



Comet Courier

Volume 12, Issue 2

December 2010

Hello Students, Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

Welcome to the holiday seasons, the beginning of winter sports seasons and forensics, and other activities that occur inside our buildings! After a warm fall, winter is upon us.

We have a newly refurbished high school gymnasium floor after we repaired, resanded, and repainted our floor this fall. Last summer brought very humid conditions and after several years of waxing our gym, the floors started to show signs of upheaval. We tried to do a temporary fix until next summer but decided to redo the floor right after our fall seasons. When we redid the floors we also added the words "CASSVILLE" to each side of the basketball court along with our traditional sign of the comet. It looks brand new and hopefully will help our teams compete even better this winter.

As a result of the high school floor, we had to relocate our annual Veterans Day Program to the elementary gymnasium. I think that it actually made the day more intimate and special in a smaller setting. We had a very good program with a special guest speaker. Sergeant Zach Fisher of the Wisconsin Army National Guard spoke at our program. He has served in Afghanistan in his military duty. We also had our annual Veterans Day Tea in the elementary media center before the program.

We also had our traditional holiday elementary and high school concerts in early December. The weather cooperated in both instances. We are just starting our basketball and wrestling seasons. We are hosting a boys' holiday tournament at Cassville on December 29th and our girls' basketball team goes to Riverdale for a holiday tournament on December 28th. We will have an early release at 1:00 P.M. for the holidays on December 22nd and resume school on Monday, January 3.

We have completed our WKCE tests for this year and will continue these types of tests until the school year

of 2014-2015. At that time we will have a new type of test to measure our progress that will be closely aligned with national standards. We are just beginning to investigate new educational standards called "Common Core State Standards". These standards are described as "defining the knowledge and skills students should have within their credit-bearing academic college courses, and in workforce training programs." The State of Wisconsin adopted these standards this year. As we start planning for the years to come, these standards will change some of our curriculum in the near future.

School is going by rapidly and on behalf of Cassville Schools, I wish each of you happy holidays and good cheer!

Go Comets!
Mr. Lee Kulland
Superintendent/Principal



Congratulations to Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Winners! Pictured above are Rachel Ackerman - 1st Place Voice of Democracy - \$200 Savings Bond, Jared Kasten - Commander VFW Post 7080, Walker Gotzinger - 1st Place Patriot's Pen - \$200 Savings Bond, and Danielle Ackerman - 2nd Place Patriot's Pen - \$150 Savings Bond.

High School News



The **Spanish III** students will be reading Don Quixote for the next few weeks. They are very excited about reading this story in Spanish. These students also made poems in the shape of a diamond and presented them to their class.

The **Spanish II** students are learning about travel. They will be working on a travel booklet and brochure which will be presented to the class. Each student will have a different country and will need to use the internet to find pertinent information on their specific country.

The **Spanish I** students just finished some descriptions in class. They made a poster telling about themselves which they presented to the class. They will be working on present verb conjugation for the next few weeks .



Some of **Mr. Casey's** students are learning skills in critical thinking and the "language of argument." They are examining induction, which is the process of drawing a general conclusion from incomplete evidence, deduction (the opposite of induction), ambiguous language, faulty premises, and bias. The goal is for them to learn to better analyze evidence, values and logic to improve their judgements of advertising, political statements, and various persuasive writings.



As our Christmas performances are now complete, it is time for **band students** to begin looking ahead to activities that will take place in the spring. Band students are receiving new music to begin preparations for their next performance. This performance will be held during the school day for the elementary school students as a celebration of national **Music In Our Schools Month**, which is the month of March.

Students will also be given the opportunity to sign up to participate in **Solo and Ensemble** festival. All students are encouraged to take part in this as a way to improve their individual playing skills. Students can choose to participate by playing a solo or may be part of a small group.

Parents are reminded that all students are scheduled for **weekly lessons**. Please continue to check with your child to ensure he/she is attending lessons regularly.

November 17th was **National GIS Day** and the students in **Ms. Paulson's World Civilizations** class had a guest speaker to help teach them about this day. Jared Kasten, a member of the class of 2000 from CHS, spoke to the students about GIS Day and presented information to the students how GIS is being used in the field of business, urban planning and historical research. GIS, or Geographic Information System is a computer-based system that makes and uses spatial data. Mr. Kasten will graduate with a Bachelors degree in Geography and a GIS Minor this December, from UW. Platteville.



