

Research Shows:

In the October 2014 issue of the ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) magazine *Educational Leadership* an interesting research study was cited. The study of 70 six and seven year olds suggests that students in that age group who were able to spend more time in less structured activities had better executive function. Executive function is the ability to self-regulate behavior, to make plans and change or correct them during the plan, to ask for help and to finish work on time. In this summary, less structured time was described as in trips to museums, libraries and sporting events.

One piece of homework for CRSS students involves playing outside which would fit in the less structured list. The authors suggested that more structured activities slowed the ability for self directing because the adults are providing children with continual cues about what to do and when. The article appears in the June 17, 2014 issue of *Frontiers* and can be located at <http://journal.frontiersin.org/Journal/10.3389/fpsyg.2014.00539/full>

FALL CONFERENCES

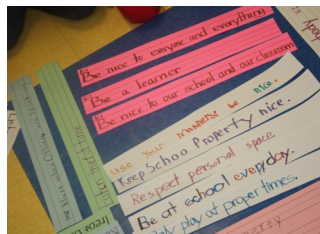
Fall Conferences are just around the corner. Watch for an email from CRSS Info that will tell you when the sign up is open and how to access the site. These conferences are goal setting conferences. Some testing information will be shared, the grade level academic flyer will be available, and student work and teacher observations will be reviewed to help set goals for the next few months. Students are encouraged to attend and participate in creating goals that help them to develop their social skills, develop their "Sparks," and advance their academic skills.

Cannon River STEM School News

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On September 23rd, the first day of Autumn, the 2014 – 2015 All School Expectations were presented by the Middle School representatives to the entire CRSS community at our All School Meeting. Each K-8 classroom sent representatives on September 12th to the All School Expectations Convention. After much discussing, grouping, debating and revising, the 45 plus classroom expectations were reduced to three sets of expectations. The middle school representatives met with Mr. Johnson during their lunch times to combine the three sets into one set of expectations that they thought all students and staff could use to create a positive, safe learning environment on the CRSS campus.



The second part of the All School Meeting provided a chance for each grade level to share the service project that they were participating in during September. Projects ranged from picking acorns in kindergarten and checking if they were viable to helping out the Faribault Parks by picking up trash along 14th Street and the bike trails. Check in with your child to find out more about the project they started last week.

The last part of the meeting was spent reviewing the 4 Rules of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. Students had a chance to review those rules and see how they fit into the All School Expectations. Watching the CRSS produced video of Brave helped all of us to know that it is important to be brave and make great behavior choices everywhere and with everyone at Cannon River STEM School.

2014-2015 CRSS All School Expectations

1. Treat everyone and everything with respect.
2. Try your best and be on task.
3. Stand up for yourself and others who need it.
4. Be safe to have fun.

4 Rules of Olweus




1. We will not bully others.
2. We will try to help students who are bullied.
3. We will try to include students who are left out.
4. If we know that someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Volunteer Testimonial

Was I smarter than a 5th Grader? -Jessie Saul

When Deb Scheil asked me to tutor some 5th grade students in math last year, I was a bit nervous that the answer to this article's title question might be "no." What I learned over the course of the year was that it really didn't matter. What mattered was that we could figure out the answer to the problem together, and ask for help when we needed it. What mattered was the relationship I was able to develop with the wonderful, fantastic, creative, caring students I worked with, and with Ms. R, their teacher. What mattered is that they saw how excited I was to spend time with them every week. I probably learned more than the students did over the course of the year, and for that I'll forever be grateful. Volunteering at CRSS can take so many different forms. No matter how much time you have, or where your comfort zone is, there is something for every talent and area of interest. I have never worked or volunteered at a place where I felt more appreciated, or more like I was making a difference. Check out the volunteer needs board the next time you stop by the office, or call Ashley to hear more about volunteer opportunities. Or just ask your favorite 5th grader...

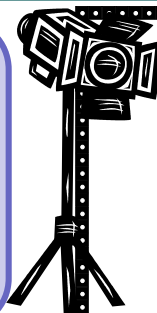
October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NWEA -MAP Testing	2	3	4
5	6 Make-up Pictures NWEA-MAP Testing	7	8 Early Dismissal @ 12:55	9	10	11 
12	13	14 Book Fair Conferences	15 Book Fair Conferences NO SCHOOL	16 NO SCHOOL	17 NO SCHOOL	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 	27	28	29 Spirit Days	30	31 Fall Festival	

THANK YOU!

Thank you for helping make the Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser a success. Over 400 people were served.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for hosting this annual event.



Spotlight on Staff



Damian Baum, Information Technology Coordinator
a.k.a. Mr. Damian

Damian joins the team this year bringing 19 years of technology wisdom, the last two years from the Farmington school district. I have always been interested in computers, it started in the mid-80's with the Atari 2600 and Apple II. I have spent time as a help desk assistant, programmer, systems analyst, IT manager, systems administrator, and now IT Coordinator. I now enjoy working 5 minutes from home and at the same school as my children.

FALL FESTIVAL

At the end of October we will celebrate our Fall Festival. For those of you new to CRSS this is our chance to celebrate as a school all the outdoor things that can be done in Minnesota in the fall. The celebration happens this year on Friday afternoon, October 31st. Students will each choose one activity led by an adult for the afternoon. In the past students have gone on a birding walk, studied about bats, made leaf prints, performed a reader's theater, or gone on a scavenger hunt. If you would be willing to lead a fall activity for a small group of students of mixed ages that afternoon please call in with your idea to Ms. Ashley at 507-331-7836 or [ar-inglien@cannonriverstemschool.org](mailto:inglien@cannonriverstemschool.org). Since students sign up ahead of time and staff try to keep the group sizes small you need to get your idea in by Monday, October 20th.

Book Fair



Volunteers are needed to staff the Book Fair before and during conferences in a couple of weeks. We would like classes to be able to preview the book fair on Friday the 10th and Monday the 13th. This is only possible if at least one adult volunteer is there during the school day. Shifts for this can be an hour or more in length.

During conferences on the evening of October 14th and during the day on October 15th the book fair will be open during hours that volunteers are available to sell books. Please check your schedules and contact the office at 507-331-7836 to sign up for a time.