



# Comet Courier

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## **Hello Students, Staff, Parents & Community:**

As I look outside and see the snow piled up and blowing around again, it's hard to believe that nicer weather is just around the corner, but it most certainly is...the robins that were in my front yard this weekend are a good sign!

I'd like to use the majority of this article to thank those who allow us the opportunity to get out of the house and help get us through the cold months. What would we do on these long nights without our winter sports?

First on the list is our group of student athletes, who give hours of hard work and dedication to our programs. There are a lot of memories made on the court and many life lessons taught, if you pay attention...you all bring a lot of fun to the fans, both young and old, who come to support their Comets.

Second, thank you to our coaches for their time and commitment to these young men and women. Anybody who has ever led a team knows that it isn't an easy job and is one that oftentimes goes unnoticed and unappreciated, but gets plenty of criticism. That goes with the territory, but it's important to remember that you can't expect anyone to do anything more than the best they can do. We're all human.

Thank you to the pep band and members of our community who step in to make it that much better. It

completely changes the atmosphere in the gymnasium when you're up there playing, and is one of those things that isn't seen or heard at schools very often anymore. We're fortunate to have you!

Last, but not least, a huge thanks to the people who print programs, take tickets, work concessions, keep book, run the clock, do crowd control...and those who clean up after everyone else has gone home. These are the things make our home games possible and you are appreciated!

Our school and its students are lucky to have great support from local businesses, organizations, and community members. There are a number of people who regularly step in and donate their time and money to keep our programs running, and we are always looking for ways to "give back" by increasing the use of our facilities by the public. We house a multitude of non-school related community events, allow the use of our weight room, open the buildings for winter walking, etc. If you have additional ideas on ways that we can utilize our school, please let us know. We are the heart of our community and would like to promote it any way that we can.



**Think spring!  
Chad Infield  
Dean of Students  
Activities Director**

## **From the Office of the Superintendent:**

We are in the midst of winter season, but will soon be thinking about spring and even graduation. High school students are planning on classes for next year, and seniors will be making plans on life after high school. In both cases, don't hesitate to ask for advice from your teachers and counselor. You can even ask advice from the administration! All are willing to help you, the student, do what is best for you. It is these connections that are vitally important throughout your lives.

We recently had snow days which will tack on one more day of classes at the end of the year. School for grades K-11 will now end on Thursday, May 26th. Hopefully these winter days and cancelations are behind us.

We will soon be taking more tests in the high school and elementary. I am pleased that our facilities and equipment are able to accommodate the new tests. Good luck to the students on these tests!

This year's senior class is full of talented individuals, and this last semester will fly by. I hope you each take time to enjoy your friends, family, opportunities, and these last days of high school. No matter what road you take after graduation, these final days become memories before you know it. Make these days great; make them positive for yourself and for others. Where you go and what you do next is up to you!

Our spring activities will be starting soon. Good luck to all our athletes, musical and forensic performers, and coaches. Be sure to work hard on the things you love, try something new and make the most of each day!

Bring on spring and some warmer weather!



**Go Comets!  
Mr. John Luster  
Superintendent**

# High School News

## 7th and 8th Grade Reading

For second semester, 7th and 8th graders are working in an Accelerated Reading program. Students and their teacher, Mrs. Bernhardt, discuss their individual reading levels and develop goals for each quarter. Students earn points by reading books and taking quizzes. So far, 18 of the 35 students reached 25% of their goals by Feb. 3 and were treated to a hot chocolate and cookie reward. On Feb. 18, students who reach 50% of their reading goals will receive homework passes. At the end of each quarter, students reaching their 100% of their goals get to be in a raffle for prizes donated



by our community and area businesses. Thanks to our local support in encouraging reading in our school: Okey's Market, Royal Bank, Fill My Cup, Vogt's Town Pump, Cassville BP, The Crossing, and Sand Bar.

## Introduction to Public Speaking

Twelve students are currently earning college speech credit by being enrolled in this course for the year. Recently students in public speaking finished working on informative speeches. They were challenged not only to use just note cards rather than a manuscript, but also to memorize the introductions and closings of their four-minute speeches. For a little break from the intensity of this assignment, students are being challenged to demonstrate their creativity. They must find a wacky or bizarre holiday, such as March 1, which is National Pig Day, and then develop a radio ad to promote the holiday. The challenge is composing a script that hooks the audience's interest and can be delivered in a 35-45 second time slot. Happy National Pig Day from the Public Speaking class!!



