

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



Happy New Year!
2024

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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,

There's unity in community! As we approach the winter season and the holidays, the Board and Superintendent Team, in collaboration with our tremendous teachers and staff, continue to strive toward our mission *to serve our community by empowering, inspiring, and challenging every person within the school district to reach their full potential, and to ensure that all students learn and thrive in a safe and healthy environment.*

Our combined efforts in **putting students first** guide our decision making and help ensure successful student outcomes. These actions are strengthened when our communities help to maintain the momentum we need to achieve these all-important goals. Involving more and more people in our District and its programming is the key to building a stronger, more vibrant, and attractive school community.

Here are just a few examples of how the District exemplifies one of its core values - inclusivity!

On Thursday, October 26, the Comstock Elementary School staff in conjunction with Comstock High School's Colt Chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual "Trunk or Treat" event. To say the event was "well attended" would be an understatement. Based on the amount of candy dispersed, organizers have estimated that around 1000 children attended. This count does not include the adults who accompanied their children - so we are talking perhaps as many as 2000+ people, maybe more. It was truly a community event that brought together students and their families from all over Comstock.

At the first Board meeting of each month during the school year, the Board of Education celebrates and honors seven students of the month, one from each school, and one staff member of the month. The Board room is always packed on these evenings as family members, friends, and staff come together to focus on the positive contributions of these fine students. Since the program's inception, the Board has honored more than 200 students.

The inaugural Joe and Joyce VanBruggen Art Show held on April 27 this past school year ended up surpassing all expectations. Over 500 people attended the show to view a wide variety of student-produced works of art. Participants ranged from preschoolers at the Comstock Early Learning Academy to graduating seniors from Comstock High School and every grade in between. The date for this year's show is already set for Thursday, April 25, at 6 p.m., so mark your calendars and plan on attending!

We encourage everyone to become a supporter of Comstock Public Schools! That support can occur in a variety of ways - whether it's through your time, skills, talents, donations, or promotions of the District.

As more people join our journey, together we can build stronger Comstock community connections. There's unity in community!

Thank you for your continued support of our Comstock Public Schools!

Happy Holidays!

Dr. Jeffrey John Thoenes
Superintendent



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS

www.ComstockPS.org

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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

REGULAR MEETING

September 11, 2023

- Approved Hiring
 - Nichole Clark - Art Teacher, CES
 - Kara Reichert - Chemistry Teacher, CHS
 - Joel Shaffer - Math Teacher, CHS
 - Tami Small - First Grade Teacher, CES
 - Sharyn Stacy - ECSE Teacher, CELA
 - Carol Wright - Math Teacher, Compass
- Accepted resignation of
 - Kaitlynn Baylerian - Resource Room Teacher, CES
 - Tamara Horobik - ECSE Teacher, CELA
 - Robert Nolan - Chemistry Teacher, CHS

REGULAR MEETING

October 9, 2023

- Recognized the following Students of the Month:
 - Eleanor Slogar, CELA, Pre-Kindergarten
 - Izzy Gonzales, CES, 4th Grade
 - Alexa Carlton, CMS, 8th Grade
 - Eli Thornburg, STEM, Kindergarten (June)
 - Lucy Mayes STEM, 6th Grade, (September)
 - Ty'Shawn Rials, CHS, 9th Grade
 - Muhammad Hasnain, CVA, 2nd Grade
 - Isaiah Ballinge, COMPASS, 12th Grade
- Recognized Staff of the Month
 - Chelsea Kohler, GSRP Teacher, CELA
- Recognized Staff for their years of service:
 - Susan Caswell, Principal of CES, 25 years

-Julie Hanson, Transportation Department, 25 years

- Missy Shedore, Transportation Department, 20 years
- Martin Johnson, Transportation Department, 20 years
- Approved the following resignations:
 - Kristen Holsomback, GSRP Teacher, CELA
 - Bryce Ruhl, History Teacher, CHS
 - Joel Shaffer, Math Teacher, CHS
- Moved into closed session to discuss the Superintendent's quarterly evaluation.

REGULAR MEETING

October 23, 2023

- Approved hiring:
 - Ashley Flach-Petlowany, GSRP Teacher, CELA
 - Halie Kranenberg, GSRP Teacher, CELA
- Accepted resignations:
 - Caelan Campos, First Grade Teacher, STEM
 - Kathy DeMott, GSRP Teacher, CELA
 - Natalie Hosbein, Functional Room Teacher, CHS
- Approved High School Staff Parking Lot Repaving Project.
- Approved High School Remodeling Project.
- Approved CMS Media Center Bid Package.

REGULAR MEETING

November 13, 2023

- Recognized Students of the Month:

- Hazlee Morgan, CELA, Pre-K
- Indigo Bradley-Ballard, CES, 5th Grade
- Chayson Hughes, STEM, 3rd Grade
- Natalee Randall, CMS, 8th Grade
- Brandon Ramirez, CHS, 11th Grade
- Errick Hutson, CVA, 10th Grade
- Zulema Hernandez, Compass, 12th Grade
- Recognized Staff of the Month
 - Cyndie Moore, CES, Behavioral Interventionist
- Approved hiring:
 - Brendan Ash, History Teacher, CHS
 - RJ Wiersema, Finance Director, Administration
- Approved resignations:
 - Michelle Darnell, Finance Director, Administration
 - Miranda Heald, 3rd Grade Teacher, CES
 - Zoie Wallace, Functional Room Teacher, CES
- Approved CHS Technology Bid Package.
- Approved revised 2024-2025 Calendar.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

DECEMBER:

- 2 BSD Dance Studios - Winter Performances, go to website for tickets and details: <http://www.bsodance.com>.
- 9-10 Ballet Kalamazoo: *The Nutcracker*: 6 p.m. on December 9 and 2 p.m. on December 10. Go to the website for tickets: <https://www.balletkalamazoo.com> or email Amy at: info@balletkalamazoo.com.
- 12 West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Concert: 7 p.m. (includes band, orchestra, choir) Tickets at the door.
- 13-15 Education for the Arts: Crawspace Eviction; Kalamazoo County area schools will attend. 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. shows. Not open to the public.
- 18 Comstock STEM/MS/HS Band Concert 7 p.m. FREE.
- 19 Comstock MS/HS Choir Concert 7 p.m. FREE.
- 20 Education for the Arts School Dance Performance: 6 p.m. FREE.
- 21 STEM Academy MS Music Performance 6:30 p.m. FREE.

