

February 2025

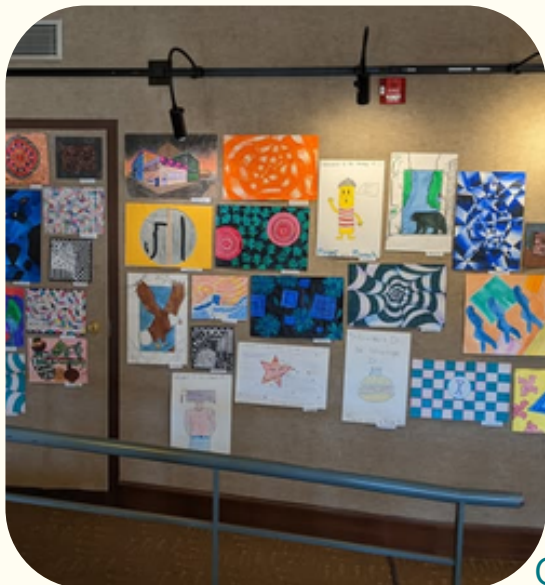
Caledonia Area Public Schools Newsletter



Back row: Spencer Yohe, Derek Adamson, Tim Gunn (recently retired), Mike Peterson, Dan Small (recently retired) Front Row: Addie Fruechte and Sammie Peters (student board members), Melissa Marschall, Julie Augedahl, Leigh King

School Board Recognition!

February is School Board Recognition Month. We want to thank our dedicated board members for their service to Caledonia Area Public Schools. Their leadership and commitment help shape the future of our students, ensuring excellence in both academics and athletics. We appreciate their time, vision, and dedication to our schools and community. Thank you for all you do!



CAPS Student Art was displayed at the Pump House in La Crosse. The Pump House is located at 119 King Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. They are open 9-5, Monday, Wednesday through Friday, Tuesday from 9 - 7 and on Saturdays 12 - 4.

Contact Superintendent Ihrke at 507-725-3389, or email craig_ihrke@cps.k12.mn.us

Celebrating Students for who they are

As we move through the school year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible work our staff does each day. Their dedication, patience, and compassion help shape the lives of our students in ways that often go unnoticed. I want to take a moment to express my gratitude.

Kermit the Frog once sang, "It's Not Easy Being Green." In the song, he reflects on feeling different, on standing out in ways that aren't always easy. But by the end, he realizes that being green—being himself—is something special.

Each of our students has something that makes them "green." For some, it's difficulty reading or challenges in math. For others, it might be trouble sitting still, managing emotions, or making friends. Some differences are easy to see, while others are not. But no matter what makes a student unique, our staff is there to support, encourage, and help them grow.

Teachers, paraprofessionals, specialists, and support staff—every day, they recognize and celebrate these differences. They don't just see struggles; they see potential. They work tirelessly to help each child become the best version of themselves.

To our staff: Thank you for seeing every student for who they are, for believing in them, and for helping them believe in themselves. Thank you for embracing the "green" in every child.

To our community: Let's continue to support and uplift our students and staff. Together, we can ensure that every child knows they are valued, they belong, and that being "green" is something to be proud of.

Craig Ihrke
Superintendent, Caledonia Area Public Schools



More student art displayed at the Pump House.



Above, Mr. Mullins had his 4th graders working on an engineering project in his science classes. The students were to build change reaction machines. Cool stuff!

[check out our Facebook page](#)

March

Register by contacting community_ed@cps.k12.mn.us or 507-725-5139

Powerful Tools for Caregivers- Register by March 1st!

Description: Often, taking care of a child with a disability requires extra demands. Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes help caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for their child. Through this 6-week series of courses, caregivers will learn tools and strategies to take care of themselves, so they can take care of their child.

Presenter: Dr. Debra Marcotte; Hiawatha Valley Education District Executive Director

When: Tuesdays on April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and May 6

Time: 6:30pm-7:45pm

Location: Zoom

Materials: Participants will receive a workbook to use during the course, which may be purchased or returned after the course.

* This course will be cancelled if there is not a minimum number of participants (8).

Maximum participants will be capped at 20.

Preventing Taxes for your Loved Ones after You're Gone

Do you know the tax implications for your loved ones? Does this concern you? Does finding ways to help interest you? Come to a workshop designed to learn about inheritance and taxes.

Date: Thursday, March 27th

Time: 5:00-6:00pm

Location: MS/HS Media Center

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Teri McNally

Registration and payment deadline: Monday, March 24th

Youth Firearm Safety

Class Dates: March 18th, 20th,
25th, and 27th

Field Day: March 29th

More information to come!

Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

Learn to recognize and care for life-threatening respiratory or cardiac emergencies in infants, children, or adults.

Comfortable clothes and shoes are advised. CPR certificate good for 2 years.

Date: March 12th

Time: 5pm

Cost: \$90

Location: Caledonia Ambulance Station



April



Register by contacting community_ed@cps.k12.mn.us or 507-725-5139

Men and Women's Self-Defense In Partnership with Bluff Country Family Resources

This Self-Defense Seminar will help participants acquire the strategies and skill sets necessary to successfully protect themselves from attack situations.

Date: Saturday, April 12th

Time: 10am-1pm

Location: MS/HS Multi-Purpose Room

Instructor: Jeff Wood

Cost: \$30 (payment due by Monday, April 7th)

Scholarships/Fee Waivers available if needed

Ages 13 and older

Min. Participants- 20

Max. Participants- 50

Taxes and the Widow's Penalty

What happens after a spouse passes?

