

# January

---

# NEWSLETTER

Clearspring Middle School

## Principal's Message:

Happy New Year! It is great to have our students back at school after the Christmas break. We are anticipating a great 2023 with many exciting learning opportunities!

December saw a number of special events including concerts, learning trips and class parties. January is often a month where there is more continuity in learning routines and we dig into some concepts that require more concentrated attention. This can include more detailed writing assignments, inquiry projects and more abstract numeracy concepts. We encourage parents to regularly ask their child(ren) about what they are learning in school. Open ended questions are often more effective! Some suggestions of questions that can help parents jumpstart conversations about learning with their child are:

- Tell me about the best part of your day.
- What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- Tell me about what you read in class today.
- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- Show me something you learned (or did) today.
- Did you help anyone today? Did anyone help you?
- What was something you saw/heard/learned that made you think?
- What did you do in Math/Science/PE/etc...? (be specific with the subject)

Our umbrella skill (from <https://umbrellaproject.co/>) for January is the skill of GRIT. This is how The Umbrella Project talks about GRIT: "Grit is our ability to face failure and carry on, our perseverance and passion for our goals. It is our willpower and our ability to stick with tough tasks. Excellence in anything we do requires commitment, hard work and failures along the way. Grit helps us continue to practice the things we would like to improve instead of giving up. Having grit can help us overcome obstacles even on the toughest days. In every type of work or school subject, grit can be as important to our success as talent or intelligence. It allows us to rise to the challenge of difficult goals and run the last mile."

Basketball teams for Grade 7 and 8 are in full swing. There were a number of parent volunteers who stepped forward to take on coaching responsibilities so that we can run a full compliment of teams for our students. We are grateful to them! A full list of coaches will come out in a subsequent newsletter. Basketball league games will begin later on in January. Practice and league schedules will be communicated to parents, and posted on the CMS website, once they are finalized.

We have several new lunch clubs that are starting up: **Chess Club** will be starting up again in the next week or so. Students from Grade 5-8 can sign up. **MYRCA Club** (Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Awards) will run during Wednesday noon hours for Grade 5-8 students who sign up. **Destination 100 Fitness Club** has already begun for students in Grades 5-8 who want to take on short fitness challenges before going out for each recess. This will run for the month of January.

Students who are walking to and from school are reminded to keep to city sidewalks. It is important that students not walk across private property for their own safety and to show respect to our neighbours. Parents are encouraged to have conversations with their child(ren) about the safest way to and from school and to avoid private property.

### **School Information:**

School Schedule - Classes begin at 8:45 am. and school doors open at 8:25 am. Students walking, being picked up, etc... are dismissed at 3:30 pm.

Biking and Walking Safety - We have a crossing guard at the Hespeler/Barkman/Ashford intersection at 8:30 a.m. Please ask your child(ren) to time their walk to school in order to arrive at that intersection after 8:30 a.m..

Lost and Found - We have an ever growing collection of sweaters and jackets in our lost and found. Students and parents are invited to check out if any of those belong to them!

Communication - It is always a balance between communication too much (and filling up your in boxes) and not enough. We try to hit the right balance. You can also find school information on:

Our School Website - [www.cms.hsd.ca](http://www.cms.hsd.ca)

Our Instagram Feed - [clearspringhsd](https://www.instagram.com/clearspringhsd)

Our Twitter Feed - [@clearspringhsd](https://twitter.com/clearspringhsd)

---

## **Important Dates:**

January 20 Gr 7 Trip

January 23-26 Gr 7 & 8 Basketball league games begin

February 3 PD Day - no school

February 9 Gr 8 Ski Trip

February 13-17 Book Fair

February 15 Gr 5 Voyageur Day