JANUARY:

- 11 Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Play: 12:30 and 7 p.m. FREE.
- 13 Habitat Performing Art Center - For more information and tickets go to: <https://www.thehabitatpac.com/>.



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.

District Facilities Renovation and Construction Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

Here is the latest news regarding the District's ongoing efforts to rebuild, renovate, innovate, and modernize its educational facilities.

Exterior Painting at Comstock Elementary School

As part of the bond work to renovate Comstock Elementary School, over a year ago crews painted the lower metal paneling at the front of the school a beautiful dark blue. However, the work did not include other lower and upper-level sections of paneling and so these surfaces remained dirty, drab, and unsightly.



To complete the project, a painter from West Michigan Paint used a motorized lift to paint the final sections of the upper rim of metal paneling.

Using monies from the 2019 sinking fund, the District hired crews from West Michigan Paint who painted all of the remaining metal paneling. Some of the panels are now a matching blue while other sections are a complementary gray. The new look is so much more attractive!

Comstock Middle School Renovations

An important part of the District's efforts to modernize CMS is the work to upgrade heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at the school which was originally built in 1957. Before the renovations started, the building had no air conditioning except in the front office. It also had severely antiquated and obsolete heating and ventilation systems.

Using federal monies provided from the *Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)* funds, the District is aggressively addressing the HVAC issues and the related renovation needs of the building.



Before



After

Since our last edition of *The Comstock Communicator*, a crew from Battle Creek Glass built a gate that now encloses the chiller plant installed this past summer. This large machine will eventually supply cool air for the entire building.

As part of the ongoing renovations at the middle school, this fall crews finished the eyebrows that are on the east side of the school and inside the interior patio. The eyebrows are a protective awning that rests over the exterior-facing windows and similar roof edges.

Here are the completed eyebrows inside the inner patio. If all goes according to plan and when the final renovation phase is completed in August, 2024, both the interior and exterior of the entire school will be fully modernized and air-conditioned for the start of the 2024-25 school year.



Eyebrows complete the look of the breezeway between the music and art wing and the sixth grade wing.

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 before Thanksgiving. The work is financed by 2022 bond funds.



Comstock High School Interior Renovations

In October, the Board of Education unanimously voted 7-0 to approve a multi-million-dollar package of interior renovations for Comstock High School. By the time this edition goes to print, those renovations should be underway. 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 two to three months. Phase 2 will be the eastern half of the upper educational wing which is also expected to take about two to three 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 rooms adjoining the Colt Center.

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Comstock High School Staff and Visitor Parking Lot

In October, the Board of Education also unanimously voted 7-0 to approve the use of the 2019 Sinking Fund to completely tear out and replace the CHS staff and visitor parking lot. This lot is in deplorable condition and is long overdue for replacement. The work will take about six to eight weeks to complete and will occur this spring.



STEM Academy

The STEM Academy design team has been meeting biweekly since September and has made substantial progress toward designing and creating the floor and site plan 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 2019 Sinking Fund 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.

Therapy Dogs Have Photos Taken



PIPER



AUGIE

Comstock's two therapy dogs, Augie at Comstock Middle School and Piper at Comstock Elementary School, have had their school photos taken making them official members of the staff.

2023-24 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

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

Welcome, New Staff Members



Haven Black

Haven Black's first grade teacher, Mrs. Parr, in the Otsego Public Schools was an inspiration to her.

"She made learning in first grade fun and enjoyable and continued to connect with me throughout my elementary years," said Ms. Black.

Now, she is following in Mrs. Parr's footsteps as she is teaching kindergarten at Comstock Elementary School.

A graduate of Otsego High School, Ms. Black majored in early childhood education at Western Michigan University.

"I have always wanted to work with students and I love seeing them learn and grow," she said of her decision to go into education.

Throughout her college years, she worked in daycare. As a teacher, she enjoys the connections and relationships with students, but acknowledges that it is hard as a teacher to find "me time."

Next July, she'll be marrying her fiance', Alex, a tire technician. She enjoys spending time with friends and family.



Kara Reichert

Fascination with the complexity of the submicroscopic world led Fort Wayne native Kara Reichert to major in chemistry and biochemistry and to earn a bachelor's degree at Taylor University.

After working as a high school science tutor, she went back to college to get a master's in education from DePaul University. She then taught near downtown Chicago for seven years before coming to Comstock to teach high school chemistry.

"I really loved helping teenagers learn science," she said.

Her first chemistry professor in college, Dr. LeRoy Kroll, whom she describes as one of the smartest people she's ever met, was an important influence in her life.

"I just loved hearing him talk about the subject he was so passionate about with his oddball humor peppered in," she said. "He set

high standards for us, and he refused to ever lower those standards. However, he would do everything he could to help us learn and grow as students."

His philosophy is something she uses in her teaching.

"I love helping kids reach their goals," she said. "When a kid who is struggling works really hard and finally gets that high score on an exam, that's something I celebrate."

Problems teachers face today include cell phones and the effects of the pandemic.

"The pandemic really set a lot of students back academically, and trying to help them get back on track is important to most teachers," she said.

Mrs. Reichert's husband, Matthew Reichert, PhD, is a chemist at Pfizer. Their daughter, Vivian, 5, is in kindergarten.

As a family, they enjoy reading together.

"Currently, we're reading the *Chronicles of Narnia* to our daughter," she said. "She likes to read her books to us. Lately, *Fancy Nancy* has been a favorite."



Jettie Rice

A native of Benton Harbor, Jettie Rice graduated from Benton Harbor High School and then attended Rio Salado College, University of Wyoming, and Northern Arizona University. He majored in administration with the goal of running the Arizona Park System.

However, he followed a different path and after having taught in several schools in Arizona, he is now a resource room teacher and case manager in third and fourth grades at the elementary school.

