

Comet Comments—



Coloma High School Newsletter

Principal, Mr. David Ehlers

December 2016

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



**FROM THE DESK OF
MR. DAVID EHLERS,
PRINCIPAL**

The first half of the 2016-17 school year has went particularly well. As a staff, we are very proud of the assistance being offered to our students who are struggling a bit during our new Gold Time Period (Response to Intervention). In addition, the extra time built into our schedule has allowed us to help seniors explore post secondary options, request transcripts, and complete college applications.

When we return to school, we will only have 3 weeks until semester exams so it would be a good idea to remind students to study or review while on break. While exams can be stressful for students, research shows that students who prepare for exams experience less anxiety and perform much better.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, safe, and relaxing holiday season!



**COUNSELOR'S
CORNER**
by Mrs. Fran
Megyese

PARENTS OF SENIORS:

Reminder: You will be able to submit your FAFSA earlier. You can file your 2017-18 FAFSA now as early as October 1st, rather than the beginning on January 1, 2017.

This earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling you to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. If you file the FAFSA earlier, you'll have an earlier indication of how much your family is expected to contribute, which will help with budgeting for the upcoming school year. College deadlines are on your college websites; and state deadlines are available at fafsa.gov and/or from your college financial aid office.

For the 2017-18 FAFSA you will report your 2015 income and tax information, rather than your 2016 income and tax information. This change will make everything easier. After you complete your FAFSA you will start receiving offers of financial aid from colleges you've applied to and have listed on the FAFSA. You can compare the aid offers to see which school offers the best aid to fit your needs.

Have a GREAT CHRISTMAS!
Mrs. Megyese



UPCOMING DATES

January 4—
Classes resume

January 11—Late
start

January 16—
No School
MLK Day

January 26th,
27th—1/2 day
Exams

January 27th—
End of 1st
Semester





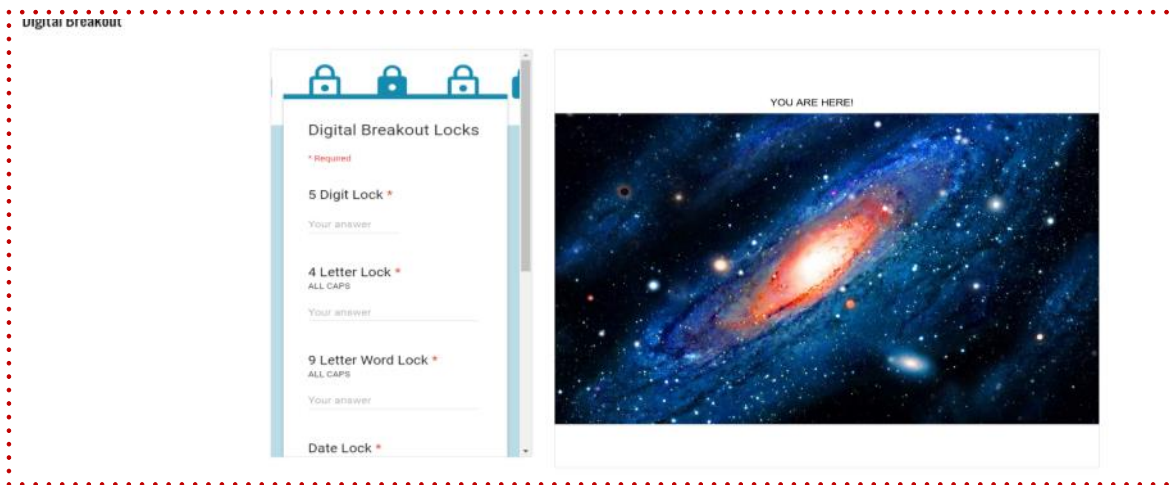
EARTH SCIENCE

by TONYA KIMMERLY



Will You Escape the Evil Dr. Srelhe?

The evil Dr. Srelhe has a plan; a most hideous and awful plan. He wants to make astrophysicists out of all my students he can get his hands on! He has locked you all in a room. Your task is to unlock all of the locks below before time runs out! Will you be able to escape?



