

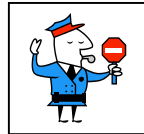
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Myles Mowat – Principal
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November 27, 2007.



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To: Our Learning Community,



Driving Safely at CMS

Student safety is a priority for any parent, teacher or school in School District 59. The Teacher Parking Lot entrance from 10th Street has signage posted that states – No Entrance Staff Parking. We are finding both in the morning and afternoon, vehicles dropping off or picking up students are traveling through this area behind the school. This is a high pedestrian traffic area where staff and students are not expecting to see traffic. This is creating a lot of fear for people on supervision that someone is going to be struck by a car. So, in a proactive manner, before an accident occurs we are asking you to please drop your child(ren) off along 10th Street. May we suggest a block or two away – it will avoid traffic congestion and you will be adding to the activity time for your student.

Similarly, the bus drop off and loading area is another area of traffic concern. Please avoid using this paved surface for vehicle traffic, especially after school when the lot is full of busses. Thank you for taking the time to help keep our learning environment a safe place for everyone even during the extended educational hours.

Speaking of Cars, Here's An Environmental Tip - Dress Warmer and Idle Less

A litre of gasoline has almost three times its weight in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Typical drivers consume 2000 litres of fuel a year. That means every car produces roughly 4800 kilograms of CO₂ each year, almost three times its weight.

There are tones of things we can do to put fuel consumption on a diet.



On a Similar Healthy Living Note - Let's Get Moving!

We are hoping to encourage all of our students to become more physically active at school and in the community. As parents, you have probably heard a lot of information in the media about the growing concerns around the increasing number of overweight/obese young people in our society.

When you look at the increasing medical costs associated with problems caused by sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy diets, it makes sense that we all need to take better care of our children. We need to provide them with information, and model active lifestyles/healthy diet, in the workplace and at home.

Recently, I read a study that reported on how students get to and from school. Approximately one in every three students live within a one mile radius of their school, but less than half of those

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students walk or bike to school – most of them are dropped off (and picked up) at the door by their parents.

There are days in Dawson Creek, when the weather is a barrier to walking/biking, but most days the weather is not a deterrent. Remember when you were a kid – you walked uphill to and from school, in the pouring rain, in sub zero temperatures with holes in both your shoes. Chances are if you could do it, I'll bet your kids can do it.

Soon, students will be responsible to report/record their daily physical activity – that's a recent mandate added to the schools. Many of our students could meet that requirement by riding 'Shank's mare' to and from school. As a bonus, it would also reduce the hazard of vehicle/student accidents around the school. Let us know your thoughts as parents.

Parents Boost Learning

Web Support for Parents, Students and Educators With Learn Now BC

Parents, students and educators can always use a new tool to help in their efforts to be a lifelong learner and to support others in their education. This new website is your connection to educational opportunities and services in British Columbia.

<http://www.learnnowbc.gov.bc.ca>



CMS Features: Classes and Teachers

In the Grade Seven program at CMS teachers are working in Math with a new approach this year. Students have been grouped in ability-leveled classrooms for their Math blocks. This is a new approach for 2007-08 so we are excited to see if it is an effective method to deliver this program. We established the leveled classrooms after students completed four different tests. Already some teachers are reporting reduced failure rates and less student frustration. Making changes to how we deliver programs at CMS is just one way to help improve student learning.

Glenn Roszmann has added another new dimension to his grade seven Math class as well through the use of The Learning Equation. This is a computer-based course designed using the course documents specific to the grade seven Math program in British Columbia. It allows very visual and hands on learning. It also provides a "go at your own rate pace" which allows the teacher to meet individual student needs. The program utilizes both computer manipulation and written work for lessons and evaluation. If you would like to know more about the grade 7 Math program or other classes at CMS we would be happy to hear from you.

Student News: The Northern High School Rodeo Club

This non-profit organization is dedicated to the development of sportsmanship, horsemanship and the character in the youth of our province and country through the sport of rodeo. We are sanctioned by the British Columbia High School Rodeo Association, which is governed by directors, which also represents us at the National level.

High School students grades 9-12 and the Wrangler Division grades 6-8 compete throughout the province of B.C. The top 12 of each event compete in the Provincial Finals hoping to qualify for the top 4 positions enabling them to qualify for the National Finals held in Farmington, New Mexico, during July 2008. In the past years, our club has had great representation at both levels. The 2008 rodeo season is under way and the Northern British Columbia Rodeo Club will be hosting the Dawson Creek Rodeo, May 17,18 and 19 at the fairgrounds.

Members of the Northern BC High School Rodeo Club and the Wrangler Junior Division are all invited to a meeting on Sunday, December 2, at 1:00 pm at the Groundbirch Hall. It's easy to find, just 1/2 mile south, down from the Groundbirch Store. Call Bonnie Wilson (780-2361) for more detailed directions. Please everyone bring a Pot Luck Holiday Snack to share.

