

# Comet Connection

2023 • Fall

## Cameron School District

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## Homecoming

by Kayla Schullo



**Hungry Hippos!** *The girls steer the guys competing to pick up the highest amount of ping pong balls.*

Cameron High School's Homecoming week was a huge success! Student participation was through the roof creating a joyous environment.

Throughout the week our dress up days consisted of favorite jerseys, salad dressing, grade colors, old vs. young, and ending the week students showed their school pride by wearing Comet gear.

A new thing the student council hosted was candy guessing jars. Throughout the day students could go to the office and place their bets on how many pieces of candy were in each jar. The students who guessed the correct number got to keep or split the jar of goodies.

The annual Powderpuff games were as competitive as ever. Supporting their respective teams, students clapped and cheered. Overall Powderpuff players showed great teamwork with Seniors winning volleyball and Juniors winning football.

There was a pep assembly held Friday which included: three games, crowning

Homecoming King Tyson Lucas and Queen Emma Anderson, and the teacher's Barbie and Ken fashion show. After a week of competing in various events and games, the scores were tallied, winning the spirit stick was... Class of 2025, Cameron High School's current Juniors.

Friday night, our football team played against Cumberland in dreary weather. The Cameron Area Scholarship group held a tailgate party in the high school commons to raise money for Cameron area scholarships. The Student Council had an alumni booth that handed out three prizes at halftime. Despite the weather, our team pulled through, winning 53-13 against the Cumberland Beavers.

The Homecoming Dance was supervised by Mrs. LeAnn Shilts, Mr. Jay Cornell, Mrs. Sheri Hagen-Salm, Mrs. Emily Taylor, Mr. Mark Rykal, and Officer Andrew Krahenbuhl. Along with the supervisors Mr. Brent Whittenberger took group pictures of students and Mr. Ryan Mikula masterly handled the DJ table.

All the work that was put into the week was much appreciated and created memories that will last a lifetime.



**Homecoming Court.** *All court members dressed up and ready to dance.*

Our school, where staff, students excel... parents and community care.

# New Staff

by Nicole Kargus



## **Meranda Scott – 4K/Early Childhood Teacher**

Hello, I'm

Meranda Scott,  
I'm thrilled to be

joining the Cameron School District and becoming the new 4K teacher. This is my first year teaching. Most students might know me as Miss. Richter as I student taught at Cameron Elementary in the 3rd grade as well as worked as a long term sub at the end of the school year.

A little about myself, I am 23 years old and graduated from Cameron, I'm excited to be back in the district! Go Comets! I graduated in December of 2022 from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire with a bachelor degree in Unified Early Childhood Education. Ever since I was little, I have always wanted to be a teacher. I recently got married and my husband and I have two beautiful girls. One who is two the other who is three months. Being a mother showed me that working with kids, making learning fun and creating memories is something I enjoy doing. I also enjoy reading, art, being outdoors, and singing and dancing with my little ones. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with amazing students and staff in such an outstanding school district. Go Comets!!

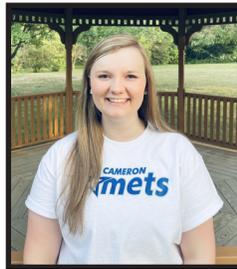


## **Paityn Tiefs – 1st Grade Teacher**

I am very excited to be joining the team at Cameron, especially since I grew up in Rice Lake, so

I am happy to be close to home and my family! I went to college at University of Wisconsin-Stout where I was also a member of the Women's

Basketball Team all four years! As well as teaching first grade, I will be joining the basketball and volleyball staff too, which I am so excited about! In my free time I love spending time with my family and friends. If I am not doing that you can find me reading a book or working out!



## **Sydney Johnson – 2nd Grade Teacher**

Hello! My name is Sydney Johnson and I am so excited to be joining

the Second Grade team this year! I just graduated from UW-Eau Claire in May with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Language Arts. I am so excited to be back in the school district where I grew up! I graduated from Cameron High School in 2019 and am beyond thrilled to be joining the staff at such an amazing school district! Some of my hobbies include reading, going to concerts, shopping, and spending time with family and friends. One of the things I look forward to doing more of is traveling. I can't wait to start this school year in Second Grade! Go Comets!



