

Cologne Academy Director's News

Calendar Dates

- November 3 at 6:00 p.m.
Fall Concert Grades
K-4
- November 7 at 6:30 p.m.
PAVE Meeting
- November 11 at 2:30
p.m. Veteran's Day
Program
- November 11 at 6:30
p.m. Family Fun
Night
- November 11 Lifetouch
Photo Retakes
- November 15 at 5:30
p.m. Facilities Task
Force Meeting
- November 15 at 8:00
p.m. Finance Meeting
- November 17 at 7:00
p.m. Board Meeting
- November 22 at 2:50
OSA/Fish Awards
- November 23-25
Thanksgiving Break,
No School
- November 28-Dec 2
Book Fair and Food
Drive

STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

GIFTED AND TALENTED YOUTH WEEK *Snapshot of CA's Academic Program*

Last month, Governor Dayton announced next week, November 6th – 12th, as Gifted and Talented Youth week. Dayton's proclamation is in response to the growing awareness that all students have unique academic needs and to challenge schools to meet not only the needs of struggling learners through academic interventions, but also the needs of students who are ready for further challenge before many of their peers.

At Cologne Academy, this need is ever present in our classrooms. Students walk into our school with an array of prior knowledge and understanding, and as a school whose vision is individual academic achievement, we face this challenge head on! In our first year of operation, this need was initially answered through grade-less, flexi-

ble groupings in math. Students were assessed both formally and informally and placed in a flexible group (called MUM-Mixed Up Math) according to their understanding of math concepts rather than their age. These groups changed regularly, especially when instruction changed from one skill such as data analysis, to another, such as geometry.

In CA's second year, MUR (Mixed Up Reading) was added to our programming. These groups give all students the opportunity to move into a more rigorous group and placed with students more similar to them in challenge and ability. After the second year, however, we found that there was need for students to move not only a grade level above,

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Lynn Gluck Peterson
Executive Director
October, Issue 6



Cologne Academy's First Knowledge Bowl Experience

Last Tuesday, eight of Cologne Academy's Middle School students, Lauren Pelletier (6), Wren Roushar (6), Sally Schelitzche (6), Grace Wille (6), Sawyer Beck (7), Ben Michlitsch (7), Katelyn Buetow (7), and Nick Goede (8) set the stage to future Knowledge Bowl victory. After trekking to Westwood Middle School in Blaine, six of our students joined forces to answer forty basic knowledge questions in written form. Out of the twenty-three teams present, they ranked 7th after the fourth round with twenty-six questions correct. The 1st ranked team answered only four more questions correctly.

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Willing to Share Your CA Experience with Others?

Please consider spreading the good news about Cologne Academy! Consider hosting a small get together in your home for other families in your community/ neighborhood. This could be an informal "coffee and cookies" setting with a CA staff member present to help spread the word about our school. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kelly or Jana in the office at 952-466-2276. **Thank You!!!**

Student Spotlight:

Every year, the Cologne Lions Club hosts a Peace Poster Contest for 6th graders at local schools. All of our 6th graders did an awesome job creating posters that display their idea of this year's theme "Kids Know Peace". This year's winners are:

1st Place: Micah Bijou

Honorable Mention: Grace Wille & Sally Schelitzche

Posters are on display at Klein Bank and Security Bank in Cologne.

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The following students were awarded certificates at the Outstanding Student Assembly:

- Art/Music: Nicole Larson
- Phy Ed: Tori Vidmar
- 5th Grade: Chloe Clough
- 6th Grade: Liam Thomas
- 7th Grade: Skuyler Knisely
- 8th Grade: Shale Siewert

The following students were "caught" and given a Fish Award:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Brayden Slavik | Tommy Blahoski |
| Ansley Mapstone | Grace Strickfaden |
| Sophie Sazdoff | Kathryn Jans |
| Carter Hanson | Becca Salisbury |
| Claire Kerber | Aiden Jensen |
| Noah Vossen | Jocelyn Heinrichs |
| Cecily Thomas | Charlie Hanson |

Veteran's Day Program

Cologne Academy is hosting our first Veteran's Day Program on Friday, November 11th. Students are encouraged to invite a veteran guest to join them for the assembly and treats afterward. The assembly will begin at 2:35 in the Cologne Community Center.

GOT SPACE?

CA is in need of temporary storage (pole barns, 3rd garage stalls, etc.) for desks and furniture items that we acquire through auctions and business closings. This furniture will benefit our expansion and sometimes we find great deals that we can't pass up! Items in storage will be removed in June after school is out.

Please contact Kelly in the office at 952-466-2276.

We are looking for volunteers to help the teachers with copying and miscellaneous projects. If you can help for an hour or two each week (or every other week) on Thursdays please contact Jana Moeller.

If you can help serve lunch on Tuesdays, please contact Jami Reinitz.

The City of Cologne is holding a meeting on Monday, November 14 from 5:30 until 7:00pm regarding the Hwy 212/Co. Rd. 53 intersection. There will be a presentation by MN-DOT as well as a question/answer session. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Now through February 17 is our open enrollment period at CA. If you have a child who is not currently enrolled at CA but would like to be, please turn in an application prior to February 17. Help spread the word to your family and friends, too!

Congratulations to 8th grader, Theo Emo, who is currently performing the Lead in *Bridge to Terabithia* at Stages Theater in Hopkins. Our middle schoolers had the opportunity to enjoy the play on Thursday.



College T-shirt Days:

- November 14
- November 22
- December 12
- December 21
- January 27
- February 13
- February 24
- March 5
- March 30
- April 16
- April 27
- May 25

Uniform pants/skirts required.