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Pass the word around and bring in some new members that are ready to rodeo! See you there.
For more information please feel free to contact Kathy Corr at Central Middle School. 782-5288

Provincial Recognition! David Readman on the Diamond

CMS French Immersion student David Readman was not about to let the fact there was no rep baseball team in the area, discourage his desire and opportunity to play baseball. So, he and some other DC players joined together with Peace River and formed a team . . . and so began a success story:

David was selected as Baseball Alberta's Outstanding Player for the Pee Wee Community Division for 2007. This division consisted of approximately 10 teams from around Alberta. The team played in provincial qualifiers and then in the provincial tournament. His team had only one loss on the season, which occurred in the semi-finals at Provincials. Their loss came at the hands of the eventual champions, Provost.

David had a strong and consistent year. He pitched, and played catcher and shortstop. He was strong on the mound, getting strikeouts when needed. His batting average for the season was over .700 (wow) and he was credited with a huge number of RBIs. His coach, Daryl Rafferty from Peace River, noted just prior to provincials that David was the strongest player he had seen all year.

At the awards ceremony David received his Outstanding Player honours from Kelly Gruber, retired Toronto Blue Jay 3rd Baseman and World Series Champion.

David is an active and valuable member of our school and community. He has proven himself as an all-around athlete and student: a volleyball team member and Minor Hockey goalie while also maintaining very good marks in his classes. Congratulations David!

Interviews and Report Cards – Connecting with Teachers and Your Child

Our Parent-Teacher Interview schedule was a success, however, we always hope to see more parents in our building. CMS is an exciting place with many opportunities for learning for everyone. If you have not visited lately, or spoken to your son/daughter's teachers, we encourage you to do so. A clear line of communication between all the stakeholders in your teen's education is an important link for success.

Report cards are one way that we can communicate student progress. As this is the first term and first formal report, many questions can arise from the marks and comments. Please let us know if we can help address concerns that you and/or your son/daughter may have.

The student should understand the marks they have earned and there should not be surprises. The report card is an excellent tool for parents and children to have discussions about school, education, friends, successes and challenges. Address ways your son/daughter can continue to be successful, set goals and make plans for correcting behaviours that interfere with being successful at school and at home. We appreciate your efforts in helping support the great students of CMS become even greater.

Coyote Sports and Recreation

Basketball now graces the wood parquet Monday through Thursday at CMS. Coyote teams for grade seven, eight and nine are getting underway with practices for boy's and girl's teams. Extra-curricular activities, like basketball, are a great way to get fit, have fun and meet new people. The experience of being part of Coyote after-school-life will create memories that will last forever. Get involved today!

Teacher Award - Nominations are open for the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence

The Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes outstanding B.C. teachers who have

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made exceptional contributions to benefit their school and improve student achievement. The Premier's Award provides students, parents, teachers and other members of the community with an opportunity to celebrate those educators who make a real difference in B.C. schools. Nominations close on December 14, 2007. For detailed information, please visit the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence website: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/teacherawards>

Parent **TIP** Sheet



Make learning a priority

Your attitude toward school attendance, education and involvement in the school makes a strong and lasting impression on your child. Show your teen, by example, that learning is a priority.

Show interest in schoolwork

- * Talk about school each day.
- * Ask to see class work and their binder(s).
- * Have your child read aloud to you – assignments, newspaper stories.
- * Make sure your teen is getting enough sleep
- * Encourage your child to discuss new ideas and opinions.
- * Show appreciation for good efforts.



Dates for the Fridge:

Nov. 27 - Report Cards Distributed

Dec. 21 - Last Day of 2007 Classes

Dec. 21 - Christmas Assembly at CMS

Jan. 7 - Return to Classes for 2008

Feb. 4 to 15 - FSA Testing for Gr. 7

Feb. 8 - NBCWG Begins – NIS (not in session day)

Feb. 11 – NID

You can always go find a wealth of information and notices about CMS on the web site listed on the banner of this newsletter.

The Class Challenge – Return the Newsletter Slip and Win Big!

We have a desire to increase how we use effective communication at CMS. To this extent, newsletters are just one way to reach everyone's homes. The newsletter is for all members of our learning community – parents, students, staff, community members . . . and the list goes on. Newsletters and other information about Central can be found anytime on our website which is listed in the newsletter banner.

This newsletter comes with a class challenge – the class with the most returned slips wins!

Just complete the skill-testing question, have a parent or guardian sign the slip and return it to your homeroom teacher by Friday. The class with the best return percentage wins! *A variety of prizes are available to be won!*

Student Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Skill Testing Question: List one of the tips listed that a parent/guardian can do to help make learning a priority in your home:

_____.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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