

The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL
COMSTOCK ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | COMSTOCK EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY | COMSTOCK K-12 VIRTUAL ACADEMY



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MORE NEWS

Turn over to read
Center Point

A newsletter about
the Comstock
Community Center



From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Community,

The word *legacy* suggests historical significance, but it can possess different meanings for different people. The secondary definition of *legacy* is: something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or a predecessor or from the past. I like to think of legacy not only as what you leave behind for subsequent generations, but what you DO in the present--what you build toward and work to achieve at any given moment.

At Comstock Public Schools, the aspects of the past, present, and future come to the forefront when we consider the consequences of our legacy. Our macro and micro footprints leave impressions along a path formed by our cumulative daily intentions, actions, and decisions. This means that within our school community, our daily interactions with our students and how we carry out our educational mission are important and influential. The same is true for our staff members and students.

As we move deeper into the school year, let's take a moment to think about what kind of legacy we want to build and leave for others to en-

sure the success of our Comstock Public Schools community, especially for our students. The core of our District's mission statement *is to serve our community by empowering, inspiring, and challenging every person within the district to reach their full potential.*

Recently, we honored Dr. Bob Hamet who served 25 years as CPS superintendent, the longest tenured superintendent in the history of Comstock. His years of service were marked by commitment, dedication, and service for the greater good, a wonderful legacy which still resonates in our District. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hamet Athletic Complex allowed us to make personal connections and celebrate the history of our school community.

Let's learn from the past, live in the present, and look to the future. What can we do TODAY to best achieve our CPS mission? What will our legacy be? Let's make history together!

Sincerely,
Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

OCTOBER:

- 15 Found and Favored Ministries: The Story Tour. 6:30 p.m. General Admission tickets are \$14. Other ticket options available online at their website www.thestorytour.org.
- 18 Comstock High School Choir Concert, 7 p.m. Free.

NOVEMBER:

- 3-5 **Matilda Jr.** Center Stage Theater Fall Show. 7:30 p.m. Matinee only on the November 5 at 2 p.m. Online ticketing at <https://kzoocst.com/tickets> or call **269-348-SHOW**. Some tickets will be available at the door.
- 7 **Connecting Chords Festival: String Queens Concert.** 7 p.m. Website for tickets and information: <https://www.connectingchordsfestival.com/events/2023/the-string-queens/> Tickets will also be available at the door.
- 8 **Education for the Arts: String Queens.** Kalamazoo County area schools will attend. 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. shows. **Not open to the public.**
- 14 **Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Choir Concert.** 7 p.m. Free.
- 18 **HPA 2nd Stage - Frog and the Toad Kids.** Shows: 5:30; 8 p.m. Tickets: hpami.org or at the door.



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

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Pamela Dickinson, President
- Matthew Schreiner, Vice President
- Saralyn Brown, Secretary
- Dori Scholly, Treasurer
- Richard Hathaway, Trustee
- Karen Howes, Trustee
- Paul Lamphear, Trustee
- Megan Amsbury, Appointed Recording Secretary
- Michelle Darnell, Appointed Treasurer

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Public Schools is to serve our community by empowering, inspiring, and challenging every person within the school district to reach their full potential, and to ensure all students learn and thrive in a safe and healthy environment.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be an inclusive, high performing learning community where we foster dreams, explore possibilities, and create futures.

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



@ComstockPS

Board Briefs

SPECIAL MEETING

July 26, 2023

- Interviewed Paul Lamphear for the open seat on the Board of Education.

SPECIAL MEETING

August 3, 2023

- Interviewed two board candidates: Ralph Wine,

Jr. and Stephen French.

- Approved appointing Paul Lamphear (who was interviewed on July 26) to fill the vacant seat until the end of the term on December 31, 2024.

REGULAR MEETING

August 14, 2023

- Approved resignations of:
 - Kaitlynn Baylerian, resource room, CES
 - Carrie Bellen, second grade teacher, CES
 - Kaleigh Buris, social worker, CMS
 - Lindsay Clark, teacher consultant
 - Heather Crull, second grade teacher, STEM
 - Tamara Horobik - ECSE Classroom, CELA
 - Elaina King, first grade teacher, CES
- Approved hiring:
 - Caelan Campos - first grade teacher, STEM
 - Jessica Damer - second grade teacher, CES
 - Miranda Heald - second grade teacher, CES
 - Kristen Holsomback - GRSP teacher, CELA
 - Nicole Kindig - social worker, CMS/Sprouts
 - Miranda Leach - resource room, CMS
 - Shirley Nash - math teacher, CMS
 - Zoie Wallace - intensive resource room, CES
- Approved MHSAA Cooperative Program Middle School Boys Soccer with Galesburg-Augusta.
- Appointed delegates to the MASB fall convention: Dori Scholly as the delegate and Pam Dickinson as the alternate.
- Approved the Student Handbook.
- Approved the 2024-2025 School Calendar.
- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations with the Comstock Education Association.
- Ratified the 2023-2025 contract with the Comstock Education Association.

SPECIAL MEETING

August 21, 2023

- Conducted the Michigan Association of School Board's self-evaluation.
- Discussion determined that the Board needs to work on their trust as well as providing more data scores for decision making.

REGULAR MEETING

August 28, 2023

- Recognized the retirements of Mary Amsbury for 37 years of service and Patricia Anderson also for 37 years of service.
- Approved hiring Amanda Wendt as second grade teacher at STEM and Jettie Rice as a resource room teacher at the elementary school.
- Approved Thrun Policy updates.
- Approved Governance Guidelines and Practices.

