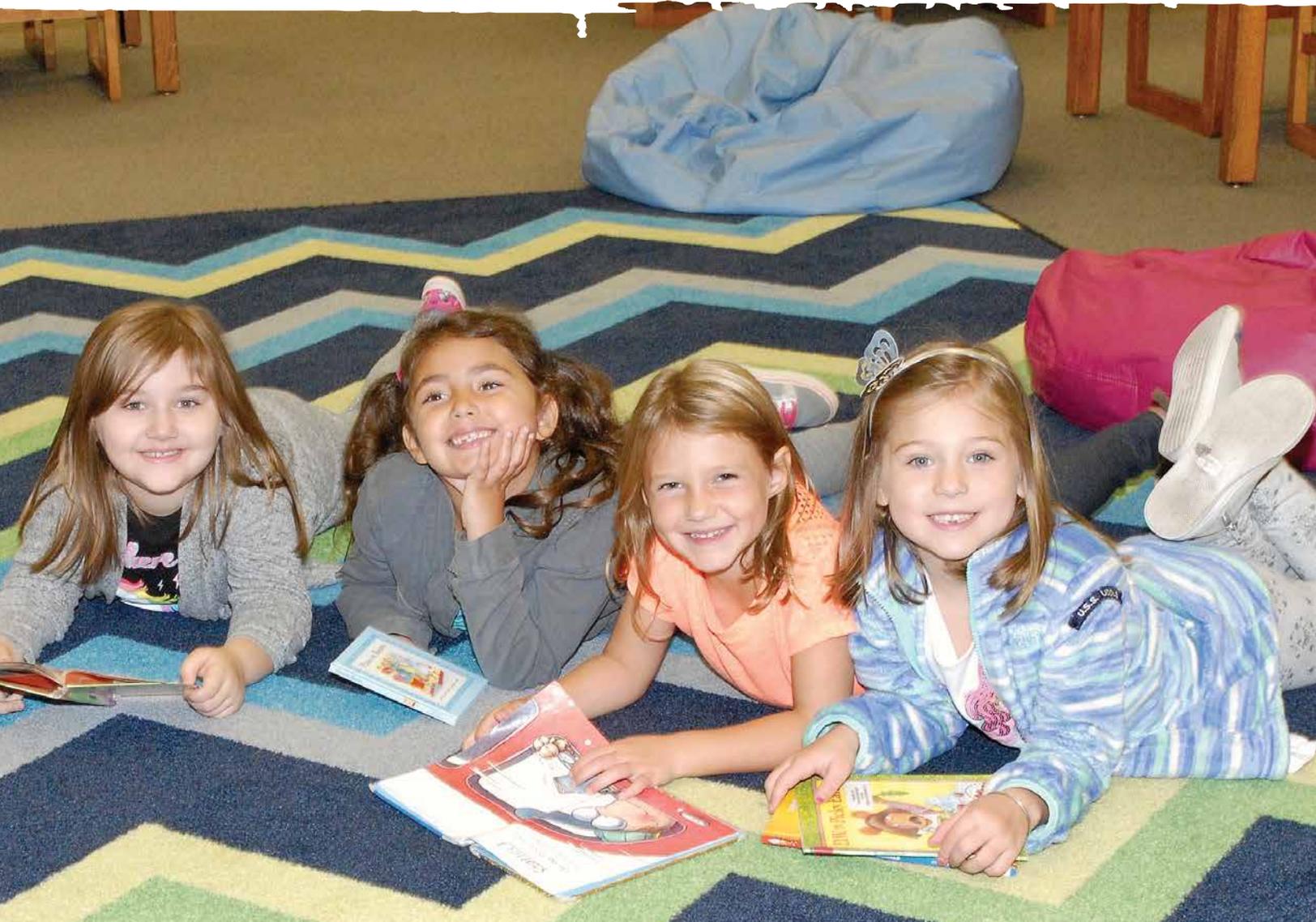


CONCORD *Connection*™

Corporate Publication of Concord Community Schools WINTER 2017-18



What's Inside:

Read Write Move Fundraiser Raises over \$10K for Playground Equipment
Fourth Grade Students Compete in First Lego League Event
Harry Potter Themed Student Hunger Drive is a Success

We hope you can feel the excitement to be a part of the Concord Community Schools family! Together, let's make the rest of the 2017-18 school year a great one for all of our students.

Superintendent's Message

At Concord Community Schools, our students are prepared for whatever life has in store for them. Our innovative academic program gives them the skills to think critically and succeed in post-secondary programs, while our technical skills and certification programs prepare students to enter the workforce. The opportunities are truly limitless. But Concord is more than just a place to study.

At Concord, students learn the importance of giving back to their communities. Our recent canned food drive was a success. With several of our schools contributing, we were able to donate 16,351 pounds of food for the needy. Through our annual Read Write Move event, our elementary students recently raised over \$10,000 for new playground equipment, which will make our schools a better place for all. It's amazing what our students can accomplish when they set their minds to it. Their charitable efforts demonstrate not only #ConcordPride, but pride in the communities in which they live.

