

### Letter from Our Elementary Principal

*Greetings, Colo-NESCO School Community!*

The 2024-2025 school year is in full swing. I typically mark the first several months of the calendar year with certain landmarks. Those consist of Homecoming Week, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and finally Christmas and the New Year celebration. It is hard to believe two of those landmarks are already in our rearview mirror!

Our elementary community has been focusing on creating a culture that values safety and connectedness. These values provide the optimum conditions for learning. Students that fear for their physical safety, or fear that someone is going to put them down, call them names, or make fun of their ideas are typically going to struggle to learn at school. Students that feel like nobody cares about their ideas, nobody listens to their viewpoints, or nobody values them as a community member are also typically going to struggle to learn. As a learning community, we want to provide our students with the support, resources, and skills that allow them to unleash their fullest potential.

At the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Leach organized and led a School of the Wild week for our fourth-grade students. These students spent several days exploring the outdoors, learning about nature, and getting muddy!

In early September, several high school students planned, organized, and executed a Farm Safety Day for our students. The students rotated through six different stations learning about farming equipment, livestock, and the precautions necessary for staying safe while on a farm.

We celebrated Colo-NESCO Homecoming week from September 30 through October 5. The students showed their school spirit by dressing up to a different daily theme the week of Homecoming. One highlight for both the elementary students and the high school students occurred on Tuesday when the high school students spent part of the day teaching cheers in the gym and enjoying lunch and recess with the elementary students.

In mid-October, we hosted the Echo Dance Team from New York at our school. The team energized the students with a combination of dance and a message of self-respect, self-confidence, and kindness towards others.

As we focus on character-based values each week, a student from each class is selected for demonstrating that value. We call these children our Star Students for the week, and they are celebrated during our Friday morning assemblies.

We are looking forward to the opportunities and experiences on the horizon this school year and are ready to navigate the challenges together as ONE learning community. I'd like to thank all the stakeholders that contribute to the success of our Colo-NESCO Elementary students. Your communication, collaboration, and support are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mr. Boeve  
Colo-NESCO Elementary Principal



# Alumni Donate Planters



On behalf of Colo-NESCO schools, I want to thank the Colo Alumni Association for the donation of beautiful planters at the Middle School/High School located in Colo. We look forward to decorating them for upcoming seasons and holidays! Thank you again!

... Jackie Dunlap, School Nurse, Colo-Nesco Schools

## FFA STUDENTS FEED STAFF

Hunter Purvis and Andrew McMillen grill burgers outside the shop at the Colo building.



The Colo-NESCO FFA students, along with the CN Boosters and the Colo UMC, provided a meal for staff during conference week. FFA members delivered burgers, buns, prepared salads and desserts to both the Colo and Zearing buildings.





## *Important Dates*

Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, Nov. 27 through Friday, Nov. 29

Winter Concert K- 4: Monday, Dec. 9 / 6:30 Zearing

Winter Concert 5 - 12: Monday, Dec. 16 / 6:30 Colo

Christmas Break: Monday, Dec 23 through Wednesday, Jan. 1

### **Colo-NESCO Annual Community Report Submitted by Beth Heller, Director of School Improvement**

The Colo-NESCO Board of Education established the “District Strategic Plan” in June 2023. The District Strategic Plan has goals in the areas of “Student Learning and Achievement”, “District Culture”, and “Resource Management”. The School Improvement Advisory Council (SIAC) met in the Colo-NESCO Junior/Senior High School Library in Colo on October 29, 2024 to review progress made towards reaching the goals listed in the “District Strategic Plan”. For a copy of the SIAC meeting minutes and a comprehensive achievement report, please visit the school’s website. Both items will be found by clicking “Curriculum” under the “District” tab on the homepage.

#### **Colo-NESCO Elementary**

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Mike Boeve, Principal

#### **Colo-NESCO MS/HS District Office**

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Colo, IA 50056  
641-377-2282  
Marc Snavelly, Superintendent  
Brandon Kelley, Principal

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*The Colo-NESCO Community School District is committed to guiding and nurturing the academic, emotional, physical, and social development of all students, while promoting lifelong learning and citizenship in today’s rapidly changing world. #RoyalWay*



## **News from the Business Corner... by Kim Heidemann**



### **College/Career Fair:**

On October 29th, CN held its annual College/Career Fair for grades 5th-12th. We usually do this event in the Spring, but decided to do it in the Fall because we want to ensure we are helping out the seniors by helping them make some decisions if they haven't already done so. We had about 10 different colleges, 20 different companies and 1 representative from the military. We have been actively recruiting companies and inviting the public to connect us with other companies as well.

### **College/Career Readiness:**

As we prepared for the College/Career Fair, business students were thinking about their future plans. We have several that are interested in doing job shadows. Would you be willing to host a student at your company for a job shadow opportunity? We are looking specifically for job shadow opportunities in the areas of construction, carpentry, and electrical. Please contact Kim Heidemann at [kheidemann@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us](mailto:kheidemann@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us) if you are able to help out.