Notes from  

NURSE BRITTANY

When to Stay Home

- Must be 24 hours free of fever (100.4 or higher) without use of medications
- Must be 24 hours free of vomiting or diarrhea
- Covid positive
- Rash without a doctor's note
- Pink eye

Reportable Illnesses
Nurse Brittany reports weekly to MDHHS

- Covid
- Cold symptoms
- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Fever (100.4 or higher)
- Strep throat/Scarlet Fever
- Sore throat
- Pink eye
- Rashes
- Lice
- Flu

Medications
Any medication given at school, including over the counter meds and even cough drops must have a special form completed by a doctor *and* a parent or guardian. All medication must be in original packaging and provided to the school.

Lice
Check your child for lice regularly. If found at home, notify Nurse Brittany and treat. Apply olive oil for 8 hours every 3 days for 3 weeks and remove lice, eggs and casings to prevent a re-infestation. Your student will need to be brought to school and cleared to re-enter the classroom after treatment. Classroom letters will not be sent home unless instructed by MDHHS.

COVID Policy
If positive or exposed with symptoms: stay home and notify Nurse Brittany.
If exposed without symptoms: Notify Nurse Brittany. Students may come to school and wear a mask.

COMSTOCK

269-250-8649

Chinese Academy Provides Many Cultural Experiences

The Chinese Academy, a partner of Comstock Public Schools, is a 501c(3) non-profit educational organization dedicated to providing Chinese language and cultural experiences to youth from all cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds in the greater Kalamazoo area. They have a number of language, performing arts, culture programs, and fun events throughout the year.

Please see our flyer below.



KALAMAZOO CHINESE ACADEMY
www.kzooca.org

2023-2024 REGISTRATION

Class offerings:

- Chinese language (ages 4-18)
 - heritage
 - non-heritage
- AP Chinese prep
- "Little Star" dance (ages 5-10)
- Beginner youth dance (ages 11-18)
- Lion dance & youth martial arts (ages 5-18)
- Chinese YoYo/diabolo (ages 5-18)
- Chinese art (ages 6-14)
- Tea ceremony (ages 12+)
- Body charm (ages 16+)

For detailed class descriptions, visit:
<https://kzooca.org/programs>

REGISTER HERE:



Email: info@kzooca.org
Website: www.kzooca.org
Facebook: [@kzooca](https://www.facebook.com/kzooca)





Funding provided in part by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and the Arts Fund of Kalamazoo County, a program of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.



Book Donations Needed for Little Libraries

The District's Little Libraries, located at each school, have been popular. But, we need to keep the libraries stocked.

If you or someone you know is interested in donating books, drop them off at your local school or at the Administration building located at 3010 Gull Road.

Most often, staff members stock the Little Libraries with books donated from the Comstock Township Library, but books also come from donations received from staff and members of the community.

Thanks for your support of this important and ongoing literacy initiative.



Hamet Athletic Complex Officially Opens



Carol Hamet, accompanied by her family, cut the ceremonial ribbon and declared the Hamet Athletic Complex open.

An estimated crowd of 100 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly redesigned Hamet Athletic Complex this summer. Named after longtime superintendent, Bob Hamet, who died in 2020, the complex features an attractive gated entrance with a WiFi connected ticket booth for electronic ticketing, a spacious patio with picnic tables and benches, and a new bathroom facility. The track was also completely replaced and rebuilt along with the high jump, long jump, and pole vault pits.

During the opening ceremony, Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes introduced members of Dr. Hamet's family before reading the words from the memorial plaque mounted on the front of the ticket booth. He also presented canvas copies of the plaque to family members.

Then, Dr. Hamet's widow, Carol, using large ceremonial scissors cut a red ribbon stretching across a gate and, thus, declared that the Hamet Athletic Complex was officially open.

The 16-month project to redesign and modernize the athletic facilities at Comstock High School was accomplished with both 2016 and 2022 bond monies.



Above: The Hamets (left to right): Molly and Hannah Geerlings, Ryan and Allie Lamers Hamet, Peter Hamet, Cheri Medendorp, Faye Goldner (Dr. Hamet's Executive Assistant), Carol Hamet, and Amy Hamet.



Right: Dr. Thoenes read the wording from the memorial plaque to the audience and then President Dickinson presented a copy to each family member beginning with Carol Hamet.

Welcome, New Staff Members



Carynn Banner

Carynn Banner always thought she would be an English teacher because she loved reading. However, that goal changed when she worked with elementary students in a school setting.

“Teaching early elementary instantly clicked for me, and I’m grateful that I have the opportunity to work with young students in developing their love for reading,” she said.

This year she is teaching second grade at the elementary school.

“This is my first year teaching, but I have enjoyed opportunities working with students in both KPS and Portage over the past two years,” she said.

She loves being in the educational field because working with children is so rewarding.

“I loved being able to foster healthy learning environments as well as working with families and the community to grow students’ positive relationships with education,” she said. “When you’re working with children, there is a never-ending string of work to be done, but I look forward to building relationships with students and their families this coming school year.”

Although she attended high school out of state, she grew up in the Kalamazoo area and was excited to return to the city to attend Western Michigan University where she received a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education.

She enjoys reading, gardening, spending time with her dog, Rae, traveling, and volunteering.



Jacquelyn Drewyor

Starting her first year in the educational environment this year is Jacquelyn Drewyor who is a paraprofessional at the Comstock Early Learning Academy. A graduate of Plainwell Renaissance High School in Plainwell, Michigan, she will be graduating from Western Michigan University in December with majors in sociology and social work.

“I chose this because I love working with families and wanted the chance to improve people’s lives,” she said.

Before accepting the job at Comstock, she was a full-time student working part-time in marketing.

About going into education, she says she’s always felt at home in the classroom and wants students to feel the same way.

“The thing I am looking forward to most is developing relationships with all the kids,” she said.

Ms. Drewyor gives a lot of credit for her success to her high school journalism teacher, Charlie Wynne.

“Charlie showed me what community means and how to be an active community member,” she said. “He is my best mentor with all career and educational opportunities.”

Crafting, embroidering, crocheting, and painting are her favorite hobbies. She lives with her cat, Bea.



