

Coloma High School

COMET COMMENTS

January 2019 Issue

FROM THE DESK OF Principal Michael Churchill

As we work our way past the holiday season and enter the 2nd semester things will begin to move quickly! Focus will continue to be one of the most important things students will need to be successful! Please remind your student to remain focused on their goals as we move toward the end of the 2018-19 school year!



In the weeks to come Mrs. Megyese will continue to speak with students about general scheduling options. Again, this is general information, eventually, Mrs. Megyese will sit down with each student to discuss scheduling and their future plans. If at any point you would like to become more oriented with the process feel free to contact the school and request to meet with Mrs. Megyese to discuss your students future planning.

Winterfest will be here before we know it! The dance will be held at the Alwood Gym at the Intermediate building from 9:30 - 11:30 p.m.

2019 Winterfest



First destination: Monday Morning in Michigan



UPCOMING DATES

February 8th - Winterfest

**February 13th - COUNTDAY -
Delayed start, School starts at
10am**

**February 14th - Pre-festival Choir
Concert 7 pm**

**February 15th & 18th No School -
Mid-Winter Break**

**February 21st - Pre-festival Band
Concert 7 pm**

**February 27th- Delayed start,
School starts at 10am**

February 28th - Progress Reports

MISSION STATEMENT:

*We will inspire all
students to achieve
at high levels
and empower them
for their future
success.*

**INSPIRE TO
ACHIEVE –
EMPOWER FOR
SUCCESS**

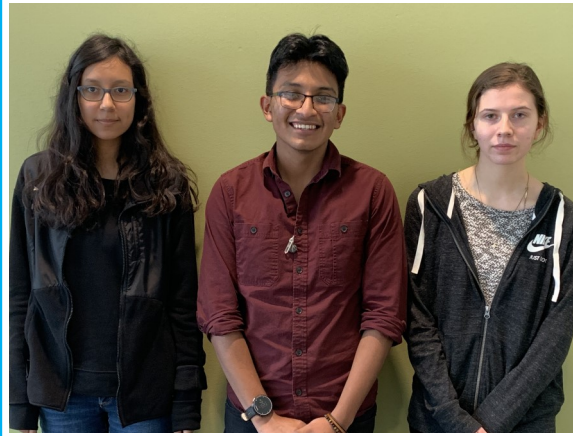
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Seniors please check your yellow new College Bulletin "CB" for local scholarships and their deadline dates. Several are due in February and March. Also make sure you ask your teachers for letters of recommendation at least a week or more ahead of the due date. You can use these letters with all of your applications where it is requested.

Scheduling for 2019-2020 school year will be taking place the months of February and March. I will be meeting with each class in the auditorium to go over offerings, scheduling, and college information, then will meet with each student individually during the months of February and March. I will see everyone before spring break.

Mrs. Megyese



Three Coloma High School seniors have been bestowed the honor of receiving the University of Michigan Ann Arbor Hail Scholarship which offers four years of free in state tuition and fees worth \$60,000 each. They will also be eligible for other scholarships and financial aid which will bring their final cost to a bare minimum. These students are Tanya Perea, Lindsey Robinson, and Adiel Granados. They have proven by taking difficult courses and receiving high test scores that you can accomplish great things!

Congratulations!





Berrien Community Foundation Grant Provides Breakout EDU Boxes

by Tonya Kimmerly

With the help of the Golden Acorn Grant from the Berrien Community Foundation, we were recently able to purchase four boxes from Breakout EDU. These boxes include everything needed to create the escape room type of experience for our students. A directional lock, word lock, 3 and 4 digit locks, invisible pen, and black light all contribute to give students a game-like feel to work on team building, introduce new topics or review old ones. Before Christmas Break, the Earth Science students participated in a themed breakout called “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. The students had to use observational skills to find clues around the room, math skills to calculate the cost of gifts, decipher rebus clues and use detective skills uncover hidden messages. Although none of the groups were able to “breakout”, it was fun to watch the students use critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication skills. These boxes will be used throughout the year and across content areas and grade levels. Thank you BCF for providing funding for this opportunity!



Coloma Choirs Performs at Epcot Theme Park at Walt Disney World

In January 2018 Mrs. Selvidge, director of Vocal Music at Coloma Jr and Sr. High Schools, announced that the high school choirs would be auditioning to perform at Walt Disney World's Candlelight Processional for the following fall.

The Candlelight Processional is a unique experience where the students join Disney's professional choirs and orchestra in the telling of the story of Christmas. This event is also features a celebrity guest narrator.

The choirs must be selected by Disney via a video recorded audition where they are required to sing two pieces: one of our choosing and one arrangement created and selected by Disney.

In March, Coloma Choirs were informed that we were selected to perform on Monday, November 26th. The students had to learn an hour long program that included 14 memorized songs including Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus".

The trip was an adventure for us all. We flew to Orlando very early on Black Friday and spent the weekend enjoying the Disney Parks as well as Universal Studios. Our wonderful travel company, Explorer Tours, made it easy for everyone to enjoy their time with their friends as well as experience the sights and sounds of Florida in November!

On Monday, we were able to take it easy for the day knowing the rest of the evening would be spent rehearsing and performing. At 4pm, the choir and several chaperones went to the back lot area of Epcot to meet with the other choirs that were performing, have a rehearsal with the conductor, and receive their yellow robes and collars. There was no dress rehearsal on stage and all the performers were instructed on how to handle an issues that might arise during the performance. At the time of the first performance there was a light rain and the students were given umbrellas for cover until they were under the awning of the amphitheater. Throughout their first performance it was a mix of light rain to ultimate downpour. The performers handled it beautifully while our audience members and chaperones braved the rain. Thankfully, our students were able to sing at one more performance with less rain and a much bigger audience.

