three spots in this year's Geography Bee at NEMS.

Audrey, an eighth grader, also won the competition last year. Aleeshia, an eighth grader was also in the finals last year. Daniel is a seventh grader.

Having won this year's competition, Audrey represented NEMS at the state qualifying test which has been sent to the state to be reviewed. If she places in the top 100 tests in Michigan, she will compete in the state level competition later this winter. The winner in the state competition will advance to the national event in Washington, D.C. in May.

The Geography Bee has been a long traditional NEMS, with all students vying for the top 10 spots so they can compete in the building finals.

Mrs. Bloom and Ms. Norton worked with students to review and prepare for the competition. Students were coached in a variety of areas such as oceans of the world, land formations, countries, capitals of states and countries, and the largest exports or imports for a country.

In the classroom competition, five students qualified for the finals by answering all the preliminary classroom questions correctly. Then a tie-breaker round was held to determine the other five finalists resulting in the following 10 finalists: Dayton Dratt (7), Daniel Wiggins (6), Atraeu Hizer (8), Andrea Behrmann (8), Evan Veenhuis (8), Hannah Le (8), Aleeshia McClinton (8), Zoe Vandrey (7), Audrey Rabick(8), Kylie Sprague (8) .

All the students who participated in this event did an excellent job of answering the questions that tested their social studies knowledge. Family members, staff and students appreciated the effort and preparation each student put forth to ready themselves for this quiz bowl type of event.

Congratulations to all the participants and to the top three champions.

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."



The ten finalists in the Geography Bee were: Back Row: Atraeu Hizer, Evan Veenhuis, Aleeshia McClinton, Audrey Rabick. Front Row: Dayton Dratt, Daniel Wiggins, Andrea Behrmann, Hannah Lee, Zoe Vandrey, and Kylie Sprague.



Three Finalist: Students taking the top spots in the NEMS Geography Bee are Daniel Wiggins, third place; Audrey Rabick, first place; and Aleeshia McClinton, second place.

## Schoen Wins \$2500 Grant for New Science Club



Katelan Schoen, NEMS teacher, has been awarded a \$2,500 Inspired Learning grant from the Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The money will be used for the new science club at NEMS.

The Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation kicked off the Inspired Learning grants program in October to empower local educators to launch innovative learning ideas.

To apply, educators needed to upload a short video to the program's Facebook page explaining their idea.

In December, people could visit the page to vote for their favorite videos. Voting narrowed the submissions down to the top 12 videos. Next, the panel of community leaders from Kalamazoo County selected the final four recipients of the grants.

There were 44 submissions for grants and more than 13,700 votes were cast by the community.

NEMS appreciates the support of the community and their voting on Facebook. A special thank you to Comstock graduate, Chance Brown, for the work he put into the video.

## North North Elementary Families Enjoy Breakfast with Santa

North Elementary students and their families, totaling 240 people and 69 families, were treated to Breakfast with Santa before the holiday break.

Families enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast with a hot cocoa bar. Children participated in a few "reindeer games" and three make-and-take holiday crafts.

Students visited with Santa and received a book to take home. Families also had their pictures taken with Santa and could have them emailed to them to share with family and friends.

Because of tremendous community support and many staff members and their families giving of their time, this event was absolutely free to North students and their families this year.

North Elementary thanks Julianna's Restaurant, Nikko's Express, Gil's Market, D'nicio's, Cornerview Café and Sweetwater Donuts for their generous donations. This event could not have happened without them.

We also thank Nichole Webb for graciously donating her talents to take the children's pictures with Santa and provide them to the families.

This event was a perfect collaboration of community and schools coming together for children.



**Saturday, April 18, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Comstock High School**

Business Owners  
For exhibitor information,  
contact 350-1297

## Eighth Graders Share Short Stories with Fifth Graders

Northeast Middle School

Eighth grade students in Brooke Chamberlin's language arts class at NEMS, recently wrote children's books while studying short stories. The students used art supplies donated by Home Works Corporation to create their books.

Then, fifth graders from Scott Kimball's class came to Ms. Chamberlin's room and the eighth graders read their stories to the younger students.



Top photo: Andrea Behrmann (left) and Cameron Gilley (third from left) share their stories with Lacy Murdock (second from left) and Courtney Black (right).

Bottom photo: Michael Derhammer (left) and Corey Hettinger (third from left) read their stories to Josh Arriaga (second from left) and Gaven Schmidtke (right).



