

Coloma High School

COMET COMMENTS

November 2018 Issue

FROM THE DESK OF Principal
Michael Churchill

Thank you to all of the parents who attended conferences this month! It is great to see all of the parent involvement! Please be sure to keep an eye on PowerSchool as the semester progresses. Often, this is when it becomes the most difficult for students to stay motivated, with your help, student success will serve as a reflection for both, parents and students hard work! If, at any time you have questions or perhaps guidance with your student please do not hesitate to contact their teacher or the office for assistance.



Additionally, attendance has a tendency to decline as the cold weather approaches! Please continue to encourage your student daily to ensure they are attending regularly and not missing instruction in class. Communication is key in all situations, again, if we can be of assistance please be sure to reach out to the school for assistance!

We would like to wish everyone a safe, and enjoyable holiday season as well as a Happy New Year!

Go Comets!

“There is always, always something to be thankful for.”



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**

UPCOMING DATES

December 10th - 9th Grade Vision Testing

December 11th - Band Concert 7pm

December 12th - Late Start - School Starts at 10am

December 20 - Choir Concert 7pm

December 21 - 1/2 day school - Christmas Breaks starts on Friday December 21 at 11:37 thru January 4th



PARENTS:

SENIORS THAT ARE IN ON LINE CLASSES- parents please check your student's grades from your parent portal with Michigan Virtual or ask your student to show you what they have completed to date.

The deadline for these courses is midnight January 21st. Nothing will be accepted after midnight. If your student continues to fail they will have to make this credit up in Credit Recovery after school from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. four days a week if they want to graduate in June. Credit recovery does not start until February.

Seniors: Please meet with Mr. Houlehen our AmeriCorp College and Financial Aid adviser. He will help you with applying to college, your FAFSA form and college transcripts through Parchment.

Local scholarship College Bulletin (CB) will be out the last week of January.

Have a great holiday and
**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!!**

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life.

When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of graduating from high school.

When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.

But when kids are absent for an average of just two days of school per month—even when the absences are excused—it can have a negative impact.

As a parent, you can prepare your child for a lifetime of success by making regular school attendance a priority.

