

The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL
COMSTOCK ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | CELA | COMSTOCK K-12 VIRTUAL ACADEMY



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MORE NEWS

Turn over to read
Center Point

A newsletter about
the Comstock
Community Center



From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Community,

Ah, summer awaits! It's only natural that as the final days of the spring semester approach, all of us - students, teachers, supporting staff, and administration - anticipate the summer break.

It is also a time when our CPS community assesses the 2022-23 school year and plans accordingly for the fall semester. Overall, we can say this school year celebrated many successes. A review of our weekly email newsletter, *Comstock Celebrations*, reveals a myriad of outstanding achievements and recognition among our students, teaching staff, support staff, and administration, made possible with the support of our caring community.

I'm proud to be Colt, and I hope you are, too! All school districts in this post-COVID period have challenges, but we will tackle these obstacles in a positive and purposeful manner as we continue to grow.

As superintendent, I know we are up to the task. In the last edition of *The Comstock Communicator*, I shared thoughts of my own philosophy, one grounded in a positive outlook, and I shared some data that show how positivity affects outcome in - you guessed right - in positive ways.*

Positive psychology helps to foster happiness and emotional wellness. In my thinking, these practices help motivate individuals who can now focus not only on individual achievements, but on acting together with others toward a common goal.

Together, our CPS community can help people capitalize on their strengths and ability to connect to others. We can show awareness and gratitude re-

garding what individuals bring to the table to help us construct a meaningful and fulfilling learning community.

Toward this end, let's ensure we can provide opportunities for our youth these next few months where they can continue to develop their capabilities and skills toward a successful life.

One way to help your child prepare for the next grade level is to enroll them in our Summer Success Camp. Contact your principal for more information.

As we close one chapter and open another, I encourage you to enjoy your time with your children. May these coming days be filled with new learning experiences for all. Visit the library, take a walk, go camping, tour a museum, or have some fun.

Feel free to drop off/pick up a book from one of our six Free Little Libraries. Whatever you do, be sure you keep your child reading and engaged with the world.

The familiar adage: It takes a village to raise a child, is true, and so it's important that the villagers are willing to take on the task with compassion, mindfulness, and kindness as we lean into each other for support.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Thanks for your support of Comstock Public Schools!

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

*<https://www.health.harvard.edu/topics/positive-psychology>

CPS Board Members Receive Awards

Three Comstock Board members were honored recently by the Kalamazoo County School Officers Association.

The recipients earned the honors by attaining a certain degree of training or expertise.

- CPS Board members receiving these awards were:
- Saralyn Brown - Level 1 Certified Board Member Award and Level 2 Award of Merit
- Kayleen O'Donnell - Level 1 Certified Board

- Member Award and Level 2 Award of Merit
- Dori Scholly - Level 3 Award of Distinction and Data Skills Specialty.

The awards were presented by Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Executive Director Don Wotruba and MASB Board of Directors At-Large Representative and Comstock Public Schools Board of Education President Pamela Dickinson.



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS
www.ComstockPS.org

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Pamela Dickinson, President
- Matthew Schreiner, Vice President
- Saralyn Brown, Secretary
- Dori Scholly, Treasurer
- Richard Hathaway, Trustee
- Karen Howes, Trustee
- Kayleen O'Donnell, Trustee
- Ashley LaVanWay, Appointed Recording Secretary
- Michelle Darnell, Appointed Treasurer

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Public Schools is to serve our community by empowering, inspiring, and challenging every person within the school district to reach their full potential, and to ensure all students learn and thrive in a safe and healthy environment.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be an inclusive, high performing learning community where we foster dreams, explore possibilities, and create futures.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions concerning your schools, the answer is only a telephone call away:
269-250-8907

STORIES OR INFORMATION

The Comstock Communicator is published by Comstock Public Schools. Information may be sent to Dr. Jeff Thoenes at Jeff.Thoenes@ComstockPS.org or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at phyllisarose@aol.com.



@ComstockPS

Children's Book, *La Mariachi*, to Debut in July



La Mariachi, a children's book written by Dr. Isabel O'Hagin, wife of Comstock Superintendent Jeff Thoenes, will be published in July by Sleeping Bear Press.

It's the story of Tuchi, a girl who wants to play in a mariachi band, but the band is only open to boys. Her male teacher and the boys in her class tell her she can't play in a mariachi band because she's a girl. But Tuchi practices with her grandmother and surprises

her teacher and classmates when she shows up for the audition.

The book is an outgrowth of many things in Dr. O'Hagin's life.

"I love the world of stories and have always enjoyed writing," she said. "I grew up in a family of storytellers, and as a kid, I couldn't get enough of books. I'm a real book nerd."

She loved the *Pippi Longstocking* stories by Astrid Lindgren and *The Borrowers* novel by Mary Norton. What she liked about Pippi was that she was funny, gutsy, and adventurous. When she read *The Borrowers*, she was intrigued by the teeny-tiny people.

"I looked for them even though we lived in Arizona and I was old enough to supposedly know better," she said. "I remember what it was like to believe as a kid who believes in the impossible."

And she loved the stories of the Brothers Grimm.

"We had a big fat book of their fairy tales that eventually fell apart from being read so often," she said.

Another influence of growing up in Tucson is that she was surrounded by the sounds of the mariachi and loved its vibrant, energetic rhythms and beautiful melodies.

"For decades, the children's mariachi group in our city was for boys only," she said. "I suppose I felt left out, without having the words to express what I experienced."

But before she turned to writing children's books, she earned a PhD in music education with a minor in vocal performance from the University of Arizona.

She taught dance, drama, and music to children. As a music educator and a mother to her son Ben, she found her love for children's literature being reignited.

"I thought to myself: I can write children's books, too," she said. "I joined the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators ten years ago to learn more about how to write authentic, dynamic kidlit."

Since then, she has written manuscripts for about 30 picture books and three middle grade novels, all unpublished. About four years ago, she wrote the first draft for *La Mariachi*. With feedback from her critique partners, she revised the manuscript and submitted it to Sleeping Bear Press two years ago and it was accepted.

The book is illustrated by Addy Rivera Sonda, a visual artist from Mexico.

"Addy has brought my words to life and has added her own storytelling through the marvelous illustrations," said Dr. O'Hagin.

The book is geared for students in kindergarten through third grade.

"While my main character, Tuchi, is a girl, I hope all kids will see themselves in my story," she said. "Tuchi has this great desire to become a mariachi and doesn't give up. I want kids to visualize their own success in whatever area they choose."

The book is also a way for Dr. O'Hagin to share her experiences of growing up in a Mexican-American community.

"It's only recently that books with stories by and for Latino communities have found their place on the book shelves," she said. "I'd love for my book to make a difference in children's lives when they see themselves on the page. I believe representation matters and advocate the windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors approach where young readers can see their lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience."

