COMSTOCK PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# PANTHER PRESS

ISSUE 5 DEC./JAN. 2019/2020

## THIS IS PANTHER COUNTRY

### District Contacts

**Dave Washburn**
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**Missi McPherson**
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### 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
Roman Rodriquez
Deidra Blazon
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**

# Happy Holidays!

# Relax and enjoy your time with family and friends. We will see you in the New Year!

*David Washburn, Superintendent*

# Strive™ for Less Than 5 Days Absent

## Make every day count!

- Be on time, every time
- Set appointments before or after school
- Plan vacations when school is out
- Build backup plans or a buddy system to get students to and from school

## Give a High 5 for higher success!

Did you know...

1. Missing more than 5 days in Kindergarten makes learning to read harder
2. Missing more than 5 days any year hurts learning and lowers test scores
3. Students who miss more than 10% of school a year (just 2 days a month) are more likely to drop out
4. Being late to school or leaving early leads to poor overall attendance
5. Absences affect everyone when teachers have to help students catch up

Being in school all day every day gives students a greater shot at success. Every day, every hour in class is a learning opportunity. Students who are absent, arrive late or leave early get less learning time than students with better attendance. That's why every student and every parent should Strive for Less Than 5 absences each school year.

**#StriveForLessThan5**

The Kent Intermediate Superintendents Association (KISA) has adopted the Strive for Less Than 5 campaign as an ISD-wide initiative because regular attendance is critical to student success!

Thanks to Pageworks for sponsoring the printing of this flyer and sharing these important messages with our community.

*Strive for Less Than 5* used with permission of Believe 2 Become.

pageworks

Kent ISD

# Greenridge School

**Greenridge Contacts**

**Jodi LaFeldt**
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Special Education Director
jlafeldt@cppschools.com

**Denise Cobb**
Secretary
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3825 Oakridge
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone 616-254-5700
Fax 616-785-9829

**Headstart**
616-493-0744

***Panther Country!***

November and December were filled with many opportunities to explore, learn, entertain, and just have fun!

**Be the "I" in Kind**

On November 13th, staff and students at Greenridge celebrated National Kindness Day by wearing their favorite cardigan sweater in honor of Mr. Rogers. This national holiday was established to promote kindness. Teaching our preschoolers about the values of kindness, empathy and caring is important in establishing a positive and peaceful culture. Stop by Greenridge to be the "I" in kind!

**Very Important Person Day**

Little Panthers Preschool and Great Start Readiness Preschool host a VIP day. Children invited someone who was very important in their life and created lasting memories as they engaged in art projects, games, and play.

# Greenridge School

**Greenridge Contacts**

**Jodi LaFeldt**
Principal/
Special Education Director
jlafeldt@cppschools.com

**Denise Cobb**
Secretary
dcobb@cppschools.com

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

**Headstart**
616-493-0744

***Panther Country!***

**Winter Fun**

November brought the first snow fall and our preschoolers had fun playing and rolling in the snow.

***December brought a visit from Elsa the Elf.***

**A Visit to the Grand Rapids Children's Museum**

"Play may seem simple, yet it is profound to a child's development. Play makes learning something that happens naturally and joyfully, when a child laughs and wonders, explores and imagines" (White, 2012). Children enjoyed a day of play at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum exploring and engaging with one another and the adults who joined them.

# Bright Beginnings - KISD

## Bright Beginnings Playgroups
## Comstock Park 2019-2020

**Greenridge Elementary School**

**3825 Oakridge Ave NW**

**Comstock Park , 49321**

**11:00-12:00 pm**

**SEPTEMBER - Friday Sept. 13**

**OCTOBER - Friday Oct. 11**

**NOVEMBER - Friday Nov. 8**

**DECEMBER - Friday Dec. 13**

**JANUARY - Friday Jan. 10**

**FEBRUARY - Friday Feb. 14**

**MARCH - Friday March 13**

**APRIL - Friday April 17**

**MAY - Friday May 8**

Bright Beginnings is a parent education and family support program designed to empower ALL parents to give their children the best possible start in life. Bright Beginnings provides developmental information for children ages prenatal to five and suggests learning opportunities to encourage school readiness, language, intellectual, physical and social/emotional growth. Personal home visits available and encouraged.

**FOR INFORMATION CALL: DENISE KRESKE @ 616-447-3094**

Kent ISD

# Stoney Creek Elementary

**Stoney Creek Contacts**

**Tiffany Jackson**
Principal
tjackson@cppschools.com

**Alicia Keur**
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akeur@cppschools.com

Join Us on Facebook
@stoneycreekelementary

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

## Perfect Attendance

Ms. Reynolds class celebrated six days in a row of perfect attendance. This was so exciting and the kids were celebrated for all being in school that many days.