"I enjoy working with young students and watching them progress over the years," he said. "I also wanted to help students become successful."

Encouraging him along his career path were his parents.

"They encouraged me, supported me in all aspects of my learning," he said.

He is married to Debrah Rice who is a cardiologist.

He enjoys fishing and spending time with his family.



Tami Small

Having taught for 27 years, Tami Small finds enjoyment in working with students.

"My favorite part of this career is the pride struggling learners experience once they realize success within themselves by overcoming challenging tasks," she said.

This year she's teaching first grade in the elementary school after having taught elementary students at Kincheloe Elementary School in the Dowagiac Union Schools.

A graduate of Dowagiac Union Schools, she attended Western Michigan University where she majored in elementary education.

"I chose education because I believe it is the most important function to our students' futures," she said. "Additionally, it is a career where you can see the impact you are making with your students as they become aware that they are learning new things."

She comes from a family of teachers. Her late father, Richard, taught for 33 years in the Dowagiac Union Schools and taught her to be a lifelong learner. Her mother Meriella taught in the same district for 34 years.

One challenge she finds today in education is teaching to the standardized tests.

"As a teacher, I find it hard to witness students and parents relate their child's achievement to the snapshot provided on one day and on one test, especially when there are so many other successes that occur authentically in the learning environment," she said.

She has two adult children, Dillon, 24, who works at Michigan Paving & Materials, and JoLeigh, 21, who is a student at Michigan State University.

Sam Walling, her significant other, is a subcontractor for tile installation.

Paddleboarding, camping and reading are her favorite leisure activities.

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Sharyn Stacy

Working in a high school co-op program made Sharyn Stacy realize how much she enjoyed working with students who had learning differences.

So, she pursued a bachelor's degree in special education at Western Michigan University with an early childhood emphasis. Then, she earned a master's degree in educational evaluation, measurement and research, also at WMU.

For 24 years, she worked at the Learning Center in Lawrence, Michigan, before coming to the Comstock Early Learning Academy this year to teach early childhood special education. In Lawrence, she worked with students from age 3 to 26 and also with home-bound students.

The resource rooms where she taught included students with severely multiple impairment (SXI), moderately cognitively impaired (MoCI), and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

"I personally love learning and feel that I learn something new every day while teaching," she said. "Seeing the world through another's perspective is always interesting."

Born in Connecticut, Ms. Stacy attended eight schools between kindergarten and graduation because her family moved a lot. She eventually

graduated from Allendale High School in Allendale, Michigan. After graduating from Western, she stayed in the area because she liked it so much.

She lives with her partner, Joe, and her 16-year-old daughter, Mazzy. She enjoys nature watching and doing creative projects.



Amanda Wendt

Third grade was a pivotal year for Amanda Wendt. That's when she decided she wanted to be a teacher having been inspired by her third grade teacher Mrs. Norland.

She later worked with Mrs. Norland when she was a cadet teacher during her senior year at Allegan High School. She also job-shadowed Mrs. Norland when she was in college.

"As I got older, I was able to narrow down that I wanted to teach elementary, specifically lower down," she said.

Graduating from Western Michigan University, she then had several jobs in the education field. Last year, she was a long-term substitute teacher in kindergarten at Haverhill Elementary in Portage and then finished out the year in third grade at Woods Lake Elementary. She has also tutored elementary students in

reading and math.

Now, she is teaching second grade at Comstock Elementary School.

"I enjoy being able to work with kids and help them learn," she said. "I love the moment when I see improvement as well as when it finally clicks with students. I also really enjoy forming relationships and making learning fun."

Mrs. Norland's husband, Trevor, is a first-year graduate student at the University of Toledo, studying history and philosophy of science and religion. He is an after-school daycare worker at St. Augustine School.

She enjoys reading, crafting, baking, traveling, camping and watching movies.



Carol Wright

Teaching math at Compass High School this year is Carol Wright, a graduate of Western Michigan University. She is also a math tutor at the Virtual Academy.

"I enjoy working in the educational field because working with students is very rewarding," she said. "I like helping our students to explore their future career pathways."

She enjoys gardening, traveling, and spending time with friends.

In Memoriam: Scott Gardner

Scott Gardner, long time biology teacher and coach at Comstock High School, passed away recently at age 75.

Family, friends, former colleagues, and students gathered at a memorial open house to honor his life, remembering his love of Roy Orbison, nature, exercising, reading, playing sports and relaxing. A life-size cutout of Roy Orbison stood in the room next to a table of photos and memorabilia related to his life.

Mr. Gardner, a graduate of Garden City High School, earned his bachelor's degree at Michigan State University and later obtained a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Online tributes spoke of his many positive qualities as a teacher, colleague, neighbor, and friend. Retired special education teacher Sue Skytta who often co-taught with Mr. Gardner said, "He was a really good teacher and had a knack for making the content relevant to them."

Robin (Cook) Wicker, Class of 1990, wrote, "Mr. Gardner sparked my love for science. I am forever thankful for him and his influence."

Mr. Gardner was known around the school for always saying he was going to live to be 100. Former student Kathy (Colvin) Baird wrote, "I wish he could have made it to 100, but he gave it a heck of a run!"

His obituary encouraged others to live life as he did by recognizing the "importance of being present."

"He found joy in simple moments with gratitude for the things that matter most," his obituary said. "May we honor him by doing the same in our moments ahead, remembering the glimmer in his eye as he succeeded in making us laugh."



CPS Receives Grant for Food Service

The District has received a grant of \$43,969.33 from the National School Lunch Program and School Program USDA Supply Chain Assistance Funds.

Supply Chain Assistance funds may only be used to purchase domestic unprocessed or minimally processed foods. Examples include fluid milk, cheese, yogurt, fruits and vegetables, pasta and rice, and meats. Foods may be whole, cut, pureed, fresh, frozen, canned, or dried.

Foods that are not permitted to be purchased with these funds include pre-made pizza, bread, muffins, crackers, pre-packaged sandwiches, and chicken nuggets.

Food Service Director Holly Wait processed the application for these funds.

