



Cav Connection

Coldwater Exempted Village Schools

cw.noacsc.org

December 2023

Families and Community Members:

As superintendent of Coldwater Exempted Village Schools, I am proud to help lead this district now and into the future. However, my responsibility is to provide transparent information about our school. One piece of that information is about district finances. Partnering with our treasurer, Jenn McCoy, and adhering to state regulations, we can articulate facts about our current and future budgetary issues. In that spirit, this article outlines Coldwater's fiscal challenges, revenue constraints, and the deficits now forcing difficult decisions that impact long-term educational quality. The board of education has passed a resolution, certified by the Department of Taxation, to replace our .5% traditional income tax with a 1.75% earned income tax. We have done everything possible to curb the deficit spending and have worked with a streamlined staff to reduce those costs. The new biennium state budget does help; however, we still need to solve our financial situation. Without a levy or new revenue streams, class sizes would increase dramatically in the future.



As a district, unforgiving math drives our fiscal state - with yearly shortfalls between revenues and expenses, we are slowly threatening cash reserves. While controlling costs wherever possible, essential expenditures have out-paced stagnant state funding for years - forcing us to cover differences by drawing down savings to sustain our daily expenses. Those savings now dwindle low while costs march upwards, necessitating urgent action to secure our financial footing.

The core reality remains a structural mismatch between major expenses and available revenues:

- Personnel accounts for 83% of our \$16 million budget - covering our incredible teachers and staff. Despite restrained 0% - 2% raises averaging way under inflation, state funding fails to recognize rising education costs. These baseline costs rise steadily outside our direct control.
- Local funding provides only \$22 per pupil daily - This rate is the lowest of schools in the area. This rate provides about 40% of our revenues.
- Voter-approved emergency operating funds from 2012 generate a fixed amount of revenue of \$550,000. This amount comes from property tax with an effective rate of 2.9 mills. The district will let this levy expire if new revenues are realized from the measure on the ballot on March 19, 2024

As a result, we've accumulated \$1.3 million combined deficits since 2018 - bridging revenue shortfalls by drawing cash reserves down. At continuing rates, reserves will fully deplete within the next few years - calling into question fiscal sustainability.

In summary - through strategic but difficult choices, we've maintained excellence despite state funding failures, keeping pace with our community's real needs and expectations. However, challenging math cannot be ignored, as yearly deficits erode past flexibility. Either we align revenues with expenses, or we fail coming generations. I welcome transparent conversations to solve this issue - but inaction no longer remains an option.

Key takeaways surrounding the facts:

- **WHAT WOULD THE OPERATING LEVY FUND?**

- ◇ The levy is a 1.75% earned income tax continuing levy that would fund daily operations and maintain current academic programming and staffing levels so that the district can continue providing the current quality of education for Coldwater students.
- ◇ This levy replaces the .5% traditional income tax that was passed in 1990. It is important to note that this new levy will only be assessed on earned income from a paycheck. Thus, retirees will not be assessed this income tax on retirement or investment income.

- **WHY AN EARNED INCOME TAX LEVY?**

- ◇ If we would place a property tax levy on the ballot, it would be a 12.9 mill levy. This would cost a homeowner \$451 per year for an assessed value of \$100,000.00. Therefore, we request the earned income tax to protect our retired community members and large property owners. It also puts us in the same range of 210 school districts in Ohio with an income tax to produce revenue for the school.

- **WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE LEVY FAILS?**

- ◇ If the levy would fail, approximately \$1 million - about 12 positions- would have to be cut within the next 2 years. This would amount to a significant restructuring of the district, including cuts to academic programming that would include cuts to staff, resulting in much larger class sizes.

- **WHAT HAVE COLDWATER SCHOOLS DONE TO CONTROL COSTS?**

- ◇ In 2018-2019, Coldwater Schools employed 153 staff members for 1326 students; this coming school year, Coldwater Schools employed 146 staff members for 1429 students. Please note that our enrollment has increased yearly since the 2018-2019 school year. This coming school year, we added a kindergarten teacher included in the 146 staff members total. The reason for adding a new kindergarten teacher is due to having over 140 kindergarteners enrolled along with all other elementary grade levels at their preferred class averages thus, we have no current staff we could move to that position. Since the school's budget comprises about 83% of personnel salaries due to being a service industry, the teachers and staff have consistently taken minimal raises, if not a 0%, to help contain our costs. In addition, in 2020, the district moved from a PPO health insurance plan to a high-deductible HSA plan to control costs. During the COVID years, the district also utilized COVID grants given to us by state and federal agencies to cover some of our salary expenditures to provide continuous service. Furthermore, as a district, we have been very frugal in purchasing supplies and using every possible measure to control our energy costs.

We will be engaging the entire community in transparent conversations, including community forums, neighborhood coffees, and other community engagement opportunities leading up to election day on March 19, 2024. Our first community engagement forum will be:

When: Wednesday December 13, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Where: Coldwater Eagles on the hall side of the establishment.

This community forum is an opportunity to learn the transparent facts regarding the future of Coldwater Schools. As the superintendent, I will present the facts and allow time for a question-and-answer period. We must have an opportunity to discuss this in person so that everyone in our community is equipped with the actual facts and the needs facing the district. Also, at this forum, members of the levy committee will attend and answer questions about how they will serve this community and areas in which they need assistance. I hope that the community will come together and attend our community forum to learn the facts about the challenges we face as a district.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER, JENN MCCOY:

Financial Update

The Board of Education approved Coldwater Schools Five Year Forecast during the November board meeting. You are more than welcome to review the forecast and notes on the Ohio Department of Education website. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the district's finances or five-year forecast.



As you will see in the forecast, our cash balance remains positive through FY28 but we fall below the 60 days operating cash board policy in FY27. We continue to be in deficit spending which is having a large negative impact on our cash reserves. A couple things I highlighted with the board of education: we currently have the lowest allowed effective millage in the state being paid on property tax along with the lowest property tax per student and income tax per student in Mercer & Auglaize counties. We have made cuts through staff attrition and continue to make cuts throughout our other expenditures but the problem lies in our revenues not keeping up with our increasing expenditures. Our state funding has been flat for the past ten years while more unfunded mandates are put on public schools. The Ohio legislators continue not to give public schools the true cost of what it costs to educate a student which then puts more tax burden on our local taxpayers.

I am deeply grateful for the steadfast support our community continues to provide Coldwater Schools. It is a privilege to operate in a community that exhibits such dedication to its youth and their education. Your commitment has been integral in fostering the nurturing learning environment and breadth of opportunities available to our students here. Please know that your efforts have built something truly special at Coldwater Schools - an environment where students can thrive. Thank you again for all you do for our students.

Grants

Coldwater EVSD has received a Staff Wellness Grant in the amount **\$5,300** which will be used towards mental health and wellness within the buildings.

Free and Reduced Lunch Forms

Please continue to fill out your Free and Reduced Lunch Forms, if eligible, as this provides much needed additional funding to Coldwater Schools from the state. The form is available on our website under Departments-Food Service

Student Book Fees

This is a gentle reminder to pay your children's 2023-2024 fees if you have not already done so.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:

**The Coldwater EVSD Board of Education's
next meeting will be held on
December 12, 2023 at
7:00 p.m. in the CAV Room**

HAPPY

HOLIDAYS

Notes from the Nurse

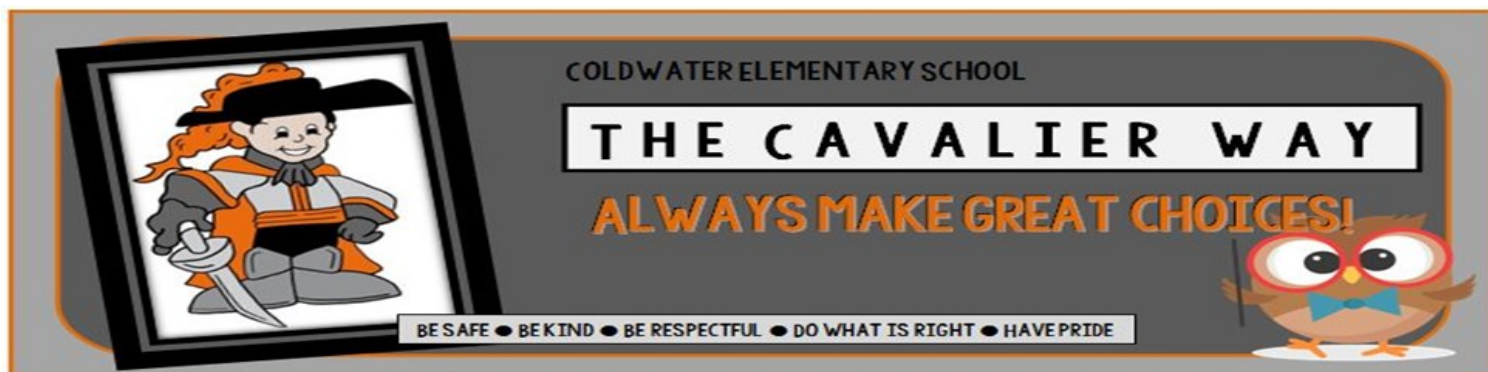
Here are a few notes and reminders from the School Nurse:



- Vision and Hearing Screenings: All students in K, 1, 3, 5, 7 (vision only), 9, and 11 are screened for vision and hearing. If any student fails either of these screenings I am required to send a referral home to the parents with those results. Communicate with your child's teachers if there are any vision/hearing concerns that may affect them in the classroom.
- All medications sent to school need to be in their **original container**, cannot be expired, and must be accompanied with a note from the prescriber (if prescription). If it is an over-the-counter medication, a note from the parent is required. Forms are in each building office for both prescription and non-prescription medications. Turn all medication into the building office. Sometimes EpiPens and inhalers can be carried by the student, but that must be indicated on the prescription medication form.
- Students should stay home from school if:
 1. The child has a fever greater than 100.4*
 2. The illness prevents the child from participating in school activities.
 3. The child has a fever, lethargy (tiredness), irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or any other signs of severe illness.
 4. The child is vomiting and/or has frequent diarrhea.
 5. The child has an unexplained rash (especially with a fever and/or behavior changes).
 6. The child has signs or symptoms of Covid-19 even if no fever or other symptoms listed above.

