



Corunna Public Schools • It's GREAT to be GOLD!

The Communicator



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Fattal's Forum

By Superintendent John Fattal

I have to admit, there are times I refuse to listen or watch the news, and/or read the newspapers. Why? I find it gets tiresome to hear about the divide in our country. It gets old to see adults acting like petulant 2-year olds. It gets depressing to see, hear or read about all of the things that are "wrong" with our world.

On the national level, I would much rather see, hear or read about the many things that make this country the greatest in the land. At the state level, I want to know about the progress that is being made with businesses coming to our state (which they are!), or improvements being made to our infrastructure.

At the local level, I want to celebrate all the wonderful things happening in our community. Tell me about new businesses opening up. Do feature stories on the people who are making our community the "BIG time". I don't want to hear about crimes that have been committed or pictures of criminals.

So when I see a chance to talk about something that all of us can agree on — no matter what way we lean politically, spiritually or otherwise — I want to pounce on it and do my part to spread a little goodness in the world.

And that is why I want to share a bit about Veterans Day. We had a simple, dignified ceremony to honor our veterans this past Thursday morning at our Shane Cantu Memorial. Students shared essays, we paid tribute to our flag, and listened to Taps while recognizing and honoring those who have sacrificed the ultimate to make this the greatest country in the world.

On this day, we show our support of America and the all veterans young and old — those who raised their right hands and voluntarily committed their service to our country to ensure it is, and always will be, safe and successful.

With that in mind, I am going to ask you to help "spread the good" in our world. I am encouraging each and every one of you, the next time you are in an airport or walking in a mall and come across a veteran, to shake his or her hand and simply say, "Thank you for your service."

Maybe I'm a little naive, but it's my hope that if we each show a little kindness and compassion, it will rub off on others. Actions like this can also serve to remind us of the pride and privilege we have in being a part of this amazing group of citizens who chose to serve their country.

Miscellany

Fall athletic success We have a long history of having conference, district, regional and state-championship teams here at Corunna, and this fall was no exception. Our cross country teams had yet another stellar showing at the State Finals and our volleyball team won yet another conference and district championship (and we are playing for a regional championship at deadline). However, I'd like to share a quick story of how athletics can be a vehicle to teach the most important things to all of us and how it can bring people together.

This quick story reminds all of us again of what our priorities

should be. Here's the background: Our volleyball team played Freeland in the first round of regionals November 6. Their community and school was reeling a bit because a student of theirs was involved in a fatal car accident.

Jason Beldyga, our athletic director, reached out to Freeland's AD to see if it would be OK to have a moment of silence before the contest in memory of the young student. That simple gesture, which was simply the right thing to do, helped spread a little good will into the world, as evidenced by an email we received from a Freeland parent. That email follows:

"Good morning. In a time where the world seems to lack priorities and caring; where kids spend more time cyber bullying than they do talking to one another, Corunna High School (took the time to do) something just the opposite. You cared! As a parent of a 14-year-old daughter who is deeply affected by the tragic accident last Saturday evening, you touched us all last night with your moment of silence to honor Bailee Mantei. Please thank all those involved with that brief moment, including your volleyball team. It touched many of us more than you will ever realize. You have a First Class group. Good luck to your team as they move forward."

I concur with that letter writer. We do have a "First Class" group here in Corunna. It's simply one more way we set the "Gold standard".

School safety We believe we have the safest school district around and as a result of winning a Michigan State Police grant (or more than \$120,000), we will become even safer!! We already have many top-of-the line safety features in place (mostly thanks to the support of our district's voters who recently approved a multi-million dollar millage) such as the following:

- Dedicated City of Corunna police liaison officer
- Single secure entrances at our preschool, Elsa Meyer, Middle School, and High School
- State of the art key-fob system to enter our buildings for all employees
- Well-lit parking lots
- Hi-tech security camera systems in all buildings
- 7 counselors/social workers servicing our high school and middle school students
- Among other items!

Now, with the grant, we will be able to provide our kindergarten building (Nellie Reed) with a single secure entrance, while hardening our access points in remaining buildings.

Currently, all main entrances to our school buildings have glass vestibules, which could be the easiest points of entry for intruders into our schools. As a result, we will be installing Llumar Safety and Security Film over all of our building's first-floor windows and glass doors.