## Comstock Community Auditorium Events Open to the Public

### February:

- 6-7-A Little Princess; Homeschool Performing Arts: 7 p.m. Matinée (7th) at 3 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472
- 10- Compass High School graduation: 7 p.m.
- 14- Father/ Daughter Dance: 5:30 p.m.- Tickets: 250-8712
- 18-Comstock Winter Band Concert: 7 p.m.-FREE
- 28-STEM Academy-Battle of the Books: 1 p.m. - FREE

### March:

- 20-21-Annie Get Your Gun: Heritage Christian Academy: 7 p.m.- Matinée (21st at 2 p.m.) Tickets: 372-1400
- 24-Once Upon a Parable-Home-School Performing Arts -Kids: 5:30 & 7:30 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472
- 26- Comstock NEMS Talent Show- 7 p.m.- FREE
- 28-Gull Lake Glitter: 7: p.m. - Tickets at the door or call Gull Lake High School
- 30-STEM Academy Music Program:-7 p.m.-FREE
- 31-Green Meadow Music Program: 7 p.m.-FREE

### April:

- 1-North Elementary Music Program-7 p.m.-FREE
- 4- Borgess Marathon Run Camp- 7 a.m.-Noon - Colt Center.





## Guest Readers Share Love of Reading

North Elementary

Guest readers shared their favorite Christmas stories with Miss Buscher's kindergarten class at North just before winter break.

Superintendent Todd Mora read "Is It Christmas Yet?" He took a fiction story and incorporated nonfiction by sharing a family vacation experience where they saw real bears. He also talked about the different types of bears around the world.

When curriculum director, Mrs. Ansel, read her story, the students shared with her all that Mr. Mora taught them about bears.

North's principal, Ms. Paulson, read "There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Bell." The students then retold the story by using sequencing strategies to tell the story in order.

Soon it was North's secretary, Mrs. Martell's turn to read. She chose "Snowmen at Christmas" and the students incorporated writing by sharing something that the snowmen did at Christmas.



Superintendent Mora shares the book he read to Miss Buscher's kindergarten class.

Students then got their own copy of the book.

Other readers included North Parent Liaison, Mrs. Blackwell; North Academic Coach Bonnie Mastromatteo; North Behavior Specialist Mrs. Hosbein; North Special Education Teacher, Mrs. Standal; Comstock Business Manager Mrs. Johnson; and Accounting Specialist; Mrs. Bottomley.

Thank you for sharing your love of reading.

## Parents, Students Learn about Cyber Safety

Representatives from the Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative (CSI) recently taught parents and students about how to be safe when using the internet. CSI's customized programs teach children the importance of being safe, making smart decisions, and protecting themselves and others while online.

Fifth graders were taught to recognize common internet predator grooming techniques, as well as additional appropriate responses to bullying and cyberbullying. Students were also introduced to the OK2SAY student safety hotline, but were encouraged to always talk to a trusted adult first.

The new student safety hotline, OK2SAY, is a confidential way to file reports on potential harm or criminal activity involving students, school employees, and schools. Tips can be submitted 24/7 via telephone, text message, email, mobile app, or the OK2SAY website.

The presentation for sixth through eighth grade students gave an in-depth explanation of OK2SAY – how it works, what types of incidents they can report, how to submit a tip, and what will happen with the tip. Students then received detailed

explanations about bullying, cyberbullying, suicide, sexting, sexual abuse, the predator threat, and how to protect themselves online. Videos were shown relating stories of teenage survivors of internet predators, of Michigan teens who have died by suicide, and the impact of sexting.

The information in these sessions complements information presented in the technology classes taught by ??? Cousins, who always warns students against putting too much personal information on the internet via Facebook, Tweeting or on Twitter. Once you post a picture or other private information, those details will be in cyberspace forever, he tells students.

Parents were also invited to attend the CSI sessions with their students, but for those who could not attend during the day, an evening presentation was provided, including a question and answer session. A handout was provided that listed 15 Social Media Sites parents need to know about. Each site was broken down with a rating of: No Concerns, Requires Monitoring, or NOT RECOMMENDED. This valuable information may be printed out from the NEMS website

## North Third Graders Create Gingerbread Houses

North Elementary



Here is an example of a gingerbread house created by a North third grader.

North third graders had a fantastic time creating gingerbread houses. Each third grade class participated in the 30-year holiday tradition at North. Parents, teachers, and students provided graham crackers, candy, frosting, and a whole bunch of enthusiasm to create the beautiful houses.

"This is so much fun!" one third grader said, as she happily placed candy onto her gingerbread house. Her sentiment was felt by all.

The completed houses represented the students' creativity and joy for the holidays.

North Elementary was a candy-filled holiday lane of gorgeous gingerbread houses. Mrs. Juzwiak and Ms. Alatalo thank all parents, students, and volunteers for providing supplies and more importantly, their time.

This was an activity the third graders will not soon forget.

Parent Resource Information tab.

For more information about OK2SAY, visit [www.mi.gov/ok2say](http://www.mi.gov/ok2say). All program videos, handouts, and information are available on the Michigan CSI website at [www.mi.gov/csi](http://www.mi.gov/csi).

