COMSTOCK PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PANTHER PRESS

ISSUE 1 SEPT./OCT. 2018

District Contacts

Dave Washburn
Superintendent
dwashburn@cppschools.com

Chris LaHaie
Director of Finance
clahaie@cppschools.com

Missi McPherson
Community Liaison
mmcpherson@cppschools.com

Jodi Smith
Human Resources
jsmith@cppschools.com

District Phone Numbers

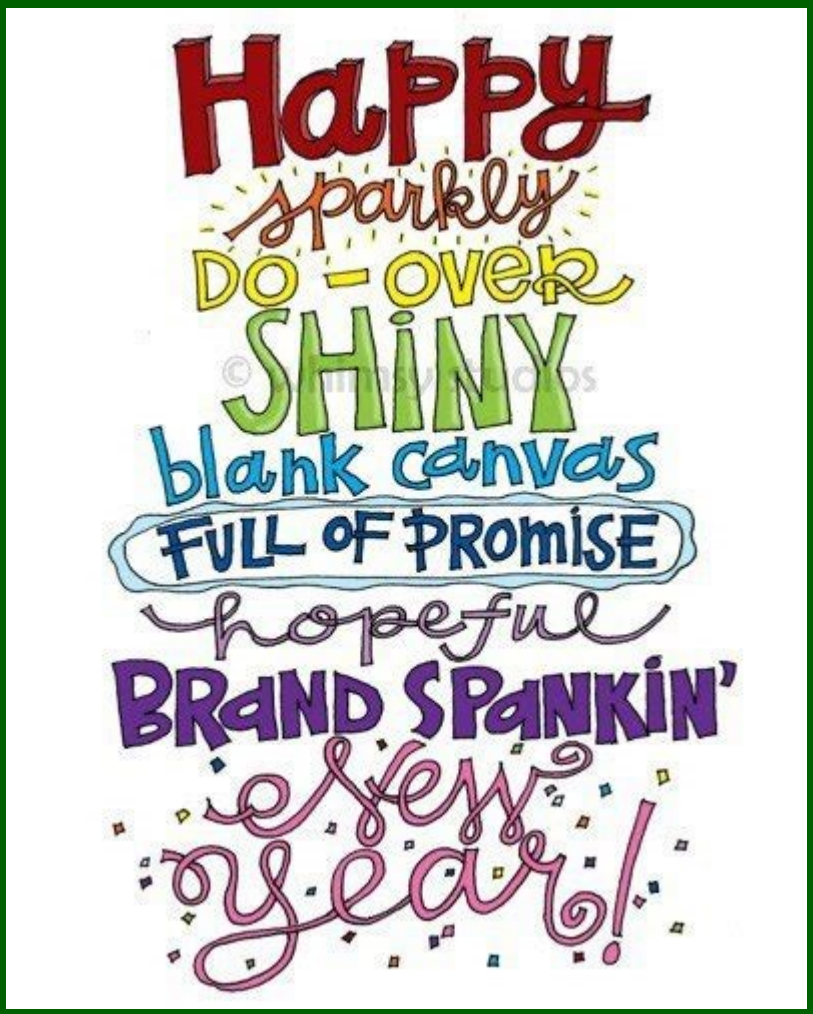
Central Office	254-5000
Food Service	254-5242
Transportation	254-5050
CP High School	254-5200
Mill Creek	254-5100
Pine Island	254-5500
Stoney Creek	254-5600
Greenridge	254-5700

Board Members

Christy Nowak
Terry Benjamin
Kevin McLellan
Jennifer Zalinski
Ted Spangenberg
Tony Parker
Michael Brown

Comstock Park Public Schools
101 School St. NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone 616-254-5000
Fax 616-784-5404

Welcome Back to School



2018-2019

Helping Students Learn—Whatever it Takes

From the Superintendet

Dear Community Members,

Welcome to the start of the 2018-2019 school year! I am honored and humbled to be your superintendent and look forward to partnering with you as we embark on this new school year together.

I began my career in education teaching at the elementary level in Rockford Public Schools. At the time, I was coaching at Forest Hills Northern and later accepted a middle school teaching position so I could teach and coach in the same district.

Eventually, I became assistant principal at Northern Hills Middle School, then athletic director/assistant principal at Eastern High School and finally the principal at Eastern Middle School where I have been in that capacity for the last ten years. In addition to my role at Eastern Middle, for the last six years I have had the opportunity of being the principal of Goodwillie Environmental School, a 5th/6th grade building that focuses instruction through the lens of an environmental curriculum. I have also gained a great amount of knowledge and experience through central office mentorships.

My wife, Kirsten, is also an educator and has taught over ten years at the elementary level. We have three children: Taylor is a senior at Grand Valley State University, Jake is a junior in high school and our youngest, Daniella, will be starting her freshman year of high school. Our family has spent some time this summer enjoying the wonderful outdoors at the family cottage up north and I hope you have had time to relax and enjoy the summer with family and friends, doing the things you enjoy.

It has been an exciting first month on the job! I have been able to meet many new people by attending various community events. In addition to attending the many activities, I have been able to visit each of our buildings multiple times over the past two weeks. I was especially excited to talk with administrators, teachers, secretaries, custodians and other support staff members. They are all so dedicated and passionate about what they do for students on a daily basis. There is great electricity in each building that will only keep getting more and more illuminated as the year goes on.

Attending these various events has given me the opportunity to meet some wonderful people. The community has been very kind and welcoming! I feel so blessed to be able to join this outstanding school district!

Once again, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I look forward to the work we will accomplish this year and getting to know each of you.

Sincerely,

David Washburn
Superintendent

Greenridge School

Greenridge Contacts

Jodi Miller
Principal/
Special Education Director
jodimiller@cppschools.com

Denise Cobb
Secretary
dcobb@cppschools.com

3825 Oakridge
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone 616-254-5700
Fax 616-785-9829

Headstart
616-493-0744

PANTHER PRIDE!

Greenridge School

Kent ISD Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Program is a parent education and family support program designed to empower parents to give their children the best possible start in life. Bright Beginnings offers free home visits where a parent educator would come to your home for a one on one learning and play session. They will show you how to use common itemsin your home as learning tools. They will also talk to you about any challenges you are facing.

Bright Beginnings
Little Lives Big Dreams Bright Futures

For more information, please call Denise Kreske @ 616-447-3094

Playgroups are offered at Greenridge elementary school and offer educational activities, stories, songs, snack and playtime. These **free** playgroups help to prepare you and your child for preschool and Kindergarten.

Please join us!

Greenridge Elementary School
3825 Oakridge Ave NW, Comstock Park , 49321

All playgroups are held in the Motor Room
from 11:00 – 12:00 PM

Dates:

Sept 14 “Down on the Farm”
Oct 12 “Fall Harvest”
Nov 9 “Diggers and Dump Trucks”
Dec 7 “All about Me”
Jan 11 “Ocean Wonders”
Feb 8 “Penguins and Polar Bears”
March 8 “Dinomite Discoveries”
April 12 “Hop into Spring”
May 10 “Bugs , Bees and Butterflies”

Kent ISD
We Lead Learning

Stoney Creek Elementary

Stoney Creek Contacts

Tiffany Jackson
Principal
tjackson@cppschools.com

Alicia Keur
Secretary
akeur@cppschools.com

Join Us on Facebook
@stoneycreekelementary

200 Lantern Dr. NW
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone 616-254-5600
Fax 616-785-9853

Open House

Stoney Creek had over 400+ attend our Open House before school started. Students and parents were just as excited as the teachers to meet each other. It was nice to hear the sounds of students back in the building ready to go for a new school year. Thank you for all the donations provided as we start this school year. It is great to see the community support for our students and staff.

