

Comet Comments—



Coloma High School Newsletter

March 2015

Principal, Mr. David Ehlers

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are dedicated to fostering pride in the school, the community and nourishing a positive self-image for every student. Our belief is that all students can and will learn best when excellence is expected; educational achievement will be obtained only when students are encouraged and challenged to attain this excellence.



FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL, DAVID A. EHLERS

I would like to thank all the parents and juniors for their cooperation in ACT and ACT WorkKeys testing as we had 99% attendance on testing days and were able to get 100% through our make up date! We could not have done it without your help! Now we move on to phase two of the state testing cycle for juniors when we return from Spring Break.

New this year is the on-line M-Step test for all juniors. Completion of the M-Step is also a graduation requirement for all juniors. Testing is roughly six hours spread of four days of testing. Normal school operation will go on around the testing so testing will not affect those not testing. Juniors will test on April 21, 22, 28, and 29. Testing will start just after first hour attendance on each day. Juniors will take two English tests on 4/21, two math tests on 4/22, one science test on 4/28, and a social studies test on 4/29. I know I can once again count on your support and assistance in ensuring that your student is present each day of testing.

I will again be sending out alerts and reminders through our automated messages system the night before each test. Thank you in advance for your help!

Have a great Spring Break!!!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

by Mrs. Frances Megyese

Dear Parents,

Every year at this time we struggle with seniors getting Senioritis when it comes to school. After meeting with several teachers, they state the biggest problem is students are not being responsible for missing assignments, quizzes, tests, and attendance.

I will continue to meet with seniors in jeopardy and maintain contact with their parents by phone and/or correspondence.

If you are having trouble monitoring your student's progress on PowerSchool, please call Mrs. Allen or Mrs. Brownfield. They will help you with this process.

Mrs. Megyese

VISION:

TOGETHER.....

STRIVING AND
WORKING FOR

EXCELLENCE IN
EDUCATION



UPCOMING DATES

**April 6—
Return from
Spring Break**

**April 23—
No School, Fine
Arts Festival**



CHS Academic Challenge Team 2015
by Mrs. Sara Glisson

Academic Challenge has been a long-standing club here at Coloma High School dating back to the 1980s. Some schools may refer to a club like this as “Quiz Bowl.” Our team has been co-advised by Mr. Sheehan and me for the past five years. We meet with our team weekly starting in the fall, and compete during the winter months against neighboring schools. The matches are held at the WSJM radio station on Napier Avenue, where they are filmed and lived-streamed at www.wsjm.com as well as aired on the radio. Our students, affectionately called “Smarties,” typically enjoy games like Trivia Crack, Jeopardy, and Trivial Pursuit. We are extremely proud of these dedicated team members: Captain Melina Wilcox, Brandon Peek, Billy Coleman, Jared Evans, Allison Woodard, Carly Lentz, Corey Hamilton, Ben Ball, and Naomi Cottrell. This month our team advanced to the semi-final round of competition, ending up in third place behind Lakeshore and Saint Joseph; however we outwitted the following schools: Berrien Springs, Bridgman, Countryside Academy, New Buffalo and Bangor! Way to go Smarties!!!





SPANISH III CLASS GETS VISIT FROM FORMER STUDENT

by Mr. Matt Ford

Spanish III had a wonderful visit from 2014 Coloma graduate, Jacob Harvey. Jacob spent two weeks in Cuba after graduation on a mission trip. As a former student of Señor Ford's Spanish program, Jacob jumped at the opportunity to return to his alma mater and speak with the current Spanish III class about his trip. He told many stories about his visit which included things like: the fantastic friendships he made and maintains to this day, the incredibly low standard of living, the amazing classic cars still used on the streets, and the exotic food he was able to try. Before we knew it, the class period ended and most students were still captivated, wanting more information. Jacob also shared with the class several souvenirs from his trip and he also gave some suggestions for anyone who travels abroad in the near future. How fantastic is it that alumni give back to CHS? Not surprising...because it is a great day to be a Comet!

MORE DATES FOR APRIL **Please mark your calendar**

April 9

**Regular School Day, moved to
April 23**

April 18

Junior/Senior Prom

April 21, 22, 28, 29

M-Step Testing for Juniors



METALHEADS CLUB DONATES CEREMONIAL FLAG BURNER TO AMERICAN LEGION by Mr. Nathan Kramb

The American Legion is often tasked with retiring tattered American flags. This generally consists of a ceremony in which the flag is burned. The Coloma Metalheads club fabricated and donated a ceremonial flag burner to American Legion Post 362 in Coloma for retiring flags in the community.

Don Burleson, a member of the American Legion, approached our club with the idea to fabricate a ceremonial flag burner in the fall. He showed us pictures of different flag burners he had seen, and asked us if we would build one for our community. Members of the Metalheads discussed the idea, and decided it would be an honor to help our veterans.

