

# Cal Communicator

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Preserving Tradition, Pursuing Excellence

*Year End 2018*



*Congratulations CHS Class of 2018!*

# Communications

from Superintendent Dr. Dedrick Martin



Dear Caledonia Community,

I am honored to have been selected as the new Superintendent of Caledonia Community Schools and humbled by the responsibility of leading such an outstanding school district. Prior to being selected to serve Caledonia Community Schools, I acquired over 19 years of building level and central office administrative experiences. The past nine years I served in the capacity of Superintendent at Ypsilanti Public Schools and St. Johns Public Schools. Also, I worked as a special education teacher at the elementary and middle school levels, assistant principal, principal, track coach and basketball coach earlier in my career.

While I eagerly prepare working side by side with administrators, teachers and staff to serve our school community I have already taken advantage of the opportunity to visit all school buildings during the last week of the school year. Additionally, I was able to attend an outstanding performance of the Strike Percussion Ensemble, an administrative training with the Caledonia administrative staff and cheer on our girls softball team in Lansing as they captured the 2018 State Championship title. The entire team displayed great teamwork and character as they brought home the title. Congratulations to Coach Kaechele and the 2018 Girls Softball team – Go Scots!

As we move through the summer and into the fall, I will take multiple opportunities to listen, learn, connect and communicate with the board of education, teachers, students, staff, administrators, parents and community members. This tour of listening and learning will take many forms over the next few months and will allow me to gain a better understanding of the needs of our students and district. In addition, it will help build the foundation for a revised strategic plan that will guide the district into the future over the next few years.

I look forward to working with you as we strive to provide the highest quality learning environment and culture for the students of Caledonia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Dedrick Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Superintendent

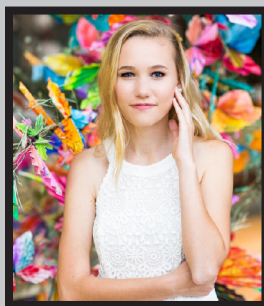
***Preserving Tradition ~ Pursuing Excellence***



# CHS Class of 2018 Academic Top 10



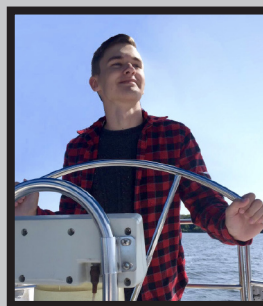
Heather Asuncion



Josephine Buchan  
Valedictorian



Tyler DeGraaf



Justin Hutchins



Ian Klug



Carson Robotham



Macailin Rodriguez



Jessica Thomas



Amanda Vallillee



William Weninger  
Salutatorian

"Top Ten" students are listed alphabetically by last name.

## Senior Girls Brunch Celebration

Caledonia senior girls and their mothers, gathered at the high school for the Senior Girls Brunch on Tuesday, May 22, to celebrate their accomplishments and reminisce on the years gone by. The ladies entered to the sounds of the bagpipe, played by junior Harrison Norkus, and were greeted by members of the Caledonia Women's Club, host of the annual event. Members did a fantastic job decorating the cafeteria with beautiful hats, tea pots and floral

arrangements, and provided a plethora of delicacies to dine on.

After enjoying musical arrangements by Cassidy Noyes and Nancy Crumback, guest speaker Shelley Irwin, took the stage. Borrowing from milk's famous tagline, "Got milk?" Irwin asked the girls if they've "Got character?" "Got passion?" and "Got foundation?" challenging them to focus on building these three things as they depart the halls of

CHS. She continued by sharing stories of her times in high school and the journey she took from there, which led to the numerous roles she holds now, as both the host and producer of WGUV's morning show, and in the many charitable organizations she supports.

The Caledonia Women's Club then awarded four memorial scholarships worth \$1,000 each, to Tyler DeGraaf, Holly Denouden, Rachel Humes and Nicole Humes. CHS senior girls with plans to attend a two-year college, four-year

college or vocational school were eligible. In addition, the club honored Caledonia Women's Club Heritage Scholarship winner, Sydney Ruthven, who was presented with a \$1,000 scholarship at the Senior Academic Awards Night on May 18.

The senior girls look forward to this event every year. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Caledonia Women's Club for the efforts they put into making this event a success, and for their continued support of our Caledonia ladies.





# Congratulations Caledonia



*“Together, we have  
experienced life.  
Separately, we will  
pursue our dreams.  
Forever, our memories  
will remain.”*

~ Anonymous





# High School Class of 2018!



Caledonia High School held commencement ceremonies in honor of its 2018 graduating class, on Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 PM. It was a beautiful spring evening, perfect for the graduates, their families and friends to celebrate. Valedictorian, Josephine Buchan, addressed her classmates with a reflection on their time spent at Caledonia, and wished her peers well on their journey ahead. There was much excitement as the class of 2018 accepted their diplomas, signifying the years of hard work and dedication they had spent on their K-12 education. Congratulations class of 2018, you have made Caledonia proud. Best wishes for all of our future endeavors.