Comstock High School

NHS Inducts New Members



The CHS chapter of the National Honor Society inducted five new members this fall. They are (left to right) Kylie Blett, Isabel Hardwick, Avery Schreiner, Olivia Peterson, and Dnasia Hemphill.

The induction ceremony featured opening remarks by Chapter President Ava Dalton and Chapter Advisor Colleen Grueter.

Four chapter members spoke about each of the Four Pillars of the Society - Character by Madison Greenhalgh, Leadership by Mishti Patel, Scholarship by Ava Dalton, and Service by Vraj Patel.

Comstock Elementary

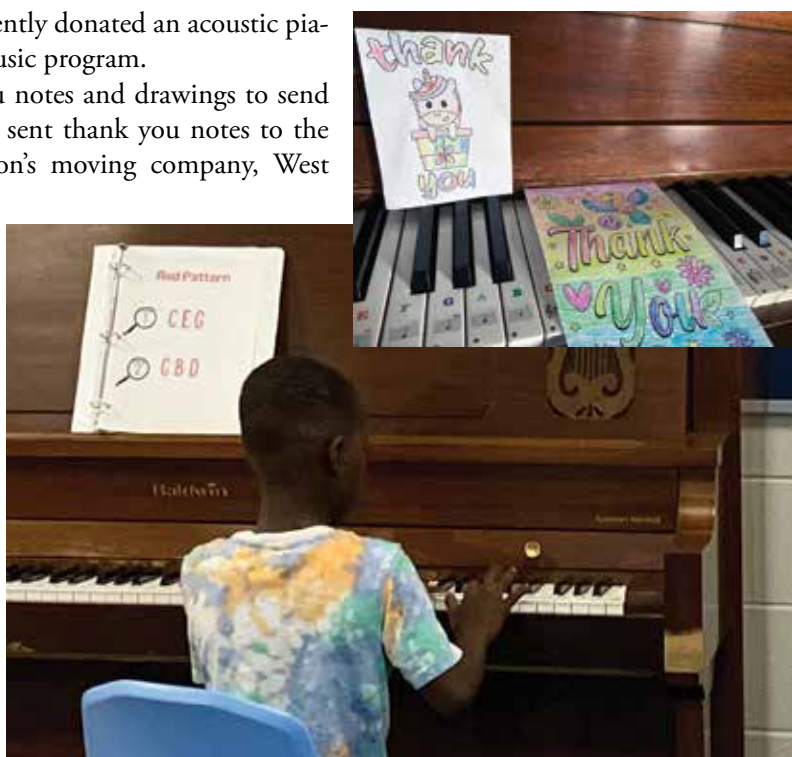
Family Donates Piano to CES

The Martha Austin family recently donated an acoustic piano to the elementary school's music program.

Students composed thank-you notes and drawings to send to the Austin Family. They also sent thank you notes to the John Loucks family and his son's moving company, West Michigan Haulers, who helped transport the piano to its new home.

Students were excited that their thank-you notes would be traveling in the mail and were even more excited to start playing the piano with its "magic keys."

If you or someone you know would like to donate an instrument in good condition to any of our District's band or music programs, contact Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes at Jeff.Thoenes@ComstockPS.org.



Comstock Middle

Book by Area Author Donated to CMS



Principal Mark Wilke accepts a copy of "Enemies in the Orchard" from Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes.

Carol Hamet, widow of former long-time Comstock Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Bob Hamet, recently donated two copies of the book *Enemies in the Orchard* by Dana Vanderlugt to the middle school library/media center. The author is a cousin of Carol's daughter-in-law and lives in the Grand Rapids area.

Taking place during World War II, the story is about Claire, a Midwestern teenager who wants to become a nurse, and a German prisoner-of-war who works on Claire's family farm. According to Google Books, "This poignant and moving story of an unlikely connection will stay with readers long after the final page."

Mrs. Hamet reports that the author's grandfather used German prisoners-of-war in his apple orchard during World War II.

Comstock Elementary

CES School Store Opens



The elementary school now has a school store due to the efforts of Principal Susan Caswell. Students have also been working hard to earn Colt Cash through their positive behaviors. They, then, can spend the “cash” in the school store.

Students Create Math Monsters



Tinsley shows off their monsters.

Third graders in Mrs. Stuck’s class explored place values this fall by creating monsters using copies of base ten blocks.

Not only did students practice an important math skill, but they had a lot of fun and used their imaginations, too.

Oreos Teach Students about the Moon

Fifth graders in Holly Verdon’s class in the elementary school learned about the phases of the moon in a tasty way - with Oreo cookies.

First, they separated the cookies and then used the creamy white filling to create the different phases of the moon at night.

Next, they put the phases in order and labeled them with the proper scientific language.

Then came cleanup time when students filled their tummies with the phases of the moon.

Indigo Bradley-Ballard creates the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies.



CES Students Explore Art

Comstock Elementary School students explored art this fall in collaboration with KRESA’s Aesthetic Education Program. Students made art in the classroom and then visited the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.



Above: Ms. Black’s students learn about art on a field trip to the KIA. Left: Mrs. Tefft-Grimm’s classroom created art in the classroom.

Fifth Annual CES Breakfast with Santa

Here comes Santa Claus! Here comes Santa Claus - right down N. 28th Street! Santa is coming to Comstock Elementary School on December 2. He will be available for photos from 9 to 11 a.m.

A pancake breakfast, crafts, activities, and other Grinch-y fun will be available.

Cost is \$3 per person and includes a print of your photo with Santa to be delivered at a later date.

Please join us for this festive event.



STEM Academy

STEM Students Learn about Effects of Drugs

STEM Academy middle school students recently learned about the effects of vaping and drugs during Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week is sponsored by the National Family Partnership, a leader in drug prevention education.

During the week, School Resource Officer Deputy Dori Noble spoke about the dangers of vaping. Dr. Jennifer Perry Ross from Kalamazoo College talked to the middle schoolers about the ways in which teenage brains and adult brains are different and how drugs affect teenage brains differently than adult brains.