1st Grade Curriculum Night

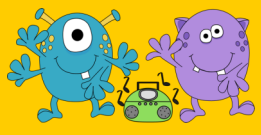
The first grade teachers hosted a curriculum night on Wednesday, September 12. Many parents and students attended this event and were excited to learn about what the kids will be learning and doing in 1st grade. Thank you to all that attended and to the first grade teachers for hosting this great event.

First week of School

We had a GREAT first week of school at Stoney Creek. We welcomed 210 Kindergarten students, 130 1st grade students and 136 2nd grade students. We have enjoyed getting to know each student and having lots of fun.

Dance Party Fridays

Each Friday at our parent drop off, Mrs. Jackson plays some music and has a little dance party as the kids arrive at school. This is a fun way to celebrate the start to our last day of the week. Thank you to the staff you join in and the smiles are amazing!



IMPORTANT DATES

September 17-21
Spirit Week
Mon.—Hat Day
Tues.—Beach Day
Wed.—Crazy Hair Day
Thur.—Super Hero Day
Fri.—Green & Gold Day

September 21
Homecoming Parade 6PM

September 26
Student Pictures

October 3
Watch Dog Night 6PM

Pine Island Elementary

PANTHER PRIDE!

Pine Island Contacts

Stacy Reehl
Principal
sreehl@cppschools.com

Jennifer Barnhardt
Secretary
jbarnhardt@cppschools.com

Pat Calkins
Office Clerk/PBIS Support
pcalkins@cppschools.com

Join Us on Facebook

Wow! Things are buzzing right along at Pine Island….

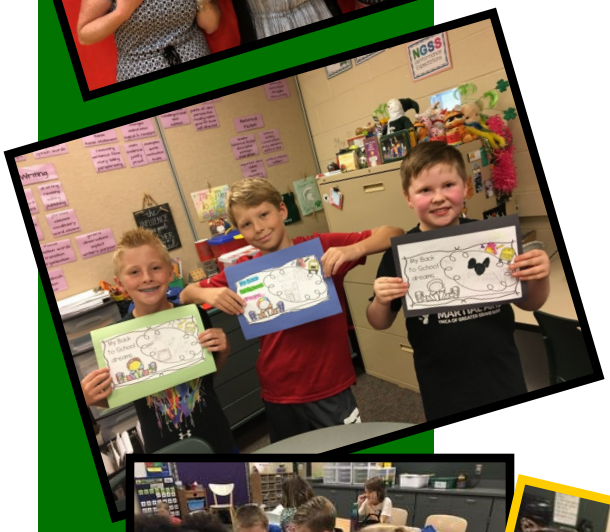
Thank you to all who attended our Open House. We had a HUGE turnout and saw many smiling faces. The staff was so excited to show off their classrooms and it was a great time to meet our students for this coming year. Please remember to take a moment to review our parent handbook and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

Our theme this year is "We ARRGH leaders- Hooked on the Habits!" We are so excited to continue to share this Leader in Me experience with you and your students. We expect greatness from all of our students!!

Just a friendly reminder that if you plan to attend any field trips, parties, or school functions, you will need a new volunteer form filled out and on file. This form includes a picture of your driver's license.

At different times throughout the year (class parties, birthdays, etc.), it is not uncommon for families to provide the classroom/school with treats that have been made at home. While such gestures are greatly appreciated, they have become a growing concern as we try to address student dietary restrictions, food allergies, illnesses, and hygiene issues. We are only allowing commercially prepared and/or packaged treats. No homemade treats will be accepted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Until Next Time….. Love, Learn, Lead!



IMPORTANT DATES

September 17-21
Homecoming Spirit Week

September 21
Homecoming Parade 6PM

September 26
Chuck E Cheese Fundraiser Night 3-9pm

October 3
Fall Count

October 16
Chuck E Cheese Fundraiser Night 3-9pm

October 19
Picture Retakes

October 23
P/T Conf. 4.30-8:00PM

October 25
P/T Conf. 4:00-7:30PM

Mill Creek Middle School

Mill Creek Contacts

Gus Harju
Principal
gharju@cppschools.com

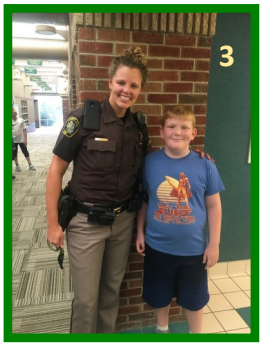
Robb Hurt
Dean of Students
rhurt@cppschools.com

Jodi Ryan
Secretary
jryan@cppschools.com

100 Betty Street NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone 616-254-5100
Fax 616-785-2464

Welcome to Mill Creek

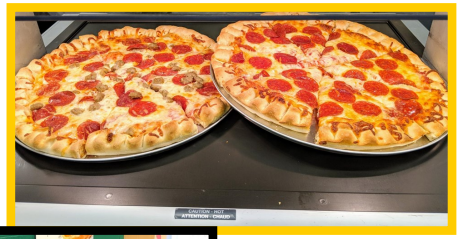
1. Sixth grade parents helping their students open combination lockers for the first time in the middle school in mid-August.
2. 7/8er Football's first competition for 2018-19 with a scrimmage at Northview.
3. School Resource Officer Brown talking with students and parents during Open House. Connor Phinney was asked to be in this picture!
4. Parents and teachers getting to know one another at Open House.



Mill Creek Food Service Changes

At Mill Creek we incorporated new food stations to give the students more of a variety. We now make fresh homemade pizzas every day. We also have a new serving line called create. This line allows students to build their own meal every day. We have a grilled station that offers two-three different grab n go hot sandwiches with homemade sauces and spices to flavor our food options. We have grab n go homemade salads and sandwiches available daily, along with fruit yogurt parfaits.

We received a grant this year which allowed us to purchase a fruit and vegetable bar. On our fruit and veggie bar we offer at least two different fresh fruits and veggies daily for students to enjoy with their meals. All our menu options change daily. We run on a four week menu cycle and are always working towards providing food options that our students can enjoy!



Upcoming Events

September 17-21
Spirit Week

September 17
Constitution Day
Board Meeting 7PM

September 18
PAC Meeting

September 19
Academic Advisory Meeting

September 20
Picture Day

September 21
Homecoming Assembly 8:00AM
Homecoming Parade 6PM

October 9
Parent /Teacher Conf.
4:00-7:30PM

Comstock Park High School

High School Contacts

Dan Holden
Principal
dholden@cppschools.com

Tony Petkus
Assistant Principal
tpetkus@cppschools.com

Chris Sposaro
Ath. Coord./Student Services
csposaro@cppschools.com

Leisha Emmorey
Secretary
lemmorey@cppschools.com

150 Six Mile Road NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone 616-254-5200
Fax 616-785-9835

Comstock Park High School Welcomes A New Principal – Dan Holden

Please help us welcome Dan Holden as the new High School Principal. Dan is a dedicated and passionate educator and we are so happy that he is joining our Comstock Park Team! Dan comes to us from Byron Center High School where he worked as a principal and athletic director for six years. He has a lovely wife and three beautiful children. We would also like to thank Mr. Steve Sharphorn, our retired assistant principal, for stepping up to help the students and staff start the 2018-19 school year. His joyful and inviting presence brought smiles to everyone. Thank you and welcome from the CP Panthers!

New Student Luncheon

Every year the Student Volunteers help welcome our new students to Comstock Park High School with a luncheon. The National Honor Society generously donated a delicious lunch from Vitale's of Comstock Park. A representative from each student organization speaks on their behalf and describes what they accomplish during the school year to offer opportunities for the students to get involved with the school and our community. Great job students!