## **Lisa Paullin – Elementary Special Education Teacher**

My name is Lisa Paullin and thank you for welcoming me to Cameron

Elementary. I was born and raised in Chippewa Falls. After starting a family, I decided working with children was my forte. I returned to school and attended UW-Eau Claire where I graduated in 2005 with a degree in special education. Since then, I have

had a number of unique teaching opportunities including 7 years in the Barron Area School district.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family in Chippewa Falls and especially my 2 adorable grandsons. I also love the sun and spend all of my summer days boating, floating, fishing, and golfing. Although I love being outside in the summertime, I am both eager and excited to be working with the children and my new colleagues at Cameron Elementary.



## **Samantha Mayer – Comet Club/ Wrap Around Aide**

Hello everyone!

I am Samantha Mayer, and I will be working in the Comet Club/Wrap Around Program. I grew up in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. I graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High School in 2008. I earned an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education at CVTC. I have worked as a Special Educational Assistant in the Chippewa Falls School District for the last 8 years. My son Zachary and I moved to Cameron, Wisconsin in July to be with my significant other Tom (Cameron Comet graduate 2006). Zachary (11) will be in 6th grade at the middle school. Our family also includes Kholie (German Shepherd), Pumpkin (tabby cat), Graice Mae (Calico) and two Ball Pythons named Mitch and Bella. As a family we like to go fishing, camping, and play board games. When I get some time to myself, I enjoy reading and doing diamond art. I am so excited to be part of the Cameron Comet Community and looking forward to being a Cameron Comet with all of you. Go Comets!

### Jen Stovern – Elementary Special Education / Comet Club Aide



Hello everyone, my name is Jen Stovern. I have worked in Special Ed as a Para for 16 years and I'm excited to be back in the Cameron School District. My husband Chris and I both graduated from Cameron and our girls Kallei and Mykala are seniors this year. When I am not watching the girls participate in their sports or other activities I enjoy spending time with family and friends, gardening, camping, and crafting.

### Delhi Heikes – 7th Grade Teacher



As a recent graduate of UWEC, I am excited to be back at Cameron Middle School where I student taught last spring! I grew up with my family in Hermantown, MN as a middle child between two brothers. This created a lively, competitive environment and an interest in all sports. I was active in hockey, soccer, and golf through high school and played college hockey for UWEC. Spending time with my dog, running, hiking, camping, fishing, and reading are some of my hobbies!

### Kathy Kreier – MS Kitchen Assistant



My name is Kathy Kreier, married to Bill Kreier for 44 years. I went to Rice Lake for school. We have two boys, Justin and Brian, they went to Cameron School. We have 6 grandkids and 3 great grandkids. I like to scrapbook and spend time with family and friends. I retired from a job I did

for 39 years but I didn't want to just sit at home, so I came to the school. I live about 6 miles east of Cameron.

### Lindsey Geurkink – Middle School Special Education Teacher



Hello! My name is Lindsey Geurkink and I will be one of the special education teachers at the Cameron Middle School. I originally grew up in Bloomer, Wisconsin. I attended UW Green Bay and received a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Human Development. Afterwards, I received another bachelor's degree from UW Eau Claire for special education. My teaching career began in Fort Lauderdale, Florida while my boyfriend, a Cameron graduate, went to optometry school. I taught in a self contained autism classroom for 3.5 years while living in Florida. We moved back to the Chetek/Cameron area to be closer to family after my boyfriend graduated optometry school. We moved back last year and I taught one year in New Auburn as a middle school special education teacher. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, reading, pontooning, kayaking, and going on walks with my German Shepherd/Lab mix.

I'm very excited to be a part of a fun and hardworking staff and I look forward to building connections with both staff and students. Go Comets!