While she admits that writing is hard work, she enjoys the process.

"I love words and stories," she said. "But mostly, I like to imagine the young reader who will be delighted by my stories. Plus, it's tons and tons of fun! I love writing—yes, it's hard—but each time I sit and write, it's a magical journey."

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Where to get *La Mariachi*

Dr. O'Hagin's book can be preordered through Bookbug, an independent bookstore at 3019 Oakland Drive (269-385-2847), or through Amazon, and Sleeping Bear Press. To order from Sleeping Bear, call 866-918-3956 or go to SleepingBearPress.com

Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

February 27, 2023

- Approved the retirement of Mary Amsbury, PE Teacher, STEM Academy.
- Approved the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment.
- Approved the recommendation to amend the District's schools of choice (SOC) participation to include accepting applications from both 105 and 105c students.
- Discussed proposed athletic improvements.
- Approved January 2023 financials as presented.

REGULAR MEETING

March 13, 2023

- Recognized Students of the Month:

- Kaylee Pulz - CELA, GSRP PreK
- Zander Bare - Elementary, 4th Grade
- Kaitlyn Newell - STEM Academy, 3rd Grade
- Samantha Brizendine- CMS - 8th Grade
- Valeria Burr - HS - 9th Grade
- Zyler Richards - Compass - 12th Grade
- Elijah Moody - VA - 5th Grade
- Recognized Staff of the Month:
 - Traci Spada - HS Math Teacher
- Approved hiring Katelan Schoen, CMS, Special Education Teacher.
- Approved athletic improvement bids.
- The Administration presented the purchase of real property that includes both land and structures.

Facilities Renovation and Construction Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

Here is the latest news regarding the District's ongoing efforts to renovate, innovate, and modernize its educational facilities.

Comstock Elementary School - In early May, the crews finished the construction of the District's first-ever outdoor environmental classroom which was originally estimated to be finished in June. This outdoor classroom is located at CES just outside the northern section of the building. The facility features a stone amphitheater built into a small hill, seating areas for open-air instruction, log benches, picnic tables, and mulched pathways leading into the woods to other instructional areas. The District used monies left over from the major renovations at CES completed in August, 2022, to finance the project.

Comstock Middle School - Phase 2 of the three-phase project will begin in June after school is out for summer break. The Phase 2 areas targeted for modernization this summer include the stage inside the cafeteria, the library and its adjoining conference room, the staff lounge, and the art and music rooms. As with the Phase 1 rooms completed last summer, these spaces will be gutted from top to bottom and will be rebuilt with new HVAC systems, ceilings, lighting, flooring, doors, windows, and technology. The stage will be replaced with a secured mechanical room on the left and a spacious storage room on the right.

Note - Due to the age of the building and the requisites involved in the upgrades, the project has one more phase (Summer 2024). However, when this final phase is completed in August, 2024, for the start of the 2024-25 school year, both the interior and exterior of the entire school will be fully modernized and air-conditioned.

Comstock High School

Hamet Athletic Complex - The District has begun the second of two phases to rebuild its ath-

letic facilities. Crews will remove the dilapidated track and replace it with modern materials. The project, funded by 2022 bond funds, also includes upgrades and improvements to various field event areas. Crews will also convert the building housing the old bathrooms into a team meeting and athletic equipment room enhancing the overall usability of the facility. The track upgrades are scheduled to be completed in late July allowing the District to plan a grand opening, ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hamet Athletic Complex sometime in August.

In addition to the Hamet Athletic Complex, the District will initiate critically important renovations at Comstock High School. The work is estimated to take approximately 24 months and will result in much needed modernization of the school.

Roof repair and replacement - Late this summer or in early fall, crews will begin repairing and replacing the school's aged roof. The estimated cost of this extensive project is \$1.5M and should be completed in about 12 months. The work is financed by 2022 bond funds.

Interior Renovations - Also in the fall, the District will begin phased renovations to the interior of Comstock High School. In similar fashion to the process used at Comstock Elementary School, sections of the building under construction will be walled off and accessible only to construction workers and architects. Students and staff will not be able to access these areas. The renovations will include, but not be limited to new flooring, lighting, windows, and doors; new and larger lockers; renovations to the kitchen; upgrades to science classrooms; and the redesigning of the band room.

STEM Academy

Early in May, a STEM Academy design team took two separate trips to visit other local schools and educational facilities with a STEM instructional focus. The team visited the Battle Creek Math and Science Center, Mattawan Elementary

School, the Wyoming High School, and Forest Hills Northern High School Project Next. The purpose of these visits was to gather information and ideas for possible designs and features for the future STEM Academy. More design meetings and discussions will follow this summer and will conclude by late fall 2023. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2024 and take about two years to complete with the new school opening in August, 2026, for the 2026-27 school year.

As always, thanks go out to our community for the 2016 and 2022 bond funds that made these projects possible, our Board for their support and vision, as well as our Facilities Crew led by Facilities Director Sean Gillette, and partners GMB Architects, Miller Davis Construction Management, and AE Technology.

Without the combined efforts and synergy of these groups, none of these critically important projects would be possible.



Food Service Provides Catering

The CPS Food Service does catering both internally and externally.

They recently provided 380 box lunches for the "JA Girls' Dream Fair: A STEM Experience," an event held at Western Michigan University's Haworth College of Business.

This event generated \$2,888 for the district's non-profit school lunch fund, according to Food Service Director Holly Wait.

Anyone who would like a quote on an internal or external catering event freshly prepared by the Comstock Food Service Department, please email Holly Wait at Holly.Wait@ComstockPS.org.

2022-23 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

June 5, 6, 7, 2023
June 7, 2023

Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)
Last Day for Students/Records Day PM

Half Day Students and Teachers K-12
Half Day Students AM/ Staff Records Day PM

Inaugural Art Show Surpasses Expectations

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

The inaugural Joe and Joyce VanBruggen Art Show surpassed expectations with approximately 500 people in attendance

On behalf of the Board of Education and Superintendent Team, I want to thank and praise the following people whose energy, passion, and time made this event such a huge success:

Joe VanBruggen, our sponsor, for his generous endowed gift of \$30,000 to the Comstock Schools Foundation which will permanently fund the show.

Jane Vanderslik, daughter of Joe and Joyce VanBruggen, for attending the show and presenting the overall “Best of Show Award” to Ava Dalton of CHS.

Guest adjudicators and local Kalamazoo professional artists **Erica Bradshaw**, **Nikki Horner**, and **Kim Shaw** for sharing their love of art with our school community.

Steven Kuivenhoven of the Comstock Schools Foundation for not only attending the show but also for the Foundation’s support of Comstock Public Schools.