The eighth graders dug deeper through research in their science and language arts classes to learn more about the differences between the adult brain and the teenage brain as well as how drugs harm and damage the teenage brain specifically. With this research, they created infographics to share with their fellow students warning them of the dangers of drugs.

Meanwhile, the seventh graders learned more about the importance of recovery centers to help people who have become addicted. They planned a fundraising effort to raise needed supplies for the Community Healing Center which helps individuals who are in need of mental health services and help for addictions. They prepared presentations to give to the other students about the fundraiser and were excited to play a role in helping to give back to the community.

“It was a very informative week, and students have a deeper understanding of how their brains work and how different substances can affect them,” said their teachers, Danielle Tennant and Kayleigh Schneider



First Graders Raise Funds for Maui Pets



Mrs. Kiino's class displays the poster board they took to present to each class the fundraiser for the Maui Humane Society.

STEM Academy first graders raised \$600 this fall by selling over 1,000 suckers in one week. The funds were donated to the Maui Humane Society to help families and their pets impacted by the devastating fires on the island.

Students in Mrs. Jan Kiino's first grade class had been pen pals with students in Maui so there was a personal connection with the island.

The students learned about how the animals needed shelter because their owners' homes were destroyed while others needed medical attention. The first graders prepared a presentation and shared it with other classes.

They decided to sell suckers, two for \$1, and within a week they had raised \$600.

“It was an excitement-filled, impactful learning experience,” said Mrs. Kiino.

Local Meteorologist Teaches Students about Weather

News Channel 3 meteorologist William Haenni recently taught STEM Academy kindergarten and third grade classes about the weather.

The students had been studying weather in their science classes. Mr. Haenni explained about his work as a meteorologist. Through video and pictures, he showed the tools that meteorologists use to determine the weather and then conducted a science experiment on how to make a cloud.

Mr. Haenni's presentation was followed by a question and answer session.



Channel 3 meteorologist Will Haenni shares with STEM Academy students about his work as a meteorologist.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Student
Presents Her Poem

Fifth grader Elliott Sullivan recently presented her original haiku poem at a Friends of Poetry event at the Kalamazoo Public Library.

Last spring her poem, “Mayfly,” was entered into the local contest, Poems that Ate Our Ears, sponsored by Friends of Poetry. She received an honorable mention for her age group and the poem was included in the annual poetry publication.

She was then invited to present her poem at the Friends of Poetry event at the Library.

When she submitted the poem last spring, she was a fourth grader in Kim Sandefur’s class.

Here is her poem:

Mayfly

By Elliott Sullivan

*oh dear mayfly
may I fly or may I fall
at the sight of your legs*

STEM Students Attend Night of Flight



Meagan, Elias, and Bailey Thornburg enjoy Night of Flight sponsored by WMU’s College of Aviation.

Over 50 STEM Academy students and their families attended WMU’s College of Aviation Night of Flight this fall to learn about aviation and participate in a friendly paper airplane contest.

Families and students rotated among three stations which included, a hands-on science experiment, creating and testing their paper airplanes, and exploring and learning about three different airplanes that the WMU students use.

They also competed in a paper airplane contest in the following divisions: K/1, 2/3, 4/5, 6-8, and adults. However, everyone had one last chance to win the grand prize: a paper airplane kit that included 100 airplanes to fly and 1000 stickers to customize their planes.

All winners received a STEM Academy custom made 3D printed trophy created by STEM Academy’s art teacher, Jeanine Roys.

Winners were Abigail Reilman, kindergarten; Matthew Knapp second grade; Link Frazier, fourth grade; Kali Mulder, sixth grade; Calvin Cobb, Back-to-Back Adult Paper Airplane Champion; and Emma Cobb, eighth grade, Grand Champion.

Prior to the event, there was a t-shirt contest for this year’s design. The K-4 winner was Arya Gupta and the 5-8 winner was Victoria Mason.



Victoria Mason won the t-shirt design contest for grades five through eight.

Students Attend Area Career Event

Eighth graders from the middle school and the STEM Academy were among over 4,000 eighth graders attending KRESA’s Career Connect program hosted by MiCareerQuest Southwest (MCQSW).

This immersive career exploration event gives students the opportunity to participate in hands-on career exploration activities and engage with professionals from local businesses to learn about high-growth, high-demand careers.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Students Explore Pollinators



Seventh and eighth graders from the STEM Academy learned about pollinators and also seeded two acres of farmland as a pollinator plot during a field trip this fall.

The event took place at Nazareth Farms where the students, teachers, and Principal Chris Chopp were guests of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Volunteers from the local chapter of Pheasants Forever also assisted in the event and provided the seeds for the pollinator plot.

The students will be returning to the plot next year to see how the seeds they've planted have grown.

Pheasants Forever, a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit, was organized in 1982 by some pheasant hunters who noticed declining pheasant populations as their habitats were being lost. The group's mission "is to conserve pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy."

STEM Students Paint Rocks First Responders

STEM Academy students recently commemorated 9/11 by painting rocks for police and firefighters. Mrs. Faux's class painted rocks for firefighters while Mrs. Swinehart's class painted rocks for police.

Then, firefighters and police were invited to the school where they were given the rocks to be an encouraging stone to remind them that they are loved and appreciated for their work.

Students also learned about safety service professions by going into the police car and fire engine and talking with the firefighters and police about their work.



Students Host Grandparents Tea



Toya Patterson and her grandson Grayson Patterson enjoy a snack at the Grandparents Tea.



Savoring the fun at the Grandparents Tea were (back row) Donna Cox, Lauren Hoskins, Mark Cox and (front row) Calla Hoskins and Kennedy Hoskins.

STEM Academy third graders in Mrs. Faux and Mrs. Swinehart's classes hosted their annual Grandparents Tea this fall. In advance, they prepared questions to help them to compare and contrast third grade then and now.

Then they celebrated over tea and desserts. Afterwards, the third graders wrote friendly letters to the grandparents reflecting on ideas they learned, things they noticed, and further questions they had. All letters were mailed to the grandparents.

