

# Comet Comments—



Coloma High School Newsletter

October 2014

**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**

The end of October signifies the end of first marking period and the beginning of the second. It is time to look forward and make improvements! At CHS the second marking period signifies the start of winter sports as well as preparation for winter concerts by our band and choir students. There are many opportunities for student to get involved with an after school activity. It is my hope that every student at CHS participates in an extracurricular activity. To truly experience the high school experience, a student needs to be involved. Research also indicates that students who are involved succeed at a higher rate than those that do not. Please encourage your student to get involved!

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

Seniors: Remember to start applying to colleges, universities, trade schools, and junior colleges. After you send in your application, please let me know so I can mail your transcripts. Lake Michigan College is offering several scholarships on a first come first served basis. Apply now if you plan to attend. If you are undecided, still apply. You may be awarded a scholarship which will pay for one or two years. You can always decline later if you decide on attending another institution. With the job market unstable and accruing large debt you will be glad you received 1 or 2 years debt free. The first two years are usually basic classes.

November: I will be doing 8th grade orientation for next year's 9th grade scheduling. 9th grade students will be taking English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, and for their 6th course they can choose Band, Choir, P.E. or Basic Computers. Shop classes are for upper classmen due to size restrictions.

Have a great Thanksgiving!!

—Mrs. Megyese

## **VISION:**

**TOGETHER.....**

**STRIVING AND  
WORKING FOR**

**EXCELLENCE IN  
EDUCATION**

## **UPCOMING DATES**

**Nov 24—Jostems  
will be here to pass  
out senior cap/gown  
and announcement  
information to  
seniors.**

**Nov 26, 27, 28  
NO SCHOOL  
Happy Thanksgiving**



## CW TECH ROBOTARIANS

by Dr. Dale Quattrin

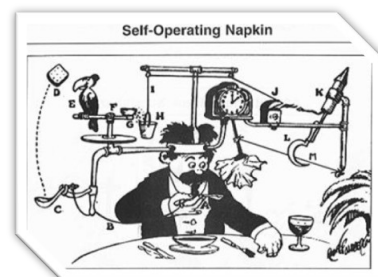
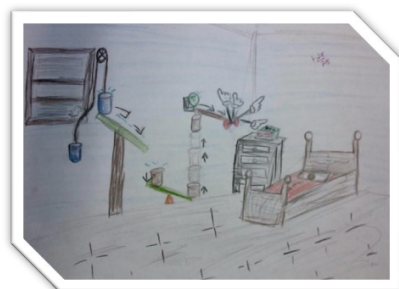


On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Coloma's robotics team, CW Tech Robotarians, demonstrated their two World Championship qualifying *FIRST* robots at the local event celebrating national Manufacturing Day. Mach Mold, Gaishin Manufacturing, and Maximum Mold hosted this event, sponsored by Kinexus. Over 600 high school students, including those from Coloma's welding and engineering classes, were treated to tours of these facilities and the fifteen business and education exhibitors. Local business, education, and political leaders also attended to support the dynamic things happening in Michigan's *Great Southwest*.

## The Art of Science by Mrs. Brande Van Niel

Students taking Physics Essentials this semester used their new found knowledge of simple machines and the work of the famous cartoonist and inventor Rube Goldberg as inspiration in the creation of their own Goldberg-style cartoons.

Rube Goldberg was a famous cartoonist of the 1930s whose illustrations depicted complex ways of accomplishing simple tasks. His drawings became so popular that they were syndicated in hundreds of newspapers and displayed at The Museum of Modern Art. Eventually, Rube Goldberg began writing scripts for Hollywood. One of his scripts titled "Soup to Nuts" featured three comics who would later be known as the Three Stooges.



After exploring the unit on work, power and simple machines, physics essentials students learned about the life and work of Rube Goldberg. They were then given the task of drawing a Rube Goldberg style cartoon that showed a complex way of completing a simple task of their choosing. Their cartoons had to include at least 5 different steps and three of the simple machines they learned about in the unit. The students did an exemplary job of displaying their artistic ability and their understanding of work, power and simple machines.



### **LOOK WHO'S TALKING NOW!** **By Mr. Kevin VanPeteghem, English Department**



I am continuously excited about the growth of our public speaking courses at Coloma High School. When I first started teaching public speaking a number of years ago, there was only one section of the class per year. Now we have expanded to not only have multiple sections of public speaking every year, but we now also offer an advanced public speaking course for students that desire further experience beyond the first course. This growth is impressive considering that our school offers a number of relevant electives, but is a sign that students and parents understand the importance of such a class.