Forrest Gump: Not Only a Great Movie

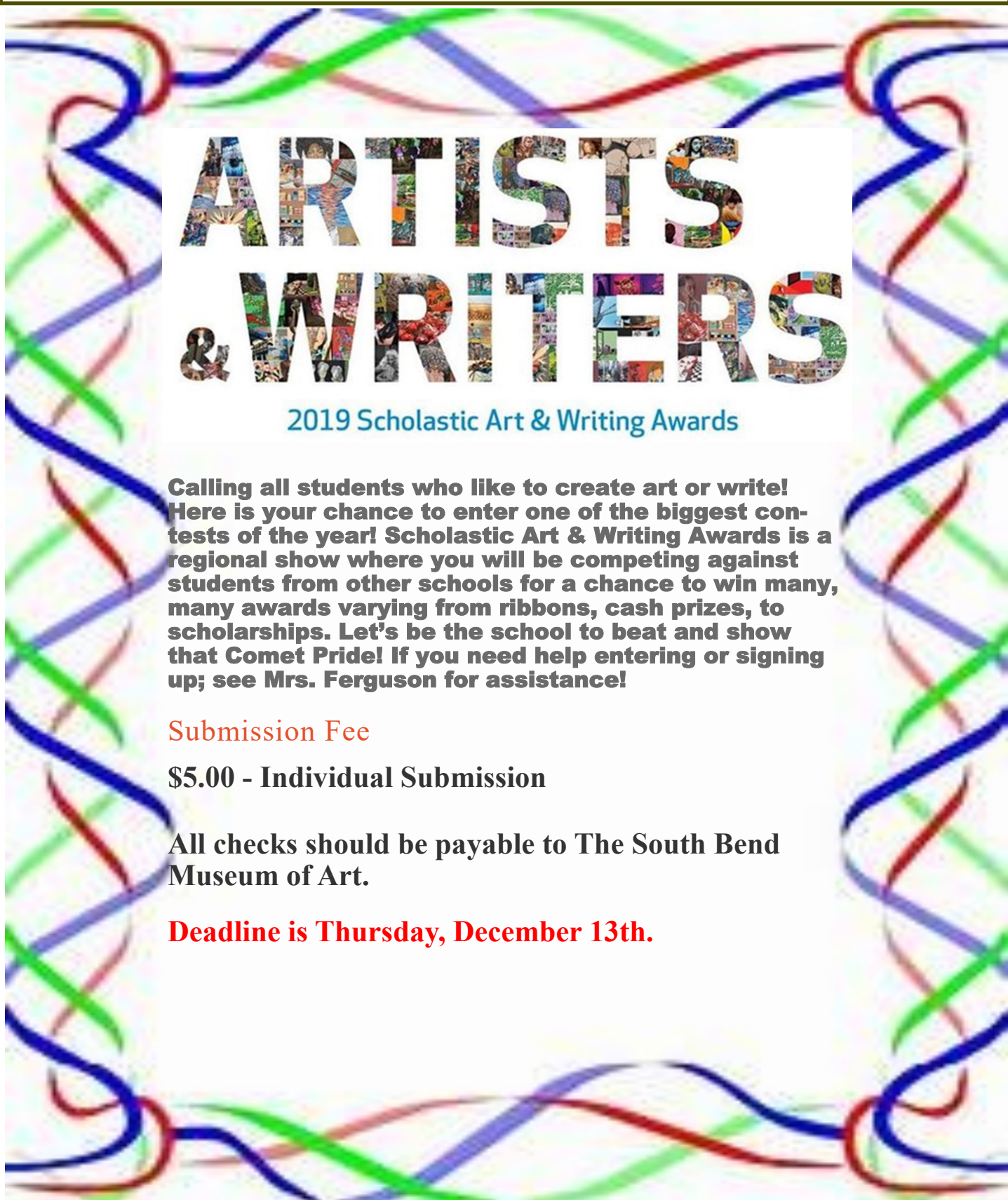
Many people are surprised to learn that Forrest Gump, the loveable title character of the epic 1994 movie, was first the title character of a novel by Alabamian author Winston Groom that came out almost a decade before the movie made cinematic history.

Inevitably, those who love the movie are curious to know how the book compares to the classic movie. As I tell students at the beginning of the unit, do not expect to watch the movie and be able to do well on quizzes. The book and movie both follow some of the same exploits of Forrest, who is “slow” in both the book and movie, but there are as many differences as similarities. For example, in the book version Forrest becomes an astronaut, a pro wrestler, a chess champion, and lives among cannibals for four years. So, yes, the plot is a tad different. Also, the movie adds several memorable scenes that never existed in the book. Take the famous inspirational scene in which Jenny utters the iconic line, “Run, Forrest, run.” Neither this nor the other running scenes are in the book version, though Forrest does play running back at the University of Alabama. You also will not find Mama whimsically comparing life to a box of chocolates because it’s full of surprises. Instead, Forrest tells us that being slow is “no box of chocolates”—quite a different message. These are just some of the vast differences between plot and character development in each version.

The movie is certainly funny at many points, but the tone is more serious than the book. One type of humor that I really focus on in class is the use of satire in the book. The book and movie both contain a fair amount of satire, but the book has a good deal more, taking on such targets as the Vietnam War, Richard Nixon and Watergate, professional wrestling, Hollywood culture, and the counterculture of the 1960s to name a few. Another humor-related aspect that really differs from film to book is the amount of absurd humor, from Forrest’s foray into professional wrestling to his time as a “backup to the backup computer” on a NASA mission (Oh yes, he’s an autistic savant in the book version). The book also utilizes several other types of humor not necessarily seen in the book, including slapstick and black humor. Its aim, much more often than the movie version, is simply to make the reader laugh.

