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## Voting Information:

Official language of the millage can be found at [www.ColdwaterSchools.org](http://www.ColdwaterSchools.org) and click on Announcements

## November 2:

Last day to vote by absentee ballot

## November 5:

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Residents of the City of Coldwater will vote at the Dearth Center, located at the Branch County Fairgrounds. Township residents will vote at their township hall.

For questions on polling places, please contact the County Clerk's office at 279-4306 or visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)

## MISSION STATEMENT:

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

## School Millage on November Ballot

*Know the facts before you go to the polls!*

### HOW DOES THE MILLAGE AFFECT TAXPAYERS?

This is **not** an increase in the rate of taxation, and there will be no cost increase to homeowners. This is a 17-year renewal of the 18 mill operational millage for Coldwater Community Schools that was originally approved for 20 years in 1993 and expired on July 1, 2013. If approved, the proposed millage would expire in 2030. Principal residences are exempt. Properties such as apartment buildings, rental property, vacation properties, some vacant land, and commercial/industrial properties would see a continuation of the current millage rate.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF THE OPERATIONAL MILLAGE IS NOT APPROVED BY VOTERS?

Without a successful millage election, Coldwater Community Schools will lose approximately \$5.5 million in revenue annually, or approximately 22% of the current general fund budget — the equivalent of 57 teachers being laid off, or 1/3 of our Professional Learning Community. Passage of this millage proposal would allow Coldwater Community Schools to continue to build upon the student achievement programs and initiatives that have been introduced over the past few years in an ongoing effort to get our children ready for the future.

### IF IT ISN'T A TAX INCREASE, WHY DOES THE BALLOT SAY "BE INCREASED BY 19.2346 MILLS"?

If you read the ballot language, you'll notice what appears to be a tax increase - but it is not, technically speaking, a tax increase; it is listed as such because the district's operating millage was reduced to zero by expiration of the current millage following the 2013 levy.

### WHY 19.2346 MILLS?

The request for 19.2346 mills is the same millage rate that has been in place since 2006 and is actually less than the rate approved by voters in 2002. The current 19.2346 is made up of the original 18 mills and a .5 mill Headlee override, which have been reduced to 15.9837 and .4509, respectively, plus a 2.8 mill override first approved by voters in 2002.

### ISN'T THE CURRENT LEVY 18 MILLS?

Yes; since the ratification of Proposal A in 1994, public school districts have been authorized to levy no more than 18 mills in order to receive their maximum per-pupil foundation allowance from the State of Michigan. If approved, the district will not levy more than 18 mills.



CONNECT WITH US!

[ColdwaterSchools.org](http://ColdwaterSchools.org)



## What are your kids learning? Curriculum Update

By **Carrie Johnson**  
**Curriculum Coordinator for Coldwater Community Schools**



CCS Staff members had a great start to the school year! Our professional development days were utilized for the purpose of getting our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) up and running. Each teacher will be working on a collaborative team with other teachers from his/her grade level or department. Throughout the PLC process, we are focused on improved learning for all students!

Our teachers at Lakeland have begun to participate in the Effective Literacy training that our K-3rd grade teachers have worked through during the last two years. Students will be engaged in quality literacy experiences every day. Please ask your child about the reading strategies that they are learning and/or what kinds of writing they are doing.

Our middle school math students are using a new textbook resource this year. This book was selected because it aligns well with both Common Core State Standards and our high school math curricular resources.

Middle and high school teachers will have the opportunity throughout the school year to participate in Instructional Rounds. This practice allows teachers the time and support to observe in one another's classrooms and have follow up conversations about how teachers and students are interacting with the content. This process supports our goal of improved learning experiences for all!

## COLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) SCHOLARS FOR THE 2012-2013 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR

AP SCHOLARS (students receiving passing score of 3 or higher on three or more AP tests): Makayla Bendele, Alex Cornell, Kaylee Evers, Joel Jepson, Morgan Klein, Virginia Marso, Morgan Miller, Thomas Nagle, Caitlyn Reynolds, Meghan Schorffhaar, Rebecca Schott, Audrey Tappenden, Kelsey Thomét, & Anna Wendorf.

AP SCHOLARS WITH HONOR (students receiving average score of 3.25 on all AP exams taken with scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams): John McClelland & Justin Pothoof.

AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION (students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams): Jacob Fielding, Austin Gagnon, Cameron Leist, Jaden Shirkey, Breeann Spangler, Kala Sperbeck, & Nicholas Waterbury.

