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Attention Seniors:
Yearbook pics
Two senior and two
baby pictures are due to
Mrs. Hopkins by Friday,
November 18.

Capture the memories: get your yearbook

On Monday, October 24, students were given a yearbook order form in their homeroom. To order this year's yearbook, there are two easy options.

- 1.. Go to www.jostensyearbooks.com and order online. You may pay with a credit card.
2. Fill out the form and bring it and your money to Mrs. Hopkins.

Order forms are available in the high school office, on our website (www.cameron.k12.wi.us), or to directly order, go to www.jostensyearbooks.com.

See Mrs. Hopkins with additional questions. Don't miss out! Order now to "remember all the good times."

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The Cometary



Fall 2016

Volume 13 Issue 1

The queen lost her slipper . . .

by Haley Bossany

This year's homecoming Queen, Rachel Gillett's, fairy godmother didn't take care of her as promised. Instead of her pumpkin carriage taking her to the ball, it took her to the emergency room. Queen Rachel woke up on the morning of the dance with bad stomach pains, and found out that her appendix had ruptured. She needed surgery right away and had to miss the dance. This made our homecoming quite unusual.

However, the rest of the week was business as usual. Monday started off the week with Millionaire Day where everyone dressed up wearing fancy clothes. Homecoming King Hunter Gillett and Queen Rachel Gillett were royalty.

Tuesday followed with Twin Day, and Wednesday was Class Color Day. Freshmen wore brown, sophomores wore green, juniors wore black, as always, seniors wore pink. Teachers wore blaze orange. Wednesday was also the day of powderpuff games. The seniors took the lead in volleyball closely followed by the juniors. The juniors triumphed in football 28-6 against the seniors.

Next we had Throwback Thursday! Everyone dressed up from a past decade of their



Love and support. King Hunter Gillett visits his cousin, Queen Rachel Gillett, in the hospital before the homecoming dance.

choice.

Friday finished off with Blue and White Day where everyone showed off their Comet pride.

There were many events at the pep rally such as performances by the girls' and boys' Pom/Dance Teams, tug-of-war and multiple *Minute to Win It* games. The winner of the spirit stick, for the second year in a row, was the Class of 2017!

Later that night, the football team faced off against the Webster Tigers. The pep band and dance team entertained during pre-game. Halftime came with

Comets in the lead. Homecoming Court was announced first, followed by an outstanding performance by the Pom/Dance Team. Then, the band played two different songs, and featured a Trombone Suicide.

The Cameron Comets won the game with an incredible score of 54-0! We were so proud of our boys.

The next day followed with the dance. As much as everyone who attended the dance had a great time, the queen was noticeably absent, but nonetheless, was there in spirit.

Notes from Mrs. Sanborn - school counselor

ACT test prep

Once again juniors across the state of Wisconsin will be taking the ACT on February 28, 2017 and ACT Work Keys on March 1, 2017. It is highly advisable that students familiarize themselves with the ACT prior to taking the test. High school students are encouraged to log onto www.4tests.com and complete the ACT practice test on this site. The scores from the test taken during their junior year can/may be used for college admissions so it is important that students take this test seriously. If a student would like to re-test then they would register at www.actstudent.org and register using their username and password that they will register with during the February exam and pay the \$42.50 test fee. Students are allowed to send their test results to four college campuses for free and are highly encouraged to fill this portion out during the registration. Presently the following campuses require "official test scores" sent directly from ACT during the admissions process which costs an additional \$12 to the student/family; UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison and Winona State/Mn. If a student has an interest in and designates any of these campuses on their ACT registration then test scores are sent for free. All other campuses will accept copies of test results sent directly from the high school during the college admissions process.

Changes Impacting the 2017-18 FAFSA

All students planning to attend a post secondary institution following high school graduation are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA® - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA® is the application that students must complete to apply for federal student aid. Federal student aid includes Federal Pell Grants, federal student loans, and work-study opportunities. In addition to determining eligibility for federal student aid, many states, private organizations, colleges, and tech schools rely on information from the FAFSA to determine eligibility for nonfederal sources of aid. Two major changes to the FAFSA are in effect for current seniors and current college undergraduates reapplying through the FAFSA.

