

The Unit #1 Quarterly



Upcoming Events

April

2-Spring Break

11-Early Dismissal

11-Kindergarten

Registration

12-3rd Grade Concert

20-Cabert Night

28-Prom

May

9-Early Dismissal

20-Graduation

25-Last Day of School

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

District Website



Dear Unit #1 Parents and Friends,

Welcome to the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year! District #1 is very pleased to continue offering "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. District #1 enjoyed another fantastic first semester of this school year, and we look forward to carrying that positive momentum into the second semester. Our school and district's tradition of offering the highest quality academic and co-curricular programming at the best possible value to our community members will continue throughout this school year and into the future. We are very fortunate to offer our students a large school curriculum in the comfort and security of a small school atmosphere. We hope you enjoy this edition of "The Unit #1 Quarterly", which is a completely student created publication. We are proud to offer our students such a unique authentic learning opportunity. Have a great remainder of the school year! #coalerpride
Educationally Yours,
Dr. Kent A. Bugg
Superintendent

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Jessica Murphy
Unit Quarterly Editor

Coat Closet



This year our coat closet serviced 50 adults and 65 children. We served people from Joliet, Coal City, Diamond, Braceville, Verona, and Gardner. Mrs. Cowherd had thirteen volunteer students work from my classroom. They had a variety of jobs from holding doors, asking people to sign in, helping carry bags to cars, to refilling racks with more clothing.



Genetics



The 7th grade science classes have been finishing up their genetics unit. Students have been looking at how different traits can be passed from one generation to another, and how basic probability factors into it. Students have seen how genetic diversity can happen even within siblings who have similar chances to receive the same characteristics from their parents. The unit ended with looking at how genetic testing can lead to diagnosing someone with a genetic disorder, paternity/maternity testing, and solving crimes along with the ethics behind those.



Civil War

The 4th grade students from Coal City Intermediate School visited the Coal City Public Library to listen to a presentation on the Civil War. The presentation was given by Mr. Ron Marketti and Mr. Jim Micetich. Numerous pieces of Civil War memorabilia were on display for the students to look at along with the different flags from United States history. The students got a brief history on some of the important battles, and Mr. Marketti and Mr. Micetich also talked about local connections to the Civil War.



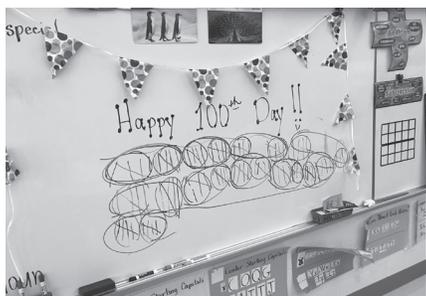
VFW Educator of the Year

CCMS Social Studies Teacher, Jim Hitchcock, has been honored as the Coal City VFW St. Juvin Post 136, and VFW District Educator of the Year. Mr. Hitchcock was honored at the CCMS Veterans' Day Assembly, on November 15, by Post 136 Commander Charlie Brown. Jim was also honored as the VFW Department of Illinois 18th District Citizenship Teacher of the Year and will move onto the State of IL VFW Educator of the Year competition. Mr. Hitchcock has been an integral part of working with our local VFW post and helped create and develop our CCMS Veterans' Day Assembly. We want to thank Jim for all of his work in working with the VFW and bringing them into CCMS for Veterans Day.

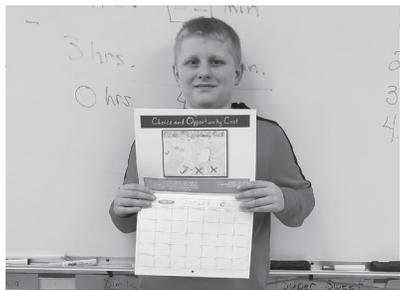


100th Day

Mrs. Vigna's class had fun celebrating our 100th Day of School! We read 100 books during reading workshop, wrote 100 words, did 100 exercises, colored a mystery 100 picture, we did 100 fun tasks and solved 100 math problems! We also brought in a collection of 100 things and had fun walking around and counting each others! Olivia brought her 100 items by gluing them to her shirt! It was a very fun and busy day!