*Congratulations to these 23 students who rank among the best students in the country!*



Coldwater High School offers AP classes in Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, European History, Psychology, U.S. History, & U.S. Government & Politics.



## Welcome Dr. Ron Lanford to Board!

In September veterinarian Dr. Ron Lanford was welcomed as the newest trustee of the Coldwater Community Schools Board of Education. Dr. Lanford is replacing Rick Gates who resigned from the board in August and will be filling his unexpired term through December 2014. Lanford stated, "It's important to give back to the community and serving on the Board is a good way to do that."

## Kids Club Expands to All Day, Day Care

Now providing Latch Key for half days, snow days, and fog delays

With the start of a new school year, Coldwater Community Schools is excited to offer an expanded day care experience for parents, as well as added hours open for half days, snow days, and fog delays.

With the implementation of Kinder Care Childcare children ages 2 years 9 months through 12 years old can use the Center Monday through Fridays. This will also accommodate 3 and 4 year olds for an all-day childcare experience for a seamless transition from the Kinder Learning Academy Preschool to daycare. Caregivers worked endless hours this summer transforming the Lincoln Elementary library into our beautiful and spacious childcare room! The program now has plenty of space to offer our 3 and 4 year olds with room remaining for our school age children to continue exploring new and creative opportunities for entertainment.

\*KIDS CLUB\* is now in its third successful year of operation. The hope is to assist parents and students in experiencing a happy and successful school year. Please contact our \*KIDS CLUB\* office or the Lincoln Learning Center office for additional information regarding any of the above programs at (517) 279-5975.

## Students Skype with Holocaust Survivor



Legg Middle School 8th grade students had the opportunity to Skype with Holocaust survivor and author, Sidney Finkel. Students asked prepared questions and had a chance to share details about his autobiography the students read in class. He was also able to elaborate on and clarify facts as questions were asked. Students enjoyed the ability to ask questions in real time.



## Kinder Learning Academy in Full Swing



It's never too early to start learning! Even the littlest learners in the school district are advancing. The students in Lindsey Harding's Kinder Learning Academy are working hard on learning new routines, cutting skills, number and letter recognition, colors, and shapes. Harding is the new lead caregiver for the 3 and 4 year old preschool with veteran Danita Flint assisting.

The Academy currently has openings for the 3 year old program offered in the morning and the 4 year old program offered in

the afternoon with the availability of the new Kinder Care Childcare from 6 a.m. till 6 p.m. to provide childcare when the student isn't in class.

For information call Lincoln Learning Center at (517) 279-5975.

## Welcome New Staff for 2013-2014 Year

Heather Cahill - 4th Grade, Lakeland

Julie Eames - Adult Education

Kollene Frie - Adult Education

Rebecca Grzegorski - Lincoln Learning Center

Lindsey Harding - Kinder Learning Academy

Shalen King - 1st Grade, Larsen

Katie Mackenzie - English, Middle School

Elizabeth Reed, Administration Receptionist

Stephanie Scheldt - 2nd Grade, Jefferson

Talia Rybak - Music, Middle School and High School

Laura Shafer - English, Coldwater High School

William Singer - Bus Driver

Julie Slusher - Assistant Principal, Coldwater High School

Mary Ellen Snyder - Social Studies, Legg Middle School

Amy VanZee - 5th Grade, Lakeland

Brittany Watters - 1st Grade, Max Larsen

## Back Pack Buddies Provide Hand Up, Not Hand Out



Being a teenager is difficult enough, but being hungry and homeless is overwhelming. Homelessness has many faces, which include doubling up with relatives, being temporarily housed in a hotel, or being a guest of the Family Promise program. Many students count on the school breakfast and lunch which is provided to students who qualify, but weekends still bring empty cupboards and empty stomachs.

The Backpack Buddies program was developed out of the need two teachers saw in some of their students. That need was to reach out and care while sharing food. The teachers started with students at Legg Middle School who were identified as homeless. Retired teachers help by packing bags providing 7 weekend meals for students; these bags are distributed each Friday discreetly in the students lockers.

However, this distribution only helped students at the middle school. The teachers also realized that these students have siblings in other buildings who also could benefit from weekend meals. The Backpack Buddies program is now a program of the Branch County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and has expanded to provide siblings at Max Larsen, Jefferson, and Lincoln Elementaries, Coldwater High School, Pansophia and soon Quincy Community School students with weekend backpacks. These packs not only provide weekend meals but other necessities such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo and other health aids, as well as school supplies on a rotating basis. Socks, mittens, hats are included at times, too.