1. The FAFSA will be available earlier (October 1 instead of January 1 as in years past).
2. The FAFSA will collect income information from the previous tax year (2015).

A Financial Aid meeting was held on October 20 highlighting these changes and introducing seniors and parents to the FAFSA process and scholarship opportunities. If you were unable to attend, materials may be picked up from Mrs. Sanborn. Also, visit the student services webpage, high school section at www.cameron.k12.wi.us, for links connected to obtaining your FAFSA ID, the FAFSA application and valuable scholarship information.

2016-17 ACT Test dates

December 10, 2016
Registration deadline:
November 4, 2016

February 11, 2017
Registration deadline:
January 13, 2017

April 8, 2017
Registration deadline:
March 3, 2017

June 10, 2017
Registration deadline:
May 5, 2017

To register for these tests, students must go to www.actstudent.org and register under their current account/or set up a new account using



their username and password (typically their skyward username and password) as well as their ACT ID if they have previously tested. Their ACT ID is located under their birth date on the exam result sheet or can be obtained through Mrs. Sanborn. When prompted, use the Cameron code of 500-335. Students are highly encouraged to identify up to 4 colleges to have their scores sent to for free. More and more colleges are requiring test scores sent directly from the testing agency (ACT). If this is the case and you have not identified them during test registration then a student will need to contact ACT via their website and pay an additional \$12 to send test scores.

Dancing into a new year

by Haley Bossany

A new year brings in new coaches and half of a new team for the Cameron Pom/Dance Team. This team of fourteen girls consists of seven new freshman. None-the-less, new coaches, Mrs. Charissa Meyers and Mrs. Connie Weis, plan on pushing them to the next level. Starting practices in late June, the girls are set on a path for greatness.

After years of not being included as a sport and having to fight for respect, Coach Meyers and Coach Weis plan on making a difference. "In a few years, they shouldn't have to question whether we are a sport or not," stated Coach Weis, "We are a varsity sport! We should be up there with the rest of them."

These coaches have a drive in them to focus not only on perfecting each and every one of their routines, but they focus on teamwork. They set up two different camps for all of the girls this summer. The first one was a six-hour day



New faces. New coaches, Charissa Meyers and Connie Weis, support the dance team at the homecoming pep rally on Friday.

camp held at the school, and the other was a two-day camp in Appleton. This gave the girls an opportunity to become closer, not only as a team, but also as friends.

"I have never seen a team work together as well as these girls do," said athletic director Mr. Jon Griffith.

When these new coaches stepped up, the entire team took a big leap of faith and never looked back. A new year brings new coaches, new dancers, and new chances. This team is ready to step it up and make it to the top.



Kicking it at homecoming. The Cameron Dance Team performs during the homecoming pep rally to AC/DC's *You Shook Me All Night Long* which they performed again during halftime at the football game later that night.

Sports in Brief

Volleyball

Coach: Val Pumala
Senior:
Daynen Paddock



Dance

Coaches: Charissa Meyers and Connie Weis
Seniors: Ashlee Drew, Rachel Gillett, Carly Haynie, and Shayla Schwingle



Football

Coach: Jon Haughian
Seniors: Jakob Bailey, Remington Davison, Nate Fostvedt, Hunter Gillett, Ryan Hanson, Ryley Hanson, Cole Johnson, Josh Koenecke, Victor Martinez, Anthony Putnam, Jeremy Reed, and Nick Wintone



Cross Country

Coach: Tim Borstad
Seniors: Sean McGregor, Michael Maresca



Caring Comets

Volleyball team: spectacular on and off the court

by Kaylee Thomson

New team, new start. The majority of our Cameron Comet varsity volleyball team has little varsity experience. “Probably the biggest challenge we’ve faced as a team would be getting used to each other,” stated junior Taylar Jencks. “We had to rebuild a whole new team,” she continues. Coach Mrs. Valerie Pumala echoed Taylar’s thoughts. “A big challenge has been only having one senior,” the coach said. Daynen Paddock is our lone senior leader. “We also don’t have many players on the team this year with much club experience. We have a few, but not many, so building experience is a huge challenge.”

However, that’s not stopping them from doing great things, both on and off the court. On the court, they’ve defeated rivals such as Shell Lake and Northwood, and off the court they’re doing awesome things, as well.

