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- School Finance Award
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **December 1**
Personnel Meeting
6:30 PM
- **December 2** End
of the 1st Trimester
- **December 3** All
School Out-of-
Uniform-Day and
Great American
Spell Check Pledges
Due and Test Day!
- **Week of
December 6th**
Scholastic Book Fair
- **December 9**
Literacy Night at
Community Center
- **December 10**
Report Cards go
home
- **December 14**
Finance Meeting 8
PM
- **December 16**
Board Meeting 7 PM
- **December 17** Fish
Ceremony 2:50 pm
Community Center;
Spell Check
Donations Due
- **December 21**
Facilities Task Force
- **December 23-
January 2** No
School
- **January 3** School
Resumes



Director's Notes

by
Lynn Gluck Peterson

NOVEMBER 30, 2010

Events and Happenings

Food Drive



Many thanks to Mrs Roth and her 4th grade class for hosting this year's annual food drive to support our local food shelves. This community service event deepens the students' understanding of being a person of character by giving of oneself. December's core virtue, *charity*, and November's core virtue, *gratitude* are evident in the purpose of Cologne Academy's Food Drive.



In addition, the entire student body earned an out-of-uniform day this coming Friday, December 3rd, for setting a new school food collection record of 1194 food items. Way to go!

Great American Spell Check

Cologne Academy's Great American Spell Check is this FRIDAY. For the past several weeks, students in grades 1-7 have been collecting pledges for each word spelled correctly on this Friday's 50 word spelling test. This is a WIN-WIN proposition! The student wins by improving spelling skills and Cologne Academy wins by retaining 100% of the funds raised to support technology software. Please help your child study for the test and help your student collect pledges for the school.



Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held from Monday, December 6th– Friday December 10th at the Community Center. The week's highlight will be Thursday's Literacy Night. Taina Kingston will again entertain all with her fantastic storytelling throughout the night.

Day	Event	Times
December 6 – Monday	Class Preview Day –	9:45 am to 5:00 pm
December 7 – Tuesday	After school shopping	2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
December 8 – Wednesday	Students at fair.	9:45 am to 5:00 pm
December 9 – Thursday	LITERACY NIGHT	2:00 pm to 8:00 pm
December 10 – Friday	Last minute shoppers	3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Our Vision

To create an environment for K-8 children where rich character development and effective learning create self confident students who are able to achieve their personal best academically. Using advanced curriculum that is based on goal oriented results, parents will work with teachers to produce the highest possible level of academic achievement for each individual student.

Our Mission

To provide students in Cologne and surrounding rural areas with a content-rich education based on a strong foundation of knowledge through the use of the Core Knowledge Sequence and classical curriculum. We are committed to providing a community school with small class sizes where students, parents and teachers work together to achieve accelerated academic achievement and strong character

School Finance

Did You Know?

Since Fiscal Year 2003, the Minnesota Department of Education has recognized school organizations that exhibit sound fiscal health and financial management policies and procedures. The criteria for earning a School Finance Award is based on compliance with state statutes on a number of finance issues and other means of demonstrating fiscal health.

There were a total of 126 winners or 22.45 percent of the 561 reporting units for FY 2010. Of the 126 winners, 55 of 158 units or 35 percent of charter schools earned it, 68 of 340 units or 20 percent of traditional school districts earned it and 3 of 63 regional or intermediate units earned it. The Cologne Academy school board and administration is working hard to be one of the next recipients of the School Finance Award.

Holdback Dollars

Minnesotans know that their state is facing a severe budget crisis. The state deficit for the current biennium (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011) has grown by \$1.2 billion dollars since the state budget was passed in May. The beginning deficit figure for the next biennium has also grown to at least \$5.2 billion dollars. Due to the budget crisis at the state level, the legislature decided the state would delay payments to school districts by several months. The holdback from the state for the 2009-2010 school was 27%, while the holdback for the 2010-2011 school year is 30%. For Cologne Academy this equates to roughly \$600,000 in money not received until late 2011 for the current school year.

Each fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. Starting in July, each bi-monthly payment of the school's funding is reduced by 30%. All schools hope legislators will vote to pay back this money with three payments made in August, September, and October. By holding back education dollars, the state is able to "balance" their books, but only temporarily as the State has traditionally paid these holdback dollars back to the school districts owed.

Over the next several years, Cologne Academy will continue to grow its fund balance so that we can weather the holdback internally rather than pay an outside lender interest to preserve the school's cash flow. Cologne Academy will again partner with Charter School Partners of Portland, Oregon to cover this year's holdback which ensures we are able to meet our financial obligations to staff and vendors.

As the new legislation session begins this winter, it is important to understand the agenda of our elected officials and their education initiatives. I will provide timely updates to keep you informed.

Cologne Academy Students attending Concordia Language Village

Ten students will be attending Concordia Language Village in Bemidji this weekend to immerse themselves into the Spanish Culture for the weekend. Mrs Lopez Marshall will accompany the students on their trip. Look for this annual opportunity next year as we grow our program.

Toy Drive:

The Cologne, Norwood Young America, and Hamburg Fire Departments are sponsoring a Toy Drive from November 26 through December 14. Toys collected will be given to the Southwest Carver County Food Shelf in NYA. KleinBank will also be accepting cash donations. Cologne Academy has a collection box for toys in the office. Please consider donating!