

# The Unit #1 Quarterly

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Dear Unit #1 Parents and Friends,

District #1 is very pleased to be offering another year of "The Unit #1 Quarterly." This newsletter has proven to be a valuable and popular communication tool with the wider community we serve. Many thanks go out to Mr. Harlan Kennell and his Coaler Creations class for developing such a fine publication.

There are many exciting and innovative opportunities being offered to our students in District #1, and this newsletter showcases many of them. We are very proud to have a completely student driven publication to share with the communities we serve. The "Quarterly" is an extremely valuable communication tool, but it also provides "real life" experiences for our students. Our students not only write and edit the articles, but are also involved in every aspect of publication, public relations and distribution. We hope you enjoy.

Our theme for this school year is "We're All In This Together". This theme not only applies to our students, faculty and staff, but also to our parents and the members of the wider community our school district serves. All of you are an integral part of our success, because your support and feedback are so important to our continuous improvement efforts. We hope everyone in our school district community knows how much we value your various contributions to our tradition of excellence in Coal City School District #1. It's going to be a great school year!

Educationally Yours,  
 Dr. Kent A. Bugg  
 Superintendent  
 "We're All In This Together"



## Upcoming Events

### October

**11,19- Early Dismissal  
 12,14,15 - MS Musical  
 19,20- Parent Teacher Conferences  
 20- No School**

### November

**4,5- HS Fall Play  
 15- Early Dismissal  
 22-24 Thanksgiving Break**

### December

**6- Early Dismissal  
 22-Winter Break  
 School Resumes on January 9**

*It is the mission of the Coal City Community Unit School District #1 ... to prepare today's learners for tomorrow's challenges.*

## District Website

The Unit #1 District Website contains teacher pages, sports, alumni, and more.

To visit the website go to:  
[www.coalcity.k12.il.us](http://www.coalcity.k12.il.us)

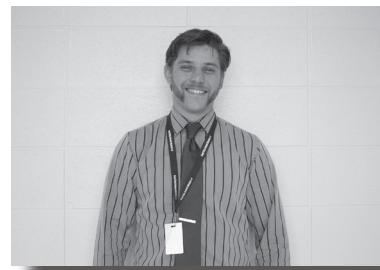
# Coal City Unit District #1 Welcomes New Teachers to Coal City!

**Lisa Stith**

I teach Family and Consumers Sciences. I received my undergrad at Illinois State University, and my masters degree from Western Michigan University. This is my 12th year of teaching in total. My hometown in which I grew up was Limestone, which is outside of Kankakee. I am the advisor of FCCLA. A fun fact about me is that I have been to 5 of the Hawaiian Islands in the last three years.

**Casey McGrath**

I have been teaching for 3 years total. I teach all subjects since I'm a teacher of Preschool. I got my teaching degree from Eastern Illinois University. My home town is Ottawa. I love to dance, sing and play with my children. A fun fact about me is that I teach Zumba!

**Joshua Welzen**

This is my first full time teaching job. I teach high school Chemistry, Physical Science, and Biology. My college degree is from Eastern Illinois University. I grew up in Manhattan. Some of my hobbies are gardening, raising chickens and cattle, and playing Tenor Sax. An interesting fact about me is that I restore antique Oliver tractors with my uncle.

**Devin Esparza**

This is my 7th year teaching in total. As a kindergarten teacher I teach all subjects. My degree is from Illinois State University. I grew up in Braidwood. I enjoy spending my free time with my children. I also enjoy vacationing. A fun fact about me is I love puzzles and challenges.

**Elayne Miller**

I am a co-teacher for 6th grade Math, English, Social Studies, and Science. This is the start of my second full year of teaching. This year I will be coaching the 7th grade basketball team. I grew up in Morris, and I received my degree from Illinois State University. A hobby of mine includes playing and coaching sports such as basketball and softball. In off months, I enjoy traveling and being outside.