### **Visitors to Financial Lit Class:**

We love when local professionals come and share their knowledge, talent and skills! Recently Finny Gray spoke to students about credit unions. Nathan Blayer also shared about financial planning. Do you have a skill/ability you would be willing to share with students? Please contact Kim Heidemann at [kheidemann@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us](mailto:kheidemann@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us) if you would be willing to speak to students, or can connect Kim with someone who would.

### **High School TAG is on the Move!**

HS TAG students recently took a tour of Story County Sheriff's office and Story County Attorney's office. The goal was to give the kids a behind-the-scenes tour to understand how things work, and to find out what kind of jobs there are in law enforcement. Thus far we have 2 students that have decided to do a job shadow in the law enforcement field after the field trip. Thanks to Capt. Lennie for making the arrangements, and for all the professionals that took the time out of their day to make such a positive impact on the lives of others. Next up? We are headed to visit the Vet Med School at Iowa State University.

### **Blood Drive Returns to Colo-NESCO!**

Thanks to the urging of Junior Kaydence Reyes, CN brought back its annual blood drive. We had over 30 people signed up, 13 of which were first time donors! Wow! That's a great response. Lifeserve calculates that due to our efforts, 63 lives were saved. Thank you Colo-NESCO community!

**continued on page 5...**



## **NHS Hygiene Drive**

Thanks to all who donated to the NHS Hygiene Drive. We collected many, many items that will be shared between two different food pantries in Colo. You are still welcome to donate. If you bring in items to the Colo or Zearing building and tell them it's for the hygiene drive they will get it to the right person. Thank you for your generosity and for caring for each other!

## **Students Participate in Community Service**

Grades 5th-12th recently participated in a community service activity. Some of the grades stayed around the school and picked up the grounds, but others were out and about throughout our three towns. One group went to Hickory Grove and planted trees and picked up walnuts. Another group went to Zearing and helped out TLC with clearing some brush. Yet another group went to McCallsburg and helped do some cleaning around the Bethany Lutheran church and parsonage. Many students stayed in Colo and planted daffodils as a part of the Colo Daffodil Project. In partnership with Brenda McGuire and the City of Colo, students planted 1000 daffodil bulbs all around Colo. Wow! Please look for those yellow beauties in the Spring.

## **Putting the "Homecoming" back in Homecoming**

At Homecoming this year we started a new tradition of recognizing former CN graduation classes. The first class to be recognized was the Class of 1988-which is only fitting since they were the first class to graduate as Colo-NESCO Royals. Several members of the class came together for some good food, lots of smiles, some laughs and a lot of reminiscing as well. We will continue to do this at every homecoming game, building out our homecoming tent city. Next year will be the Class of 1989!

# **COLLEGE / CAREER FAIR**



Colo-NESCO hosted its annual College/Career Day Oct. 29 with over 40 booths set up for the students to explore. FCS students prepared and served lunch to the participants as well. It was a great day of learning and networking!



Photo by Sandy Cutler



# Vocal Music NEWSLETTER

October 2024

## Message from Mr. Ward

The 2024-2025 school has gotten off to a great start. Our first concert of the year happened on Tuesday, October 22nd. This was a 6-12th grade choir concert. All three groups did a great job, and grew tremendously as singers. The concert concluded with 81 7-12th graders singing a combined performance of *The Greatest Showman*.

Our high school drama department will begin working on our spring musical soon. This year's musical will be *Mamma Mia*. The dates for *Mamma Mia* will be March 7th and 8th.

Second quarter has a few more concerts, please be sure to get those dates on your calendars.

Mr. Ward

## Upcoming Dates

### Elementary Winter Concert (K-4)

December 9th

### 5-12 Winter Concert

December 16th

## What's Happening in K-5 Music



**Kindergarten** - Our kindergarteners have begun their first couple of months of Music Class. We have learned our hello and goodbye songs, played games, learned about "beat," played the drums, and danced.

**First Grade** - They have reviewed some of the stuff we learned last year as kindergarteners. They've also learned about tempo, high vs. low, acted out some story-songs, and have begun listening/describing music from "The Carnival of Animals."

**Second Grade** - Along with reviewing things from first grade, our second-graders have: played games, kept a beat on an Orff Instrument, learned the Colo-NESCO fight song, practiced matching pitch and sight singing, learned solfege, and dramatized the "Hungarian Dance."

**Third Grade** - Much of the beginning of third grade is spent on reviewing the skills we learned in second grade, as well as building upon them. We also learned the Colo-NESCO fight song for homecoming week, and learned about and moved to the "Surprise Symphony."

**Fourth Grade** - Our fourth-graders have learned about: staff, measures, bar lines, double bar lines, and time signatures. We also spent some time on Orff instruments/xylophones playing an ostinato pattern.

**Fifth Grade** - Fifth grade had two units this quarter: Patriot Music & Composers. For our Patriotic Music unit, they learned Fifty Nifty United States and our National Anthem. For the Composer Unit, they learned about some of music's most famous composers, and also did group presentations on some of them.