Be sure to report your child's illness to the building office. If the child goes to the doctor, get a doctor's note to excuse the absence.

- Please update Final Forms and the building office on any changes of phone numbers, emergency contacts, address, medications, or health concerns.
- If you have any health questions or concerns, please contact Jodi Weigel, School Nurse through your child's building office or by email at weigel.jodi@coldwatercavs.org



Elementary News:

Mike Etzler - Elementary Principal



Coldwater Elementary is getting better each day and encouraging our students to be their best by continuing to do things "The Cavalier Way". Each day our Little Cavs are working hard to put forth their best effort to be the best they can be. By now students should be very used to the schedule of the school day, know what is expected, and have a routine established at home that sets them up for success. I can't emphasize enough how parents and guardians are vital and the key element to the success of their child. Thank you to the parents and guardians who attended your child's Parent Teacher Conference early in November. This is always a great opportunity to support your child's education. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with a concern or advice on academic/behavioral strategies and interventions. Communication and working as a team is the key to each child's success. The Coldwater Elementary Team together with parents want to do what is best for kids and your child. It is very hard to achieve success alone, but when a team is involved, including educators, parents and others working with your child, success can be achieved.

In order for our school and students to be their best each day, we are working hard to teach our Little Cavs outstanding social and emotional learning standards. Social and emotional learning is the process through which children understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. These skills are shared on the announcements daily and standards are discussed in the classroom by each homeroom teacher weekly. Our school counselor, Mrs. Stacey Froning also goes into every homeroom classroom once a month to educate our students on our character focus word for the month. These social emotional skills are at the heart of making sure each of our students are the best versions of themselves. The impact of social emotional learning runs deep as it increases academic achievement and positive social interactions, and decreases negative outcomes later in life. So far this school year our character trait focus words have been respect, kindness, gratitude, and empathy. As always we want our students to be, "Little Cavs ...with BIG CHARACTER!" As the holiday season is upon us, we want our students to know you always have more to give, you can always serve others, and we are always better together!

Our team looks forward to a continued amazing school year doing things "The Cavalier Way"!

Red Ribbon



Red Ribbon Week

Coldwater Elementary had Red Ribbon Week from Oct. 23-27, 2023. This year's theme was "Be Kind to Your Mind! Live Drug Free!" Our students focused on not only staying drug free, but making good choices overall. Thank you to our committee for creating activities and dress up themes for the students. Below were the daily themes for the week:

Monday - "Red-y to say no to drugs!" - Students should wear red.

Tuesday - "Donut do drugs!" - Students may wear pajamas and get a doughnut as a snack.

Wednesday - "Too Bright to do drugs!" - Students should wear bright/neon colors.

Thursday - "Drugs can't find me!" - Students should wear camouflage.

Friday - "I choose to be drug free!!" - Wear orange and black, Cav Crazy clothes or a costume.

PTO Fall Harvest Party - Elementary Dress Up/Costume Day

The Coldwater PTO held their annual Fall Harvest/Costume Party for students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade on Monday, October 23, 2023 in the high school Commons, Cav Room, and Pound. There was an outstanding turnout as close to 160 students with at least one parent chaperone attended. The students looked amazing and had an awesome time enjoying rotating station activities and treats. Thank you to Danielle Selhorst and Nicole Rembacki for chairing and organizing this event as well as to all of the numerous others that helped this night be a success! Coldwater Elementary also had their Dress Up/Costume day on Friday, October 27, 2023.



Cavalier Way 1st Quarter Assembly

We held our first Cavalier Way Assembly of the year on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023. This was our end of the 1st Quarter assembly. All elementary students and staff gathered to celebrate our school community, our students, to review what "The Cavalier Way" is all about, and to learn about sportsmanship and what it means to be a good Cavalier sport. Below was the agenda for the assembly:

1. Welcome: Mr. Etzler
2. Students sing song "You-nique" - directed by Mrs. Petersen
3. Cavalier Pride - (fight song will be played - students stand)
4. Grade Level "Cavalier Way Chants" - lead by Mrs. Froning
 - A. Kindergarten - Be Safe
 - B. 1st Grade - Be Kind
 - C. 2nd Grade - Be Respectful
 - D. 3rd Grade - Do What is Right
 - E. 4th Grade - Have Pride
5. Character Slips - Honor students who have earned a Character Slip for Aug.-October
(students stand)
6. Sportsmanship Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehDVE9QlrqQ>
7. Cavalier Way Award Winners Announced
 - Mr. Etzler will discuss Cavalier Way Awards
 - Each grade level team will come down to the podium to announce the award winners from their classroom. Each teacher will read the names of the students.
8. Student/Teacher Competition (All teachers who gave an award and the students who earned them will participate.)
 - Four Corners

The Cavalier Way Award Winners - 1st Quarter

At the end of each quarter every classroom teacher honors two students with "The Cavalier Way" Award. This award recognizes students who have done an outstanding job demonstrating and modeling "The Cavalier Way" each day at Coldwater Elementary. Listed below are the students who won this award in each classroom for the first quarter. These students were announced at the 1st Quarter Cavalier Way Assembly. Each student received a Cavalier Way backpack tag, free Kona Ice certificate, a Cavalier Way certificate, and had their photo taken and placed on our Coldwater Elementary Facebook Page. Congratulations to these students for being awesome role models for other students in our school.



4th Grade: Aubree Tackett, Cora Sudhoff, Henry Broering
Ebony Uribe, Jonathan Sudhoff, Brynlee Schwieterman,
John Evers, Mackenzie Ebright, Bentley Heyne, Grady Walls,
Scarlet Schoenherr



3rd Grade: Eli Eyink, Josie Fullenkamp, Chloe Kunk, Henry Uhlenhake, Lance Serr, Kimberly Romero, Lana Bier-sack, Nicholas Winner, Clara Knapke, Cannon Melton, Daniel Anderson, Hazel Homan



2nd Grade: Bennett Dobmeyer, Savannah Dues, Kylie Dues, Shawn Ross, Adam Geier, Gianna Grieshop, Grace Dues, Fletcher Highley, Briggs Winner, James Tobe, Koo-per Mauer, Joey Uhlenhake, Clara Bettinger, Tate Huwer, Maelynn Macias



1st Grade: Isaac Wolf, Kalie Miller, Gavin Stammen, Reya Schmackers, Lilly Buening, Ray Huelskamp, Greyson Bier-sack, Breeze Long, Alaina Uhlenhake, Eloise Sudhoff, Riley Swartzel, Shaun Forsthoefel



Kindergarten: Maggie Rindler, Corbyn Bruns, Aubrey Schmitmeyer, Maddex Hardin, Summer Wenning, Ben Ey-ink, Charlotte Will, Wesley Miller, Mabry Selhorst, Beck-ham Siefing, Tess Tobe, Will Eyink, Cody Geier, Lydia Wellman

1st Grade "50's Day" Celebration

Our 1st Grade students celebrated the 50th day of school on Mon. Nov. 6th. Students were able to dress up like they were living in the 1950's. The day was filled with center/station activities including, hula hoops, bubble gum, hand jive, 50's trivia, reading and learning history during the 50's, root beer floats, and much more. Thank you to our 1st grade team of teachers for going "all in" and making this a day that our students will never forget!



Parent Teacher Conferences

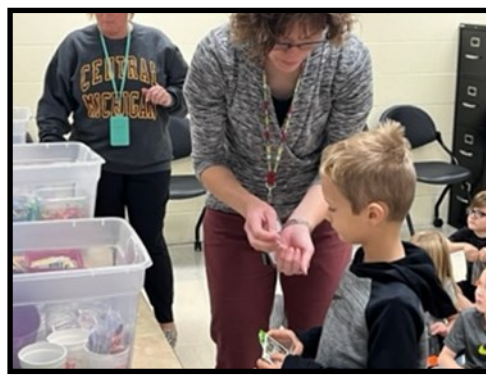
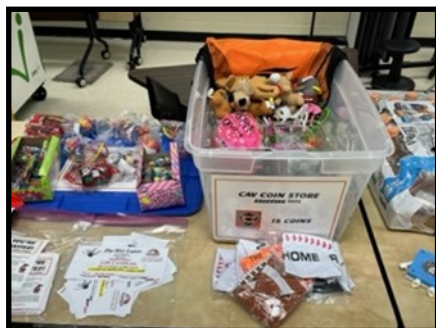
Coldwater Elementary held our yearly Parent Teacher Conferences on Tues. Nov. 7, Thurs. Nov. 9, and Friday, Nov. 10. We take pride in making sure our teachers communicate consistently, clearly, and purposefully with all of our students' parents and families. Each year it is very important that we get all parents to attend parent teacher conferences. Our goal is to have 98% of our parents attend, but we are very satisfied with 95% or better. We were very pleased with the participation this year. The table below shows the attendance results:

Grade Level	Total # of Students	Total # of Conferences attended by parents	% Participation
Kindergarten	139	139	100%
1st Grade	118	116	98%
2nd Grade	140	138	98%
3rd Grade	122	122	100%
4th Grade	109	93	85%
School	628	608	96%

THANK YOU PARENTS/GUARDIANS FOR BEING INVESTED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION!!!