**Alex Rambo**

I am a kindergarten teacher with this being my first year total teaching. My teaching degree is from DePaul University. I grew up in Plainfield. I love to travel. I grew dancing my whole life and was part of my college's pom/dance team.

**Ashley Matsko**

The grades that I teach are 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math. This will be my 9th year teaching in all. I got my Bachelor's degree from University of Carbondale, and my Masters from University of St. Francis. My home town is Anna which is just outside of Carbondale. A proud fact of mine is that I was the Valedictorian in my high school. A hobby of mine is I love spending time with my kids. I am currently the sponsor of the Middle School Yearbook.

**Julie Brncich**

Starting my 10th year of teaching, I teach art for 2nd and 3rd graders. I love art, photography, and design. I grew up in the town of Bartlett. A fact about me is that I am the mother of three little boys. I got my Bachelors at Western Illinois University. I then got my Masters at Eastern Illinois University.

**Corey Mikula**

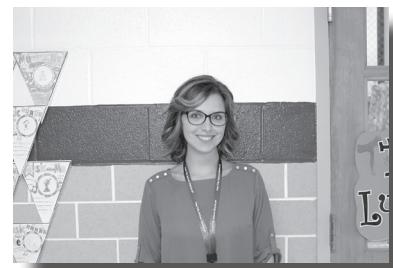
I am an 8th grade math teacher. This is my 7th year teaching in total. My Bachelor's of Science in Math Education degree is from Purdue University. My Masters is in School Leadership is from Concordia Chicago. My hometown is Coal City. I am currently the math team coach. A random fact about me is that I have a 2 month old girl. Hobbies of mine include spending time with my family, landscaping, taking bike rides, and watching movies.

**Grace McEarthon**

Starting my 8th year teaching, I co-teach with Mrs. Owensby. I grew up in Coal City. I went to Joliet Junior College and Lewis University. Some hobbies of mine include doing crafts with my daughter and going on walks. I also love country music.

**Allison Wingate**

I am the occupational therapist at the Early Childhood Center, Elementary School, and the Middle School. This is my first year in teaching in total. I grew up in Normal. My degree is from University of Southern Indiana. A random fact about me is that I hate birds, and I am obsessed with elephants. Hobbies that I enjoy are volleyball, any outdoor activity, and spending time with my friends and family.

**Brea Owensby**

I am a 2nd grade teacher, and this is my 5th year total in teaching. I got my teaching degree at Western Illinois University. I love to shop, read, run, and being outside are just some of my hobbies. I grew up in Coal City.

**Kara Claypool**

I am the Speech-Language Pathologist at the Early Childhood Center, Middle School, and the High School. I have worked 6 years prior in the same field. My hometown is South Wilmington. I went to Illinois State University for my Undergraduate and Graduate. A fun fact about me is I got married in September, and my new last name is Claypool. Hobbies of mine are walking my dogs and golf cart rides.

**Jean Krippel**

Starting my 7th year of teaching, I am teaching 8th grade math. I got my Bachelor's Degree from Chicago State University. I also got Master's degree at Saint Xavier University. I grew up in Braidwood. I plan to coach volleyball. A fun fact about me is that I am a dog lover and own a Vizsla named Meeko. Hobbies I enjoy are outdoor activities such as: sand volleyball, softball, biking, paddle boarding, and snowboarding.

**Thomas Fatigante**

Starting my first year teaching, I am the 6th grade mathematics teacher. My hometown is Coal City. I went to Joliet Junior College and Illinois State University. I am the current 6th grade math team coach. A fun fact is that I have a big family that I love. I have around 40 cousins. Some interests of mine are playing soccer, biking, hanging out with friends and family, and camping.

The CCMS STEPS class is really taking advantage of their new room this year. They moved into Mrs. Frederiksen's old science room and love the running water, outdoor access, and the extra storage. One of the greatest advantages is the ability to cook in the classroom! We have made some yummy pumpkin cookies, interesting (and amazing) pizza soup, and delicious personal pies since the start of school! The students choose the weekly menu and prepare the food as a group. It is definitely the highlight of the week!