STEM Academy

STEM Students Qualify for Advanced Program

Thirty-eight percent of STEM Academy's sixth and seventh graders have qualified for nominations to the Academically Talented Youth Program (AYTP), an accelerated educational program for middle and high school students sponsored by Western Michigan University.

Students who either achieved over the 90th percentile on NWEA or advanced on M-STEP qualified for nomination, said Principal Chris Chopp.

"This is the highest number of students we have recognized in the last three years," he said.

Each student qualifying for an AYTP nomination received a certificate from Principal Chopp.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

Students Receive New Shoes

Students at both the Early Learning Academy and the elementary school received new shoes this fall from the First Day Shoe Fund (FDSF).

At CELA, volunteers from FDSF delivered the shoes, and then Principal Nuyen sorted them and delivered the shoes to the various classes. Staff members worked to get students in the right size shoes. Many students wore their new shoes immediately.

At the elementary school, 270 shoes were fitted to students, a task accomplished in just over three hours due to the efforts of First Day Shoe Fund Executive Director Maggie Hesketh and her team.

Whitney Wilkins, CES Parent Liaison, also helped out with the shoe distribution.

The First Day Shoe Fund, a local organization, was founded by Valerie Denghel, who in her volunteer work in the Kalamazoo Public Schools noticed that students were often wearing shoes that didn't fit or that were worn out. So, she founded the organization to distribute properly fitting athletic shoes to needy students. Students from Pre-K to fifth grade in any public elementary school in Kalamazoo County are eligible to receive new shoes.

For more information, to help out or volunteer, go to firstdayshoefund.org.



CELA Students Enjoy *Peeny Butter Fudge*

CELA students enjoyed the read-aloud story *Peeny Butter Fudge* by Toni and Slade Morrison. The story is about a nana and her grandkids making a favorite family recipe.

After the reading, students made "Peeny Butter Fudge" cookies together. They smashed a graham cracker, squished a slice of banana, and mixed all of the ingredients together into a ball to form a cookie.

While making the cookies, they practiced literacy, math, and fine motor skills. And then, of course, they enjoyed eating the cookies with lunch.



Jay'lah Bush and Choidie Tubutele mix ingredients for "peeny butter fudge" cookies.

CELA Students Learn about Safety



Samantha Kuebler uses a puppet to teach CELA students about preventing sexual abuse.

Samantha Kuebler, Program Educator from the Kalamazoo Children's Alliance (KCAN), came to the Early Learning Academy recently to do her Kids are Special presentation in all Great Start Readiness Program classrooms.

The Kids Are Special program uses music and puppets to teach children about sexual abuse. They are also taught how to respond to inappropriate touching.

Songs used in the program are "Tricky People" by Yello Dyno and "My Body Is My Body" by My Body Is My Body.

Children are also given a coloring book reiterating the main points of the program. A worksheet is also provided for families to complete at home. KCAN emphasizes the importance of this training for young children because about 24 percent of child abuse happens to those younger than four years old.

According to the group's website, "Through this program, children are given the tools to identify safe and tricky people and empowered to use their voice for their safety."

KCAN has been in operation since 1976 when what was then the Junior League of Kalamazoo responded to concerns in the county regarding child abuse and neglect. Two years later, they became a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

CELA GSRP Classes Receive New Books



Students in Comstock’s Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) at the Early Learning Academy will be receiving copies of *La Mariachi* written by Isabel Estrada, the pen name for Dr. Isabel O’Hagin who is the wife of Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes.

The Round Up for Reading program at local bookstores, Book Bug and This is a Bookstore, made this possible.

Ms. Estrada will be visiting CELA to autograph the 96 books and to read the books to all six classes.

The book, released in July by Sleeping Bear Press, is the story of Tuchi, a girl who wants to play in a mariachi band, but the band is only open to boys. Her male teacher and the boys in her class tell her she can’t play in a mariachi

band because she’s a girl. But Tuchi practices with her grandmother and surprises her teacher and classmates when she shows up for the audition.

“While my main character, Tuchi, is a girl, I hope all kids will see themselves in my story,” she said. “Tuchi has this great desire to become a mariachi and doesn’t give up. I want kids to visualize their own success in whatever area they choose.”

The book is illustrated by Addy Rivera Sonda, a visual artist from Mexico.



Using a map of Mexico, Ms. Estrada explains where mariachi culture originated.

CELA Students Learn About Amputees

Denise Garten, an amputee and founder of South-west Michigan Amputee Resource Group (SMARG), recently spoke to Early Learning Academy students about being different and celebrating diversity. Ms. Garten, an above-the-knee amputee, shared her story with the students.

She also showed students various prosthetics and answered their questions.

SMARG was founded in 2021 by Ms. Garten and Joshua Fisher, doctor of physical therapy. The group is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The group’s goal is to help “people who have experienced limb loss to live their best life as an amputee.”



Above: CELA students examine various prosthetics used by amputees. Right: Denise Garten shares the story of her amputation with students.



WINTER WEATHER Notifications & Procedures

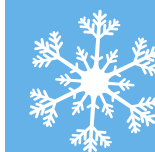
When wintry weather arrives in Comstock, we know that our families and staff are anxiously waiting to hear what our district has planned. If we make a change from our normal operations, we will try our best to share information by 6 a.m. If there is no mention of a delay or closure on our website or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

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

The 2024 Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 20, 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 7 p.m. Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for \$30. Come support these great Comstock alumni and coaches and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 12.