We would like to thank the representatives from the Michigan Attorney General's Office for not only providing this needed information to our students and parents, but also for volunteering to come to our school each year to keep us current.

## North Second Graders Design Personal Habitats

North Elementary



North second graders recently spent a month researching habitats. After viewing live footage of four main habitats, students chose one to explore further. Through their science textbook and online sources, they discovered how their chosen habitats provided food, shelter and water for their inhabitants.

Students then selected one particular animal to feature in a diorama. North staff generously donated shoe boxes to house each student's diorama.

Various materials were provided to insure that each habitat was unique. Fabric, sandpaper, cotton balls and batting, wood chips from the playground, markers, crayons, and construction paper were transformed into deserts, forests, and the Arctic.

In addition, Mrs. Louallen, our community volunteer, donated a Schleich toy animal to each child to complete the projects.

Students then shared not only their dioramas, but also the knowledge gained from their research with their classmates. Upon completion, students proudly displayed their projects in the Library Media Center.

The experience was memorable and beneficial to both students and staff alike.

## North Receives New American Flag

North Elementary

The students and staff at North Elementary thank Mr. Nick Hastings, a North parent and serviceman, for graciously donating a new American flag to our school.

Our old faded and worn Stars and Stripes was taken to the local VFW for proper and respectful disposal.

Our new flag is proudly flying above our main entrance. Thank you, Mr. Hastings, for your service to our country and school.

# Kalamazoo Growlers Homer Stryker Field

## Saturday June 13th- 7:05pm

Kalamazoo Growlers

Wisconsin Rapid Rafters

VS.



## Comstock Public Schools Foundation Grand Slam 2015 at the



# BELL'S BEAR CAVE



- Exclusive Bell's Bear Cave Deck in right field - open at 6 PM
- Unlimited VIP Ballpark Food including but not limited to: Pulled Pork, Chicken Satay, Beef Brisket, Jalapeño Cheese Brats, Mac & Cheese, Potato Salad, Dessert & Popcorn
- Unlimited VIP Beverages

\*\* Adults- \$50 Under Age 21- \$30 \*\*

**Advance ticket purchase required from:**

Comstock Public Schools Foundation at  
3010 Gull Road or call (269) 250-8907 or  
Email: [foundation@comstockps.org](mailto:foundation@comstockps.org)  
[www.facebook.com/comstockpsfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/comstockpsfoundation)

COMSTOCK  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION



Proceeds benefit the CPSF Scholarship and Grant Funds

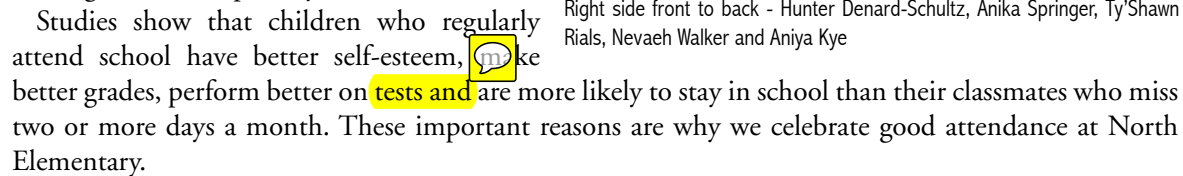
## North Students Recognized for Good Behavior, Attendance

North Elementary

Just before winter break, 257 North students were recognized for making good choices during December.

Students who did not receive a behavior referral were treated to a cookie, icing, and an assortment of sprinkles to create their own holiday cookie masterpiece.

North Elementary also celebrates good attendance. Students who are present 90 percent of the time or better and arrive/leave school at the scheduled times are rewarded with a small incentive. In December, students could "Make Some Noise for Great Attendance" when 266 kids were given a small container of noise putty to celebrate their choice of making coming to school a priority.

Studies show that children who regularly attend school have better self-esteem,  make better grades, perform better on tests and are more likely to stay in school than their classmates who miss two or more days a month. These important reasons are why we celebrate good attendance at North Elementary.



Students from Mrs. Welch's kindergarten class enjoy their cookie creations at the December No Referral Celebration.

Left side front to back - Kevin Ward, Yogi Patel, Mario Roldan, Zamiir Jones and Ethan Beaty

Right side front to back - Hunter Denard-Schultz, Anika Springer, Ty'Shawn Rials, Nevaeh Walker and Aniya Kye

## STEM Receives Coaster From WMU Engineering Students

STEM Academy

A roller coaster, designed by WMU engineering students and presented to the STEM Academy, will allow students to investigate physical science with a hands-on approach. The coaster includes all five simple machines, a loop, a dragon, a balance balloon, a Lego bridge, and a light bridge.