To help a local family whose daughter has cancer, the volleyball team sponsored a “Go Make a Difference Against Childhood Cancer” fund-raiser.



Nice block. Taylar Jencks prevents the volleyball from coming over the net.

During homecoming week, money was collected in jars to help the family with their expenses. Also, raffles were held during the homecoming game and the home volleyball tournament. The fundraisers raised about \$1,400.

The team also sponsored the “Be the Match” drive, which is a bone marrow donor awareness event. This drive happened on Friday and Saturday,



Baby Abby. Abby Sedani is doing a lot better after her bone marrow transplant. Thanks to the volleyball team, money and bone marrow donor awareness was raised in our area.

September 23 and 24. Twenty-one new people signed up to get their mouths swabbed and agreed to donate bone marrow, if needed.

These girls aren’t only passing, setting and killing on the court. They’re trying to pass, set, and kill cancer, as well.



Comet volleyball. The Comet varsity volleyball team is killing it on and off the court.

Visit campuses!

One of the best ways for a student and his/her parents to determine if a college is a good choice is to visit the campus. The best time to start visiting schools is during the second half of the student’s junior year, summer months, or early in his/her senior year.

In addition to providing the opportunity to meet with admission office personnel, a campus visit allows a student to see the campus. Students wanting to meet with faculty, coaches, or other university staff may be able to prearrange appointments with these contacts.

Students wanting a more extensive agenda when visiting a cam-

pus may choose to attend a preview program. These programs are typically half day events that feature informational sessions with faculty, student service representatives, and current students.

Scheduling early is key when arranging a campus visit. Campus preview information can be found in the U-W publication available in the Student Services Office or by googling uwhelp.wisconsin.edu.

Applying for college

Electronic application to UW System schools is available through www.apply.wisconsin.edu or the individual campus’ website. The application can be returned to as many times as

necessary. Each section is error-checked to help ensure the applicant has not made any obvious errors and has answered all mandatory questions. The \$50 application fee (\$60 for Madison) is required at time of application. Applications can also be made to the technical colleges at www.witechcolleges.org or to Wisconsin Independent colleges at www.wisconsinprivatecolleges.org. It is encouraged that students apply by December 1 for priority placement or February 1 for standard placement. December 1 also allows campuses to send accepted students scholarship information. See Mrs. Sanborn if you need help or want to talk about college opportunities.

Notes from Mr. Meznarich - principal

Skyward student information system

Skyward has replaced PowerSchool as the district student management information system. It is very important that student and family demographic information is current. Parent login information has been sent home and students have been practicing using their Skyward accounts. The Skyward login can be found under the Student and Family links on the district web page.

Thanksgiving break

Students will not have school Monday, November 21 through Friday, November 25 this year for Thanksgiving break. School resumes on Monday, November 28, which will also be the first day of the second trimester. Friday, November 18 is the last day of the first trimester, so it is important that students be in school.

New schedule

The new trimester schedule is off to a great start at the high school. Students take five academic classes a day, and then chose either a study hall or another optional class to take during their fourth hour. Additionally, every Monday, students report to a homeroom where they work on self monitoring, academic, and career planning. The first trimester ends on Friday, November 18. The second trimester will begin on Monday, November 28.

District Facebook page

The Cameron School District started a Facebook page last spring. A number of great things happening throughout the district are shared on the page, along with upcoming events and the lunch menus. Parents are encouraged to “like” the page to see all the great things happening in our district.

PBIS

The high school is in the second year of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Success). The focus for this year will be on acknowledging students who consistently meet school expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. Each week one student per class who has been on time to every class and who has not had a discipline referral is selected for an acknowledgement. Additionally, there will be a focus behavior for the month. The focus behavior for September was on appropriate dress. Two students per grade received a \$20 gift certificate to Northwoods Promotions in Rice Lake. They were seniors Cole Johnson and Victor Martinez ; juniors Taylor Weis and Amara Rodriguez; sophomores Kaitlyn Hubbard and Caleb Peet; and Freshmen Hannah Adamson and Kailey Flatland.

