

October Newsletter

Last month, I wrote that our goal at CMS is to be the best middle school we can be. That includes providing plenty of opportunities for students to grow as learners, to grow as citizens, and to grow in character. Our teachers carefully plan for each student to learn in their classes, we provide multiple opportunities for students to be involved in school clubs and school leadership, and our extra-curricular program gives students a chance to excel in areas of their choice. A school's "temperament" is not always easy to measure, but I will say that my observations of students as they interact with their teachers and with each other lead me to believe that there is much joy in our school.

One feature of our school's leadership program is our Allies program. Two student leaders from each class are nominated by their peers. These students (48) are then provided with training and opportunity to talk about their peers' school experience with school principals and teachers. Our goal is to train good leaders, to help promote positive peer interactions, and provide students with an opportunity to speak openly and honestly to school adults about how things are going at school and how we can improve our students' school experience.

From time to time, some students and their families experience difficulties, and we want to be sure to support those students through a difficult time. We have a team of teachers and principals who meet regularly to ensure that we are doing the best we can to assist struggling students. Please call the school if your child is experiencing struggles - we really do want to help.



A few highlights of this past month are:

1. A successful Terry Fox Run. The Terry Fox Run has become a part of school culture. Like fire drills and Christmas concerts, it has found a place in every school year. I am grateful for the opportunity for our students to think about and focus on cancer research.
2. Our Cross Country team of runners brought home four banners (Three first place, one second place). Our school's tradition is that banner winning teams get to run the halls making noise, so we celebrated their success with them as they ran.
3. Grade 5 classes had a bonding afternoon at A.D. Penner park. A BBQ lunch was followed by an afternoon of games. Students and staff reported a fun afternoon.
4. On our Strong Connections Days, students worked one on one with their teachers to learn more about who the students are as learners. When not with their teacher, were engaged in an art activity or a PE activity. We had two great days of creating strong connections.
5. Our Grade 7 students spent several days at Camp Cedarwood. Students and teachers had a wonderful time building strong relationships which are the foundation of good learning.
6. Our Grade 6 students led us in our first all school assembly to share their learning about residential schools. We held that assembly on September 30, the day we recognized Orange Shirt Day in our school. The Grade 6 students did a wonderful job of telling stories of history, healing, and hope.
7. Our Parent Advisory Council has their AGM on Tuesday, September 17. We had a great discussion about the vision that guides our school and our decision-making. Thanks to ALL the parents who support our school, and walk with us as we celebrate learning and solve the inevitable problems that will arise in a community of 650 people.