WMU senior engineering students Carleigh Blanchard, Andre Martinez, Tim Murray, and Evan West designed and built the project.

Special thanks go to STEM parent, Greg Rabick, for his initial idea and funding for the project.



Western engineering students present the roller coaster they designed to the STEM kindergarten class.

## North Elementary Hosts Grandparents for Thanksgiving Meal

North Elementary



Connor Brizendine enjoys lunch with his Grandfather.

North Elementary students hosted nearly 100 grandparents and other special adults for a traditional Thanksgiving turkey with all the fixings.

Grandparents met their grandchildren's teachers. Then, they were escorted by their grandchildren to lunch.

Students had artwork and writings with a Thanksgiving theme on display in the gym for everyone to enjoy.

## November No Referral Celebration

North Stars, 253 strong, celebrated no referrals with pumpkin pie in November.

Each month a No Referral celebration is held for students who work hard and consistently make good choices. If students make a mistake, they can correct their behavior and join in the next celebration. Everyone gets to start the month with a clean slate.

The total number of students participating in the No Referral celebrations has increased each month this school year. Congratulations to the students choosing to do the right thing.

Green Meadow Elementary

## Green Meadow Celebrates Milestone School Days



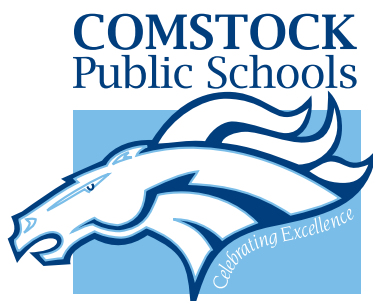
On the 50th Day of school at Green Meadow students dressed in 50s style. Here, Makiah Henderson and Keegan Head show off their 50s fashion.

Green Meadow students recently celebrated the 50th Day of school and in February will be celebrating the 100th Day.

The 100th day of school is a great opportunity to combine math and language arts.

It is also a great day to be in school! Wouldn't it be awesome if on the 100th day of school Comstock had 100 percent attendance? Let's set that as a New Year's Resolution.

Stay tuned to see how buildings around the district celebrate the milestone day.



Green Meadow Elementary

## Mr. Lou Featured in *Senior Times*

Mr. Lou, who has been helping students at Green Meadow for many years, recently became famous via the front page of *Senior Times*, a local paper for seniors. He was the poster child for the Foster Grandparent Program of Kalamazoo County, one of the programs featured in an article in the paper.

At Green Meadow, Mr. Lou reads with students, works on flash cards, helps with math, and always has an encouraging word for students in the hallway.

If you would like to know more about the Foster Grandparent Program, please feel free to call Karen Betley, FGP Director, at 269-382-0515 for more information or to become a foster grandparent volunteer.



It's That Time Of Year...

# KINDERGARTEN 2015-2016



Registration has started for the Kindergarten class of 2028. If you have a child who will be five years of age on or by September 1, 2015, please fill out this Kindergarten Registration Form and return it to the school office or call Green Meadow Elementary at (269) 250-8964 or North Elementary at (269) 250-8550. Please pass this information on to friends and neighbors who may have children ready for school.

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Male/Female (circle one)      Birth Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (month/day/year)

Student Resides with \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Household Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Household Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## GM Elementary Community Partnerships Green Meadow Elementary

Julianna's Restaurant supported our Breakfast for Santa event, donating food for over 200 of our students and families. Phil and Michelle Dratt, Ian and Laura Kendall, Katie Bienz and Irma Klooster donated clothing, outerwear, boots and shoes. Matt and Beth Watts and Watts Homes & Construction kept our students warm with their bighearted and generous donations of new winter coats, snow pants and boots. Maureen Thomas volunteered her photography services for our Breakfast with Santa event so each student received a picture sitting on Santa's lap. Laura Diamond supported the Positive Behavior Program with prize donations. New Apostolic Church and Vickey Kimmer collected canned and dry goods to support our school food pantry. The Bennecke Family, Nicole Gonzales and Joanna French supported our students with clothing donations. West Michigan Hounds AAA Hockey Team, The Fitness Spot, LLC and EIMO Technologies hosted food drives for Green Meadow's Food Pantry Program. A very special Santa Claus turns our Breakfast with Santa into a great success.

- Tom and Ann Triemstra donated money to purchase food, winter coats, snow pants and boots.

- Theo and Stacy's Restaurant and Hueschen & Sage PLLC gave extremely generous donations of winter outerwear.

- Melinda Figgins and her family distributed 120 bags of food and gifts to students before winter break. Melinda is also a Kids Hope mentor at Green Meadow.

- Big Lots supported our Positive Behavior Program, donating merchandise to be used for student rewards and incentives.

