

Happy Friday CMS Families!

We've had another eventful week at CMS this week and I'd like to acknowledge and thank our Leadership Class for their work in putting together Red Ribbon Week, the dress up days, and activities that accompany the week. Hopefully the positive messaging around Red Ribbon Week has had an impact on your child and we encourage you to continue the important dialogue about making positive and healthy choices regarding drug and alcohol use.

Thursday Gathering Talk: On Thursday we had a bit of a solemn Gathering. In the wake of yet another act of violence in our country we felt it was important to address our students about these types of events that have become far too common over the past several years.

At the gathering I took a few moments to address the student body. While I did not read the statement I wrote below word for word, I did deliver a message that was close to this. I think it is important to share this message with you so that you can continue the important conversation about recent events in whatever way you see fit. I hope that you find the message provided to students below helpful, respectful, and appropriate.

Gathering Speech from 11.1.18: At today's Gathering I wanted to take a moment to discuss a tragic event that took place in our country just a few days ago. As many of you know, on Saturday, October 27th, our nation experienced another national tragedy as a single person carrying a message of hatred took the lives of 11 innocent people and wounded at least 6 others. Sadly, it seems that every year for the last several years I stand in front of our school at a Gathering to talk about the latest in a series of tragedies that continue to happen.

There are lots of debates and opinions out there about the cause of these events or the things that contribute to them Mental illness, gun control, violence in the media.... and these things are all an important part of the conversation, but I believe there is really only one thing that we can do today and every day to make a difference in our world and that is learning to truly love and accept anyone and everyone who is different from you in any and every way.

The poet, Maya Angelou wrote "In diversity there is strength and beauty... We need joy as we need air, we need love as we need water, we need each other as we need the earth we share". I think if you look around the room right now, you'll see that this is true.... We're all different in many ways and we need to be there for each other.

If there is one thing we can learn from these events I think it is the idea that the most powerful way we can make a difference in our world is by living a life of love and acceptance. That has to start right here on our campus and we need your help to make Carmel Middle School a safe place for everyone, ... all races, all religions, all countries, all genders, all sexual orientations, all ethnicities, and all abilities.

This week, as we recognize and celebrate Red Ribbon week, and make pledges to live a drug free life, I'd like you to also consider making a pledge in your heart to be a person who exemplifies love and acceptance and lead your life as a person who exemplifies those ideals.

In just a moment, we're going to hear from the CMS Boys Chorus who will be performing a special song that is directly linked to the importance of love and acceptance. The song, Imagine, was written in 1971... almost 50 years ago by John Lennon, and its message resonates today as much as it ever has. Please listen carefully to the words as the choir sings and consider the powerful message within this song.

Thank you and please give a warm welcome to the CMS Boys choir.

Halloween Dance Update: We just wrapped up our Halloween Dance and true to its billing, it was a great event. First, I'd like to thank Bruce Haase for all the work he does to organize and coordinate this event. Bruce has been the point man for this dance for several years now so he's a pro, but organizing this event is a serious time commitment and Bruce always does a fantastic job. In addition, I'd like to thank all our volunteer adults for showing up to help out in various capacities. Finally, a special thanks to our leadership class for their participation in decorating and clean-up at the dance tonight. The Halloween Dance is always the most well attended event of the year and it requires a tremendous number of volunteers to make sure it all goes according to plan. Your help with this event is appreciated and you all have helped to make this year's Halloween Dance truly memorable.

Announcements

Last Chance for the FOCUS Auction! The annual **FOCUS Fall Back Bash Auction** is wrapping up **tomorrow!!!** After 11pm on Saturday, November 3rd, your opportunity to bid on and win highly desired items donated by the schools and local businesses will be **gone, gone, gone!** Whether you are interested in golf, special school performances, or reserved parking, don't miss out...visit the Focus Auction site at:

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/2018-focus-fall-back-auction-5391> before time runs out!