Upcoming Events

September 17-21
Homecoming Week

September 20
Hall of Fame Banquet 6:30PM

September 22
CPHS Homecoming Dance 7PM

September 25
New Student Pictures and Re-Takes

September 27
Freshman Class Meeting

October 3
Fall Count

October 4
Josten's Ring Orders
P/T Conf. 3:30-7:00PM

October 10
PSAT/NMSQT National Test

Athletic Hall of Fame

Comstock Park High School Athletic Hall of Fame Honors Four Outstanding Women

This year's Comstock Park High School Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be a tribute to four fantastic female graduates of CPHS. Besides being women, they also have a few other things in common such as great leadership ability, tremendous work ethic, and sincere caring for others.

The CPHS Athletic Hall of Fame was created in 1991 to recognize athletes and coaches that have excelled in sports at CPHS and displayed characteristics of an excellent role model. It was later expanded to include individuals as "honorary members" that have made a significant contribution to the CPHS athletic program. Candidates must be nominated by an individual by submitting a completed application, obtainable through the CPHS athletic office. Each candidate that is nominated is then considered for induction by a committee consisting of staff members, community members, school administrators and a school board member.

This year's inductees are Kathy Felty, Alison Campbell-Gallagher, Karlee Despres-Muilenberg, and Emily M. Ball-Meyer. **These outstanding individuals will be inducted in the CPHS auditorium on Thursday, September 20 with a banquet in their honor.** Following dinner, a guest speaker gives a speech and each inductee gives an acceptance speech. Anyone that is interested in attending the banquet and ceremony is welcome to attend. Contact the CPHS athletic office or email gholland@cppschools.com for more details about the banquet or Hall of Fame.

Alison Campbell-Gallagher
2018 Comstock Park High School Athletic Hall Fame Inductee

Alison Campbell graduated from Comstock Park High School in 1997 and was an outstanding athlete in both high school and college. She also excelled academically and demonstrated great leadership and character.

Alison played varsity volleyball for three years. As a junior, she was selected as the Advance Athlete of the Week and helped her team to an OK Silver Division championship. As a senior, she was First Team All-Conference and again helped her team win the Division championship.

She played Varsity Golf for three years and was All-Conference and Advance All-Area Honorable Mention during her senior year.

Alison played varsity tennis for four years. She was Advance Athlete of the Week, All-Conference, All-Area Honorable Mention, ranked number seven area doubles team, and helped the team to a third place finish in the State Tournament. In 1997, Alison won the Athletic Booster Scholarship and the OK Silver Athlete of the Year Award.

In addition to her athletic accomplishments in high school, Alison won many awards as a student and leader. Here are some of those: Detroit Free Press Scholar athlete, D.A.R., Shew, National Honor Society, Principal Leadership, Student Volunteer, and Teacher Scholarship. She also served as Class President for three years and was team captain on several teams.

After high school, Alison played tennis at Grand Rapids Community College. She was the team captain and her doubles team won the State and Regional Championships and competed in the National Tournament. After graduating from Western Michigan University she coached some volleyball at Jenison and Comstock Park High Schools and tennis at Forest Hills Central. Two of her doubles teams at Forest Hills were State Champions.

Alison is married and has children and loves working with and coaching children in various sports programs around the area. She will always be remembered as a positive leader and a person of the highest character.

Athletic Hall of Fame—continued

Karlee Despres-Muilenberg
2018 Comstock Park High School Athletic Hall Of Fame Inductee

Karlee Despres graduated from Comstock Park High School in 2008. She excelled in softball and basketball and is considered one of the best female athletes ever to play at Comstock Park High School and an outstanding student as well.
Karlee played volleyball for one year and was on the varsity as a freshman and ran cross country for a year. She did well in both sports but decided to concentrate on basketball and softball while in high school.
In basketball, she played on the varsity all four years. She received All-Conference recognition three years, All-District two years, and All-State two years. She served as a caption for three years and finished with 1,081 points over her four years making her the leading scorer in school history.
In softball, Karlee pitched on the varsity for four years. She was All-Conference all four years, All-District three years, All-Region three years, and All-State three years. In addition, she was a member of the Grand Rapids area Dream Team and the Michigan High School Athletic Association Class B Pitcher of the Year. In 2007, she led the team to a Class B second place finish in the State tournament and finished her high school career with school records in most wins, most shutouts, most strikeouts, and most No-hitters. Karlee was the 2008 Female OK Blue Athlete of the Year.
In college, Karlee continued to excel in both basketball and softball at Davenport University. In basketball, she was All-Conference, All-American, WHAC Player of the Week three times, and set the school record by scoring 43 points in a game. She also was an Academic All-American, Champion of Character Award recipient, and runner up for the National Player of the Year.
As a softball pitcher at Davenport, she had six No-Hitters, set the school record for strikeouts in a season (162), set the school record for strikeouts in a game (17), and made first team All-Conference. In addition, she was WHAC Pitcher of the Week twice, NAIA Scholar Athlete, Academic All-WHAC, and COSIDA Academic All-American.
Since graduating from Davenport, Karlee has coached both basketball and softball. Throughout high school and college she has truly demonstrated the ability to excel at the top level on the playing field as well as in the class

Emily M. Ball Meyer
2018 Comstock Park High School Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee

Emily Ball graduated from Comstock Park High School in 2007. She was a versatile student with a great work ethic that excelled in volleyball and basketball.
In her freshman year, Emily played on the Junior Varsity Basketball and softball teams. She played on the varsity volleyball team and was selected as the Gatorade Player of the Year. She also played AAU Basketball for the North Court Netters
As a sophomore, Emily played varsity basketball and volleyball and was selected as Honorable Mention All-Conference in both sports. She also kept very busy by playing AAU basketball and volleyball.
During her junior year, things really got interesting for Emily. In basketball she was selected as team captain and led her team to a District Championship. That year, she was also selected First Team All-Conference. As a varsity volleyball player for the third year, she won the Team MVP Award and First Team All-Conference honors. She also played on National contending AAU teams in basketball and Volleyball.
Emily's senior year was great. In basketball, she was team captain, First Team All-Conference, All-Area, and the Fox 17 McDonald's Student Athlete of the Week. In volleyball, she was team captain and First Team All-Conference. Instead of AAU sports, Emily played Club Soccer and was elected Team Captain.
Emily decided to attend Calvin College and played basketball for two years. During her sophomore year, she served as team captain. After two years of college, she decided to devote herself full time to her studies and her goal of becoming a nurse. She did some basketball officiating while in college and some coaching after graduating.
Emily is married now and is a dedicated nurse for patients with cancer. Emily will always be remembered for her leadership and her tremendous work ethic.

Athletic Hall of Fame—continued

Kathy Felty
2018 Comstock Park High School Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee

Kathy Felty graduated from Comstock Park High School in the early 1968. This life-long resident of Comstock Park coached Competitive Cheer at her former high school for 27 years. During that time, Kathy's teams excelled and she became a leader in the competitive cheer sport statewide.

Prior to Competitive Cheer being recognized as a Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) sport, Kathy coached Michigan Competitive Cheer Association teams to Regional and State finals. From 1992 through 1995, her teams finished in the top ten with a third place finish in 1995. From 1994 to 2017, her teams competed in the Michigan High School Athletic Association and here is a list of their accomplishments:

17 OK Conference Championships
8 District Championships (districts was created in 2009)
15 Regional Championships
MHSAA Good Sports Are Winners 2003
3 MHSAA State Runner Up
2 State Championships (2009 and 2011)
Academic All State Honorable Mention (2005 – 2012)

In addition to her team's achievements, Kathy received a great deal of personal recognition. Here is a list of some of her awards:

District Coach of the Year (2009 – 2016)
Regional Coach of the Year (8 years)
Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan Coach of the Year
MHSAA Competitive Cheer Official
Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan Treasurer (1997-2018)
Inducted into Competitive Cheer Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2012)

These personal and team accomplishments tell only part of Kathy's story. Over the years, she has become known as a positive influence on not only her players but everyone involved in Competitive Cheer. Many of her former players have come back to Comstock Park to help coach in the program, evidence of their dedication to her and their love of the sport. Kathy has also generously given her time and energy to promote the sport by mentoring coaches from other schools and giving seminars and free advice to any coaches that ask for it. Kathy has been a great advocate for her sport, a fine representative of her community, and a proud graduate of Comstock Park High School.

