

Clearspring Middle School Newsletter

September 2014



Principal's Message

Clearspring Middle School is thrilled to be starting our third year! We have assembled a fantastic staff of teachers, EAs, secretaries, librarians and custodians, and we are ready to get started on providing a first-rate education to every student in our school. Over the past two years, we have learned about the concept of a *growth mindset* with our staff, and this year we are making a commitment to being a Growth Mindset School. One of the most basic beliefs we carry about ourselves has to do with how we view and inhabit what we consider our personality (Carol Dweck, *Mindset; The New Psychology of Success*). A growth mindset thrives on challenge and sees failure not as evidence of low intelligence, but as a heartening springboard for growth and for stretching our abilities. According to Dweck, what makes the growth mindset so powerful is that ***"it creates a passion for learning rather than a hunger for approval"***. The opposite of a growth mindset is a fixed mindset. Those with a fixed mindset avoid challenge, give up easily, are easily frustrated, and ignore feedback or criticism. Those with a fixed mindset desire to be seen as perfect and talented, whereas those with a growth mindset ***desire to learn and to improve***. Our school is committed to promoting a growth mindset in all our students. We will praise EFFORT, not ABILITY. We will encourage risk (which means some failure), and see risk and failure as learning opportunities. All of our work with students will reflect this commitment.

Clearspring Middle School has made a strong commitment to being the best middle school we

can be. We use as our guide sixteen characteristics of a successful middle school as outlined by the Association of Middle Level Educators (AMLE). These traits are on our website, and we consider them in all our planning at CMS. In addition to that, we have made a promise to our community, which is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. We intend to keep our promise, and invite parents to engage with us as we seek to help all students learn at the highest levels possible.

We have some great news about our playground – we will be using it this year! That means that our students will need to learn some new habits, but we are pleased that we can begin to build a healthy playground culture at school. We are also going to return to a single, common, lunch hour. That means that all of our students will eat their lunch from 11:49 – 12:14, after which we will begin intramurals, noon activities, and outdoor play.

Each student receives a Student Handbook from the school, and a copy of it is on our website. Please take some time to review this handbook with your child(ren). The better school and family work together, the higher the chances of school success for students.

We are looking forward to another great year at CMS, and welcome parents to join us on this incredible journey of learning!

Principal:
Ed Neufeld

Vice Principal:
Merrilee Plett

Secretaries:
Tammy Nye
Cheryl Thiessen

Looking Ahead!

Picture Day on
September 19!

Safe Routes to School

We have some fairly high traffic volumes around the school in both the morning and the afternoon. To help keep students safe, PLEASE drive carefully.

Student drop off and pick up will happen on the **WEST** side of the school. Please do not park along the sidewalk in the drop-off loop. If you need to park, you may park in the west parking lot. We share this lot with the Kinder Korner Daycare, so we urge you to be especially careful on that lot and in the drop-off loop.

Our buses come to school along Brighton Lane, and will be part of the regular traffic pattern. As much as possible, please give buses preferential treatment around the school. Please exercise great caution as you travel around the school.



Religious Exercises 2014 -15

The Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has received petitions requesting that religious exercises be held in Clearspring Middle School during the 2014 – 15 school year.

The petitioners have specified their desire for the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer and the reading of a Bible passage or story from the Bible.

As the petition bears the signatures of parents representing more than 60 students in the school, the Board of Trustees of the

Hanover School Division has authorized religious exercises, as specified above, to be held before the official instructional day, from 9:00-9:05 a.m. in common areas in the school. Provincial and divisional guidelines will be followed. These guidelines are available from the school office, the division administration office, or on the web site at www.hsd.ca.

Only children of parents who have signed or joined the petition may participate. Parents may join the petition by forwarding a signed note to the school or to the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division indicating the name and the grade of the students they are signing for.

Religious Instruction 2014 -15

The Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has received petitions requesting that religious instruction be held in Clearspring Middle School during the 2014 – 15 school year.

The petitioners have specified their desire the Discovery Time program offered by Child Evangelism Fellowship.

As the petition bears the signatures of parents representing more than 25 students in the school, the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has passed the required by-law permitting religious instruction, as

specified above, to be offered by volunteers during designated half-hour per week classes.

Provincial and divisional guidelines will be followed. These guidelines are available from the school office, the division administration office, or on the web site at www.hsd.ca.

Only children of parents who have signed or joined the petition may participate. Parents may join the petition by forwarding a signed note to the school or to the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division indicating the name and the grade of the students they are signing for.



PICTURE DAY IS COMING!

Mark your calendar for our school Picture Day on Friday, September 19. Picture day information forms will be sent home with all students. Please review the information carefully. Pictures will be in a digital format so you will need to look it over with a more careful eye this year than in past years.

All students will be photographed for school service products.

For tips on preparing for photo day, visit lifetouch.ca

Questions? Call Lifetouch at 1 866 457 8212 or email: guest-services@lifetouch.ca

PHONE CALLS

If students have an urgent reason to contact their parents, they may do so with teacher permission. We urge parents to leave messages at the office if they need to contact their child.

