

Studies Show ...

In 1990, the Search Institute released [a framework of 40 Developmental Assets](#), which identifies a set of skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults. The Developmental Assets framework and approach to youth development quickly became one of the most frequently cited and widely utilized youth development models.

Data collected from Search Institute surveys of more than 4 million children and youth from all backgrounds and situations has consistently demonstrated that the more Developmental Assets young people acquire, the better their chances of succeeding in school and becoming happy, healthy, and contributing members of their communities and society.

Cannon River STEM School 4-8th grade students took the Developmental Asset Survey for the first time this year, and we will be using the data annually to help us shape the supports we provide to our students to enhance their success. Young people with more assets are generally more resilient to stress and trauma. We believe that every adult in a child's life can be an Asset Builder and contribute to strengthening and supporting our youth.

The CRSS Board of Directors will be looking at our survey results and discussing its implications at our January 14, 2016 Board Meeting at 7 p.m., which is directly after the CRSS Annual Meeting. Please plan on coming to the Annual Meeting and staying for the first part of the Board Meeting to learn more about our survey results and how we can work to build our youth's assets!

Dates to Remember for January

4-15	NWEA Testing
8	Science Fair (7th grade)
14	Annual meeting
18-19	Conferences/No School
20	FHS play, <i>How to stop a bully</i> 1-2 pm

Cannon River STEM School News

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Why Attend...The Annual Meeting...Conferences...And February's Math/Science Night

Each of these upcoming events is a chance to see what CRSS is all about. January 14th from 6:15 to 7:00 in the cafeteria is the Annual Meeting of the CRSS stakeholders. This time before the regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is a chance to meet staff, other families, and to see student work. At this time Mr. Berger will have the ensembles and choir perform, the Robotics team will share their challenges from the tournament, some elective students will share about Minecraft and the Dugout Canoe, the seventh grade science fair projects will be on display, as well as, other examples of student work. This is a short time commitment, but a great way to see and hear about some of the work happening with our students.



Conferences on Monday, January 18th and Tuesday, January 19th present another opportunity to connect one on one with your child's teacher. You will have a chance to review goals set in October, check in about the first trimester report card if needed, review assessment data (3rd through 8th will have NWEA reading and math scores), and to set new goals and practices to finish the year in a strong fashion. You were able to sign up for conferences beginning January 4th and remember that you can also sign up to visit with Mr. Berger, Mr. LeDuc and Mrs. Nelson our specialists and with Mrs. Goss and Mrs. Caldwell our reading specialists. This time to talk about academic



progress and set goals is critical to the success of every student in our learning community.

Mark February's Math/Science night, February 25th, on your calendars. Last year it featured Caine's Arcade and we are planning another interactive experience with math and science for this year's night. Plan to come to experience ways to make math and science a part of every day in simple ways.

Applications will soon be accepted for the CRSS Reading Corps position. Thank you to Sherry Benson who has filled this spot the past 4 years. To learn more about this rewarding opportunity go to www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org.

The children aren't the only ones who gain skills. During your 11 months as a Minnesota Reading Corps tutor, you too will experience life-changing growth while you:

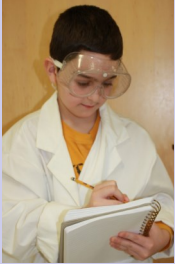
- Build your career skills, network and resume
- Earn a \$544 biweekly living allowance (full-time)
- Receive up to \$5,730 to further your own schooling
Tutors 55 or older may gift the award to a child or grandchild
- Help kids in your community learn the skills they need to succeed
- Receive training to guide struggling readers' growth toward literacy
- Receive other benefits if eligible



Science Fairs

This year the seventh graders have worked on a science fair project. Twelve community volunteers judged their projects. Based on the scoring of the judges, projects will be eligible to participate in the Regional Science fair for 7th through 12th graders in Mankato in February.

The science fair for students in grades 3 through 6 is starting. Mrs. Girard spoke to all classes before winter break and encouraged students to participate. Students may do the project all on their own at home or participate in the Tuesday after school help sessions in addition to working at home. If your child is interested in participating *whether you plan to have them attend the help sessions or not* please email or send a note to Mrs. Girard by Monday, January 11th. Her contact information is lgirard@cannonriverstemschool.org. The CRSS science fair will be held in early March and we are still looking for judges for that event.



More Partnerships...

Last month's newsletter featured Cannon River STEM School partnerships with River Bend Nature Center and the Rice County Historical Society. These partnerships help the staff and students experience place based, project based, and inquiry based lessons.



Shattuck-St. Mary's students have provided another kind of partnership experience for our school and students. During their fall Hands Across Faribault service day we have benefited from Shattuck students help on the grounds and with inside projects like sorting Words Their Way packets and taping bookbag books.

This year the partnership with the Shattuck eighth graders and the CRSS kindergarteners has become a monthly get together. Each eighth grade and kindergarten pair have gotten to know each other and learn together about sight words, math games, and even how to make bird seed treats for our feathered friends.

Minnesota State Academy for the Blind has been another partner this year. The first graders have had a chance to practice math and reading skills with an MSAB student who is interested in being a teacher. Job shadowing or work study is an experience filled with learning for everyone and we are hoping more future teachers will be present on our campus.



"It may be hard to believe, but there are no strings or catches and everything is free."

That statement is often attached to advertising and usually invites the buyer to be a bit skeptical. When it appeared in a letter from Boston College Professor of Chemistry T. Ross Kelly it seemed worth checking out.

Curiosity cabinets celebrate the art of collecting unusual items. They were called Cabinets of Curiosities during the Renaissance time when they were popular with the wealthy. They were elaborate Renaissance collections that showcased a love of science.

Professor Kelly has taken the gadgets, gizmos, devices, etc. that he has collected over the past 25 to 30 years in his office and created an online version of the curiosity cabinet. It is truly free, there is nothing to sign up for or give other information about and the only catch is that you might end up spending quite a bit of time there checking out the various videos and examples of scientific principles and sometimes seemingly impossible objects.

Check it out at: <https://sites.google.com/a/bc.edu/curiosity-cabinet>



CRSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce that we have two nominees to fill the slots on the CRSS Board of Directors. Since the number of candidates running equals the number of open board positions, an approval ballot will be distributed via electronic survey and sent out on Thursday, 1/7/16. Parents will be asked to vote for or against the slate of candidates. Please participate in our Board election by voting on our slate of candidates.