The project, which consists of a top side (fabricated as a hexagon, with the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard represented on each side, as well as the POW/MIA symbol on its own side) and bottom side (fabricated as a square box, with Michigan, the Metalheads club logo, an eagle, and the words “America: Home of the free because of the brave” each occupying a side of the base) was headed up by Matthew Sweet, Skylar Kirby, and Jesse Street. Mr. Burleson wanted the students to develop the themes for the flag burner, and the student members did an outstanding job of bringing all of their ideas to the project. They also decided to leave the flag burner as natural steel (unpainted) so the weathering will give it a unique character as it ages.

A dedication ceremony for the ceremonial flag burner was held on March 24, with Ms. Haley, Skylar Kirby, and Jesse Street attending as representatives for Coloma High School. The students were able to explain the processes and techniques used to fabricate the flag burner, and the members of the American Legion were very happy with the final piece. Ms. Haley also spoke to the members about our welding program, and the other technical programs offered at Coloma High School.

It has been an honor for our club to help the veterans in our community, and we have enjoyed building something they can use during their ceremonies. This project allowed our students the opportunity to manage a project from start to finish, and apply the technical skills they are learning in the classroom and through their extracurricular activities.

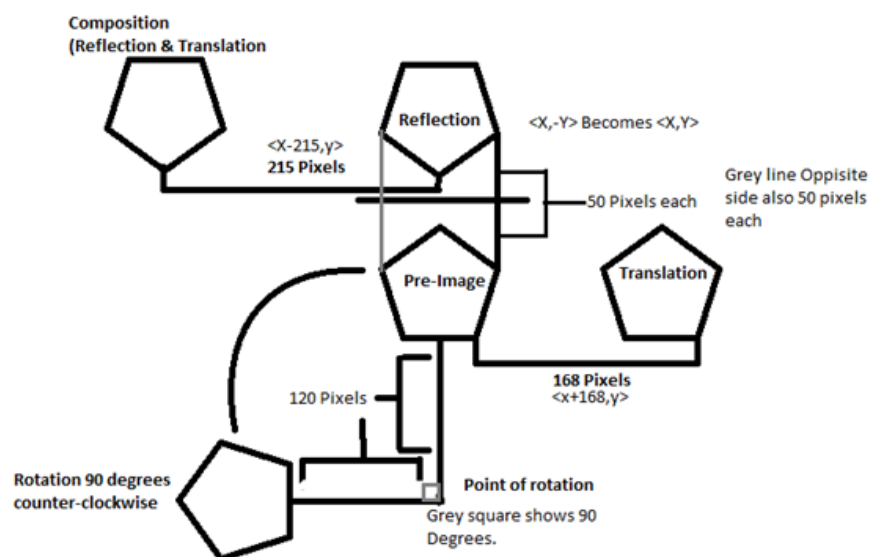




MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Mr. Brian Klee

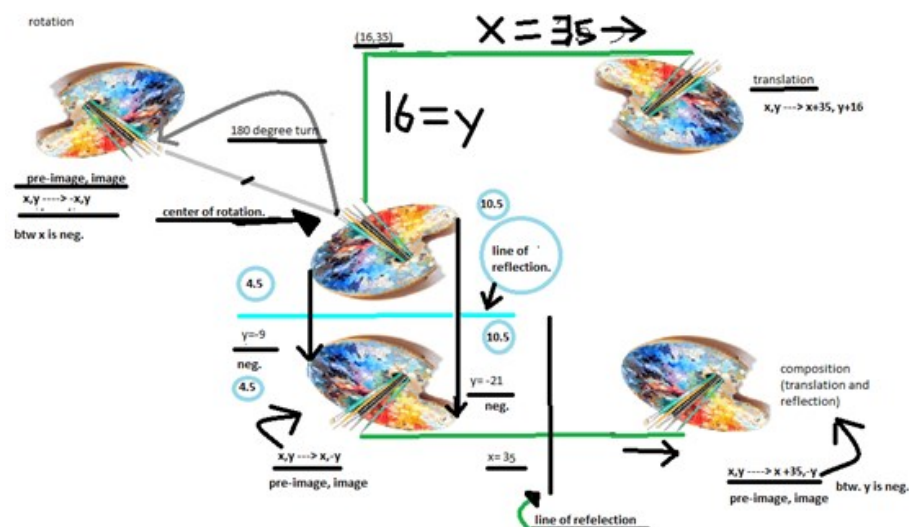
Dylan Bohle



Have you ever wondered how the graphics of your favorite video game are created? Geometry students learned the basic geometric transformations that are used to move an image across a screen. These transformations included translations, reflections, rotations and compositions. Translations move an image left or right and/or up or down. Reflections mirror an image over a “line of reflection”. Rotations turn an image around a given “point of rotation”. Lastly, compositions combine 2 or more transformations. Students completed these transformations using Paint or Power Point some of their work is shown here.

