

# Cannon River STEM School News

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January 2015

**Ryan Johnson** was awarded another technology grant to purchase a new iPad and a program we can install on our computers called AirSquirrel Reflector. Reflector can be used to wirelessly project iPad screens onto the SmartBoard. With the grant, Ryan will be able to purchase enough software licenses for all of the teachers, which will enhance our iPad use. Check it out:

<http://www.airsquirrels.com/reflector/>

**CRSS** was awarded a field trip grant from Target Foundation to pay for transportation to Feed My Starving Children, an annual service field trip CRSS 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders take every year.

**Sarah Mueller** completed her Master of Education degree in December!

**Jason Soltis** and family welcomed Reid Anthony Soltis, first baby born in Northfield on New Year's Day! 7 lbs 12 oz,

## Save The Date for Math Night

We are working on changing the format for our February Math Night from two nights to one night. More information will follow, but for now plan on a K-8 Math Night for families on February 26th.



## The **M** in Cannon River STEM can be worked on at home

According to an article in the University of Minnesota Connect, Winter 2015, the Math and Numeracy Lab in the Institute of Child Development has a goal to share their research findings about math with children's first educators – parents and care providers. They point out in the article that “number skills at kindergarten predict math achievement several years later” and that the automaticity of number knowledge and skills is really important.

The article suggests three ways to support mathematical thinking with our children. The first is by talking to children about “numbers, relationships, shapes, and patterns, and refer to mathematics terms, properties, and processes.” Watch your child's weekly peeks for kinds of words to use and which processes are being studied in math. And don't be afraid to do a daily math problem at the dinner table! How many circles can you find at the table? Spheres?

The second is to listen to the times when your child talks about math. Affirm them for figuring the problem out or point out what process they did to solve a problem. Being specific about the math, rather than saying they are smart, will help to build skills. It is also a way to figure out where they are getting stuck so that you can communicate with the teacher.

Finally, model how you use math on a daily basis at home or at your work. The article makes a great point here to stay away from the unintended negative message that sometimes we send about math. They suggest finding the ways that math is fun – like in a board or chance game, or how it might help them to keep track of their sports statistics, or how the Fibonacci patterns in nature are pretty cool. (Remember Fibonacci, he was a mathematician in 1202, and if you go to the bottom of the page at this website you can click on the pattern variations in pinecones, flowers, and other natural objects -- <http://www.maths.surrey.ac.uk> ).



## WANTED Guest Speakers

We are looking to build a list of volunteers to give short presentations to CRSS students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Literacy. Speakers provide another insight into a subject and also help students to see potential careers in their future. If you, or someone you know, is interested in exploring this opportunity, please email Deb Scheil: [dscheil@cannonriverstemschool.org](mailto:dscheil@cannonriverstemschool.org).

## AND also the **E** in Cannon River STEM can be worked on at home too!

“Making” is a word that has been around forever, but takes on some new meaning when linked with school and engineering. Making involves the creation of actual objects that matter to the creator, have a potential audience and allow for creativity to flourish. Educationally “making” hones skills in collaboration, ownership, problem solving, wondering, and the ability to think more deeply about a situation – the answers aren't provided for you.

At home you could provide a “makerspace” by gathering materials for your child to use on a regular basis to explore, build, and tinker with. It could be a box with art supplies, cardboard, hand tools, recyclable containers, old electronics. It could be a table with a box of supplies and a notebook for recording drawings and project ideas.

Use your family reading time tonight to watch the 1<sup>st</sup> video about Caine at [www.cainesarcade.com](http://www.cainesarcade.com) and check out the Imagination Foundation website where the research shows that “making” has value now and for your child's future.

# January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 NWEA/MAP Testing 3rd-8th grades	6 Science Fair Help Session 3-4:30	7	8 CRSS Annual Meeting 6:15	9	10
11	12	13 Science Fair Help Session 3-4:30	14	15	16	17
18	19 Parent/Student/ Teacher Confer- ences—No School	20 Parent/Student/ Teacher Confer- ences—No School	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Science Fair Help Session 3-4:30	28	29	30	31

## Winter Conferences

Conference scheduling will begin by Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. Please check your email for the directions for scheduling. To prepare for conferences please make sure that you have read the narrative for your child's classroom which was sent home in December. Also, please make sure that you have reviewed the report card for the first trimester so that goal setting, remedial or extension help, and suggestions for help at home make more sense. NWEA/MAP scores from January testing for grades 3-8 and DRA reading scores for grade K-2 will be shared at this conference as well. We are very proud of our 95% or higher conference attendance rates and thank you in advance for participating in this important discussion about your child's progress at CRSS.

## Spotlight on Staff



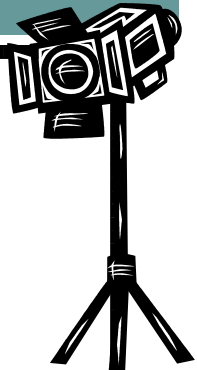
### Melanie Donley—1st Grade

I am so excited to be here at CRSS. After graduating from college I immediately started a family and put my dream of being a teacher on hold to spend time with my children. Two years ago when my daughter was a senior in high school I renewed my teaching license. I came to CRSS last year as a substitute and I immediately loved the school. I accepted a full time paraprofessional position last year and started teaching first grade this fall.



### Terra Haugen—1st Grade

I graduated from Winona State with a degree in Elementary Education with Pre-Primary. I have taught preschool for many years and reading for one. I was looking for something different and challenging. CRSS fits and I am so happy to be here!



**Left:** LEGO Robotics Conference



**Right:** Winter Festival Fun  
**Bottom:** Kinders singing at Milestone Senior Living