Hope Goodwin

Teaching Spanish at the high school this year is Hope Goodwin, a native of Port Huron, Michigan. She received a bachelor’s in Spanish from Western Michigan University last year and her master’s in secondary education this year.

She has always wanted to be a teacher because she loves sharing information with others. Her high school Spanish teacher, Angie Kopydlowski, is the reason she decided to be a Spanish teacher.

“She was always upbeat and excited to share her knowledge with us,” said Ms. Goodwin.

Her year-long internship at Portage Central High School helped prepare her for her first year as a teacher.

“It also cemented my decision of being a Spanish teacher because I love watching the students grow in the Spanish language and culture over the course of the year,” she said.

She and her boyfriend, Ethan, have a pet tortoise, Tanky. Ethan is a groundsman for Shaffer Tree Service in Grand Rapids.

Her free time is spent with her family and working through the ever-growing list of books to read.



Sarah Wilson

Growing up in Saginaw, Sarah Wilson attended Gagie Private School before transferring to public schools, graduating from Portage

Central in 2016.

She attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College for two years, intending to become a paramedic/firefighter, but she switched to early childhood education.

“When I was growing up, my mother was a teacher,” she said. “I saw the way she loved what she did and I grew to love the profession as well.”

This year, she will be a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS)* paraprofessional at Comstock Elementary. She previously worked in the same position at Haverhill Elementary in the Portage school district.

“I enjoy the impact I make working with the kids and establishing good relationships with the people and students I interact with,” she said. “I love what I do, and I like to know the impact I make on the students and their futures.”

Keeping students engaged throughout the day is the hardest part of education today.

“Throughout my seven years of working with kids, I have learned that establishing a good relationship with them and having a fun and engaging environment can help foster their success,” she said. “Having those specific things can hopefully help direct them to wanting to learn more and try new things! Also, they learn to work collectively as a team, understand that making a mistake is how we learn, and try to do their best.”

Although Ms. Wilson’s family lives in Florida, she is very close to them, seeing them in the summer at their lake house in Saginaw. Her father is vice-president of Acosta Marketing and her mother was an elementary school teacher in Chicago.

“We all enjoy spending time together golfing, walking, boating and fishing when we can,” she said.

She has a rescue dog named Boone. She loves to read, write, and paint water-based landscapes. She also enjoys pop culture.

**According to the website for the Center on Multi-Tiered System of Supports, MTSS “is a proactive and preventative framework that integrates data and instruction to maximize student achievement and support students’ social, emotional, and behavior needs from a strengths-based perspective.”*

District Facilities Renovation and Construction Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent



Comstock Elementary School Outdoor Classroom - The District recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for CES's new outdoor classroom. The site is located just outside the northern section of the building and was funded from monies saved from the recent 30-month renovation project at the school.

The facility boasts a stone amphitheater built into a small hill, both stone and wooden seating areas for open air instruction, picnic tables, and a mulched pathway leading into the woods to another instructional area.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Superintendent Team, and the students, families, and staff of Comstock Elementary School, we are grateful to our community for their support of the 2016 bond that made this project possible!



Comstock Middle School Renovations - Last August and just before school started, the District completed CMS's third renovation phase with the final phase scheduled for the summer of 2024. This summer's work included improvements to the cafeteria, library, library offices, conference room, and staff lounge as well as the art and music rooms, and adjoining hallways.

As with the previous renovation work, these spaces were gutted from top to bottom and rebuilt with new HVAC systems, ceilings, lighting, flooring, doors, windows, and technology. The changes look remarkable and these sections of the school are truly transformed. If all goes according to plan and when the final phase is completed in August, 2024, for the start of the 2024-25 school year, both the interior and exterior of the entire school will be fully modernized and air-conditioned.



Comstock High School Track Project - Also in late August, the three-month project designed to completely renovate Comstock High School's track drew to a close. Technicians from McDonald's Painting of Parma, Michigan, painted the start, finish, and lane lines on the new track just in time for the opening game of the football season.

To top off the appearance of the new track, Athletic Facilities Manager Doug Ludwick mounted an updated banner beneath the press box and painted the new logo onto the center of the football field. The new banner and logo looked amazing and the results of the track renovation exceeded expectations. Go Colts!



Colt Center - The Board of Education is pleased to announce the completion of yet another summer renovation project - the Colt Center. The Colt Center is part of the Comstock Community Auditorium (CCA) located at Comstock High School. The facility is a hub for activities for groups performing at the CCA as well as for a myriad of school functions including teacher meetings and professional development, student orientation, senior breakfast, and the annual Senior Scholar Luncheon just to name a few. This space is highly visible and used often by our school community.

This summer, crews installed new flooring, refreshed the walls with new paint, and purchased new appliances. In the kitchenette, the workers installed the new cupboards and new countertops. The results look great!

As with all of our District modernization projects, we are grateful to our community for their support of the 2019 sinking fund which made these much needed improvements possible. Go Colts!

Comstock High School Roof Repair and Replacement - Early this fall, crews began repairing and replacing large sections of the school's aged roof. The estimated cost of this extensive project is \$1.5M and should be completed in November. The work is financed by 2022 bond funds.

Comstock High School Interior Renovations - In October, the District expects to begin phased renovations to the interior of Comstock High School. In similar fashion to the process used at Comstock Elementary School, sections of the building under construction will be walled off and accessible only to construction workers and architects. Students and staff will not be able to access these areas. The renovations will include, but not be limited to, new flooring, lighting, windows, and doors; new and larger lockers; renovations to the kitchen; upgrades to science classrooms; and the redesigning of the band room.

Phase 1 will focus on the western half of the upper educational wing and will take about 2-3 months. Phase 2 will be the eastern half of the upper educational wing which is also expected to take about 2-3 months. Phase 3 will consist of the science wing and other rooms on the first floor. During the summer of 2024, the work will focus on gutting and rebuilding the kitchen as well as the band and choir room adjoining the Colt Center.