## Veteran's Day

Mrs. Imhoff's class welcomed one of the student's Great Grandpa's who served on a ship outside of Japan. He brought in a picture of the ship he was on, talked about flying in and off from the ship on planes, and shared an American flag with each student. This was a great way to celebrate one of our Veterans.

## Birthdays

Stoney Creek celebrates each student's birthday by giving them a birthday book at the end of the month of their birthday. There is also a bulletin board that is decorated with the names of each student celebrating a birthday that month.

## Baking Night

We were so excited to welcome over 200 kids and adults to our Annual Title 1 Baking Night at the end of November. Literacy games were played, every student got a free book, cookie mix jars were created, and cookbook prizes were awarded.

# Stoney Creek Elementary

**Stoney Creek Contacts**

**Tiffany Jackson**
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tjackson@cppschools.com

**Alicia Keur**
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akeur@cppschools.com

Join Us on Facebook
@stoneycreekelementary

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

## Macy's Thanksgiving Day Balloons and Thanksgiving Fun

Mrs. Bredeweg and Mrs. Johnson's 2nd graders read the story of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and then created their own balloon creations. They then held a parade, with no wind, inside of our school. You can see the parade on our Facebook page.

## Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Stoney Creek will be hosting a Book Fair at Barnes and Noble in Woodland Mall on Thursday, December 19. Stoney Creek staff members will be reading at Barnes and Noble at different times thoughout the evening. More information is coming about this "FUN"raiser for our school. Please check out our Facebook page or our school webpage for more information.

# Pine Island Elementary

**PANTHER PRIDE!**

The Leader in Me
great happens here

**Pine Island Contacts**

**Stacy Reehl**
Principal
sreehl@cppschools.com

**Mandy Rodriquez**
Secretary
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**Pat Calkins**
Office Clerk/PBIS Support
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Join Us on Facebook
@pineislandelementary

6101 Pine Island Dr. NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone 616-254-5500
Fax 616-785-4176

**Wow! Lots of exciting things happening at Pine Island…**

We had an amazing time at our Annual Family Minute to Win it night!! Lots of families came out and enjoyed dinner and games! What a great time to relax and enjoy family time!

Pine Island has kicked off the "One School, One Book" project with the book "THE PET WAR"!!!!! Reading aloud at home is so valuable and with this project, we aim to build a community of readers at our school. We even have all the staff reading too! The book is the students to keep and we will be checking in with students throughout the process. "When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about.". .

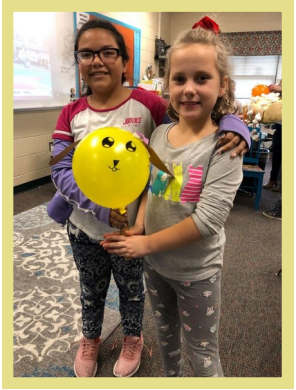
Our students did an amazing job during our food drive. We have now moved into a household essential drive. Our students are amazing at giving back to our community!!

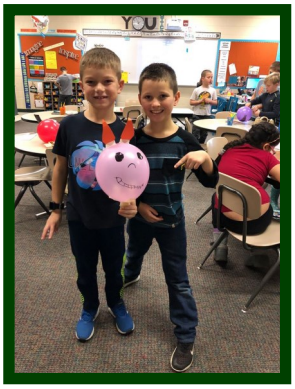
The month of December brings with it the wonder of the holiday season. As we get closer to our Winter Break- the excitement grows. This is a month that is filled with learning and anticipation. On behalf of the Pine Island Elementary staff, we wish all of our students and families a happy holiday season. We hope that 2020 brings continued good health and much happiness to everyone.

Until next time… LOVE, LEARN, LEAD!

**Important Dates**

| | |
|---|---|
| December 19 | ½ Day - dismissal at 11:50 AM |
| December 20 | ½ Day - dismissal at 11:50 AM |
| December 23- Jan 3 | NO SCHOOL- Winter Break |
| January 6 | School Resumes |





# Mill Creek Middle School

**Mill Creek Contacts**

**Gus Harju**
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gharju@cppschools.com

**Robb Hurt**
Dean of Students
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Fax 616-785-2464

7th grade band performing an afternoon assembly to showcase the Mill Creek band.

Food sampling provided by Chartwells during lunchtime!

Lunch students take the taste test to identify five different apples this fall.

## Upcoming Events

Early Dismissal, 10:50 a.m., Dec. 19 and 20

Holiday Break, Dec. 21 - Jan. 5

Board of Ed. Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Jan. 20

PAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Jan 21

Mill Creek Middle School's Student Leadership students volunteer their time at Kid's Food Basket in Grand Rapids. This charity program serves over 7,500 food snack backs to Kent County students every day. A big thank you goes out to group advisors Mrs. Thompson and Ms. England!