- Comstock Community Center's Adopt A Family program made the holidays brighter by adopting 30 of our families.

- Pathways to Potential Program/Department of Health Services donated Thanksgiving baskets to fifteen of our families.

- Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes provides weekend food packs to 40 of our students during the school year.

- Warm Kids Project provided 40 students with new winter outerwear, consisting of coats, boots, gloves, hats and scarves.

We are so grateful for the support of our school community. It is on behalf of the children and families of Green Meadow Elementary that we acknowledge you with our warmest thanks.

~ Green Meadow Elementary Staff ~

## Green Meadow Elementary

## Gingerbread Exchange Program



This gingerbread man came all the way from Australia.

## North Student Gets to Shop with a Cop Green Meadow Elementary

Fourth grader Quincy Pritchett III, a student in Mrs. Scholly's class, was chosen in December to "Shop with a Cop," a program sponsored by the Michigan State Police. Quincy was chosen for his quiet leadership abilities and making good choices at school.

Quincy was matched with Sgt. Jose Patino who picked Quincy up at school in his State Police SUV to begin a wonderful day of sharing, shopping and mentoring.

They first joined with other officers and students from other school districts for lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, they were off to Meijer for shopping.

Sgt. Patino assisted Quincy in shopping for Christmas gifts for his family and loved ones with a pre-loaded gift card. After a very busy and rewarding afternoon, Quincy was back at school to finish his day and relive a very special time with his friends and family.



Sgt. Jose Patino of the Michigan State Police and Quincy Pritchett, III, a fourth grader in Mrs. Scholly's class, spent an afternoon shopping for Christmas presents in the "Shop With A Cop" Program.

Successful fund-raising by the Police Department throughout the year allows them to provide this wonderful event to students in Kalamazoo County.

Facebook is helping kindergartners learn geography and letter writing skills.

Miss Kimmer belongs to a group on Facebook that organized a Gingerbread Man exchange. Each class in the exchange was sent a list of 25 classrooms.

The class's job was to make a gingerbread man to send away. Miss Kimmer's class wrote and sent out a letter with each gingerbread man to introduce the class and the state of Michigan.

It was very exciting to get the mail and discover a new envelope from a faraway place. The class received gingerbread men from all over the United States, Canada, the Virgin Islands, and even Australia. A map in the hallway shows where the gingerbread men came from.

The letters were fun to read and some even included pictures. Miss Kimmer is looking into joining a Valentine exchange next. Getting the mail is so much fun.

# Green Meadow Celebrates Positive Behavior

Green Meadow Elementary

Green Meadow celebrates students' good behavior each month with a special treat.

In November, students were treated to pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream. Everyone joined together in the long hallway to enjoy their pie.

Just before winter break, our celebration was a sing-along and dance along with holiday songs in the gym. Mrs. Watson was the DJ and showed the sing-along version of songs and each grade level got to lead the school in one song.

At the end, the Green Meadow staff sang a song to the **students and** each student got a candy cane. What a tasty reward for sweet behavior!

Who knows what the New Year has in store? Our Social Responsibility Team is keeping us on our toes and encouraging even better behaviors.

Everyone at Green Meadow is thankful for the great families we have at our school.



Green Meadow students sing along with holiday songs during the December positive behavior celebration.

# Green Meadow Holds Holiday Door Contest

Green Meadow Elementary



Mrs. Howard's class won the holiday door decorating contest at Green Meadow. Their class door was decorated with Letters to Santa.

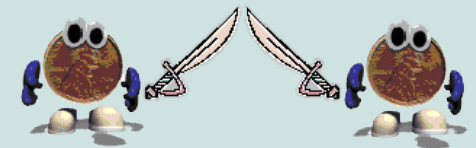
This annual competition had a wide range of entries this year. There were writing samples, photographs, book-inspired, movie-inspired, and song-inspired doors.

Mrs. Laning's class door was transformed into Whos from Whoville. Mrs. Boris and Mrs. McVerry both decorated their doors with pictures of their students, transforming them into reindeer by adding red noses and antlers.



Mr. Mora, Mrs. Ansel, and Mr. Pellerito were guest judges and used a detailed rubric to determine the winner.

Best of all is that parents and students were able to see all the doors during our Breakfast with Santa.



# Penny Wars Declared

One, two, three, four, Mrs. Caswell has declared a Penny War! February is the scheduled **time and** the goal is to raise money for the Richmond Scholarship Fund.

Last year, Green Meadow had a one week penny war, but this year it is going to be a two week war. So start saving up those pennies! Raid the couches! Look under the **cheats!**

Start collecting your pennies because those are the coins which will score **points or** you can start planning which class you would like to sabotage this year with nickels, dimes or quarters.