My Earth Science students participated in a digital breakout about galaxies. Given a set of digital locks, students are required to use their problem solving skills to uncover clues and solve puzzles to virtually escape. Over a two day period, groups worked together to help unlock 5 numeric, date, and word locks associated with our studies of the origin of the Universe and our galaxy. They had to answer questions, decode a secret message, find hidden links, make calculations, and even do a digital jigsaw challenge, encourage and Breakouts are an up and coming trend in education. They are based off of the popular “escape rooms” available around the country with lots of topics and challenges to choose from. Education and made them into a concept challenges for teachers and students. BreakoutEdu is a company that is spearheading this endeavor. They have boxes and locks for purchase through their website or you can make your own. They have also created a free database to collect and share resources. There are a variety of skill levels and topics available or create your own! Check them out at breakoutedu.com!





ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

by KEVIN VANPETEGHEM



ALL HAIL THE BARD!

Over the past month, you could have walked into any English classroom and noticed one commonality. No matter the grade level or the teacher, practically all the students at Coloma High School were studying William Shakespeare. The AP and 11th graders were doing *Hamlet*. The 10th graders were reading *The Taming of the Shrew* while the Seniors were in the throes of *Othello*. The 9th graders will be starting *Romeo and Juliet* shortly after semester turnaround. So, why all the fuss over a *Brit writ* who died



400 years ago? First off, Shakespeare in the classroom is a study of language. Shakespeare introduced approximately 3000 words and phrases into the English language. He is a poet, and a study of Shakespeare is challenging and enriches our language. Furthermore, Shakespeare is a master storyteller. His plot lines include war, revenge, mistaken identity, madness, love and corruption. And his themes are universal. Shakespeare is part of our cultural consciousness. He is oft referenced as an icon in our culture. Shakespeare is part of the Michigan Department of Education recommended core texts for high school language arts. *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet* are part of most Michigan school language arts programs. Shakespeare is relevant. All students relate to *Romeo and Juliet*'s newfound love and *Hamlet*'s angst. Most of all, Shakespeare is

fun. Even the most reluctant of students are drawn into the compelling worlds that Shakespeare creates because he speaks to all experiences.

**COLOMA HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH
EVERYONE A WARM, SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!!!**





CTE BUS TOUR

by CATHY HALEY



Coloma's CTE programs were visited on December 9th as part of the Berrien RESA CTE Bus tour. CTE Directors, Counselors, Curriculum Directors and Assistant principals comprised the visiting dignitaries to our CNA, Auto, Welding and Machine Tool programs.

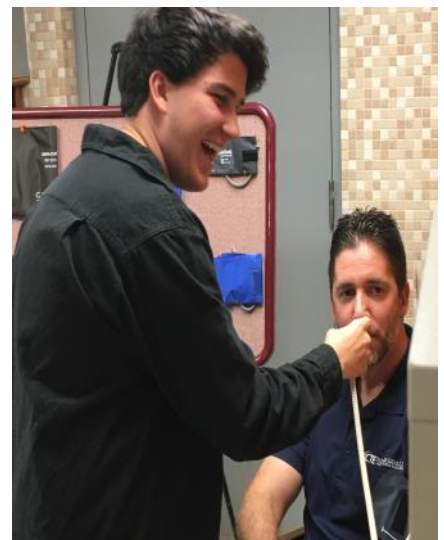
The students spoke to the group and explained what their class is about, what they are learning, direct credit they are receiving and any licenses they will be earning.

Two of the CNA students, Chrystian Smusz and Abby Blevins were able to take Mr. Jim Berry's, CTE director from St. Joe, blood pressure.

The welding students make Christmas mice for all of the guests. The mice were cut on the plasma cutter, then ground smooth on the grinder and finally powder coated a lovely mouse grey.

The CNA students, with the help of Lakeland hospital were able to put together a wonderful gift of a tote filled with water, band -aids, hand sanitizer and other goodies for each guest.

This was a wonderful opportunity to show off our programs and students and all their accomplishments.





