

Studies Show ...

An article in the Mayo Clinic Health System flyer, Hometown Health winter 2015, shared the top 5 ways to be happy.

- 1—Invest in relationships
- 2—Express gratitude
- 3—Cultivate optimism
- 4—Find your purpose



The STEM Arcade

A super successful CRSS Math Night was held on Thursday, February 26th with 200+ people in attendance. The gym was filled with 36 different projects created by Middle School Advisory students and by teams of staff members. The Rice County Chemical Health Coalition and Big Brothers Big Sisters were also represented at the event. \$265.38 was raised for BBBS by the Middle School students from admissions and donations.

The idea for the STEM Arcade came from the Middle School students after watching a video about a young boy in Los Angeles, California who built an arcade out of cardboard in the front of his dad's shop. Each of the ten Advisory groups brainstormed, designed, created, tested and refined their math focused cardboard arcade games over the past two months. Using the engineering process and lots of cardboard, recyclable materials, and tape some great games were available for families to play using their math skills.

Cannon River STEM School News

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Calling all Siblings of CRSS Students!

Just a reminder that the lottery is just around the corner! In order for siblings of current students to receive sibling preference in placement of open slots, we must receive an application for that sibling prior to 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 10th. If we receive applications for siblings after that, they will be placed at the top of the waiting list that will have been formed at the lottery. We don't want to miss any siblings, especially those Kindergarteners! Make sure that we have an application on file prior to Tuesday, March 10th at 4:00 pm! If you're not sure whether we have an application, please call Ashley at the office 331 - 7836.



Specials Night

Plan ahead for the next big family event at Cannon River STEM School. On Thursday, March 26th the specialists will host an evening of fun for your family. Join Mr. LeDuc and try out some physical activities, Mrs. Nelson to make some art projects, Mr. Berger to make some music, and Yang Yang to try out some activities children and families might do in China. An added bonus is a chance to hear the Middle School vocal and instrumental students perform.

This fun evening is open to all K-8 students and their families. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to spend an hour doing, creating and experiencing Chinese, music, art, and physical education here at CRSS.



March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Science Fair Help Session	4	5 Mary Casanova Visit	6	7
8	9	10 Science Fair Help Session Lottery Deadline	11 Early Dismissal @ 12:55 pm	12 Science Fair Lottery & Board Meeting	13 Yearbook Orders Due	14
15	16 Spring Break	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Specials Night 6:00-7:30	27	28
29	30	31				



Testing Update

Throughout the months of March, April and May a variety of testing situations will happen for students. The testing you hear about most in the news are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). These are administered to students in third through eighth grade in the areas of reading and mathematics. Fifth and eighth graders also take a science MCA test.

The best preparation for these tests is happening on a daily basis in the classroom so attendance at school is very important. Completing the daily homework of reading and doing math fact fluency, no matter the grade level K -8, is the next way to ensure success. A “can do” attitude is another factor in whether students meet the expected targets.

“Can do” behaviors include working at a task with accuracy and attention to details – like a detective. Persistence and stamina to stick with a task even if it is hard or looks long make a big difference in success. And knowing strategies to help oneself during a test to relax, refocus and regroup are “can do” behaviors.

The MCA schedule will be posted on the website (www.cannonriverstemschool.org) and teachers will begin listing testing dates in their Weekly Peeks. Please plan ahead so that appointments and vacations are scheduled after the testing dates. Remember that several good nights’ sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and some encouraging words the days of the tests are helpful too.

Spotlight on Caitlin Robertson 5th Grade Teacher



I am so happy to be a part of CRSS and am enjoying my first year here. I graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in English and a strong emphasis in the Fine Arts—Music, Dance, Theater and Art. After undergrad, I moved to the Pacific Northwest where I worked as an assistant teacher in two different Montessori schools, which I enjoyed very much and made me realize that I wanted to teach. I graduated from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington with a Master in Teaching and then spent some time working for education-related non-profits, as well as pursuing my musical interests (writing songs, performing, and recording 2 cds). I then returned to Minnesota (where I grew up) to be near family and friends and am so grateful to be teaching in my own classroom, where my students inspire me every day, at a school that values environmental and outdoor education, as well as other things I am passionate about. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, writing, playing music and being in nature, as well as spending time with my family. I’m looking forward to pursuing Minnesota Master Naturalist trainings this summer and employing what I learn from them in my classroom next year. What a great community to be a part of—I feel very lucky.

Spring Break is on the calendar for March 16th through the 20th. We hope you are able to enjoy this time off of school. There are many community activities available for students at Buckham Library, the Rescue Robot class is returning to the Shattuck STEM offerings, and River Bend Nature Center or the Rice County Historical Society are great places to visit and learn.

Please note the additional break day on Friday, April 3rd. There will be no school that day.