The CPS Art Team whose hard work, vision, and dedication came together to create a spectacular forum for student art and creativity - **Nichole Clark (CES)**, **Jeannine Roys (STEM)**, **Kristin Card (CMS and CHS)**, and **Julia Vanderelzen (COM)**.

The CES and STEM music teachers, **Abby**

Mullis and **Becky Raines**, for providing live student performances during the show which helped create a festive atmosphere.

CHS Principal Mary Spade for agreeing to host the event in the high school library and for helping to prepare the site for the show.

CPS Communications Specialist Jason Hall for his hard work promoting the event to our community through press releases and social media posts and designing the event’s poster.

And last but not least, to all of the **student artists and performers** whose passion for the visual and performing arts made the evening possible and truly memorable.



Art Show Winners Named

During the inaugural Joe and Joyce VanBruggen Art Show this spring, awards were handed out for “Best in Display” from each school and one overall “Best of Show.” Here are the winners:

*Comstock Early Learning Academy’s Best in Display went to **Aniyah Williams** for her painting, *Abstract Watercolor*.

*Comstock Elementary School’s Best in Display went to **Imani Dougherty** for her watercolor, *Water Lilies*.

*Comstock STEM Academy’s Best in Display went to **Matilda Ludtke** for her crayon sculpture, *Notre Dame*.

*Comstock Middle School’s Best in Display went to **Kianna O’Dell** for her yarn painting, *Walk to the Bright Buttered Rocks*.

*Comstock High School’s Best in Display went to **Hailey Null** for her pencil drawing, entitled, *Face Study*.

*Comstock High School’s Best in Display went to **Brooklyn Nuyen** for her collage entitled, *Money*.

*The top award for Overall Best in Show for all age groups went to **Ava Dalton** for her self-portrait collage, *The Trials And Tribulations of Sleeping in Class*.

Congratulations, Senior Scholars Class of 2023

Comstock High School extends congratulations to the Top Scholars, Class of 2023. The Top Scholar designation is determined by a formula which combines grade point averages and ACT scores. This year's top scholars are (in alphabetical order):



Alex Ballesteros

Parents: Betzaida and Bolívar Ballesteros

Accomplishments: Kalamazoo HOSA President, National Hispanic Recognition Award, NHS Vice President, CTE Health Science Merit

Award, Certified Patient Care Technician, Student Lighthouse Team, Science Olympiad Member, High Honor Roll all four years, Senior Scholar, Three Department Awards

Future Plans: Attend the University of Michigan to study biomedical sciences and molecular biology and to become a physician assistant or trauma surgeon.



Isaiah Bowling

Parent: Misty Bowling

Accomplishments: Senior Scholar, High honor roll all four years, Two Year State Qualifier for Bowling, Early Middle College student and will get an associate degree in

physical/chemical sciences

Future Plans: Graduate from WMU with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.



Tyler Caswell

Parents: Kevin and Jennifer Caswell

Accomplishments: Varsity Soccer, Bowling, and Baseball, Captain for Soccer and Baseball, Band Drum Major, Homecoming King, NHS

Member, Seven Coaches Awards and Tri-Athlete Award, Three Conference Leadership Meets, Senior Scholar

Future Plans: To study aerospace engineering.



Dalton DeLeon

Parents: Michele and Ramon DeLeon

Accomplishments: Maintained a GPA of 3.7 or higher, Making the Dean's List, Senior Scholar

Future Plans: Attend Western Michigan University to major in audio engineering and then to pursue a career in the music industry.



Nicholas Khazad

Parents: Andy Khazad and Anne Kosanke

Accomplishments: Senior Scholar, Most Dedicated Athlete Award, Honorable Mention All-Conference, Baseball, Most Improved

Player Baseball, Coaches Award Baseball, Bowling High Series, Top 10 All-Conference Bowling, Four Year Baseball Award, Three Year Varsity Bowling, High Honor Roll all four years, Bronco Merit Scholarship, ASC Certified in Brakes, ASC Certified in Suspension Components, ASC Certified in Engine Components

Future Plans: To become a tradesman; take trades classes at KVCC to determine a specific trade.



Lydia Kruis

Parents: James and Tresa Kruis

Accomplishments: KAMSC Medallion Award, KAMSC High Honors, Dedicated Athlete Award, Broke school sports records: home course

(cross country) and Goals Scored (soccer). Captain for Soccer and Cross Country. MVP for Soccer and Cross Country, Senior Scholar and NHS Secretary

Future Plans: To attend the University of Michigan, College of Engineering for biomedical engineering.



Kaia Laarman

Parent: Angie Laarman

Accomplishments: Senior Scholar, High Honor Roll all four years, Early Middle College, will graduate with an associate degree in applied sciences, Most Improved

Athlete in Softball & Basketball, Varsity Cheer for four years, Department Award for Economics and Honors Algebra, Varsity Choir for four years

Future Plans: After EMC, attend Western Michigan University to get a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.



Abigail Lopez

Parent: Jamie Payne

Accomplishments: Earning 41 credits towards an associate degree. Finishing the last semester of Early Middle College (EMC) with an associate degree with a 4.2 GPA,

Two years of Varsity Softball

Future Plans: Finish fifth year of EMC at KVCC; transfer to WMU to major in political science with a focus on International and Comparative Politics; to minor in Spanish and study abroad in a Spanish speaking country.



Sarah Mason

Parents: Monique and Larry Mason

Accomplishments: Salutatorian, Senior Scholar and High Honor Roll all four years, Got 99 percent on a paper written in three hours

Future Plans: After Early Middle College, transfer to Grand Valley State University to major in English for a career in publishing.

Senior Scholars



Annalise Schreiner

Parents: Rebecca and Matthew Schreiner

Accomplishments: Student of the Month, President of National Honor Society, President of Student Lighthouse, Captain of Softball, Golf, Science Olympiad, Color Guard, Three Coaches Awards, DAR Good Citizen Award, High Honor Roll all four years, Regional First Place Medals in Anatomy & Physiology and Trajectory, Regional Third Place Medals in Disease and Experimental Design, DK Sprague Scholarship, Academic All-State for Golf, AP Government Department Award, Three Tri-Athlete Awards

Future Plans: Attend the University of Michigan on full tuition to study neuroscience with the goal of becoming a researcher.



Justin Webster

Parents: Justin and Danielle Webster

Accomplishments: Varsity letter in soccer, Senior Scholar, NHS Member for two years

Future Plans: Attend Lawrence Technological University to major in audio engineering technology with the goal to pursue a career in audio engineering.



CPS Receives Another Grant

Comstock has received a competitive grant from the Michigan Department of Education in the amount of \$94,046. The money is to be used to address the learning loss students experienced during the pandemic.

Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel and Finance Director Michelle Darnell were instrumental in the District receiving the grant from Section 98c of the School Aid Act, PA 144 of 2022.

Auditorium Hosts Performing Troupes from Australia

The Comstock Community Auditorium has hosted a slew of performances this season.

Two performing troupes came from Australia and performed for over 6000 students through the Education for the Arts program.

The first show was Patch Theatre which has produced over 100 unique works and performed to more than two million children around the world.

Their show, ZOOOM, is an enchanting story of a child alone in her bedroom, unable to sleep and curious to understand. Inspired by iconic children’s book *Harold and The Purple Crayon*, ZOOOM channels the same philosophy - a child who makes sense of the world through art. The show is driven by the power of “child logic,” combined with the magic of science.

Using original music, lasers, and projections, the performance takes the audience on an immersive journey. It unpacks the science of animation from pixel to line to animation, as worlds are blown up to be larger than life.

The second show was Gravity and the Other Myths. The performance troupe is an internationally renowned circus company pushing the boundaries of contemporary circus.

A *Simple Space* sets audiences alight with non-stop feats of unbelievable acrobatic ability and exhilarating human physicality. It is supported by driving live percussion and presented so intimately that you can feel the heat, hear every breath, and be immersed in every moment. The audience is brought in close to surround the stripped-back stage. In that space, the acrobats are pushed to the physical limit, breaking down their usual guards, and introducing the reality of failure and weakness.



In the show, ZOOOM, performed by Patch Theater at the Community Auditorium, a child, alone in her bedroom and unable to sleep, plays with her house of light before she is immersed inside of it.

8th-12th Graders To Receive Free Book

All students in eighth through twelfth grades in Michigan will receive a free book entitled “Build Your Future: The Complete Guide to a Skilled Trades Career.”

This donation is due to the efforts of the Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) which resulted in the Michigan legislature appropriating \$2 million to purchase these books for distribution in the schools.

According to the National Association of Home Builders, “The book provides a comprehensive look at the various positions available in construction, manufacturing, transportation, energy and agriculture. In addition, the book debunks long standing myths about careers in the trades.”

HBAM’s non-profit, Skilled to Build Michigan Foundation, received the funds and the books were distributed to students.

More than 600 Comstock students received the book.

Comstock High School

Valedictorian Honored at Awards Banquet

CHS valedictorian of the Class of 2023, Lydia Krus, was honored at the Excellence in Education Awards banquet this spring.

This event honors the top 2 percent of graduating seniors from Kalamazoo County's public and parochial high schools.

Keevin O'Neill, Superintendent of Vicksburg Community Schools and chair of the Excellence in Education Committee, presented the welcome and introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Edward Montgomery, President of WMU.

Comstock's Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel assisted with the presentation of the awards.

Attending the event in support of Lydia were her parents, James and Tresa Krus, CHS Principal Mary Spade, and Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes.



CHS valedictorian Lydia Krus (far right) was honored at an Excellence in Education banquet this spring. Joining her that evening were her parents, James and Tresa Krus, and Mary Spade, high school principal.

CHS Supports Local Charity

Da'Marrion Bush, a freshman member of the high school's Key Club, joined Principal Mary Spade and Sunrise Kiwanis Club members to volunteer for the First Day Shoe Fund.

The First Day Shoe Fund is a local charity providing elementary students with new athletic shoes for the start of each school year.

Da'Marrion and other volunteers helped to organize and sort the shoes which will be distributed to students in area schools including Comstock.

"I just like to help people," DaMarrion said of his decision to volunteer with the Fund.

The Fund distributed 4,734 shoes in 2022. The shoes are typically given in the fall for the start of school, but they are also distributed throughout the year as needed.

For more information, go to firstdayshoefund.org.

Key Club is a student-led international service organization affiliated with Kiwanis International.



High school freshman Da'Marrion Bush works with Maggie Hesketh, executive director of the First Day Shoe Fund, as they sort and organize shoes to be given to elementary school students.

CHS Students Excel

High school dual-enrolled and Early Middle College students excelled during the second semester. There were 49 students who earned 325 credits through dual enrollment and Early Middle College programs. Those credits are valued at \$40,300.

The average GPA for these students was 3.01 with 27 students having a 4.0 GPA in one or more classes.

Comstock High School

“Go Kits” Arrive



The emergency “Go Kits” purchased for the high school through a \$2000 grant from the Sunrise Kiwanis Club have arrived and are in place in each classroom.

The “Kits,” purchased from Edu-Care Services, Inc. (ECS), are stocked with first-aid and emergency response supplies. They are designed especially for use in emergency lockdowns, school evacuations, field trips, outdoor activities, and unexpected COVID-19 protocol situations.

The Sunrise Kiwanis has been a chartered Kiwanis group for 30 years with a focus on the needs of children.

The Kiwanis’ fundraising effort made this grant possible.

CHS Student Praised for Work Ethic



Student Michael Howes who is enrolled in CTE Automotive Technology and CTE Work-Based Learning through KRESA has received high praise from his supervisor at the Kalamazoo Country Club where he works in the mechanic department.

“Michael has been one of my best employees and it is a pleasure to work with him,” said his supervisor. “It is hard to find such a great and respectful work ethic nowadays. I hope he continues this career path in the future; he will for sure be one of the best golf course mechanics in the industry.”

CHS Receives New Drill Press

Family and friends of Robert G. Rose (1937-2021) donated money to the Comstock High School woodshop in his memory. The money was used to purchase a new drill press.

Robert Rose was a resident of Plainwell, Michigan, but two of his grandchildren, Amelia Hall (2022) and Eliot Hall (2020), are Comstock graduates. Eliot took woodshop classes at CHS.

Robert Rose taught industrial arts in Marion, Indiana, and TV and electronics repair at the State Technical Institute in Plainwell. His family wished to share the passion that Bob Rose had for woodworking by helping to add to or improve the tools in the woodshop at Comstock. The purchase of this new drill press fulfills that wish.



Woodshop teacher Ryan Cousins stands next to the new drill press recently purchased with funds donated by family and friends of the late Robert G. Rose.

Combined Choirs Present Concert



The Comstock High School and Middle School Choirs’ spring concert included a variety of songs and soloists. Directing the program was music teacher Beth Stachura.



Comstock Elementary

CES Spring Book Fair Is a Success

The elementary school's Spring Scholastic Book Fair was a success with over 850 books sold - the most ever for the Book Fair.

During conference week, students previewed the books available and then on conference evenings, they could purchase books. Eight boxes of books were emptied during the Fair.

Customers could also round up the price of their purchases with the extra money going to the library. The \$107 raised will be used to buy new books for the library.

Compass High School

Compass Art Student Wins Award



Makayla DeBow (left) and Art Club Advisor Julia Vanderelzen (right) pose at the show.

