

## Resources and Opportunities

The National Wildlife Federation has been vocal about the need for time outdoors for all children. They have articles, studies, data, and observations about the effects of nature on the body, mind, and spirits of children.

According to the work they have cited, the benefits of being outdoors on children's spirits include:

- Stress levels are reduced when green spaces are sighted
- Emotional development is protected by play
- "Nature makes you nicer, enhancing social interactions, value for community and close relationships."

Website address:  
[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)



# Cannon River STEM School News

Volume 1, Issue 9

April 2013

## Learn About the Results of the Faribault Student Survey!

Each year, students in grades 6 and 8 participate in a community-wide survey focused on their knowledge, attitudes and perceptions about alcohol and other drugs. Faribault Public Schools, Bethlehem Academy, Discovery School and Cannon River STEM School all participate in the survey. Through this annual participation, parents and school staff are able to get a sense of risk factors facing our youth and how the factors change over time. Parents are invited to join the CRSS Board of Directors in learning more about this year's results from the Faribault Student Survey at the April Board meeting on **Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** in the CRSS Cafeteria. Staff from the Rice County Chem-

ical Health Coalition will share the results of the survey, discuss trends, and address areas of specific concern.

We would love to have parents attend this portion of the Board meeting! Parents play a crucial role in helping their children make and follow through on healthy decisions. Knowing what your kids are doing and thinking can help you in that role. After learning about the survey's results we will talk about how parents can use this information to talk with their children. We anticipate the presentation to be about a half hour, at which point you can head home or stay for the rest of the Board meeting! Please consider joining us!

## CRSS Bragging Rights

During the months of February and March the students and staff at CRSS completed a number of activities unique to our school which should be bragged about. The teaching staff spent the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of February engaged in learning about science, engineering and technology in our community while the students enjoyed a long weekend. The Faribault Woolen Mills, Faribault Foods, and Wenger Corporation were our hosts as we learned about technology changes over time, the impact of these businesses in our community, and the kinds of scientists and engineers that are needed in these places.

The twenty-six third through sixth grade science fair participants were interviewed by judges from the community in early March. Five projects will be advancing to the Mankato Regional Science Fair in late April, but each project was truly a winner. Students put in many hours outside of the

school day to think like scientists. Judges commented on the quality of the experiments as well as the professional way these young scientists explained their projects and conducted themselves during the fair.

The March service project was also a huge success. During the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> students learned about social studies concepts by looking at the goods and services provided by the Buckham Memorial Library, the Community Center and the Faribault Area Senior Center. We partnered with those groups to donate money and food items to the local food shelf. The contributions of CRSS families contributed to the friendly competition between these three groups and without need of any other reward other than "bragging rights for helping" contributed \$305.64 and 251 food items for families in need in our county.

# April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Early Dismissal @ 12:50 pm	11	12	13
14	15	16 MCA Math 3-1	17 MCA Math 3-1 Read 4, 5, 6, 8	18 MCA Math 3-2 Read 4, 5, 6, 8	19 MCA Math 3-2 Read Makeups	20
21	22 MCA Math 8	23 MCA Math 6 Read 3, 7	24 MCA Math 4, 5 Read 3, 7	25 MCA Math 4, 5	26 MCA Math 7 Read Makeups	27
28	29 MCA Math Makeups Read Makeups	30 MCA Science 8	May 1 MCA Science 5			

## Reminder... Reminder ... Reminder

It is very important to keep student, parent/guardian and emergency contact information up to date. Please review your family's contact information in TIES SchoolView by clicking on the "Alerts" button and your child's emergency contacts by clicking on the "Student Information" button. If there are changes to your information please complete a change request form in TIES SchoolView by clicking on the red "Change Request Form" button and completing the Census Family Update Form or contact the office. If you have not set up a TIES SchoolView account please call or email Nicole Broden at 507-331-7836 ext. 213 or [nbroden@cannonriverstemschool.org](mailto:nbroden@cannonriverstemschool.org) to receive your access key and instructions.

## Upcoming Events

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are scheduled in April. These state tests are one way that students are measured for academic growth. In addition to getting enough sleep and eating correctly the encouragement from families to stick with the test and reread/review your work will make the test go more smoothly. At CRSS we also have a reading portfolio in place to measure progress as well as a math portfolio which will be ready this spring. NWEA testing is done as another way to check on progress twice a year. And the classroom teachers, specialists, special education staff and even our other support staff are constantly planning and assessing students to help them continue to improve as learners every single day of the school year.

**Donations Needed:** CRSS has used the idea of community supplies since it opened. The following items are in short supply in our classroom communities. Please help us replenish the following:

Glue sticks

Single hole punches

Paper pocket folders

Composition notebooks