



Coldwater Community Schools
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Calendar of Events:

February 4 - PAC Meeting at LMS 6 p.m. All parents welcome

February 7-8
High School Musical Oklahoma!

February 12
Spring Count Day

February 14
1/2 Day of Classes

February 17
President's Day/Farmer's Day No School

March 14
1/2 Day of Classes

March 27-28
1/2 Day of Classes
Parent Teacher Conferences

April 7-11
Spring Break

MISSION STATEMENT:

Coldwater Community Schools provides a supportive and challenging learning environment where every student is prepared to succeed in a global community.

Ground Broken for New Aquatic Center

Dr. Browne Donates an Additional \$3 Million to Project

Project is expected to be completed by January 2015



In the middle of December ground was broken on the now \$15.6 million recreation project including a state-of-the-art aquatic center and an addition to the current Independence Recreation building. Dr. Robert W. Browne was the generous donor to the project and alumni of Coldwater High School. Dr. Browne wanted to give back to the city that helped him so much growing up. The aquatic center construction will be overseen by the City of Coldwater and then operated by Coldwater Community Schools. The City will continue to manage the activities at the Independence Recreation Center. The project is expected to be completed by January 2015.

Starting in January Coldwater Community Schools will kick off a healthy living initiative for interested teachers and staff, privately funded. Superintendent Dr. Tina Kerr is encouraging staff to take this opportunity to make some small changes to live healthier lives including drinking more water, exercising, eating more fruits and vegetables, getting sufficient sleep and meeting personal goals. "To have healthy kids, we need healthy teachers and because students look to staff as mentors and role models, we want them to be at their best mentally and physically," said Kerr.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BAND!

Kudos to several current and former Coldwater High School band members! On Thanksgiving Day, CHS Senior Tanner Holbrook was drum major for the Macy's Great America Marching Band in New York City. Also, CHS graduates Taylor Hodge and Josh Drzewicki recently participated in the Michigan State University band at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.



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What are your kids learning?

Curriculum Update



By Carrie Johnson
Curriculum
Coordinator
for Coldwater
Community Schools

Staff in all of our buildings are working hard to implement professional learning communities to ensure high levels of learning for all students. Coldwater High School is leading one area of success.

This year CHS has been making use of the half-days in their schedule to help teach students the skills that are necessary to be more successful on the ACT test they will take in March as part of the State's assessment program. On each half day, 11th grade students meet with teachers to review the expectations of the particular test, while having an opportunity to take a past ACT test in each area, review the results with classmates, and then analyze their responses to use each practice test as a learning tool. Each teacher focuses on skills for higher performance and content specific areas of need.

During the half days, the juniors review their performance of English, Math and Science and reading and writing from the PLAN test that they took in the spring of 10th grade. The PLAN test is a predictor for how a student might perform on the ACT test and it is a career development tool to help students determine if their current levels of performance match what will be needed in their particular career pathway. The students evaluate their results, dialogued with classmates about why certain responses were correct, and set a goal for areas to work on before March.

On February 14th all 11th graders will take a full practice test in a real-time setting to help them understand the pacing and stamina that will be required to help them be successful when they take the full ACT test in March.



Congressman Visits Legg Middle School

Congressman Tim Walberg visited with the LMS 8th grade students in December discussing the Constitution while answering many questions from the students on how the Federal government works.

Lakeland Students Win Math Contest

In November Sumdog, a math website, held a contest for Branch and Hillsdale Counties to see which school could earn the most points by solving math problems. Lakeland Elementary was the overall winner! Taylor Robison and Marshall Hoard had high scores, placing them in the top ten students for both counties! Pictured is Hoard with teacher Amy VanZee.



Franklin Childcare Receives Gifts Donation

Thanks to the generous donations from the Girard United Methodist Church, the children at Franklin Childcare Center each had a gift to open at their annual Christmas party. The parents & children enjoyed cookies and punch while listening to Christmas music. The parents received a hand-painted ornament from their child along with Christmas photos of their children.