## Senior Communication

The twenty seniors in Mrs. Bernhardt's Senior Communication class are currently studying ethics in the workplace. They will be analyzing ethical dilemmas and proposing solutions. One facet of the unit involves researching breaches of workplace ethics, such as the current Steven Avery murder case and other nationally-



known cases, and making presentations to the class. The final project is the creation of a personal code of ethics or a code of conduct that relates to each of their specific career fields.

## Criminalistics

The Criminalist Class is in full swing this quarter in preparation for the upcoming "Crime Scene" at the end of 4th quarter. The students have examined documents and learned and participated in the 12 steps to identify original and forged materials. Currently they're learning the steps to processing a crime scene, as well as the proper way to collect and record information that would be collected and would ultimately be used in the court case.

On the 24th of February, Mr. Tom Kretschman was a guest speaker at our school. Mr. Kretschman talked to students about the many career opportunities that exist in the criminal justice system field.



## World History

World History students are currently studying Imperialism. Imperialism is when larger, stronger, wealthier nations take over smaller nations. Imperialism is an ancient concept in the history of our world. It is also an idea that still can happen in our world today. The wealthier nations often change the culture of those nations they took over. The students are connecting choices of nations in the past to current situations in our world today. Understanding the past may just help our students with the situations in our world today.



## Physical Education

Mr. Reising's 5th-12th grade Physical Education classes recently completed a variety of indoor recreational activities with substitute Mrs. Okey. Mr. Reising would like to thank all of the students for their outstanding effort and behavior for Mrs. Okey during his absence. Presently the classes are involved in a doubles pickle-ball tournament, with a singles tourney to follow. Badminton, fitness workouts, and archery will be the final indoor activities of the year.

## Health

The 9th grade Health students completed the Heartsaver 1st Aid/CPR and AED training. Each student received an American Heart Association CPR card, which is valid for two years. Presently the students are designing PowerPoint on a variety of interesting health related topics.

## Personal Fitness

The Personal Fitness classes continue to work hard in the fitness room and gym to improve athletic performance, reduce incident of injury and develop positive, lifelong health and fitness habits. We implemented the "Better-Faster-Stronger" program and proven to be very popular and successful.

Have a "GREAT" active day!

## JH & HS Band

Both bands are currently preparing music for their March 7th Pops Concert! This is one of our favorite concerts as we perform some of the most popular songs on the radio, tv, and in film! Selected high school band students are also practicing hard on their music for the High School Honors Band festival hosted by Potosi on March 8th. Both bands are also working on individual solos for the annual Solo & Ensemble festival hosted by Highland on April 2nd in which all of the schools in the Six Rivers Western conference gather to show off their musical talents!

## Track Season Approaching Fast

Believe it or not the spring sports season starts in less than three weeks. The Cassville High School track and field teams begin their season with the first practice March 7th. While there still may be snow on the track right now, it won't be an issue as the Comets compete twice indoors at UW-Platteville during March before starting their outdoor season in April. CHS science teacher Jeff Hetcher starts his first year as the boys' and girls' head coach here in Cassville. Hetcher expects another good season from the Comets after acting as Co-Interim Head Coach with Gary Corbett last year. "Our boys team was 3rd in the conference and the girls were 5th last year. We re-wrote two schools record, had several individual conference champions and got three guys to state, so we had a great year. So we expect to build on what happened last year, but track is fun because everybody gets a chance to improve and do their best. Anybody who keeps getting better through the year has a good season." said Hetcher. The Comets lone appearance at home will occur during the Cassville Invitational April 14th.

Returning letter winners for the girls include sectional qualifier senior Bailie Becwar in the hurdles, and promising sophomore thrower Paige Johll. On the boys side two-year state qualifier in the sprints, senior Dylan Johll looks to take over as the Comets top sprinter with eyes on breaking the school record in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes and getting back to state and earning his way onto the awards podium after narrowly missing out on a medal at last year's state meet. Fellow senior Gus Hetcher finished last year strong and expects to be one of the better discus throwers in the conference. Jared Kartman and Caleb Dahse also enter their final campaigns as the Comet's top long sprinters and horizontal jumpers.

