



March

NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message

March has arrived! Report Cards and Portfolio Evening are the big events this month and Spring Break is from March 23-March 31.

We were fortunate to have the Red River Dancers present to our Gr 5-7 students in February. The students really enjoyed the catchy music and the skilled musicians and dancers. Some students were even able to try out their dance “moves” during the presentation!

Grade 8 students had a great introduction to the SRSS. An SRSS counsellor presented to each Grade 8 class about high school credits, choosing courses and how registration works. Then, all of our students attended a tour of the SRSS where they got to experience the vocational areas that will be an option to them as well as a tour of the school. Students reported that this had been a great afternoon. CMS staff will be assisting students to register online for the SRSS from Monday, March 11 to Friday, March 15. Completed registration forms are needed for this process.

Basketball Season is winding up! We want to thank our many coaches who made it possible for us to have so many students involved:

Gr 7 Girls - Melissa Thiessen, Nathan Mehling, Cadence Thiessen

Gr 7 Boys Navy - Mr. Colton Martens, Mr. Meyson Martens

Gr 7 Boys Orange - Mr. Colton Martens, Mr. Meyson Martens (yes, they did both teams!)

Gr 8 Girls - Cassidy Esau, Eugene Warwaruk, Cadence Riediger

Gr 8 Boys Navy - Mark Rempel

Gr 8 Boys White - Mark Reimer

Gr 8 Boys Orange - Tim Friesen

The Grade 7 Basketball league has ended. Grade 8 teams are now entering playoffs!

Update on the letter sent home on February 22: Thank you to those of you who reached out with supportive messages on the letter that was sent home about the issues with students using racialized language or “jokes”. And thank you for the many of you who have had conversations with your children about this. It is making an impact. We are also ensuring that each student gets the same message at school about what is and is not acceptable in how we treat each other. We have students who are now standing up for others and reporting incidents that are related to racialized comments but also related to other unkind things that are being said.

Portfolio Evening is on March 20. We would like all students to attend with a parent/caregiver or other adult mentor. It is important that every student gets the opportunity to share the work they are doing at school and talk about their academic goals with an adult who can celebrate their growth and encourage them in their learning. Please go on Parent Portal to book a timeslot for this. If you are having trouble booking a time, please call the school and we will assist you.

Our chocolate fundraiser is starting to wrap up. We thank all of the families that have (and still are) participating in helping us raise money for upgrades to our playground. The fundraiser ends on March 13.

More schools are moving to a “no cell phone policy” for students. At this point, we do allow Gr 7 & 8 students to have cell phones at school, but they can only check them during recesses. **We are considering moving to a no cell phone policy next school year.** We want to create an environment that promotes positive mental health and are noticing that more students are showing signs of dependence on social media platforms. We have already begun this conversation with the CMS PAC. If you have significant concerns about moving in that direction for September 2024, please email Merrilee Plett directly at merplett@hsd.ca .

Important Dates:

March 8 Admin Day - no classes

March 13 Chocolate sales end

March 15 Report Cards available on Parent Portal at 4:00pm

March 20 Portfolio Evening

March 22 Last day of classes before Spring Break

April 1 First day of classes after Spring Break

April 15 Admin Day - no classes

April 18 Gr 8 Band Festival

April 19 Gr 7 Band Festival

April 24 Grade 6 Musical

April 25 Grade 6 Musical

School Information:

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 a large collection of outerwear, waterbottles and shoes 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 communicating too much (and filling up your in boxes) and not enough. We try to find the right balance. You can also find school information on:

Our School Website - www.cms.hsd.ca

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