

Cannon River STEM School News



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Studies Show:

Children are spending an average of 7-8 hours a day on entertainment media, including televisions, computers, phones and other electronic devices. Excessive media use can lead to attention problems, school difficulties, sleep and eating disorders, and obesity. In addition, the Internet and cell phones can provide platforms for illicit and risky behaviors.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents establish "screen-free" zones at home by making sure there are no televisions, computers or video games in children's bedrooms, and by turning off the TV during dinner. Children and teens should engage with entertainment media for **no more than 1-2 hours per day**, and that should be high-quality content. It is important for kids to spend time on outdoor play, reading, hobbies, and using their imaginations in free play.

Television and other entertainment media **should be avoided for infants and children under age 2**. A child's brain develops rapidly during these first years, and young children learn best by interacting with people, not screens.

- See more at: <http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/pages/media-and-children.aspx#sthash.8ai6VcW8.dpuf>

Olweus

Cannon River STEM School students and families will be learning about the Olweus Bully Prevention Program during the next few weeks.

The goals of the Olweus Program are:

- To reduce existing bullying problems among students
- To prevent the development of new bullying problems
- To create a safer, happier, more peaceful learning environment for everyone.

The entire CRSS staff was trained during summer workshops, at staff meetings, and during an early dismissal. The messages of the Olweus Program and the rules attached to it will fit perfectly with the Responsive Classroom and Developmental Designs practices that are already in place. We are thankful to Ms. Rosendahl and Ms. Cooper for writing the grant that helped get the program started.

The students in grades three through eight were surveyed about their perceptions of bullying at CRSS. Students were asked about their experiences with being bullied and with bullying others. We will have many discussions over the next weeks about the definition of bullying based on the results of the survey.

As a family you will receive information about this program in several ways. There will be updates in future monthly newsletters, classroom teachers will be putting information in their regular communications, and by attending the Olweus Family Night on December 9th. This evening activity is able to happen in part due to the great participation CRSS families had during the Eat, Talk, Connect Program last year sponsored by the [Rice County Healthy Family Services Collaborative](#).

The invitation to the Olweus Family Night was sent via email last week. Reservations for this informative event which includes a progressive dinner with a slightly Italian theme are due absolutely no later than December 4th at noon. A meal count needs to be turned in so late registrations will not be able to be accepted.

As always, we look forward to partnering with you to continue to make CRSS a great place to learn and work.

Host Families Needed!

Is your child coming home speaking Chinese? Are they commenting on how much fun it is to learn about another country? Perhaps you would be willing to consider offering to host our visiting teacher from China, Li Liu. This is a great opportunity for the entire family to experience the gift of a cultural exchange! We are able to have Chinese instruction thanks to the kindness of families willing to house our teacher for 2-3 months during the course of the year. We are still looking for one more host family. Please let Nalani McCutcheon know if you would be interested.





December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Early Dismissal @ 12:50pm	12 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Winter Festival	21-Jan 1 Winter Break



Calling Interested Board Members!

Cannon River STEM School is only as strong as the people who make up the school: this includes teachers, staff, students, parents, and volunteers. We often solicit for volunteer assignments, but one volunteer opportunity of particular importance is serving on the Cannon River STEM School Board. The CRSS Board is the governing entity of the school, setting policy and direction in conjunction with school staff and parents. The Cannon River STEM School is currently governed by a 7 member Board of Directors who each serves a three year term of elected office. Effective February 13th, 2014 there will be three openings on the Board.

We are looking for individuals who might wish to serve the school in this role. Information has been sent out in take-home folders and via email. Please refer to this information if you are interested in seeking a position on the Board of Directors.

Report Cards

The trimester ended on Friday, November 22nd. Teachers are using the standards assigned to their grade levels to determine student scores for the report card. Before the report card is available for viewing on SchoolView you will receive an email with a narrative from your child's classroom teacher. The purpose of the narrative is to help families to understand which standards or parts of standards were the focus of instruction during the trimester. Those standards are the basis for the subject grades on the first trimester report card. If you haven't set up your SchoolView account you will not be able to view your child's report card. You may contact Nicole Broden with SchoolView account questions.

Donations Please

SHOE BOXES

Our 4th grade classes and Art are in need of shoe boxes. You can send them in with your students or drop them off in the office.

ART IS IN NEED OF:

Tin Foil (clean only please), costume jewelry, rubic's cube sized boxes, small wooden shapes, and bendable plastic tubing for sculpture building.



Everyone had great fun at the Fall Festival, even the adults! CRSS staff are hoping for snow for the Winter Festival so that another great afternoon of fun outdoors can be enjoyed by all. Volunteers are always welcome on these Festival days.

Cold Weather

This is a good time to get into the habit of having a hat, coat, snowpants, mittens and boots at school to start the day. Students will be outside for recess based on the policy in the Student Handbook.