PAVE Reminders

Spring Fling Coordinators Needed

The first Spring Fling planning meeting was held on Monday, 10-17. We still need coordinators in the following areas:

Silent Auction Team (need 3)

Marketing Team (need 2)

Food Concessions Team (need 1)

Games Team (need 2)

Free Contests Team (need 2)

Master Scheduler (need 1)

All of these coordinator roles need to be filled in order for the Spring Fling to happen. Please consider stepping forward. You will not be working alone (notice the word **Team** above). There is plenty of great information saved from previous years that you are welcome to use, edit, build on, change, etc. The Spring Fling only can grow and improve each year through the talents of our volunteers. Also, the goal of starting the planning process early is to allow each team the maximum amount of time to make their area great. Again, please consider volunteering in the areas above to help us create the best Spring Fling yet. Contact PAVE@cologneacademy.org to volunteer.

PAVE Meeting

Our next PAVE meeting is Monday, November 7th at 6:30. We meet in the conference room. If you would like to be added to the agenda, please do so by contacting PAVE@cologneacademy.org by Friday, 11-04-11. Topics this month will include Spring Fling, Spaghetti Dinner and much, much more. Remember, all parents are members of PAVE and your participation is always welcome.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Please check those backpacks next week for the flyers and instructions on Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough sales. This fundraiser will run from November 8th until November 28th. All profits will go toward purchasing a C.O.W. (cart on wheels) and laptops for the school to be used in all student classrooms. Your active participation in this fundraiser is needed to purchase this much needed equipment for the school.

Veteran's Day Refreshment Volunteers Needed

Friday, November 11th PAVE will be serving refreshments to the students, staff and guests following the Veteran's Day Program in the gym. Helpers are needed to pour juice, arrange cookies and clean up. Please contact PAVE@cologneacademy.org if you are able to help following the program.

Nurse Notes:

Cases of head lice have been reported in a few classrooms this fall. As a result of these cases we would like to encourage parents to actively check their child's scalp and hair at least twice a week. Signs and symptoms of a head lice infestation are persistent itching of the scalp, infected scratch marks, the appearance of a rash, nits (silvery-colored oval shaped eggs) attached to the hair shaft, and crawling lice in the hair. If you identify any of these symptoms please contact your health care provider to inquire into treatment and also contact the health office.

For more information about head lice: http://www.hennepin.us/files/HennepinUS/HSPHD/Public%20Health%20Protection/Epidemiology/Daycare%20Manual/1355_head%20lice%20parent.pdf or www.headlicecenter.com

GIFTED AND TALENTED YOUTH WEEK

STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Our children and youth are one of Minnesota's greatest resources; and

WHEREAS: Education should foster the development of recognized potential abilities in areas of intelligence, creativity, academics, leadership, and visual and performing arts; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota and its education systems play a key role in finding, maintaining, and furthering these unusual human resources; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota has tens of thousands of gifted and talented children whose full potential can be tapped only through the farsighted cooperation of education, community, and government; and

WHEREAS: Maximum development of each individual's intellectual and creative powers insures the challenges of the future will more likely be met.

NOW, THEREFORE, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, does hereby proclaim November 6-12, 2011 to be:

GIFTED AND TALENTED YOUTH WEEK

G&T Continued (from page 1)

but to attend classes where all standards and skills were taught, but at an accelerated pace. To answer this need, last year the school began a Gifted and Talented reading group with twelve students in attendance. Our 3rd-5th grade students were given the opportunity to analyze themes in medieval texts such as *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, examine character development in *The Merchant of Venice*, recount important clues and details in Sherlock Holmes short stories, and create rigorous, independent responses to self-selected books. This group continues this year with seventeen students, grades 3rd through 6th in attendance and an additional rigorous reading group also offered for students in 7th and 8th grade. An accelerated math class for students in 4th and 5th grade who showed need for more than one year's additional challenge was also created this year.

In the younger grades, students are assessed formally four times a year and placed in a small group with peers who are learning the same skills they need to learn. As a student learns the skills, the groups are rearranged to allow each student to grow at their own pace, including a fast, rigorous pace.

Although these groups answer specific reading and math needs for Gifted and Talented students at Cologne Academy, a gifted child is gifted all day, so we have been working to respond to this need in History and Science by increasing rigor in the questions asked and the critical thinking opportunities students are giving during these times. Teachers create higher order thinking questions for at least one subject each day and facilitate small group learning activities in which students are offered opportunities to express complex ideas with their grade level peers.

Extra-curricular activities are another way many schools open opportunities for Gifted and Talented students with need for further rigor. This year, Cologne Academy has added a Knowledge Bowl team and last year we sent three students to the Regional Science Fair and one to the Regional Spelling Bee. We will do both of these again this year.

In less than four years Cologne Academy has made some significant changes to meet the needs of Gifted and Talented students, but as our students grow and change, so do their needs. Each year we will continue to make changes to meet these fluctuating needs. In future years we hope to add more extra-curricular activities, writing competitions for the older students, and more ability groups in kindergarten, first, and second grade. With the support of parents and teachers, Cologne Academy is proud to be on the path for success of all students, including these unique learners. If you have further questions on specific academic programs, Mrs. Lori Magstadt would gladly answer questions for all of our learners lmagstadt@cologneacademy.org.

KB continued (from page 1)

Following the written round, the eight challengers competed in three oral competitions. With such a strong start to the evening, the eight were placed with two very experienced teams and had the opportunity to learn the importance of not only knowing the correct answer, but being willing to take a risk with their best answer. In the second oral round Cologne Academy fought neck-in-neck with two other teams and won the round by one point. The students learned the importance of knowing their teammates strengths and to trust each other's answers. The evening continued and the competition thickened. By the last round Cologne Academy ranked 19th. After the long but exciting night the team went home with two great successes and a plethora of strategies for future meets.