Welcome back; what's new?

by Melissa Odenbreit

Ring! Back to school--a new year with a new schedule. This year, Cameron High School has changed the schedule from semesters to trimesters. Instead of eight class hours in a day, we now have six. This means each class is longer--65 minutes each--but only five classes and a study hall. It seems that the majority of the students like the new schedule. There are some advantages and some disadvantages to this change.

For four months, the District held committee meetings to discuss if we should or shouldn't make this change. "Having fewer classes has been found to be beneficial to students," said principal Mr. John Meznarich. One of the benefits with the change is that it blends with the other schools around us so if someone transfers to our school or vice versa, it would be the same. "So far the building feels calmer with less transitions and

there's more time for someone to sit down and get something done," continues Mr. Meznarich. The five minutes in between classes has also been a benefit with the schedule change. It helps with the shared staff that are both in the high school and middle school.

However, putting 18 weeks of classroom material into 12 weeks could be difficult for teachers. Mrs. Tammy Pacholke said, "I personally love the new schdule. It allows for more time to do projects and longer class activites. And kids are retaining more in the extended periods." Some say it may be difficult for some students to sit that long in a classroom. But, it is also good because students have an opportunity to take more classes in one year than before.

Some students shared their thoughts. "I like the new schedule, it seems beneficial to the more absorption of information



Man in charge. High school principal Mr. John Meznarich is excited about the new schedule.

as the hours are longer. This is also a disadvantage though, because it's easier to run out of teaching material and students get bored," said freshman Alysia Fotiadis. Sophomore Kenny Banky added, "I like the new schedule because I don't have a lot of homework from classes, but the classes are really long." Junior Taylor Feidler continued, "I personally do not like the new schedule. The benefits are that we get more electives in a year. The disadvantage of the new schedule is that at the end of the day, we don't have a study hall option where we could leave early like they did last year."

There are many benefits and disadvantages of the new schedule, but change is not always a bad thing. Time will tell as we get through one trimester and transition into the next. Either way, it will be a great year!



Welcome back! The students listen to Mr. Meznarich talk about the new schedule on the first day of school.

Touchdown

by Haley Bossany

Set, hut! The Cameron Comet football team is off to a great season with new head coach, Mr. Jon Haughian.

Coach Haughian was an assistant coach for the team for quite a few years, then, when Coach Bob Bowerman retired, he took over Bowerman's position. According to Coach Haughian, one of the biggest differences between assistant and head coach is that there is more responsibilities both on the field and off.



Huddle. The Cameron football huddles during a time out to get the team pumped up!



Ready to go. Quarterback Hunter Gillett waits for the snap anticipating a big play.

This year's team consists of 13 senior boys. Following the seniors' initiative, the team has achieved many wins this season such as the incredible 54-0 during the homecoming game against the Webster Tigers.

There is a very strong improvement from this year compared to last. "The guys are playing for each other more so than for themselves," states assistant coach Mr. Charlie Rotherty.

This team puts loads of preparation into each and every one

of their games. It all started towards the beginning of the summer when the boys attended a camp, and then another one closer to the middle of the summer. That all lead up until the first game of the season.

As the season went on, the team was up and down, winning and losing some close games. However, they finished their season again with a loss against the very tough Stanley-Boyd team. With the positive leadership this year, future teams will continue to improve.



Ready, set, go!

by Melissa Odenbreit

Bang! And they're off. Cameron's cross country team has been working hard and pushing themselves to be the best. The top seven boys running for Cameron are Logan Severt, Sean McGregor, Micheal Meresca, Jake Salm, Brandon Groskopf, Enrique Balderas, and Logan Baribeau. The boys took fifth place at the conference meet. The top seven girls are Tori Gerber, Kayla Gerber, Carli Wanink, Sydney Lucas, Hannah Zimmerman, Kennady Sevals, and Alexis Potvin. These girls took first at conference.

"Both the boys and girls have improved this year even with all the injuries," said Coach Mr. Tim Borstad.

Sophomore runner Jake Salm said, "I think we have improved the guys' team a ton. We just kept getting better as the year went on. Cross country makes me feel pretty tired, I did it just to stay in shape and to compete and run with my teammates. The best part of cross country is definitely not running. It is just talking with everyone."