Cav Coin Store

Our elementary students were very excited to have the opportunity to spend their Cav Coins & Cav Cash (students can exchange ten coins for a ten dollar bill) at the Cav Coin Store at the end of this first quarter. Each class was able to spend 30 minutes window shopping or purchasing items in the store. It was wonderful to see our students budgeting and figuring out if they wanted to purchase items with all of their Cav Money, spend some and save some, or save all of it to purchase a more expensive item later in the year. Again, students can earn coins by demonstrating "The Cavalier Way" & "PurposeFull People" behaviors and being their best self. Thank you again to our parents/guardians, donating businesses, and community for supporting our Little Cavs and making sure they are doing things "The Cavalier Way!"



Kona Ice & The Cavalier Way

Again this year our PBIS program has partnered with Kona Ice of Troy. We have done this to continually motivate students and bring even more excitement to our program, as well as raise some funds to support our "Cavalier Way" mission. Kona Ice donates one "Free Kona Ice" coupon to each student that earns the "Cavalier Way" award for the quarter (nine weeks). Each quarter Kona Ice will visit Coldwater Elementary and during this time all students may purchase online, or bring in money to buy a Kona Ice on that day. Kona Ice gives Coldwater Elementary 20% of the profit from sales on the day of their visit. Their first visit was on Thursday, November 9, 2023. The students really enjoyed the Kona Ice and our elementary school made \$374.00 to support our PBIS program!

Molly Miller Playground Bench



Coldwater Elementary has a beautiful new addition to our playground...a very special bench honoring Molly Miller!!! The bench sits in a place where anyone can enjoy watching their children play. The message on the bench will not only inspire our students, but our entire community! Thank you to the Coldwater High School graduating class of 2011 for donating this magnificent bench!



4th/5th Grade Musical - "Finding Nemo Jr."

Congratulations to Mrs. Petersen and the fourth & fifth grade cast of "Finding Nemo Jr." for five amazing performances! The students did a fantastic job with memorization of lines, music, and choreography. They put in a lot of hours of practice for this musical. A special thanks to Mrs. Denise Petersen, the production staff, the 4th/5th Grade Teaching Teams and to everyone who helped with the behind the scenes work with sound, lighting, costumes, props, and nerves. A big thank-you goes out to our parents who did an awesome job with costumes, transporting students to and from practices, and being supportive of this extracurricular activity and experience. This is a big time commitment for these students where they learn so many life lessons that will help them to be successful in the future in whatever they participate in. The best reward is seeing the finished product and knowing that hard work, dedication, and commitment always pays off! We are very proud of everyone who had a part in this absolutely amazing production!



Coldwater Elementary Thanksgiving FUN!

Fall Traditions

WSU students Ms. Homan, Ms. Ashbaugh and Ms. Metzger visited Coldwater Elementary to teach Mrs. Lefeld's 2nd Grade class about Fall Traditions in countries around the world. They learned about China, Germany and Mexico. Then they made Chinese Lanterns, decorated Dia de los Muertos cookies and learned to Polka dance. The kids were so thankful for the experience and had so much fun learning!



Venture Linx Activity

We had such an amazing day! We did a fun activity with a group of people from Venture Linx (formerly known as CA Group). Venture Linx is a leader in providing quality services to people with disabilities in our area. They provide life services to support people in all areas of life. Venture Linx is committed to breaking barriers in showcasing that we are all valued and unique!

We read the book *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet. This book tells the true story of the puppeteer of the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. We also watched a clip of last year's parade. Then, the students created and decorated their own parade balloon. Lastly, we had a parade through the elementary to fly our balloons!





Our Own Thanksgiving Day Parade

The 2nd graders read the book "Balloons Over Broadway" by Melissa Sweet. This book tells the true story of the puppeteer of the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. They also watched a clip of last year's parade, then each student created and decorated their own parade balloon. Lastly, all the 2nd grade students had a parade through the elementary to fly their balloons for the entire elementary to enjoy!



Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast

Our Kindergarten students enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast with their friends. Lots of smiles around the table and lots to be grateful for!!!



Coldwater PTO Christmas Teacher Wish Lists

The holidays are right around the corner. If you are looking for a gift idea for your child's teacher, the PTO will be sponsoring AMAZON wish lists for elementary teachers. This event allows you to gift an item or Amazon gift card to your child's classroom for student use. You can find your child's teacher by following these steps:

1. Log on to your Amazon account. Type in "amazon gift registry" into the search bar.
2. Click on the yellow box "Search for a registry or gift list". Type in "Coldwater Parent Teacher Organization".
3. Click "All lists". Type in your child's teacher's name and click "custom gift list".

Excellent Attendance

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours if possible. If your child asks to stay home "just because", remind him of what he'll miss, such as reading/math groups or gym class. Explain that school is a privilege, priority, and it is very important to not miss out on anything.

Safety: Traveling To and From School

Students getting to and from school safely is very important. Here are some safety tips to reinforce with your child at home to help them stay safe when walking, riding a bike, or getting dropped off/picked up at school.

Walking/Biking

- Walk/Ride with a friend when possible.
- Ask your parents to help you pick a safe route to school; one that avoids dangers.
- Stick to the route you picked with your parents. Don't let friends talk you into shortcuts that are more dangerous.
- When you are near the street, don't push, shove, or chase each other.
- Always use the crosswalk.
- Pay attention to cars and always be looking out for vehicles. Don't expect them to notice or stop for you as you always need to make sure there are no cars coming when crossing a street or intersection.

Dropped Off/Picked Up

- In Circle Drive, if you arrive before 8:00 a.m. please wait by and enter through the grade level assigned door. After 8:00 a.m. you may enter through any Circle Drive door that is most convenient for you.
- While waiting to get picked up at the end of the day, listen when your number is called, stand behind the color cone that you have been told to wait by, keep hands/feet to yourself, and wait patiently for your car to pull up to the cone.
- Wait until your car is completely stopped before walking to get into it.
- Always enter/exit the vehicle on the curbside.

PARENT Reminder: Drop Off / Pick Up

- Please cross Vine St. at the crosswalks only. We expect our students to do this to be safe. Set a good example and be a good model.
- Drive slowly through the Circle Drive drop off/pick up line. Please drive **SLOWLY** through the parking lot. Remember this is a parking lot and not a street.
- Please pay attention to the staff directing the drop off/pick up line so that it runs smoothly.
- Be courteous and conscientious of your surroundings. **Drive respectfully...little eyes are watching!**
-

PARENT TIPS: Working Together for School Success

5 Parent Tips for "Little Cav" Success

1. Stick to a Routine

Children benefit from having a consistent bedtime and wake time each day. Taking time to have breakfast in the morning is very important to get the day started. If your children spend a lot of time deciding what to wear and in preparing their backpack in the morning, add these activities to their nighttime routine to have a smooth start to the day. Having a consistent homework time each day is an important component in building study skills.

2. Support Homework Independence

Once students are able to read the directions on their homework, they should complete their assignments by themselves. Students may ask for help because they enjoy the parental attention, but this can lead to asking for help when they don't need it. When children do their homework without a reminder and on their own, this is a good time to acknowledge their independence.

3. Think Long-Term

Children who have a long-term goal often have increased motivation in school. Setting a long-term goal with your child can help connect the relevancy of your child's daily activities with the future. It is never too early to think about developing time management skills. Using time wisely by completing homework and chores quickly enables children to have more time for fun activities.

4. Have a Positive Learning Attitude

Attitudes are infectious and an integral component to having success. Parents who have a positive attitude towards learning and school can excite children with their enthusiasm. On the other hand, their mindset may be affected by parents who are upset with the teacher or school. Showing interest in your children's studies by asking questions can foster motivation and a positive learning attitude.

5. Connect with the Teacher

Building a relationship with your child's teacher can help you understand how your child is doing at school and how you can help your child best at home. Try to meet with the teacher as much as necessary. Working as a team, this partnership can make the school year go more smoothly for you and your child.

READ, READ, READ: Develop an Early Reader

Want to spend time with your child, build their reading skills, and help them to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud. Here are suggestions:

- * **Read Regularly:** Try to read to or with your child every day. You might aim for 10-15 minutes of bed-time reading. Bring along a book, and read to them during a sibling's sports practice. Curl up together with a book when you get home from work.
- * **Take Turns Choosing Books:** Your child may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety (nonfiction, poetry, etc.).
- * **Let Them Participate:** Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, they can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words they know. Go slowly so they have time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. They'll enjoy read-aloud time more if they play an active role.
- * **Be Playful:** You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a mouse or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Or substitute your child's name for the main character's name, and use family members' names for other characters.

Remember, you don't have to be an expert reader...your child will love it when you read to or with them because it's you:).

Upcoming Dates

- ⇒ Nov. 28-Dec. 1 - Elementary Santa Shop
- ⇒ Tues. Dec. 5 - PTO Meeting @7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Wed. Dec. 6 - Senior Citizens Breakfast (2nd Grade performing) @8:30 a.m.
- ⇒ Fri. Dec. 15 - 6 Week Reports sent home
- ⇒ Dec. 18-20 - Elementary Christmas Dress-Up Week
- ⇒ Wed. Dec. 20 - Elementary Christmas Assembly @8:45 a.m.
- ⇒ Dec. 21-Jan. 2 - Christmas Break - HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!
- ⇒ Tues. Jan. 9 - PTO Meeting @7:00 p.m. - elementary workroom
- ⇒ Fri. Jan. 12 - End of 2nd Quarter
- ⇒ Mon. Jan. 15 - No School MLK Jr. Day
- ⇒ Tues. Jan. 16 - No School - Teacher Inservice

Little Cav Kinders!



This Month In Kindergarten!

