

December 2021

Principal's Message

It is now only a few days before Christmas Break. The weather has turned cold (and then warmed up again!) and the days are getting shorter!

I want to start with a celebration! CMS completed a fundraising drive in the beginning of December to support Steinbach Community Outreach! Students donated mittens, toques, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, laundry detergent, dish detergent and a LOT of toilet paper! I am so proud of our students and our school community for donating to this worthy cause!

Our focus on kindness and gratefulness has continued into December. The Christmas trees in our front lobby and in our library have been decorated by gratefulness decorations made by our students. It is heartwarming to spend a time reading those decorations.

Our volleyball season has wrapped up and our basketball season will be starting up. Thank you to the many teacher, parent and community volunteers who spent time coaching and supervising. Basketball season requires us to follow different restrictions as per the Public Health orders. Information has been sent to Grade 7 and 8 parents.

Our skating rink is up and running! We would like to say thank you to Elite Redi-Mix for providing the loads of water that really helped us get the rink started. Students need to have permission forms in order to use the rink. Those forms can be found on Parent Portal, or ask your child to bring a physical copy home with them (they can pick them up from the phys ed teachers).

Our Christmas Concert will be virtual this year! Ms. Hutchinson is working with each Grade 5 class to prepare a song that will be video recorded and a link will be sent out to parents! We anticipate this link will be sent out sometime on December 20 or 21.

Our lead up to Christmas Break this year looks a little bit different than other years because Christmas Day falls on a Saturday. **The last day of school is Wednesday, December 22. Our first day back is Thursday, January 6.** We are planning a few dress up days on the last week of school: Monday, Dec 20 is Christmas Colour Day (red, white, green); Tuesday, Dec 21 is Tacky Christmas Sweater Day; Wednesday, Dec 22 is Comfy/Cozy day (lounging wear)

And finally, a big thank you to our parents for your continued patience as we deal with vehicle traffic at the end of each day! We are doing our best to keep traffic moving. It is most helpful if parents arrive a little later for pick up, if at all possible. Students are only dismissed at 3:33. If it works for your family, please try to arrive at 3:35 or a bit later. That can help some of the congestion we are experiencing.

From the staff at Clearspring Middle School, I'd like to wish you and your family a joy filled holiday season!

Merry Christmas!



Keeping Students Safe Online:

Parents are often looking for resources on how to help their children navigate the online world and social media. The following link is a wonderful resource for parents. It includes topics like: cyberbullying and digital drama, rules for social media, information about setting up personal YouTube channels, and how to set boundaries. If you go under the “**Parents Need to Know**” tab you can find out information specific to Fortnite, Roblox, Snapchat, TikTok, Minecraft and more.

<https://www.common sense media.org/social-media/age/tweens>

Travelling over Christmas Break?

The following link is from the Government of Canada Website which contains important information to consider should you decide to travel internationally:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/fully-vaccinated-travellers-without-covid-19-symptoms-returning-canada.html>

Please pay particular attention to the section “Requirements for an unvaccinated child less than 12 years of age”. For 14 days after arrival, the child must not attend school, camp or daycare. There are other restrictions, please see the link for more details.

Cold Weather Reminders/ Recess and School Closures:

See HSD policy for school closures:

<https://hsd.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CA-School-Closure.pdf>

CMS will only have indoor recess when either the temperature or the windchill is -30 or lower. If the temperature is -30 with no wind, we may have students go out for a shortened recess so they can get a movement break and a mask break.

We are also expecting to hold many gym classes outside throughout the winter with skating, snowshoeing and cross country skiing as options. If it is indoor recess, students will be able to also be indoors for gym. Parents are encouraged to ensure their child has a parka, ski pants, boots, toque, scarf and mitts along with them.

Important Dates:

December 20-22	Dress Up Days
December 22	Last Day of School before Christmas Break
January 6	First Day of School after Christmas Break.
February 4	PD Day - No School