# Mill Creek Middle School

## October Students with PRIDE!

| | |
|---|---|
| Luis Alverez-Cordova | 6 |
| Aden Cole | 6 |
| Skylar Martine | 6 |
| Savanna Ouendog | 6 |
| Liana Smith | 6 |
| Jacob Foley | 7 |
| Mariah Hiemstra | 7 |
| Addison Atloft | 8 |
| Gabe Dewey | 8 |
| Olivia Lamb | 8 |
| Sienna Ouendog | 8 |
| Kyra Pendergast | 8 |
| Sage Snider | 8 |

Fall choir students at the Choir Ala Mode Concert in October.

Robotics in Actions as part of the Lantern Project - Bricks4Kids.

A week before Veteran's Day, Mill Creek was fortunate to have veterans Mr. Ed Hood and Mr. Larry Hulst give a presentation to sixth graders. Both veterans talked with students about their experiences in the Vietnam War. Their presentation was captivating to both students and staff!

8th Grade Choir sang the National Anthem in VanAndel Arena before a Grand Rapids Griffin's Game in early November.

7th grade basketball makes another successful drive to the basket.

# Comstock Park High School


**High School Contacts**

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**Tony Petkus**
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**Chris Sposaro**
Ath. Coord./Student Services
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**Leisha Emmorey**
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Phone 616-254-5200
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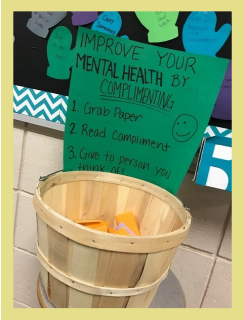
## Choose Kind

Last week, we celebrated our 3rd Annual Choose Kind Week designed to encourage and maintain the kind, supportive environment we have here together! Our Student Volunteer Organization Board (9 students) pulled off a variety of activities including - a Hat and Mitten Drive for CP's own Giving Closet, Random Acts of Kindness Stations, Student Thank You Letters and Gift to our often underappreciated but incredibly important CPHS Support Staff- Custodial, Food Services and Office Staff and some other surprise events for our staff and students. Great job!



## Kindness Continued

Mr. Holden, Mr. Petkus, and office staff prepared a wonderful appreciation breakfast for the staff in November. It was a feast to fill many bellies including some students. The menu included pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, cinnamon rolls, juice and coffee. All were grateful and blessed!

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**January**
6 First Day of Second Semester
Swirl Dance Tickets On Sale
8 11th Gr. Course Selection Fair
9 10th Gr. Course Selection Fair
10 Semester 1 Grades Mailed
13-17 Winter Spirit Week

# Food Service Information

LET'S GET COOKING

## Panther's Café District Newsletter

November 2019

### Focus On Family & Friends Cooking Together

Let's Get Cooking is a celebration of homemade classic recipes and empowering students to join in cooking at home with their family and friends, especially during the holiday season.

Chartwells K12 at Comstock Park Public Schools is proud to encourage students to learn some simple cooking knowledge and skills to share outside of the school and into their own homes. This will help encourage students to become more hands-on in the kitchen and prepare nutritious meals with minimal help and supervision!

Look for more information on scheduled dates for Discovery Kitchen events throughout the month, and please join us and our students in the fun!

### CRUISIN KITCHEN MAKES ITS WAY TO TACO TUESDAY!

At the end of November, students enjoyed eating at the Cruisn' Kitchen! It provided students with the choice between chicken or steak tacos, bean and corn salsa with chips, and a sidekick slushie at no extra cost. Students loved it so much, some even came up for seconds! It caused a 20% increase in participation, and students should expect to see it sometime next Spring!

chartwells Discovery KITCHEN

# Food Service Information

November 2019

## What's coming....

*December 2nd National Mutt Day
*December 4th National Cookie Day
*December 13th National Cocoa Day
*December 17th National Maple Syrup Day

For December, it'll be all about herbs and spices to flavor foods and recipes!

## Healthy Celebrations for the Holiday Season

We know it may be especially hard around the holidays to stay on track with healthy eating habits, but here are some tips to create a nutritious, yet fulfilling holiday season!

- **Don't go out with an empty stomach!** Before heading to a party or gathering, eat something small so you don't arrive starving. Pre-party snacks can include apple slices and peanut butter, or a couple bites of cheese with some crackers!
- **Don't skip meals to save up for a feast!** You will be more likely to overeat and consume unhealthy sweet treats
- **Keep it movin'!** Physical activity can get pushed to the side during the holiday season, but being mindful and getting your body moving can help reduce stress and overeating!

