

By the Numbers

- 281 students and 34 staff are helping CRSS celebrate their 5th year. When we opened in 2009 the numbers were 130 students and 10 staff.

- 411 people ate breakfast on September 22nd at the Pancake Breakfast. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for hosting, the volunteers and the guests that made the morning a success.

- 99 children participated in a Tour of U.S. Landforms during the K-4 Parent Information Night childcare in the gym. Thank you to the 8th grade volunteers and the CRSS staff who made this possible.

- 27 families attended the 5th through 8th grade Parent Information Night. 71 families attended K through 4th grade Parent Information Night. We look forward to seeing you in November for Literacy Night.

- 193,873 minutes that could be read after the May Book Fair according to our Scholastic Book Fair consultant. That's 1077 purchased books. The next book fair will be October 14th through the 16th providing there are enough volunteers to staff 1 day of previewing and 2 days of selling.

- 22 sweatshirts and jackets collected in the lost and found the first month of school. Please have your student(s) check the lost and found if they are missing something. We will make a donation to a local charity after conferences.

Cannon River STEM School News

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October 2013

2nd Annual All School Expectations Convention Convenes

Students from each classroom met on September 23rd at the All School Expectations Convention. Each set of classroom representatives brought the expectations that their class had developed and the school community left the convention with the set of expectations you see below. Leadership skills, courteous discourse, listening and cooperation were just some of the skills that were evident as these students debated the merits of the individual ideas and then created the expectations that all of the CRSS Community will follow.

1. Make good choices by following the *CARES Rules.
2. Ignore bad choices inside and outside.
3. Always work towards a positive ending.
4. Be safe and be a learner to have fun.

*CARES

C-Cooperation

A-Assertive

R-Responsibility

E-Empathy

S-Self-Control



Find Your Spark!

The Search Institute has been a valuable resource for teachers at Cannon River STEM School. We hope that you have had time to read and think about the child developmental pamphlet you received at the Before School Conference. That resource is just one of many the Search Institute has developed so parents and school staff can form a strong understanding and commitment to developmentally appropriate education.

Sparks, is another piece of research from the Search Institute that helps children be confident in their identity and strengths. Sparks are the passions and interests that make children tick. When parents and school staff encourage children intentionally about their interests and efforts we are developing their sparks. According to the ParentFurther website "When young people know their sparks and have several caring adults who

know and support those sparks, they are more likely to:

- Be healthy physically
- Be good stewards of the earth and its resources
- Volunteer to help other people
- Be socially competent
- Have a sense of purpose
- Avoid violent behavior
- Have higher grades in school

(Taken from the home page of ParentFurther, a Search Institute resource for families)

More information about Sparks can be found at: <http://www.parentfurther.com/parenting-matters/sparks>

Fall Conferences

Fall Conferences are just around the corner. Watch for an email from CRSS Info that will tell you when the sign up is open and how to access the site. These conferences are goal setting conferences. Some testing information will be shared, the grade level academic flyer will be available, and student work and teacher observations will be reviewed to help set goals for the next few months. Students are encouraged to attend and participate in developing goals that help them to develop their Sparks, develop their social skills, and advance their academic skills.

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Raptor League Meeting 7 pm	4	5
6	7 Health & Safety Week	8	9 Early Release 12:50 pm Health & Safety Fair (8 volunteers needed)	10 School Board Meeting 7 pm	11	12
13	14 Book Fair Preview (6 volunteers needed)	15 Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening) Book Fair (24 volunteers needed)	16 No school Parent/Teacher Conferences (day/evening) Book Fair (12 volunteers needed)	17 No school	18 No school	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Fall Festival Activities	31		

Parent Question

A CRSS parent observed that a number of cars in the before and after school drop off lines are leaving their cars idling while waiting for the line to begin moving. According to the Environmental Defense Fund work from 2009 (accessed at website below) there are a number of reasons to turn your car off until the line begins to move.
 "A simple turn of your key can keep the air cleaner and save money and fuel. Every time you turn off your car engine in place of idling, you'll:

- **Make the air healthier** by cutting down on hazardous pollution in your town or community.
- **Help the environment.** For every 10 minutes your engine is off, you'll prevent one pound of carbon dioxide from being released (carbon dioxide is the primary contributor to global warming).
- **Keep money in your wallet and save fuel.** Save between 1/5 to 7/10 of a gallon of fuel for every hour of not idling."

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.edf.org/transportation/reports/idling>

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help make the Health and Safety Fair, as well as, the Book Fair a success. Please consider volunteering during these events (dates listed on the calendar above). The Book Fair hours will need to be adjusted based on volunteer availability. You can contact Ashley in the office at 507-331-7836 or by email aringlien@cannonriverstemschool.org to sign-up.

Attendance
 Every year in Minnesota 15,000 high school seniors do not graduate on time (mnyouth.net). Beginning in kindergarten regular attendance at school is critical to success. A Chicago study found attendance was a stronger graduation predictor than 8th grade test scores. (What Matters for Staying on Track, 2007)