



Comet Courier

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Hello Students, Staff, Parents and Community Members:

Spring is in the air! We are coming toward the end of winter sports and are thinking about spring sports. March madness includes both. We are also looking at special trips and events which schools enjoy. I will have the privilege of chaperoning the biannual music trip which goes to Chicago this year. I am looking forward to spending time with our high school students in a different setting, but where education takes place in a "broader" classroom. We are also in the planning stages of spring elementary field trips and senior trips and even graduation. Time flies when we are "having fun".

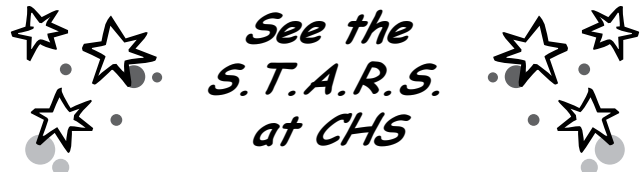
Although this is a high school publication, many of the high school students took part in our Cassville Elementary School 20-Year Anniversary Celebration on Friday, February 12th. Our elementary school was finished in 1990 and many of our current high school students started in a wonderful new building that is still attached to the high school.

February 15-19 was National School Bus Drivers Week and I would like to give my token of appreciation for our bus drivers (of Stratton Bus Company) that transport our students every day and at athletic and special events. They are always conscious of the safety of our students and are the first contact each day for our students.

Our foreign exchange students of this year did a special presentation to the elementary students in late January. We have students from Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, and China. Isa Ruscher of Germany recently joined our school from the state of Oregon and is staying in our community for the rest of the school year. We welcome her and really enjoy the diversity these students bring to our school.

I would like to close with an appreciation of a special event that has been happening for several school years. "Reality Check" is a special program for our seniors and gives our students a chance to start experiencing the "real world" that they will soon join. This is a superb exercise and I appreciate Mrs. Oswald's efforts in securing this experience for our seniors.

Go Comets!
Mr. Lee Kulland



There is a new organization at Cassville High School! Nine juniors & seniors make up **S.T.A.R.S.**, "Students Teaching About Real Situations,"--a drama troupe whose mission is to address topics of interest and importance to school children of all ages, promote thoughtful discussion & decision making, and lastly to teach students about making healthy decisions for their lives. Skit ideas and topics are developed at age-appropriate levels--depending on the audience--and presented in an entertaining fashion that does not lose the objective of teaching the importance of making healthy choices. Members of **S.T.A.R.S.** are: Alyssa Adrian, Emily Ballweg, Paige Hampton, Greg Kutterna, Tami Mumm, Katie Muller, Isaiah Okey, Gabrielle Schauff, and Scott Schnering. Advisors to the group are Bruce Boyum, School Counselor and faculty members Susan Bernhardt and Karen Paulson. Students attended a two-day training earlier in the fall with two other schools in the area with trainers from Cornerstone Productions from the Madison area.

S.T.A.R.S. has developed and/or learned five skits which have been performed to some members of the student body. "Tobacco Tragedy", a skit that follows a group of friends from junior high until more than twenty years after graduation and "But What If I Did?", a skit about why the majority of teenagers choose not to drink alcohol, were both performed for the D.A.R.E. Graduation for the fifth grade students of St. Charles and the public Elementary school, along with parent/family and other student guests. **S.T.A.R.S.** has also performed for the ninth grade Health class and a mixed-group high school physical education class. In addition to the above listed skits, the drama troupe has addressed the topics of teen sexual behavior, respect, and adolescent depression in their performances to high school students.

"In my thirty three years as an educator, there are few things in which I've become involved, with or for youth, that have been as influential or as enjoyable as this drama troupe," said advisor Bruce Boyum. "**S.T.A.R.S.** are kids who already participate in numerous activities in and out of school, are successful in the classroom, and have lives filled with the other activities of being a teenager. Yet, they make time to regularly practice at 7:15 in the morning and give up two hours of their Sunday evening once a month because they want to make a difference for the youth of our community. I am so very proud of them and I know they will quickly become important ambassadors for our school and community."