### Sandra Kane – Middle School Special Education Aide



I am from Chetek and have 3 kids. My oldest, Abbie, is 19 and a year of college down already! My 16 1/2 year old, Elise, is a Junior

at Chetek and 13-year-old Tyler is in 8th grade at Chetek. When I'm not attending football games, baseball games and horse events I enjoy kayaking and camping and spending time with friends and family. I am excited to be back as part of the Cameron Comets!!

### Lisa Minahan – Middle School Special Education Aide



Hi. My name is Lisa Minahan. I just moved here from Sartell, Minnesota. I have kids and 3 grandkids. And a big dog named Hank.

I have worked with all ages of children from infants to preschool, in a large daycare setting. And I have also worked as a paraprofessional in an Elementary School. I loved both jobs. I love working with children of all ages. I can't wait to get to know some new people here in Cameron. Please come and say hi to me. I like making new friends.



### Mark Rykal – High School Principal

Hello, Cameron Comets! I am Mark Rykal, the new Cameron High School Principal. To begin, you may know my wife, Madeline, who is currently teaching kindergarten at Cameron Elementary School. We have four children: Charlotte (7th grade), Eleanor (5th grade), Oliver (1st grade), and Josephine (daycare). We spend a lot of time running to different activities with the kids, and I look forward to watching them participate in all Cameron Schools have to offer.

My path to principal took quite a few turns. I graduated from Chetek High School in 1990, so I am from

High School in 1990, so I am from the area. My first career after high school was working for a restaurant company in Duluth, Minnesota. Deciding I wanted a more conventional lifestyle, I enrolled at UW-Green Bay, where I received my Bachelor's Degree in English Education. After 13 years as an English teacher in Chetek, I completed my Masters from UW-Superior and made the move to administration as the 7-12 Principal in Shell Lake. When the opportunity to join Cameron High School came about, I couldn't pass it up. I am excited to be joining the school and meeting the students and staff, and I look forward to joining you all as a Cameron Comet!

### **Chloe Wanink – High School**

#### **Guidance Counselor**



Hi everyone! I'm excited to be a Cameron Comet again. I am back home living

with my family. I graduated from Cameron High School in 2015, and I went on to play college basketball at Wofford College down in Spartanburg, South Carolina. I graduated in 2020 with degrees in both Psychology and Sociology. From there, I had the opportunity to be the Graduate Assistant for the University of Mary women's basketball team in Bismarck, North Dakota, while pursuing my master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. However, in April of 2022, I missed playing basketball. I had always dreamed of playing professional basketball overseas. I knew if I didn't try, I'd forever regret it. Luckily a team in Iceland took a chance on me. I had an absolute blast getting to explore the beautiful country that Iceland is. It allowed me to meet new people and try different foods while playing the sport I love. I am grateful to be back in Cameron as

your High School Counselor! It's an opportunity to give back to a school district and community that was great to me when I was a student here.

As for outside of work and basketball, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, being outside, going to the movies, and reading. Some of my favorite activities from this summer have included taking our dog, Dixie, on walks, kayaking with my sister, seeing Taylor Swift in concert, and visiting my friends in Ohio and South Carolina. Also, if you have any great book recommendations, please send them my way! Go Comets!

### **Emily Taylor - High School Business Education Teacher**



My name is Emily Taylor, I am very excited to start my journey here at Cameron High

School. I grew up in New Auburn, WI just 20 miles away from Cameron. I was Valedictorian of my graduating class and from there I went on to go to UW - Stout where I earned my Business Education degree. I actually was able to wrap up my college career by student teaching with Mrs. Hopkins right here in Cameron, and I am more than happy to be returning! Some of my hobbies include going to the beach and spending time with my family. I have a large family that just keeps growing, most recently I gained a second family when I got married this Summer. I am looking forward to continuing the exciting year I've had so far with everyone at Cameron!

### **Kari McDonald – High School Special Education Aide**



Hello, my name is Kari McDonald. I was born and raised in a little town called Tilden. I Graduated from

Chippewa Falls High School in 1996. Later I attended Chippewa Valley Technical College and received an Associates Degree in Agri-Science Technician. I was at Walmart for 15 years when I decided to make a career change. I accepted a position at Riverview Middle School as a Paraprofessional and enjoyed every minute of it. I decided I needed to set myself up for the future and accepted a position at Cameron High School.