In order to limit interruption of classes, messages to students will be given to them at breaks, lunch or after school. We will generally not call students out of class for a phone call unless it is an emergency.

We ask that, whenever possible, parents communicate after school arrangements with their children in the morning.

At CMS We Promise:

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

CMS Parent Advisory Council

The Parent Advisory Council has organized, and is eager to begin working with the students and staff at Clearspring Middle School to enhance the school experience for all children.

The PAC Executive would like to invite ALL parents to an Annual General Meeting on September 16 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the school. This is your opportunity to be heard, to be involved, and to meet with other interested parents.

For more information please contact: Laura Oswald 204-346-0118 or lauraoswald@mymts.net



PLEASE remember that is now law that all bikers under the age of 18 must wear a bike helmet.

Strong Connections

Clearspring Middle School will be participating in Strong Connections. Strong Connections is intended to give teachers and students a head start with developing good relationships that will benefit all students both academically and socially. On each day of September 12th and September 15th, only half of our students will come to school, while the other half will stay at home. A note telling you which day your family will attend will be sent home with your child this week.

One tremendous benefit of Strong Connections is that teachers and students have the opportunity to spend scheduled time in a one-on-one situation, which gives both students and teachers a chance to get to know each other better early in the school year. Teachers will also be doing some assessment of student learning on these days in order to help plan instruction for their students.

A second benefit for students and the school is the team building that goes on during Strong Connections. Students work together in multi-grade groups to complete activities and play some games. I don't doubt that some of these connections will last the whole year, or even longer. We are looking forward to these days!

CLEARSPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL CANTEEN

Milk/ Chocolate Milk.....	\$1.00
Bottled Water.....	\$0.75
Juice Box.....	\$0.75
Gatorade.....	\$2.00
TCBY Frozen Yogurt.....	\$2.00
Cheese Strings.....	\$0.50
Jello pudding (chocolate, butterscotch, vanilla).....	\$0.50
Fruit To Go.....	\$0.50
Hot Rod pepperoni sticks.....	\$0.50
Granola bars.....	\$0.50
Mini Ritz/Cheese sandwiches.....	\$0.50
Nachos and cheese.....	\$3.00
Mr. Noodles Soup – Beef or chicken flavoured.....	\$1.50
Plastic fork/ spoon.....	\$0.10

HOT LUNCH SCHEDULE:

Monday: Special Fundraiser Lunch or	
Taco Del Mar Burrito	\$3.75
Tuesday: DQ Double Cheeseburger	\$3.50
Wednesday: Rocco's Pizza	
- pepperoni	
- cheese	
- ham and pineapple	\$2.00
Thursday: Main Bread and Butter	
Chicken Noodle Soup and Bun	\$3.50
Friday: Turkey/Ham/Cold Cut Sub	\$3:75

Items served on last Friday of the Month:

Chocolate bars/candy packages/gum.....	\$1.25
Chips.....	\$1.00
Ring pops.....	\$0.50
Individual packages of various candy.....	\$0.25

CANTEEN

The canteen at Clearspring Middle School is run by parent volunteers. The canteen will be open Monday, September 8 and hot lunches will begin at that time as well.

Our canteen relies on parent volunteers to stay open. If you are able to help out on a weekly, monthly or anything in-between, please contact Stacy Harder at 204-326-1114 or email kandsharder@gmail.com

Cross Country

Cross Country season starts right at the beginning of the school year. Our school's runners will attend the two HSD Divisional Meets, on September 26 and on October 3. Some of our students may also participate in the Milk School Team Championships as well as the Chris McCubbins Age Class Championships. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

Volleyball

Volleyball season also begins right away, with tournaments beginning the week of September 29. Grade 7 and 8 Girls games will be on Tuesdays, while the Grade 7 and 8 Boys will play on Thursdays. Sign-ups for these teams will take place this week and next week. Practices for most teams are scheduled to begin on or after Thursday, September 4th.

Grade 5/6 Athletics

Grade 5 and 6 students at CMS will have the opportunity to participate in after school intramural leagues in volleyball, basketball and badminton this year. At Clearspring, the focus of these leagues will be to develop basic skills in half of each session, while the other half will allow athletes to compete against each other in games and tournaments. Students of all skill levels and abilities are welcome to participate. Grade 5 and 6 volleyball will begin shortly.

Volunteer Coaches

As Clearspring Middle School begins a new school year, there will be many coaching opportunities available. If you are interested in contributing your time and expertise to one of our sports teams, please contact Mr. A.J. Neufeld (aneufeld@hsd.ca) at the school. We would love to have you be part of the Trailblazer team!