**Mrs. Phillip's STEPS Class**

## Investment Club

This year marks the 7th year of Coal City Middle School's Investment Club. The club is open to all CCMS students. Club members form their own "investment teams" and receive a mock \$100,000 in an electronic trading account through the national Stock Market Game.

The game mirrors the markets and teams trade in



stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. Students receive lessons on risk and return, investment types, economics, and investing terms and strategies. Students not only gain a fundamental understanding of investing but also gain real-world skills and practice in math, economics, social studies, and other subjects. Each team's portfolio performance is used to compete with teams across the state of Illinois. In the past, we've had several teams in the top 5.

Investment Club begins October 4th and meets at 7:30 a.m. in the CCMS Library.

## Mystery Reader

The highlight of our week at Pre-K in Mrs. Harseim's class was our Mystery Reader. The Mystery Reader is a meaningful and high interest volunteer activity. The best part is that it gets community into the classroom, involves kids, and exposes everyone (even the teacher) to new wonderful picture books!

Each Friday, a parent, grandparent, older sibling, neighbor, babysitter, or close friend come in and share 2-3 books.



## Mr. Fatigante's Mathematician

This week in 6th grade math, students perfected their skills with multiplying fractions. Students worked in groups at different stations with activities for them to practice. Some of the stations included; chrome book fraction games, fraction flip card games, and self-check worksheets. The students loved being able to work together and help one another out. Students had a great time working together and bettering themselves in fraction multiplication.

Putting their heads together, students try to solve the problem using some playing cards.

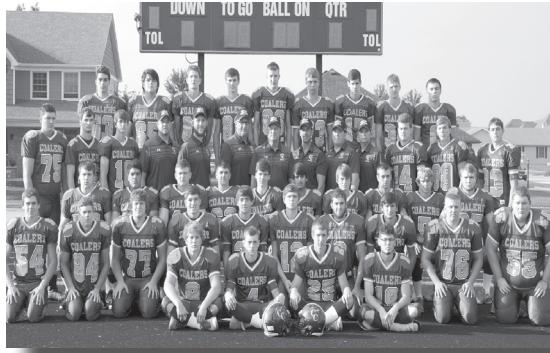


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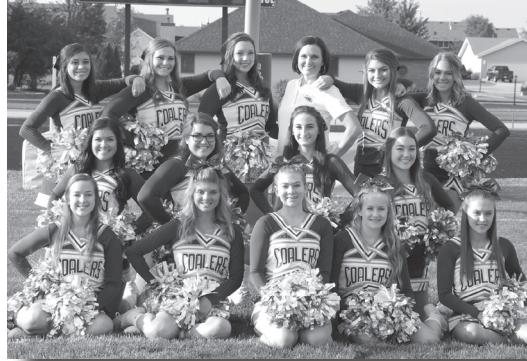
In years past, we have had firemen, police officers, Santa Claus, Spider Man, and Elsa read to our class. The excitement up until the reader walks into the room is priceless because it is a total mystery to the students who will be arriving. The suspense + the big reveal + a read aloud by a guest = happy parents, students, and teachers! It is a great way to get my students excited about reading!