October was a month full of wonder and excitement, as we immersed ourselves in the beautiful fall weather. We had the privilege of visiting the Fire Department to learn about fire safety and celebrated Red Ribbon Week, discussing the importance of staying away from drugs. Our daily dress-up sessions added an extra element of fun to the celebrations. Additionally, we took part in Pumpkin Investigations, where we explored pumpkins in detail by estimating their weight, height, and circumference. It was a month of immense learning and growth! And to top it all off, we donated our coins to the M.A.V Youth Mentoring program and supported our Superintendent Mr. Mader in Dancing with the Stars!

Upcoming Events

Santa Shop
Snowman Project
Polar Express
8th Grade Buddies



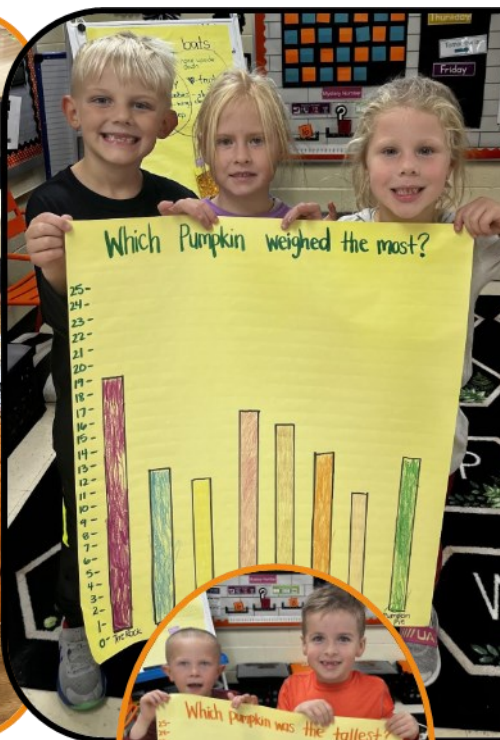
Mercer, Auglaize, and Van Wert
Counties Youth Mentoring Organization



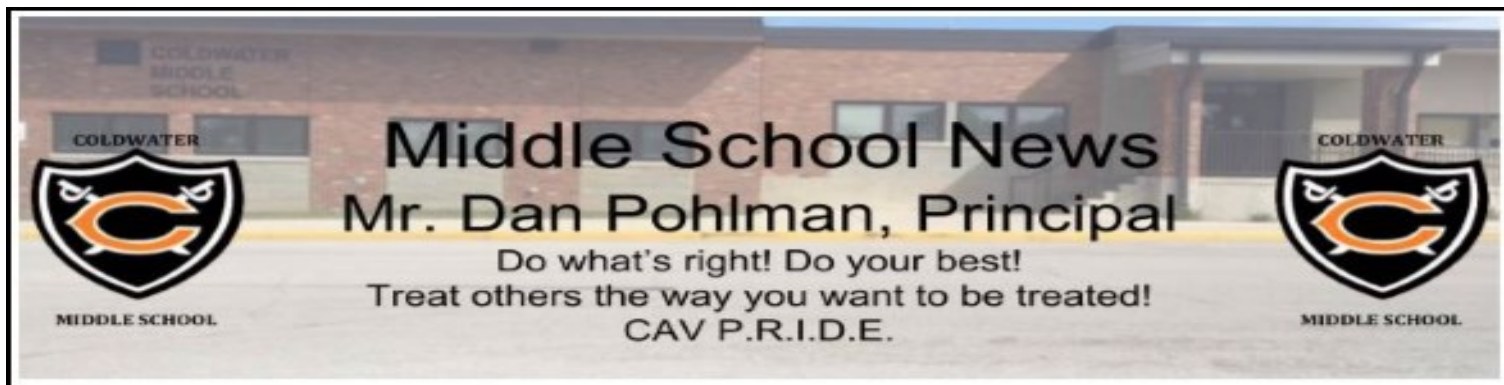
**Special Thanks
to our local
Fire Fighters
who keep us safe
everyday!**

Red Ribbon Week

Rest Easy
Knowing
Kindergarten is
DRUG FREE!



Pumpkin Investigation



Cavalier Community,

The holiday season is here and with that, I wish all of you a very blessed season of joy and cheer. The second nine weeks at our middle school has commenced with a remarkable start, already reaching its midterm week of classes. In the past couple month, since the last Cav Connection, the middle school has maintained an impressive momentum, showcasing a commitment to excellence in both academics and student engagement.

A highlight of this period was the highly successful 8th-grade DC trip. The students exhibited exemplary behavior throughout the trip, returning to Coldwater in the early hours of October 27th. A special thanks is due to Karen Wenning, the 8th-grade math teacher and DC Coordinator, for her meticulous planning that ensured the trip's success.

Adding a festive touch to the conclusion of the first nine weeks, on October 27th, the 5th-7th grade students participated in a Halloween dress-up contest. This spirited event marked a fun conclusion to the first nine weeks.



November 1st saw the celebration of our 1st nine weeks PBIS Rewards day, featuring an ice cream treat from Derfer's Ice Cream truck. Over 400 cups of ice cream were served, reinforcing positive behavior among students. Plans are already underway for the 2nd nine weeks reward! Stay tuned for this information coming soon!



November 9th was a busy day at the middle school, featuring a donut breakfast to honor 273 honor roll students for their academic success during the 1st nine weeks. The same day, we observed Veteran's Day by hosting family-members of students who are veterans for lunch, orchestrated by the social studies department, complete with a Veteran's Day slide show. It was a wonderful celebration and well deserved recognition!



The 8th grade Makers Skills class is always looking for authentic projects that give purpose to the work they are doing. Mrs. Maggie Rismiller reached out to the Kiwanis Organization and asked if they needed any help with the Christmas in the Park this year. From this, the students were assigned their projects. Students were asked to build some displays to add to the many decorations already at the park. The students took great pride in helping out the Kiwanis and worked hard to give back to the community and create something special. If you visit the Christmas in the park this season, be on the look out for some new projects donated and created by the Maker Skills class.



The cookie dough fundraiser was another huge success. A huge THANK YOU goes out to the students, parents and community members for supporting our sale! We had the largest percentage students involved this year than we ever have had. 57% our middle school students participated in the sale. Once again, thank you for helping us fund our student activity account. Every dime that we make on this fundraiser is spent on the students. Whether it be field trips, PBIS Rewards Days, classroom rewards or any other activity for our students, this fundraiser takes care of all the expenses. On Tuesday, November 21st, the students enjoyed their prize day for participating. Our top seller this year was Savannah Sutherin, selling more than 80 items. Students who sold 10 or more items were given a chance to win additional prizes.



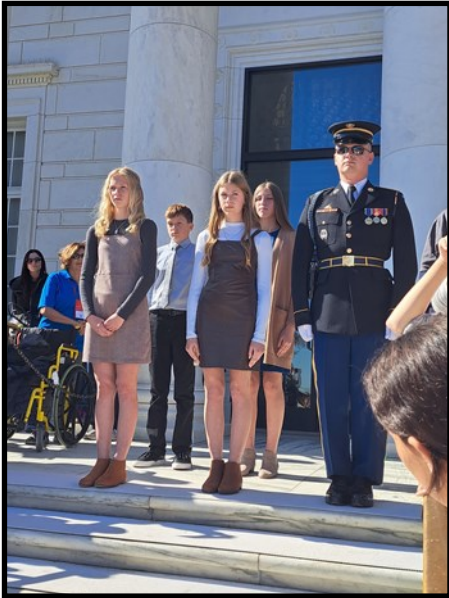
Concluding this months report, our 4th and 5th-grade students took center stage in the school play, "Finding Nemo," from November 16th to 19th. This spectacular performance, a culmination of dedicated practices throughout the school year, owes much of its success to the students involved and the invaluable direction provided by Denise Peterson. What a wonderful performance it was!!



8th Grade Washington DC Trip....Walking with a Purpose

The week of October 23rd was filled with adventure for the 8th grade students as they and their chaperones toured our nation's capital. The weather was perfect with beautiful skies during the entire week. Highlights of the trip included touring the Capitol Building, Holocaust Museum, National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, and many monuments, museums, and memorials. Students also enjoyed getting dressed up for Game Mania consisting of dinner, game show, and dancing. Great talent was shown at Game Mania, and students earned the title "Best Dancing Class"!!

Throughout the week students were told to "walk with a purpose" as they had places to go, people to meet, and memories to make. Hopefully upon returning to Coldwater, students will continue to walk with a purpose. They will find meaning in coming to school every day, feel valued in the relationships made with people around them, and continue to make memories throughout their years at Coldwater Schools.



Four students laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



The class of 2028 in front of the National Cathedral.



Hanging out with Einstein.



Students from Bus 1 in front of the Supreme Court Building.

Students from Bus 2 reading
Martin Luther King's "I Have a
Dream" speech.



Bus 3 students and chaperones.

Thank you to all of the chaperones!!