Transporation

JOB POSTING

ON CALL SUB BUS DRIVERS

REQUIREMENTS:
Able to obtain CDL – B, P, S
Must pass DOT physical
The final candidate for this position will be required (at their cost)
to furnish the district with a current Michigan State Police and FBI criminal records
Live Scan check prior to our recommendation to hire.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
Contact Person:
Michaellita Fortier, Director of Transportation
616-254-5050;
mfortier@cppschools.com

INTERESTED AND QUALIFIED CANDIDATES ARE TO APPLY ONLINE OR IN PERSON AT
101 SCHOOL ST. NE COMSTOCK PARK, MI 49321

TO COMPLETE AN ONLINE APPLICATION
www.applitrack.com/kent/onlineapp

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: Until Positions Filled or As Needed

*EQUAL RIGHTS: The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES: Any person believing that the Comstock Park Public School District or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (1) Title IX of the Education amendment Act of 1972, (2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (3) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and (4) Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, to the local Coordinator at the following address: 101 School Street, Comstock Park, MI 49321. Phone (616) 254-5000. ** The information contained in this job description is for compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and is not an exhaustive list of the duties performed for his position. Additional duties are performed by the individuals currently holding this position and additional.*

Homecoming September 21st

This is a time to celebrate and welcome home our Alumni!
Join in the fun and show your school spirit!
Students Dress-up for Spirit Week
Monday, September 17 — Friday, September 21

Special Note
CP Clothing and other CP items will be for sale in the buildings. Please call individual buildings for days and times.

September 21st

6:00PM — Parade
Downtown Comstock Park
7:00PM—Football Game
CP High School Panther Stadium

Family Fun!

Pass the Pumpkin 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Proceeds will benefit the 2019 Senior Class Party

10/27/2018 8:30am to 4:00pm

When: Saturday October 27th ; Begins at 8:30am
Where: Comstock Park High School , 150 6 Mile Rd NE, Comstock Park, MI 49321

Cost: $90 per Team 3-4 person teams. Each player will get a one of a kind Pass the Pumpkin t-shirt and top team on each court will get trophies.

Team Information

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____ Team Captain Phone #_____

Team Captain Parent Email (required):_____

Team Costume contest entry only an additional $10 for the entire team. Will have great prizes!!!
Yes sign us up to be in the costume contest _____
No we don't want to be in the costume contest _____

Team Members and shirt size Adult sizes only Small to XL : (Up to 4 players)
1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

Division Desired (Please Check One):

18 and under Girls _____ Boys _____

16 and under Girls _____ Boys _____

14 and under Girls _____ Boys _____

12 and under Girls _____ Boys _____

10 and under Girls _____ Boys _____

Pass the Pumpkin 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Proceeds will benefit the 2019 Senior Class Party

10/27/2018 8:30am to 4:00pm

Co-Ed Teams are welcome, however will play in the boys bracket
No college aged kids please.

Team fee $100		**$_____**
Costume contest entry $10		**$_____**
Extra T-Shirts $12 each	**(Include Size)**	**$_____**
Total		**$_____**

*To register your team, please return this sign-up sheet along with your registration money (make all checks payable to Comstock Park Senior Parents) Mail Registration to Jamie Duitsman at 5425 Pine Island Dr NE Comstock Park MI 49321 by 5:00 pm on October 13th. Any questions text or call Jamie Duitsman at 616-970-0173
Schedules and tournament information will be e-mailed to the Team Captains by Friday, October 19, 2018. Team captains are responsible to inform their team of schedule and rules.

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Rules

Gus Macker Rules will all apply

1. Teams will play 25 minute games or first team to 15 points. You must win by 2 with a maximum of 20 pts.
2. Scoring will be by 1's and 2's. 2-point baskets are scored from behind the closest 3-point line.
3. Alternating possession outs – not "make it, take it."
4. The clearing line is anywhere behind the closed 3-point line. All defensive rebounds must be cleared, even on shots not hitting the rim.
5. A court official will be on site to call the games. No free throws will be taken. Repeated intentional fouling will result in player disqualification.
6. The ball must be passed in at the top of the key. The inbounder cannot dribble in or shoot.
7. Out-of-bounds changes possession.
8. Substitutions are allowed only on dead balls. No subbing on the fly.
9. Foul shots will be taken after the 7th team foul.
10. Unsportsmanlike behavior will NOT be tolerated. Don't count on getting a warning you may just be ejected from the tournament.

School Nurse

Health and Wellness

Welcome back to school. Looking forward to the 2018-2019 school year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Supporting the health and wellness of students at Comstock Park Public Schools is a great honor for me. ~ Nurse Karyl

For All Parents/Caregivers

- ❑ Make sure required and recommended immunizations are up-to-date including an annual flu vaccine.
- ❑ Review hygiene tips to prevent the spread of infections.
- ❑ Establish a bedtime and wake-up time to ensure adequate and consistent sleep.
- ❑ Develop a routine for homework and after-school activities.
- ❑ Eat breakfast each day at home or at school.
- ❑ Help make appropriate clothing choices, e.g., wear comfortable and safe shoes.
- ❑ Keep an open line of communication with your child to ensure that he/she remains safe at school. If a concern arises, e.g., bullying, contact the appropriate school officials immediately.
- ❑ Get involved! Sign up for the parent organization (PTA/PTO), school Wellness Committee, and mark events such as back-to-school night and parent/teacher meetings on your calendar.
- ❑ Ask about the school or district's wellness policy, e.g., how are nutrition, activity, stress and/or mental health concerns addressed?
- ❑ Know the specialized instructional support personnel available to your child including the school nurse and school counselor.
- ❑ Know your school's policy regarding when to keep a sick child home and make arrangements for sick child care.

If Your Student Has a Health Concern

- ❑ Make your child's health concern known to the school and school nurse.
- ❑ Bring current, signed healthcare provider orders for treatments and all medications to be given at school. Bring the medical supplies and medication in the original container.
- ❑ Together with the school nurse and other appropriate school officials, develop an individualized healthcare plan or other educational plan as needed, e.g., 504 and IEP.
- ❑ Give permission for the school nurse to communicate with your family's healthcare provider.
- ❑ Provide parent/caregiver contact information and update the school with any changes.
- ❑ Ask if non-nurses will be providing care and how these authorized individuals will be supervised, e.g., verify who will administer medication.
- ❑ Confirm the school's disaster and/or emergency plan. Make sure your child's medication and/or medical devices, e.g., epinephrine auto-injectors, asthma inhalers, and insulin, will be readily available in an emergency.

BETTER HEALTH. BETTER LEARNING.™

© 2018 National Association of School Nurses

School Resource Office

Meet Julie Brown……..

My name is Julie Brown. I was recently selected to be the Comstock Park School District School Resource officer. I have been a police officer with the Kent County Sheriff's Department for 15 years. For the past three years I have been assigned to work in Plainfield Township. I love working in this community and look forward to getting to know everyone better.
Some personal facts about me..... I live in Sparta, I enjoy working out and hanging out with my goldendoodle dog, Dakota, and husband, Scott.
I'm a huge fan of all things sports. I played basketball in college and currently enjoy watching sports, especially anything Michigan State. Go Green!!