Mr. Kasten demonstrates how GIS works on the Smartboard.

Business Education News



- On Wednesday, November 3 the Second Grade students worked with Desktop Publishing students to find and print clipart for their binder projects about themselves. Erik Ahlman photographed and video taped for this project. Cecilie Nyhus and Aneta Brasenova created a glog located at <http://sedjogf.edu.glogster.com/Glog-4272/>.
- Desktop Publishing students Brooke Becwar and Ryan Mergen have worked with Kindergarten, 4th Grade and Elementary Phy. Ed. students video taping and taking photos for their Beaver Project. The Beaver Project has culminated in a glog located at <http://s8j7u2v.edu.glogster.com/beaver/>.

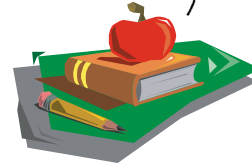
- 8th Grade Students were busy working on Social Studies projects for Ms. Paulson in collaboration with Mrs. Oswald. For their History: Past, Present, and Future project, they created a PowerPoint which included video of several interviews with community members about Cassville's past, present and future. 8th Graders also created large tabloid posters for several area veterans which were on display for Veterans Day and given to the veterans that were present that day.
- Information Processing students created glogs (webpages) about Cassville's Veterans Day event. Keep an eye out at the new Cassville School District website for posting of these glogs!
- Jim Hampton of Bloomington Farmer's Mutual Insurance spoke to Mrs. Oswald's Personal Finance class on Auto and Home Insurance on Tuesday, November 16.
- Anne McIntyre, Senior Career Development Coordinator from Herzing University, came to visit Business Ed. classes on October 21. She discussed credit card use, neurolinguistics, and technology degrees.
- The 2010-2011 Yearbook Theme has been chosen by the yearbook staff! Students brainstormed in groups to develop four different themes which they then voted on. The students chose: *Painting Memories*.

There are still 2010 Yearbooks for sale!
The cost is \$40. For more information
Call Mrs. Oswald at 725.5116 Ext 172!



Business Ed. Students working with 2nd Grade...

Elementary News



The **5K and 4th grade** recently completed their **Place Based Learning Project** with the study of beavers and their habitat. This unit involved the cooperative efforts of Mrs. Reynolds and the 5K students, Mrs. Boyum and the 4th graders, and Ms. Studnicka including library skills and Phy. Ed. activities. Mrs. Oswald and Brooke Becwar with the Desktop Publishing class took pictures and created a website for the project. Last, but not least, Mr. Clyde Male of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge presented information on the beaver and other fur-bearing animals found along the Mississippi River.

The 5K and 4th grade students partnered to do research on beavers, wrote a report, and created a beaver dam or lodge diorama. iPads and the Smartboard were used to watch podcasts about these fur-bearing animals. Computer websites and library research materials were also utilized. The final projects were displayed in Mike Shield's storefront window on Amelia Street. Amy Okey, Ann Louise Ryznar, and Carla Jensen creatively displayed the projects.