# 3rd Grade Creative Writing



*Mr. Mumm's class was asked: "If you could be a superhero, what kind of superhero would you be?"*



If I had super powers, they would be talking to animals and controlling plants and water. I would be a hero, of course, and if anyone would be a villain, I would stop them. My enemy would be all villains, of course. I would live in the forest and because of my super powers I could get to emergencies pretty quickly. My name would be Forest Girl. My weakness would be fire and rot. If I had side-kicks, they would be a lot of animals, probably. My side-kicks' names would be Fluffy, Berry and Grape. Another super power I would like to have is teleportation. My friends would be "Miss Undefeatable" and "Flame".

*Lyla Chance*

**My name is Wind-Stopper. I keep bad storms from towns that might get hit by storms. Like that time that a town called Rabbitside almost got hit by two tornadoes. The forecast was so bad that people left a month before the storm even got there. I came when the storm was just starting to get bad. But I was able to stop it. It was hard to do, but I did it!**

**The End**



*Noah Porter*





## Colo-NESCO Fall Play



Colo-NESCO thespians set the stage for the production of *A Good Old-Fashioned Big Family Christmas*, a comedy by Pat Cook, under the direction of Tony Stalzer on November 8 & 9. Our students learn to juggle activities, budget their time and grasp lines and cues quickly this time of year! The stage is a wonderful teacher. Congratulations to this group on their success!



Floyd Ritland , a 98-year-old WW II Veteran, attended with his family.



CN student Emiliano Ciriaco (left) speaks from his heart as he thanks Veterans for their courage.



## VETERANS DAY PROGRAM



Colo-NESCO hosted its annual student-led Veterans Day program on Nov. 11. CN sophomore Hope Heidemann served as Master of Ceremonies, while six students from the 5th and 6th grade read their own letters to the Veterans present. The Colo-NESCO band and choir performed and the FCS class made cookies for our special guests. The McCallsburg Legion presented the colors. Thank you to all who made this day possible!

# State XC

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**Congratulations to Elizabeth Erickson for qualifying for a return to State Cross Country this fall! Elizabeth finished 46th, with a time of 20:33 at the state meet in Fort Dodge Nov. 2.**

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## Colo-NESCO Cross Country Season Review

The team started practices back in August with three high school girls, four high school boys, one junior high girl and one junior high boy. With the small team they really came together and worked hard to improve throughout the season. We participated in 11 meets, bringing home several medals by the end of the season. Every member of the team reached a personal record time this season, showing growth not only within the season, but also from last year. Highlights include hosting our home meet at Dakins Lake, the Dike meet (where every CN runner had a personal record), and also the conference meet at Wartburg.

### Medal winners throughout the season include:

**Elizabeth Erickson: 1st-2, 2nd-1, 3rd-2, 4th-3, 5th-1, 8th-1, 12th-1**

**Sophia Clawson: 14th**

**Callie Jedlicka: 8th, 17th**

**Connor Perisho: 10th, 18th**

### Junior High:

**Hayden Hendrick: 1st-6, 2nd-1**

**Trenten Perisho: 7th, 8th, 12th**

Elizabeth Erickson also broke her own school record for a 5k time with a new record of 19:17, was all conference, and qualified for the State Meet.

Congrats to all runners on a successful season!



... submitted by Coach Candace Sutton



Volleyball  
All-  
Conference  
Awards  
2024



Molly Angell

2nd Team



Jadyn Niemeyer

Honorable Mention

DISTRICT FOOTBALL  
ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM



Kooper Spalding



Landon Gjerde



Preston Voelker



Lucas Daggett



Jack Angell



Colton Niemeyer



Mark Bower



# ROYALS FOOTBALL



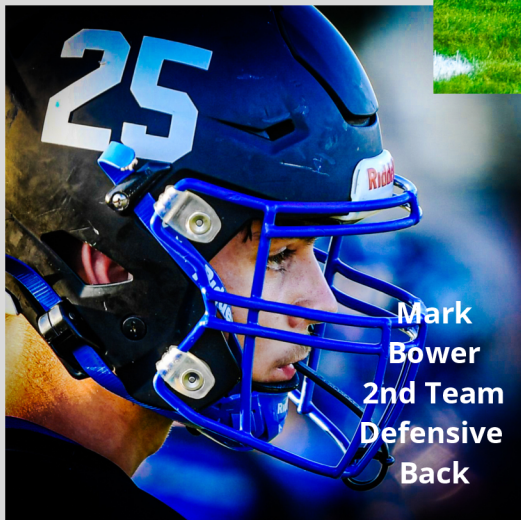
Jack  
Angell  
Hon.  
Mention  
QB



Breckin  
Clatt  
1st  
Team  
Utility /  
Punter



Hunter Hardin  
Hon. Mention  
O-Line



Mark  
Bower  
2nd Team  
Defensive  
Back



Landon Gjerde  
2nd Team Kicker



Preston Voelker  
2nd Team O-Line

All-District Selections  
2024 Season







### Administration & Management

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