The **S.T.A.R.S.** members successfully wrote and were awarded a \$1000 Student Mini-Grant from Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division of Safe & Drug Free Schools for getting the group started. Additionally, the money will be used to recruit and train new members to replace the five who will graduate this spring. Promotion material and a few basic supplies have also been purchased.



Guidance News

After the New Year, it doesn't take long for things to get rolling in the Guidance Department. With the end of the semester came the end of junior high guidance classes, "Values & Choices" in the seventh grade and 8th Grade Careers. High school juniors have completed their Career Research Papers, a project which is a collaboration between Guidance and Mrs. Bernhardt's English classes. (Mrs. Bernhardt has most of the hard work to do, . . . but it has been a great project to integrate the two departments). Many of those same juniors will look to take their first college entrance exams through American College Testing, the ACT in April or June. Registration for this important test should be completed now.

Fieldtrips will soon be scheduled for 8th grade and 10th grade students to Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore. This spring's tour will include some of the newly constructed campus expansion! A fieldtrip to a regional business will also be planned as a culmination of the eighth graders Careers class. Junior students are encouraged to take advantage of college visit days specifically planned on many post-secondary campuses or "program shadows" this spring and throughout the summer months.

Seniors are sometimes surprised how quickly they are picking up speed toward graduation. Local scholarship information will be distributed to interested students the first week of March. All local scholarships will be due back to the Guidance Office on March 30th. Completed forms will then be distributed to the local organizations that provide the scholarships and/or the faculty selection committee so that scholarship recipients can be chosen in ample time before Senior Class Awards Night.

Registration for classes for the eighth grade students through the eleventh grade, will soon begin. Registration materials will be sent home with 8th-10th grade students after classroom presentations. The Juniors AND a parent have typically been scheduled for an appointment with Mr. Boyum or one of their class Advisors during the spring Parent-Teacher Conferences. In this way the student, parent and school are all "on the same page" in regard to having a clear understanding of credits already earned, credits yet needed for senior year in order to meet graduation requirements, and what courses best meet the needs of the student as they prepare for post-secondary education after graduation. Parents of Junior Students . . . watch for your appointment.



What Every Parent Should Know About Financial Aid

"Financial Aid 101" workshop for parents

**An informational workshop for families
that will be sending someone to
college in the next 3 years.**

March 30, 2010

CHS Cafeteria

5:15-6:00 p.m.

(During Parent/Teacher Conferences)

This workshop is especially helpful to parents of Sophomores & Juniors wondering, "How can we best prepare for the expense of our kids' college education?" A representative of Great Lakes Financial, a higher education, student financial aid guarantor, will be on hand to help high-school families begin to better plan for the future education of their children. Parents of Freshmen are also welcome to attend. The meeting looks to provide an abundance of helpful information. Thoughtful planning now can make the financial aid process go much more smoothly when students have reached their senior year. Plan to attend this helpful presentation!! Call the Guidance Office EXT 106 at the High School for more information.



High School News

Mr. Reising's **5-12 Physical Education** classes recently completed the pickle-ball unit. Pickle-ball is played on the badminton court and is the combination of table tennis, badminton, and tennis. Basketball 3 on 3, floor hockey, dodgeball, ultimate matball, fitness workouts, and badminton activities are presently taking place with an indoor archery unit to follow. The 5th and 6th grade students are presently involved in the "Winter Olympics". The events include: ice fishing, snow ball throw, luge, slalom skiing, hockey, biathlon, and speed skating.

The **Personal Fitness** classes continue to work very hard in the gym and fitness room to improve athletic performance, reduce incidence of injury, and develop positive lifelong health and fitness habits. The following have earned the club listed.