## Try this Recipe at Home!

### Holiday Roasted Veggies w/ Pecans & Cranberries

Ingredients:

- Brussel Sprouts, trimmed/ halved
- 2 Large Carrots peeled and sliced into ½ in pieces
- 1 tbsp Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 tbsp Balsamic Vinegar
- 1 tbsp Maple Syrup
- 1 tsp Chopped Rosemary Leaves
- 1 tsp Chopped Thyme Leaves
- ½ cup Pecans
- 1/3 cup unsweetened dried Cranberries

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400F and spray a baking sheet with olive oil
2. In a large bowl mix together brussels sprouts, carrots, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, maple syrup, rosemary, and thyme until well combined.
3. Scatter on the prepared baking sheet in a single layer. Season with sea salt and freshly cracked pepper to taste.
4. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, stirring once, or until veggies are cooked through and slightly caramelized. Stir in pecans during the last 10 minutes of baking time.

Remove from the oven, stir in cranberries and serve immediately.

## Holiday Celebration Upcoming Events

**Nov. 30th** Wyoming Bands\ Holiday Treasures Craft Show @ Wyoming High School
**Dec. 6th** Tinsel, Treats, and Trolleys @ Leonard Park
**Dec 6th** GR Symphony Presents Wolverine Worldwide Holiday Pops @ Devos Place
**Dec. 7th** Kid's Holiday Baking Party @ Cookie Chicks
**Dec. 11th** The Christmas Lite Show Member Appreciation Event @ 5/3 Ballpark
**Dec 15th** The Whoville 5k @ Riverside Park

# From the District Nurse

Comstock Park Parents,
Within the next couple of months, each of our schools will have their vision and hearing screenings done through the Kent County Health Department! Below are the tentative dates:

Comstock Park High School – December 2, 2019
Mill Creek Middle School – December 9, 2019
Stoney Creek Elementary – Initial Screen March 23 – 26, 2020/Rescreen April 27 – 29, 2020
Greenridge Elementary – Initial Screen April 20 – 22, 2020/Rescreen May 7 & 8, 2020
Pine Island Elementary – May 18 – 21, 2020

Your local health department works in conjunction with your child's school to provide hearing and vision screenings based on the chart to the right.

| Hearing and Vision Screening Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pre-school | X | X |
| Kindergarten | X | |
| 1st Grade | | X |
| 2nd Grade | X | |
| 3rd Grade | | X |
| 4th Grade | X | |
| 5th Grade | | X |
| 7th Grade | | X |
| 9th | | X |

*Some local public health departments may schedule screenings at different intervals. Call your local public health department for more information.

What if your child is showing signs of vision problems, but isn't in the grade to be screened?
*Please contact me (the District Nurse) or let your child's teacher know to contact me.*
*If they are showing signs of struggling, we can get them screened!*

As always, with any questions or concerns, please reach out to me!

Happy Holidays!
Heather Norman, RN, BSN
Comstock Park District School Nurse
616-254-5030
HNorman@cppschools.com

# From the District Nurse

## Why do we screen?

**Children often do not realize that they are not seeing as they should and may not complain or show signs of vision problems.**

If not detected and treated early, vision problems in children can lead to:

- Loss of vision
- Learning difficulties
- Delayed sensory, motor, cognitive or social-emotional development

**A vision screening is a first step toward ensuring a lifetime of healthy vision for your child.**

**HOW CAN A VISION SCREENING HELP MY CHILD?**

- Identifies children in need of a professional eye examination
- May help detect disorders in an early, treatable stage
- Provides parents, caregivers and the public with valuable information about eye care
- May result in a referral to an eye care professional or primary care provider

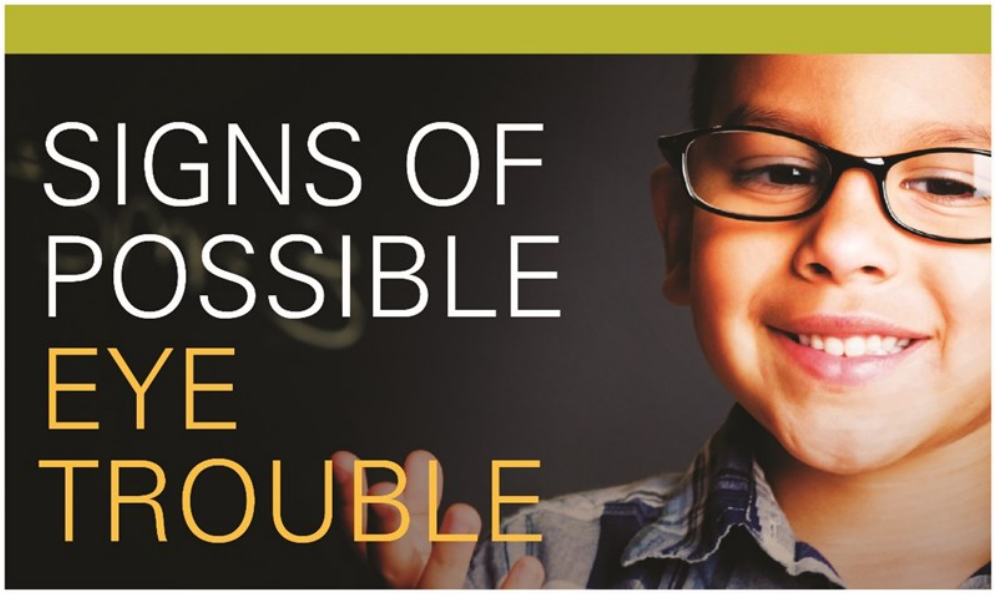
**For more information about children's vision screening visit PreventBlindness.org or ask your eye care professional.**