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Elysabeth Martin

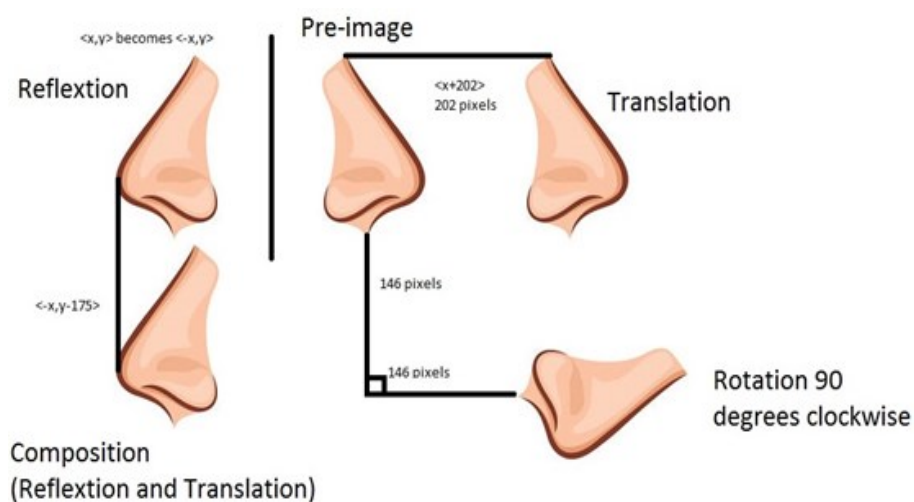




MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

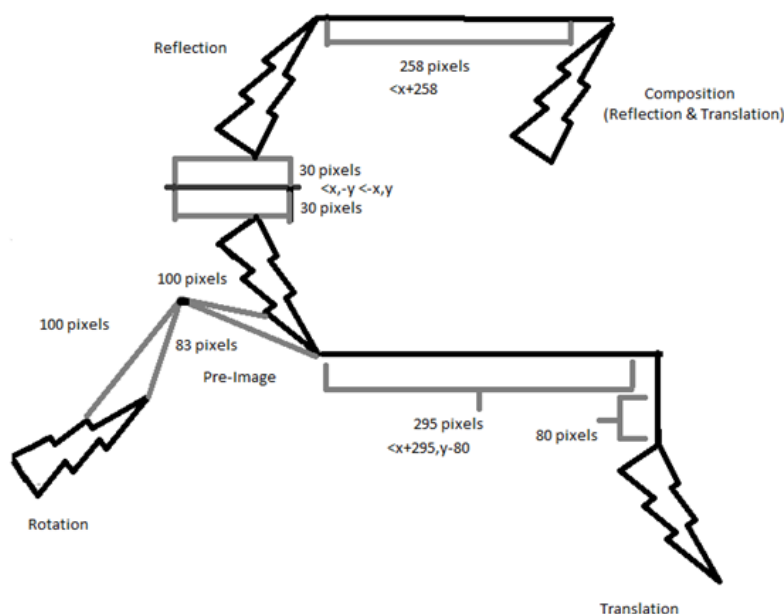
by Mr. Brian Klee (cont)