Coldwater Middle School First Nine Weeks Honor Roll

Grade 7

High Honors (11.00 GPA or Better)

Lucas Broering, Brielle Dingledine, Audrey Franck, Alyssa Froning, Owen Heitkamp, Kratyn Homan, Emmitt May, Haley Qiu, Courtney Uhlenhake, Kate Uhlenhake

Honors (9.0 – 10.9)

Abby Alig, Hayden Berger, Jack Bettinger, Kynlee Botkin, Layla Dawson, Audrey Diller, Daven Fletcher, Jonah Gruss, Paige Guggenbiller, Josh Harrison, Kirsten Heuing, Briggs Hileman, Ben Houts, Charlotte Hoying, Chris Kremer, Griffin Lefeld, Cami Lisi, Bentley Mohler, Will Moorman, Brayden Pohl, Kyrie Reineke, Mara Riethman, John Roberts, Breah Roessner, Julianna Sager, Cami Saunders, Ethan Schmitmeyer, Isabelle Schwieterman, Breckin Scott, Leah Serr, Owen Stough, Natalie Timmerman, Jacob Uhlenhake, Rebecca Wendel, Emmett Wermert, Lucas Winner

Grade 8

High Honors (11.00 GPA or Better)

Claire Bertke, Avery Bruns, Kirra Burtch, Campbell Etzler, Drew Garrison, Harlow Heyne, Averi Kahlig, Alivia Klingshirn, Leah Kunk, Emily Larkin, Ava Lefeld, Andrew Myers, Tate Rismiller, Mariah Ross, Ava Smith, Austin Uhlenhake, Ella Werling

Honors (9.0 – 10.9)

Lauren Beckman, Collin Bergstrom, Wendy Buening, Alessandra Cervantes, Liam Cowan, Victoria Cron, Isaac Delzeith, Bryant Evans, Weston Fisher, Chloe Frysinger, Nolan Gruss, Carter Heitkamp, Brent Heuing, Ashlyn Homan, Palin Homan, Thomas Houts, Haley Huwer, Jacob Kaiser, Lana Kaiser, Ben Liette, Owen May, Emily McNeil, Carter Miller, Carson Pax, Alex Penno, Mills Pottkotter, Brayla Rasaweher, Andrew Schulze, Jackson Serr, Marcus Sieftring, Myra Stammen, Lila Sudhoff, Shea Sudhoff, Collin Westergedes, Lanna Zahn

COMING MARCH 2024!!



The Coldwater Middle School
Presents: "Aladdin" JR
February 29-March 3, 2024

AUDITIONS were AWESOME!
WE have another AMAZING cast coming your way!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!



Another Holiday season is fast upon us, and we would like to take this time to reflect on another very successful Fall season. It was extremely busy but enjoyable and a rewarding season for so many groups and teams. Congratulations on a job well done to all of our sports teams, the high school band, the scholastic bowl teams, and many of our other co-curricular competition teams. In addition, a major Thank You goes out to our student body, for not only rooting on our beloved Cavs with great enthusiasm, but for representing what Coldwater Spirit is all about both locally and statewide! We don't ever want to take for granted the success of all our programs, and we certainly do not want to take for granted the manner in which we conduct ourselves both on and off the field/court.

Finally, one last Thank You goes out to all those who are dedicated to the success of our students/athletes. It is through their continued preparation and work ethic that enables Coldwater High School to be the special place that it is, and we look forward to continuing our academic and extracurricular success as we transition into the winter season. On behalf of the Coldwater High School Faculty and Staff, we like to wish everyone a Safe and Wonderful Holiday Season!

J Hemmelgarn, HS Principal



Juniors recently received their 200 Day Reward treat – Very Impressive!!

Thank you to the Coldwater McDonalds for their continued support of positive behaviors in the High School



Coldwater High School Drama Cast – CLUE

On October 26, 28 and 29, the Coldwater High School Drama presented “CLUE” the High School Edition with three awesome shows. Mrs. Petersen and Janelle Moorman decided to try a murder mystery type of play rather than a Cabaret singing performance. The Seniors had also contributed to the decision as well. They wanted to do something new and different. It was SO MUCH FUN!!

The cast had the opportunity to come in and audition for the part(s) they wanted and the show was formed! We had 23 HS auditions this year which made the decisions for parts very difficult. We were able to make 18 roles in the show (up from about 12) to help accommodate our numbers the best we could. The students were asked on the audition form if they would be interested in helping in other areas of the show if they could not be casted in a specific role. Many of the students with minor roles were also backstage crewmembers who helped move sets around during the shows and helped paint sets prior to the shows. We had four students run the booth as well. These four students were taught how to run everything and then they were able to do all the lighting design and sound for the show. Practices began and the cast fell right into character and created something very special!

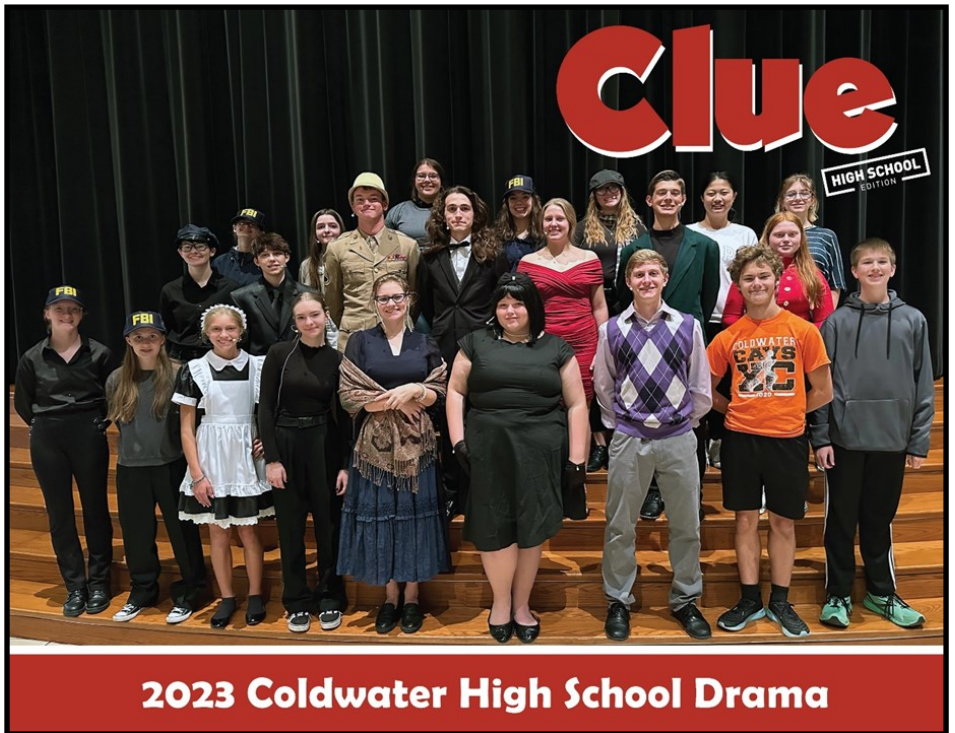
Mrs. Petersen and Janelle were so proud of the cast and all their hard work. They really made this show their own! Rooster Joe Coffee & Co. once again, donated coffee for our refreshments and parents of the cast donated cupcakes and cookies. Needless to say the performances were a huge success.



Congratulations to Andrea Cervantes for passing her seal of biliteracy test. She is completely bilingual in two languages, Spanish and English.

PROM

Senior/Junior Prom is set for Saturday, April 13th, with Promenade beginning at 6:00 pm.



Other items of interest coming up

- Sophomore Tri Star Tours set for December 7th
- Winter Band Concert (6-12) is scheduled for December 10th
- Christmas Choir Concert (6-12) is scheduled for December 17th
- Christmas Blood Drive is set for December 20th

Pumpkin Painting!!

Special Thank You to Leo Club for putting this event back on again.



Key Club

The Key Club attended an AKtion Club meeting and had the members after the meeting create a holiday craft. Everyone enjoyed themselves making the wooden snowmen. After the craft was completed everyone was treated to a snowman sugar cookie. The Key Club would like to thank Donna Fisher and Mr. Horstman and his students for helping with some of the prep work.



Scholastic Bowl Team



JV/Varsity (left) L-R: Coach Matt Lange, Jake Seitz, Russell Moorman, Ben Hannewald, Izaak Botkin, Mya Wehrkamp, Rudi Gross, Lex Cowan, Fiona Qiu, Isaac Hannewald, Drew Moorman



- The Coldwater Varsity Scholastic Bowl team ended the regular MAC season as Undefeated MAC Champs!....and finishing 4th at the end of the year MAC Varsity Tournament.
- The Coldwater JV scholastic Bowl also team ended the regular MAC season as Undefeated MAC Champs!....and finished in 5th at the end of the year MAC JV Tournament.
- Thank you to Mr. Lange for all his efforts with the team again this year!

New Look in the Media Center

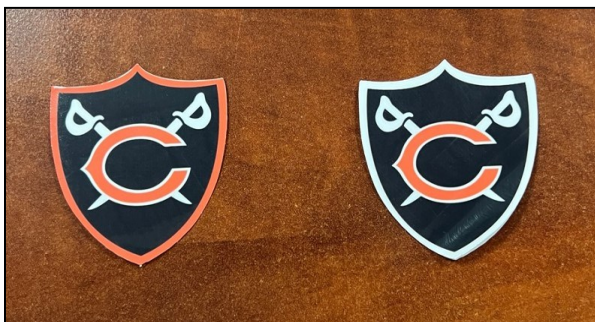
Recently, Mrs. Greber ordered and re-arranged some new seating areas in the Media Center to attract more students to come up from study hall, stay a bit, and relax with a book.....it seems to be working!!



New PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports) for the High School

Recently, the High School staff has incorporated two new ways to recognize positive behaviors from the student body:

1. Protect the Shield Cav Vinyl stickers – for actions above and beyond the normal “good” stuff



RILEY MEDAUGH—TURNED IN A WALLET FULL OF CASH TO THE OFFICE
AIDEN BURTCH—TURNED IN A VALUABLE NECKLACE TO THE OFFICE
MADISON WENDEL—MADE AN EFFORT TO INCLUDE OTHERS
SHELBY LINN - FOUND AND TURNED IN A DEBIT CARD TO THE OFFICE

2. Rusty Raffle tickets – given by Teachers for a “great day” in the classroom

- Each month a winning raffle ticket will be pulled – prize and sticker given
- Every 10 Raffle tickets receive a Cav Shield sticker

High School Scheduling

Recently, all of our students were given an opportunity to complete a survey with regards to our course offerings here at CHS. Those results, along with our current curriculum review and mapping, will help to determine our future Program of Studies as we meet to finalize those details.