211 West Wacker Drive
Suite 1700
Chciago, Illinois 60606
PreventBlindness.org

Prevent Blindness®
Our Vision Is Vision®

# From the District Nurse

## What are the signs that my child is having vision problems?




If your child shows one or more signs below, take him or her to an eye doctor as soon as possible.

**WHAT DO YOUR CHILD'S EYES LOOK LIKE?**

- eyes don't line up, one eye appears crossed or looks out
- eyelids are red-rimmed, crusted or swollen
- eyes are watery or red (inflamed)

**HOW DOES YOUR CHILD ACT?**

- rubs eyes a lot
- closes or covers one eye
- tilts head or thrusts head forward
- has trouble reading or doing other close-up work or holds objects close to eyes to see
- blinks more than usual or seems cranky when doing close-up work
- squints eyes or frowns

**WHAT DOES YOUR CHILD SAY?**

- "My eyes are itchy," "My eyes are burning" or "My eyes feel scratchy."
- "I can't see that very well."
- After doing close-up work, your child says "I feel dizzy," "I feel sick/nauseous" or "I have a headache."
- "Everything looks blurry," or "I see double."

Remember, your child may still have an eye problem even if he or she does not complain or has not shown any unusual signs.

For more information about children's eye health and safety visit PreventBlindness.orgor ask your eye care professional.

211 West Wacker Drive
Suite 1700
Chciago, Illinois 60606
PreventBlindness.org

Prevent Blindness®
Our Vision Is Vision®

# From the District Nurse

## What if I am having trouble paying for vision services and glasses?

*If you are having trouble paying for glasses for your child, please see the resources below and contact me, I may be able provide some additional assistance!*

### Vision Resources

**Non-Profit / Charitable eye care providers**

- GR Lions Club Vision Clinic at Heart of the City Health Center: 616-776-2135 www.cherryhealth.org
- Cherry Health Montcalm Area Health Vision Clinic: 616-225-9650
  - Sliding Fee Program available. You may apply if you have no insurance or if you need assistance to help pay for your care at Cherry Health.
- InfantSee www.infantsee.org: Free eye evaluation for infants 6 months to one year.

**Doctors of Optometry** (vision or health insurance and self-pay)

- Search for a doctor in your area, www.themoa.org
- Retail optical stores in malls or discount stores

**Doctors of Ophthalmology** (vision or health insurance and self-pay)

**Recommendations**

If your child does not have medical insurance, please apply for Medicaid or MIChild. On-line applications available at www.michigan.gov/mibridges or we can help you by appointment here.

**Medicaid covers eye exams and glasses for children!**

A routine eye examination once every two years is a Medicaid benefit and does not require prior authorization.

A complete pair of eyeglasses is a Medicaid benefit and does not require prior authorization when the beneficiary's eyeglasses have been lost, stolen or broken beyond repair and the number of replacements have not exceeded Medicaid limits which are: For beneficiaries under age 21, two pair of replacement glasses per year (one year is defined as 365 days from the date of the first pair of glasses was ordered) www.michigan.gov/mdch (Medicaid provider manual)

Most folks with Medicaid are in a Medicaid managed care plan. Each plan has many eye care providers available. Kent County has five Medicaid managed care plans that a person may choose or be assigned. Call the member services number (on the Medicaid card) for the eye care provider list.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Blue Cross Complete | 1-800-228-8554 | mibluecrosscomplete.com |
| McLaren Health Plan | 1-888-327-0671 | mclarenhealthplan.org |
| Meridian Health Plan | 1-888-437-0606 | mhplan.com/mi |
| Molina Health Plan | 1-888-898-7969 | molinahealthcare.com |
| Priority Health | 1-888-975-8102 | priorityhealth.com |
| United Health Care | 1-866-633-2446 | uhc.com |

(Note: Most Medicaid Managed Care plans use VSP which has many providers in their network – check out www.vsp.com)

**Kent County H & V Screening Program 616-632-7047 Call with any questions!!**

Compiled by: K. Alderman, Hearing & Vision Coordinator, 616-632-7235 ChecklistVisionResource 04/18

# School News Network

## Third graders learn to listen—with help from drums, other noisemakers

By James Harger, Nov. 22, 2019

Third grader Bryce Wood was reconsidering his career options after watching a 45-minute presentation by Bill Vits, principal percussionist for the Grand Rapids Symphony.