It's been a fun and exciting first month of school. I have been getting to know the students and community of Comstock Park and it's been an awesome time. As I slowly work to get to know the community better I would like to encourage all students parents and community members to introduce yourself if you see me out and about at any of the schools or school events. I love talking to people and getting to know those in my new work community. If you have questions or concerns feel free to email me at jbrown@cppschools.com with any questions or concerns.

Save the Date for these future events!

Cookie Chicks and Meet the Kent County Sheriff Deputies

Tuesday, October 23rd from 3:30PM-5:00PM

Lunch Information

Comstock Park Schools is pleased to announce two services available through our Food Service Point of Sale (POS) system: sendmoneytoschool.com and LunchApp.com.

sendmoneytoschool.com enables you to view your child's account history and food choice details at no charge. In addition, you will be able to deposit money into your child's account using your debit/credit card. There is a service fee when utilizing this electronic deposit feature. This web site is easy to use. All you need to begin using this site is your child's student ID#. If you have not already received this information in the mail please contact Lisa Nava, Food Service Administrative Assistant at 616-254-5018.

The second feature of the POS system is LunchApp.com. This secure site allows you to fill out an application for Free & Reduced Meal Benefits on-line beginning July 1st of each year. You will no longer need to send in the paper application and, in most cases, your application will be reviewed and a determination made within one business day. Please remember that a Free & Reduced Meal Application needs to be filled out every new school year by October 15th.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Lisa Nava, Food Service Administrative Assistant at 616.254.5018, or Melissa Alley, Food Service Director at 616.254.5242.

Food Service Information and Menu Calendar

Please see the Food Service website for the latest food service information.

http://www.cppschools.com/district/departments/food-service/

Please use the links below for the school menu calendars.

https://cppschools.nutrislice.com/menu/pine-island-elementary

https://cppschools.nutrislice.com/menu/stoney-creek-elementary

https://cppschools.nutrislice.com/menu/mill-creek-middle

https://cppschools.nutrislice.com/menu/comstock-park-high

School News Network

MySchool@Kent Students Overcome Obstacles to get to Graduation

By Janice Holst June 8, 2018

Students choose online high school for a variety of reasons. Here, a few of this year's graduates reflect on why that type of learning, and the unique supports it calls for, worked for them at MySchool@Kent, a Kent ISD program that blends online learning with personal coaching.

Sarah Poort – Comstock Park High School

When Sarah Poort left her Maryland home to live with extended family in Michigan, adjusting was a challenge.

"I didn't fit in here," she said, "so I decided immediately that I wanted to do online school." Eventually she made a few friends locally, but said it was the MySchool@Kent staff that made a difference in getting her to the finish line.

"I have a great relationship with some of the teachers here," she said. "They took the time to get to know me, and now they are like a second family."

Last August she became pregnant, and by March was experiencing premature labor. Even during intermittent hospital stays, she found the support she needed to continue her education.

"It is our job to keep track of where the students are," said her coach, Elizabeth Schafer, "but Sarah did a fantastic job of managing her classes."

Determination paid off and, with a diploma in hand, Sarah, now the mother of Douglas Scott-Jay Ursiny, has set a career goal of becoming a phlebotomist.

To read the full article please follow this link.

https://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org/2018/06/08/myschoolkent-students-overcome-obstacles-to-get-to-graduation/

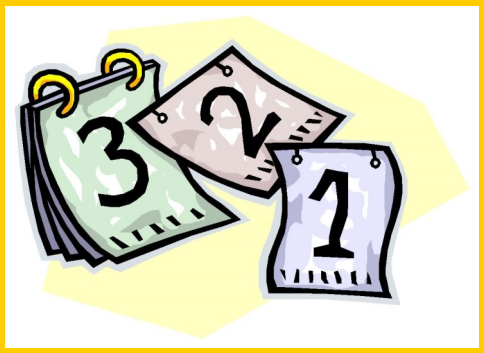
SCHOOL NEWS NETWORK
A Window into Your Public Schools

Our district is on School News Network!
Check it out at www.schoolnewsnetwork.org

Comstock Park Public Schools

2018-2019 School Calendar

Monday, August 27 – 1st Day of School
Thursday, August 30 – ½ Day of School
Friday, August 31 – No School
Monday, September 3 – No School
Wednesday-Friday, November 21 - 23 – No School
Thursday, December 20 – ½ Day of School
Friday, December 21 – ½ Day of School, End 1st Semester
Monday, December 24 - Friday, January 4 – No School
Monday-Tuesday, February 18 - 19 – No School
Friday, March 29 - Friday, April 5 – No School
Monday, May 27 – No School
Wednesday, June 5 – ½ Day of School
Thursday, June 6 – ½ Day of School, Last Day of School



2019-2020 School Calendar

Monday, August 26 – 1st Day of School
Thursday, August 29 – ½ Day of School
Friday, August 30 – No School
Monday, September 2 – No School
Wednesday-Friday, November 20 - 22 – No School
Thursday, December 19 – ½ Day of School
Friday, December 20 – ½ Day of School, End 1st Semester
Monday, December 23 - Friday, January 3 – No School
Monday-Tuesday, February 17 - 18 – No School
Friday, April 3 - 10 – No School
Monday, May 25 – No School
Wednesday, June 3 – ½ Day of School
Thursday, June 4 – ½ Day of School, Last Day of School

Comstock Park Community Celebration

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Wedgwood Christian Services, CP Kent District Library, Comstock Park Public Schools, The YMCA, Comstock Park Community Outreach and Comstock Park Educational Foundation

Thank You to Our Participants

Wedgwood Christian Services, CP Golden Panthers, Sparta Adult Ed., CPEF, Maranatha Bible Church, CPHS SADD Group, Academy of Dance Arts, Kent County Sheriff Dept. YMCA, CP Schools, Head Start of Kent County, Independent Bank, KDL-CP Branch, Academy of Dance Arts, Comstock Park Rotary, Cookie Chicks, Julie's Pies, CP Little Panther's Preschool, The Sanctuary Church, Heart of West MI United Way, KISD Bright Beginnings, Lake MI Credit Union, MI State University Extension Camp, The Story: A Community Church

CP Educational Foundation

Congratulations to our 1st Round of Grant Recipients for the 18-19 school year.

Katie Bredeweg – Making Meaning with MAISA Mentor Texts
Amanda Hite – Keyboarding Curriculum
Emily Raap – Math Differentiation
Jen Lemieux – Sensory Equipment for EI Classroom
Jillian Vanderzon - EL Classroom Library
Susan Companion – Classroom Library / Book Club
Danielle Mead – Reading is Dreaming, Only with your Eyes Open
Dave Stump – LaCrosse Equipment
Elizabeth Brown – Getting Books into Their Hands
Donita Coughlin – Kitchen Club Community
Trisha Genei – Drawing Compasses
Jan Harfst – SE Chrome Books
Emily Rasch – SE Chrome Books

CPEF Officers

Denise Clement , President
Terry Benjamin, V. President
Jeff Hoag/Jim Gilbert, Treasurer
Missi McPherson, Secretary

Website

www.cpefkids.weebly.com

COMSTOCK PARK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
HELPING EDUCATION ONE STEP AT A TIME.

We wish to thank all of our corporate and individual sponsors during our recent Hacking for Education golf outing that was held on Sunday, August 12th. Over $4,000 was raised to help support our Comstock Park classrooms and initiatives!

