



Fattal's Forum

By Superintendent John Fattal

So I was in my bed tossing and turning, tossing and turning, tossing and turning. The most recent glance at my clock radio told me it was 11:45 p.m. "If I can fall asleep in 15 minutes, I'll still be able to get 7 hours and 15 minutes of sleep tonight!" I told myself. Fast-forward 30 minutes. I'm still tossing and turning. "Ugh. If I fall asleep in 15 minutes, I'll still be able to get 6 hours and 45 minutes of sleep." On and on it went until at some point I was finally able to fall into a state of slumber.

Then, without notice, the alarm went off. Instantly I was wide-awake, jumping out of bed to get ready for what, at the time, was the most important day of my life.

The first day of school.

Like that 12 or 13-year-old version of myself, some things never change. Granted, I no longer have a Princeton haircut or bell-bottom jeans, but you get the picture. Our first day of school is just around the corner (Wednesday, August 23) and I'll be just as excited now as I was back in the 1970s and 1980s. Too, the times displayed on clock may change (bedtime is a LOT earlier for me than it was back in the day, and many times I have had quite a few productive hours in before 7 a.m.), but the excitement is the same.

And, although times change, people don't. That same sense of excitement will abound for Corunna's students this week, as they too get ready for (in their opinion) the most important year of their lives. Some will be going to school for the very first time. Others will be entering a new building. And some will be culminating their K-12 experience for their senior year of high school before heading off into what adults have been telling them for years is the "real world".

In short, it's time for the new adventure to begin. Best of luck to all for what is bound to be the "best year ever"!

MISCELLANY

Spirit of giving Cavalier graduates have a history of helping others out and this past week was no exception. I received a phone call around 2 p.m. Thursday afternoon from Corunna alum John Anderson telling me he had "around 20 pallets of brand new hardcover books" to donate to the school free of charge. These books have never been used and are a mix of fiction and non-fiction that will be fantastic additions to get into our students' hands and our building libraries. What a great example of a willingness to give back to your community!

Cavs Days We had fantastic attendance at our middle school and high school "Cav Days" this past week. Students and parents alike got back into the swing of things by meeting staff members, getting their Chromebook (every 8th grade through 12th grade students is supplied with their own Chromebook), checking out their teachers, lockers and visiting with old friends. It was great to see all the smiling faces and enthusiasm as students were welcomed back to the buildings.

Winning team There's still time to be a Cavalier. Corunna has a long history of excellence in education, and this year will be no different. Our buildings sparkle. We have a tremendous transportation team. And we have the friendliest, hardest-working teaching and support staff around. If you're looking for a place that has old-school values coupled with a 21st century vision, look no further than Corunna. Find out why nearly 40% of our families have made Corunna their school of choice.

School spirit Speaking of winning teams, be sure to come down to the Nick Annese Athletic Field this Friday night for the big football game against our cross-town rivals. Coach Kyle Robinson's gridders will try to extend their current three-year winning streak against them to four years and improve our record against our bigger cross-town rivals to 11-7 overall. Additionally, our gridders are looking to have their fourth straight winning season. The boys have been working hard and can't wait to show off that hard work under the lights. Game time is 7 p.m. All our other winning teams are in action this week as well. Soccer kicks off against Bay City John Glenn this Tuesday, our volleyball team looks to extend its championship ways at the New Lothrop Invitational on Wednesday, and our girls swim team jumps back in the water for the Swartz Creek Invitational. Tennis, too, is getting into the swing of things Aug. 28 against Flint Kearsley, and our ultra competitive cross country teams are prepping for the Early Bird Invitational August 28. Come on out and support our Cavaliers!

The big picture Finally, I was reminded this week to keep my priorities in perspective. There were two separate instances where employees of ours lost a loved one unexpectedly this past week. Please take a minute today (and every day) to let those people you care about know how you feel. Let them know you love them and how important they are in your life.

John Fattal
Superintendent, Corunna Public Schools



Steven Dice
Social Studies Teacher
Corunna High School



Molly Biondo
Counselor
Corunna Middle School



Vinnie Lindquist
Social Studies Teacher
Corunna High School



Stephanie Fanko
Kindergarten Teacher
Nellie Reed Elementary



Lisa Lambert
ELA Teacher
Corunna High School



Jamie Johnston
CMS Principal/
Curriculum Director



Jason Beldyga
Athletic Director



Denise Zeeman
Spanish Teacher
Corunna High School



Kevin Rathbun
Supervisor
Building and Grounds



Hillary Skym
Kindergarten Teacher
Nellie Reed Elementary

Stephanie Fanko will be one of two new kindergarten teachers at Nellie Reed Elementary. She comes to us from Ovid-Elsie Area Schools where she taught first grade. **Vinnie Lindquist** will be teaching social studies at Corunna High School. Vinnie has experience teaching economics, government, U.S. History, and personal finance. Vinnie comes to us from East Lansing Public Schools. **Molly Biondo** is our new Corunna Middle School 4-7 building counselor. She has a masters degree in community clinical counseling and school counseling. She comes to us from the State of Michigan, DHHS, MRS where she served as the vocational rehabilitation counselor for youth transitioning to post-secondary. **Steven Dice** comes to us from the Grand Rapids area and he has experience teaching 9th grade history and earth science at Grand Haven High School. **Lisa Lambert** comes to the district from Byron Area Schools where she taught English for 12 years. **Jamie Johnston** is our new Corunna Middle School 4-7 building principal and curriculum director. She comes to us with experience in curriculum and instruction, and as a building principal for both elementary and high school in Swartz Creek Community Schools. **Jason Beldyga** is not new to our district, but is new in the position as athletic director. Jason has been a teacher in our district since 2005. He has extensive coaching experience as well. **Denise Zeeman** comes to us from Perry Public Schools where she taught middle school science and Spanish since 2004. She has experience coaching volleyball, track and was a class advisor. **Kevin Rathbun** is the district's building and grounds supervisor. Kevin is retired from the United States Army. He was a member of the military police corps, a congressional escort at the Pentagon and recruiting officer during his career. **Hillary Skym** is also going to be a kindergarten teacher at Nellie Reed Elementary. She has experience working as a teacher at Bradford Elementary, Hillsborough County Schools in Tampa Florida and as a kindergarten teacher most recently at Bryant Elementary in Owosso.



Open House for Corunna Middle School students was held on Wednesday, August 15. Families were able to meet their child's teacher, visit the classroom, practice their locker combinations and enjoy ice creams sundaes as they prepared to head back to the classroom August 23.



Getting In The Swing Of Things

The fall athletic teams are practicing and preparing for their first contests. On Wednesday, the boys tennis team (pictured) held a morning practice with Coach Bill Lawson. Their first matchup will be home against Flint Kearsley on August 28 at 4:00 p.m. For a full run down of all fall athletic contests go to <https://corunnacavs.org>.