"I want to be a percussionist!" declared Bryce as he and 140 of his schoolmates from Pine Island Elementary School waited to exit the big theater at Celebration Cinema! North. "I like to play the piano, but I have good rhythm too," he said.

Vits, who has been with the symphony 41 years, places about 40 different percussion instruments on stage. His collection includes a set of bones, dried gourds, a conga drum, a xylophone and a theramin, an electronic instrument that responds to hand motions.

"The human body is a percussion instrument," said Vits, who makes sounds by slapping his cheek, snapping his fingers and pounding his chest.

"Percussion can be anything," said Vits as he played a conga drum for his rapt audience.

Vits, who began playing the drums at age 7, told students how his career progressed through lessons, long hours of practice, school bands and finally, a job at the symphony. "I get paid to make noise."

To read the full article please follow this link.
https://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org/2019/11/22/third-graders-learn-to-listen-with-help-from-drums-other-noisemakers/

***Our district is on School News Network!***

Check it out at www.schoolnewsnetwork.org

SCHOOL NEWS NETWORK
A Window into Your Public Schools

# Comstock Park Public Schools

**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
Friday, October 18 – ½ Day of School
Wednesday-Friday, November 27 – 29 – 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
Friday, January 24 – ½ Day of School
Monday, February 17-18 – No School
Friday, March 13 – ½ Day of 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

# Elementary PTO

## COMSTOCK PARK PTO

CONTACT INFO:
EMAIL: COMSTOCKPARKPTO@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK PAGE: COMSTOCK PARK PTO

### IMPORTANT DATES

### JANUARY

21 - Meeting at Pine Island Elementary at 6:30pm

### FEBRUARY

25- Meeting at Pine Island Elementary at 6:30pm

The PTO would like to express their gratitude to all who helped out, donated to and came to enjoy the Pancake Breakfast on December 7th. We appreciate everything!

# CP Educational Foundation

**CPEF Officers**

Denise Clement , President

Terry Benjamin, V. President

Jeff Hoag/Courtney Clement

Co-Treasurer

Missi McPherson, Secretary

**Website**

**www.cpefkids.weebly.com**

**Thank you to everyone that supported the CPEF Holiday Fundraising Event on November 12th!**

**Musical Talent**

1st grade students and Mrs Amanda Hite
MS and HS Choir and Mrs Jeanette Doehring
HS Jazz Band and Mr. Luke Marlowe

**Yummy Food Provided by:**

Independent Bank on Alpine ● CP Pizza ● Vitale's of Comstock Park ● CPEF ● Scott Lake Golf and Practice Center

***We appreciate your support of CPEF!***

## Thank you for our beautiful trees!

Dokl's Meat Market
The Benajmin Family
Clarks Landscaping
The McPherson Family
Vicky's Nails & Spa
CP Golden Panthers
CP Rotary
Denise Clement
West River Carpets
Sanctuary Church
Vitale's of Comtock Park
Alpine Hair and Day Spa
CP KDL
Amore
Mad Dogz
Hot Tropics
Kids Club House
Alpine Floral & Gifts
Bauble Patch Jewelers
Flo's of Belmont
Scott Lake Golf & Practice Center
Cookie Chicks
Independent Bank on Alpine
Dr Hull and Dr Stewart, DDS
Beuschel Funeral Home
CP Golden Panthers
Four Seasons Lawn & Garden
A Davis Brown Salon
Choice One Bank on Alpine

COMSTOCK PARK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

HELPING EDUCATION ONE STEP AT A TIME.

# Athletic Boosters

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

**We are looking for volunteers in all areas! Please email Brenda Brown if interested.**

We meet the 1st Monday of the month at the High School. Next meeting is:

Monday, January 6th
7PM

***Watch for information on the Dodge Ball Tournament***
***January 25, 2020***

***Save the Date for Cash Bash!***
***March 14, 2020***

**CP Athletic Boosters is Proud to support all CP Athletics!!**

# Band Boosters

## Comstock Park Band Boosters

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

- December 16th Band Christmas Concert 7pm @ CPHS
- January 6-15 Ada Valley Sale (Pickup Jan 22)
- January 9th CP Band Booster Meeting @ 7pm at CPHS
- Always Available: Scrip!
  https://www.shopwithscrip.com
  Gift cards are perfect for Christmas gifts!
  Contact Scrip coordinator, Jodie Francik with questions
- February 7th CP Night Out