Makayla DeBow recently won the "Staff Selection Award" in the 2023 Congressional Art Competition, sponsored annually by Congressional Representative Bill Huizenga of Holland.

Compass Art Club advisor Julia Vanderelzen encouraged her students to enter the competition.

Book Fair, Donations Help CES Library Expand



Colorful books fill the tables at the Book Fair, just waiting to get into the hands of eager students.

The CES Library has been able to purchase new books due to the Book Fairs and various donations.

Families supporting the Book Fairs during the school year have enabled the library to add over 400 new books to the collection.

This year, the library received an anonymous gift certificate donated in memory of Carmen Hren, a long time substitute and a retired special education teacher, and in the memory of Karen Hetrick, a Comstock Elementary special education teacher.

The Michigan News Agency gift certificates

were used to purchase new graphic novels that were unavailable through the Book Fair. These books got memorial book plaques and were put into circulation before the end of the school year.

Abigail Snow, our CES building substitute teacher, donated some of her childhood hardcover books which interested the students.

Anyone who would like to donate money, a gift certificate, or books for the CES library collection, please contact the office. If you donate books, please be aware that there are reasons the books may not go into circulation and instead be put out in the Little Free Library.

Teacher Earns Master's Degree

Comstock Elementary School fifth grade teacher Angela Macias recently earned her master's degree in reading from Grand Canyon University.

Timothy Babb of Grand Canyon University visited CES and provided lunch and GCU merchandise to Ms. Macias and her colleagues.



(Left to Right) CPS Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes joins GCU Representative Timothy Babb in honoring Angela Macias for earning her master's degree in reading.

Comstock Elementary

CES Library Team Helps Students



Emmy Kimmer and Kirsten Dendel are ready for students to visit the library.

The CES Library has two team members helping students with books and literacy.

Emmy Kimmer, a graduate of Wayne State University's Library and Information Science program, has been the school library media specialist since 2019. Each week she sees every class at CES, and a few of them twice. Students have a lesson on library and literacy skills and then can check out books.

Recently, Kirsten Dendel joined the library team as the media clerk. She also works with a kindergarten reading group and assists with various classes at lunch time.

CES Students Celebrate Poetry Month

During poetry month this spring, CES students came to the school library to write poetry.

The third, fourth, and fifth graders wrote a library themed 5W's poem (Who/What/When/Where/How) as a collaborative class assignment. Afterwards, they wrote an Acrostic Poem using the words Read, Shelves, Library, or Books.

Students in Y5, kindergarten, first, and second grades wrote an Animal Poem collaboratively and then drew an illustration to go along with the animal.



Right: Students illustrated the poem they wrote about a cow.

CES Teacher Wins KCEA Award

Comstock Elementary teacher Emily Jones recently received Comstock Education Association's Partners in Education Award. This award goes to union members who have excelled at their craft and have shown dedication to their students and the profession.

Ms. Jones has been teaching for 16 years, first as a general education teacher, then an instructional coach, and for the past seven years she has been a special education teacher.

CES School Social Worker Dr. Amy Vliek (left) with CEA's Partners in Education Awardee Emily Jones (right).



CES Celebrates Library Month



On display for School Library Month were students' hand-written notes on "Why I Love my School Library."



On National School Librarian Day, Miss Reilly's kindergarten students presented Miss Kimmer with cards.

CES Celebrated Library Month this spring with a variety of activities. Students learned about different kinds of libraries and talked about what they love about the school library.

Students learned why it's so important for schools to have a library and gasped when they learned that some schools don't have one.

School librarian Emmy Kimmer and library aide Mrs. Dendel put up displays throughout the month highlighting Library Month.

As a surprise for Miss Kimmer on National School Librarian Day, Miss Reilly's kindergarten class presented her with cards expressing how much they love the library, books, and Miss Kimmer.

CES Library is Busy

The CES Library is a busy place based on recent statistics. Here are the numbers from one month this spring.

Number of checkouts: 1,162

Number of books added this year: 593

Current number of overdues: 294

Number of weeded books: 249

Top 5 Chapter Books: *Dog Man*, *Bad Guys*, *Dork Diaries*, and *Babysitters Club*

Top 5 Picture Books: *Mo Willems*, *Fly Guy*, *Berenstain Bears*, *Clifford*

Number of class visits: 116

Comstock Elementary

CES Students Meet WIG Math Goals

CES students met their school-wide Semester One Wildly Important Goal (WIG). The school's WIG was for at least 80 percent of students to meet their individual math fact fluency goal.

To reach their goals, students practiced their math facts at least five minutes every day using the online website MobyMax. They tracked their individual progress in their leadership portfolios while each class tracked the whole class's progress on a class data wall.

The school tracked the whole school's progress on a bulletin board in the hallway. Students celebrated their achievement with a popsicle party outdoors.



Miss Buscher's class enjoy their popsicles after having achieved their WIG math goals.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Students Compete in World Math(s) Day

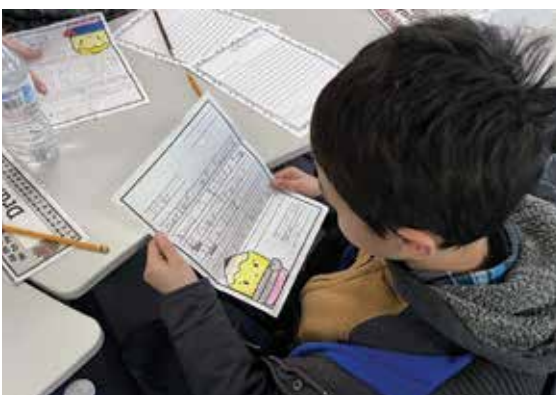
STEM Academy fourth graders participated in World Math(s) Day this spring. They competed head to head with students from around the world in 60-second math challenges focused on fact fluency. Students logged in anxiously anticipating the countries they would be competing against in each round. They were excited to see themselves on the World Leader Boards as they came out ahead of other students in middle school.

In the end, STEM Academy students finished 20th in the USA and 116th in the world.

Sponsored by Mathletics, World Math(s) Day started in 2007 with 287,000 students from 98 countries participating. Today, there are more than 10 million participants from more than 160 countries answering over one billion questions.

Students from age 4 to 18 may participate in the event. In the 60-second games, students are tested on accuracy and speed.

CES Fourth Graders "Meet" Pen Pals



Fourth graders in Jenna Lyddon's class finally met their pen pals, albeit virtually, after writing to them during the school year.

The students corresponded with Miss McCaughna's first graders at Battle Creek's Prairieview Elementary. They learned about each other's interests and families through their letters.

The students finally met virtually this spring and read *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy* as they celebrated March is Reading Month together.

"The smiles on their faces were priceless," said Ms. Lyddon.