In 2005 I married my husband, Mike McDonald. We now have two daughters, Ariella and Aalayah. We also have a family of animals. My family is my biggest hobby, I enjoy doing whatever I can with them. Golf is another hobby I've recently decided to pick up. I can't wait to start the new school year at Cameron High School.

### **Heather Cook – High School Special Education Aide**



My name is Heather Cook. I'm married to my husband Robert who owns his own livestock trucking company, and I

have two girls, Reanna is 15 years old and Raina who is 14. Both of them attend Barron High School. We live on a farm near Barron where we raise beef cattle and steers. We also have three dogs. I enjoy spending my time outside whenever I can. My girls show dairy cattle at many shows throughout the summer which keeps us busy and away from home most weekends. I also enjoy bow hunting and bear hunting. I worked at Riverview Middle School for the past 4 years as a Paraprofessional and absolutely loved it.

I'm looking forward to working in the Cameron School District. Thank you so much for this opportunity and I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you!!

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**Dawn Buckels  
– High School  
Special Educa-  
tion Aide**

Hello! My name is Dawn Buckels.

I am a mother of 3 grown children and have 5 grand children. My husband and I moved to Wisconsin from Southern California in 2018. What were we thinking!! Haha. Actually, with the exception of very long and cold winters, we love it here. I love spending time on the lake fishing and cruising.

I have over 10 years experience working with teenagers as a case manager and addiction counselor. Working with kids fills my heart and gives me a great sense of purpose. I have learned so much working with our youth and I am grateful for the opportunity to be in this position and continue learning and making a difference in the lives of others.

I am very excited to join the Cameron Comets team and making this a great year! GO COMETS!



**Cathy Potaczek – High School Special Education Aide**

Hi, my name is Catherine

Potaczek. I live just outside of Cameron with my husband, three children and a menagerie of animals. When I am not watching my children participating in their various sports and activities, I enjoy fishing, hunting, hiking and gardening. I have been working as a special education paraprofessional

for over 8 years and I am excited to be working at Cameron High School.



**Justice Groot-housen – High School Biology – Long Term Sub**

Hello! My name is Justice Groot-housen. I am

26 years old and I grew up in the Ladysmith area. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where I played football for three seasons while also majoring in biology. I decided to get into the educational space shortly after graduating because I love the positive, impactful relationships that you can form as a teacher. When I am not at work, I love to write and sing music, try cooking new things, playing video games, and record my podcast called 'Toasty Takes!' I encourage you to check it out if you enjoy motivational/inspirational messages. I am big on having a positive attitude and helping out wherever I can, so if anyone ever needs anything, don't be afraid to ask! I am looking forward to working in such a welcoming school district and trying my best to have a positive impact on the school this year!



**Lynda Lacina – HS/MS School Psychologist**

I Grew up in Chippewa Falls, WI and Graduated from

University of WI, Eau Claire.

I Live in Chippewa Falls with my husband, Michael, Dog Hunter, and Cat Poppy.

My hobbies include reading, spending time outdoors, and going to estate and vintage sales.



**Dennis Gunnink – Director of Special Education/ School Psychologist**

I am very excited for this opportunity to serve

Cameron School District as Director of Special Education and School Psychologist! I grew up in southeastern Wisconsin with my parents and two brothers. I graduated from Delavan-Darien High School in 1988. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Biology and my Master's Degree in School Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. I've worked as a School Psychologist for 23 years, most recently for CESA 10. I served as psychologist for Cameron Middle and High Schools during the 2019-20 and 2020-2021 school years. In 2020-2021, I attended University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's Director of Special Education and Pupil Services (DSEPS) program and earned my certificate to practice as a DSEPS. I served in a dual role as Director of Special Education and School Psychologist for New Auburn School District from 2021-2023.