There are so many reasons to be proud of Concord Community Schools. We seek to improve our schools through innovative and engaging curriculum, such as our fourth grade's robotics project. Our students' charitable efforts and our exciting teaching methods are just a few reasons why Concord is so extraordinary. We invite you to come on this journey with us, to learn why Concord is an amazing school corporation, and perhaps even get involved. Strong community support is an important resource for our school corporation, and it helps make school an extraordinary experience for every student. Thank you for your support.

Always proud to be a Concord Minuteman!

—John Trout, Superintendent of Schools



Technology plays a big part in our students' education, and we aim to be on the forefront of that learning.

Read Write Move Fundraiser Raises over \$10K

On Sept. 29, South Side Elementary School hosted its sixth annual fundraising event, Read Write Move. The full-day event consists of reading, writing and physical activities following a 2-week fundraising effort by students and their families. Each year, students raise money for school improvement projects. Last year, students raised over \$8,000, which went towards a student-friendly library renovation. This year, the students raised over \$10,000 for new playground equipment.

During the morning portion of Read Write Move, students and teachers walked to Concord High School and participated in activities such as relay races, scavenger hunts and other physical activities. Concord High School Freshman Academy students, along with other high school classes, came outside to work with the South Side students.

After traveling back to South Side, the afternoon portion of Read Write Move began. Community volunteers worked with students on crafts, science inquiry lessons, technology-based scavenger hunts, gymnastics, guest reading, mindfulness, reader's theater and more.

"All of the students are able to feel like they are participating in a fundraiser regardless of whether they are able to personally raise money," explained former South Side PTO President, Kris Gingerich.

This fundraiser teaches students the importance of giving back by celebrating all the work they put into fundraising. Due to students' impressive fundraising efforts, a fun day was had by all.

News from the College and Career Readiness Coordinator

Which educational path do you believe leads to a higher income potential? Many of you may say that getting a four-year college degree will guarantee higher income earning potential. The video, Success in the New Economy (<http://bit.ly/CCRoct17>), provides insight into the current reality of how traditional education models and technical skills training are viewed in today's economy.

In 2018, Harvard University predicts that only 33-percent of all jobs will require a 4-year degree or more. However, 57-percent of all jobs will be middle-skilled jobs, involving a certification or an associate's degree. These middle-skilled jobs are in very high demand in Elkhart County, due to the high number of advanced manufacturing jobs. Overall, there is a compelling case for deliberate exploration of career choices early on, looking at the education and technical skills required, so that informed decisions can be reached.

Concord Community Schools is invested in the success of our students. We currently provide opportunities for students to leave high school equipped with technical skills and/or industry-recognized certifications and even more opportunities are on the horizon.

(Submitted by Denise Tahara, College and Career Readiness/ Alternative School Coordinator)



At Concord Community Schools, we aim to instill a love of learning in all of our students.

Harry Potter Themed Student Hunger Drive is a Success

What does the Student Hunger Drive mean to Concord Community Schools? Opportunity. Through the annual Student Hunger Drive, students across the district receive the opportunity to help their community and potentially many of their peers.

Student Council engaged students through a Harry Potter theme and friendly school-wide competition in order to collect as much food as possible. To set up teams consistent with the theme, Student Council used the Harry Potter houses - Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Slytherin and Ravenclaw. To include all eight hallways and non-teaching staff, two teams were created out of each House, distinguished by an "A" or "B" (ie. Gryffindor A, Gryffindor B), and included a "Chamber of Secrets" (Education Center), "The Sorcerer's Stone" (Cafeteria Staff), "Goblet of Fire" (Custodial and Maintenance Staff), "Prisoner of Azkaban" (Office Staff) and "Order of the Phoenix" (Transportation Staff) team to include as many staff as possible.

This theme was very popular among students and staff alike, which drove the community to greater donations. Many teachers decorated their hallways and doors to the theme of their house. Sticking with the theme, the hallway that collected the most cans each week earned the coveted Tri-Wizard Cup until the next winner took over for the next week.

Along with the food collection, Student Council held their annual "One-Dime-at-a-Time" event as part of the Student Hunger Drive. On Oct. 10, each member of the Concord Community School system was asked to donate one dime (or whatever monetary amount they were willing to give) at 10:10 a.m. to create the largest collective impact at one time. In addition to this 1-day event, collection buckets were passed around at one of the home football games, collecting over \$250. This collection alone led to the greatest lesson learned from participating in this year's Student Hunger Drive: the community's potential for impact.

"In the past, we have reached out to other schools, but never to the community as a whole. This year, we got to see what happens when the Concord community truly unites for a cause," students Erin Greising, Will Boyer and Elise Boessler explained in an essay they penned about the experience.

This year's Student Hunger Drive has been very special at Concord High School. The organizers discovered the potential the students, staff and community possess to make a difference. Concord Community Schools donated an impressive 3,730 pounds of food, as well as a monetary donation of \$1,938, which can buy 11,628 pounds of food. In total, that's 16,351 pounds of food for the needy! It has been a collective effort from all Concord schools and it has been a journey of collaboration and service.