SPANISH CLASS

by Matt Ford



Muchos estudiantes de español volunteered to stay after school this past Thursday to make some tamales. This traditional Mexican food is very labor intensive but with three full "assembly lines" the students were able to make just under 200 tamales rapidamente. Most of our volunteers were first time tamales makers, but that didn't deter them at all. While the tamales were muy pequeños, they were muy sabrosos. This comida deliciosa was shared with all Spanish students the following day while they were taking their chapter 9 test. Several students were asking for more tamales after having their first one. A few parents were also asking if there were any for sale as well. It was a wonderful time had by all might just have to become a tradition at CHS during the holidays like it is in many Latinos homes. Finally, we all would also like to extend our gratitude to Mrs. Prisk, Mrs. Podman, and Mrs. Mazigian for their help in the HS cafeteria. Without them, this fun event never would have been possible!





Group Picture of Art Show



Art I classes presenting their fashion sculptures.

The Art I classes just finished their Eco Art unit. They were asked to participate in a group project where groups of two or three students constructed a wearable outfit/sculpture made entirely out of reused materials such as bubble wrap, cans, and plastic bags. Teams were very creative, coming up with unique structures based on researched fashion and various artists who use similar materials in their environmentally conscious artwork. The project was playfully given the theme of Pokemon, a popular game/show with which most students are familiar. We ended the unit with a fashion show. Our foreign language classes from Mr. Ford and Mr. Daniel translated our English descriptions during the show and brought much entertainment to our overall performance. Students from both disciplines worked very hard on all aspects of the unit. We also had some fun in the process!



Your CW Tech Robotarians Bring A Junior High Robotics Event to Coloma



By Dale Quattrin
Drafting/Engineering Instructor

On December 3rd, the Coloma gym rang loudly with singing and dancing, yells of excitement, sighs of frustration, screams of joy, and aahhs of admiration. That day twenty-four junior high teams from around the State of Michigan, some coming from as far as Novi, West Bloomfield, and Midland, arrived at Coloma to compete in the first annual Sunset Coast Splash *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) Qualifying event. Several teams from the local area, such as St. Joe's two "JoeBots" teams, Lakeshore's "LMS Lancers," Hartford's "Mech Tribe," and the Robotarian's little sister team, Lake Michigan Catholic's "Mighty Michigan Mechanics (M3)" also participated. The event was hosted by the CW Tech Robotarians and Coloma Community Schools and sponsored by Whirlpool Corporation and Kendal Electric. Several area businesses, such as Hardings, Martins, Celebration Cinema, and Jollay Farms, supported event through financial and in-kind donations.

This year's game, *Velocity Vortex*, was introduced at the beginning of September required the students to design and build a 18" x 18" x 18" robot that could shoot small balls into a basket, push lighted touch sensor pads, and lift a 2' ball into a basket about two feet in the air both only through software programming and by drivers. Each match consists of two alliances of two teams. The teams composing the two alliances change for every match creating an environment of "Gracious Professionalism." This could be observed with the different teams circulating through the pit area making sure that all the robots are working the best they can since a team's opponent this match may be their partner the next match. There were several anecdotes of several teams having their robots programmed to function correctly by the junior high team member of another team.

After the thirty qualifying matches have been completed, the top four teams pick two other teams to form an alliance of three robots to compete in the best-of-three elimination matches. The winning alliance at the Sunset Coast Splash FTC Qualifying event was made up of the Otsego's Advanced Skilltronics (Alliance Captain), Novi's Robo Rhinos, and Stryke Force's Screaming Eagles. The Robotarian's little sister team was awarded the Judges "Fire Up Award" for their spirit and



perseverance.

Next year's event is already being planned with an increase to thirty four teams. This will expand on the 800-900 attendees and one hundred volunteers that participated this year.

One of the questions asked repeatedly by parents and students was why Coloma did not have a team competing at the event. This question is especially appropriate since an announcement in the Coloma junior high last year produced about sixty students who were interested in being part of an Coloma FTC team. Unfortunately, the three FTC teams started last year could not be continued due to a shortage of adult participation. The hope is that these Coloma FTC teams will be started up again next year.