Above and above left: Students enjoy writing letters to and reading letters from their pen pals.

District Receives MDOE Grant

The Michigan Department of Education (MDOE) has awarded the District a \$7,965 grant from the Local Foods for Schools (LFS) program.

The money is to be used to purchased locally grown fruits, vegetables, dairy products, protein, grains, honey, or beans for its breakfast and lunch programs.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy
Receives New Flag

Veterans and STEM Academy students salute the school's new flag donated by American Legion Westnedge Post 36.

The American Legion Westnedge Post 36 recently donated a new American flag to the STEM Academy to replace the old one that was torn and tattered.

The new flag was installed during a special ceremony at the school.

As the Post members folded the old flag, they explained what each fold meant. They then raised the new flag as second graders sang *The Star Spangled Banner*. Once the flag was raised, the first and second graders recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The students also had the opportunity to ask questions of the veterans. In appreciation of their interest, each student received a comic book about the American flag from the Westnedge Post.

The old flag is being fitted for a case and will hang in the school as a reminder of those who have served and continue to serve!

STEM Academy Science Olympiad Team
Wins Championship

The team celebrates their season by posing at the entrance to the school.

The STEM Academy Science Olympiad Team was named the Division B, Class C State Champions at the Science Olympiad State Championship.

The 14-member team consisted of eight fifth graders, four sixth graders, and two eighth graders.

"Students can be extremely proud of their accomplishments at a state-level competition for middle schoolers," said Coach MacKenzie Skalski. "All students have been preparing since the beginning of the school year."

Members of the team are Michael Meerovich, Rose DeLeeuw, Abbie Peters, Drew Foster, Abe Hewitt, Luke Mielke, Payton Forbes, River Speegle, Jake Hutchens, Oliver Ehmke, Lillian Ross, Don Barber, Winston Greve, and Xander Baird

Comstock Early Learning Academy

CELA Students Enjoy Guest Reader

Children's book author Dr. Isabel O'Hagin recently entertained CELA students by reading *The Big Mooncake for Little Star*, an award winning children's picture book by Grace Lin.

The book explains the phases of the moon through the story of Little Star who makes a mooncake with her mother and is told not to eat it yet. But she can't resist and begins nibbling.

Dr. O'Hagin may soon be entertaining students with her own picture book, *La Mariachi*, which will be released in July. This illustrated book tells the story of Tuchi, a young girl who dreams of becoming a musician in a mariachi band. However, her teacher, Mr. Sanchez, and the boys in her music class tell her she can't because she's a girl.

For more information about the book, please see page 3 of this issue of *The Communicator*.

Dr. O'Hagin is the wife of Superintendent Jeff Thoenes.



Dr. Isabel O'Hagin reads to CELA students assisted by her husband, Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

CELA Students Make Apple Energy Balls



Oliver Miller pours oats into the bowl.



Kenna Asiala mixes up the dough for apple energy balls.



Angel Collier and Jonah Jessup roll the dough into balls.

CELA teacher Chelsea Davidson turned her students' love of cooking into a fun activity at the end of their unit on balls.

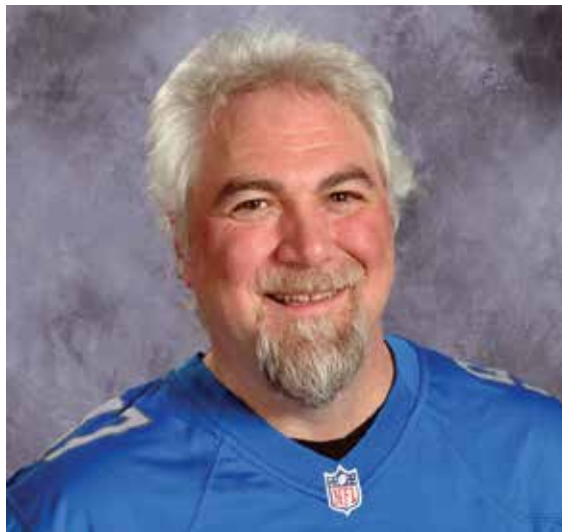
They made Apple Energy Balls which involved them in their emergent reading skills as they read the recipe. She also engaged students in talking

about the different measuring cups used in making the recipe.

Students used their fine motor skills as they mixed the dough and rolled it into balls.

Virtual Academy

Teacher Receives Honor



Comstock Virtual Academy teacher Chris Coash has been selected as the Michigan Alternative Education Teacher of the Year. The award is given by the Michigan Alternative Education Organization (MAEO).

Mr. Coash received his award at the MAEO State Conference banquet in Traverse City.

CELA is Enrolling for GSRP

The Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA) is accepting applications for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for students who will be four years old by December 1, 2023.

Please call the CELA office at 269-250-8960 or email the principal, Meadow Nuyen, at Meadow.Nuyen@ComstockPS.org for more information.

CELA staff members look forward to working with your family for all of your Pre-K needs.

CHS Wins ESports League Title

The CHS ESports team won the league title in the team's first year.

The team consisting of Ryan Beroza, Trey Kohler, Ra'al (Genesis) Palfresne, Lindsay and Austin Block defeated the defending champions from Buchanan 4-1 in the best of seven championship finale.

The teams play five-minute matches in a best-of-seven format. Comstock won the first two matches 1-0 and 5-0, and then dropped the third match 3-2. However, the Colts captured the final two games 3-1 and 1-0 (OT) to wrest the championship belt from Buchanan.

One commentator during the championship match said, "Apparently Comstock didn't come to take part; they came to take over!"

The Colts are coached by Matthew Kregling.

ESports, short for electronic sports, are video game competitions.



Back row, left to right: Intervention Specialist Kevin Hamilton, Jaryo Plascencia, Andru Harper, Ivan Polhamus, Daulten Duncan, Coach Matthew Kregling, Athletic Director Justin Ansel. Front row: Mara Halsey, Trey Kohler, Ryan Beroza, Ra'al Palfresne, Austin Block-Carmean, Lindsey Block-Carmean.

COMSTOCK
High School Class of
1983
40th year
Class Reunion

Date: September 9th, 2023
Time: 3pm-7pm
Location: River Oaks County Park
9202 E Michigan Ave, Galesburg
Parking is 5.00

NOTE: TO PAY IN ADVANCE FOR FOOD, GO TO THE PAYPAL LINK ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR "COMSTOCK HIGH CLASS OF '83." THERE IS A DEADLINE OF 8/9/23. IF YOU ARE NOT ON FACEBOOK, CONTACT KRIS GIBSON AT KGIBSON468@YAHOO.COM.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

JUNE:

- 1 - Compass High School Graduation: 6 p.m.; Rehearsal at 5 p.m.
- 3 - Traci Phelps Dance Studios Performance: 2 p.m. show. Call Studio for details/tickets.
- 5 - Comstock Spring Sports Awards - 6:30 p.m.
- 6 - Comstock Middle School Awards Night - 6:30 p.m.
- 7 - Parchment Innovation Center Graduation - 6 p.m.
- 10 - Momentum Dance Studio Recital: First Recital 12-1:30 p.m. Second Recital: 6-7:30 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Call Studio for details/tickets.