The middle school track teams begin practice the first week of April and have five competitions from mid-April to mid-May, including the Cassville middle school invitational at home on April 19th.



## Art 3-D

Each art 3-D student made at least one or more Valentines cards from construction paper along with other materials. Students participate in making Valentines cards for the residents at Manor Care in Dubuque, IA. Thank you to the students for their participation in this project to help brighten someone's day!!



Art 3-D students also made a 3-D Valentine from clay using a flat clay panel technique for the process. The Valentine was then kiln fired, glazed to color, and refired in the kiln. Each student produced this Valentine for their mom for Valentines Day.

The students are now working on making a paper mache cartoon character. The students are presently about three-fourths of the way into the project. In the end, the students will also paint the character.

Advanced art students are working on painting on canvas. One piece will be a airbrush render of Michael Jordan that will include acrylic paints. Another piece is a modern abstract rendering of a face. This will be painted with Acrylic paints. The third piece is a rendering of native american tapestry. This piece will be painted with Oil paints.

Kennedy McMillan, as an advanced art student and teacher assistant, is heading up an art project joined with the Technology Education department. The project is an acrylic painting on plywood portraying images for CTE Month. The images are of Ag, Business & Information Technology, and Technology Education. This painting will hang in the hall between each of the departments when complete.



**Technology Education**

**7th grade** is presently experiencing their first woodworking project in Technology Education. The students have gone through YouTube video presentations of the Jointer, Table Saw, Miter Saw, and Drill Press safety. They then took the information to the actual machine to present the safety step by step to the instructor. Each student then ran the machine to prove the safe use to the instructor. Each student has chose from four different simple woodworking game boards and will now produce two of their choosing. This process will be done with an industrial assembly process between the equipment. They will experience how the assembly process will speed the building process up. Future experiences will include, but not be limited to: rocketry building, 3-D printing; solid works drawing; and much more.



**7th Graders at work on drill press and miter saw!**



**Woodworking** students are divided into many different levels this year. Five students are currently working on the beginning level 1 and 2 woodworking. These students are experiencing tool safety in depth. The students are going through YouTube video presentations of the Jointer, Table Saw, Miter Saw, Drill Press, Surfacer, Sanders, Router, and Lathe safety. Each student then ran the machine to prove the safe use to the instructor. This is then followed up with a safety test. Once complete, the students will learn measurement, how to figure up a board foot, and how to square a piece of lumber using step by step directions for each piece of equipment to make a board square. This will lead to a final small project of their choosing to complete by the end of the semester.



**Woodworking students progressing on their projects!**

Two advanced students have set up a new wood lathe and sharpened existing wood lathe tools. Once this process is complete, they will turn out a simple cup and work to bigger projects such as bowls. Another advanced student is in the process of creating a table top from oak that will have a glow material added to it in spots. This material will then give the table a glow in the dark effect. Cam Jensen has been with the Technology Education department since he was a sophomore. Now as a senior, he is working on many different projects. currently he is building a little library that will be put on school grounds for the community to enjoy. He is also getting his first experience fixing furniture and upholstery. This is a tedious task and he is doing very well with it!! Cam will also be hanging the CTE plywood painting for all to enjoy in the hallway.