"I think we improved tremendously. We are taking at



Get ready. The boys warm up before the Chetek meet.

least one to three minutes off our times. Cross country makes me feel happy. My mom introduced me to cross country and that's why I run. The best part of cross country is crossing the finish line because it shows that I am able to finish the race and accomplish my goals," said senior Sean McGregor.

As some runners ended their season at Sectionals, the girls' team took 3rd--one place away from qualifying for State--and the boys took 13th out of 20. However, individually, Tori Gerber again claimed a spot on the podium!

Congratulations on a great season.



And they're off! The girls take off at the start of the race at the Cameron home meet.

Congratulations, Tori!

For the second straight year, sophomore Tori Gerber qualified for the Cross Country State Meet in Wisconsin Rapids on October 29.

Run, Tori, run! Best of luck to you. Congrats on all of your accomplishments.



Across the border

by Melissa Odenbreit

"Hola!" An unusual summer trip was in store for six Spanish Club students from Cameron High School. Under the supervision of Mrs. Tammy Pacholke, they took a trip to Costa Rica. They joined 18 other students and 4 chaperones from Rice Lake. The trip was definitely one for the students to remember! These travelers have been saving up for this trip since the 2014-15 school year. They raised money by working concessions for CHS football games and Camerama Days, selling pies from Main Street Cafe for Easter and Thanksgiving, and selling chocolates for Valentine's Day.

They learned many new things while in Costa Rica. "While we were on the trip, we saw a lot of different things that weren't native to America. We stopped at a fruit market and tried chirimoya (a weird pear), we saw tons on crocodiles, and one of our hotels was in the rainforest. We got to see armadillos, howler monkeys, exotic birds and even saw cockroaches



Say cheese! The group of students that went on the Costa Rica trip gather together before they leave.

at the hotels (gross, I know)," said Micaela Murphy. "The howler monkeys screamed all night and some people had trouble sleeping from them," Micaela continued.

All the travelers agreed that Costa Rica is a beautiful country with a lot of rain, palm trees, and colorful plants. It is tropical, hot, and very humid. They ate a lot of rice and beans at

every meal. They made pica-dillo which is a popular dish there. They went to a pineapple plantation, a national park, and they got to try a chocolate fruit which tasted like a mango, and the seeds were the chocolate part. They also traveled to Café Britt, which is a coffee plantation located in the rainforest, and a natural hot springs on the Arenal Volcano where they swam for a few hours. Every day they did a new activity.

For the first two nights they stayed in a hotel called El Rancho. The next two nights they spent at Selva Verde in the Sarapiquí Rain Forest. The students also stayed with host families for three days. "Our home stays were done with 2 people to a home, and they were all in a 20 mile radius of El Rancho," said Micaela.

Everyone enjoyed their not-so-typical summer adventure. They were sad to say "adios" to Costa Rica.



Yum! Ali Kringler, Maddie Moen, Shayla Strenke, and Amara Rodriguez enjoy lunch at one of their favorite places.

New faces

by Kaylee Thomson

There have been a lot of changes happening in the Cameron Area School District from schedule changes to new students. One other change is the new teachers we have in the high school. Welcoming both new staff and student teachers, we have a happy bunch of new faces here at CHS; two of them



Band man. Mr. Halverson is excited to help Cameron High School band students become the best band they can be.

being our new band and choir directors, Mr. Tyler Halverson and Mr. Scott Jensen.

Our band instructor, Mr. Halverson, came here from Mondovi, WI. He says his two high school band directors are what inspired him to teach music. “They really got me into music and made it really fun for me.” said Mr. Halverson. Although he takes his job very seriously, he makes playing music fun. “Being able to do something that I love makes it a lot less like work,” he continued.

Instructing our choir is Mr. Scott Jensen, who has been teaching in the state of Wisconsin for 20 years. He says he got into teaching because he has always liked working with



A musical guy. Mr. Jensen is sharing his love and knowledge of choral music with our choir students here at CHS.

people who are younger than him. Incorporating his love and knowledge of choral music into his love for working with younger people, he became a choir teacher. “I had an inspirational music teacher when I was in middle school and inspirational high school band and choir teachers. They were pretty much why I decided to teach music,” he states.



New equations. Mr. Johnson is ready to teach our CHS students some algebra.