Sponsors

Out Back Steakhouse
Scott Lake Golf Center
Lake MI Credit Union
Triangle
Hill Top Security
Feyen Zylstra
Grand Rapids Building Services
Huntington Bank
Hungerford Nichols CPA
CP Band Boosters
Turfs are Us
Trane

Helping Students Learn—Whatever it Takes

CP ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

President: Brenda Brown Secretary: Jodi Ryan
VP / Fund Raising Coordinator: Jen Zalinski Treasurer: Julie Endres

Mark Your Calendar

We have meetings at the High School on the first Monday of every month! Come join us!

We are always looking for more people to get involved with Athletic Boosters. Currently we are in need of more volunteers for concessions. It's a FUN way to get involved, and you'd be helping generate funds for our high school & middle school athletic programs! For more information on getting involved, contact Booster President Brenda Brown!

WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS

Homecoming 2018

Homecoming is on September 21st! We'll be selling SPIRITWEAR throughout the week... Check out our facebook page for details & times!

Thank You!

To all of you who took part in the *"Buick Drive for your Students"* fundraiser! We had amazing support from the community...lots of drivers...awesome volunteers...and we were able to raise $5740! Special thanks to FOX BUICK GMC for partnering with us to make this event a great success!

FALL SPORTS

Boys/Girls Cross Country
Football * Girls Golf
Boys Soccer * Boys Tennis
Volleyball * Sideline Cheer

Brenda Brown, Athletic Booster President cpsportsmomx4@gmail.com
CP Athletic Page: www.comstockparkpanthers.com
Facebook: "Comstock Park Athletic Boosters"

Band Boosters

The Comstock Park School Band Boosters is a group of adult volunteers whose main goal is to help fund and support the activities of the Comstock Park School Bands.

Where words fail, music speaks.

Hans Christian Andersen

If you have any questions, please contact one of the booster officers or Mr. Marlowe.

2018/2019 OFFICERS

President - Jim Young	616.490.6202	skigropple@sbcglobal.net
Vice President – Kristen Lindsey	616.667.7159	zachsmama@msn.com
Treasurer – Angela Harms	616.540.8842	aharms1@yahoo.com
Secretary – Allison Medendorp	616.437.1610	amedendorp@wnj.com
Band Director – Luke Marlowe	616.254.5305	lmarlowe@cppschools.com

Marching Band Fall 2018 Schedule

September 21	Homecoming Game
September 28	Home Football Game
September 29	Grant Invitational
October 13	Belding Invitational
October 19	Home Football Game
October 20	Jenison Invitational
October 27	Reeths-Puffer Invitational
November 3	MCBA State Finals

BAND FUNDRAISERS 2018-2019 School Year

All fundraisers will be band grades 6-12

9-3 thru 10-17	Key Card Sale
9-8	Pop Can Drive
10-15 thru 10-24	Ada Valley Sale (pickup 10-31)
10-29 thru 11-21	Poinsettia Flower Sale
12-14	Babysitting Night/Parent Night Out
1-7 thru 1-16	Ada Valley Sale (pickup 1-23)
2-4	Pop Can Drive
2-8	Babysitting Night/Parent Night Out
2-11 thru 2-28	Easter/Spring Flower Sale (pickup 3-27) delivery for Easter
3-11 thru 3-20	Ada Valley Sale (pickup 3-27)
3-25 thru 4-10	Mother's Day Hanging Basket Sale
4-22 thru 5-1	Ada Valley Sale (pickup 5-8 also)
5-3	Babysitting Night/Parent Night Out
7-7	Pop Can Drive

CP Auditorium Armchair Plates, SCRIP Gift Cards, and Shopping Bags: Sold exclusively by the band. These will be ongoing sales that will be available to the entire district and general public.

GOLDEN PANTHERS
OF COMSTOCK PARK

Who are the Golden Panthers?

Mission Statement:

The Golden Panthers is an outreach group of community minded individuals who seek to provide programs and events that enhance the quality of life of Comstock Park senior citizens.

There is a Fall and Spring series of programs that take place on Friday mornings at the Senior Space at

Greenridge School, 3825 Oakridge Ave. NW

in Comstock Park. Everyone is welcome to attend these programs! The programs and activities are free, but donations are appreciated and help us continue to offer these programs.

Past Speakers:	**Musical entertainment**:
Norm Van Soest "Lost Villages of Plainfield Township"	The Grand Rapids Accordion Ensemble
Gail Snow author of Remarkable Ramona Park	Guitars for Veterans
Bill Steffen on the tornado of 1965	The Gentlemen of Ragtime
History of the Grand Rapids Speedrome by Dan Van Kovering	Storyteller & musician Bryan Whittemore
Merredith Perkins author of Hi, It's me A memoir by Toismom	**Crafts, Line Dancing, Orchard tour, and more!**

FALL FRIDAYS

Fun for Seniors!

Join your friends and neighbors in our Golden Panthers Senior Space. Enjoy programs, music and crafts!

At Greenridge School
3825 Oakridge Ave NW
Programs begin at 11:00 AM

September 21 The Role of Women in Agriculture in Michigan Past & Present Also enjoy an Apple Smorgasbord of tasty treats *Sponsored by Aseltine Cider*	**September 28** Veteran storm chaser Tom Oosterbaan will talk about his storm chasing experiences *Sponsored by Senior Neighbors*	**October 5** Crafting with the Golden Panthers! Elegant leaf painted tea towels (all supplies provided) *Sponsored by Kent District Library*
October 12 History of Blandford Nature Center presented by founder Mary Jane Dockery *Sponsored by Blandford Nature Center*	**October 19** 2nd Annual Soup Cook-Off & Musical Entertainment by Bryan Whittemore *Contact Doreen at 616-724-6501 for Cook-Off questions and RSVP.* *Sponsored by Mad Dogz & Dreamscape Desserts*	**October 26** Spooky Tales with the Storyspinners of Grand Rapids *Sponsored by Cookie Chicks, Julie's Pies, & Kent District Library*

For more information call 616-254-5243 or email
cpgoldenpanthers@cppschools.com

Like us on Facebook to stay updated!
www.facebook.com/cpgoldenpanthers

GOLDEN PANTHERS OF COMSTOCK PARK

2018 SEPTEMBER

Courtesy of Kent District Library and the Golden Panthers

Comstock Park Senior Resources

KDL Kent District Library

GOLDEN PANTHERS OF COMSTOCK PARK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30 Bingo 12:15 pm at CP Congregational	31	01
02	03 	04	05 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30 Zumba Gold! With Kathy Comstock Park library 5:15 pm	06 Bingo 12:15 pm at CP Congregational Plainfield library book discussion 1 pm "Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore"	07 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30 The Giving Closet is open 5-7 pm Fish Dinner at American Legion 5-7	08 Plainfield library Friend's booksale September 6-9
09	10 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30 Golden Panthers Meeting 11 pm Greenridge Elementary	11 	12 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30 Zumba Gold! With Kathy Comstock Park library 5:15 pm	13 Bingo 12:15 pm at CP Congregational	14 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30	15
16	17 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30	18	19 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30 Zumba Gold! With Kathy Comstock Park library 5:15 pm	20 Bingo 12:15 pm at CP Congregational Comstock Park library Lit-Wits book discussion 7 pm "Hunger: A Memoir"	21 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30 FALL FRIDAYS: Women in Agriculture on the Ridge 11 am Homecoming Parade on West River Dr at 6 pm	22
23 	24 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30	25 The Giving Closet is open 12-2 pm Hiring a Contractor for Home Repair 6 pm Plainfield library	26 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30 Zumba Gold! Comstock Park library 5:15 pm Watercolor Illustration: House Plants Alpine Library 6:30 pm Registration Required	27 Bingo 12:15 pm at CP Congregational	28 EnhanceFitness 9:30 - 10:30 FALL FRIDAYS: Storm Chasing with Tom Oosterbaan 11 am	29

Comstock Park Library
3943 West River Dr

Plainfield Library
2650 5 Mile Rd NE

Greenridge Elementary
3825 Oakridge Ave NW

American Legion Post 47
3811 West River Dr

CP Congregational
62 Lamoreaux Dr NE

The Giving Closet
3999 Alpenhorn Dr

Alpine Baptist
692 7 Mile Rd NW

Helping Students Learn—Whatever it Takes

ENHANCE FITNESS

EnhanceFitness classes:

- **Meet 3x/week but you can drop in anytime!**
- **Are available at a suggested donation of $3.00/class**
- **Focus on strengthening, balance, conditioning, flexibility and having fun!**
- **Allow you to make new friends!**
- **Are safe and effective for older adults!**

Classes are available beginning August 13th at:

Alpine Baptist Church

692 7 Mile Rd, Comstock Park MI

Mon, Wed, & Fri. at 9:30

All you need is comfortable shoes and clothes.