STEM Academy - The STEM Academy design team began meeting biweekly in September and is hard at work creating the floor layout for the new STEM Academy. The design process will continue until March when the team will finalize the design and put the project out to bid. The District plans to hold a ground-breaking ceremony sometime in May or June. Construction is scheduled to take about two years to complete with the new school opening in August, 2026, for the 2026-27 school year.

As always, thanks go out to our community for the 2016 and 2022 bond funds that made these projects possible, our Board for their support and vision, as well as our Facilities Crew led by Facilities Director Sean Gillette, and partners GMB Architects, Miller Davis Construction Management, and AE Technology. Without the combined efforts and synergy of these groups, none of these critically important projects would be possible.

Comstock High School

CHS Teacher Receives Scholarship

Comstock High School teacher Abby Schreiner Osborn has received a prestigious Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) Foundation Award Scholarship. Each year, the MARSP Foundation awards eight scholarships statewide to public school staff who are seeking to advance their careers as public school educators. The application process is extremely competitive and MARSP recognizes only the top applicants.

With the support of the MARSP scholarship, Ms. Schreiner is currently seeking a Master's degree in educational technology from Central Michigan University.

2022-23 Yearbooks on Sale While Supplies Last

The 2022-23 edition of the *Comstock Illustrated* yearbook is back on sale while supplies last. Contact Yearbook Advisor Angela Hovda for details via her email at Angela.Hovda@ComstockPS.org.

Comstock Middle

Middle School Bands Combine

For the first time, the Comstock Middle School and STEM Academy middle school bands have combined into one united band. The ensemble meets in the high school music room during first period under the direction of Chris Bergh.

Previously, the groups stayed in their own buildings and typically combined only for concerts twice a year. After first period ends, the students board buses that take them to their respective schools.

Compass High School

New Sign Explains Prairie at Compass High School

A new sign with a QR code has been installed at the entrance to a former Compass High School parking lot which has been changed into a prairie with native Michigan plants and grasses. The QR code will give residents more information about the flora and fauna inhabiting the prairie. This project is the culmination of a two-year project designed to advance the Strategic Plan's goal of "promoting environmentally friendly practices."

The prairie actually saves the District on maintenance costs since the area is mowed only once a year instead of every week during late spring, summer, and early fall.

In 2021 with the assistance and guidance of GMB Architecture of Holland, Michigan, and Miller Davis Construction, the District redesigned and rebuilt the parking lots and driveways at Compass High School and the Administration building. The new design, improved traffic flow, and smooth pavement were welcome changes to the former deteriorated lanes and broken asphalt surfaces.

It was during this project that GMB Environmental Engineer Matt Hall advised the District to convert a large section of the former parking lot into a prairie. Miller Davis oversaw the planting of native Michigan prairie plants and grasses.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Team are thankful to the community for supporting the 2016 bond that made this environmentally-friendly and cost-saving space possible.



A crew from Kal Blue of Kalamazoo installs the sign at The Prairie at Compass.



The new Prairie sign.



Comstock Elementary

Parents, Community Show Appreciation with Plants for CES Staff



Parents in the CES Outdoor Classroom get the plants ready for teachers.

CES parents showed their appreciation to all CES staff. Meeting in the school's new Outdoor Classroom, parents put together appreciation gifts for the teachers as they returned to the classroom. Each staff member received an adorable "hens and chicks" plant to take home or have in the classroom.

The Kalamazoo Community Church also donated supplies for our CES teachers as well as gifting backpacks filled with supplies to several students in our community. Teachers were very excited to get to go "shopping" at the supply table during CES's Professional Development days.

CES Students, Staff Clean Playground

During the first week of school, elementary school students and teachers worked on cleaning up the playground. Kindergarten students were very excited to finally be on the playground. While out on the playground, Mrs. Tefft-Grimm also saw students trying out the new tetherball station.



CES PTA/PTO Has New Name, Meeting Dates

The CES PTA/PTO is now Family Lighthouse Team and has set monthly meeting dates.

If you would like to be involved in helping CES students, please come to our CES Family Lighthouse Team meetings which are held at different times to meet the scheduling needs of more families. Meeting are usually at CES. When arriving for a meeting, please check in at the front office desk.

Contact Cyndie Moore at Cyndie.Moore@ComstockPS.org or Kate Appel at Kate.Appel@ComstockPS.org for more information.

Family Lighthouse Team Meeting Dates and times:

10/18/23 - 8:45-9:15 a.m.

11/16/23 - 7-7:30 p.m.

12/19/23 - 4-4:30 p.m.

CES Breakfast with Santa



CES will be hosting its annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Comstock Elementary School. Please use the Gymnasium Entrance. Stay tuned for more details by following CES on Facebook!

Comstock Elementary

Wenke's Greenhouses Donates Plants



Ms. Buscher, Ms. Damer, and Mrs. Jones show off their new classroom plants.

Wenke Greenhouses offered teachers a free plant for their classrooms. This aligns with the elementary school's theme this year which is "Growing Leaders."

Teachers were excited to pick out a new "class pet" for their rooms. There were a variety of plants to choose from, and some classes have even named their plants.

Wenke's staff members assisted teachers in choosing plants that would thrive in their particular room's environment.



Ms. Heimann poses with "Skittles," so named by her second graders.



Ms. Ruffolo's plant "Cecilia" was named by her fiancé and serenaded with the Simon and Garfunkel song.

Fall Book Fair Scheduled at Comstock Elementary

The Scholastic Book Fair will be returning this fall during Parent Teacher Conferences at Comstock Elementary School. This event is open to all online and to families in person at the school.

The in-person Book Fair will be November 13-16. Families will be able to access e-Wallet and Wish Lists online from October 20 until November 17.

