

## Welcome

Welcome to all of you who are new to Cannon River STEM School. Each month the newsletter features a few items on the front that are important to our school and student success. On the back you will find a calendar for the upcoming month with important dates and times. July and August are included in this newsletter so you can mark your calendars. We are looking forward to meeting all of you before the summer is over.

## Volunteers

Many things happen at Cannon River STEM School because of volunteers. This year, to the best of our record keeping knowledge, volunteers at CRSS logged 1,413 hours. These hours impact the students in many ways. Thank you for helping to make the playground and lunchroom good places to be by volunteering during the middle of the day. Thank you for tutoring at the Middle School level to help students with math and reading skills. Thank you for working in the library with the wonderful librarians from St. Catherine's. Thank you for being Mystery Readers, guest experts on birds, rocks, planes, and many other topics, and for helping in classrooms with Words Their Way groups, math fact practice, and reading time. For all the other ways you have helped students be successful we sincerely **thank you**.

Watch your email for upcoming volunteer opportunities.



# Cannon River STEM School News

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July 2013

## Endings and Beginnings

As the 2012-2013 school year ended it was hard to say good bye to the students for the summer and to the students who would not be returning to CRSS. Fourteen 8<sup>th</sup> graders were honored at a commencement dinner and we wish them well at their chosen schools next fall. We also said good bye to 5 staff members: Mr. Schafer who was an

original staff member and music teacher here at CRSS; Ms. Wallis who has been the art teacher and Girl Scout leader the past two years; Ms. Yang the Chinese teacher who has returned to her home in China; Mrs. Quinby who worked with the special education department, and Ms. Deni who has taught second grade for the past two years. We wish all five of these teachers success in their next endeavors.

## Are You Reading?

Remember the research about "summer slide" especially in the area of reading. So far 80 of the CRSS students have signed up and are participating in the Summer Reading Program at the library. Six of our older students are participating as Volunteers. It is not too late to start participating and now Ms. Deni, the new children's librarian, can even help you find those just right books! Visit the library website at [www.faribault.org/library/summer](http://www.faribault.org/library/summer) to preview the exciting programs that are offered on Fridays throughout the summer.



Reading books is very important and helps with decoding and fluency. Discussing each book is also very important because it helps develop vocabulary and comprehension. Here are a few questions that you might use. If your child doesn't have an answer help them go back into the text to reread for an answer.

- What was the main character (the protagonist) like? How did the author help you to get to know the character?
- Show me one new word that you noticed. What does that word mean? How did you figure it out?
- Were the pictures (illustrations) helpful while reading the story/article? If there weren't any pictures draw some to show what you think the characters or setting might look like.
- What was the topic of the nonfiction text? What new facts did you learn or what questions are you curious about now that you have finished reading the book?

## And What About Math?

In the last newsletter the article about "fact fluency" supported that knowledge of basic facts without counting on fingers, drawing tally marks, or using manipulatives is an important skill for students that leads to success in higher math. Those tools are important in the early learning of a new math skill, but should be discarded when the skill is mastered at different grade levels.

The following websites could be used for practice on math skills. You can check if it is a grade level skill for your child in the subject notes on the report card or by checking the Minnesota Math Standards at the MDE website.

[www.softschools.com](http://www.softschools.com)

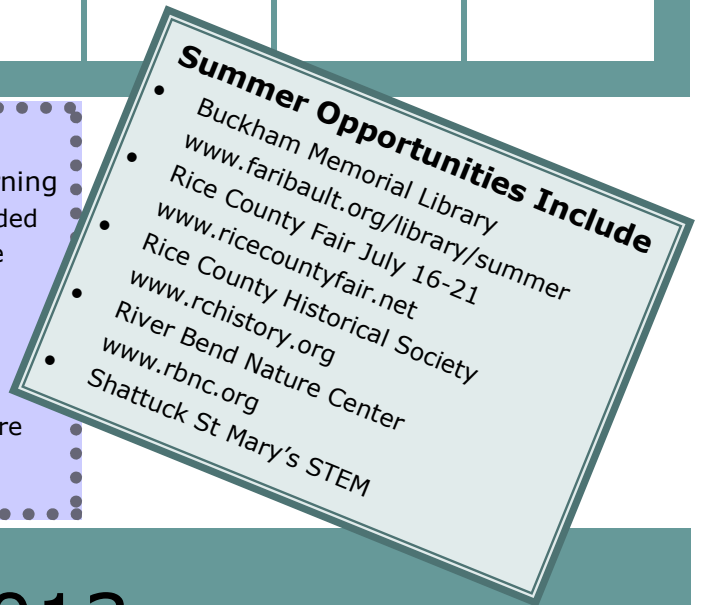
[www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com)

# July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6
7	8 Office Closed	9 Summer Session K-3 (9am-12pm) 4-7 (1pm-4pm)	10 Summer Session K-3 (9am-12pm) 4-7 (1pm-4pm)	11 Summer Session K-3 (9am-12pm) 4-7 (1pm-4pm)	12 Office Closed	13
14	15 Office Closed	16 Summer Session K-3 (9am-12pm) 4-7 (1pm-4pm)	17 Summer Session K-3 (9am-12pm) 4-7 (1pm-4pm)	18 Summer Session K-3 (9am-12pm) 4-7 (1pm-4pm)	19 Office Closed	20
21	22 Office Closed	23	24	25	26 Office Closed	27
28	29 Office Closed	30	31			

## 2013-14 Student Enrollment

We are delighted that your child(ren) will be returning to CRSS for the 2013-14 school year. If you have decided not to send your child(ren) to CRSS next year and have not yet informed us of that decision, please send us an email or letter ASAP so that we can release your child(ren)'s right to his/her seat and fill the opening with another student. We have many children on the waiting list that would like the opportunity to enroll if you are not planning to have your child(ren) return.



# August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 New Families and Kinder Orientation	16 Burger Fry Fundraiser at KC Hall	17 Family Work Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	26 Teacher Workshops	27 Before School Conf. Title I and SPED Advisory Committee	28 Before School Conf.	29 Teacher Workshops	30 Teacher Workshops	31