### 2019 Band Booster Officers 2020

*Please contact us with any questions or concerns*

*President Mindy Hammond*
*616.406.8747 cpbandboosterpres@gmail.com*

*VP Kristin Lindsey*
*616.667.7159 zachsmama@msn.com*

*Treasurer Jeff Lehan*
*616.826.9181 cpbbtreasurer@gmail.com*

*Secretary Jodie Francik*
*616.318.8084 jodiefrancik@gmail.com*

*Trustees:*
*Jennifer Barnhardt, Rhonda Lehan*
*& Michael Veldman*

*Band Director Luke Marlowe*
*616.254.5305 lmarlowe@cppschools.com*

# 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 at:

**Alpine Baptist Church**

**692 7 Mile Rd, Comstock Park MI**

Mon, Wed, & Fri. at 8:45 and 10:00

**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

Senior NEIGHBORS
no longer alone

# New Winter Schedule 2020

## Tai Chi for Arthritis classes:

- Meet 2x/week but you can drop in anytime!
- Are available at a suggested donation of $3.00/class
- Focus on slow and methodical movements to improve flexibility, balance, and overall health.
- Allow you to make new friends!
- Are safe and effective for older adults!

## New session beginning

## January 6 at 2:30pm!

## Henzee Center

**(Behind Walmart Alpine Ave.)**

**New session begins January 7th!**

**1100 Henze, Comstock Park MI**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:30pm**

Call 616-233-0283 for more information!

*Kent County Senior Millage*

TAI CHI for HEALTH
Dr. Paul Lam

# 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

**December 2019**
Tuesday, December 17th 10AM-12PM

**January 2020**
Monday, January 6th 4PM-6PM
Friday, January 17th Noon-2PM

**February 2020**
Friday, February 7th Noon-2PM
Thursday, February 13th 4PM-6PM

**March 2020**
Friday, March 6th Noon-2PM
Monday, March 16th 4PM-6PM

***2 Bag Limit***

***Bring your own grocery size bags!***

Check out our
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*

Cherry Health
in partnership with Wedgwood Christian Services & Comstock Park Schools

## Are you interested in helping your children by:

- Using attention as a reward
- Clear communication
- Effective discipline
- Substance abuse education
- Problem solving
- Limit setting

## IF YES, THEN YOU'LL WANT TO ENROLL IN THE **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM**

This program is a family skills training program designed to prevent or reduce behavioral, emotional, and social problems in children 10-14 years old.

- 7 weekly, 2.5- hour sessions, includes dinner
- All family members may attend but at least one child must be between 10-14 years.
- Children groups, parent group, and family sessions each week.

**Ask the school counselor or office for an application form**

THURSDAYS 6 - 8:30 P.M.
JANUARY 23 - MARCH 5
MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL
100 BETTY ST NE
COMSTOCK PARK, MI 49321

Contact Sharon @ 616.954.1991 ext. 7716 or sharonbriggs@cherryhealth.com

This publication is supported by a grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services/Bureau of Community Based Services, Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care, through Lakeshore Regional Entity. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of MDCH/OROSC of LRE.

# Comstock Park (KDL) Library

KDL
Kent District Library

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

## C.P. KDL Branch

**Liz Knapp**
Branch Manager

**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 |

## Did you know…. we offer One-on-One Technology Training?

Sign up at the branch (or call 784-2007) for a 45-minute session. We can help with eBooks, email, Facebook, or other tech topics.

### Events at the Comstock Park Library

**Thursday, December 19, 2019 7PM**
The Lit-Wits: Little Fires Everywhere
Get more out of reading! Join us for a friendly, informal discussion with snacks provided. This month's selection is *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celest Ng.

**Friday, December 27, 2019 1PM**
KDL Lab Experience: Build it!
Drop in with your friends and make all kinds of creations using the library's building sets.

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019 12:30PM**
Countdown to Happy Afternoon Year!
We're giving kids an exciting way to ring in 2020 with a countdown, noise-makers, crafts and fun -- at an hour that won't keep them up way past their bedtimes.

**Monday, January 6, 2020 6PM**
Instant Pot Basics: Unlock the Potential!
Pre-Reg. is required.

**Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6PM**
Meet the sled dogs.
Tun-Dra Kennels owners will talk about sled dogs, mushing equipment and the Iditarod. Families can meet the dogs and watch a demonstration outside, weather permitting.

# Northwest Little League

2020 Spring Baseball, Softball, and T-Ball Registration opens December 15, 2019.
Please Sign up today at WWW.NWLL.US

Take advantage of our early sign up special…December 15, 2019 through January 15, 2020.

- $20 off T-Ball and Machine Pitch
- $25 off Minor 2 and above

Regular sign up period: January 16 – March 1, 2020. Full registration fee.

Late Registration: Any registration processed after March 1, 2020 will be considered late and will have a late fee added.

