

Cannon River STEM School News

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March 2013

Resources and Opportunities

Item #1:

According to the National Wildlife Federation time spent outside is important for a child physically. They also have research showing that being outside helps students' minds. Students who participate in schools and activities that have an environmental-based focus have been shown to score higher on some standardized tests and to have increased abilities in the area of critical thinking skills. There is some research to support that being outside may reduce some of the ADHD indicators.

Item #2:

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments are coming in April and early May. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the reading and math assessments. Students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the science assessment. Visit the Minnesota Department of Education website to learn more about the content of these tests and to see examples of the complexity of the items.

Making Note of Transportation Changes for 2013-14

As a charter school, CRSS has two options related to transportation of students:

- Provide transportation for all students by paying for our own vehicles and staff. This option would be cost prohibitive and well exceed the amount of transportation aid provided by the State of Minnesota.
- Elect to have Faribault Public Schools provide our transportation. In this case, all our transportation aid is transferred to Faribault Public Schools to transport our students. In this situation, transportation of CRSS students operates under the same guidelines as for students in the Faribault Public School district.

CRSS has always elected to have Faribault Public Schools provide our transportation.

Last fall ISD 656's levy referendum failed, and as a result, the Faribault Public Schools are cutting costs. One of the cost saving measures is to extend the "bus ride eligible" zone from a 1 mile radius from a child's designated school to a 2 mile radius. This means that many students currently eligible for bus ridership will no longer be able to ride the bus in the 2013-2014 school year. There are no exemptions for hazardous roadways.

CRSS has asked to be provided with a list of students who will no longer be eligible for bussing next year, and Faribault Public Schools have indicated that they are

working on providing us that list. However, it will be later in the spring before they are able to provide us with those determinations. CRSS has no role in this process, so we are unable to provide any additional information.

While ISD 656 will make the ultimate determination of your child's eligibility to be bussed, we can recommend that you MapQuest, Google Maps, or note the mileage in your vehicle from your home to school. If you live beyond 2 miles, you will likely be eligible to ride the bus. If you live within 2 miles, you will likely not be eligible. Those who live close to the line must wait for Faribault to make a determination.

We know that this may put some hardship on families. We will let you know as soon as we receive information from the district. For now though, we wanted to preview this change, and let you know we are doing what we can to get answers as swiftly as possible.



ABSENCE REPORTING

Please remember to report all student absences. When reporting an absence, please call the office (507-331-7836) or e-mail your student's classroom teacher and attendance@cannonriverstemschool.org. When you include the attendance@ email address this notifies both the office and Ms. Heidi (school lunch & breakfast program coordinator) of your child(ren)'s absence. Please make sure that you report student absences EVERY day that your child(ren) is/are absent, unless otherwise directed by staff. Our voice mail is available from 4:00 p.m.-7:30 a.m.

March 2013

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 End of trimester | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Science Fair | 7 Specials Night 6pm Raptor League Mtg. 7pm | 8 Author David LaRochelle Visit | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Re-Enrollment Forms due | 12 2013-14 Student Applications due at 4pm | 13 Early Dismissal @ 12:50pm | 14 CRSS Lottery 5pm Board Mtg. 7pm | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Report Cards are available for viewing Spring Break | 19 | 20 | 21 Raptor League Mtg. 7pm | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Upcoming Events

The 4th Annual Science Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 6th in the gymnasium. Students in grades 3 through 6 have been working on their projects since January and will spend that afternoon visiting with Science Fair judges about their learning.

This year on Thursday, March 7th we will have our newly named Specials Night. This is a time to experience what happens during specialist instruction at CRSS. There will be Chinese paper folding, a band performance, 7th graders will share their Garage Band projects, art activities, music stations, and a physical education area. The Science Fair projects will also be on display. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in the Middle School at 6 o'clock!

Then on Friday, March 8th the Faribault Year of the Reader author David LaRochelle will spend the afternoon with us. He will be presenting to the students about his books and about being a writer and illustrator. If you are planning to purchase books please do so no later than Monday, March 4th. This will give us a chance to get the books, or to have more ordered, and allow David to autograph them before meeting the students on Friday.