



MARCH NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message

It is always such a hopeful time of year when the calendar turns over to March! Winter is mostly over (although in Manitoba we can still have some cold and stormy weather) and spring is around the corner!

As families navigate the ever changing online world of social media, gaming and AI with their children, we often get questions from parents about how they can support and care for their children. I want to encourage parents to check out [Parents' Ultimate Guides | Common Sense Media](#) , [ProtectKidsOnline.ca](#) and [Parenting in the AI age](#) for parent resources.

Basketball: Basketball season is coming to an end. We want to thank all the players for their hard work and commitment. We also want to thank our coaches who have volunteered their time and energy to make it possible to run all of our Basketball teams:

Gr 7 Girls - Eugene Warwaruk, Mark and Tamara Rempel

Gr 7 Boys Navy - Curtis Reutlinger

Gr 7 Boys Orange - Todd Peters

Gr 8 Girls - Kayla Berg

Gr 8 Boys Navy - Tyler Shields

Gr 8 Boys Orange - Eugen Faeht, Darci Klassen

Book Fair: Thank you for the incredible support for our annual book fair! And a big thank you to our CMS librarian, Ms. Arlene Baldwin, for all the extra work she puts in to make this such a great event. It is a wonderful event every year!

School Dance: We will host a student dance on the afternoon of March 12. An information letter was emailed home on March 3 with details. Students who do not wish to attend the dance will have 2 alternate activities that they can join instead.

Chocolate Fundraiser: CMS Chocolate Fundraiser begins on March 12. An information letter and form was sent home to parents on February 26. Please read and fill out the form to let the school know if you'd like your child to participate (and then if you'd like them to take a box of chocolate covered almonds or the Laura Secord chocolate) or if you do not wish your child to participate. All proceeds will go to school playground improvements.

Report Cards: Term 2 Report cards will be available on Parent Portal on Friday, March 20 at 4:00 pm. If you have any issues with viewing the report cards, please contact the CMS office at 204-346-9644.

Portfolio Evening: March 25: We will be hosting a Portfolio Evening on March 25. Our students are working hard to make their portfolios ready for this important evening. We would like every child to bring a parent/caregiver/grandparent or mentor to look through their portfolio of learning. Please plan to attend (or arrange another significant adult in their life to attend with them). We will send more information about how to book an appointment time in an email.

Attendance: It is important for students to have regular attendance at school. The curriculum in Middle School progresses from the more concrete concepts students learn in the early years, to more abstract concepts. This often means that students need more time to practice and have discussions about their learning in order to have a solid foundation for the subjects in high school. When students regularly miss classes, it is often challenging for them to fill in the gaps that have been missed. ***If a student is absent more than 1 day a month (10 days in a school year), they are considered to have a high absentee rate.*** If your child is struggling with anxiety or school refusal and this is impacting their attendance, please contact their homeroom teacher so we can help support them.

Grade 5 Vision Screening: Hanover School Division is once again partnering with The Lions Club to offer vision screening to all students in Grades 1 and 5. The screening for CMS Grade 5's will be on March 19th in the morning. A more detailed letter will be sent home to Grade 5 parents/caregivers.

Outdoor Recess: All CMS students go out for recess three times a day. Please ensure you are regularly checking the anticipated weather for the day so that your child is wearing appropriate clothing to enjoy outdoor recess. Some days are quite mild and others are quite chilly.

And, with the anticipated upcoming melting temperatures, we are expecting more puddles on our playground! We recommend that parents consider sending students to school with rubber boots and an extra pair of dry socks.

Grade 8 Transitions to the SRSS

Grade 8 SRSS Transitions began last month! Gr 8's have been on a tour of the SRSS in February and have had SRSS counsellor visit them to talk about Gr 9 registration. Registration Forms are due back to CMS on March 9.

Sometimes all this talk about next year causes students to forget to focus on their Grade 8 work because they are so excited about next year! Please encourage them to finish their middle years strong so they are set up for success next year. Sometimes the talk about next year can cause anxieties. We encourage any student feeling those anxious emotions about next year to talk to a trusted adult in their life and ask to set up an appointment with Ms. Albig (school counsellor).

Community Supports: Soups On is an organization that assists families with meals and groceries. Soups On provides the nutrition program at our school. They also will provide families on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm at Grace Mennonite Church (430 Third Street, Steinbach: use the rear entrance) Please visit their website for more information on how to access their services or to donate: <https://www.steinbachsoupson.com/>

Sincerely,

Merrilee Plett (Principal)
Candace Campbell (Vice Principal)

Important Dates:

March 12 – School Dance
March 12 – Chocolate Fundraiser Begins
March 13 – Admin Day – no classes
March 19 – Grade 5 Vision Screening
March 20 – Term 2 Report Cards on Parent Portal at 4:00 pm.
March 25 – Portfolio Evening
March 26 – Chocolate Fundraiser Ends
March 27 – Last Day of Classes before Spring Break
April 6 – First Day of Classes after Spring Break
April 10 – Admin/PD Day – no classes
April 22 & 23 – Grade 6 Musical “Frozen”

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)