Mrs. Kanney will begin meeting with all students in grades 8 – 11 at the start of the second semester. Each student will be shown an updated Program of Studies on our website (along the updated teacher videos) and be given a scheduling form to be completed. This should provide ample time to review, discuss, and prepare before leading up to our annual High School Scheduling night on **February 5, 2024**.

On that night, the High School Faculty and Staff will be on hand so that students can have their scheduling forms signed off by each High School department that applies to their course registration. All of next years (2025-2028) High School students are encouraged to attend this meeting. It is also *recommended* (but not required) that each student have a parental representative with them that evening to help with this process. Following that evening, Mrs. Kanney will meet with students one-on-one to confirm their plans for next year.

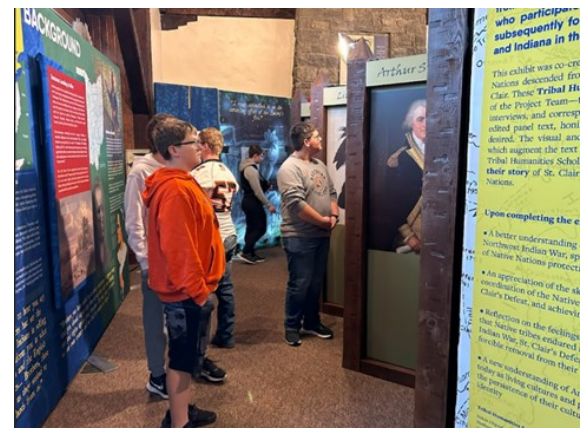
In addition, a College Credit Plus meeting will be held in the Cavroom at 7:00 pm.

Any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the High School Office for more information.

Coldwater High School Social Studies Field Trip to Ft. Recovery

On Friday, November 17th, Coldwater High School U.S. Studies and AP U.S. History students visited the Ft. Recovery Museum in Ft. Recovery, Ohio. Students viewed the new exhibit, St. Clair's Defeat Revisited: A New View of the Conflict. This free exhibit introduced the students to a Native perspective of the complex history of St. Clair's Defeat, which took place on the very ground that the village of Fort Recovery sits on. The exhibit was co-created by Ball State University and 11 Tribal Humanities Scholars descended from the Tribal fighters in St. Clair's Defeat. Fort Recovery is honored to have this exhibit at Fort Recovery before it travels to the Fort Wayne History Center, Northeast Oklahoma A&M College in Miami OK in 2024, and to the Ohio History Center in 2025.

Fort Recovery Museum Site Manager, Kim Rammel invited us to come over for the program and Christine Thompson, who is the Assistant Director and Archeologist at Ball State University discussed various topics regarding the exhibit with the students. The exhibit included a 15-minute welcome video that contains all Native voices. The exhibit itself covers four themes – including the Background of the Northwest Indian War, the Battle (St. Clair's Defeat), the Aftermath of broken treaties, removal of Native people, and boarding schools, and the Persistence of Tribes today. Also included are art items made by today's Tribal citizens. Special thanks go out to Coldwater Administration for promoting this opportunity for our students, as well as, to Kim Rammel and Christine Thompson of the Ft. Recovery Museum for their help in coordinating this event with our school.



Choral Notes

District Honors

Congratulations to Megan McNeil for her acceptance to the **2024 OMEA District 3 Festival Honors Choir**.

Pizza Cards

Sold out! Thank you for supporting the CEVS choral department and local pizza vendors. This was the most successful pizza card sale ever! The choral department will be able to continue to fund field trips and events as well as OMEA events and awards for our students.

7th Grade!

Members from the 1st Trimester 7th Grade Chorus had the opportunity to sing the Star - Spangled Banner out on the ice for a Ft. Wayne Komets Hockey game October 28th. Prior to singing, the students got to go back into the locker/dressing rooms where the officials and zamboni machine workers operated. In one of the photos, you can see the students in their complementary hockey masks just before we went out to sing. They were able to watch themselves on the jumbotron while they were singing. Great fun was had by all!



Mark your Calendars!

- Christmas Choral concert - Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 in the Auditoria
- Winter HS Band/Choir concert - Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 in the Palace
- Spring Choral concert - Sunday, May 19 at 3:00 in the Auditoria

COLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL 1st Nine Weeks Honor Roll

HIGH HONORS (11.0-12.0)

Grade 9

Audrey Alig, Aubrie Davis, Parker Doenges, Emma Eyink, Alaina Froning, Benjamin Hannewald, Breann Mathewson, Rachel Moeller, Noah Obringer, Paige Ontrop, Fiona Qiu, Lydia Rainey, Aidan Rose, Alex Rutschilling, Gavin Schmit, Ava Schmitmeyer, Cara Schwieterman, Kelsey Seitz, Joshua Sheets, Kennley Siegrist, Kiersten Weigel, Bradley Wendel

Grade 10

Madison Bruns, Amanda Clune, Alayna Dawson, Ava Doll, Grace Huwer, Ella Kaiser, Maxwell Koch, Madelyn Lange, Eve Lisi, Edward Obringer, Kaylie Rutschilling, Rebecca Simper, Sarah Stewart, Dana Zahn

Grade 11

Olivia Broering, Cody Depweg, David Dippold, Trent Ebbing, Spencer Etzler, Zachary Homan, Aaron Kaup, Kiersten Keller, Avery Knapke, Owen Kunk, Lucy Langenkamp, Shelby Larkin, Brady Lefeld, Brady Mathewson, Brady Meyer, Nicholas Moeller, Andrew Moorman, Russell Moorman, Tyler Overman, Miles Pottkotter, Brooke Schmitmeyer, Shanna Schmitmeyer, Joshua Schoen, Jake Seitz, Sarah Seitz, Mason Smith, Haley Tobin, Mason Welsch, Cale Wenning, Isabella Zahn

Grade 12

Grace Backs, Tabitha Berkenstock, Lydia Borger, Garrett Bruns, Kate Buschur, Isabel Byer, Andrea Cervantes, Carson Doenges, Cole Etzler, Andrew Eyink, Garrett Fiely, Derick Findley, Elijah Gels, Libby Gilmore, Justin Gruss, Sarah Homan, Braxton Howell, Riley Kremer, Audrey Lefeld, Carter May, Emma May, Megan McNeil, Marina Muhlenkamp, Kahlán Rose, Luke Schmitmeyer, Abigail Schwieterman, Luke Schwieterman, Peyton Seitz, Gena Vagedes, Mya Wehrkamp, Nicholas Wehrman, Madison Wendel, Rebecca Wenning

HONOR ROLL (9.0-10.9)

Grade 9

Tegan Berkenstock, Lisa Binat, Kinley Bruns, Joseph Buschur, Gena Fisher, Ava Fortkamp, Karter Freed, Alexis Gerlach, Libby Grieshop, Brooklyn Halterman, Karsyn Homan, Alexa Kunk, Charlotte Lefeld, James Liette, Shelby Link, Chase Linn, Emma Luebke, Aiden Norris, Lauren Overman, Zachary Pohlman, Joshua Schroer, Haley Schwieterman, Zachary Schwieterman, Grace Siefring, Charlie Stammen, Hailey Stough, Brookelyn Sudhoff, Braxton Taylor, Braylon Thobe, Tori Timmerman, Conner Tobin, Keaton Tobin, Abigail Will, Evan Winner

Grade 10

Kaia Behm, Mariah Bonifas, Brittany Burden, Aiden Burtch, Mia Byer, Carson Dues, Dillan Evers, Aidan Fiely, Kolton Gehm, Cole Guggenbiller, Ashley Hicks, Ella Kahlig, Keira Knapke, Landon Knapke, Gavin Lefeld, Kelly May, Makenzie Miller, Makenzie Norris, Linda Rohrer, Caden Sager, Elle Weber, Emma Weber, Emma Wehnes, Nora Wehrkamp

Grade 11

Mason Ayers, Hunter Barnard, William Barry, Ines Blasco Martin, Morgan Blasingame, Baylen Blockberger, Izaak Botkin, Austin Burden, Liam Davis, Braylon Dawson, Darren Diller, Ethan Elander, Owen Fennig, Drew Franck, Lia Frank, Rudi Gross, Owen Hamberg, Mandi Hart, Monica Hemmelgarn, Tyler Jones, Jonathan Lange, Shelby Linn, Sidney Linn, Abbie Miller, Colten Miller, Drew Muhlenkamp, Jayden Nye, Isabelle Ruckman, Troy Schoen, Alec Stammen, Brady Stammen, Carson Stammen, Brennan Sudhoff, Natalie Vogel, Noah Welsch, Caleb Wendel, Gavin Wenning, Andrew Wermert, Olivia Will, Emiko Ysawa, Nicholas Zahn

Grade 12

Katelyn Abels, Kenzie Adams, Riley Archer, Kenneth Bailey, Jacob Barnett, Carter Bertke, John Bertke, Brayden Bonifas, Emily Brunswick, Hailey Burrows, Alexander Cowan, Zachary Diller, Ethan Ebbing, Jack Ebbing, Lindsey Finke, Seth Finke, Abbigail Fortkamp, Nevaeh Fridley, Benjamin Giere, Kayden Giere, Julia Greber, Aiden Harlamert, Braylen Harlamert, Jackson Hassan, Ethan Heitkamp, Benjamin Hemmelgarn, Hope Hemmelgarn, Andrew Jones, Olivia Jutte, Leah Kaiser, Alex Knapke, Mason Link, Trinity McCain, Karley Nearon, Brandon Penno, Melissa Perez, Jack Riethman, Josephine Schmidt, Ellie Schneider, Rachel Schroyer, Elise Schwieterman, Julia Siefring, Haley Smith, Claire Steinke, Audrey Stoltz, Olivia Tobe, Troy Weigel, Ariel Wilson, Jenna Wollet, Gavin Zibrida



The Coldwater Athletic Boosters would like to congratulate all of our Fall athletes on great seasons. So many outstanding accomplishments for all of our athletes on the court and field of play.