# Adult Education Classes

## YORK CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER

3999 Alpenhorn, Comstock Park, MI 49321

ONLINE OPTIONS · ONE ON ONE TUTORING

ALL CLASSES ARE DROP IN—COME WHEN YOU CAN , LEAVE WHEN YOU NEED TO.

Daytime classes: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Evening classes: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**Monday through Thursday**

**STOP IN TO REGISTER**

Call (616) 887—7321 for more information

Check us out on Facebook

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE**

# Adult Education Classes



OFFERED THROUGH SPARTA ADULT EDUCATION

## WORKFORCE TRAINING OPPORTUNITES

### KENT CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER

1655 EAST BELTLINE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI

*Get the skills employers want - with Career and Technical Education*

### PHLEBOTOMY, WELDING, IT FUNDEMENTALS, CONSTRUCTION TRADES

- *Choose the program that fits you to get started on the path to higher earning.*
- *Open to enrolled adult students, no age limitations.*
- *Earn your GED or High School Diploma while attending KCTC.*
- *Attendance is required to obtain certification.*

### PROJECT NORTHSTAR @ KISD

*Supporting young adult students to equip them with the academic, workplace and life skills to succeed in career and college training opportunities.*

### AUTOMOTIVE TECH, HEALTH CARE, COMPUTER SUPPORT, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND MORE

- *Occupational skills training for in demand industies*
- *Youth ages 18-24 are eligable to apply.*
- *Pays for up to $5000 per year in tuition.*
- *Grant funded through West Michigan Works.*
- *Job skills, career coaching, and support services.*

### KITCHEN SAGE LEARNING ACADEMY

STEEPLETOWN NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

### CULINARY ACADEMY

- *Six weeks of culinary training*
- *Free for ages 18-24, open to all adults*
- *Servsafe exam preparation*
- *Paid externship with a hospitality partner*
- *Employment assistance*
- *Basic knife skills, sanitation, and kitchen etiquette*

CONTACT: SPARTA ADULT EDUCATION (616) 887-7321

# DDA News

## Big Changes Coming to Dwight Lydell Park in 2020

Big changes are coming to Dwight Lydell Park in 2020. The 39-acre park at 4040 Leland Avenue in downtown Comstock Park is being completely renovated. At the heart of the makeover is restoring Mill Creek to a more natural state by removing the 100-plus-year old concrete walls that are in disrepair and falling into the water. Grading will be done along the banks on the "Park side" of the Creek to create a flood plain and wetlands. Brian Mulligan, Planning and Development Manager for Kent County Parks Department, said that with the concrete walls gone and the grading creating a flood plain of 30-50 feet, the creek will flow more slowly during flood events. This will improve the habitat along the creek and in the water, as well as aesthetics, he said.

Bids will go out in January. The Park will be closed for much of the construction in the summer.

The total cost of the project is $1.5 million. The County received more than a million dollars in grants from the Department of Natural Resources – an $800,000 DNR Non-Point Source Grant, and a $250,000 DNR Aquatic Habitat Grant. The County will pay the rest.

The path on the "Park side" of the Creek will be moved toward the center of the Park, said Mulligan, and the path on the "Lamoreaux Avenue side" will be removed. No grading will be done on the Lamoreaux side. The graded area will be planted in a natural state to stabilize the side slopes of the Creek, he said, adding that some trees along the banks now will have to be removed. The bridge at the Library will be replaced, but the bridge further upstream will be removed. Areas of the Park that flood now will be raised.

The existing ponds will be altered and made into one pond. A boardwalk will be built from the parking lot at the northwest end of the Park and will extend across the new pond and wetlands, and the Creek. It will connect with Lamoreaux Drive just north of the Comstock Park Congregational United Church of Christ parking lot. The retaining walls along the creek where it runs by the railroad tracks will be removed and the ground sloped. An overlook will be built at the southeast end of the new pond.

The existing playground equipment and shelter will be moved closer to the path along Leland St. There are no plans for any new playground equipment at this time.

The first phase of the renovation of Dwight Lydell Park was done in 2017. The parking lot was torn out and reconstructed creating parking for twice as many cars. A new maintenance building was built and the old building removed.

The concrete walls along Mill Creek were built mostly around the turn of the twentieth century to facilitate water management for the fish hatchery that was located in the park. At its peak, the fish hatchery covered the entire Park. The State selected the Park as the site for a fish hatchery in 1896 and closed it in 1946 citing lack of demand and disrepair of the facility. The State then donated the land to Kent County to be used as a park. The Park was named after Dwight Lydell who the State hired to develop and manage the hatchery. Before the fish hatchery, the Park was the site of a tannery, grist mills, and saw mills at various times in the mid and late 1800's.

For more information about Kent County Parks and the construction at Dwight Lydell Park.
https://www.kentcountyparks.org/dwightlydell/improvementprojects.php

## Check out the DDA Website for more DDA News

## http://www.comstockparkdda.org