12-16 - HPA Drama Camp - sign up at hpami.org.

17 - Trinity Prep Center Dance Recital - 2 p.m.

JULY:

7-9; 14-16 - *The Music Man*; Center Stage Theater- 7 p.m. Matinée also on the 9th and the 16th at 2 p.m. Tickets: at the door or go to their website for online ticketing: <https://kzoocst.com/tickets>

22 - Unique Unity Dance-Showcase of Dance Teams; Program: 3-7 p.m. (with 3 intermissions)

SUMMERS HERE!

Five Inducted into Hall of Fame

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

The Comstock High School Athletic Department inducted five new members into the school's prestigious Hall of Fame. The induction banquet included a Meet & Greet, welcoming remarks by Athletic Director Justin Ansel, a multimedia slide show of the inductees, introductions, dinner, and then finally the induction ceremony.

This year's inductees included the following Colts:

-Joe Hnilo, Class of 1964, who served 36 years as a volunteer softball coach;

-Al Kimball, Class of 1971, three-sport athlete and star baseball player who set the state pitching record for most strikeouts in a season his senior year;

-Mike Stripp, CHS teacher and sports announcer for 40 years;

-Teri Loher, Class of 1995, three-sport athlete and all-state softball player who went on to play four years at WMU and coach Mattawan High School to the state softball championship in 2011;

-Kaylin Taylor, Class of 2010, all-state track and field runner who competed four years at Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne (IPFW) and was named to the National All-Academic Team in her senior year.

Congratulations to all! It was a great night to be a Colt!



New inductees into the Hall of Fame are (left to right) Joe Hnilo, Teri Loher, Mike Stripp, Kaylin Taylor, and Bernie Vallier representing Al Kimball.

Sports News

2023-24 High School and Middle School Physicals

A new physical for the 2023-24 school year is required to play high school or middle school sports at Comstock. A physical must be dated on or after April 15, 2023 to be acceptable. Bronson has provided doctors for a physical day in the past, but they will not be doing it this year so please make sure you set up an appointment with your own doctor ASAP or walk into Fastcare to get a physical completed sometime in June or July.

Season Pass Workers Needed

If you would like to work at athletic events for a free family pass, please contact the athletic office. Some of the job duties include ticket taking, running the clock, keeping the scorebook, announcing and timing for track meets. We have a lifetime pass for all our senior citizens for free. If senior citizens would like to help out at our athletic events, we would love to have you here,

but it is not required. Please give us a call at 269-250-8711 to let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

Hall of Fame Nominations

The Comstock Hall of Fame committee is accepting nominations for the 2024 induction banquet. Nominations must be received by the athletic director by November 1 to be included in the process for the 2024 induction. A nomination form can be found online at www.comstockps.org/halloffame. Please email Justin Ansel at Justin.Ansel@ComstockPS.org with any questions.

High School Fall Sports Start Dates

Practice for the fall high school sports season will begin on August 7 for high school football, volleyball, boys soccer, girls golf, cross country and sideline cheer. Start times will be listed on the athletic website at comstockcolts.org. Every athlete must have a physical dated after April 15,

2023, to participate.

Middle School Fall Sports Start Dates

Practice for middle school football, volleyball, soccer, cross country and sideline cheer will begin in August and we will provide more information in July. Start times will be listed on the athletic website at comstockcolts.org. Every athlete must have a physical dated after April 15, 2023, to participate.

Youth Fall Sports

Chyna McMillian is our new Youth Sports Director. By the time you receive this issue, we should have registrations open for first through sixth grade youth football, first through sixth grade youth sideline cheer, fourth through sixth grade volleyball, and kindergarten through fifth grade boys soccer. More information will be posted on the main athletic page at comstockcolts.org.

Comstock Township Library News

A Note from the Director

This year we launched an exciting new service, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! For those not familiar with it, Imagination Library is a book gifting program for children from birth to age five. Books are carefully selected by the Imagination Library then mailed to the child's home each month.

The service is funded by Comstock Township Library and sponsored by Comstock Early Learning Academy. Children must reside in the Comstock Library service area. To register your child, please call or visit the Library.

Library staff members are busy preparing for this year's Summer Reading Program. If you're making plans for a Michigan vacation this summer, don't forget to check out the Michigan Adventure Pass (MAP) program. MAP allows Michigan residents to use their library card to check out free or discounted admission passes to hundreds of Michigan state parks, campgrounds, museums, trails, arts/cultural destinations, and more! To view a list of destinations and check out your pass, visit the MAP website at: <http://miactivitypass.org/>

Library Event Highlights

Summer Reading Program Begins

Registration and reading begin June 1.

Prizes and free events begin June 12.

Adult prize winners will be chosen on July 1, August 1, and September 1. Youth grand prize winners will be chosen on September 1. Valid Comstock Township Library card is required for program registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us.

Youth Summer Story Times and Play Groups

Tuesdays, from June 13 through August 1 at 10:30 a.m. – Wee Ones Storytime

Wee Ones is designed for babies and young tots, aged 24 months and younger with a loving adult. This storytime features simple stories, songs, and rhymes carefully chosen to build awareness of language and vocabulary, foster a love of books, and provide a fun, interactive experience for babies and parents/caregivers. Older siblings are welcome to attend as well. Please bring a blanket as we will be enjoying stories on the Library building's side lawn.

Wednesdays, from June 14 through August 2, at 10:30 a.m.– Family Storytime at Merrill Park

Join us for an all ages, family storytime where we will explore stories, songs and rhymes! Storytime will take place at Merrill Park (located 3 blocks from the Library on River Street at Comstock Avenue). Please

bring a blanket or chairs as we will be sitting on the grass. No registration necessary.

Youth Summer-Long Programs

Snack Challenge – June, July, August

Visit the youth department and read for 15 minutes to earn a yummy snack! You can earn a snack every day you visit the Library to read.

Teen and Tween Take Home Craft – June, July, August

Drop by the youth department and grab a teen/tween take home craft! Every month we will offer a new project for tweens (4th-7th grades) and teens (8th-12th grades). One craft per teen/tween. Available while supplies last.

Kids Take Home Craft – June, July, August

Pick up a take-home craft at the Library. All supplies and instructions are included. Take home crafts are available in the Youth Department, while supplies last. Priority will be given to children registered for and participating in our summer reading program.