My family and I moved to Rice Lake, WI in 2018. We consist of my wife, Sadie and our youngest son, Gabriel, age 12--our oldest two sons, Noah (25) and Matthew (22) live on their own but come to visit as often as they can. Our household includes Lewie (pug-terrier mix), Rosie (Boston terrier), Cashew (bearded dragon), Oakley (mustang), and Annie (mustang). We enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, traveling, and just hanging out together. As for myself, I like to read, hike, play guitar, camp, hunt, fish, and garden. Stop in anytime to say hello--most times you'll find me at Cameron Elementary!

# Cameron Elementary Happenings

## November 2023 Calendar of Events

November 17 – End of 1st Trimester

November 20 –24 No school – Thanksgiving Break.

## Dress for the Weather!!

Outside recess is an important part of the school day for elementary students. It provides a time for fresh air, exercise and playing with friends. With the weather becoming cooler we would like to send a reminder about what to wear during the school day. In general, we base our outerwear rules on the temperature outside.

## Here Are Our Recess Guidelines

- 60 degrees or above, students are free to wear most clothing including shorts and t-shirts.
  - Between 40-59 degrees, students are asked to wear a long sleeve shirt at a minimum. If the temperature is in the 40s we do recommend a warm fall jacket. Students will not be allowed outside for recess, in shorts, once it drops below 50 degrees.
  - Below 40 degrees, we will expect students to start dressing for winter weather. This includes a winter coat, hat, and gloves at a minimum.
  - If it is wet and snowy, students will need to have boots and snow pants to play off of the black top.
- The weather in Wisconsin can fluctuate a great deal on some days.

## 2023-2024 Cameron Community Walking Track Schedule - Cameron Elementary Gym

Monday-Friday Mornings  
6:30-7:45 AM

Monday/ Tuesday/Thursday Evenings  
5:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday Evening  
4:30-6:30 PM

Walking Track closed on shaded dates

November 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	
29	30	29	30	

December 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
				1
				1
4	5	6	7	8
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

January 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
29	30	31		

February 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	
26	27	28	29	

March 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
				1
				1
4	5	6	7	8
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
18	19	20	21	22

\*\*\*This is an "adult only" walking time and not permitted for any children.

- The walking track is open to adults who reside within the Cameron School District. The intent of this plan is to provide time during the week for adults that live within the district to access the track throughout the winter months.
- Please change into a pair of non-street shoes prior to walking on the Walking Track.
- You can place your items along the walking track. If you have any questions, see the supervisor.

It could be 48 degrees for a morning recess and 62 degrees for the afternoon recess. We would expect a child to dress in layers and accordingly for both recesses.

## Upcoming December Events

December 14 - Elementary Christmas Programs

### Kindergarten

Spectator arrival 1:00 p.m. Performance 1:15 p.m.

### First Grade

Spectator arrival 2:00 p.m. Performance 2:15 p.m.

### Second Grade

Spectator & student arrival 5:10 p.m. Performance 5:30 p.m.

### Third Grade

Spectator & student arrival 5:50 p.m. Performance 6:10 p.m.

## Fourth Grade

Spectator & student arrival 6:30 p.m.  
Performance 6:50 p.m.

December 21 - All Aboard Pre-school Christmas programs 8:30 a.m./12:30 p.m.

December 24 – January 1 – No school

## Upcoming Spring Events

April 12 - Elementary Spring Fling program - More info to come

May 17 – Track & Field Day – More info to come



# Notes from Admin

## Spring School Board Election

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District residents interested in filing papers for candidacy in the spring school board election should contact Don Rappel, School Board President, or Joe Leschisin, District Administrator. Candidates for the board need to complete a campaign registration statement and a declaration of candidacy form available at the District office to ensure that the candidate's name is on the ballot in the spring election on April 2, 2024. The candidacy form must be completed, notarized, and given to the School Board President or Administrator by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The candidate receiving the most votes in the spring election will be seated on the Board of Education for a three-year term. The terms of Don Rappel and Brandon Olson will expire in April 2024.