Although I can’t necessarily say that the book is *better than the film version*, it has a lot to offer on its own merits. For anyone who enjoyed the movie or enjoys satire and other varieties of humor, the novel *Forrest Gump* is well worth your time to read.





ARTISTS & WRITERS

2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Calling all students who like to create art or write! Here is your chance to enter one of the biggest contests of the year! Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is a regional show where you will be competing against students from other schools for a chance to win many, many awards varying from ribbons, cash prizes, to scholarships. Let's be the school to beat and show that Comet Pride! If you need help entering or signing up; see Mrs. Ferguson for assistance!

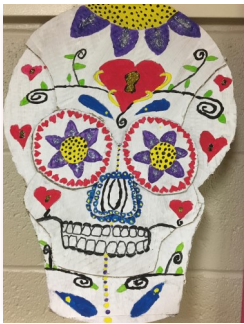
Submission Fee

\$5.00 - Individual Submission

All checks should be payable to The South Bend Museum of Art.

Deadline is Thursday, December 13th.

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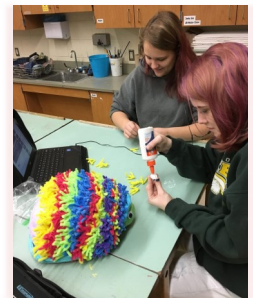
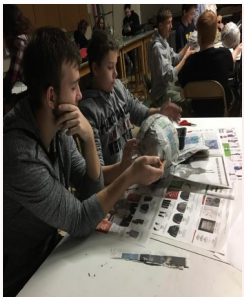


Art and Spanish students worked together in October to bring together Spanish culture with artistic talent. They created Calaveras and Alebrijes to honor the traditional holiday Day of the Dead (Spanish: Día de Muertos).

The Alebrijes are imaginary creatures that have elements from different animals such as dragon bodies, bat wings, wolf teeth and dog eyes. Colorfully painted, they were originally made with papier mache but nowadays they are also wood carved. History. The Alebrije was created by Pedro Linares Lopez in the 1930's.

A Calavera is a representation of a human skull. The tradition of sugar skulls is for families to decorate their loved ones' ofrendas with both large and small handmade sugar skulls.

**Examples of Alebrijes above.
Examples of Calaveras below.**



Combating “Nature Deficit Disorder” in Biology Classes

By Mrs. Sara Glisson



Back in 2005, a book titled “The Last Child in the Woods” was written by Richard Louv. In it, he coined the phrase “Nature Deficit Disorder” in which he argues that all of us, especially children, are spending more time indoors, which makes us feel alienated from nature and perhaps more vulnerable to negative moods or reduced attention span. The book was impactful to me as I considered how much time my own children, and students, spend indoors and how that could be taking a toll on their health and well being.

This fall, all my biology classes had opportunities to take nature walks on our school property. In addition, introductory biology students conducted a 6 week, multisensory study of an ecosystem of their choice. Students submitted insightful projects and most reflected on what a positive experience it was spending time outdoors. Advanced Biology students spent weeks learning to identify native plants such as: grasses, fall wildflowers, shrubs and trees. This concluded with a performance assessment called the “Amazing Race” in which they had to collect 16 samples accurately off of the school grounds in a friendly competition.

Without fail, every time I bring a group of students back indoors after being outside for 30 or 40 minutes, they are calmer, more alert, have color in their faces and are refocused to face the rest of their school day. It makes me wonder why schools don’t offer “recess” to older students. Combating nature deficit disorder will continue to be a focus for me as an educator and a parent. Just look at the smiles on our students faces!

***Families of High Schoolers:
Buy a Yearbook Today!***

Don't miss out on the memories! The Coloma yearbook is an amazing, professional quality publication that documents all the highlights of the year, as well as the many little moments that make school life special.

For a limited time get your Yearbook for only \$40.00 with a free name stamp!

Two ways to purchase:

Bring cash or check to Ms. Kimmerly

Or

Purchase online at www.yearbookordercenter.com

Order # 3180

Yearbooks are delivered in September 2019.