A special thank you is extended to Becky Hampton for all her extra help in making this project memorable. Another thank you is extended to all who helped make this a wonderful educational experience for our students. This project has led to more cooperative experience for the 5K and 4th grade students. At this time they are buddy reading with each other and working on a special guidance lesson with Mr. Boyum.

~~~~~

The **third graders** have been very busy second quarter. The quarter started out with the third graders hosting a **Veteran's Day Tea** celebration for area Veterans. The students used American Sign Language to sign some of the lyrics to America the Beautiful. The students have been busy measuring in mathematics. They will begin a unit on multiplication soon. The students also have been studying weather and the different levels of government. In English, the students are writing letters in order to participate in "**The Great Mail Race**". Third graders from across this nation write letters to other schools in order to learn about schools and other states.

## *A shout-out from Mrs. Amy Okey to the fifth graders:*

Becky Wetter offered to have her **5th grade class** walk down to Volunteer Park to help me clean the gazebo. It was full of cobwebs and dirt, but also had graffiti scribbled throughout. Wow.....they came, willing and excited about helping! I used the situation to tell them the history of the park and how it had been gifted to our village. I told them that since they lived in Cassville, it belonged to them & their families. I said that when people vandalized the park, it was not unlike someone coming to their own home and scribbling on the walls. They listened intently--and really worked! I didn't hear one complaint--even though the wind was COLD! Even though the gazebo is in need of repainting, it looks much better. *Nice Job Fifth Graders!*



**Title I Reading** hosted a **Bedtime Story Hour** the evening of November 18th for students in grades 4K - 6 from both Cassville Elementary and St. Charles. Students came wearing their pajamas and brought along a favorite stuffed animal. They listened to wonderful stories read by Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Kremer, and Ms. Studnicka, and enjoyed cookies and milk for their bedtime snack! It was a huge and very fun success! Thanks to all who attended--we hope you enjoyed it!



The **4K class** has had a very busy start to the winter. We just completed the Winter Concert on Thursday, December 2nd. The 4K groups combined for this wonderful event. They did a great job!

This month the 4K is learning how to write the letters T and I. New to our classroom this year is the Smartboard and the students really enjoy working on the Smartboard with integrated letter activities.

We also have a new student in our class. We would like to welcome Madison Logan to 4K which brings our class total to 20 kids. Always happy for more! Happy Holidays from Mrs. Copsey the 4K class.



## *Annual Spelling Bee Held!*

On Friday, December 10, the annual school spelling bee was held with twenty students from grades 5-8 participating. It was a very competitive bee and our students did a great job! Hats off to Sierra Mumm from the 5th grade who actually won the bee, however, this year, 5th graders were unable to advance to the sectional bee. The top three spellers advancing to the sectional bee are: Walker Gotzinger, Gr. 7; Gabriel Phillips, Gr. 8; and Dakota Reynolds, Gr. 7. The alternate is Brad Klein. The sectional spelling bee will be held at Southwestern School in Hazel Green on January 24, 2011. Good luck to our spellers!!!



*5th Grader Sierra Mumm won the local Spelling Bee!*



*Top three spellers who will advance include: Gabriel Phillips, Walker Gotzinger and Dakota Reynolds pictured above.*

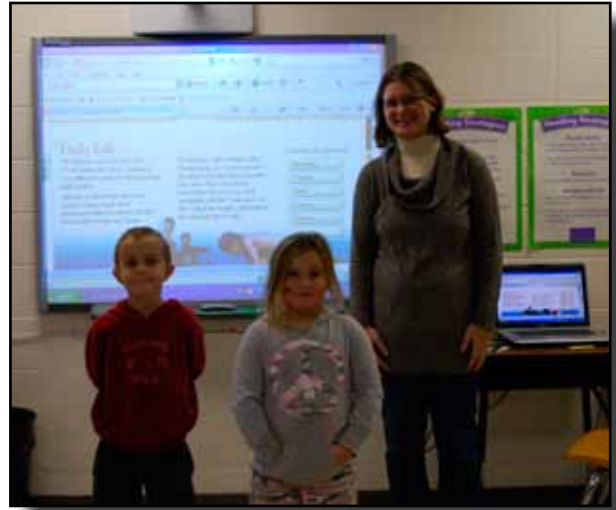


*Alternate - Brad Klein*

*Thanksgiving Feast enjoyed by First, Second, and Third Grades....*



To wrap up the studies on Thanksgiving, **first, second, and third graders** came together for a Thanksgiving Feast in the second grade classroom. The students enjoyed muffins, popcorn, pumpkin pie, and cranberries. They also shared games that may have been played by Native American and Pilgrim children long ago. The grand finale came in the form of Smartboard presentations on the Mayflower voyage and on Native American and Pilgrim lifestyles. It was a wonderful way to end our holiday unit! The students greatly enjoyed the day!



*First Grade assistants & Mrs. Sondreal enjoy sharing the daily life of Native Americans and Pilgrims on the interactive Smartboard technology.*



*Feasting on corn muffins, popcorn, cranberries, & pumpkin pie has become a favorite tradition of the students.*



*Native Americans and Pilgrims prepare their authentic games of "Ring on a Stick" and the "Button Game."*

*5th Grade Events:*

- Walked to park in center of town and helped Mrs. Amy Okey clean up the gazebo. Good volunteering and were even treated to cookies and hot chocolate.
- Performed reader's theater for each other with plays about turkeys and Davy Crockett
- Enjoyed the hovercraft made by Mr. Duerst's Physics class.
- Completed a Cranberry unit before Thanksgiving by making cranberry muffins and cranberry salsa.

*Elementary Holiday Program held on December 2, 2010*



*Grades 1 - 6*



*5K Class*



*4K Class*