## Meemic Masterpieces Art Contest

Recently, the diversity council at Kraft Meadows Middle School hosted DIVERSIPRIZE!, an art contest which celebrated students differences through art. Thirty-one entries from the contest were then submitted to the Meemic Masterpieces Art Contest for consideration.

There were thousands of entries into this contest, of which three winners were from Kraft Meadows Middle School. Never in the history of the contest have there been three winners from one school! Congratulations to Elizabeth Honhart, Kala Bisterfeldt and Adrian Heiser on this huge accomplishment!

Keith and Andy Steensma local Meemic representatives for the Meemic Foundation for the Future of Education and Meemic Insurance Company, came to Kraft Meadows to present the winners with an HP Chromebook and \$300 in art supplies for their school!

For additional information on the Meemic Foundation, please visit [AndySteensmaAgency.com](http://AndySteensmaAgency.com) and click on Meemic Foundation.



## Save the date!



Friday, October 5, 2018

### CAL Communicator

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The official newsletter of  
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We would like to thank the many school coordinators, staff personnel and community members for contributions of time and information to this issue. Your assistance is valued and greatly appreciated.

Community contributions that enhance the learning, safety and enjoyment of all Caledonia students, regardless of age, will be considered for community connections by contacting the editor.

Although not every contribution can be published due to space and time constraints, information and articles will be considered by the Caledonia Community Schools' staff.

**Deadline for the Back to School '18 issue is Friday, July 20, 2018.**

It is the policy of Caledonia Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies:

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For questions regarding this publication's distribution, please contact the editor:

[higleys@calschools.org](mailto:higleys@calschools.org)  
or the Administration Office at:  
(616) 891-8185



# Emmons Lake OM at World Finals

An Odyssey of the Mind team from Emmons Lake Elementary represented Michigan at the 2018 OM World Finals. The four day event took place at Iowa State University, May 23-26, where over 800 teams from 14 countries joined together in competition.

Odyssey of the Mind is a program that encourages students to “think outside the box,” while using teamwork, creativity, arts, science and technology to solve problems. Each year, teams choose one of five themed long term problems to tackle over the course of the year, without adult assistance. In addition, teams are presented with a spontaneous problem at each competition, where they must come together to find a solution on the spot.

The team from Emmons Lake competed in a problem titled Triathlon Travels. The team worked together to design and build an original vehicle that had to complete three different challenges. They used their vehicle to try to score in “curling”, hit the right targets when “jousting”, and “run track” by navigating around objects, both forward and backward. Between the events, they had to entertain the audience and make their vehicle change appearance. All of this had to be completed in eight minutes, while maintaining a budget of less than \$145.

Placing first at both regional and state competitions, Emmons Lake’s Division 1 team, coached by Caryn Kersey, advanced to the World Finals. Team members included Jenny George, Elizabeth Hilton, Adlai Kersey, D.J. Potgeter, Jake Potgeter, Patrick Harmon and Halle Stout. The team based their solution on Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show. Each teammate became a character that they found while researching the wild west show. The “track race” was a barrel race event in which the vehicle had to travel forward and backward around the barrels without hitting them. The “curling” event became the “Chicken Chase” where the chicken had to land inside the target zones in order to score points for the team. In the “jousting” event, five out of nine targets had

to be knocked over, while the remaining four stayed standing. Their presentation also included an amazing set of props including a vehicle that looked like a horse, a hand painted grandstand, handmade hobby horses, a commentators booth made completely of tape, and many other great pieces.

At the regional competition, the team was awarded a Ranatra Fusca Creativity award, which is the highest award that can be given to an Odyssey of the Mind team. The team won the award for demonstrating outstanding creativity in their problem solutions.

Emmons Lake placed 6th overall out of 53 teams in their division. They had a spectacular performance for their long term problem, that earned them 1st for the technical aspects of the problem, and 2nd for the style. The hours the students put into preparing for this competition are immeasurable, and as a result, they all learned so much!

While at the competition, the team also enjoyed both the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as visits to the Creativity Festival. Another favorite activity was “pin trading”, where students trade pins with students from other states and countries. As a part of the experience, Emmons Lake students were paired with a “buddy team” from the International School of Geneva in Switzerland. This was the third year for these students to be buddy teams with this school, allowing the team to reconnect with friends they had made last year, as well as meet some new friends. Students were able to enjoy many meals together and support each other at their performances. The teams also exchanged gifts representing their respective countries.

Odyssey of the Mind has taught these students how to think creatively and work together to find a solution to a problem. It was great to see how this trip to the World Finals in Iowa brought them closer together as a team. They did an outstanding job representing Emmons Lake and our Caledonia community!





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## Congratulations Caledonia Softball MHSAA Division 1 State Champions!



Caledonia softball brought home the first softball state championship in school history, on Saturday, June 16. Caledonia out scored their opponents 41 to 5 in the post season tournament with four of their seven games ending in shut outs. Caledonia beat Hartland 6 to 4 in the championship game.