The guest narrator for the Candlelight Processional was Alfonso Ribeiro who is best known for his character, Carlton, on the tv show *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* as well as his appearance on *Dancing with the Stars*. The Disney symphony did a fantastic job, the music was beautiful and touching. Our choir students sang with musicality and great stage presence. They remained professional throughout the performances despite the challenges of the weather.

The trip was an amazing experience that we will never forget. If you would like to see pictures and videos from our trip please visit: ColomaChoirs.weebly.com



Science Fiction at CHS

by Kevin VanPeteghem

For years teachers and professors across the nation scoffed at the idea of teaching science fiction in school or university. They thought it was childish and silly and refused to consider it as “worthy” literature. Now, there are courses in science fiction taught at almost every college and in many high schools. Why, what changed? Well, to explain, let me quote from an essay by famous science fiction writer Isaac Asimov and why he fell in love with science fiction,

“With its strange new worlds, monsters, inventions and dangers, it was more exciting than anything else I could find. Once I got into science fiction, everything else was pale and dull. For one thing, people came to realize that science fiction fits this age. In fact, it is the only kind of literature that fits this age. People who think that science fiction is “silly” look a little silly themselves. When the first atom bomb dropped, it was the people who read science fiction who weren’t surprised. When the first men walked on the Moon, the suits they wore looked exactly like the drawings in science fiction stories I read when I was a boy. These days, in fact, changes are coming so fast that we are in danger of being overwhelmed by them.”

Isaac Asimov wrote these words in 1981 and the key line is at the end when he states, “in fact, changes are coming so fast that we are in danger of being overwhelmed by them.” His words were true then, but I think they are even more true NOW. Think of everything “new” that has changed since 1981....VHS tapes, cassette tapes, the Radio Shack TRS-80 computer.....now we have Netflix, Amazon Prime, and smart phones! But for how long will they be “new” before something takes their place? We used to say the future is constantly changing, but NOW the present is constantly changing! We must read science fiction NOW more than ever! The English 11 classes at CHS will soon begin reading Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451, and it is a work of science fiction that will make students think about how we’ve changed and how we may change in the future.....and the intellectual dangers that may come with those changes. Pick up a copy yourself and give it a read or a re-read, so you don’t become “overwhelmed” by the ever evolving changes in our world that science fiction makes us think about.

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Fine arts is very excited to extend a congratulations to sophomore Brenna Moore today! Brenna has received an honorable mention in category of "mixed media" after entering the 2018 Scholastic Arts & Writing Competition. This competition is an annual competition with a deadline set every December. Thousands of students from neighboring districts come together to compete for the prestigious awards this competition has to offer including many scholarships. Brenna Moore is the first student to receive any type of Scholastic-related honor under Mrs. Ferguson's wing thus a big deal for both: student and teacher. Mrs. Ferguson looks forward to even more artists entering next year AND writers!



Earlier this month, the Art Room was paid a surprise visit by the local company, Midwest Energy INC who awarded Mrs. Ferguson a \$1,300 grant to install updated audio and microphone equipment in the classroom. This new technology has opened up a variety of exciting possibilities for students and teacher.

As we swing into the new semester; Art Club members invite students from all over Coloma Highschool to participate in their installation art project. Welcome to Our Hive is a project inviting collaboration and emphasizing teamwork. Students are more than welcome to stay after school on Thursdays during Art Club or encourage their teachers to visit Mrs. Ferguson during third hour if they desire help making honeycombs to add onto the interactive display. Teachers have been sent a email of instructions as well and Mrs. Ferguson plans to leave the display up until the end of February to give everyone time to participate. Art Club really hopes the Coloma spirit will get everyone involved as it takes many great individuals to keep our scholarly "hive" running!



Cold Weather Science Experiments

As an enormous arctic chill plunges the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes into the minus-20s or colder, most folks will be hunkering down inside next to the fireplace. But for anyone a bit more daring, the staggeringly low temperatures will turn the atmosphere into a natural laboratory. Here's what can happen:

Turn boiling water to snow

We've all seen it on the Internet, but now you can try it for yourself. At frigid temperatures, emptying a kettle of boiling water into the air will produce a trail of snow and ice crystals — not a drop of water will hit the ground.

How does this happen? There are two effects that contribute to a boiling blizzard.

Boiling water emits steam very rapidly. Before the water has time to form drops that would hit the ground, most of it has turned to steam and very little droplets. For those minuscule drops, the time needed to freeze is far less — making for a quick-hitting sudden snowfall. **USE EXTREME CAUTION!**

Freeze soap bubbles

With ample surface area and a very thin layer of glycerin glaze, soap bubbles are the perfect medium to watch ice crystallization take place in real time. When the temperature drops below zero, a bubble can sometimes freeze before it pops. You have to have the right recipe for your bubble mixture and an adequate bubble-blowing technique, but many photographers have taken advantage of this artsy opportunity.

Shrink a balloon

When the weather is super chilly, trapped pockets of air expand or contract. And it's possible to visualize this too! All you need is a balloon.

When a gas heats up, its volume grows as the molecules become more energetic. The same is true in reverse: Cooling the balloon will cause it to shrink in volume as the molecules begin to settle down.

You can test this principle yourself by taking a balloon for a walk. Fill it indoors, making careful note of its dimensions with a ruler. If you wait outside for a few moments, the balloon will diminish in size. If you do the opposite and start outdoors, the balloon may expand enough upon walking inside that it pops! That contraction of gas is also why we have to fill our tires with more air in the wintertime.

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Students of the Month



January Students of the Month!

Freshman: Cali Grennon

Sophomore: Bernabe Guzman Hidalgo

Junior: Jackson Hodges

Senior: Dylan Whitaker