Tween Programs – Tuesdays at 3 p.m. – June 13 through August 1

Registration is required for each program. Valid Comstock Township Library card is required for program registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us.

June 13: Space Galaxy Party

June 20: Team Games

June 27: International Snack Tasting

July 11: Splash Wars

July 18: Kindness Rocks

July 25: Canvas Painting

August 1: Color Run

Teen Programs – Wednesdays at 2 p.m.– June 14 through July 26

Registration is required for each program. Valid Comstock Township Library card is required for program registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us.

June 14: Henna Party

June 21: Team Games

June 28: International Food Tasting

July 5: Canvas Painting

July 12: Splash Wars

July 19: Kindness Rocks

July 26: Color Run

Kids Crafts – Thursdays at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. – June 15 through August 3

Registration is required for each program. Please register each child for only one time slot each week. Valid Comstock Township Library card is required for program registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us.

June 15: Puppy Bank

June 22: Sand Art

June 29: Tie Dye

July 6: Sculpture

July 20: Calm Down Jars

July 27: Faux Stained Glass

August 3: Build Your Own Teddy Bear

Other Programming

Take-Home Adult Craft: Washi Tape Frames

Registration and pick-up begin June 5.

Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take home crafts. After registering, you can stop by the Library for your bag of supplies. Registration is required for this free event and begins June 5, on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling the Library. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

In-Person Adult Craft: Clay Pot Toadstools

Registration is underway.

Program is held June 14 at 6 p.m.

Using simple terracotta flower pots, we will be making toadstools to bring joy to your garden. Registration is required for this free event. On our website, go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Unicorn Carnival

Program is held June 19 at 11 a.m.

Join us for an unforgettable summer reading kick off celebration! Magical unicorns from a faraway fantasy land will be at the library! Children can take a unicorn ride and also meet some of the unicorn's other friends like an alpaca, sheep, goats and rabbits. While you're here, you may also play some of the unicorn themed carnival games and take home a twisted balloon! Open to all ages, no registration required.

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Take-Home Adult Craft: Yarn Coil Basket

Registration and pick-up begin June 19. Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take home crafts. After registering, you can stop by the Library for your bag of supplies. Registration is required for this free event and begins June 19. On our website, go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling the Library. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Puppet Padooza

Program is held June 26 at 11 a.m. Visit the Library for three famous and funny fairytale puppet shows. The Youth Services Team will reimagine *The Princess and the Frog*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and another surprise tale. A take-home puppet craft will be handed out after the performance. Open to all ages, no registration required.

June Adult Book Club

Registration is underway. Book Club meets on June 29 at 6 p.m. Please join us for a discussion of *Who Does That B**** Think She Is?: Doris Fish and the Rise of Drag* by Craig Seligman. This book chronicles the history of drag as it recounts the life of one of its stars, Doris Fish. Library copies or free copies of the book will be provided depending on availability. Snacks and drinks will be served. Registration and book are already underway.

Kids Cookies and Canvas

Registration begins June 4. Program is held at Merrill Park on July 10 at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. Ms. Brenna will be at Merrill Park for this fun event. Registered kids will be given a canvas and Ms. Brenna will lead kids step-by-step in how to make her CUTE BEAR painting. Cookies will also be offered to participating kids. Registration is required, and each child must register individually. Spots are limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

In-Person Adult Craft: Sand Candles

Registration begins June 28. Program is held July 12 at 6 p.m. Kalamazoo Candle Company will be heading to the Comstock Library for an evening of sand candle making. Layer different colors of wax beads together to create a one of a kind candle. Registration is

required for this free event and begins June 28, on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited.

Jim Gill Concert at Merrill Park

Program is held July 13 at 10:30 a.m. Comstock welcomes famous children's musician Jim Gill for a free outdoor performance at Merrill Park, located three blocks from the Library on River Street at Comstock Avenue. Jim Gill is a renowned musician and author, nationally known for celebrating active play. In concert, Jim strums energizing rhythms on his banjo while everyone sings, claps, spins and dances along to his silly and inspiring musical games. Each concert is more than a show to watch – it is an opportunity for family play. Everyone is welcome, no registration is required. Please bring lawn chairs, blankets and hats as you may be seated in the sun.

Take-Home Adult Craft: Acrylic Paint Pouring

Registration and pick-up begin July 17. Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts. After registering, you can stop by the library for your bag of supplies. Registration is required for this free event and begins July 17. On our website, go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Wildlife Safari

Program is held July 24 at 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. Prepare for a WILD time at CTL! Nelson's Wildlife Safari is going to bring the magic and adventure of animals to the Library for a truly unique hands-on experience! This event is perfect for families as you'll see and touch creatures both great and small from around the globe. Space is limited. Please arrive early to get a good seat. No registration required. To give others a chance to see the program, please come to only one of the programs.

Dino Dig at Robert Morris Park

Program is held July 29 at 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. Comstock Parks and Recreation and Comstock Township Library are joining together to bring you another exciting Dino Dig at Robert Morris Park. This event is for ages 2-8. Please call 269-343-8212 opt 2 or email parks@comstockmi.gov for questions and registration guidelines. This program is not at the Comstock Township Library, but at Robert Morris Park located at 8415 E H Ave.

CURRENT LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

UPCOMING CLOSURES:

July 4, 2023 – Closed all day

Contact us: 269-345-0136
info@comstocklibrary.org
www.comstocklibrary.org

July Adult Book Club

Registration begins June 26. Book Club meets on July 31 at 6 p.m. Please join us for a discussion of *Nettle & Bone* by T. Kingfisher. This dark fairy tale sends protagonist Marra on a quest to kill an evil prince. Library copies or free copies of the book will be provided depending on availability. Snacks and drinks will be served. Registration and book pick-up begin Monday, June 26.

Library Services

Sign up for our eNewsletter and stay current on all the latest Library news and events.

Do you need help with homework? ACT or SAT? GED testing? Grad school testing? Interviews? Please visit our new service from the Princeton Review, "Tutor.com." This service is free for Comstock Township Library patrons.

Download free audiobooks, eBooks, music, and videos at home through our digital services, Hoopla and Libby. Visit the *Digital Materials* page on our website for a full list of available electronic services.

We have photocopy and mobile print services available for a small fee. Fax and scanning services are always available for free.

Need a Library Card? A Comstock Township Library card gives you access to books, movies, music, digital materials, and much more! If you're a resident, property owner, or work in Comstock Township, you're eligible to get a card of your own. Residents of surrounding communities may also qualify for a free card; please contact the Library with any questions you may have about Library card eligibility.

Comstock Library is Fine Free The Library does not charge fines for overdue materials with the exception of mobile hotspots and Playaway Launchpads. If you have long-overdue Library items, you can now bring them back without penalty.