Clearspring Middle School Staff

Principal

Ed Neufeld

Vice - Principal

Merrilee Plett

Secretaries

Tammy Nye
Cheryl Thiessen

Jon Kornelsen
Meg Loewen
Belinda Massey
Kevin Martens
Trevor Paton
Chloe Tate

Grade 8 / Art
Grade 8
Grade 8 / Art
Grade 8
Grade 8 / Phys. Ed
Grade 8 / French

Faculty

Laurel Schellenberg Resource (Grade 5-6)
Douglas Mack Resource (Grade 7-8)
Cyndy Ganz School Counsellor

Dawn Gautron Grade 5
Sara Heese Grade 5
Elaine Kalyta Grade 5
John Loewen Grade 5
Susan Tilling Grade 5

Russ Bergen Grade 6
Karlissa Davidson Grade 6 / Music
Vince Hiebert Grade 6
Charmaine Mackid Grade 6
Alexandra Nikkel Grade 6
Arlene Tkachuk Grade 6
Leanne Warkentin Grade 6

Candace Campbell Grade 7
Murray Carter Grade 7
Patty Nicholls Grade 7
Paul Reimer Grade 7
Ronae Warkentine Grade 7

Michelle Funk
Dave Thiessen
Krystyna Luczak
Helen Malandrakis
A.J. Neufeld

Band / Music
Tech Ed
Home Ec
French
Phys. Ed

Support Staff:

Arlene Baldwin Librarian
Dave Friesen Custodian
Brittany Hudrick Asst. Head Custodian
Lindsay Michaniuk Custodian
Valentina Derksen Assistant Custodian
Viktoria Beitenger Assistant Custodian
Natalia Krueger Assistant Custodian
Sharlou Ballares Assistant Custodian
Judith Dyck Assistant Custodian

Educational Assistants:

Carrie Charriere
Gwen Dueck
Louella Giesheimer
Adeline Koop
Dave Mensies
Frank Praetsch
Ruth Sawatzky
Cathy Schellenberg
Michael Wiebe

A French Moment: Improve Your Brain by Learning More Languages

You already know that keeping your brain active with crossword puzzles, Sudoku, and stimulating conversation all help to delay the start of degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's. If you could take part in these engaging discussions and mental puzzles in ANOTHER language, you would be doing your brain an even bigger favour. It was a Canadian study that first proved that bilingualism plays the same role as doing puzzles in delaying the start of Alzheimer's disease.

Becoming fluent in another language actually increases the size of the brain's mighty cerebral cortex whose responsibilities cover not only memory but the ability to reason, plan, and process visual information. The brain's hippocampus, charged with helping long-term memories form, also becomes enlarged when a person learns another language. Learning another language also has distinct positive effects on a person's general intelligence and reading ability. This is due to the mental gymnastics a person experiences when searching for just the right word or phrase while working across multiple languages. Those who learn another language also see a boost to their creativity, empathy towards other cultures, and a better understanding of their own mother tongue.

Moreover, the advantages of learning another language are not limited to youth; science has proven that both brain structure and function benefit from learning a new language well into adulthood.

So, whether it's striving to remain mentally sharp or improving your memory and reading ability right now, learning another language is an effective way to nourish your brain. Talk to your child's French teacher or see me for some great websites and apps that can help you on your way to French fluency.

Helen Malandrakis
French Team Leader

CMS School Calendar

<p>September 2 Meet the Teacher 4:30-6:00 p.m. September 3 First day of classes September 12 Strong Connections September 15 Strong Connections September 17 Band "Gold Card" Fundraiser September 19 Picture Day</p> <p>October 13 Thanksgiving - no classes October 23 Picture Retakes - afternoon October 24 SAGE - no classes October 29 WE Day</p> <p>November 6 Parent/Teacher Conferences November 7 Remembrance Day Assembly November 10 PD Day - no classes November 11 Remembrance Day - no classes November 12-Dec. 5 Grade 6 DARE Program November 17 Admin Day - no classes</p> <p>December 4 Grade 7& 8 Christmas Concert December 5 Report Cards December 17 Grade 5&6 Christmas Concert December 19 Big Show and last day of classes</p> <p>January 5 First day of classes January 30 PD Day - no classes</p>	<p>February 4-6 Grade 7's at Cedarwood February 9-13 Book Fair February 16 Louis Riel Day - no classes February 27 PD Day - no classes</p> <p>March 11&12 Grade 8 tours at SRSS (during the day) March 13 Admin Day - no classes March 20 Report Cards March 24 Parent/Teacher Conferences March 27 Last day of classes</p> <p>April 6 First day of classes April 8 Grade 8 Parent Meeting at SRSS April 9 Project Hanover April 10 Admin Day - no classes</p> <p>May 18 Victoria Day - no classes May 21 Incoming Gr 5 Parent Meeting (7:00)</p> <p>June 2 Grade 5 & 6 Track and Field Day June 4 Grade 7 & 8 Track and Field Day June 9 Grade 5 & 6 Track and Field Rain Date June 11 Grade 7 & 8 Track and Field Rain Date June 11 Concert Finale June 28 Last Day of classes</p>
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September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labour Day No Classes	2 Admin Day Meet the Teacher 4:30-6:00 p.m.	3 First Day of Classes	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Strong Connections	13
14	15 Strong Connections	16	17 Band Fundraiser Begins	18	19 Picture Day	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				