Young Reader



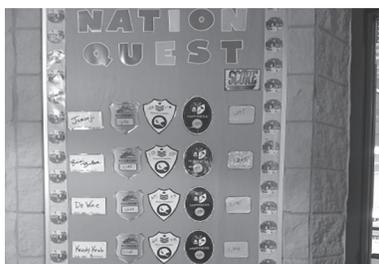
Cade Poyner has been chosen as a finalist in the judging for the Economics and Financial Literacy Concepts Poster Contest. There were more than 800 posters from 25 different classrooms in 19 different schools. Cade is invited to attend a reception to accept his award in May at the University of St. Francis. Congratulations Cade! We are proud of you.

Nation Quest

Each of the 7th grade social studies classes are running their own countries in a grade-wide competition called Nation Quest. This simulation was designed by Mrs. Sobieck and Mr. Hitchcock as a real-world/fun way of learning the content of civics, government, economics, and geography while focusing on the skills of collaboration, communication, argumentation, inquiry, and critical thinking. Each class is taught basic parliamentary procedure, which is the body of rules, ethics, and customs governing meetings that are being used in groups with legislative bodies of various levels of government in the United States.

Each class also experiences partisan politics by being divided into three political parties (Gold Party, White Party, and Green Party). Using parliamentary procedure and political parties, classes create their own country, flag, constitution, and maps; classes also deliberate on spending bills, other economic decisions, and laws while being lobbied by special interests, all of which impact their "Well Being" score. Their "Well Being" is a composite that is currently made up of four factors: GDP, Peace, Protection, Happiness. Decisions made during parliamentary procedure impact the score as well as average class scores on selected assignments. A physical and an electronic scoreboard (<http://bit.ly/NQ2017-18>) is updated weekly to keep participants aware of their performance.

In addition to learning a lot and bragging rights, the "top class" at the end of the competition will earn a pizza party awarded by the 7th grade social studies teachers.



Young Poets

The following students were selected to be published in an anthology called A Celebration of Young Poets. Only the best poems in Illinois and Indiana were selected for this honor. There were thousands of entries in the contest. Most were not invited to be published. The fact that we have students accepted makes a strong statement about our school. Being published represents talent, hard work and dedication from our teachers and students. Thank you and congratulations on making your "voice" heard throughout the state. CCIS is proud of you!!!! The students who won were Lexi Ragland, Aidan Kenney, Evan Greggain, Miley Smith, Austin Harding, Shannon Dempsey, and Devin Dearth.



Standing left to right: Austin Harding, Devin Dearth, Miley Smith, Lexi Ragland, Shannon Dempsey
 Kneeling left to right: Evan Greggain, Aidan Kenney

Fossils



Have you ever wondered.... How are fossils formed? Are mountains found all over the world? Why do some places on Earth have different colored layers? Fourth graders in Mrs. Gernenz's class are learning about all of these things and more. Recently, they answered the question "How does water change the Earth's surface?" Using a smaller version of a glacier and soap to model the Earth's surface, they watched as the Earth was transformed and the glacier left behind grooves, canyons, rocks and sediment. Their experiment led them to find that glaciers can cause weathering, erosion, and deposition! (It also left their desks squeaky clean, too!)



Day 100!

Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Alderson's students are preparing for a fun 100th day of school! Along with reading for 100 minutes, students will share their stories titled, "When I'm 100 Years Old" with the class. The students were able to creatively write about what their day would look like as a 100-year old. Students will even use the app "AgingBooth" to take a picture of themselves and watch them transform into what they would look like at that age!