BE A YEARBOOK ANGEL!

Purchase an extra yearbook and we will pass it on to a student unable to purchase one themselves.

Priority will be given to seniors.

To make a yearbook angel donation, contact Ms. Kimmerly

tkimmerly@ccs.coloma.org or 269 468 2400

THANKSGIVING FACTS

Everyone knows that on the first Thanksgiving, the pilgrims sat down with Native Americans to enjoy fat roast turkey, marshmallow-topped sweet potatoes, Stove Top stuffing, and, of course, the football game. And it has been thus ever since. Or, quite possibly, it was nothing like at all:

1. The "first" Thanksgiving was a three-day rager

"The people who had the 'first Thanksgiving' didn't really think of it as such," said Lohman. "It was the end of the first growing season in Plimoth, Massachusetts, and the Puritans threw a harvest festival to celebrate. The men went 'fowling,' or hunting wild birds. A large group of Wampanoag showed up with five deer. Everyone had a party for three days. They ate and shot guns for fun." It was so much of a party, in fact, that when the idea of a national Thanksgiving began to gain traction in the 18th and 19th centuries, people looked back to that 1621 bash to give the holiday some provenance.

2. Thanksgiving had religious roots

"To declare a day of Thanksgiving was a religious holiday to pray and be thankful for something good that had happened, like an end to drought," states Lohman. "The idea of the 'first Thanksgiving' came from writer Alexander Young, who referenced an account of the three-day festival [from] a letter by Plimoth resident [Edwards Winslow](#)." A lot of Puritans' personal papers were rediscovered in the middle of the 19th century, so there was a lot of excitement about it, says Lohman.

Why did Young connect the two? The harvest fests, or day of Thanksgiving, that happened in the Colonies continued to occur, but over time they lost their religious focus. Young sees in Winslow's letter a connection to the contemporary meal--and assumes that this annual dinner had ties to the infamous 1621 bash Winslow detailed.

3. Turkey was not always the showstopper

Unlike the 20-pound behemoths of today, traditional turkeys weighed only 8 pounds, so seafood (particularly in Massachusetts) and other meats (including venison and chicken) were significant parts of the meal. In fact, tons of pies, both savory and sweet, were baked, as a way to preserve fruits and meat. They were left outside in the cold and when guests came over, the host would bring them in and reheat.

4. Pumpkin pie is not American

Pumpkin pie was originally an English recipe that involved slices of pumpkin and apple baked in a pie crust. Ouch. Sorry, USA.

5. Lincoln was the first President to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday

This happened in 1863 partly due to the efforts of Godey's Lady's Book editor Sarah Josepha Hale. Hale was the "Anna Wintour of her day," Lohman said, and had been waging a campaign to get Thanksgiving declared a national holiday for years. Perhaps she foresaw Black Friday and its potential as a retail juggernaut?

6. The South viewed Thanksgiving as a "Yankee" holiday

Thankfully, this subsided by the end of the 19th century--a time pinpointed in the historical cookbook "Giving Thanks"--and sweet potatoes and pecan pie eventually enter the Thanksgiving menu.

7. FDR messed up Thanksgiving

Depending on the year, November sometimes has four or five Thursdays. Thanksgiving was always on the last, but retailers during the Great Depression were concerned consumers would not have a full month to shop for Christmas. They persuaded FDR to proclaim Thanksgiving to be on every fourth Thursday and not the last. Backlash ensued, leaving some to declare FDR's date as "Franksgiving."

8. Thanksgiving today

New items are still wriggling their way onto the traditional menu, slowly, but surely. Recent newbies include pumpkin cheesecake and even, in some quarters, lasagna.

The takeaway from this history lesson? Thanksgiving's "traditions" are as loosey goosey as they come, so have some fun this year and embrace a new dish or two. You'll be surprised at how fast they become part of your own culinary tradition.

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November Students of the Month!

Senior: Hannah Bryant
Junior: Lilly Trapp
Sophomore: Blane Sutherland
Freshman: Brandon Brown