

YOUTH GAMING: A MIXED BAG

If you have watched your child on a video game, you know that success requires an amazing amount of concentration and hand/eye control. So you won't be surprised to hear that research has shown that gaming can lead to improved reasoning, memory and spacial navigation. Gaming has its benefits, and they go beyond keeping kids entertained.

However, as with anything, too much can cease to be positive. Video games can be the first avenue young people reach for to avoid stress, anxiety and other uncomfortable aspects of their lives. Serving that function can lead video gaming to be abused and even to become the first addictive draw of many they will have to negotiate through adolescence. Youth that want to game instead of interacting with others, and forego other activities they typically enjoy can be falling into a pattern of addiction.

If you see that your child is not fulfilling major school, home or work obligations, or continues to game despite the behavior causing social or interpersonal problems, or if this behavior is getting in the way of a healthy family life...it might be time to take some action, and bring the gaming back into balance with the rest of life.

<http://yipa.org/significant-impairment-or-stress-cause-by-youth-gaming/>

Dates to Remember for February

4th	Tours	3:30 or 4:00
11th	Tours	3:30 or 4:00
12th	No School	
15th	No School	
18th	Potential Family Info Night	6:00
25th	Tours	3:30 or 4:00
25th	Math and Science Night	
23 & 24	Explore test	

The MCA testing schedule for grades 3-8 will be posted on the website by February 3rd. Please check this before scheduling trips and appointments in late March, April, and early

Cannon River STEM School News

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CALLING ALL POTENTIAL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!

As members of the CRSS family, you have already negotiated the hoops of the charter school lottery process. You know that existing students enrolled at CRSS are automatically enrolled into the next school year. We will send out a survey at the end of the month to confirm that is your intention. However, if your currently enrolled student has siblings that you wish to enroll next year, you need to fill out a 2016-2017 Application for Enrollment form (found on our website) and make sure we receive it by March 8th at 4 p.m. Your child's siblings will have sibling preference in the lottery on March 10th, but only if we know about them before the lottery.

If you have friends who are interested in attending Cannon River STEM School, please encourage them to complete a 2016-2017 Application for Enrollment form. The CRSS Lottery, held on Thursday, March 10th, 2016 will place potential students in open spaces for next school year, and start the order for each grade's waiting list. In order to have the best chance of enrollment you will want to participate in the Lottery, applications must be received by Tuesday, March 8th at 4 p.m. Contact the office at 331-7836 with questions or for additional assistance.

Tours for interested families are schedule for Thursdays in February: 4th, 11th and 25th at either 3:30 p.m. or 4 p.m. A potential family information night is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th from 6-7 p.m. Please contact the office to sign up for any of these opportunities to learn about CRSS.



Soltis Family Fundraiser

Mr. Soltis and his family greatly appreciate all the effort and thoughts that have gone into making this Soltis Family Fundraiser a success. Thank you for putting up posters, buying tickets for the Burger Fry, and purchasing raffle tickets for the baskets put together by the staff here at CRSS. Tickets are still available for the Burger Fry. Raffle tickets can also be purchased at the fundraiser. Questions about purchasing these tickets can be sent to Ms. Ashley aringlien@cannonriverstemschool.org. Please watch the CRSS Facebook site for pictures of the baskets.

Cannon River STEM School Board of Directors

Welcome to the two newly elected members of the CRSS Board of Directors. Board positions are three year terms. Elections were conducted electronically for the first time last month with the voters being the head of household for each student at school.

- Marilyn Bongers returns for a second term. She has been a long term substitute teacher for us over the past three years, has participated in the Curriculum Review Committee, and continually adds a smile and joy to the days she is here as a casual substitute teacher. Previous to helping on our campus Marilyn was the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Kasson-Mantorville for 13 years.
- Krista Ahlman is a new member to the Board of Directors. She is a parent of a current CRSS student. Krista brings with her experience in both the mental health and corrections fields. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist as well as a Minnesota board approved supervisor. Her areas of clinical expertise include: crisis intervention, family or system conflicts, domestic/sexual violence and anxiety.

Year of the Reader

This year students will be able to meet Ms. Lisa Simons who will be the Year of the Reader author. Ms. Lisa is a local author who specializes in non-fiction writing. She has written books about Ancient Greece, hockey, the Faribault Woolen Mill, poetry, math jobs, and many books about the various branches of the military. A flyer and order form to purchase her books will come out on February 8th. In the meantime, a sample of her books are on display in the office and teachers will be sharing some of her texts in preparation for her visit in early March.



AmeriCorps Programs



AmeriCorps is a national partner that allows Cannon River STEM School to have two very important people on campus serving students each week. One service of AmeriCorps is the Reading Corps program. At CRSS, Ms. Benson works with identified first through third graders on reading rate, accuracy, and expression. Since she is currently serving her fourth year in this position and that is the maximum number of allowable years we are looking for potential replacements.

If you enjoy working one on one with primary grade students, love reading, and might be interested in this type of tutoring position please let Ms. Deb know.

Another service of AmeriCorps is the Promise Fellow program. Our Promise Fellow, Mr. Bahr, works with students in sixth through eighth grade especially in math this year. The Promise Fellow goals are to provide caring adults, enriching after school activities, leadership opportunities, and academic and personal support. These cornerstones help to ensure academic and personal success at the middle level. If you know someone who enjoys adolescents, has a strong math background, and works well with others please also let Ms. Deb know. She can be reached at

dscheil@cannonriverstemschool.org



The Rice County Chemical Health Coalition is a partner with us in a variety of ways.

Fifth and sixth graders will meet with Ms. Shelly and Ms. Kathy five times this year during Advisory. They participate in the MOST campaign, a positive social norms marketing campaign based on student survey data. MOST helps students to understand that most Faribault middle school students choose not to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. Most students do, however, enjoy reading, being part of activities outside of school, and understand the effects poor choices have on their developing brains.

Seventh and eighth graders will also meet with the RCCHC coordinators but with a slightly different focus. They are looking at the challenges Middle Schoolers might face and the questions that they should always ask themselves in making a decision – especially in relation to substances and peer pressure. The questions are:

Will this choice keep me healthy and safe?

Will this choice help me reach my goals?

Will this choice keep me out of conflict with others?

Will this choice help me feel the way I want to feel, now and in the future?



CRSS BY THE NUMBERS

- 20 instructional staff formally trained in Responsive Classroom/Developmental Design.
- 4,786 hours of outside instructional time in 2014-2015.
- 2924.91 service learning hours compiled already in 2015-2016.
- 49 class field trips off campus in 2014-2015.
- 93% conference participation rates on a regular basis.
- This year will be our 7th annual Science Fair for students in grades 3-6.

Welcome new staff members! We are glad that you are a part of the Cannon River STEM School learning community.

Devon Wolters – long term substitute teacher in second grade

Jody Sjodin—Gregoire and Kelly Huber– paraprofessionals serving in classrooms and at recess

Math and Science Night

Start getting ready for an action packed, fun filled Math and Science Night by marking Thursday, February 25th on your calendars. Classroom teachers are planning stations where your family will be able to play with math and science. You will be able to get moving in the *STEM on the Move* stations; read and write at the *Right Brain, Left Brain, Math Brain, Your Brain* rooms; visit the *Engaging Engineering* challenges (there might even be some catapults!); and play and create math games at the *Games, Games, Games* area. There will even be a meal provided with dinner music by our own talented CRSS Musicians. More details will be out next week asking you to RSVP for the meal!