Mrs. Laning's class is the returning total champ from last year because her class had the most total money. Will her class be champs again this year? It is up to you!

The Penny War is a great opportunity for learning and having fun. Students had a great time using words such as "sabotage" and math terms such as "greater than/less than."

If you would like to donate to the Richmond Scholarship Fund, please visit the Comstock Public Schools website for more information.

# Santa Joins Green Meadow for Breakfast

Green Meadow Elementary



Above: Bailey Thomas and Santa have a nice conversation.  
Right: The Green Meadow Staff and Santa Claus.



Green Meadow Elementary hosted a breakfast in December with a special guest - Santa Claus.

Thanks to Julianna's Restaurant, everyone enjoyed delicious pancakes and sausage. Our volunteers were terrific cooks.

After breakfast, families were invited to tour the school and check out the holiday-themed doors, as well as visiting various rooms to participate in crafts.

Elf hats, ornaments, reindeer food, and jingle necklaces were all very popular, but not as popular as the big guy himself: Santa, who was the star of the show. Students and families were so excited to see him.

Everyone visited with Santa, had a picture taken with him, and took home a story book. It was the best morning.

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

### Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

Congratulations to the following for being voted into Comstock's Athletic Hall of Fame:

- \* Fred Smith, Comstock Athletic Director, 1985-2007
- \* Josh Cooper, Class of 1993
- \* Shawn Bowden. Class of 1996
- \* Alexis Jager, Class of 2007
- \* The 1996 State Championship Volleyball team made up of Candice Anderson, Nicole Frizzo, Windy Kelemen, Christine Keller, Lucy Lee, Sarah MacCord, Christie Perry, Mandy Whitfield, Stephanie Young and Coach Jeff Borr

The Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 25 at the WMU Fetzer Center. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. and the induction to follow at 6:45 p.m. Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for \$25. Come support these great Comstock alumni and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 20.

### Father Daughter Dance

The Comstock Girls Basketball team will be hosting the father daughter dance on Saturday, February 14 from 6-9:30 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 will take place from 6-8 p.m. and a movie with popcorn will be shown from 8-9:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The cost per couple is \$20 and includes pizza.

You can sign up in the athletic office or call Justin Ansel at 269-250-8711 for more information.

### Winter Sports Awards Banquet

The winter sports awards banquet will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Comstock High School Auditorium.

### High School Spring Sports Start Date, 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 9. Middle school track will begin Monday, March 30.

### Spring Sports Parent Meeting

The spring sports parent meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Comstock High School Auditorium. If your son or daughter is playing a spring sport, please plan to attend this meeting for valuable information regarding the team and school.

# Comstock High School February/March Sports Schedule

## Boys Freshman Basketball

Tuesday	Feb. 03	Hackett Catholic Central	Home	4:30 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 05	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Home	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 10	Allegan Public Schools	Away	4:15 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 12	Schoolcraft High School	Home	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 17	Brandywine High School	Home	4:30 p.m.
Monday	Feb. 23	Hartford High School	Home	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 25	Delton-Kellogg H.S.	Away	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	Mar. 05	Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	Home	4:30 p.m.

## Boys JV Basketball

Tuesday	Feb. 03	Hackett Catholic Central	Home	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 05	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Home	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 10	Allegan Public Schools	Away	5:45 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 12	Schoolcraft High School	Home	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 17	Brandywine High School	Home	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 24	Constantine High School	Away	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 25	Delton-Kellogg H.S.	Away	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Mar. 05	Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	Home	6:00 p.m.

## Boys Varsity Basketball

Tuesday	Feb. 03	Hackett Catholic Central	Home	7:30 p.m.
Friday	Feb. 06	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Away	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 10	Allegan Public Schools	Away	7:15 p.m.
Friday	Feb. 13	Schoolcraft High School	Away	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 17	Brandywine High School	Home	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 24	Constantine High School	Away	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 26	Delton-Kellogg H.S.	Home	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Mar. 05	Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	Home	7:30 p.m.
Monday	Mar. 16	MHSAA Regional	Home	TBA
Wednesday	Mar. 18	Boys Basketball Regional	Home	TBA

## Girls Freshman Basketball

Tuesday	Feb. 03	Hackett Catholic Central	Away	4:30 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 05	Paw Paw	Away	5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 10	Allegan Public Schools	Home	4:15 p.m.
Monday	Feb. 16	Sturgis H.S.	Away	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 18	Harper Creek High School	Away	4:15 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 25	Delton-Kellogg H.S.	Home	4:30 p.m.

## Girls JV Basketball

Tuesday	Feb. 03	Hackett Catholic Central	Away	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 05	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Aways	6:00 p.m.
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Wednesday	Feb. 18	Harper Creek High School	Away	7:15 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 24	Constantine High School	Home	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 26	Delton-Kellogg H.S.	Home	6:00 p.m.