**Cam Jensen in the shop...**

**Students of the Month**



**January**  
**Multi-Age Group**  
 Brielle Baliff, Cassidy Hyer-Kemerling, & Melody Hampton

**Social Studies**  
 Caleb Adams

**Art**  
 Dylan Johll

**Technology Education**  
 Cam Jensen

**Math**  
 Lydia Reynolds

**Teacher Assistant**  
 Gus Hetcher

**Grant County Herald Independent Teen of the Week**  
 Caleb Adams

**February**  
**Business Information & Technology**  
 Skyla Kemerling-Hyer

**English**  
 Whitney Churchill

**Agriculture**  
 Ashley Williams

**Science**  
 Rebecca Fure & Levi Hampton

**Grant County Herald Independent Teen of the Week**  
 Skyla Kemerling-Hyer

**March**  
**Extra-Curricular**  
 Taliesin Project Student Group

**Social Studies**  
 3rd Hour Social Studies 8 Class



**Math (JH)**  
 Jade McDonald

**Math (HS)**  
 Danielle Ackerman

**Foreign Language**  
 Madison Kirschbaum

**Business & Information Technology**  
 Skyler Bartels

**Grant County Herald Independent Teen of the Week**  
 Danielle Ackerman

**Taliesin Project**

The Cassville Taliesin Project has been moving forward over the last two months establishing members, establishing the Phase I design process, and beginning Phase I. Student members of the Taliesin Project include: Taylor Ploessl, Caleb Dahse, Bailie Becwar, Jenna Baliff, Jared Kartman, Rylie Laufenberg, Andrea Okey, Walker Gotzinger, Christal Bean, Skyler Bartels, & Payton Brinkman under the direction of Mrs. Oswald. The goal of the project is to work together with Taliesin Preservation, Inc., the community of Cassville, and the Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to provide downtown businesses with an architectural masterplan of facade improvement ideas for revitalization.

Phase I of the project includes: (1) Define the Problem, (2) Collect Information, (3) Brainstorm/Analyze, (4) Develop Solutions. Within each of these steps includes many meetings, presentations, researching, etc. At the current time, students are done with collecting information and are presenting it to the larger group which consists of all the parties involved. On Friday, March 4, Taliesin, the community, Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning all came together at Cassville High School to view a presentation from all students in the project on their collected information.



**Taliesin Project Student Group**



## ✓ Elementary News

Photos of students in Grades 3-6 that traveled to Dubuque Mystique Ice Center on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.



### Read Across America Day!

Read Across America Day was Wednesday, March 2, 2016. Mr. Leibfried had 6th Graders choose a book and read to the Kindergarteners. Photos below!



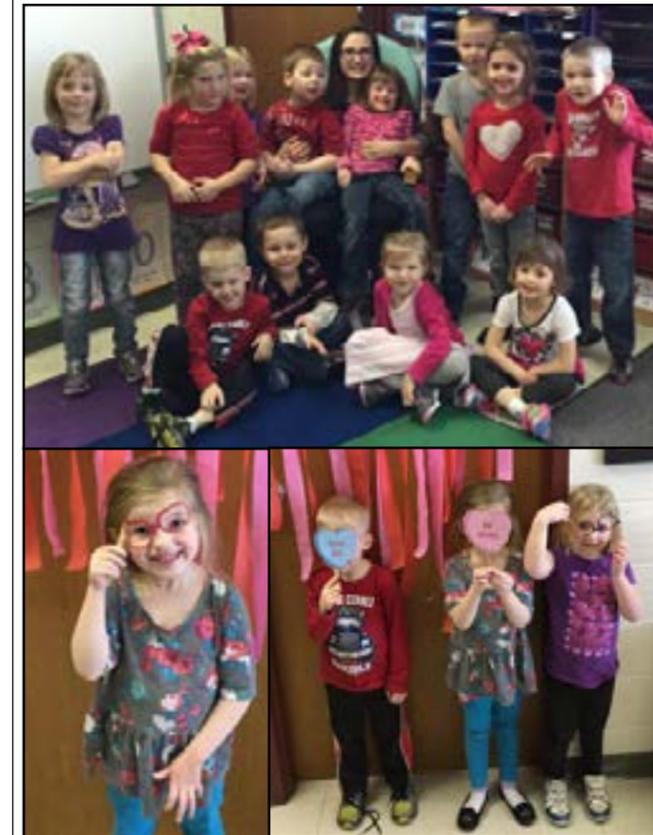
### Elementary Students Purchase Trees



Cassville elementary students raised money to purchase four each of 3-5 foot oak, maple, and birch trees! The elementary students, alongside high school students, will be planting the trees on Friday, April 22, 2016 which is Earth Day. **If anyone in the community is interested in having one of these trees planted in their yard, please contact Chad Infield, Dean of Students at 608.725.5116 Extension 103.**

### 4K Enjoys First Valentine's Day Party

Just days before Valentine's Day, the 4K hosted a Valentine's Day Party. First the students enjoyed using finger paint and glitter, and then had a blast posing in the classroom photo booth smiling with all sorts of silly props. Throughout the day, the class shared valentines with each other and enjoyed many delicious treats.