The Book Fair will take place in the CES Library Media Center.

Not only is this a great opportunity for students to build their home libraries, it is a great way for teachers to refresh classroom book selections with Wish Lists. Teachers create Wish Lists and families have the option to purchase a book from the list and give it to their teachers.

The Library will use the proceeds from the Book Fair to expand the library's collection for all students to check out.

The Comstock Community will also have access to all the Fair has to offer (books, posters, pencils, and more) online at <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/comstockelementarysch1>



Comstock Elementary

CES Celebrates “dot” Day

Comstock Elementary students and staff celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Peter H. Reynolds’ book “the dot.” It is a story about a frustrated student and how a teacher sparked the creative spirit the student always had.

In the book, Vashti believes she isn’t an artist and leaves her art assignment blank. Her teacher tells her to start with a dot and see what happens. So Vashti makes a dot. Her teacher asks her to sign it and displays the dot in her office. And Vashti’s creativity is born.

To celebrate the book’s anniversary at the elementary school, Mrs. Clark had students working on a dot mural. Other teachers throughout the school also planned several activities.

Everyone was encouraged to wear dots and some students even made shirts to wear.



Students Learn Seven Habits

As a Leader in Me Lighthouse school, Comstock Elementary School is teaching students about the *Seven Habits of Happy Kids* from the book of the same name written by Sean Covey. Students and staff kicked off the year with an assembly where they learned about all the habits. The assembly also focused on Habit 1: Be Proactive.



Comstock Elementary

CES Annual Trunk or Treat Scheduled

On Thursday, October 26, Comstock High School National Honor Society members and CES staff will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event from 5 to 6:30 p.m. If you would like to make a donation to the event, please contact Emily Jones at Emily.Jones@ComstockPS.org or Colleen Grueter at Colleen.Grueter@ComstockPS.org.

More information will be made available on Facebook closer to the event.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

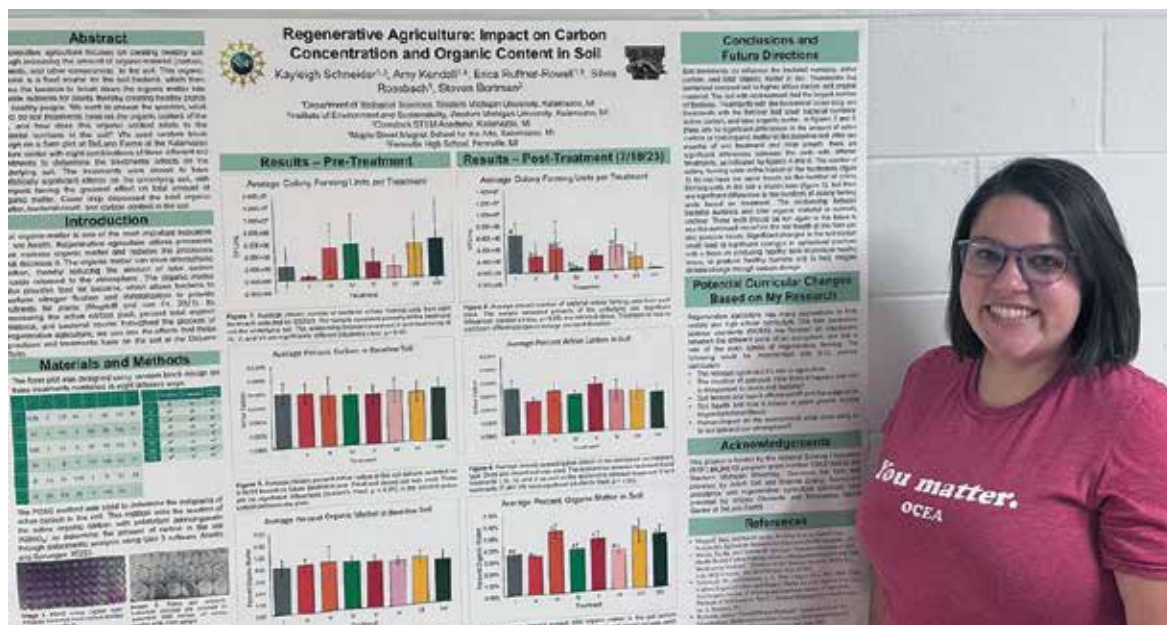
Advia Donates School Supplies to CELA



Jill Wallace from Advia Credit Union, Comstock and Parchment branches, donated school supplies to the Comstock Early Learning Academy. Members and employees donated to Advia, and she dropped them off.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Teacher Participates in WMU Biology Research



STEM Academy science teacher Kayleigh Schneider participated in BIORETS this summer. This is a National Science Foundation funded project at WMU which provides science teachers with “authentic research experience and transformative curricular improvement and professional development opportunities,” according to their website. The teachers conduct research around the theme of “how biological organisms interact with other organisms and their environments.”

Ms. Schneider worked alongside other teachers and WMU professors researching regenerative agricultural practices. Along with this research, they also wrote lesson plans for teachers to follow so their students can also participate in regenerative agriculture.

STEM Academy Student Wins Second Gold Medal

STEM Academy student Greyson Wuis and Team USA emerged victorious in the World Championship Final at the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) U-12 Baseball World Cup in August defeating Chinese Taipei by a final score of 10-4 on the strength of a seven-run sixth inning. The World Cup championships were held in Tainan, Taiwan.

Earlier this year, he and his team also won a gold medal in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

Virtual Academy

Principal Receives Leadership Award



Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy Principal Pam Dudley recently received the Bobby Walker Leadership Award at a ceremony in South Haven. She was nominated for the prestigious recognition by a student. Along with an attractive framed certificate, Principal Dudley also received a check for \$300.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

In an effort to ensure that all our families receive communications about their students, we are asking everyone to make sure we have up-to-date contact information.