We would like to wish good luck to all of our Winter athletes as they open their seasons. Be sure to check out a girls and/or boys basketball game, take in a wrestling match, head up to the bowling alley to watch our bowlers or head to a swim meet and support our Cavalier athletes by cheering along with our cheerleaders!

FALL RAFFLE -

Thank you again to all of our Fall Raffle sponsors along with the businesses that sold tickets for us and to everyone that purchased a raffle ticket. We were able to raise over \$20,000 for Coldwater athletics. Be on the lookout for the dates and information of our rebranded fall event.

CLOTHING DRIVE -

The clothing drive was a HUGE success this year. Thank you to everyone who placed an order to support Coldwater athletes and show your Cav Pride. We were able to double our profit again from last year by raising \$4,400. We hope everyone was happy with the variety of options that were available to purchase this year. Be on the lookout this winter with another sale with just accessory type items to use for those upcoming spring and summer sports!

BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP -

Our membership has grown and we are so excited as to what the future holds for the Coldwater Athletic Boosters! Those that committed to an orange membership be on the lookout for your thank you gift from one of the Booster board members. We are so grateful for such a supportive community to help our student athletes have what they need to compete in their chosen sport and to celebrate their victories. Below is a list of items that with your support we have recently purchased for Coldwater athletes:

Soccer/baseball uniforms	Volleyball pole system	Volleyball State Banner	Bowling State Banner
Remaining update of track hurdles		Team meals: volleyball, girls golf, soccer, football	
Conversion of Diamond #4 to softball field/press box and fencing to finish the diamond			
Hall of fame coaches frames in the Commons Area			

BOOSTER BOARD CHANGES -

The Coldwater Athletic Boosters want to thank Troy Steinbrunner for his hard work and dedication to the booster club. Troy has ended his tenure as President, however, he truly left a mark as president with his strong leadership and willingness to always get the job done and for that we thank him. We would like to then welcome Jared Roesser as our new President for this year, and Leah Bruns as our Vice President. Along with that, Jayme Moorman has graciously accepted continuing her tenure as being our treasurer and Jackie Homan will now be the secretary in place of Erica Lange. Erica and her husband Dylan were on the board for numerous years and worked countless hours behind the scenes to allow each and every booster project run smoothly. Thank you to them for the dedication of their time and hard work to our organization. We have also been lucky enough to have more community members stepping up to help with our organization. Some of the new faces you will see on the booster board include Liz Niekamp, Mike and Sarah Klenke, Tamra Dues, Brian Winner and Amanda Schoenherr. We are looking forward to growing this great organization to continue our mission of supporting all Coldwater Athletes. If you are interested in joining the Board, please reach out to any of us, as we meet the 3rd Monday of the month (December 18) in the back room at McSobers at 7:00 pm.

Again, thank you for your continued support. GO CAVS!

Coldwater Yearbook Staff of 2022 - 2023
Named Jostens 2023 National Yearbook Program of Excellence

Coldwater Yearbook Staff of 2022 - 2023 was recognized for a dynamic and engaging yearbook. Jostens, the leading producer of yearbooks and student-created content, announced that the Coldwater Yearbook Staff of 2022 - 2023 yearbook program achieved the Jostens 2023 National Yearbook Program of Excellence.

The Program of Excellence recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, information and communication technologies (ICT) literacy.

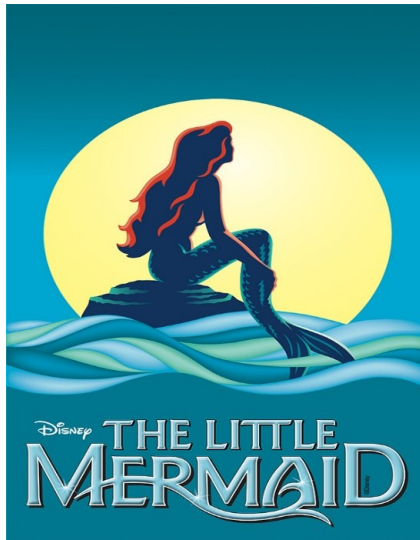
The Coldwater High School award-winning yearbook program was led by Editor-in-Chief Kennedy Voskuhl and Co-Editor Madison Wendel under the direction of yearbook advisor Miss Rodriguez.

The entire Yearbook Staff did an exceptional job on multiple levels. Yearbooks are a critical part of capturing and telling a school's story, Jostens are dedicated in supporting yearbook staff members as they do their important work."

Founded in 1897, Jostens has produced school yearbooks for over 60 years. Schools rely on Jostens and their local representatives to provide a combination of journalism education and technology tools to deliver a learning experience that helps students develop 21st century skills in journalism, photography, writing, design, leadership and business while creating the permanent record of the school year. Jostens invests in state-of-the-art technology, best in class service, educational curriculum and award winning print manufacturing platforms to plan, design, build and produce yearbooks.

COMING APRIL 2024

Mark your calendars! The High School Drama department will presenting "THE LITTLE MERMAID" April, 2024. Dates and times will be announced soon!



April 4-7, 2024

Auditions were AMAZING! We have an AWESOME cast to entertain you!

A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE SUPPORTING THE DRAMA PROGRAMS COLDWATER SCHOOLS

The Coldwater Drama Department is made of three groups, Elementary Drama (4th and 5th Grade), Middle School Drama (Grades 6-8) and High School Drama (Grades 9-12). Each year we set out to present high quality entertaining productions and obtain performance rights for well known, popular shows. We are looking for sponsors who are willing to donate and help us build our Drama Programs so we can continue to put on spectacular shows.

For the 2023-2024 drama season, Elementary Drama will be presenting "FINDING NEMO" JR, Middle School "ALADDIN" JR, and High School "CLUE" and "THE LITTLE MERMAID". We would like to invite you to be an honorary part of the Drama Program here in Coldwater. It is YOUR support that helps provide the opportunity for growth and sustainability. We were able to provide high quality shows and update some equipment during the 2022-2023 season thanks to all of our sponsors! We hope to continue growing this sponsorship program.

Why Donate?

Performance rights alone for many JR productions start at \$800, and the High School shows at \$3400. These rights allow us to perform 3-5 shows with limitations set by the licensing agreement. Performance rights however do not include costumes, musical scores, prompt books, or choreography. These items incur added cost based on the size of the production and cast. The Drama Department rents, purchases, or makes many of the costumes you see. We also build many unique sets, often with the inability for long term storage. Coldwater's 2023 production of Into the Woods cost \$8500.

By donating to the Drama Program, you will get your name or business in the Playbill for each group in which you donate, with a note of thanks. You can choose to have your donation split between all 3 drama groups, or you can specify which group you would like your donation to support. In addition, you will receive a 2 ticket credit voucher (PRESALE ONLY) for each \$100 donated. Send this voucher in with any PRESALE order to receive two tickets for the show of your choice!

Please make your check payable to Coldwater Schools (c/o Coldwater Drama in the memo) and fill out the attached form. 100% of your donation will stay in the Coldwater Drama Department. We truly thank you for your donation.

I would like to donate to the following group(s):

_____ Coldwater Elementary School Drama(Grades 4-5). Amount of Contribution \$ _____

_____ Coldwater Middle School Drama(Grades 6-8). Amount of Contribution \$ _____

_____ Coldwater High School Drama (Grades 9-12). Amount of Contribution \$ _____

_____ Split between all 3 groups as needed. Amount of Contribution \$ _____

Name _____ Company/Business _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please provide name and/or company as it should appear in the program and other recognition.

Please mail to:

Coldwater Drama
c/o Denise Petersen
310 N 2nd Street
Coldwater Ohio 45828

Or drop off at any of the School offices. Any questions can be directed to
petersen.denise@coldwatercavs.org

"FINDING NEMO" JR.

I would like to thank EVERYONE for their support of "FINDING NEMO" JR. presented by the Coldwater 4th and 5th Grade Drama students. The performance was spectacular and the students poured their hearts out into each and every performance. The 92 member cast was just AMAZING! They worked hard and stayed focused! I am so proud of each and everyone of them!

I appreciate everyone who came out to see the show, sent in notes of encouragement and gave of their time to help make it such a success. We not only had our largest cast ever but we also had record breaking crowds! Thank you to the students for giving it your all and making it the best show yet!!! I am so proud of the work ethic and determination of our 4th and 5th grade students.

Special thanks to Janelle Moorman and Frank Petersen for coming in countless evenings to work on props and set pieces. Thank you to Beth and Eric Wellman for working your magic on the back set and several set pieces. Everything looked spectacular!! Also thank you to Janelle for being an AWESOME Assistant director! She puts her all into everything she does!! Roger Knapke also does an amazing job building sets for us and making sure everything is secure and ready to go! Thank you Roger!! Like us on Facebook!!



Mrs. Petersen

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who went above and beyond to sponsor the Coldwater Drama Department SO FAR during the 2023-2024 drama season! If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Denise Petersen petersen.denise@coldwatercavs.org

**American Legion Post 470
Regan and Jenny Brandon
Brunet Dental
Eric and April Goodwin
Jay and Pam Wehrkamp
Ryan and Jackie Homan
Tracy's Daycare LLC
Gary and Vickie Lefeld
The Peoples Bank Co.
Performance Physical Therapy & Wellness
Family Veterinary Services LLC
Hazelnut Coffeehouse
Financial Concepts
Schwieterman Construction, Inc
Mike and Kelly Hoying
Buzzards Glory Community Club
Joe and Michelle McClurg
Rooster Joe Coffee
Signature 4
Mark and Deb Gross
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Cavalier Athletic Report

What an awesome Fall Sports season we just completed! All of our programs had tremendous seasons with many successes on and off the playing fields. We are truly blessed at Coldwater to have the student/athletes, community, parents, coaching, booster club, etc. support from all involved. This is what makes these programs successful across the board.



