

Research Shows...

A recent study, from *JAMA Pediatrics* in May 2014, found hints that violent video games may set kids up to react in more hostile and violent ways.

3,034 boys and girls in the third, fourth, seventh, and eighth grades in Singapore, were asked three times over a period of two years detailed questions about their video game habits. They were also given standardized questionnaires designed to measure their aggressive behavior and attitudes toward violence.

Kids who played more hours of violent video games per week showed increases in aggressive behavior and violent tendencies, compared to those who played fewer hours a week. When asked if it was okay for a boy to strike a peer if that peer said something negative about him, for example, these kids were more likely to say yes. They also scored higher on measures of hostility, answering that they would respond with aggressive action when provoked, even accidentally. The more long-term gamers were also more likely to fantasize about hitting someone they didn't like.

These results suggest that media violence exposure is teaching children and adolescents to see the world in a more aggressive kind of way, and according to the study's author, Craig Anderson, "it shows very strongly that repeated exposure to violent video games can increase aggression by increasing aggressive thinking."

JAMA Pediatrics [May 2014, Vol 168, No. 5](#)

Dates to Remember for December

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|----|--------------------------|
| 9 | Early Dismissal |
| 10 | Board Meeting |
| 23 | Winter Festival |
| 23 | Last Day of School 2015 |
| 4 | First Day of School 2016 |

Over vacation please continue to read and practice the key math concepts for your child's grade level. NWEA testing for 3rd through 8th starts immediately after vacation and two weeks without practice is sure to impact scores. A good night's rest and a protein rich breakfast can be helpful too.

Cannon River STEM School News

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Partnerships Make CRSS Unique

Education and learning take many forms each day at Cannon River STEM School. One focus at our school is Place Based Education and to really learn about our place – this campus, the city of Faribault, the state of Minnesota and our place in the world partnerships are necessary. We can't do it alone and two special partnerships this fall have been with River Bend Nature Center and the Rice County Historical Society.



this collaboration with River Bend Nature Center.

Educational naturalists, Emily and Cian, are from River Bend Nature Center. Twenty hours a week has been spent in partnership with our students to explore the campus habitats with first graders, collect water quality data from the Straight River with fourth graders, investigate the forces of erosion with fifth graders and observe cloud cover to report to NASA with second graders. Through observation, data collection, presentations and discussions students have gained knowledge and understanding of our place in the natural world thanks to



The Rice County Historical Society has partnered with our sixth grade classes to begin a regular set of visits to learn more about the history of Faribault. Students will in turn provide service to RCHS throughout the year as the needs are identified. Mr. Larry Richie has been working with students in third through eighth grade to create a dugout canoe using wooden tools which would be similar to those used by the Dakota in this area. Through hands on experiences, using primary as well as secondary sources and visiting the sites that are

often only read about in books the Rice County Historical Society has helped CRSS students begin to understand about their history in a more personal way.

Stay tuned next month for more partnership news.

CRSS in the Community

Students from our school participated in several events during November that increased their planning and presentation skills.



First grade students presented to the school community, created boxes for collecting donations, and collected and sorted the food and personal care items that were donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Graphing the items was another example of math at work in real life.

Eighth graders took on the opportunity through their music class to meet the Minnesota State Standards for the Arts by preparing all aspects of the Veteran's Day program. The first

graders added to this celebration by collecting candy for current members of the Armed Forces.

All students created at least one placemat for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. This tradition continues to add to the community dinner by making the table spots more festive and welcoming to the guests who attend.



December Reminders

All students should have boots, snowpants, winter jacket not just a sweatshirt, gloves/mittens and a hat. Daily recess and other outdoor activities are more fun and comfortable when everyone is properly equipped. If your family is having a hard time providing these clothing items please contact your child's teacher or Ms. Ashley (507-331-7836) and we will help to get the necessary cold and snowy weather items.

The Cannon River STEM School handbook has a couple of policies or practices that come into play at this time of year. Gifts to staff at school are discouraged, see page 12, and the greatest gift that a teacher or adult at our school can receive is a handwritten card or drawing that shares something the student likes or appreciates about that person or Cannon River STEM School.

Remember that birthday invitations are to be sent from home to the families of those invited. In the handbook, see page 14, the directions for asking for addresses is provided. It is hurtful to other students who aren't invited when invitations are distributed at school even when the intent is to do it privately or without others noticing which rarely happens.



Congratulations to the Robotics team. This group of middle school students earned a sixth place medallion at the Lego League competition in Bloomington. This was the culmination of 12 weeks of the Robotics Elective that was offered to sixth graders during the morning elective time.



Opt In To Text Messaging at CRSS!

To opt in to this service, simply text "Y" to 68453 from any wireless device you'd like to receive messages on. If we don't have your cell phone number on file, please update your profile by logging into the TIES button at the top of our website, www.cannonriverstemschool.org or email Rich at rkrannich@cannonriverstemschool.org. These one way messages will supplement the current phone calls and emails with important announcements.

Do You Know These "Nettiquette" Rules?

Don't talk to or accept anything from strangers.

That's the first one we learn while growing up, and the first one we teach our children. The problem in cyberspace though is teaching "stranger danger" because online, it's hard to spot the strangers. The people they chat with enter your home using your computer. Our kids feel safe with us seated nearby. Unless they know them in real life, the person is a stranger, no matter how long they have chatted online. You need to remind them that standard stranger rules apply.

Don't take candy from strangers.

While we don't take candy online, we do accept attachments. And just like the offline candy that might be laced with drugs or poisons, a seemingly innocent attachment can destroy your computer files, pose as you and destroy your friends or spy on you without you even knowing it.

Don't tell people personal things about yourself.

You never really know who you're talking to online. Don't let your children put personal information on profiles. Make sure your

children understand what you consider personal information. Also teach them not to give away information in order to register or enter a contest.

We need to get to know their friends.

Get to know their online friends, just as you would get to know their friends in everyday life. Talk to your children about where they go online, and who they talk to.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

We all know the golden rule. Don't do anything online you wouldn't do offline. If you teach your child to respect others online and to follow the rules of netiquette they are less likely to be cyberbullied, become involved in online harassment or be hacked online. Remember that it is just as likely that your child is a cyberbully (sometimes by accident) as a victim of one.

Full *Parenting Online Guide* by Parry Aftab, *CyberSense ... translating common sense for cyberspace* can be found at: <http://www.teenangels.org/documents/pdf/parentingonline.pdf>