Concord High School Student Council members collected donations from the Concord community to donate to Church Community Services as part of their annual 2017 Student Hunger Drive. The Hunger Drive lasted for seven weeks and unites the community in pursuit of a common cause: raising money, cans and awareness to food instability in Elkhart County and across the nation.



There is something to smile about at Concord Community Schools! Wouldn't you agree?

Fourth Grade Students Compete in First Lego League Event

Fourth graders at Concord Community Schools are learning to think like engineers! Four teams of Concord fourth graders recently participated in First Lego League's Hydro Dynamics season. The Hydro Dynamics season encourages student interest in topics such as science and engineering by exploring water.

Students in the teams learned about the human water cycle and tackled a real-world dilemma involving water. As a part of their research, the groups talked with water professionals and took virtual field trips to understand the issues. Armed with their knowledge, they crafted a solution. On Nov. 18, at Elkhart Memorial High School, the teams presented their solution to judges at the First Lego League's Qualifying Tournament.

In addition to solving a real-world problem, the groups built and coded Lego robots, programming them to complete missions on a predesigned game board. Concord had four teams of fourth graders compete in the competition: East Side #1, Ox Bot Eagles from Ox Bow Elementary, South Side Team #1 and the Wild Bots from West Side Elementary.

East Side #1 scored 50 points over three rounds, placing 26th out of 34 teams. The Wild Bots scored 30 points over three rounds, and placed 30th. The Ox Bot Eagles placed 31st, scoring 75 points overall. South Side #1 scored 15 points and placed 34th. The teams did an outstanding job in competition, as well as during the preparation for competition!

"This was an amazing learning opportunity for our kids and challenged them to think about real world problems and how to solve them," said Ox Bow Elementary teacher Elizabeth King.

Well done to all who participated!



Students at Concord High School not only develop a love a learning, but make great friends, too!

You're Invited!

You are invited to attend meetings of the Board of School Trustees of Concord Community Schools. These sessions are generally conducted the first and third Monday of each month in the Community Room of the Education Center, 59040 Minuteman Way, Elkhart. For more information, including meeting times, contact the Education Center at (574) 875-5161.

Board of School Trustees

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Feedback Is Welcome

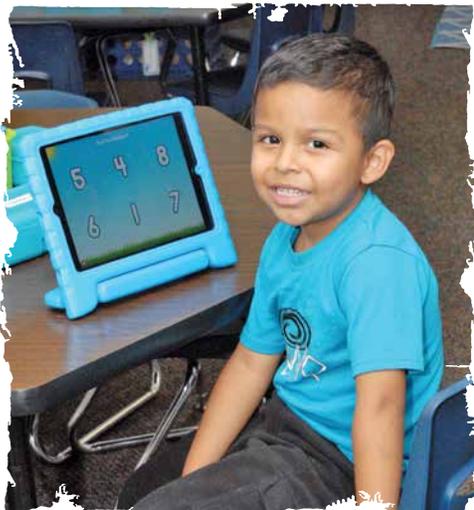
We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, *Concord Connection*, Concord Community Schools, 59040 Minuteman Way, Elkhart, IN 46517-3499 or call (574) 875-5161.

Our Phone Numbers

Education Center..... (574) 875-5161
 Concord High School..... (574) 875-6524
 Concord Junior High School..... (574) 875-5122
 Concord Intermediate School..... (574) 830-0300
 East Side Elementary (574) 875-8517
 Ox Bow Elementary (574) 875-8538
 South Side Elementary (574) 875-6565
 West Side Elementary (574) 293-2531

Statements of Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity

It is the policy of the Concord Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, religion, national origin, handicap or age. CCS is in compliance with all federal statutes including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Office of Civil Rights and nondiscrimination regulations as applied to public schools, Title IX, and the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act. Copies of statutes are available on request from the Superintendent's Office.



At Concord Community Schools, our goal is to help students gain the skills needed to be successful in the 21st century.



Concord Community Schools
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| Intermediate..... | @Concord_IS..... | CISSocial |
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| South Side..... | @Concord_SS..... | CSSSocial |
| Ox Bow..... | @Concord_OX..... | Concord_Ox |
| West Side..... | @Concord_WS..... | CWSSocial |

Podcasts

<http://static.theflypod.com/episodes/concord-community-schools-4/>

All-School Calendar, 2017-18

Dec. 21.....	K-8 Semester End
Dec. 22 - Jan. 6.....	Christmas Recess
Jan. 8.....	School Resumes
Jan. 15.....	No School
Jan. 17.....	CHS Parent/Teacher Conferences
Feb. 16.....	No School/Make-up Day
Feb. 17 - 19.....	Mid-Winter Recess
March 30.....	No School
April 2 - 6.....	Spring Recess
May 28.....	Memorial Day (offices closed)
May 31.....	Last Day of School
June 4.....	First Day of Summer School
June 4 - 6.....	Make-up Days
June 7.....	CHS Commencement