Do what you can do!!!

This class can be covered by

Silver&Fit

Call 616-233-0283 for more information!

Senior NEIGHBORS no longer alone

Kent County Senior Millage

Walk to honor, support and advocate for all children and families affected by pediatric cancer.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
DWIGHT LYDELL PARK
COMSTOCK PARK
12PM-3PM

Enjoy a free, family-friendly day filled with superheroes, princesses, sidewalk chalk, face painting and a petting zoo!

T-shirts and other products will be for sale at the event. All proceeds go toward pediatric cancer research at Helen Devos Children's Hospital.

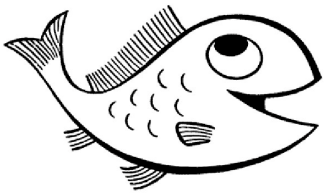
Honor. Support. Advocate.

Please contact acure4kids@gmail.com with any questions or to donate.

AMERICAN LEGION - POST # 47

3811 West River Drive
Comstock Park, MI
Phone: 616-784-6280

FISH DINNERS

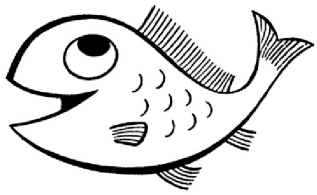


2018

Sept. 7th; 21st
Oct. 5th; 19th
Nov. 2nd; 16th

2019

Jan. 4th; 18th
Feb. 1st; 15th
Mar. Every Friday
April 5th; 12th; 19th



$8 Adults
$5 for kids 6-12, 5 and under are free
We offer punch cards. Buy 9 adult dinners and get the 10th free!

Served 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Special Note: This is one of the fundraisers that help support the scholarships for graduating seniors at CP Schools.

CP Giving Closet

York Creek Community Center
3999 Alpenhorn Dr.

Open to the Comstock Park Community

FREE

Gently used clothing and other items
for families in need

2 Bag Limit

Bring your own grocery size bags!

September
Friday, Sept. 7th 5PM-7PM
Tuesday, Sept. 25th 12PM-2PM

October
Friday, Oct. 5th 4PM-6PM
Thursday, Oct. 25th 12PM-2PM

November
Friday, Nov. 16th 4PM-6PM
Thursday, Nov. 29th 12PM-2PM

December
Monday, Dec. 3rd 4PM-6PM
Monday, Dec. 17th 12PM-2PM

Check out our NEW Facebook page at:

Comstock Park Giving Closet

for the latest updates and donation times.

We are always accepting donations at the CP Giving Closet for gently used clothing of all sizes. Items can be dropped off at Mill Creek Middle School, CP High School or the District Office during open hours or when CP Giving Closet is open.

We appreciate your support!

Sponsored by the Comstock Park Community Outreach

Comstock Park (KDL) Library

KDL
Kent District Library

Search events by visiting our website at:
www.kdl.org

C.P. KDL Branch

Nancy Mulder
Branch Manager

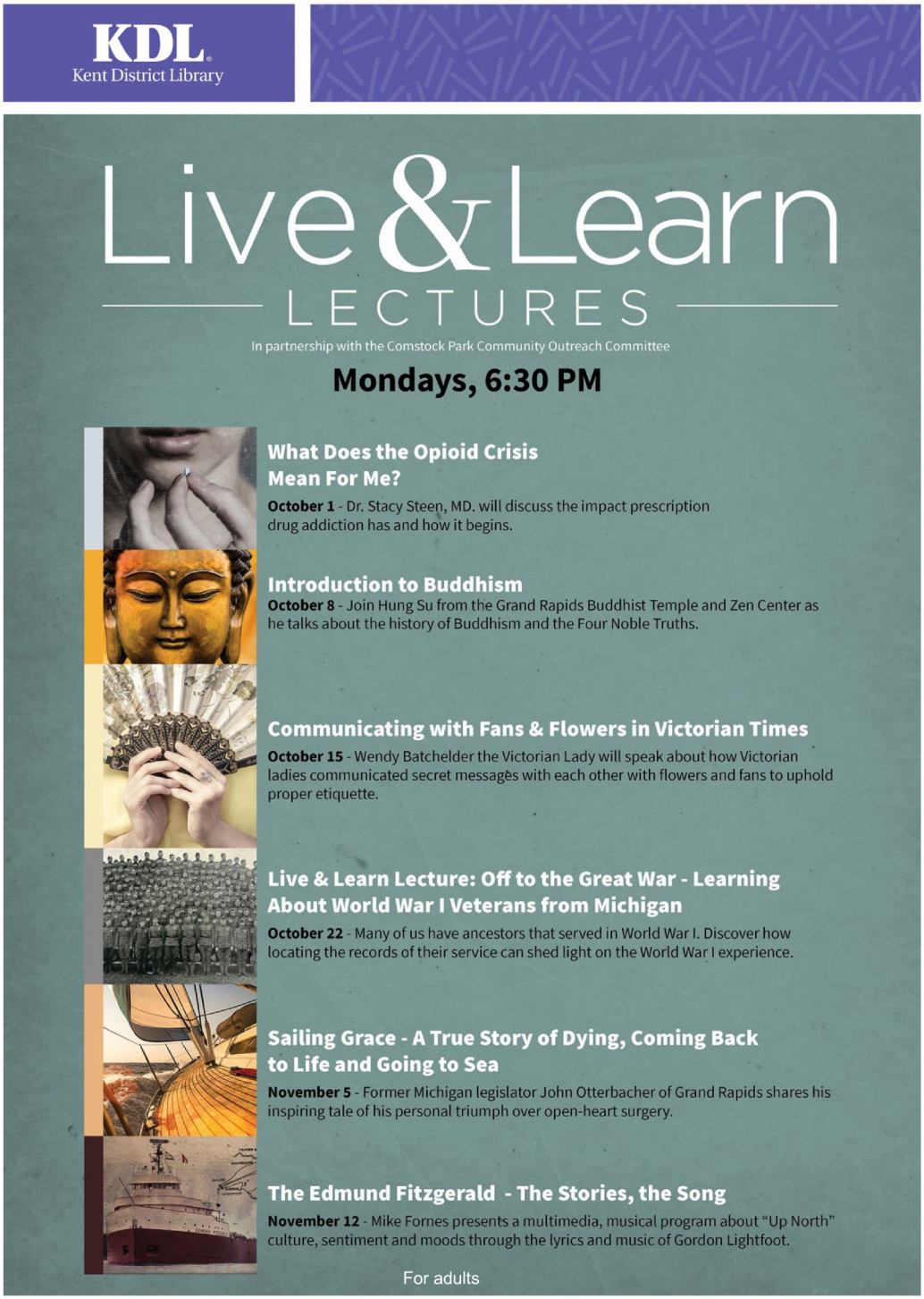
Branch Reminder

KDL's Summer Reading Club begins June 1, with loads of free programs and fun for all ages!