## Varsity Bowling (Boys/Girls)

Wednesday	Feb. 04	Hackett Catholic Central	(Eastland)	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 11	Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	(Eastland)	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 18	Parchment	(Eastland)	4:30 p.m.
Friday	Feb. 20	KVA Championships	(Eastland)	9:00AM
Friday	Feb. 27	MHSAA Team Regional	(Eastland)	TBA
Saturday	Feb. 28	MHSAA Individual Regional	(Eastland)	TBA

## Varsity Competitive Cheer

Monday	Feb. 02	Lawton Think Pink Night	Away	6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 07	Webberville Sweetheart	Invitational	10:00AM
Saturday	Feb. 14	KVA Championship - Delton-Kellogg	TBA	
Wednesday	Feb. 18	Vicksburg Invitational		6:00 p.m.

## Boys Varsity Wrestling

Wednesday	Feb. 04	Marshall Quad w/ Olivet Bronson		6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 07	KVA Conference Meet -		
		Parchment	Away	TBA
Wednesday	Feb. 11	MHSAA Team District	Home	6:00 p.m.



## Father/Daughter Winter Dance

Girls of any age with their Fathers!  
A grand night of Dancing, Games, and Food!  
**Saturday, February 14, 2015 • 6-8 p.m.**  
**Comstock High School**

\$20/couple and \$5/extra daughter  
Includes pizza and refreshments served from 6 until 7!  
Professional photographs available at an extra charge  
beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**More information – Call Shirley or Justin at 250-8711**

Advance registration highly recommended  
to help us get an accurate count for food.

---

Father / Daughter Dance Registration Form  
Return by mail to:  
Comstock High School  
Attn: Justin Ansel  
2107 N. 26th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Names \_\_\_\_\_  
Daughter \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Daughter's Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: Comstock High School**  
**Pre-registered names will be at the registration table.**  
**No tickets will be sent!**  
*\*\*\*In the case of inclement weather, cancellations will be on TV.*



# Comstock Township Library Events

## Adult Department

**Homebound Library Services:** Homebound Library Services: The Homebound Delivery Service seeks to provide library materials to Comstock Township Residents who are unable to visit the library. Homebound delivery includes the selection of materials by library staff and delivery of those materials by library employees.

### *Homebound criteria are as follows:*

*Residents are to be considered homebound if they have a condition (due to illness or injury) that restricts their ability to leave their place of residence, except with the aid of a supportive device such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and walkers, the use of special transportation, the assistance of another person or if leaving home is medically contraindicated. In most circumstances, if a resident drives, he/she would not be considered homebound. Call 345-0136 for further information.*

**The Kalamazoo County Tax Counseling Initiative** will be at the Comstock Township Library on February 7 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; March 7 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; March 16 from 2:30-7:30 p.m.; April 6 from 2:30-7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, April 11 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Free Income Tax Preparation and Electronic Filing** services provided by IRS-certified community volunteers for individuals and families with household income of up to \$53,000 in 2014. 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.

### **WANT TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE A RUG?**

The Comstock Township Library will be hosting rug-making classes on February 5, 12 and 19. Cost: \$35.00 for three two-hour sessions. To register and for more information, call 269-731-4787 and ask for June Terryn. For the first class, please bring a pair of scissors and a lint roller. You must register by February 3 with June in order to take this class.

**Adult Craft:** Valentine Wineglass Lampshade, Wednesday, February 18, at 5:30 pm. Make and decorate a wineglass lampshade to illuminate the winter gloom! Registration for this free craft begins on Monday, February 2, at the adult reference desk.

**Adult Craft:** Arm-Knitting Class, Wednesday, March 4, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Instructor Wendy Ericson will be teaching us how to knit a scarf using our arms. We will supply the yarn. Registration for this free craft begins on Monday, February 9, at the adult reference desk.

**Adult Craft:** Egg Garland, Wednesday, April 1 at 5:30 p.m. Make colorful egg garland to decorate your home for spring. Display at the adult reference desk. Registration for this free craft begins on Monday, March 16, at the adult reference desk.