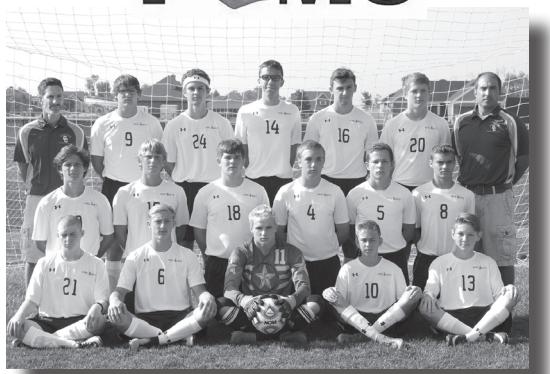
# Coaler



**Varsity  
Football**



**CHEER**



**Varsity  
Soccer**

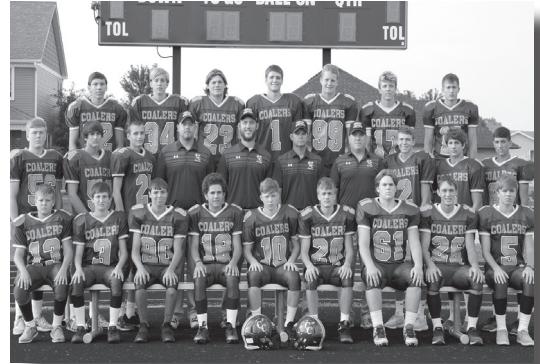


**Varsity  
Volleyball**

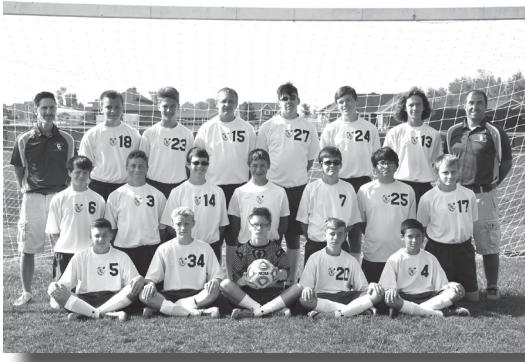
# Sports



**JV  
Volleyball**



**JV  
Football**



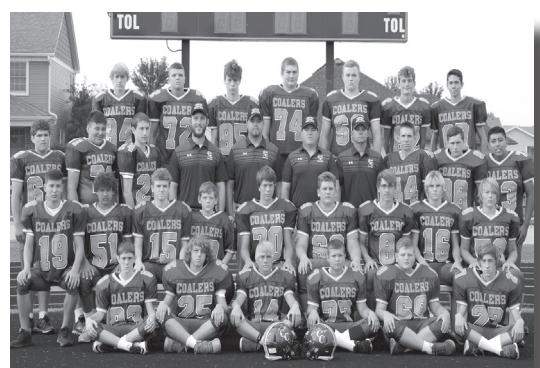
**JV  
SOCCER**



**TENNIS**



**Freshman  
Volleyball**



**Freshman  
Football**



## International Dot Day

Students at the Early Childhood Center joined over 9.5 million people in 169 countries in celebrating International Dot Day. International Dot day is officially Sept. 15th, but ECC students spent an entire week doing Dot related activities in the art room with Mrs. Prendergast. Color and creativity are the name of the game after students read and listen to "the Dot" by Peter Reynolds.



Both kindergarten and first grade students were encouraged to, "Make a mark and see where it takes you!" Kindergarten students used oil pastels and watercolors to create their dots. First grade students were able to explore color mixing too by creating dots with markers on special color diffusing paper. Kindergarten and first grade students also used crayons and markers to create a collaborative dot mural to hang in the hall at the ECC. To view the fantastic dot artwork please visit the ECC's online art gallery at Artsonia.com.

## A Colorful Year

Get ready for a colorful year! The second and third grade students in Mrs. Brncich's art class at the Coal City Elementary School have been working hard to make some very colorful art. The students learned all about Pablo Picasso's blue period and use of monochromatic colors.



Each student chose their own monochromatic color scheme and drew a self-portrait using pencils, crayons, and markers. Mrs. Brncich hung every student's piece in the hallway, in rainbow order, for the whole school to enjoy. The colorful self-portraits remind us to make everyday colorful!



## PALS

PALS, Peers Assisting & Leading Students, is a peer-mentoring program to promote leadership, compassion, acceptance, tolerance, and fun. The PALS students mentor special needs students from the STEPS classroom during weekly activities at CCMS. Here are pictures from our first PALS group this week!



# WILLY WONKA & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

This year's production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is in full swing. Two seamstresses are working to make costumes by scratch, auditions have been held and lockers decorated based on the parts received. Play rehearsals are also ramping up nightly. All of this work is in preparation for one thing: showtime.