Jacob Tallman



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Gabriel Wright

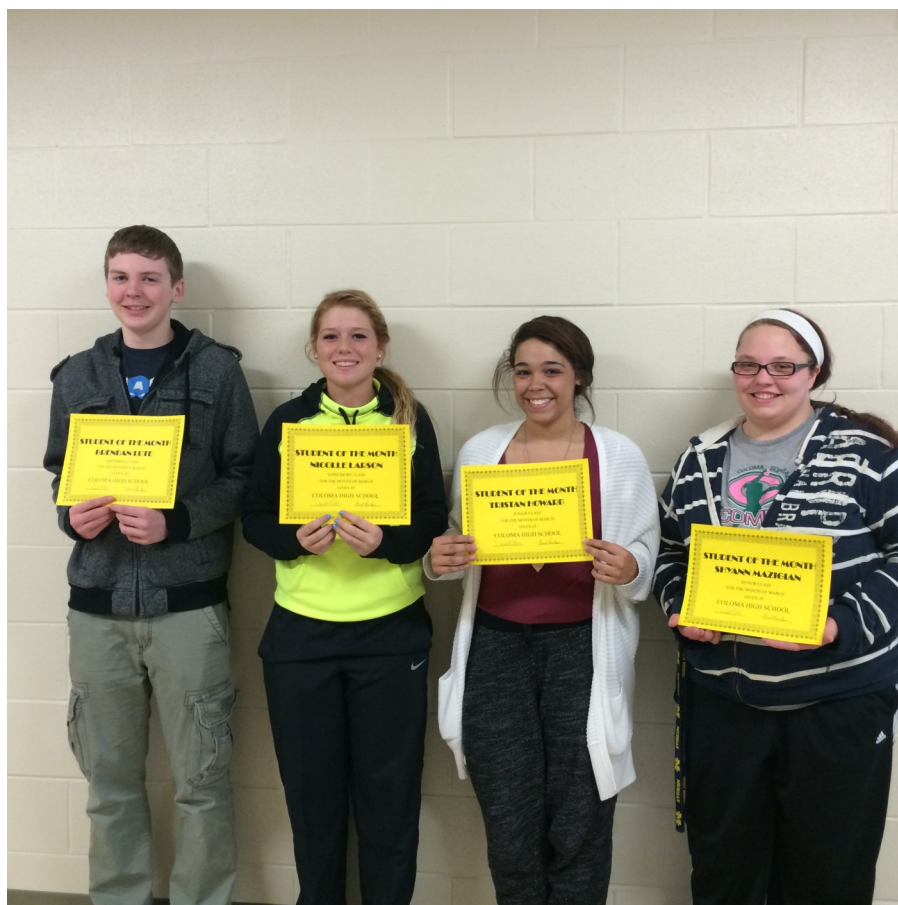




**COLOMA HIGH SCHOOL
MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH !!**

Congratulations to:

**(l-r) Freshman--Brendan Lute, Sophomore—Nicolle Larson,
Junior—Tristen Howard, Senior—Shyann Mazigian**



GO COMETS !!





The Season for Robots

by Dr. Dale Quattrin

Your *CW Tech Robotarians* had challenging and exciting competitions over the past few weeks. Their first event was held at the East Kentwood High School on March 6-8th. After a rough start and ranked 35th among 40 teams, the team battled back to finish the qualifying matches ranked 12th. During playoff alliance selection, the top eight seeded teams chose each other to form alliances of three robots. This resulted in the *Robotarians* moving up to the seventh team captain position. Instead of forming our own alliance, we joined the *Twisted Devils* from Richland (sixth team captain and ranked 11th) and the *O-Bots* from Charlotte (ranked 22nd to form an alliance. Based on average match score after eight quarterfinal matches, the *Robotarian* alliance ranked in the top four of the eight alliances. After the six semi-final matches, our alliance ranked number one in average points per match qualifying us for the finals against the alliance consisting of the *Average Joes* from St. Joseph High School (ranked 1) , the *Tech Vikes* from Hopkins (ranked 5th, and the *ID Robotics* from Kalamazoo (ranked 27th). After three very close and hard fought matches, the Number 1 seed alliance prevailed. Despite the loss in the finals, the *Robotarians* were thrilled with their success. The Event Judges also awarded the *Robotarians* the “Gracious Professionalism” award for our culture of supporting and assisting other teams. In addition to helping several teams during the qualifying matches, prior to the start of the playoff matches, the *Robotarians* solved a problem with the *O-Bot* robot that allowed





The Season for Robots (cont)

by Dr. Dale Quattrin

it to function during the playoff matches. Thus, we helped the alliance that eventually beat us in the finals.

Our second event was held at St. Joseph High School during past weekend of March 19-21st. After twelve qualifying matches, the *Robotarians* were ranked 7th among the forty competing teams. We joined the 3rd ranked robot, *Team Excel* from Niles, and the 2 *Paw Robotics* team from Paw Paw to form an alliance in the playoff rounds. The alliance was unfortunately eliminated in the quarterfinals. However, the Robotarians were awarded Industrial Safety award for fostering a safe team culture. Because of our performances and awards at the two Michigan events has the team ranked in the top 8% of the Michigan's 347 teams and highly likely to qualify for the State Championship Event for the 6th year in a row. The Championship event will be held April 8-11th at the Grand Rapids DeltaPlex Arena. Our next competition will be at University of Windsor during spring break. Go CW Tech!!





A NEW ADDITION TO THE DRAFTING & ENGINEERING PROGRAM by Dr. Dale Quattrin

Michael Hazen (L-R), Billy Coleman, and Ben Olsen place the final touches on the 3D printer (in background) the advanced drafting and engineering students build from a SeeMeCNC kit. Other students assisting in the assembly but not pictured are Tyler Sawyer and Auston Rushing. Assembly took about four weeks and required application of mechanical, electrical, wiring, soldering, and programming skills. This 3D printer model is able to build objects of plastic, ABS, and carbon fiber filaments. The printer was a joint purchase by the Coloma Career and Technical Education Department and the CW Tech Robotarians robotics team. Students in the drafting, engineering, and robotics courses are starting to design and print fun (key chains) and useful (robot components) parts. The first big project is for the Engineering II students to reverse engineer a missing plastic arm cover for the Heathkit Hero 1 robot that was donated to the program by John Oliphant.