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

Girls Varsity Basketball

Tue 12/5	Climax-Scotts Jr/Sr HS	6:00PM
Tue 12/12	@ Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	7:30PM
Fri 12/15	@ Bloomingdale HS	7:30PM
Tue 12/19	White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Thu 12/21	Cassopolis High School	7:30PM
Tue 1/9	@ Bangor Public Schools	7:30PM
Thu 1/11	@ Centreville	7:30PM
Tue 1/16	Marcellus High School	7:30PM
Fri 1/19	@ Decatur High School	7:30PM
Thu 1/25	Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Fri 1/26	@ Maple Valley HS	7:00PM
Tue 1/30	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	7:30PM

Girls Junior Varsity Basketball

Tue 12/12	@ Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	6:00PM
Fri 12/15	@ Bloomingdale HS	6:00PM
Tue 12/19	White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	6:00PM
Thu 12/21	Cassopolis High School	6:00PM
Tue 1/9	@ Bangor Public Schools	6:00PM
Thu 1/11	@ Centreville	6:00PM
Tue 1/16	Marcellus High School	6:00PM
Fri 1/19	@ Decatur High School	6:00PM
Thu 1/25	Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Fri 1/26	@ Maple Valley HS	5:30PM
Tue 1/30	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	6:00PM

Boys Varsity Basketball

Fri 12/1	Galesburg-Augusta HS	7:00PM
Fri 12/8	Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue 12/12	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	7:30PM
Thu 12/14	Bloomingdale HS	7:30PM
Tue 12/19	@ White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Thu 12/21	@ Cassopolis High School	7:30PM
Tue 1/9	Bangor Public Schools	7:30PM
Wed 1/10	@ Allegan Public Schools	7:00PM
Fri 1/12	Centreville	7:30PM
Tue 1/16	@ Marcellus HS	7:30PM

Thu 1/18	Decatur High School	7:30PM
Tue 1/23	Maple Valley HS	7:00PM
Fri 1/26	@ Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue 1/30	@ Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	7:30PM

Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

Fri 12/1	Galesburg-Augusta HS	5:30PM
Fri 12/8	Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 12/12	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	6:00PM
Thu 12/14	Bloomingdale HS	6:00PM
Tue 12/19	@ White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	6:00PM
Thu 12/21	@ Cassopolis HS	6:00PM
Tue 1/9	Bangor Public Schools	6:00PM
Wed 1/10	@ Allegan Public Schools	5:30PM
Fri 1/12	Centreville	6:00PM
Tue 1/16	@ Marcellus HS	6:00PM
Thu 1/18	Decatur High School	6:00PM
Tue 1/23	Maple Valley HS	5:30PM
Fri 1/26	@ Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 1/30	@ Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	6:00PM

Boys & Girls Varsity Bowling

Mon 12/4	@ Martin Public Schools (Rock & Bowl - Wayland)	3:15PM
Wed 12/6	Allegan Public Schools (Continental)	2:30PM
Mon 12/11	@ Coloma HS (Strykers)	4:00PM
Wed 12/13	Parchment HS (Continental)	2:30PM
Mon 12/18	@ Gobles MS/HS (Revel & Roll)	4:00PM
Wed 1/10	@ Saugatuck HS (Alley's)	3:00PM
Mon 1/15	South Haven HS (Continental)	2:30PM
Wed 1/17	Coloma HS (Continental)	2:30PM
Mon 1/22	Martin Public Schools (Continental)	2:30PM
Wed 1/24	@ Parchment HS (Revel & Roll)	4:00PM
Tue 1/30	@ Allegan Public Schools (Lakeside Lanes)	4:00PM
Wed 1/31	Gobles MS/HS (Continental)	2:30PM

Boys Varsity Wrestling

Wed 12/6	@ Mattawan Quad	5:00PM
Sat 12/9	@ Delton-Kellogg Team Tournament	9:00AM
Wed 12/13	@ Quincy Quad	6:00PM
Sat 12/16	@ Gull Lake Invitational	9:30AM
Wed 12/20	@ SW10 Bloomingdale Quad vs Bloom/Bangor SW10	6:00PM
Thu 12/28	Comstock V Individual Tournament	9:30AM
Sat 1/6	Comstock V Team Tournament	9:00AM
Wed 1/10	@ SW10 Hartford Quad vs Marc/Cass	6:00PM
Wed 1/17	Comstock Quad w/ Hartford, Mendon & Colon	6:00PM
Fri 1/19	Comstock V Individual Tournament	4:00PM
Wed 1/24	SW10 Comstock Quad vs Decatur/Lawrence	6:00PM
Sat 1/27	@ Buchanan Super Dual	9:00AM
Wed 1/31	@ SW10 White Pigeon Quad vs WP/Centreville	6:00PM

Girls Varsity Competitive Cheer

Sat 12/9	@ Otsego Meet	TBA
Sat 12/16	@ Paw Paw Invitational	9:00AM
Sat 1/6	@ Vicksburg Invitational	10:00AM
Thu 1/11	@ SAC Gobles Jamboree	6:00PM
Sat 1/13	@ White Pigeon Invitational	10:00AM
Thu 1/18	@ SAC Allegan Jamboree	6:00PM
Sat 1/20	@ Paw Paw Invitational	9:00AM
Thu 1/25	@ SAC Schoolcraft Jamboree	6:00PM
Sat 1/27	@ Otsego Invitational	9:00AM
Thu 2/1	@ SAC Parchment Jamboree	6:00PM
Sat 2/3	@ Jonesville Invitational	10:00AM
Sat 2/10	@ Delton-Kellogg Invitational	9:00AM

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

of Varsity Letters - Girls Sports

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

DECEMBER EVENTS

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

- **Saturday, December 23: Christmas Eve (Observed)**
- **Monday, December 25: Christmas Day**
- **Saturday, December 30: New Year's Eve (Observed)**
- **Monday, January 1: New Year's Day**

Saturday, December 2, 1-3 p.m.– Holiday Open House: Join us at the Comstock Township Library for a festive time as we feature holiday crafts, refreshments, and Santa's reindeer petting zoo! The Celtic musical group Selkie will be here with their brand of traditional holiday classics throughout the afternoon as well. There is no registration required and all ages are welcome. We hope you'll join us for a very, merry time!

YOUTH

Friday, December 1 - Saturday, December 9 – Kids Take-Home Craft: Pick up a take-home craft in the Youth Area for your preschooler! Crafts are available while supplies last.

Tuesday, December 5, and Wednesday, December 6, at 10:30 a.m.– Family Storytime: Join us for our final sessions of Family Storytime before the holiday break! 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, and encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every session is followed by a sensory toy play time.

Thursday, December 7, at 10:30 a.m.– Sensory Storytime: Join us for our final session of Sensory Storytime before the holiday break. Sensory Storytime is an interactive, inclusive program for families with Neurodivergent children, such as those with Autism and/or other sensory processing challenges. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage with literacy in a calm, welcoming, and comfortable space.