### Money Skills



Photo of Alex buying an item from the "store" where she learns about money as a real life skill.

### 5K Shapes Clay

The 5K students enjoyed using their knowledge of solid shapes and their problem solving skills to create cylinders, cones, spheres, pyramids, and cubes out of toothpicks and clay.



### First Grade Shows Love for the Earth

First graders have just finished a unit in social studies about the regions of the Earth. They also learned about our natural resources and the importance of caring for our planet. Their final project was creating a poster highlighting one of the three "R"s: Reduce, Recycle, or Reuse. Students did a wonderful job of brainstorming ways to protect and conserve our natural resources.



### Third Graders are Keeping Busy!

Third Graders have been busy studying extended multiplication and division facts. They have been reading animal and biography stories. Also, the students are learning American history around the time of when many of our ancestors came to America. Moreover, they have been studying energy. The students have built several snap circuit projects to enhance their understanding of energy. The most exciting news is that Ms. Procarione has joined us for the quarter. She is a student teacher from UW-Platteville. The students have enjoyed her various activities for teaching new concepts!

### **Fourth Graders Embrace Wisconsin History**

The Fourth Grade students are studying about how the state of Wisconsin progressed from being a territory to statehood. They are learning the importance of key people in history including the first governor, Nelson Dewey. This study of Wisconsin, when it was a young state, is in preparation for the annual, eagerly anticipated field trip to Stonefield.

### **Elementary Physical Ed.**



*Ready, Get Set, Limbo!*

In Elementary Physical Education, students have been working on the following units the past couple of months: basketball, floor hockey, roller skating, and fitnessgram testing. The roller skating was a big success! Thank you to all students for trying something new and helping make the roller skating unit a hit! Many donations came in to make sure every student had skates. Thank you to the various donors that helped bring this roller skating unit to the Elementary!

The following students have exceeded goals in Elementary Physical Education:

**4K** - Ava Ploessl & Bentley Tuescher

**5K** - Jayke Laufenberg & Colton Cooley

**1st Grade** - Brielle Fishnick & Rowan Harbaugh

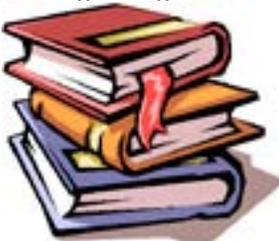
**2nd Grade** - Evan Miles & Makayla Myrda

**3rd Grade** - Keira Fure & Ashton Revels

**4th Grade** - Taylor Rouse & Aiden Thoma

### **What's New in the Library?**

What's New in the Library? Student's have been working very hard on reaching their 2nd quarter Accelerated Reader goals. It was a very successful 1st Quarter with 64% of the school reaching their goal. The 2nd Quarter was even better with 83% of the school reaching their goal. Second and 5th Grades had everyone in their class reach their goal! Let's hit the 100% mark for 3rd Quarter! Parents!--help be your child's advocate to reach their goal!



The following students have met or exceeded their library goals:

**2nd Grade** - Emma Hauk & Carter Ploessl

**3rd Grade** - Race Landon & Ruby Roe

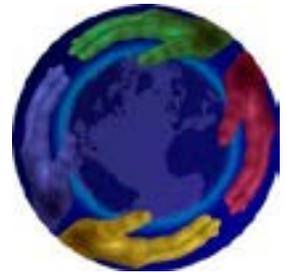
**4th Grade** - Cole Faulkner & Arianna Taylor

**5th Grade** - Noah Vaughn, Mattie Jo Meier, & Cole Churchill

**6th Grade** - Skylar Otte, Cody Klein, & Jonah Vogt

### **Second Grade Keep Busy in Learning Centers**

The second grade students have been very busy. In the science learning center students learned about bald eagles. Their favorite fact was that the eagle wingspan can be wider than Mr. McNett is tall! Students also made an eagle craft to take home. In second grade social studies, students learned geography is the study of Earth, and that Earth has many different types of land and water. After learning what mountains, hills, valleys, plains, and plateaus are, they created edible representations of them. Students enjoyed eating the landforms!



**2nd Grade Eagle Crafts**