## WINTER FUN EVENTS IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

**Storytime:** Registration for the Winter Storytime sessions began January 5. Register your child for a 45-minute session which includes 30 minutes of stories, songs, and other activities followed by a short craft. (Storytime for 1-2 year olds does not include craft.) Storytimes began in January and run through April 30. Drop-in storytimes will resume in June. Storytime sessions are as follows: Storytime sessions are as follows:

Mondays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.  
2-3 year olds (Miz Traci)  
Tuesdays: 9:45-10:15 a.m.  
1-2 year olds  
(Miz Ashlee and Miz Traci)  
10:30-11:15 a.m.  
2-3 year olds (Miz Elaine)  
Wednesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.  
3-5 year olds (Miz Elaine)  
Thursdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.  
3-5 year olds (Miz Traci)

### **1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN:**

On behalf of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Foundation, Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents and caregivers to read 1000 books to their young children and earn prizes along the way. Any child can participate until s/he enters Kindergarten. Stop by the Young People's desk to register and pick up a tracking sheet. **Registration began in January.**

**B.E.A.R. BINGO: Through February 28.** Pick up your BINGO card at the Young People's Desk. Cross off activities as you go, and when you complete five in a row, bring your card in to be stamped and get a trip to the treasure chest. Complete all five bingos on your card to

## CLOSINGS

During inclement weather, call the library to check on whether it is closed.

The library will be closed on Monday, February 16 for Presidents' Day and on Saturday, April 4.

be entered for a larger prize drawing on March 2. Materials must be from the Comstock Library. **Grand prize for Preschool and K-2 groups is a gift certificate to Build-a-Bear. For grades 3-12, the grand prize is a \$25 gift certificate to Meijer.**

**DROP-IN VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT: Saturday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., all ages.** No registration is required for this free drop-in session. Choose three crafts from a variety of previously offered crafts. Quantities and styles may be limited.

**EASTER/SPRING DROP-IN CRAFT: Saturday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., all ages.** No registration is required for this free drop-in session. Choose three crafts from a variety of previously offered crafts. Quantities and styles may be limited.

**TEEN/TWEEN CRAFTAFTERNOON: 4th through 12th grades.** Come in and enjoy an afternoon craft session with snacks. Registration is required for this free event and begins the week before the event. Meeting times are as follows: Monday, February 2, 5-6 p.m.: Legos

**TEEN/TWEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB): 4th through 12th grades.** Earn community service hours recommending and helping to plan teen programming events for you and your friends, suggesting items for the young adult collection, and more. Plus – snacks! Registration is required for this free event and begins a week before the event. Meeting times are as follows: Monday, February 9, 5-6 p.m.

Monday, March 9, 5-6 p.m.

**TEEN/TWEEN BOOK CLUB: 4th through 12th grades.** Read and discuss a new book each month and enjoy themed activities and snacks. You may pick up copies of the book of the month at the Young People's Desk at the time of or after registration. Registration is required for this free event and meeting times are as follows: Monday, February 23, 5-6 p.m.

Book: *The Lions of Little Rock*

## Comstock Township Library Events *(continued)*

### BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

STEM Academy, with the support of the Comstock Township Library, is introducing Battle of the Books! Teams from STEM Academy consist of four to six fourth, fifth and sixth graders, who will “battle” against each other to determine which team knows the most about the books. For more information, visit STEM Academy’s webpage by going to comstockps.org. Click on the STEM Academy under “Our Schools,” and then click on the Battle of the Books link.

**Saturday, February 14, at 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m., Comstock Township Library:** Team T-shirt decorating. Registration is required and begins Monday, February 9. Call the Comstock Township Library at 345-0136 to register.

**Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m., Comstock High School Colt Center:** Practice Battle

**Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m., Comstock High School Colt Center:** Official Battle of the Books

### FOR EVERYONE!

WE HAVE eBOOKS! Call us for more information! 345-0136.

The library now has a **Cricut Expression** available for patron use (must be 18 years or older or with a parent or guardian to use and must provide your own cardstock). Please call 345-0136 for further information.

Would you like to learn how to research genealogy using Ancestry Library Edition? Please call the library 345-0136 to set up an appointment with a librarian.

**\*DID YOU KNOW\*** 30 million American adults need literacy help? If you would like to improve your reading and writing skills, please give your name, time of availability, and phone number to the reference librarian. The Kalamazoo Literacy Council will be sending out literacy tutors to the Comstock Township Library.



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.



### 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.



### Need Resume Help?

Please contact the adult reference desk to make an appointment. We will help you write a cover letter or resume, or proofread one that you already have.

## Mother/Son Bowling Event

Boys of any age with their Mothers!  
A grand night of Bowling, Pizza and Fun!

**Saturday, February 7, 2015**

**6 to 8 p.m.**

Eastland Bowl

\$23/couple and \$7/extra son

Includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and cookies.

Pizza will be served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Eastland will have a 32 oz. soda special for \$1.

More information – Call Shirley or Justin at 250-8711

*Registration due by Wednesday, February 4.  
We have to cap at 148 people.*

## Mother/Son Bowling Registration Form

Return by mail to  
Comstock High School  
Attn: Justin Ansel  
2107 N. 26th St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Son's Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Comstock Athletics  
Pre-registered names will be at the registration table.

No tickets will be sent!

\*\*\*In the case of inclement weather, cancellations will be on TV.