Mrs. Bonnie McDowell and Mr. Eric Kodat are directing this year's show along with Mrs. Carla Mazzarelli as artistic designer and Luke Manietta as student director.

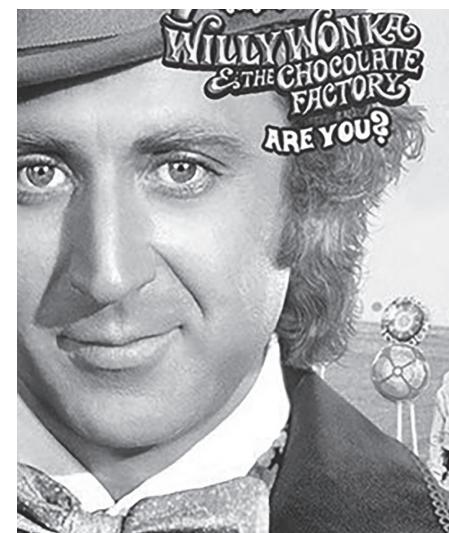


The cast is as follows; Jesse McCants - Willy Wonka, John Englert - Charlie Bucket, Dylan Legg - Slugworth, Kaylee Groves - Mrs. Gloop, Tessa Brancato - Violet Beauregarde, Taylor Peterson - Veruca Salt, Logan Miller - Augustus Gloop, Gavyn Williams - Mike Teavee, Koren Friders - Mrs. Teavee, Kit Clayburn - Mr. Salt, Conner Michalowski - Narrator, Luke Manietta - Tinker, AJ Rodriguez - Grandpa Joe, Lani Stapka - Mrs. Bucket, Dekotah Rueger - Mr. Beauregarde, Klare Aldridge - Grandma Josephine, Alexander Armstrong - Grandpa George, Katie Girot- Grandma Georgina.



Newscasters are: Nathan Sebby, Teresa Humphrey, Ryan Rutkowski, Savannah Magee. Oompa Loompas are: Evan Rivera, Kain Ulivi, Luke VanDuyne, Madison Holcomb, Anjalie Madina, Ryleigh Christensen, Alexis Medina, Abby Jackman, Gabriela Schoeneck, Makiah Wilson. School Kids are: Gracie Brendt, Hannah Shirkey, Carmella Barkley, Zander Posey, and Conner Gamboa. Town folk are: Emily Perry, Melissa Perry, Dakota Englert, Kelly VanDerKarr, Ethan Knutson, Dalton Dugard, and Ava Riley. Tech Crew is as follows; Ava Riley, Megan Thayer, Darlynn Best, Jenna Super, Elaina Sebby, Shannon Hakey, Trinity Pedigo, Cassidy Flatness, Viviana Velasco, and Allyson Scholtes.

**Showings are Friday, November 3rd at 7pm, Saturday, November 4th at 2 & 7 pm, and Sunday, November 5th at 2 pm. Tickets will be \$5.00 each for all ages. Tickets will only be sold at the door, not online!**



## Mrs. Ness's Scientists



Students in Mrs. Ness's 4th grade class are working on scientific inquiry. Students discovered that plants have vascular systems by observing the coloration of celery when left in colored water overnight.



## 3rd Grade School Store

The Elementary School Store is up and running. The store is managed by Mrs. Hamilton's 3rd grade students, with her challenge Math group doing the ordering and pricing based on unit cost. Every student in the class has a hand in something involving the store; from advertising to sales. Everything is under \$2.00 and in quarter increments which makes the math a little easier for our student cashiers. Parent volunteers donate their time to help at the store every other Friday. This is a tremendous real world experience that each child enjoys a great deal!

## 7th Grade Scientist

Students in Mrs. McMurtrey's and Mr. Looper's classes have been looking at how we study people scientifically. The focus has been on medical testing in clinical trial settings. Students have been discussing ideas such as placebo effect, sample size, and trade offs. To see these how ideas work, students have completed a mock clinical trial for a medicine as well as physical testing to make data ranges for their class population.