Bronze Club:

Edward Cedgard
Dakota Bernhardt
Zach Meier
Jordan McMillan
Chance Morley
Scott Schnering
Isaiah Okey
Joe Hochhausen
Harley Cederquist
Jordan Fure
Garrett Schauff

Silver Club:

Dallas Bernhardt
Tyler Kirschbaum

The 2010 version of the **Cassville Forensics** team is both small in numbers and generally young in experience. The team ventured to DeForest on January 30 and to Sun Prairie on February 6. At both of these tournaments Emily Ballweg made the final power round and won a medal for her Four Minute entry. The forensics team will be in action at Prairie du Chien for the sub-district on February 22. After that the team will go to Blanchardville for the Six-Rivers Conference Tournament on March 6 and then to Platteville for the district tournament on March 20.

The final event for the year will be the state tournament in Madison on Friday, April 16. Other members who will be competing on Monday at Prairie du Chien are Hannah Rupp in poetry, Rachel Ackerman in poetry. Chase Pebworth in demonstration, Paige Hampton in four minute, Tami Mumm in storytelling, and Grace Ballweg and Kelsey Kirschbaum in play acting.

On January 6, 2010, the Cassville School District held its local spelling bee. Twenty students from grades five through eight competed for the right to advance to the **South Sectional Spelling Bee**. The three students who advanced to the South Sectional Spelling Bee were all seventh graders: Zoe Gotzinger (2010 School Champion), Brittany Markley (1st runner-up), and Hayley Williams (2nd runner-up). The alternate was Gage Kaufman, an eighth grader. The winning word this year was "bachelor."

Other students who competed were as follows: GRADE 8: Brandon Laufenberg, Sean Murray, Jenny Tanaka, Austin Mellem; GRADE 7: Brad Klein, Dillon Vogt; GRADE 6: Jared Kartman, Dani Evans, Ally Clauer, Rylie Laufenberg, Walker Gotzinger; GRADE 5: Kennedy McMillan, Wyatt Ley, Will Baliff, Brittany Wiederholt, and Blake Borcharding.

The **South Sectional Spelling Bee** was held at Cuba City Elementary School on Jan. 25 at 6:30 P.M. Unfortunately, no one from Cassville advanced.

Cassville High School Yearbook Staff donated \$5.00 of every Yearbook Ad they sold on Thursday, February 25th to the Haiti Relief Fund. The total donation came to \$25.



Music News

Thirteen **junior high band** students participated in **Solo and Ensemble** contest on February 1. The students hard work and practice time definitely paid off with all students eligible for ratings receiving first and second ratings. All participants did an excellent job on their performances!

On Tuesday, March 2, all band, chorus, and guitar students in grades 5-8 will be taking a trip to see the **Madison Symphony Orchestra Spring Young Peoples Concert**. A grant was applied for and received from Target to make this trip possible for these students. They are looking forward to an educational and exciting day.

High school students were offered the opportunity to participate in two different honors bands this quarter. Madeline Bode, Tamara Mumm, and Isaac Okey were nominated and selected to participate in the **Tri-State Honors Band** hosted by UW-Platteville on February 19 and 20. Four students will be participating in the **Six Rivers West Conference Honors Band** held on March 2 and March 8. These students are Emily Ballweg, Madeline Bode, Tamara Mumm, and Hannah Rupp. Congratulations to these students on being selected to participate in honors band.



Elementary News

The **Grade 5** science class is working with Newton's Laws of motion with lab activities. Many different questions and ideas have come from these.

In reading/SS classes they are learning about what caused the Revolutionary War and how many families were divided with their beliefs. One guided reading group finished the story *Because of Winn Dixie* and spent time working with character traits.



The **Cassville Elementary School fourth graders and St. Charles School third and fourth graders** were delighted to have Mr. Clyde Male present information to them about bald eagles and other birds in our area of Wisconsin. Mr. Male visited our school in January prior to Bald Eagle Days in Cassville. The students learned many interesting facts about the birds and their habitat. We were able to see a bald eagle, golden eagle, and an osprey which were then on display for the community's weekend events.



The **4K class** is really enjoying the 2010 Winter Olympics. They are using phy-ed time to try out some of the Olympic sports with an elementary twist to them. They are also taking advantage of the wonderful snow outside and doing some downhill sledding. As a class they keep track of all of the medals won by the US. So far the US is in first place and they keep rooting them on!