Please log on to the Infinite Campus Portal and fill out the Online Registration to verify that we have all of the correct information for your students. This year this is also available from the Parent Portal App.

Please go to the Portal and log in. Select "MORE" from the menu, and then Online Registration on the left. Please follow the prompts. It will look like a new registration, but it is just to make sure everything is correct in our system. You just need one per family.

If you need a portal account, please contact us. Infinite Campus has two apps to help you and your students stay up-to-date with grades and missing assignments.

Go to the App Store and search for "Campus Portal." There are two apps: one for

students and one for parents. Make sure you select the correct one. When you launch the app, it will ask you to pick your state and school district.

Once you're signed in, you will see announcements as they are posted. If you enable push notifications, you can see assignments as soon as they are graded, and any that are missed. You can also see if your student was marked absent or tardy.

It's easy to schedule conferences and contact teachers quickly, or to see your student's EDP.

When making choices about how you wish to be contacted, go to the website, log in to Infinite Campus and indicate your preferences. If you don't have a portal account, we're happy to get you connected. Please contact us.

2023-24 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

October 5, 2023	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
October 27, 2023	DPPD	8:00-3:00	No Students
November 14, 2023	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
November 16, 2023	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
November 17, 2023	Half Day Students K-12		Half Day Students/Teachers
November 22-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Recess		No Students/Teachers
November 30, 2023	CHS Conferences	3:00-7:00	
December 7, 2023	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
December 25, 2023 to January 5, 2024	Winter Recess		
January 16-18, 2024	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students/Teachers
January 19, 2024	PD AM/K-12-Records Day PM (End of 1st Sem.)	No Students	
February 22, 2024	CHS Conferences		
February 22-23, 2024	Mid-Winter Break		No Students/Teachers
February 29, 2024	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
March 12, 2024	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
March 14, 2024	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
March 15, 2024	DPPD 8:00-3:00		No Students
March 22-29, 2024	Spring Break		No Students/ No Teachers
May 2, 2024	CHS Conferences	3:00-7:00	
May 19, 2024	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
May 27, 2024	Memorial Day		No Students/No Staff
June 3,4,5, 2024	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students and Teachers K-12
June 5, 2024	Last Day for Students/Records Day PM		Half Day Students AM/ Staff Records Day PM

2023-24 Comstock Calendar

Check for changes at www.ComstockPS.org/calendar

We have rotated our calendar so that you can now hang it up!

October 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NS K-12 No School
½ K-12 Half Day
H Federal Holiday
C Conferences

CHS Conferences
 11/30 3-7 pm
 2/20 3-7 pm
 5/2 3-7 pm
CES Conferences
 11/14 4-8 pm
 11/16 4-8 pm
 3/12 4-8 pm
CMS Conferences
 10/5 3-7 pm
 12/7 3-7 pm
 2/29 3-7 pm
 5/9 3-7 pm
STEM Conferences
 11/14 3-7 pm
 11/16 3-7 pm
 3/12 3-7 pm
 3/14 3-7 pm



WINTER WEATHER Notifications & Procedures

When wintry weather arrives in Comstock, we know that our families and staff are anxiously waiting to hear what our district has planned. If we make a change from our normal operations, we will try our best to share information by 6 a.m. If there is no mention of a delay or closure on our website or social media, Comstock Schools are running on-time, as scheduled.

Our first step will be to post notices on our website: ComstockPS.org

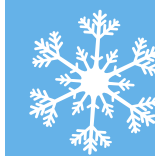


Next, we will alert WWMT and post a message on our Twitter feed: @ComstockPS

We will then send e-mail, phone call, and text messages using SchoolMessenger. Note that this process takes a little time; our phone system cannot call everyone at the same time.



Finally, we will share the message on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.



Sports News

High School Fall Awards Banquet

The high school fall awards banquet is going to be held on Tuesday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the high school auditorium.

Middle School Fall Awards Banquet

Middle school teams will hold an individual awards night at the conclusion of their seasons. Coaches will inform parents of the date and time towards the end of their season.

2023-24 Physicals

A reminder to all parents that it is an MHSAA requirement that each student athlete have a physical on file with the athletic department to be eligible to participate in athletics for Comstock. The physical has to be dated after April 15, 2023, to cover your son/daughter for the entire 2023-24 year. Please give Justin Ansel in the athletic department a call if you have any questions. His number is 269-250-8711.

Winter Sport Start Dates

October 23 - Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Boys Basketball and Middle School Competitive Cheer

November 6 - High School Competitive Cheer

November 9 - High School Bowling

November 13 - High School Boys Basketball and Wrestling

November 20 - High School Girls Basketball

January 8 - Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Girls Basketball and Middle School Wrestling.

Please call the athletic department with any questions.

High School Winter Sports Parent Meeting

Each winter program will hold a separate winter sports parent meeting this year. Dates and times will be shared after initial start dates. We look forward to seeing you there if your son or daughter is participating in a winter sport.

Hall of Fame Induction

This is your last chance to nominate someone for the 2024 Comstock Athletic Hall of Fame. Please fill out the Hall of Fame nomination form in this *Communicator* on the following page and get it back to the athletic office by Thanksgiving. The Hall of Fame board will be meeting after Thanksgiving to decide upon the 2024 Induction Class.

Youth Sports Team Introduced



Members of the Comstock Youth Football and Cheer Squads were introduced at a football game this fall. If you have a student who would like to get involved with Comstock Youth Sports, please contact Chyna McMillian at Chyna.Mcmillian@ComstockPS.org.



Comstock Footballer Wins Award at Lions Camp



Kameron Stafford and his sister, Madison, attended a Detroit Lions youth camp this summer.

Middle school football player Kameron Stafford won the "Consistency Award" at a Detroit Lions youth camp at Ford Field. The award was one of nine given out at the camp.