Mrs. Cowherd's class spent two weeks playing with the scientific method. We made lava lamps, index card towers, six pieces of paper hold up multiple dictionaries, a popsicle catapult, and looked at cohesion with water, but our favorite was the pop and mentos experiment. We began by observing some Diet Coke and mentos videos on YouTube. After watching these videos, it lead us to form questions. Some of our questions were, "I wonder if different kinds of mentos makes a different reaction? I wonder if different types of pop make a larger reaction than Diet Coke. I wonder what makes the reaction happen? I wonder if it is the caffeine that makes the reaction?" After considering our constraints, we decided to test if different types of pop would have a bigger reaction than Diet Coke. Some students hypothesized that Diet Coke would always have the largest reaction, while others felt other brands would have a larger reaction. We listed our criteria as using a two liter bottle of pop, no shaking the pop, use a mentos tube to drop into pop, and use 4 mint mentos. The one variable was to use different brands of pop. After performing each experiment we gathered our data and put it into a chart so we could compare the numbers. We found Diet Coke to have the largest reaction. We shared our information with all of CCIS by displaying it on a bulletin board.



# Question of the Quarter:

What did you do this summer?



"Playing soccer with my team."

-Holly Kubina  
Kindergarten



"Went swimming in the Morris pool."

-Maddox Meents  
1st Grade



"Rode my bike to the park."

-Aidan Edmonds  
3rd Grade



"Went to my first Sox's game."

-Sierra Anderson  
4th Grade



"Rode my bike and went to Lilly's."

-Gianna Savarino  
4th Grade



"Went swimming."

-Melody Kinder  
5th Grade



"I went to Florida and Alabama."

-Delany Peacock  
6th Grade



"Played sports."

-Dane Sula  
7th Grade



"Played softball."

-Kaitlyn Jasper  
8th Grade



"I went to Michigan."

-Harley Felker  
9th Grade



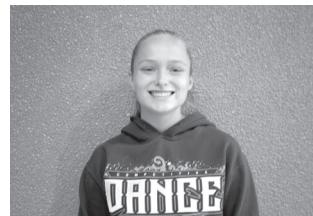
"Went boating."

Jessica Leasure  
10th Grade

**SUMMER**



"I slept."  
Gianna Mance  
11th Grade



"I got a puppy. He is the cutest thing in the whole world"  
-Birdie Opyd  
12th Grade





**Tickets are only \$5 and are available now at [ccitw.brownpapertickets.com](http://ccitw.brownpapertickets.com).**

Into the Woods features all of your favorite characters – Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch in this retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables.

The musical centers on a baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse and wind up changed forever.

Over 75 students auditioned for the 30 person cast, and rehearsals began right away. Performances will be held on Oct 12 and 14 at 7pm and Oct 15 at 2pm in the CCHS Auditorium.



Cast includes the following students: Caleb Kuhel – Narrator, Eli Fritz – Baker, McKenna Patten – Baker's Wife, Emma Kenney – Cinderella, Skylar Milinkovic – Cinderella's Mother, Trinidy Barrus – Cinderella's Stepmother, Maxwell Tucker – Cinderella's Father, Sophiya Williams – Florinda, Braiden Young – Cinderella's Prince, Stephen Byers – Jack, Shana Kelly – Jack's Mother, Mackenzie Kraus – Lucinda, Alexis Arreola – Witch, Izzy Kostbade – Little Red Ridinghood, Kerigan Copes – Granny, Mateo Blessing – Mysterious Man, Chloe Peacock – Rapunzel, Jared Counterman – Rapunzel's Prince, Dylan Ludes – Steward, and Aidan Kostbade – Wolf. The male ensemble includes Ethan Aeschliman, Logan Hawkins, Tanner Phillips, Maxwell Hone, Michael Smith, and Owen Hren. The female ensemble consists of Elsa Bunton, Kilen Davidson, Ava Houston, Elaina Patten, Brecken Johnson, Reagan Robson, and Alli Housman.