Annual Student/Teacher Basketball Charity Tournament Held

Game benefits Mentoring Program

On December 12, the Annual LMS B-Ball Bash took place. This is a fun charity event that the Legg staff members conduct each school year. This year 15 staff members and 5 parents took on 31 8th grade girls and boys basketball players in the big game.

At half time, the student team was up by two points. However, the staff team rallied together and came up with a win for LMS with a final score

of 49 - 39 over the students. This means that the Legg staff team remains undefeated for 13 years in a row.

At half-time of the game, a 3-point shoot out took place. Students paid 50 cents to enter and shoot a 3-pointer. The last person still in the shoot-out was Zach Miller (8th grader) who won \$20.00; half of the money from the shoot-out.

Every year, the proceeds from the game are donated to a group or charity in need. All proceeds from this year's game will be donated to the LMS Mentoring Program benefiting students at LMS.



Coldwater Students Again Lead Michigan's House and Senate in Lansing

Every November for the past 11 years students represent Legg Middle School at a three day Youth in Government conference sponsored by the Michigan YMCA in Lansing. The program places over 800 middle school students from across the state in the actual desks of our state senators and representatives and gives them real-life legislative tasks like passing and rejecting bills according to parliamentary procedure. The conference also focuses on leadership skills, civic engagement, debating and compromising skills, and the value of democracy.

This year, LMS Youth In Government Advisors Heather Sobek and Diane Moyer took 54 students. Several of the students were chosen as committee chairpersons to run the committee meetings. Four of the students campaigned and lobbied for the top leadership positions at the conference. Jamie Wellet, Zach Rigot, and Grey Skudlarick represented Legg Middle School successfully by winning the top leadership positions of Lt. Govern-

nor and Speaker of the House.

The students did an outstanding job as they led the full sessions of the Senate and House of Representative in the actual state chambers.

In the weeks leading up to the conference, students learned about the legislative processes and wrote bills about subjects ranging from the identification of GMOs on food labels to teacher certification in CPR to allowing 911 services to accept text messages. Once their bills were written, students practiced using their parliamentary skills by discussing, debating, and amending the bills. During the conference, students act as the legislature debating various bills. Though very few bills were passed, several bills proposed by Legg Middle School students were signed into law by the Youth Governor.



Behavior Program Progress

The Responsible Thinking Process (RTP) was implemented at Legg Middle School in the 2010-2011 school year and is also currently being used by Jefferson, Lakeland, and Coldwater High School. RTP is a tool for our students and staff to employ in order to facilitate growth and learning in a consistent and safe environment. This process enables students to self regulate their behavior.

Legg Middle School is proud to announce that over the last three years the number of referrals to the RTP classroom has been reduced by 86%. The administration attributes this dramatic drop to our staff training and RTP coordinator, Rick Gleeson. We also want to applaud our student body for reflecting and regulating on their own behavior.

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

On December 27, during the first night of the annual Holiday Hoops Tournament at Coldwater High School, the Hall of Fame Committee inducted two people and one community organization into the CHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coldwater Township Sunrise Rotary (Honorary Member) was inducted for their continued support to the Coldwater High School Athletic Department, Coldwater Community Schools, and all of Branch County. They spearheaded the CHS baseball and softball field renovation projects and the construction of the AYSO Creal Soccer Complex. In addition, they have helped to fund the outdoor pavilion at Lakeland Elementary and the replacement of Legg Middle School's American flags.

Thomas Sweitzer was inducted for his 36 years of distinguished service at the helm of the Coldwater High School wrestling program. His career accomplishments as CHS's third wrestling coach in program history include: A career record of 490-400; 5 conference championships and 8 team district titles; 32 qualifiers to the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals and 4 individual state champions; and a Regional Coach of the Year honor.

Aaron Tagert was a three-sport student-athlete, excelling in football, basketball (where he was a key component of the 1999 Class B Final Four team), and track (where he won the 2000 Division 2 Shot Put title with a throw of 55' 4.25") Aaron still holds the school record for shot put (56' 9") and discus (158' 11").



From L-R: Aaron Tagert, Tom Sweitzer, and Coldwater Twp. Sunrise Rotary Past Presidents Mike Beckwith, Lloyd Walrack, and Bill Renner. Not pictured: Rick Gleeson, Project Chair for the Sunrise Rotary's Creal Soccer Complex and CHS Baseball/Softball projects.

