

Clearspring Middle School Newsletter

December 2014



Principal's Message

Clearspring Middle School is working hard to keep our promise:

WE PROMISE...

- To teach students, not subjects**
- To believe the best, hope for the best, and cheer for the best in every person**
- To make learning fun**
- To be proactive rather than reactive**
- To teach in ways that respond to our students' needs**
- To meet students where they are**
- To keep in mind that learning is a process that takes time and commitment**
- To keep relationships at the core of how we work together**
- To help each student feel valued**
- To create an atmosphere that welcomes every student to belong**
- To dream big and to work hard**
- To challenge all students to learn at high levels**

While we don't always get it right, we are committed to this as our approach to building a strong school community. We have just completed parent-teacher conferences and report cards, which link to our commitment. This year, we had our Parent/Teacher conferences before our report cards went out. One of our goals was to shift our conversations toward learning rather than

marks alone. Another goal is to provide a little more time for learning before the report card mark needs to be determined. Please let us know how that went for you; was this a positive experience, worth trying again, or was it something you do not recommend repeating. Our hope is that as our work together with parents and students will result in high levels of learning for each student.

Our focus this year is to promote a growth mindset in students. All students have been introduced to the idea of a growth mindset in an assembly and in their classes. Ms. Plett and Mr. Neufeld did a short refresher for all Grade 6 classes. Carol Dweck, the author of *Growth Mindset*, says there are essentially two different mindsets, and that one's mindset makes a huge difference in learning, in life, and in relationships. A growth mindset is a way of thinking about life that sees obstacles as something that can be overcome with effort, that learning is possible with effort, and that if I am unable to do something, I tell myself, "I can't do it *yet*." I encourage parents to check out the website listed below, talk with your children, and let us know what you think.

<http://www.brainpickings.org/2014/01/29/carol-dweck-mindset/>

Principal:
Ed Neufeld

Vice Principal:
Merrilee Plett

Secretaries:
Tammy Nye
Cheryl Thiessen

Clearspring
Middle
School

1 Brighton Lane
Steinbach, MB
R5G 0Y2
204-346-9644

December Events

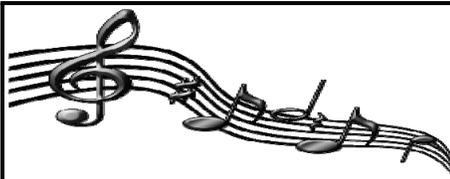
December is always a time of anticipation. We look forward to our Christmas concerts, to the extra activities that happen around this time, and to the holidays. This year, we have two Christmas concerts, students will be singing at Steinbach Credit Union, and we have our 3rd Annual Big Show, our talent show, on December 19. We have a great sense of community at CMS, and look forward to a great month in December.

Gr 7 Passion Projects

Family and friends are welcome to join in the "Celebration of Learning" for the Gr 7 Passion Projects. Student exhibits will be set up in the Gr 7 neighborhood on Thursday, Dec 18th from 1:30-3:00. Hope to see you there.

Gr 7 Camp Cedarwood

On January 8th there will be a parent information night in regards to Camp Cedarwood. The meeting will be in the CMS Library at either 4:15 or 7:00. Please select one of the times to attend.



Notes from our
CMS Music
Dept

CMS is looking forward to the first concerts of the year. Students need to arrive at school for 6:30. All band students are expected to wear black pants/skirt and black shoes. The band shirt will be supplied.

Dec 4—Gr 7/8 Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.

Dec 17—Gr 5/6 Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.

Clearspring Middle School—Athletics Report

Volleyball season is almost at an end. Throughout the season our teams have experienced many successes, and this continued in the playoffs for our Grade 8 Girls Gold team, who competed in the HSD Volleyball Final on Nov 19. The team played an exciting game vs Niverville, but was ultimately defeated. Congratulations on being 2014 Volleyball Finalists! Our Grade 8 teams also hosted home tournaments in November; congratulations to the Grade 8 Girls Blue team who finished 2nd in their tournament on Nov 7, and to the Grade 8 Boys who claimed the championship at their tournament on Nov 14. The Grade 8 Girls teams both competed at SCHS on Nov 14-15; congratulations to both teams, as the Gold team placed 4th and the Blue team finished 2nd!

Congratulations to all our players on their accomplishments this season! Good luck to the Grade 8 Girls Volleyball teams as they travel to Winnipeg for the MVA Junior High Challenge on Dec 5-6.

Our athletic program is run entirely by volunteers! If you know a parent, teacher or student who volunteered as a coach or scorekeeper, please take time to thank them for the great work they did during this season. Our volleyball teams do not run without the many hours of time donated by these people. Thank you!