## Open Enrollment

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The regular open enrollment application period for the 2024-2025 school year begins on February 4, 2024 and ends at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024. Parents must apply no earlier than February 4, 2024 and no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024. The best way to apply is online. However, paper forms can be picked up in the District Office. For more information on open enrollment please access the state website by going to <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>.

## School Closing Information

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When it is necessary to delay the start of, or close or cancel school due to inclement weather, the District will use its automated communication system. A pre-recorded phone message will go out to the primary contact number for each family with students in the District. As such, please ensure that your child's primary contact phone number is up-to-date in the school office.



In addition an announcement will be made on local radio stations WJMC, WAQE, and WKFX. The district will also attempt to contact WEAU-TV and WQOW-TV, both out of Eau Claire. If time permits, a posting will also be placed on the District's Facebook page. Attempts will be made to make decisions the evening before a possible cancellation, but it is oftentimes difficult to make these decisions until early in the morning. Please be sure to discuss with your child(ren) what your alternate plan is in the event that school is closed early.

## Elementary Walking Track open to District Residents

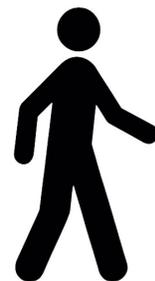
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Starting Monday, November 6th, the elementary school walking track will be open to adults who reside within the Cameron School

District. The intent of this plan is to provide time during the week for adults that live within the District to access the track throughout the winter months. This is an "adult only" walking time and not permitted for any students.

The track will be open Monday through Friday mornings, from 6:30 a.m. until 7:45 a.m., Wednesday evenings from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. and Monday, Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. through March 22nd. However, the track will be closed the week of November 20th and from December 25 through January 1 for the holidays. It will also be closed on the following days for scheduled elementary school activities: AM/PM January 31, February 1, 2, and March 1.

People interested in walking should be sure to enter the front doors of the school and should have a "non-street" pair of shoes to change into once inside. People will be able to sit in the cafeteria to change shoes. The cafeteria is directly to the left once entering the building. At that point, everyone should go directly up the stairs, take a left and the track doors will be the first set of doors to the right. Gym bags and personal items will be able to be placed along the inside of the walking track on the east side of the gym.



# Growing Gardeners

by Katie Shilts

In May, second graders at Cameron Elementary were given Skyscraper sunflower seeds and tasked with planting them to grow the biggest sunflower head they could. Karen Schleis, from the Master Gardener Program, awards the student with the biggest sunflower head a prize, specifically a cedar bird feeder. This year, fifteen students participated, with Jax Prusinski having the largest sunflower head, measuring 11.5 inches. The heads ranged from one to 11.5 inches, and half of them were between eight and nine inches. Cameron Elementary third grade teacher Mrs. Lesa Osborn commented, "That's great considering how dry our summer was!" Once the competition is over, the current third graders either plant their seeds for next year or leave the head out for the birds. This project is an enjoy-



**Sunny students.** Fifteen current third graders at Cameron Elementary grew sunflowers this summer given to them by the Master Gardeners. They ranged from one to 11.5 inches, with Jax Prusinski earning the prize for largest sunflower head.

able way for young learners to gain an understanding of not only caring

for plants, but also responsibility, consistency and problem solving.

# Glow Run

by Keara Butterfield

The middle school student council held their biggest fundraiser of the year, the Glow Run, on September 21 at a high school football game. The money raised that night will support the student council and the many trips and leadership conferences they plan on taking in the next couple of months. The student council is made up of 40 hard working students from all the grades. The adult leaders of the student council started planning for the Glow Run back in the summer, and a hard working core of 15 kids took their plan into action. All 40 of the members helped set up and take down. Set up took half a school day and more time after school. A father

of one student council member volunteered to help string up lights in the trees along the course. Students hung lights on the fence and along the ground to mark out the path. The student council now owns up to 300 solar powered post lights! The members ran different glow games during the night. They had games like glow basketball, a spinning wheel, light up cornhole, and football toss. The student council also made t-shirts that they sold and delivered.