The Lady Cavalier Volleyball team wrapped up their season with a school tying regular season record of 21-1 and advancing to the District Finals. They also captured their 4th MAC title including back-to-back. Earning All MAC honors were: Spencer Etzler (1st – Player of the Year), Madison Wendel (1st), Morgan Blasingame (1st), Mia Knapke (2nd), Rachel Schroyer (HM), and Coach of the Year, Nikki Etzler. Spencer Etzler (1st) team and Morgan Blasingame (3rd) team also earn All Ohio honors. Spencer's 1st team recognition also makes her the newest member of the Coldwater Ring of Honor.

Boys and Girls Cross Country both had solid seasons as they continue to build their programs. Both programs represented themselves well in both the MAC and Districts. Earning All MAC League honors were: Mason Ayers (1st), Audrey Alig (1st), Breann Mathewson (HM), and Josh Schoen (HM). Audrey and Mason both qualified for the Regionals with Mason advancing on to represent Coldwater at the State Cross Country Meet.

Boys Golf had another great season under 1st year head coaches Austin Pleiman and Jason Hemmelgarn as they just missed out on a MAC League title. Representing Coldwater on the All MAC Team were: Ben Giere (1st – Medalist), Braxton Howell (1st), and Zach Diller (HM). Their 4th place finish at Sectionals just missed the team advancing to the district level, but Ben Giere was able to represent Coldwater as an individual at Districts.

Coldwater Girls Golf went through a reloading year after back-to-back-to-back MAC League titles. Although they might not have won the MAC title for a 4th straight season, they did have good representation on the All League team. Libby Gilmore (2nd) and Madison Bruns (2nd) both finished in the All League standings as individuals.

Coldwater Girls Soccer finished with yet another winning season and had several players earn All WOSL League honors. Representing Coldwater were: Leah Kaiser (1st), Kate Buschur (1st), Ellie Schneider (2nd), Madelyn Lange (2nd), Avery Knapke (HM), and Sydney Grieshop (HM). The Lady Cavs advanced to the District tournament once again before falling to a very good Kalida team 1-0.

The Cavalier Football team had yet another outstanding season finishing 12-2 overall and advancing to the Regional Championship. Coach Chip Otten has been the head coach now for 14 seasons with 9 teams playing in the State Championship game. I mention this as coach finished up this season with 167 career wins at Coldwater which is good for 2nd place all time trailing only Coach John Reed by 1 win. As expected, Coldwater was well represented on the All MAC team with: Cody Depweg (1st – Defensive Player of the Year and 2nd Team Offense), Mason Welsch (1st Team Defense and 1st Team Offense), Braylen Harlamert (1st Team Offense), AJ Harlamert (1st Team Offense and 1st Team Defense), Cale Wenning (1st Team Offense), Troy Milligan (2nd Team Offense), Will Barry (2nd Team Offense), Andrew Jones (2nd Team Defense), Jack Ebbing (2nd Team Defense), Miles Pottkotter (2nd Team Defense), Baylen Blockberger (HM), Bryce Couchot (HM), Austin Hamilton (HM), and Gavin Zibrida (HM).

Although they don't have a score at the end of the night and they don't get the recognition that they deserved, I would like to recognize the Coldwater Cheerleading Squads for an outstanding Fall Season. Their representation of the Coldwater Schools and Community was once again outstanding. They don't get told enough, but we truly appreciate all they do for the Coldwater athletic programs. Thank You Cavalier Cheerleaders!

Winter season tickets are now available online by going to www.coldwaterathletics.org. You can simply mouse over "More" and go to the "Click Here to Order tickets...." Button. If you need any help, simply stop in to the High School Office. We will take care of the process for you.

We would like to remind everyone to keep following our website at www.coldwaterathletics.org. We try to keep this site up to the minute with schedules, features, records, scores, etc. This has been a challenging year with keeping the schedules current however due to the many changes. If you notice something, please let us know.

Lefeld Industrial & Welding Supplies Athletes of the Week!



Cody Depweg



Rachel Schroyer



Mason Ayers



Spencer Etzler



Jack Ebbing



AJ Harlamert



Audrey Alig



Coldwater Volleyball back-to-back MAC Champions



Mason Ayers – State CC



Coldwater MAC Banquet Honorees for 1st Team All League



Spencer Etzler – Ring of Honor



Madison Wendel signs with Central Michigan



Ben Giere signs with UNOH

FFA Members Attend the 96th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis



At the beginning of November, the Coldwater FFA traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for their annual National FFA Convention trip where over 65,000 FFA members from across the country join together to celebrate successes, hear guest speakers, meet with agricultural companies and colleges at the career show, tour businesses, and meet new people.

Before heading to Indianapolis for the actual convention, the 32 Coldwater FFA members on the trip took a detour to Lexington, Kentucky to tour some amazing businesses. The trip was kicked off with a tour of the Cargill soybean processing plant in Sidney, Ohio. Here, members observed the making and packaging processes of various soybean products. The next day, after arriving in Lexington the night before, FFA members braved the cold for a morning spent at Keeneland Race Course, a horse racing track. The race track, where well-known movies like *Seabiscuit* and *Secretariat* were filmed, was extremely impressive and beautiful. They even were able to see some horses getting in their morning workout! After Keeneland, the members traveled across Lexington to the Woodford Reserve Distillery. The distillery, with most of it being original buildings from the early 1800s, was also impressive. The tour guides explained the very delicate fermentation process of bourbon making and spelled out the guidelines that make a whiskey a bourbon. At the end of the tour, Coldwater FFA loaded up the bus to head to Indianapolis for convention. Upon arriving in Indiana, members took one more tour of a gourmet popcorn shop called Not Just Popcorn. After learning about the popcorn making process, many members bought some unique flavors of popcorn to indulge in themselves. Later that night, they enjoyed a performance by country singer Lainey Wilson exclusively for FFA members in Gainbridge Fieldhouse. The next day, Coldwater FFA attended the National FFA Convention Opening Session 1B in Lucas Oil Stadium. During this session, they listened as keynote speaker Juan Bendana spoke on the importance of confidence. After talking to various business representatives at the Career Show, day three of the trip ended with a visit to Dull's Tree Farm. Here the members found their way through a corn maze and learned about how to grow Christmas Trees. On the last day of Convention, Coldwater FFA attended another session where they heard National FFA Officer Ryan Williamson give his retiring address before making their way back home.





The next day, former FFA members Trent Berkenstock, Sam Boeckman, Grant Ebbing, Aaron Fortkamp, Grant Heuing, Rachel Penno, Erica Post, Darin Schmitmeyer received their American FFA Degrees. The American Degree is the highest honor an FFA member can receive, and only about 1% of all FFA members receive it. Congratulations!

Throughout all the sessions at the Convention, members enjoyed seeing FFA Talent competitors, FFA Band and Chorus perform, and encouraging other members throughout the nation as they won awards at the national level. The National FFA Convention was a fun-filled educational experience for everyone. All members are encouraged to attend this event at some point in their FFA career.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to **Padua Pumping** for sponsoring coats for the members to wear on the tours. Thank you for making us look like one of the best-looking groups on these tours!

Job Interview FFA Career Development Event

The Job Interview Career Development Event has members prepare a resume and cover letter, fill out a job application, participate in a mock interview, and type a formal thank you letter. This is one of the most realistic contests of the FFA. They competed on October 30th at Botkins High School.

Junior Division - Mandi Hart - 12th place

Senior Division - Derick Findley - 13th place

Sophomore Division - Madelyn Lange - 5th place

Freshmen Division - Tori Timmerman - 2nd place



Food Science FFA Career Development Event

The Food Science Career Development Event has members work as a team to create a new food product based on information given to them in a project development scenario, complete a food safety and sanitation activity, and individuals compete themselves to help the team score by using their sensory skills to solve problems and answer questions. FFA members Haley Tobin, Shanna Schmitmeyer, David Dippold, Carson Stammen, Alayna Dawson, Linda Rohrer, Kate Hemmelgarn, Gena Fisher, Ava Schmitmeyer, Kameron Bird, Savanna Diller, and Faith Pohlman participated in this CDE. Haley Tobin, Shanna Schmitmeyer, David Dippold, and Carson Stammen made up Coldwater's top scoring team. Good job to everyone who participated!



Ohio FFA Leadership Night

Every year, Coldwater has had the joy of hosting an Ohio FFA Leadership night for their own and surrounding area FFA chapters. During the night, 150 FFA members were challenged and encouraged to think outside of the box while doing activities created by the State Officer Team. This year state officers Katelyn Kinsella and Ava Evers led the group of eager FFA members through activities that taught the importance of leadership.



State Officer Visit in Class

Katelyn Kinsella, who is the Ohio FFA Vice President at Large, visited every Ag class. She presented a workshop on the importance of teamwork. Katelyn had many fun activities prepared to help the students improve their teamwork skills.



Feeding Farmers in the Field

In October many FFA members helped prepare and drop off lunches to farmers in the field. The members meet at the school where they made the sack lunches on a Wednesday afternoon. They then drove around the area to find farmers in the field. Thank you to Cooper Farms for donating the turkey meat for the sandwiches, and thank you to all farmers and everything you do for our community!



Operation Snow Removal

It's that time of year again! If you know of anyone needing assistance to remove their snow, the FFA members would love to help. **On cancellation days only**, the FFA members will clear the driveways and sidewalks for people in need. Please call Coldwater High School, 419-678-4821, if someone you know needs their snow shoveled.