Unfortunately, there are some unexpected surprises for the widow(er). Learn what to be prepared for, some practical solutions, and ways to mitigate the tax implications.

Date: Thursday, April 24th

Time: 5:00-6:00pm

Location: MS/HS Media Center

Cost: \$8

Instructor: Teri McNally

Registration and payment deadline:

Monday, March 21st

MN Highway Safety and Research Center's 55+ Driver Improvement Program

The Driver Improvement course is a state approved accident prevention/insurance discount course that is open to the public; pre-registration is required. A MN Highway Safety & Research Center certified instructor teaches this class. By utilizing the most up-to-date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information in regards to driver and traffic safety, new laws, and vehicle technology.

Persons age 55 and older who complete the 4 hour course qualify for a 10% discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years, according to Minnesota law. The 4 hour class is required every three years to maintain the 10% discount.

4 Hour Course

For driver's over 55 years of age

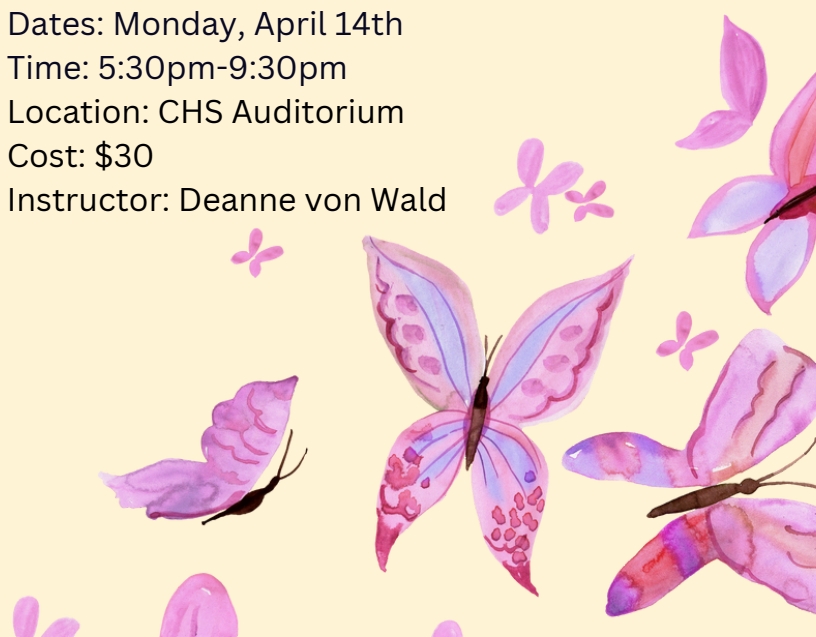
Dates: Monday, April 14th

Time: 5:30pm-9:30pm

Location: CHS Auditorium

Cost: \$30

Instructor: Deanne von Wald



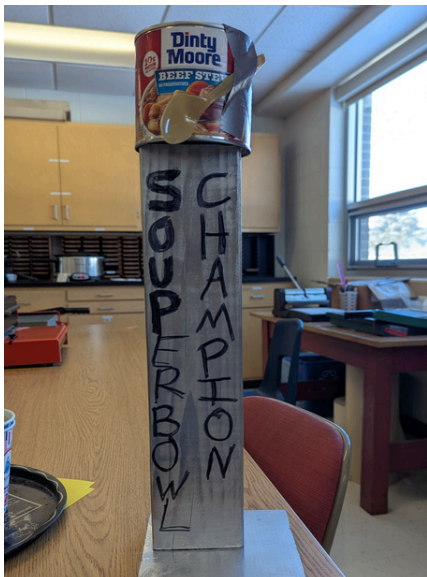


Becky Randall

Becky Randall (right) has been in the district for 9 Years. She has worked as a Paraprofessional and is now in Surround Care. Becky brings awesome energy and positivity to the school every day! Becky took home the trophy for the 1st annual SOUP-erbowl competition! She is a Champion employee, and now a Champion Chef!



The Caledonia Area Elementary SOUP-erbowl Trophy (left). The annual SOUP-erbowl Champion has the honor of proudly etching their name on the trophy, and displaying it in their classroom/office for one year! Becky gave a fantastic speech after being awarded the trophy! (above)



SOUP-erBowl!

Caledonia Area Elementary School's SOUP-erBowl was a SOUP-er success! Staff brought their A-game (and their best soup recipes) for a day filled with delicious competition and camaraderie. From chili that packed a punch to creamy soups that warmed the soul, there was no shortage of flavor—or friendly debate over which was best. In the end, the real winners were our taste buds and our TEAMWORK. Thanks to everyone who stirred up some fun and made this event SOUP-er enjoyable!

Elementary School



Students Performing at Claddagh

1st Grade Students visited Claddagh to show-off their hard work in Mrs. Myhre's Music class! They put on an awesome show, and it was fun to engage with the community!

Way to go 1st Grader's!

Middle/High School



Snow Days was held the week of February 10-13. Student and staff enjoyed dress up days and other fun activities. Left- Students playing "The Newlywed Game" with a classmate.

The Middle School participated in the annual Scripps Spelling Bee. Alexa Groothuis & Brantley Hahn represented Caledonia at the region round in Rochester.



Aiden Burns and Braxton Lange qualified as individuals to the state wrestling tournament. The wrestling tournament is February 27- March 1.



Teacher Spotlight: Tori Burmester

**7th year in Caledonia, 13th year in Education

**What I love about teaching is the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with my students and help them believe in their own potential. Seeing students grow in confidence and develop the skills to become lifelong learners is rewarding.

Quote: "Education is not the learning of facts but training to mind to think." - Albert Einstein