Comments from students who receive the bags have been encouraging. One student was so overwhelmed, she said she could eat all the food right away. Another student said his family thanked those who provided every night as they ate supper. Teachers have seen improved attitudes, better attendance and hope that lives will be changed with a hand up, not a hand out.

*Pictured is Legg Middle School students helping put away the items purchased from the Food Bank for our Backpack Buddy bags.*

## Changes Made in Adult Education Program

There are many changes coming to the GED testing due to the demand for increased rigor in obtaining the high school diploma or its alternate, the GED certificate in January 2014. The familiar paper-and-pencil test will be replaced by a test that is taken on a computer.

Registration for the Coldwater Adult Continuing Education program will be ongoing at Coldwater High School Media Center. The high school program also works in conjunction with the Lincoln Learning Center Mom's Class, the Branch County Jail, and Michigan Works.

Currently, GED tests will be held at Coldwater High School with the hopes of offering pencil and paper tests every other week until December 20, 2013. CHS will become an online GED testing center with trained GED test personnel. After the testing center is open, testing will be offered weekly.

CHS will be offering classes from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Classes at Michigan Works will be offered Tuesday through Thursday, with ongoing classes at the jail. The Lincoln School's culturally-sensitive Mother's Program will be held Monday through Thursday from 1-2:30 p.m.

If you wish to obtain your GED, have questions regarding other services Coldwater Adult Continuing Education has to offer, or would like to register please call Pam VanZuilen at 517-279-5930 ext. 294.





## PAC Meetings Set up for School Year

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, November 19

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

## Love and Logic Classes Slated for Nov. 6th



Another Parenting for Love & Logic class will begin on November 6 and run for six weeks excluding November 27, ending on December 18. The class will use the general curriculum which is effective for parents of children of any age. Each session will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last for approximately 90 minutes meeting 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 child care. 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.

## Breakfast is Important for Learning



This fall students at Franklin High School have enjoyed breakfast on Thursday mornings at the Girard United Methodist Church. The breakfast is a part of the church's community outreach, hosted by Pastor Emily Beachy. The breakfasts are fit for a king!



The Coldwater High School Class of 2014 celebrated the beginning of their last year of school by enjoying breakfast together in the school parking lot. Branch Insurance Agency, Dutch Uncle Donuts, Chartwells, and Meijer donated all the wonderful food. Pat and Danice Chartrand flipped all the pancakes, while other parents served sausage, donuts, fruit, muffins, and juice. A good way to start off a great year!

## Elementaries Provide Free Breakfast

Starting with the first day of school, all students at Lakeland, Jefferson, and Max Larsen Elementary Schools along with Franklin High School and Lincoln Learning Center are eligible for the USDA Universal Free Breakfast Program. In this program, breakfast is available to all students in these schools at no cost to the students, regardless of their household income. Schools qualify to be included in the program by the percentage of free and reduced qualifying students within the building.

Lakeland Elementary was added for the 2013-2014 school year. "We are excited about this change for Lakeland and hope that more students and parents take advantage of this program," said Tamera Santora, director of school dining services with Chartwells who services Coldwater Community Schools.

Why School Breakfast? Research indicates that eating breakfast improves school performance, reduces behavioral problems, reduces visits to the school nurse, improves overall nutrient intake, and helps reduce obesity. Yet, according to the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, more than 50% of students say they skip breakfast sometime during the week.

Breakfasts will be served before school starts each day at the following times:

Lakeland 7:40-8:20 a.m.

Lincoln 8:05-8:25 a.m.

Jefferson 8:15-8:45 a.m.

Max Larsen 8:15-8:45 a.m.

Menu options for the breakfast are reduced sugar whole grain cereals, whole grain bagels and peanut butter, low-fat yogurt and whole grain toast, or fresh baked whole grain breakfast bar.

The School Breakfast Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It began as a pilot project in 1966, and was made permanent in 1975. The School Breakfast Program is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service. At the State level, the program is administered by State education agencies, which operate the program through agreements with local school food authorities in more than 89,000 schools and institutions.

For more information on free or reduced lunch applications in English, with Arabic and Spanish instructions also available, go to the Chartwells website for Coldwater Community Schools <http://chartwells.compass-usa.com/CCS>