The Glow Run had 400 participants that night. The little kid run, 4th grade and under, ran a half mile loop during half time of the high school football game, and the big

kid run, 5th grade and up, ran a mile loop after the game. Some kids even decided to do two or three loops! Each participant was entered into a drawing where 40 lucky people got to win gift cards to local Cameron businesses. The student council once again put on a great event for the



**Getting ready for fun.** Four student council members are helping with set up.

# Future Stars

by Jacob Meznarich

Every year Cameron organizes a youth dance camp. Over the course of two days, youth dance camp is an opportunity for students third through sixth grade to try out dance. Thirty-eight youth dancers showed up to learn about dance. These students were able to learn what it takes to become a member of the Cameron High School dance team.

Youth dance camp wasn't just for the youth dancers, though. It was also a chance for varsity dancers to try their hand at teaching dance. The eight members of the high school dance team were able to teach them how to properly stretch, a couple dance tricks, and even a 90 second dance routine that they would perform at a football game.

On August 25th, eight varsity

## Comet Club

by Nicole Kargus

The Cameron Elementary School has been busy before, during, and after school. Every school day, over the summer, and some days on breaks, the Elementary School has a School District Comet Club program. During Comet Club, kids in grades pre-k through sixth grade have the opportunity to play outside and/or inside. There is also Wrap-Around available for All Aboard kids



**Gym time.** The pre-k students have time in the gymnasium to play fun games.



**Halftime.** Thirty-two youth dancers and eight members of the High School dance team prepare to take the field and perform.

members and 32 youth dancers took the field at halftime of Cameron versus Boyceville game to show off

what they had learned. To commemorate the event, each attendee was given a t-shirt for them to keep.

during the school day. Kelsey Winkler, the Comet Club Coordinator, said, "Comet Club this year has been going great with lots of kiddos in our Before & After School Program and our Wrap Around."

When school is in session, Comet Club runs from 6:00-8:00 a.m. and 3:15-5:30 p.m. The Wrap-Around Program is available for All Aboard Preschool kids opposite of their All Aboard session—8:00-12:00 p.m. or 11:00-3:00 p.m.

Kids have been busy this year with a variety of things. They have watched movies, played cards and board games, colored, and played games inside and outside. Giselle Dahle, a high school worker, stated, "My favorite thing about Comet Club is watching new kids come in and getting to know them well and



**Lego builders.** Students in Comet Club play in the third grade pod with the legos after school.

what they like best."

If you are in need of a safe, supervised, fun, and enriching place for your kid(s) when you work, you can register online at the Cameron School District Website. If you have any questions, you can contact Kelsey Winkler at [kwinkler@cameron.k12.wi.us](mailto:kwinkler@cameron.k12.wi.us) or call her at (715) 458-5606.

# Musical Excellence

by Katie Shilts

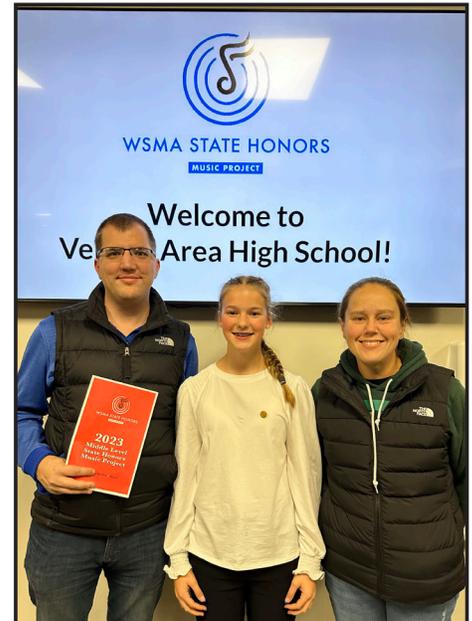
Freshman trumpet player Ashlyn LaBrie recently participated in a once-in-a-lifetime experience on October 27-28 in Madison, Wisconsin. After an audition in March consisting of memorized scales, a solo, and a short sight reading piece, she received the news in May that she was accepted into the Wisconsin School Music Association's Middle



**Middle school musicians.** *The 2023 Middle Level Honors Band performs on Saturday, October 28 at Verona High School.*

Level Honors Band. This band consists of the best middle school (as of the 2022-23 school year) band members in the state of Wisconsin. Over 1,000 students audition for roughly 350 spots, making Ashlyn one of the top 15 trumpet players her age in Wisconsin.