Saturday, December 9, at 11a.m. and 1 p.m. – Kids Crafts: Ornaments: 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 register each child individually.

Tuesday, December 12, at 5 p.m.– Pages & Paws with Chloe: Read stories with Chloe the Therapy Dog! Do your children need to practice their reading? Chloe loves hearing stories and is a patient listener. Each child will have an individual session with Chloe. This program is first come, first served, so please check in at the Youth Desk to guarantee a session.

Thursday, December 28, at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – Kids Crafts: 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. Please register each child individually.

TWEEN & TEEN

Thursday, December 7, 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. **December's theme:** Read a book on the library's "New" shelf. 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, December 12, 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, December 13, at 6 p.m. – Tween Hangout: Come with your ideas for future tween

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

programs, relax, and enjoy games, crafts, snacks, and other fun activities with your peers.

Wednesday, December 20, at 6 p.m. – Tween Craft: Decorate a Mug: Tweens are welcome to attend this craft where they will receive a mug and paint supplies to decorate it with. Plus, they will get a mug recipe collection they can take home to try as well. Registration is required, and each tween should be registered individually.

Wednesday, December 27, at 5 p.m.– Tween Movie Night: Tweens will be watching an entertaining film with friends. Movies will be rated PG or PG-13. The library will provide snacks and drinks.

Thursday, December 28, at 2 p.m.– Teen Awful Movie Afternoon: Bored teens at home? Bring your sense of humor, sarcastic comments, and your friends for an afternoon of watching awful movies. Films will be rated PG or PG-13. The library will provide snacks and drinks. This program is for students in grades eight through twelve.

ADULTS

Wednesday, December 6, at 6 p.m.– Paint It & Take It: Come and join us for a nice relaxing night of painting and decorating. You'll choose an unfinished wood craft to paint and make your own. Registration for this free program is already underway. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

Monday, December 11 through Saturday, December 16 – Adult Take-Home Craft: Scrabble Tile Ornaments: Add your love of words to your holiday décor with the Scrabble Tile Ornament. Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts.

Wednesday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m. - Adult Book Club: *Anxious People* by Fredrick Backman:

Continued on next page

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Please join us for a discussion of *Anxious People* by Fredrick Backman. Get to know some interesting characters in this bestselling comedy about a hostage situation and the people who are trapped together. Copies of the book will be provided at the Reference Desk. Snacks and drinks will be served. Registration and book pick-up is already underway.

JANUARY EVENTS

YOUTH

Tuesday, January 2, at 2 p.m. – Kids Nailed It: Kids will be supplied with cupcakes and decorating materials to try to decorate their cupcakes in the likeness of popular Pinterest and cooking show cupcake styles. After decorating, they get to enjoy their cupcakes or take them home! This program is designed for grades kindergarten through third. Registration is required for this free program. Please register each child individually.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. starting January 16 – 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, and 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 at 10 a.m. starting January 18 – Drop In Playroom: Our playroom will be open for the children to enjoy free play throughout the day. Guardian supervision is required.

Saturday, January 20, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. – Kids Crafts: 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. Please register each child individually. Registration begins December 17.

TWEEN AND TEEN

Wednesday, January 3, at 2 p.m. – Tween Nailed It: Tweens will be supplied with cupcakes and decorating materials to try to decorate their cupcakes in the likeness of popular Pinterest and cooking show cupcake styles. After decorating,

they get to enjoy their cupcakes or take them home! This is a free program, intended for students in fourth through seventh grades only. Registration is required for this free program. Please register each child individually. Registration begins December 17.

Thursday, January 4, at 2 p.m. – Teen Nailed It: Teens will be supplied with cupcakes and decorating materials to try to decorate their cupcakes in the likeness of popular Pinterest and cooking show cupcake styles. After decorating, they get to enjoy their cupcakes or take them home! This program is designed for students in grades eight through twelve. Registration is required for this free program. Please register each teen individually. Registration begins December 17.

Tuesday, January 9, 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, January 17, 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.

Thursday, January 18, 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. January's theme: Read a nonfiction book. Registration is required each month, and each child must register individually. And as always, audiobooks, graphic novels, and juvenile nonfiction are all acceptable reads for this program.

Friday, January 19, at 4 p.m. – Tween Craft: Laminated Bookmarks: Tweens are welcome to attend this free craft program where they will get to make two laminated bookmarks. Craft supplies will be supplied, but if tweens have their own special paper materials they wish to use (Polaroid

picture, movie ticket, etc.), they are welcome to use those, too. Supervision and assistance will be provided as well. This is intended for fourth through seventh grades only. Registration is required, and each tween should register separately.

Wednesday, January 31, at 6 p.m. – Tween Book Tasting: Books within their reading level and age group will be displayed, along with the opportunity for tweens to sample a variety of books on different topics, by different authors, etc. to enhance their reading advisory skills and better understand their own preferences for reading. Attendees will get to take home a free book, as well as have the option to check out books from the Library's collection. This event is intended for fourth through seventh grades only. Registration is required, and each tween should register separately.

ADULTS

Monday, January 8 through Saturday, January 13 – Adult Take-Home Craft: Snowflake Décor: Keep your home warm this winter with a festive star décor item shining bright! Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts.

Wednesday, January 17, at 5:30 p.m. – Winter Wreaths: All the holiday décor is coming down, but do you want a winter wreath for your door that doesn't scream "Christmas!"? Come make one with us to welcome loved ones to your home for the next few months. Registration for this free program begins on Wednesday, January 3. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

Monday, January 29, through Saturday, February 3 – Adult Take-Home Craft: Paper Cup Basket: Call out to spring as you weave this easy little basket with a paper cup and twine that's perfect for your little plants and succulents! Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts.

Wednesday, January 31, at 5:30 p.m. – Adult Book Club: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah: Please join us for a discussion of *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. This highly praised historical fiction follows its protagonist's struggle to survive during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. Copies of the book will be provided at the Reference Desk. Snacks and drinks will be served. Registration and book pick-up begin December 18.