Kameron's sister, Madison, also attended the camp. She is a Junior Colt in the school's flag program.

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL Nomination

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

High School Attend _____ Year of Graduation _____

College Attended (If Applicable) _____ Year of Graduation _____

of Varsity Letters - Boys Sports

_____ Football
 _____ Tennis
 _____ Basketball
 _____ Bowling
 _____ Track
 _____ Swimming
 _____ Soccer
 _____ X Country
 _____ Wrestling
 _____ Baseball
 _____ Golf
 _____ Hockey

of Varsity Letters - Girls Sports

_____ Volleyball
 _____ X Country
 _____ Basketball
 _____ Bowling
 _____ Track
 _____ Soccer
 _____ Golf
 _____ Sideline Cheer
 _____ Competitive Cheer
 _____ Softball
 _____ Tennis
 _____ Swimming

PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

1. Special Comstock Athletic Awards (MVP, MIP, All Conference, All State, Coach of the Year, etc.)
2. Career Highlights (Most points in game, Most goals in game, etc.)
3. College Athletic Achievements (If Applicable)
4. Athletic Involvement after H.S. and College (Professional, Officiating, Coaching, etc.)
5. Please list any other information which would be helpful to the committee.

TEAM Nomination - (Must have contact information for all team members to be considered.)

Year _____ Sport _____ Coach _____

PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

1. Names of Team Members
2. Special Team Accomplishments (Championships, Records, etc)
3. Please list any other information which would be helpful to the committee.

INDIVIDUAL or TEAM Nominated By:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Justin Ansel, Director of Athletics, Comstock High School, 2107 N. 26th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Comstock Township Library News

OCTOBER EVENTS

YOUTH

Every Monday during October – Kids Take-Home Craft: Every week through December 9, pick up a take-home craft in the Youth Area for your preschooler! Crafts are available while supplies last.

Every Tuesday & Wednesday in October at 10:30 a.m. – Family Storytime: Family Storytime provides an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children, ages infant to five. Build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs, and play. Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every session is followed by a sensory toy play time.

Every Thursday in October at 10:30 a.m. – Sensory Storytime: Join Miss Brenna for Sensory Storytime. Sensory Storytime incorporates movement, music, stories, sensory activities, and play. All abilities are welcome, and activities generally fall within a preschool interest level.

Saturday, October 7 at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – Kids Craft: Join Miss Brenna as she once again leads our elementary age children in fun crafting projects! Each Kids Craft has two sessions, one at 11 a.m. and one at 1 p.m. So be sure to register for the time slot that works best for you. Please check our Calendar of Events on our website for craft description and registration.

Saturday, October 28 at 11 a.m. – Fall Festival featuring Magician Cameron Zvara. Come dressed in your Halloween costume for the return of our sixth annual autumn party for all ages! Enjoy games, crafts, fall snacks, and more spooky fun. Magician Cameron Zvara will be there to blow your mind with comedy, juggling, music, and tons of audience participation. You do not want to miss out!

TWEEN & TEEN

Thursday, October 5 at 6 p.m. – Pizza & Pages: Join our theme-based book club! Participants in third through sixth grades will eat pizza, discuss what they have read, and participate in an auction to end the hour. October's theme: Read any spooky and/or scary book. Registration is required

each month, and each child must register individually. And as always, audiobooks, graphic novels, and juvenile fiction are all acceptable reads for this program.

Tuesday, October 10 at 6 p.m. – T.A.G. (Teen Advisory Group): T.A.G. meets once a month to brainstorm ideas for teen programs, suggest young adult books, graphic novels, and manga. It's a great way to earn volunteer hours. T.A.G. also helps develop marketable leadership skills, and gain experience you can use on your job, scholarship, and college applications. Bonus: T.A.G. participants get to attend special after-hours teen only events. Sound interesting? Are you a teen in grades eight through twelve? Then join us at our next meeting!

Wednesday, October 11 at 6 p.m. – Tween Hangout: Come with your ideas for future tween programs, relax, and enjoy games, crafts, snacks, and other fun activities with your peers.

Friday, October 27 at 5:45 p.m. – After Hours Tween Halloween Party: Dress up in your Halloween costume and brave the library after hours...if you dare. Pizza, candy, and spooky scares will be provided. This event is for tweens in fourth through seventh grades. A permission slip must be completed and turned in prior to registration for this event. Space is limited.

Saturday, October 28 at 6 p.m. – Teen Halloween Party: Brace yourself for an evening of fun frights! Dress up in your Halloween costume and brave this haunted library event, foolish mortals... This event is for teens in eighth through twelfth grades. A permission slip must be completed and turned in prior to registration for this event. Space is limited.

ADULTS

Monday, October 2 through Saturday, October 7 – Adult Take-Home Craft – Scrabble Tile Coaster: Perfect for the fan of words, this Scrabble tile coaster will prove useful while relaxing with your favorite drink. Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts.

Monday, October 2, through Saturday, October 14 – Buck-a-Bag Book Sale: Our \$1 per bag

CURRENT LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Contact us: 269-345-0136

info@comstocklibrary.org

www.comstocklibrary.org

book sale returns! From Monday, October 2, through Saturday, October 14, stop in and stock up on our gently used books for your reading pleasure!

Wednesday, October 4 at 11 a.m. and Wednesday, October 11 at 6 p.m. – Banned Books Club: Even though banned and challenged books have been part of national headlines over the last few years, Banned Books Week has been celebrated by librarians and libraries since its inception in 1982. This year, it is slated to be held October 1-7. As part of our celebrations at the Comstock Township Library, we will be holding two special sessions of Adult Book Club, featuring *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya (Wednesday, October 4 at 11 a.m.) and *The Complete Maus* by Art Spiegelman (Wednesday, October 11 at 6 p.m.) Registration is required for both programs. There will also be a Banned Books display near the Adult Reference Desk on the upper level. If you are curious about Banned Books Week and would like to learn more, please visit the official Banned Books Week webpage at www.bannedbooksweek.org.