UECU Provides Literacy Grant



United Educational Credit Union recently awarded a "Brighter Ideas" grant to Jayne Harris, a fifth grade teacher at Lakeland Elementary School. The \$2,500.00 was awarded for fifth grade teachers to utilize mentor texts with a "Picture Books for Literacy" program. Teachers in the Coldwater Community School District use these books to teach elementary students strategies to become better readers and writers.

All fifth grade students signed a "Thank You, UECU" banner to display in the lobby of Lakeland.

Winter Art Contest Held



Jessie Bachler's Art classes were recently invited to enter their artwork into the LMS Winter Art Contest. The subject was "Winter Wonderland" and students could choose the size and type of picture they wanted to create. Twenty entries were submitted and the LMS teachers were able to choose a first and second place winner for each grade level. Winners were Mckenna Squires, Alexa Davenport, Claire Sheppard, Selena Hostetler, Loreal Halferty, and Kierstein Knapp. The artwork was a variety of styles and subject matter that showed the diversity and creativity of students.



PAC Meetings Set up for Winter/Spring

Each year Superintendent Dr. Tina Kerr holds Parent Advisory Committee meetings to update parents on important school district information, help answer questions they might have and take suggestions. PAC meetings for this year will be held in the LMS Media Center at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Love and Logic Classes Slated for March



Another Parenting with Love and Logic class will be held on Saturday, March 1, 15, 29th from 9:30-1:30 with a break over lunch (on your own). The class will use the general curriculum which is effective for parents of children of any age and will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Coldwater. There is a \$10 fee for the workbook, which can be waived if needed. There are 12 slots for childcare. Please register by calling Dixie Koenemann at the Administration Office (517) 279-5910 ext. 247. This series is a result of a caring partnership between St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Coldwater Community Schools.

Backpack Program Provides Food for Students



Talk about a season of blessings! The Backpack Buddies Program has been so thankful for the donations from the community. Sunrise Rotary and the F. Harold and Lillian Creal Fund at the Branch County Community Foundation donated \$10,200 to purchase groceries to go inside students backpacks.



Meijer also generously donated another \$1,000 gift card for necessary items and a WTVB listener donated a grocery gift card after hearing about the program. Legg Middle School teachers Andrea Chamberlain and Janine Sharrard, organizers of the program, donate their time to purchase groceries and complete paperwork, while students donate time to help unload groceries. Retired teachers and other community members donate time to pack the bags.

These gracious gifts have allowed the program to reach out to all students at Coldwater Community Schools, including Pansophia School. They continue to provide students in transition with weekend meals. In the months of October and November, 495 backpacks were filled with food and provided to students. The need is great; on average 55 students are receiving backpacks each week. The program is always accepting donations.



Donations to Food Pantry Abound Over Holiday Season

The Legg Middle School Student Council held its annual holiday fundraiser to benefit the community. This year \$936.00 and dozens of boxes of canned and dried goods were donated to the Branch Area Food Pantry. Teacher Deb Wilkinson's first hour and Randy Knowles's first hour classes raised the most money and collected the most goods, respectively.



Photo L to R: Student Council Officers Brynn Niedzwicki, Abby Licht, Claire Sheppard, Kelsi Herlan, Ben Fagen, Meredith Grife, and David Roderick. Dick Straw, Food Pantry Manager and Erik Richards, Student Council Advisor.



The Coldwater High School Interact Club also held a canned food drive to benefit the Branch Area Food Pantry. This year, 1,615 lbs. of food was brought in by students and staff, which beat last year's total by 300 lbs. Mr. Stevens' 1st hour class won the competition, bringing in a whopping 530 lbs. of food. They received a pizza party, as well as donuts for their effort this year. Classes that will receive donuts will be Karen Kiss' class (125 lbs.), Jennifer Milligan's class (115 lbs.), John Petzko's class (92 lbs.), Margo Boyd's class (91 lbs.), Sarah Langer's class (82 lbs.), ISD classes (76 lbs.), and Kirsten Whitacre's class (75 lbs.).