Ashlyn and her family traveled down on Friday morning to Verona High School for a day of rehearsal with the rest of the band. After a day and a half of practice, they performed on Saturday afternoon in conjunction with the WSMA Educators Conference. This is a great honor to be a part of, and a great way to improve music skills and meet other talented musicians. Congratulations Ashlyn!



**Top trumpeter.** *Ashlyn LaBrie, a current freshman at CHS, participated in the WSMA State Honors Band while band teachers Mr. and Mrs. Halverson attended the Educators Conference.*

# Operation Christmas

Quote from Production Tech Team

Each year the Mr. Cornell's Production Tech class works together to come up with a product to mass produce and sell. This class simulates building a real company, designing a product, and working in a factory. The students were all given the opportunity to interview for one of the five officer positions in the class: Lorali Janota (9) was the financial manager, she managed the company's money in and out, Jadyn Seimers (10) was the marketing manager, she took care of advertisements and sales, Kallei Stovern (12) was quality control, her job was to ensure that every product met quality standards before it went out the door, and Anna Baribeau (10) was the C.E.O. and production manager, she was the head of the company

and managed the production process. This trimester, the students made Christmas porch leaners; they

sold well over 100. Their company was called Operation Christmas.



**Rolling in Cash.** *Sixteen Production Tech students show off their product that brought in the big bucks.*

# Games Galore!

by Caitlin Quarders

Move out of the way flashcards, there are new learning games in town!

Cameron High School's Child Development class went to the elementary school to play educational games with the kindergarteners. The class was put into 4 groups, and they each had a different game for the kindergarteners to rotate through.

The games intended to help teach shapes, colors, numbers, and upper/lower case letter identification. The students even made their games Halloween themed for the holiday!

Not only did the kindergarteners learn from the games, but the high schoolers learned from the kids as well. Students in Mrs. Adams class thought that it was an incredibly valuable experience. They enjoyed engaging with the kindergarteners and seeing how their behaviors and per-

sonalities differed while playing the games. One student even explained that they learned they liked children more than they thought they did because of this field trip.

The class enthusiastically said that they would do this activity again. They highly recommend the class as well. It is interesting to learn about child development because you can connect it to your childhood and how much your upbringing affects your life. In the class, students also earn an Abusive Head Trauma Certificate, which is one of the required trainings in most day care centers.

If you are a student and are interested in taking this course, sign up for Child Development and Parenting during your high school career. The students promise you won't regret it!

### Student-made activities

- Scavenger hunt - hunting for and identifying shapes and numbers
- Number race - identifying numbers and colors
- Memory and Go-Fish - identifying and pairing upper/lower case letters
- Reading - students read "Rainbow Fish" to the kindergarteners and followed up with a craft



**Go-Fish!** Senior Jami Folz plays upper/lower case letter Go-Fish with the kindergarteners,



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# Coat Drive

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by Kennedy Ladehoff

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Cameron FCCLA organized a coat drive to help get winter coats to those in need this winter. It was a huge success. FCCLA thanks anyone who donated. The coats were distributed at Ruby's Pantry on October 21st.

Other winter clothes were donated as well, hats and gloves were also donated. Coats varied in size, includ-

ing coats for both adults and children. Students could donate gently used or new items to the coat drive.

The coat drive was such a success that FCCLA had more coats than they could give away. They had leftover coats from the distribution at Ruby's Pantry. The excess coats were distributed to various charities in Barron County. The exact number

of coats donated is unknown.

There were so many coat donations that it was all hands on deck for the FCCLA members. They worked together to get coats sorted and washed on time for Ruby's Pantry. In the end, it had worthwhile results.