FBLA CNA Competition

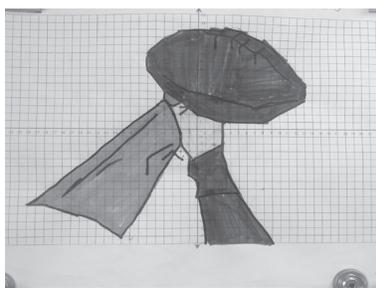
On Saturday, January 13th, the Coal City High School chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America hosted the Central Northern Area (CNA) Conference. As a chapter, Coal City had 40 members compete in different events consisting of tests, presentations, and interviews. Seven groups and individuals took home first place medals in their respective events: Hannah Best, Lauren Cueller, and Ariana' Pullara in Digital Video Production, Abigail Charles in Future Business Leader, Jessica Murphy in Graphic Design, Jessie Kroeger in Healthcare Administration, Lilly Solt and Lindsay Stopka in Hospitality Management, Kaleb Spreitzer in Job Interview, and Leslie Youskevitch in Public Speaking. Additionally, six groups and individuals took home second place medals while five took home third place medals. This year's CNA was a huge success for Coal City, and they hope to carry this momentum to the State Leadership Conference in April.



Super Bowl Ready



Over the past month, Mr. Boresi's 4th grade class has been learning how to plot points on a coordinate graph. At first, students learned about the X and Y coordinates. After learning how to plot ordered pairs (X, Y), the students then learned how to plot multiple points, connect the points, and create different images. In preparation for the Super Bowl, the students were excited to find out what their mystery pictures were that they created.



Blue Blood Super Moon



Mrs. Vigna's class has been learning about the moon and why it looks different each night. We read books, watched a video, performed an experiment and made the phases of the moon using Play-Doh. We learned that the moon looks different each night because as the moon revolves around us, it changes the way we see the lighted side of the moon. While doing the experiment, we were able to mimic a lunar eclipse - which helped us understand the Blue Blood Super Moon that we experienced on January 31st. Some of us even got up (and made our parents drive) to see it!!



Question of the Quarter: What is your favorite season?



Summer
-Jillian Whalen
1st Grade



Winter
-Elizabeth Williams-Brady
3rd Grade



Summer
-Emmy Quizney
Kindergarten



Summer
-Lindsey Duran
2nd Grade



Josefine Brunner
-Germany



Andreas Ostlund
-Sweden

Why did you decide to take advantage of being a foreign exchange student?

I kind of wanted to do it for years. When I reached the required age, I didn't reconsider it at all.

Have you had the opportunity to do anything fun while you have been here, and if so, what did you do?

I think my favorite thing since I came here was being a part of the production "Les Miserables," but I had many other great experiences.

Why did you decide to take advantage of being a foreign exchange student?

I wanted to see the world. American media has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I guess I just wanted to see if it was really like how I thought it would be.

Have you had the opportunity to do anything fun while you have been here, and if so, what did you do?

I've had tons of fun. The one thing that stands out though is skydiving. Especially since I'm afraid of heights.

Valentines Day

Happy Valentine's Day from Ms. Miller's 5th graders. Not your ordinary day in room 50, the 5th graders had to figure out clues to unlock a variety of locks to save Valentine's Day. In addition, they work in teams of 3-4 on a Heavy Heart STEM challenge. Students had to place, hearts, of three sizes into a main heart. Following criteria and constraints students had to have the highest point value possible to have the heaviest heart to win. Large hearts were worth 3 points, medium, 2, and small, 1. Finally, to finish out the day, the students learned about the history of Valentine's Day.



Speech State

On Feb. 10th, the Coaler Speech team headed to Washington, IL in order to compete in the IHSA sectional tournament. The twelve students on board the bus all had one goal in mind, advance to state. In order to do so, they would need to finish 3rd or higher in the final round of the tournament. Last year, for the first time in 15 years, the team did not advance anyone to the state tournament and because of that, this year's efforts have been focused on getting back to that event. By the end of Feb. 10th, the team had sent ten categories to finals, five finished 4th, and three had qualified for the state tournament. Brenna Kelly (Sr.) had qualified in Informative Speaking, Sonja Minnick (Sr.) in Original Oratory, and Lauren Phillips (Jr.) in Special Occasion Speaking. The state tournament consists of the top 18 entries in the state from each category and is not separated by school size. The two-day tournament truly represents the best of the best that Illinois has to offer. While Brenna, Sonja, and Lauren did not make finals at the tournament, they were amongst the best in the state for the weekend.