Public speaking is a course that all students should consider taking. The majority of all human communication is done through listening and speaking, yet these are the two LEAST taught communication skills in school. It is important for students to learn about the various verbal and nonverbal messages that are sent while humans engage in their most common form of communication.

During my high school experience I gained more from my public speaking course than any other class I took. Part of it was because of the teacher (the crazy but dedicated lady that inspired me to go into this profession), but it was mostly due to the skills I gained during this class. I learned how to research, organize materials, create outlines, and most of all how to have confidence in front of others.

In the introductory public speaking class here at Coloma High School students will present everything from demonstration and persuasive speeches to special occasion speeches like eulogies and wedding toasts. In the advanced public speaking class the students engage in competitive debate, job interviews, and present speeches outside of the school setting. The list goes on and on, but the fact remains that what they are gaining is life skills that they can carry with them forever.

I have enjoyed teaching this course and am pleased with the progress of the students. I truly believe that in order to fully educate young adults we must educate the whole student, and being able to speak and present oneself in front of others separates a student from others in today's technologically focused society.

### **CHS WELCOMES MR. KRAMB, WELDING**

Hello Coloma High School! My name is Mr. Kramb and I am the new Welding Teacher for Coloma. I attended Siena Heights University and worked for Southwestern Michigan College and Berrien Chassis Inc. before coming to Coloma. I am looking forward to growing the industrial trades program here and am working to setup direct credit opportunities with both Lake Michigan College and Southwestern Michigan College. There are various career opportunities available for students who decide to pursue a career in welding, fabrication, and machining, and the future is bright for this industry.



### COLOMA HIGH SCHOOL OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH !!

**Congratulations to:**  
**(l-r) Senior—Devon Watkins, Junior—**  
**Courtney Kroschel, Sophomore—Cassidy**  
**Fickett, Freshman—Hannah Quinones**  
**(not pictured)**



### Math Department News by Mrs. Cari Houston



Many computer programs can aide in replicating line segments and angles. However, technology didn't always exist. Therefore, students in Mrs. Houston's geometry class practiced basic constructions of Euclidean geometry using only a compass and straightedge.

Air conditioning and heating technicians often need to construct an elbow to connect two air-ducts that meet at a specific angle. The class constructed an air conditioning duct out of poster board. Students used basic constructions to make a pattern of a 45 degree elbow and assemble it.



### ***Zombie Apocalypse 1349 CE Style—by Mr. Paul Marfia***

When late Fall rolls around you always have to be extra careful not to catch a cold, but in the case of Mr. Marfia's World History class you have to be extra careful not to catch the "Black Plague." Coloma's World History classes did a simulation game where they were either pilgrims or merchants traveling thru Europe. By the roll of the die (no pun intended), they reach into a bag to see if they contracted either Pestis Puerorum or cholera. It was based on beans, some being the sick beans and some being the healthy beans. The higher the roll of the die the more likely they were to get sick. They had 13 cities to visit on their journey and therefore 13 chances to get sick.

The fatality rate for the classrooms is about 33-50%, which is fairly close to the actual rate of about 40% that hit certain parts of Europe. At the end of the simulation each student is to write a "Postcard" to a family member of what it would be like to experience their journey back then. They have to state the towns they visited, how long they stayed, and what kind of emotions they would be feeling if they were alive back then and saw all the events around them.

"Any chance we can bring history alive in the classroom, is a great opportunity. I love how it can engage all kinds of learners and it really helps them remember history if you can use as many senses as possible," states Mr. Marfia. Mr. Marfia has been teaching world history for 16 years and doing the simulation for the last 5 years. "I really like the game because it does get kids up and moving. It is also very realistic to how it occurred. Many kids watch zombie movies and think that is how it was back in 1300's, when actually the fatality rate was incredible high at about 33%, but not 95% like the modern disease movies. A lot of that has to do with the increase networks of exchange since the 1300's and this is a great way to show how trade has and can change the world," said Mr. Marfia.

The next time you are walking by Mr. Marfia's room and you see a student with a cough, check to see if there is a skull taped to their chest. If so watch out and whatever you do don't roll the dice.

#### **MR. MARFIA'S 1ST HOUR PLAYING THE "PLAGUE"**

#### **ONE UNFORTUNATE VICTIM OF THE PLAGUE**



#### **THE AFTERMATH OF THE PLAGUE ON MR. MARFIA'S 1ST HOUR CLASS**