Grade 5 Volleyball: Mr. J Loewen, Ms. S Heese, Ms. D Gautron
Grade 7 Girls: Mr. M Vogt, Ms. B Massey, Ms. A Giesbrecht
Grade 8 Girls Gold: Mr. K Harder, Ms. S Harder, Ms. P Martens

Grade 6 Volleyball: Mr. A.J. Neufeld
Grade 7 Boys: Ms. C Peters, Mr. R Fender
Grade 8 Boys: Ms. K Pappel, Mr. L Pappel

Basketball

Basketball teams will begin practicing at the beginning of January. Sign-ups for Grade 7 and 8 teams have been posted.

CMS is still looking for coaches for a number of our teams; if you are interested in coaching, or assistant coaching, a basketball team, please contact Mr. A.J. Neufeld (aneufeld@hsd.ca) or Mr. Trevor Paton (tpaton@hsd.ca) for more information. Grade 7-8 leagues begin the week of Jan 26, with Grade 8 Finals on Monday, March 17. We would love to have you involved! Grade 5 and 6 After School Basketball will also start at the beginning of February. Watch for more information on this after Christmas.

CMS will also be in need of referees to officiate during basketball season. If you have some experience officiating, or would like to gain some experience, please contact the PE staff.

How Many Languages Do You Know?

What does it mean to truly know a language? Does knowing a language mean being able to speak, read, and write the language? Does it mean being able to speak it fluently in various cultural and professional contexts?

The new international standard for learning and evaluating languages, the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) clearly outlines what effective language learners and teachers have always known:

- (1) There are **receptive language skills (listening and reading)** and these are often developed first.
- (2) The **productive language skills (speaking and writing)** are often the ones that are measured the most, but are harder to develop.
- (3) Speaking is not simply about repeating and pronouncing correctly. It is made up of **spoken production (repeating, reading aloud) and spoken interaction (actual authentic conversation)**.
- (4) **Culture** plays a huge role in how language is interpreted and used in daily situations.

The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) has created a Canadian version of the CEFR for our nation’s schools and has sponsored the production of a wide array of resource materials for French teachers to use in their classrooms to make language learning more effective and authentic.

To answer that question about how many languages can one know? Well, in its article “How Many Languages is it Possible to Know?”, *Mental Floss* magazine outlines some of the most famous polyglots (rather hyperpolyglots of our era). One of them is alleged to know 72 languages.

Oh là là!

Helen Malandrakis—French Team Leader

For more information about the CEFR, checkout page 33 in the document below:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/source/framework_en.pdf

To read about other amazing hyperpolyglots, read this article online:

Okrent, Akira. "How Many Languages Is It Possible to Know?" *Mental Floss*. Mental Floss Inc., 27 Feb. 2013. <<http://mentalfloss.com/article/49138/how-many-languages-it-possible-know>>



CMS Library

Library Books are available for sign-out during the Christmas break. Please remember to re-new books that you have checked out and plan to continue reading over the break.

Wishing you the joy and laughter of family



December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Gr 7/8 Christmas Concert 7:00 PM	5 Reports Go Home	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Gr 5/6 Christmas Concert 7:00 PM	18 Gr 7 Passion Project	19 CMS Big Show	20
21	22 Christmas Break Dec 22-Jan 4	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	See you on Jan 5		



Daily Hot Lunch Items

Monday	Special Fundraiser Lunch or Taco Del Mar Quesadilla (steak or chicken)	\$3.75
Tuesday	DQ Double Cheese Burger	\$3.50
Wednesday	Rocco's Pizza	\$2.00
Thursday	Main Bread & Butter Chicken Noodle Soup & Bun	\$3.50
Friday	Turkey/Ham or Cold Cut Sub	\$3.75
	Nachos and Cheese will continue to be served	\$3.00



Items Served Last Friday Of Each Month

Chocolate Bars/candy packages/gum.....	\$1.25
Chips.....	\$1.00
Ring Pops.....	\$0.50
Individual packages of various candy.....	\$.25

**May you be surrounded by the love,
joy and peace that is Christmas.**

The HSD Board of Trustees and Administration would like to take this opportunity to wish all students, parents, teachers, and staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Attendance - Please Help Us Out!

When students are absent and parents have not informed us we call each family to ensure the safety of our students. Please help us out by calling 204-346-9644 or emailing cms@hsd.ca to let us know if your child will be absent. This helps us out and means you won't need to get a phone call from us that day.