Also joining us this year are two brilliant student teachers. Both from U.W. Eau Claire, Mr. Grant Johnson, under the supervision of Mrs. Carla Kuffel and Ms. Sarah Raddenbach, under Mrs. Tammy Pacholke.

Mr. Johnson, an aspiring algebra teacher, was inspired to teach by teachers he’s had in school from kindergarten to 12th grade. He must be wearing

off on his students! “I like how the students are well behaved and they have a motivation to learn,” he says. A strength that Mr. Johnson thinks he has is being approachable. “I think that I’m approachable so students will be able to make mistakes in



A different world. Ms. Raddenbach wants to teach Spanish in a way that will create a different world for students.

my class and not have to be silent about it,” says Mr. Johnson.

Another new approachable student teacher is Ms. Raddenbach. She wants to expand students’ horizons. “I want to help students see a bigger world than just where they’re from through Spanish.” She says teaching in a real classroom is very different than college. “Sometimes in (education) methods classes it’s very general and it has been fun to

New faces, continued on page 7



Welcome back, Krizan. Mrs. Krizan missed CHS so much she just had to come back!

New faces, continued from page 6

see what teaching in a real world classroom is like.”

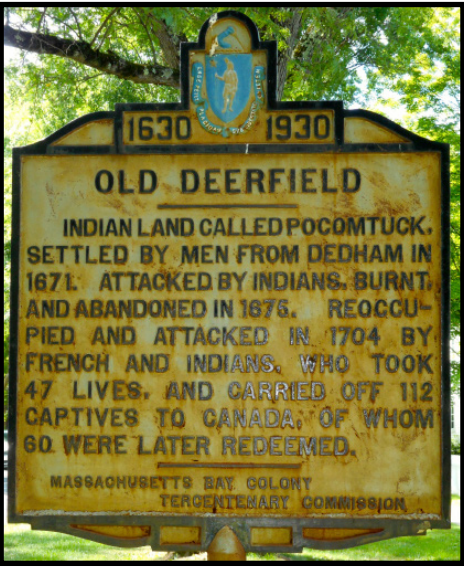
Our last welcome goes to a familiar face, Mrs. Kathy Krizan. After moving here in 2000, Mrs. Krizan found an open English teaching position at Cameron High School. She “retired” in

“Living on the Edge of Empire”

by Kaylee Thomson

This summer, our own Mrs. Sarah Pica attended the Living on the Edge of Empire workshop for teachers in Deerfield, Massachusetts. The workshop was from July 23-30.

Mrs. Pica applied to learn more about culture, to collaborate with other history teachers, and to even become a student herself among expert scholars. She saw many mesmerizing things, such as the view of the Connecticut River Valley from the top of Mount Sugarloaf and the Memorial Hall Museum. She used many things she learned and saw on her trip to



Deerfield, Massachusettes. Mrs. Pica enjoyed visiting and learning about old times.

2011 to help out with her triplet grandchildren. “In order to keep in contact with both colleagues and students at Cameron, I began subbing in the district,” she states. “This fall, I transitioned from my role as a substitute teacher into a position as an



Fine dining. George Washington ate on fine china.

help her students better understand this era of history.

While there, she created a lesson plan that examines the significance of place and different interpretations of land use. The lesson plan asks why people would be willing to kill and die to own property and involves images and documents to examine different perspectives of different people involved in the 1704 Deerfield Raid.

Mrs. Pica also traveled to Anderson House in Washington D.C. from June 26-July 2 with 12 other teachers. These teachers were chosen from 13

academic aide. This role feels like coming home.”

As sad as we are about losing old and familiar staff, we’re excited to welcome our new staff and get used to seeing our new faces in the hallways and classroom. Welcome!

different states to represent the 13 original colonies. On this trip she learned about the American Revolution and Founding Era. From this, she created a lesson plan that explains George Washington’s nickname “the American Cincinnatus” and other things such as the creation of our republic and the War for Independence.

“I was treated like royalty,” Mrs. Pica said. “The Anderson House is amazing. I had my own little suite: The Maryland Room. Each of the 13 state societies sponsored a room and members stay there when visiting D.C.”

Mrs. Pica is a great example of how teachers continue learning to strengthen their teaching abilities. Not only is she a great teacher, but a good student, too!



Colonial learning. Children learned in this classroom many years ago.