2016 HOLIDAY
DOOR DECORATING CONTEST PARTICIPANTS

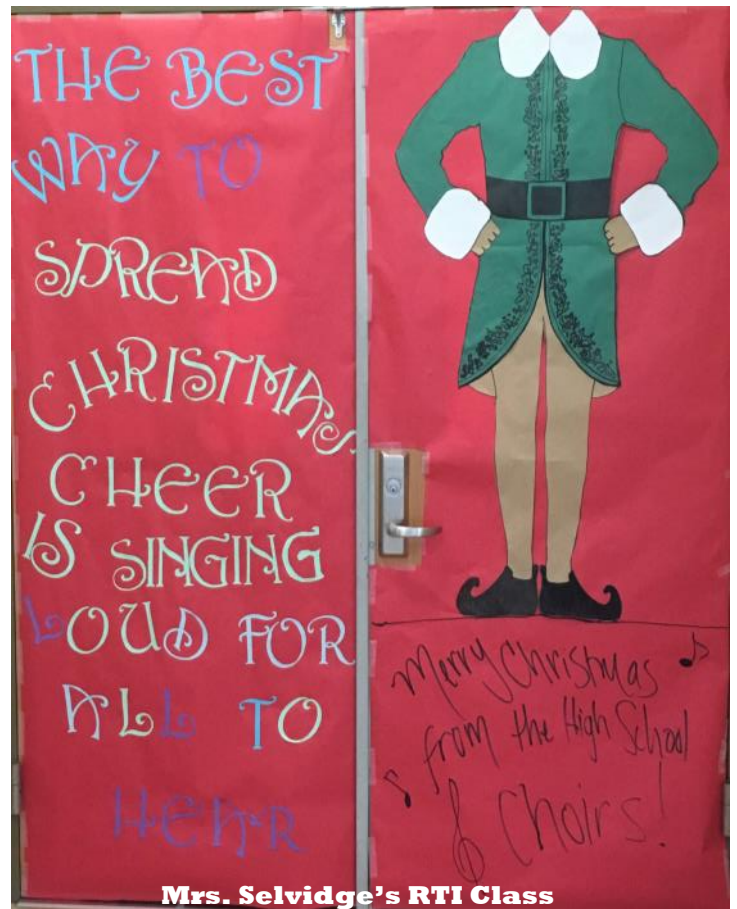


Mrs. Glisson's RTI Class

First Place



Ho! Ho! Ho!



Mrs. Selvidge's RTI Class

Second Place



2016 HOLIDAY
DOOR DECORATING CONTEST PARTICIPANTS



Ms. Kimmer-



Mr. Schmidt's



Mr. Ford's



Mrs. Houston's



Mr. Fields's



Mrs. Veeder's



**COLOMA HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH !!**

**Congratulations to:
(l-r) Senior—Cory Moore, Junior—Josh Young,
Sophomore—Emily Greenman, Freshman—Megan Koeningshof**



Coloma High School After Prom Event 2017

It's that time again! The Coloma After-Prom Party Committee has committed to hosting an After-Prom Party for all of Coloma High School's Junior and Senior students. Our event last year hosted an all-time record of 198 students having fun in a drug-free, alcohol-free, safe environment! Over 75% of the invited students attend, so you can see what a well-attended and important event this is for our students.

Through last year's generous donations we were able to provide a hypnotist show, inflatables, food, movies, specialty coffee cart, photo booth, tennis, swimming, volleyball, hip-hop classes, and many other activities, as well as a terrific prize for each of our Coloma Junior and Senior students, and their guests absolutely FREE. Once again we are asking for community help. For many of our seniors, this will be one of their last opportunities to safely make those wonderful high school memories with their friends before going off to the military, college, or other future endeavors

We are already well into the planning process for this year, consulting with our junior and senior students as well as parents and committee members. The event will be hosted at our local high school and will include a wide variety of activities – something for everyone! We are hoping to provide a “Larger than life” experience for our students this year. The fun, food and memories start Saturday, April 29 at 12:00 midnight and runs through Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 5:00 a.m.

We are asking for the support of businesses and community members to make this event possible. We would gratefully accept cash donations, gift cards and/or volunteer assistance. Please contact Heidi Starnes (ghcstarnes@sbcglobal.net) for further information.