

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

As we enter our second month of the school year, students and staff are settling into the routines of school and are digging into grade level learning. We often talk about how learning isn't always easy, our brains are stretched to learn new concepts that are increasingly abstract as they get older. From math algorithms and working with fractions/integers, to writing paragraphs with topic sentences, to learning about forces and structures in science, learning can be difficult. We always want to encourage students to approach learning with a growth mindset. This means to keep practicing. We know that we don't always learn something new on our first attempt (just think about how we learn to walk or ride a bike!). The more we practice and stick with things, the better we get in our skills and understanding.

Attendance:

Daily attendance is important for all students. Did you know that if your child misses only two days of school per month, they will have missed one month of instruction by the end of the school year. If your child misses 15 days of school per school year, they will have lost one year of instruction by grade 12. Students who attend regularly are more engaged in their learning. As learning becomes more abstract and concepts are more complex, students can start to struggle when missing days on a regular basis. We encourage all students to try and have perfect attendance! Please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher or to our school counsellors if your child is struggling with attendance. Grade 5 counsellor: Ms. Karla Lysak. Grade 6-8 counsellor: Ms. Lynn Albig.

Terry Fox Run:

Our students participated in the Terry Fox Run in September. Many of them indicated they were running in honour of someone they knew. We are thrilled to announce that our school community raised \$2258 to the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research. Well done CMS!

Cross Country:

Our Cross Country team, consisting of 100+ students from grades 5-8, have been busy practicing and competing in several meets. Students have been working to set personal bests and cheer each other on. Thank you to our coaches/managers for the time and effort they put into helping our students train and getting all the organizing done to make it possible for our students to attend the meets. Staff involved in coaching and managing are: Mr. Doug Mack, Ms. Arlene Tkachuk, Ms. Lynn Albig, and Ms. Tracey Sawatzky. Also, thank you to the parent volunteers who have helped with the supervising!

Volleyball:

Grade 7 & 8 Volleyball teams are up and running too! We have 80 students participating and 9 teams. Practices began in September and games are now beginning in October. Our focus is skill development and how to be a positive team member. Thank you to the many coaches who are involved. Parents can see the practice and game schedule on our website or by going to this link: [CMS Volleyball Schedule](#). Parents are also encouraged to check the TeamLinkt App we have set up for communication purposes. If you have questions about how to access the app, please connect with our CMS Phys Ed teachers.

Lunch Hour Clubs:

Choir Clubs (Gr 5/6 and Gr 7/8), Yearbook Team, CMS News Team, Gym Crew and Canteen Crew have also begun. Mini MAC (Making a Change) group for Gr 5's and 6's is also starting up. Students are encouraged to keep listening to announcements or check out posters in their neighbourhoods to find out about more clubs that will pop up throughout the year! Our daily announcements are now also being posted on our CMS website.

School Spirit Week/Dress Up Week:

At the end of October we will hold a school spirit week. There will be several days of "dress up" themes and we encourage all students to join in on the fun! More information will be sent out closer to the date.

October 28 - Jersey Day (wear your favourite jersey or dress in sports apparel)

October 29 - Decades Day (dress up in 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's or 90's clothes)

October 30 - Colour Rush Day (pick a colour and dress head to toe in that colour)

October 31 - Costume Day (school appropriate costume of your choice - no masks or
play weapons, no blood/gore please)

Parenting Group:

Safe and Supported: Parenting in the Teen Years is a weekly seminar hosted by Headway of Steinbach. The group meets on Tuesday from Oct 8–Nov 5 (6:30pm to 8:30 pm) at CMS. Topics include balancing holding tight with allowing freedom, strategies to improve your teen’s decision making and problem solving skills, how to communicate so you both feel heard, attachment and parenting styles, roadblocks and restored relationships. There is no cost. Contact Heidi to register: heidi.falk@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or call 204-905-3685.

Thunderstorms and Crossing Guards:

In the event of an active thunderstorm (with lightning) during the morning when students are coming to school, crossing guards may be late or absent from school crossing zones for their own safety. If your child walks to school, please keep them at home during an active storm as it is not safe to be outside during weather where lightening is happening, or arrange to have them dropped off at school. If the active thunderstorm is during dismissal time, we will keep students at the school until the active storm has passed or until they are picked up.

We do send out monthly newsletters, but for regular updates please check out our school website at www.cms.hsd.ca

It is our desire that all students feel a sense of belonging at CMS and that they are moving forward in their learning. If you have concerns or questions, please don’t hesitate to connect with their teacher or reach out to a school counsellor or learning support teacher. If you need help determining who to talk to, just call the school and we will help you out.

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, we are grateful to our parents/caregivers and community for the way you care for our school. Happy Thanksgiving!

Merrilee Plett - Principal

Candace Campbell - Vice-Principal

Important Dates:

October 2 Cross Country Run (pm)
October 4 Gr 5 Bond Day (pm)
October 9 Cross Country Run (pm)
October 14 Thanksgiving - School is Closed
October 17 Immunizations
October 17 Eastman Choral Workshop (only for registered students)
October 25 MTS PD Day - No Classes
October 28-31 Spirit Week (dress up days)
November 4 Picture Retakes
November 8 Admin Day - No Classes
November 11 Remembrance Day - No Classes
November 20 Parent Teacher Conferences
November 28 Band Concert
December 11 Gr 5 Christmas Concert

School Information:

School Start Time: 8:45 am. The doors to the school open at 8:25 am.

Student Handbook

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

Immunization Clinic - Includes Hepatitis B, HPV, Meningococcal Conjugate, Tdap. This clinic will run on October 17 only for those students whose parents have requested this using the public health form sent home. If you have questions, please contact Public Health.

Picture Retake Day - November 1

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 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)