PTO Meeting: Wednesday, November 7th, 7:45 AM: Interested in helping our PTO make a continued, lasting, positive impact on Carmel Middle School? Attend the next PTO meeting. During meetings we discuss upcoming student activities, examine teacher proposals for enhanced learning opportunities, and plan large scale projects that will impact the student experience at CMS. The more volunteers and voices we have, the more we can do. If you're interested, please come and join our group to learn how the CMS PTO continues to make a positive impact on life at CMS!

Trimester 1 Ends on Friday, November 9th: Our first trimester comes to a close next Friday. This is your final week to take care of any missing/late assignments and/or check in with our teachers on any questions you might have before grades become official. Once again, please encourage your students to stay focused as we wrap up the first trimester!

Basketball Tryouts are Coming:

11/13: 6/7th Girls 3:00 - 4:30

8th Girls 4:30 - 6:00

11/14: All Girls teams 3:00 - 4:30 7th/8th Boys teams 4:30 - 6:00

11/15: All Boys teams 3:00 -5:15

11/16: All Girls teams 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. All Boys teams 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

***6th Grade Boys Basketball Tryouts will take place at a later date TBD.**

SAVE THE OCEAN, EARN MONEY! Our community has an opportunity to make a huge impact in reducing our carbon footprint and protecting our ocean, simply by participating in a **free program** offered to all PG&E customers via Ohm Connect. You can earn money and win prizes while saving energy! The CMS Environmental Club students presented detailed information at this week's Gathering, students were given a blue informational flyer to take home, and the information can be accessed on the MySchool Club page. Contact Mrs. Chupka at nchupka@carmelunified.org with any questions. Please join us in this effort to reduce our impact on the world, right here in Carmel. It takes a village!

The ELC is Now Open: Our after school program opened its doors last week and our new ELC teacher, Abbie Hatten, is excited to have more kids join her program. This after school academic program provides a supervised environment for students who would like to get their homework done before going home or students who need some help in any academic subject. Our ELC is open Monday through Thursday from the end of the school day until 5:30 p.m.

Chromebook Loaning Concerns: This past week the library checked out 67 loaner Chromebooks to students who either left their computers at home or because Chromebooks ran out of battery. Out of these 67 Chromebooks, 35 did not get returned! Please ask your students to charge their Chromebooks Sunday night (and every school night) and to return any computers that are still in their backpacks. Thank You!

Calendar

November

2. Halloween Dance, CMS GYM, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

5 - 9: Fall Sports Playoffs

6. Election Day

8. Winter Sportsnet Registration closes 5:00 p.m.

9. Trimester 1 Ends - Cycle and Wheel Change

12. Observance of Veteran's Day - School closed

15. Fall Sports Banquet and Dinner, CMS Cafeteria, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

13.- 16. Winter Sports Tryouts

16. Sleeping Beauty and the Beast Production, Theater, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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21. - 23. Thanksgiving Break, School closed

December

7. Carmel Tree Lighting Ceremony, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

9. Hospice Giving Foundation - Tree of Life Ceremony, Portola Hotel, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

10. - 14th Canned Food Drive

11. CMS Winter Concert, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

19. CMS Cougar Cub Concert, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

24. - Jan. 4 - Winter Break

January

7. Staff Development - School closed

11. Cycle Change - 2nd Trimester Progress Reports

11. Not In Our School Day

16. Geo Bee Finals, CMS Library, 11:30 - 12:00 p.m.

17. - 19 CCS Honor Band and Orchestra - Pacific Grove Middle School

21. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - No School

22. - Feb.1 Nepal Fundraiser

24 - 26. CCS Honor Choir Event

February

6. CJSF Induction, Library, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

8. February Dance - CMS Gym, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

14. Sportsnet closes for Spring Sports, 5:00 p.m.

14. - 19 All-State Band and Orchestra / CASMEC

18 - 22 February Break - school closed

25. - March 1 Spring Sports Tryouts