Hours

Sun.	Closed
Mon.	9:30AM-8:00PM
Tues.	12:00PM-8:00PM
Wed.	9:30AM-5:00PM
Thurs.	12:00PM-8:00PM
Fri.	9:30AM-5:00PM
Sat.	1:00PM-5:00PM

NEW! The Comstock Park branch offers One-on-One Technology tutoring by 45-minute appointments. You are welcome to bring your own laptop or other device, or use ours. Stop by the branch or call to make an appointment.



Comstock Park (KDL) Library

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Nancy Mulder
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Sat.	1:00PM-5:00PM

DID YOU KNOW…… The Comstock Park branch offers One-on-One Technology tutoring by 45-minute appointments. You are welcome to bring your own laptop or other device, or use ours. Stop by the branch or call to make an appointment.

At the Comstock Park branch,
join us for these fun and free programs….

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN — AGES 6 AND YOUNGER

Toddler Time (September 10 – November 12)
Nurture your toddler's love of books through music, movement and stories while helping to develop their language, motor and social skills. For children ages 3 and younger with a caregiver.
Mondays, 10 am

Family Storytime (September 12 – November 14)
Children will enjoy stories, rhymes, music, movement and more as they build their early literacy skills and develop a love of reading.
Wednesdays, 10 am

Rhyme Time Music and Movement (September 14 – November 16)
Move and groove together with action rhymes, songs, games and hands-on musical activities that will help children develop motor, listening and literacy skills.
Fridays, 10 am

Sensory Playtime (September 14 – November 16)
Drop in and explore a variety of sensory activities that will stimulate your child's mind. **Fridays, 11 am**

KDL Kent District Library
Information. Ideas. *Excitement!*

Alpine Township (KDL) Library

KDL
Kent District Library

KDL offers a wide variety of events, programs, and classes at little or no cost! From children's storytimes to adult computer classes, KDL has something for everyone! Search events by visiting our website at:

www.kdl.org

Alpine Township KDL Branch

Shaunna Martz
Branch Manager

Hours

Sun.	Closed
Mon.	12:00PM-8:00PM
Tues.	9:30AM-5:00PM
Wed.	12:00PM-8:00PM
Thurs.	9:30AM-5:00PM
Fri.	12:00PM-5:00PM
Sat.	9:30AM-1:30PM

KDL CLOSINGS
Monday, May 28
Memorial Day

KDL Information. Ideas. Excitement!
Kent District Library

For School Age Children - Ages 6 and Older

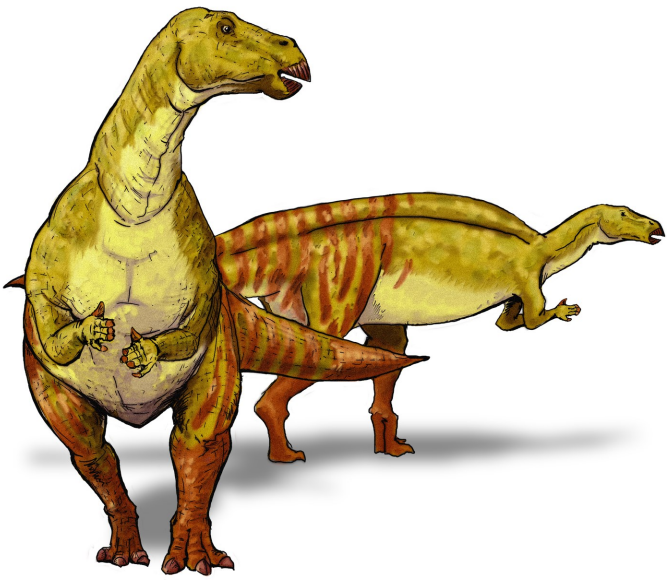
KDL LAB EXPERIENCE

KDL Lab Experience

DINOSAURS!

Wednesday, September 19th 6:30PM

Learn all about dinosaurs as you create fossils, dinosaur masks, mini-dinos and much more!



KDL Information. Ideas. Excitement!
Kent District Library

Adult Education Classes

★ ★ **FREE** ★ ★

Sparta Adult Education

GED Preparation, High School Diploma,
& English Language Classes
at the York Creek Community Center

Monday through Thursday 8am-2pm & 6-8:30pm
On Site and Online Classes
Open Enrollment All Year!

ENROLLING NOW
Call today to register: (616)887-7321

Class Location

York Creek Community Center
3999 Alpenhorn Drive NW
Comstock Park, MI

Visit us at www.spartaschools.org or find us on Facebook
Sparta Adult Education

Business Spotlight

Great Lakes Vacuum

photo of Drew Johnson

The first thing Drew Johnson wants people to know about Great Lakes Vacuum in downtown Comstock Park is this: "We do not fix vacuum cleaners. We fix and sell industrial and commercial vacuums." Again - not vacuum cleaners.

Johnson explained that industrial vacuum pumps and blowers are used to remove atmosphere (air) from inside a closed chamber where steel or other metal is being heat treated to make it stronger and more wear resistant. The vacuum created keeps the atmosphere inside the chamber clean, which keeps the metal from oxidizing.

Johnson has been in the business since shortly after he graduated from high school, first working at Hansen/Balk Steel Treating in Grand Rapids. Shortly after leaving Hansen-Balk he was hired by Don Guppy to work for Stokes Vacuum, a company that made vacuum pumping equipment. When Stokes was bought out, the two went to work for another company before starting Great Lakes Vacuum in 2005, locating the business in a complex on Pannell Ave. in Walker.

When the two first opened Great Lakes Vacuum they were working out of essentially an over-sized three stall garage. Eventually they moved to a larger building in the complex and rented an additional building in the same complex for storage. They moved to the Comstock Park location, 220 Lamoreaux Dr., in 2010. Guppy died shortly after the move, and Johnson is now the sole owner.

"The (Comstock Park) building had everything we needed…access to the freeway, proximity to vendors, electrical supplies, plumbing supplies, and overhead cranes," said Johnson adding that even his accountant is in Comstock Park. Additionally trucks can get in and out easily. Also Johnson said it "feels safe here…we don't have graffiti." The building is 9000 square feet. The office is 1500 square feet of that, and the rest is shop area. Johnson noted one drawback is that there is nowhere on the lot to expand.

Besides, Johnson, there are eight employees including his wife Heather who is the office manager, two sales people and five technicians. Johnson calls himself a jack of all trades, sometimes doing accounting, sometimes running a machine, and always problem solving. "I like solving problems," said Johnson. "It's kind of fun when a problem comes up to figure out a solution."

Johnson said the company's web site is basically all the advertising they do. He has customers worldwide including South Korea and India, which he noted is a growing economy. Customers find their way to the web site when searching for vacuum pump parts, and the web site serves as a catalog for people to order from. He said forty percent of his business is selling parts with the remainder rebuilding customer owned equipment. "We hold an inventory of parts," he said. "We also sell to people who do what we do (repairing vacuum equipment)."

Johnson is originally from Saranac, graduating from Saranac high school. He attended Grand Rapids Community College briefly and then started working full time. He returned to GRCC to complete the prerequisites for a business degree at Grand Valley State University where he will start in the fall to major in accounting. He and his wife Heather, who is originally from Ionia, live in Comstock Park and have a son, 17, and a daughter 15. Both children attend West Michigan Aviation Academy on 44th Street near the Gerald R. Ford Airport. Johnson and his wife like the area and what it offers, including the many breweries. They are members of the Grand Rapids Symphony and Frederick Meijer Gardens, and enjoy CrossFit at a local gym.

(August 2018)

Check out the DDA Website for more Business Spotlights—http://www.comstockparkdda.org