Wednesday, October 18 at 6 p.m. – Haunted Gettysburg: Join author, Kathy Conder, as she shares her experiences with Gettysburg and its inhabitants who never really left after the famous Civil War battle. Registration is required for this free program and begins Monday, October 2.

Monday, October 23 through Saturday, October 28 – Adult Take-Home Craft – TP Pumpkin: Brighten up your space with a bit of fall decor with this easy toilet paper pumpkin. Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts.

Wednesday, October 25 at 6 p.m. – Clue Scavenger Hunt: Welcome to the Comstock Township Library on a particularly dark and stormy night! Unfortunately, I come with the

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

horrible news that our patron, known simply as Mr. Body, has been brutally murdered somewhere on the premises. We have a list of possible suspects, weapons, and places where it could have happened, but Adrienne the Librarian, who has been put in charge of this investigation, needs your help! Based on the classic Board game, Clue, the event will send you on a scavenger hunt throughout the Comstock Township Library to locate clue cards that will help you determine who killed Mr. Body, with what weapon, and where. It's time to put on your thinking caps and get down to business solving the murder. Registration is required for this free event and begins October 11 on our website.

Monday, October 30 at 6 p.m. – Adult Book Club – *Lone Women* by Victor LaValle: Please join us for a discussion of *Lone Women* by Victor LaValle. This novel blends horror and historical fiction as it describes Adelaide Henry's journey from California to Montana in the early 1900s. Adelaide's parents are dead and she brings her giant locked steamer trunk with her wherever she goes. How did her parents die, and what's in the trunk? Library copies or free copies of the book will be provided depending on availability. Snacks and drinks will be served. Registration and book pick-up began last month.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Please mark your calendars that the Comstock Township Library will be closed the following days for staff training and in observance of the national holidays:

- **Friday, November 10**
- **Wednesday, November 22 (closing early at 5 p.m.)**
- **Thursday, November 23**
- **Friday, November 24**

YOUTH

Every Monday during November – Kids Take-Home Craft: Every week through December 9, pick up a take-home craft in the Youth Area for your preschooler! Crafts are available while supplies last.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday in November at 10:30 a.m. – Family Storytime: Family Storytime provides an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children, ages infant to five. Build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs, and play.

Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every session is followed by a sensory toy play time.

Every Thursday in November at 10:30 a.m. – Sensory Storytime: Join Miss Brenna for Sensory Storytime. Sensory Storytime incorporates movement, music, stories, sensory activities, and play. All abilities are welcome, and activities generally fall within a preschool interest level.

Saturday, November 4 at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.– Kids Craft: Join Miss Brenna as she once again leads our elementary age children in fun crafting projects! Each Kids Craft has two sessions, one at 11 a.m. and one at 1 p.m. So be sure to register for the time slot that works best for you. Please check our Calendar of Events on our website for craft description and registration.

TWEEN AND TEEN

Thursday, November 2 at 6 p.m. – Pizza & Pages: Join our theme-based book club! Participants in third through sixth grades will eat pizza, discuss what they have read, and participate in an auction to end the hour. November's theme: Read a book with a mystery. Registration is required each month, and each child must register individually. And as always, audiobooks, graphic novels, and juvenile fiction are all acceptable reads for this program.

Wednesday, November 8 at 6 p.m. – Tween Hangout: Come with your ideas for future tween programs, relax, and enjoy games, crafts, snacks, and other fun activities with your peers.

Tuesday, November 14 at 6 p.m. – T.A.G. (Teen Advisory Group): T.A.G. meets once a month to brainstorm ideas for teen programs, suggest young adult books, graphic novels, and manga. It's a great way to earn volunteer hours. T.A.G. also helps develop marketable leadership skills, and gain experience you can use on your job, scholarship, and college applications. Bonus: T.A.G. participants get to attend special after-hours teen only events. Sound interesting? Are you a teen in grades eight through 12? Then join us at our next meeting!

ADULTS

Throughout November – National Novel Writing Month: Do you have a novel in your soul that you are just itching to get out and onto paper?

Why not just be a masochist with us during the month of November and participate in NaNoWriMo (AKA National Novel Writing Month)? NaNoWriMo is the national organization that encourages you to write with literary abandon during the 30 days of November with the goal of producing a 50,000 word novel in that short of time. It's absurd, adventurous, and downright fun! We will be holding six write ins here at the Comstock Township Library during the month. Each session takes place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The dates are:

- Monday, November 6
- Thursday, November 9
- Thursday, November 16
- Monday, November 20
- Monday, November 27
- Thursday, November 30

Grab your laptop, notebook, pens, and your creative writing wild side! Light refreshments will be provided, and no registration is necessary. To learn more, please visit the NaNoWriMo website at nanowrimo.org.

Monday, November 13 through Saturday, November 18 – Adult Take-Home Craft – Tealight Mason Jar: Put a little light in your season with this tealight Mason jar featuring beautiful glass stones for wonderful colors. Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts.

Saturday, November 18 at Noon – Adult Book Club's Annual Make & Share Cookbook Potluck: Our November book club is a potluck! Please bring either an appetizer or a dessert to share with the other participants, as well as the cookbook the recipe came from. The cookbook can be from our shelves or one of your own. We will have a microwave available to heat up food with if your dish needs to be warm. Registration begins Monday, October 30.

Wednesday, November 28 at 5:30 p.m. – Holiday Card Workshop: Join us for an evening of crafting and getting into the holiday spirit! Local card artist, Sue Smink, will feature multiple designs to choose from for you to assemble and personalize for your loved ones this season. The atmosphere will feature holiday music and a hot chocolate bar. It'll be a warm, jolly program just in time for the holiday season! Registration is required for this free event and begins November 15 on our website. Space is limited.