While glass creates an inviting and useful workplace, it also can expose us to great risk. Windows and glass doors are the most vulnerable part of any building's envelope. Llumar provides reliable, affordable protection.

An additional protective measure by putting this on all our windows is to keep the "bad guys" from being able to see into our school and/or classrooms, while anyone on the inside of the school can easily see out.

It is our plan to have the Nellie Reed secure entrance and security film installed no later than September 1, 2019.

High School Drama

Saturday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 18 at 1:00 p.m.

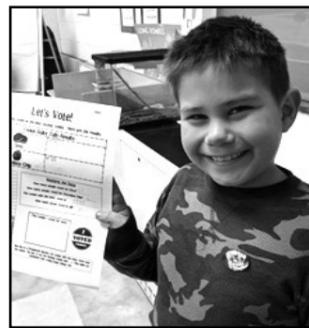
Studio Theater in Owosso

\$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

Radium Girls is a drama about the women who painted radium onto watch faces in the 1920's and died because of the radiation poisoning, and the men who owned the company and tried to hide the truth.

And The Winner Is???

Students in the Elsa Meyer Elementary second grade classroom of Mindy Palasio held a mock election on November 6th. Students learned about the voting process, cast their ballots and anxiously awaited the results. The students were voting on the best tasting cookie. Oreos or Chocolate Chip...and the winner is Oreos! The classic treat won by a narrow margin, 11 to 9.



American Education Week - Nov. 12-16

Public schools are the cornerstone of any community. We welcome students of all backgrounds, abilities and incomes, and we ensure that our school is open to all. Tomorrow begins American Education Week. This is a great opportunity for us to show our public school pride to the world.

Corunna Public Schools is here for each and every student, to ensure that every child receives a quality education. We provide the learning environment, support, tools, and time to learn. The Corunna mission statement is; to prepare an unprecedented number of students for college/careers regardless of demographic factors.

We have always had tremendous support from our community. And that was certainly evident with the passage of the bond in 2015, to upgrade and renovate our buildings and facilities. Being a Cavalier is very special and every Cavalier knows, It's Great to be Gold!

All Corunna staff members make a difference each and every day. They should be commended and congratulated!



Goodfellows

Through Shiawassee Goodfellows many children in need have received coats and hats to help keep them warm through the winter months. Shiawassee Goodfellows has had a positive impact on the community it serves for 87 years and has supported the Corunna Public Schools since 1998.

The Corunna Public Schools is always overwhelmed with the support we receive. In the past five years alone, Goodfellows has provided coats and hats to 417 district students at a total cost of \$19,271.56. Chris Mitchell, Ed Hildebrand and Nancy Balko (Pictured above left to right) are very instrumental in the Shiawassee Goodfellows and facilitate the welcomed assistance they give to our families. However, they don't work alone. Many other members also provide support by knitting hats, assist with shopping and coordinating fundraisers. The service organization is supported through the annual Goodfellows' newspaper sales, special community donations, corporate donors, grants, celebrity server events and other fundraising campaigns. Donations may be made out to Shiawassee Goodfellows and sent to Goodfellows, c/o The Argus-Press, 201 E. Exchange Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Thank you Goodfellows. You not only provide warm clothing for many of our children, but you also warm our hearts.

Looking Ahead

Wed.-Fri., Nov. 21-23
 Monday, December 24
 Monday, January 7
 Monday, January 21
 Fri.-Mon., Feb. 15-18
 Monday, March 25-29
 Monday, April 1
 Fri.-Mon., April 19-22
 Monday, May 27
 Thursday, June 6

No School – Thanksgiving Break
 Christmas Break Begins
 School resumes from Christmas Break
 No-School-Martin Luther King Day
 No School-Presidents' Day Weekend
 Spring Break begins – No School
 School resumes from Spring Break
 Easter Break
 No School – Memorial Day
 *Tentative Last Day of School
 (1/2 day for all students)

It Was An Honor



It is evident by the November 8th picture that everyone in attendance at the Veterans Day ceremony held at the Shane Cantu Memorial, within the grounds of the Nick Annese Stadium, were touched by the words, music and significance of the day's activities. The young children shook the hands of these real life heroes.