Some upcoming events in 4K include: a tour of the Cassville Fire Station, a Dr. Seuss' birthday celebration, and preparation for St. Patrick's Day.



4K with their Olympic bulletin board

In mid-March, the junior high band and the high school band will be taking part in band clinics. A **guest conductor** from **UW-Platteville** will be visiting for the day and working with band students in those groups.

Five high school students are working hard as they prepare to perform in **Solo and Ensemble Contest**. This contest will take place in Wauzeka on March 27. Best of luck to these students on their upcoming performances.

During spring break, a number of the high school band and chorus students will be participating in the **music booster trip** to Chicago. They will be going to see a Chicago Symphony Concert, Beauty and the Beast, and visit several museums.

Students continue to be scheduled for **weekly lessons**. Please check with your children to make sure they are attending all their scheduled lessons, and continue to encourage your children to spend time practicing their instruments at home.

Cassville High School hosted the **Six Rivers High School Honors Choir and the Middle School Honors Choir** on January 25. The High School Honors Choir was conducted by Mr. Greg Dennis, UWP and the Middle School Honors Choir was conducted by Ms. Keri Rasmussen, Tomah High School. Two hundred twenty students and teachers were accommodated in our high school gym (high school) and the River Valley Community Center (middle school) for their rehearsals, and the evening concert was held in the high school gym. This smoothly run day was a tribute to the cooperation and assistance from our entire Cassville Public Schools staff, Okey's Market, Ma's Bakery, Stratton Bus Company, and the River Valley Community Church. Cassville High School Students who performed were Alyssa Adrian, Emily Ballweg, Harley Cederquist, Greg Kutterna, Katie Muller, Tamara Mumm, and Gabel Schaal. Middle School Students representing Cassville at this event were Destiny Cederquist, Dallas Esser, Gage Kaufman, Kami Kedley, Tyler Koehler, Cheyenne Mumm, Kayla Mumm, Abbey Rauch, Codi Schwab, Jenny Tanaka, Dillon Vogt, Tarka White.



Reality Check 2010

Reality Check 2010 will be happening for all Cassville High School Seniors on Thursday, March 25, 2010. Reality Check is a financial literacy simulation that gives students a first-hand look at the realities of life. Students engage in the activity with area businesses to gain an insight and understanding of the pressures associated with living costs and monthly spending. Students spend the day buying homes, cars, insurance, clothing, vacations, and paying for speeding tickets, broken water pipes, dental care and more. The Reality Check activity gives students a taste of reality as they prepare for their future.

Cassville Elementary Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On Friday, February 12th, the Cassville Elementary School celebrated their 20th anniversary. The school, which opened in 1990, held an assembly and a school carnival to mark the occasion.

The assembly honored students and staff from the past 20 years and began the process of looking forward to the next 20 years. The elementary students, under the direction of Ms. Jodi Addison, sang two songs during the assembly. Wade Okey led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Kailani Biehl, and Alexandria Clauer gave the Opening Remarks. Mr. Jerry Barton gave the prayer, Mrs. Susan Kremer introduced the staff from 1990, and Mr. Leland Kulland spoke of our 20th anniversary.

The time capsule that was made and placed into the elementary school wall in February 1990, was opened and the contents displayed in the Media Center. The 1990 items were available for viewing by the public along with the new items that will go into the capsule and placed back into the wall of the school. These new items will help students 20 years from now to have a better understanding of how school life is today. After the assembly, the students enjoyed the rest of the morning participating in the school carnival.



Elementary Students performed...



Mr. Jerry Barton opens with a school prayer and Mrs. Susan Kremer introduces the 1990 Elementary Staff.



Mr. Leland Kulland, District Administrator and Chantel Hampton, School Board member both spoke at the celebration.



Mr. Bud Faurote with closing remarks....



Students from the past enjoy viewing the Time Capsule items with their children...