

CMS Weekly Communication

10.9.21

We've made it to Fall Break! I hope that this break offers your family the opportunity to spend some quality time together making positive memories and engaging in some of the things you enjoy.

We had another fantastic week of school, but I'd like to call some attention to Friday as I feel like it provides a nice sample of the "extras" available to students at CMS. Friday's lunch time activities were amazing! CMS staff and students combined to offer all of the following options Friday during lunchtime:

- **Slime Makers Workshop in the CMS Makers Space**
- **Dungeon and Dragons Club Meeting - Preparation for a Quest**
- **Inktober - Drawing event in the CMS Library**
- **Karaoke with Mr. Loosely - Very popular event in the main quad**
- **6th Grade Volleyball - Nakamuraville Knighthawks and other 6th Grade All Stars vs various Faculty**
- **Wiffleball - 8th Grade All Stars vs Faculty All Stars**

As I walked around campus during lunch, participating in various activities and observing students, it was wonderful to see so many of our students happily engaged in these activities with friends. I hope that your children are finding their place and their people at CMS and with the wide variety of extracurricular activities provided by our staff I hope your children are finding opportunities to connect with staff and each other. If this is not the case, please let us know and we'll work hard to help your child find ways to get connected!

TikTok Challenge Warning

A few weeks ago we reached out with information about a viral TikTok challenge that had made its way to CMS with the vandalism of our boys bathroom several times over the course of two weeks. After we pushed out the information I am pleased to report that we have not had another incident of bathroom vandalism. We thank you for your support in this matter and wanted to let you know that the folks encouraging these behaviors are not done yet. Using the moniker, "Devious Licks" a number of new viral challenges have now surfaced encouraging students to engage in a variety of destructive and dangerous behaviors. In an effort to ensure that parents are aware of this ongoing situation we felt it was important to share this concerning trend with you.

School districts across the country are responding to theft and vandalism of school property and other concerning behaviors after students started posting videos of themselves on TikTok completing destructive challenges. What may have started as minor pranks has now turned into costly repairs and replacements and other distractions from the important work schools are doing to keep students safe, and learning in-person. Additional TikTok challenges are planned for the rest of the school year, including those that promote physical violence against school staff, vandalism and even physical/sexual assault.

Please make sure your student realizes that these challenges are not innocent pranks, and will lead to serious repercussions and disciplinary consequences including suspension or expulsion. Additionally, theft, vandalism, and striking a teacher may lead to law enforcement involvement. Remind your student that viral posts and other online activities remain forever and can impact participation in school, extra curricular activities, college applications, job opportunities and more.

We are sharing this with everyone because we are all in this together. As a community we can change this narrative by encouraging our students to have pride in themselves and in our schools. Ask your student how they can make someone's day brighter with a smile or a helping hand. Small acts of service can have a greater impact than a few seconds of "going viral." Let our students make headlines for being difference makers and positive role models.

We stand ready to offer additional support and resources to our students and families. If you have concerns, please reach out to your student's teacher or administrator. Thank you for taking this matter seriously and for your efforts to help ensure Carmel Unified schools are safe for all students and staff.

Thank You for the Staff Appreciation Lunch!

On Tuesday our teachers and staff were treated to an amazing Staff Appreciation lunch organized and sponsored by our PTO. This event had a special spin to it as our PTO looked for volunteers to purchase lunch for a specific staff member. This resulted in a really special event as many teachers received personalized lunches from students/families with whom they have formed a unique bond or relationship. Many teachers commented on how much they appreciated the personal, specialized component of this event and asked me to pass on their gratitude for the wonderful gesture. I'd also like to acknowledge and provide gratitude to our PTO for purchasing a variety of lunches from California Pizza Kitchen for our non-teaching staff members who contribute so much to our students and programs each day. Thank you for making us all feel valued and appreciated through this generous program!

Meals on Wheels: Paper Bag Grocery Project

Attention CMS Families: The Earth Club and This Club Saves Lives along with the Opportunity Education Program are spearheading a project here at CMS to help one of our community's local nonprofit organizations. Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula has been helping to feed our community's homebound seniors since 1972. Their Home Delivered Meal Program is the only program on the Monterey Peninsula to deliver nutritious meals every day, five days per week, with an extra Friday meal for the weekend. In 2020, Meals on Wheels delivered 91,319 meals. Due to COVID-19, Meals on Wheels had to change their delivery method to a no-contact service in order to keep those in need healthy and safe. Each meal is delivered in a brown paper grocery bag. They use approximately 375 bags each week. Because of this, Meals on Wheels is in need of as many brown paper bags as possible. We hope that you and your families will start collecting brown paper bags to help this incredible non-profit organization. Students will be decorating these bags that we will deliver to Meals on Wheels on November 15th during their Campfire session. Please have students bring all paper bags to their Campfire teachers. Thank you for your support.

Cash for Cougars: PTO Funding Update

I'd like to start this update by once again expressing our collective gratitude for the financial support we received through the Cash for Cougars fundraiser. Bringing in over \$70,000 allows us to provide so many wonderful experiences and new opportunities for our students and we have a variety of programs and individual teachers that rely on these funds to support student engagement. With that in mind, many of you might be wondering, "Where does the money actually go?". Periodically, I'll post updated lists of PTO funded items and events allowing you to see the positive impact the PTO fundraising efforts have on our school programs. Here's a list of some recently funded items/events:

- **Advisory Program:** PTO funded \$3600.00 (\$100 per group) in support of our newly established Advisory program. These funds will primarily be used for small snacks, prizes, and other community building items designed to promote the mission and vision of the advisory program; building student connections.
- **Inktober Funding:** \$400 to support the purchase of art supplies needed to run the Inktober event. Supplies include art paper, drawing supplies, and a few prizes for students who participate in all 30 days.
- **8th Grade Creative Writing and Book Trailer Competition:** \$200 to support prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category.
- **CMS Wellness Center:** \$1000.00 to support the purchase of student engagement items and Wellness Center decor. Plans to purchase board games, puzzles, fidget items, and some decorations through vendors CUSD is not able to support.
- **Feeder Watch - Science Birding Program:** \$500 to purchase birdseed allowing a variety of science classes, Nature Studies, and habitat programs to examine native bird species throughout the year. Also keeps our habitat birds well fed!
- **Halloween Dance:** \$1500.00 to fund our Halloween Dance free to all CMS students! These funds pay for our DJ, decorations, and food. Food is sold below cost (\$1 for pizza and \$1 for treats) making the Halloween Dance the best deal in town! With no entrance fee, all students can attend and enjoy the event!
- **7th Grade Science Tie-Dye T-Shirt Project:** \$1700.00 - Back by popular demand after last year's tremendous success, our 7th grade science teachers engage students in chemistry lessons through the creation of personalized Tie-Dye T-shirts. Every 7th grader gets a shirt to keep and all the mess is made at school! Thank you PTO!

6th Grade, First Period, Volleyball Tournament of Donuts Champions Crowned

Congratulations to the Nakamuraville Nighthawks for capturing the 2021-22 6th Grade Class Volleyball Championship this year. This first period class, led by rookie head coach and science teacher extraordinaire, Jeff Nakamura, put together an undefeated season, going a perfect 6-0 in round robin and tournament play. Teacher Coach Nakamura commented, "I played on some great teams here at CMS as a student, but nothing can compare to winning a championship in my first year at CMS as a teacher. My first period students really came together in a special way during the tournament and we really enjoyed the delicious victory donuts delivered to our class on Friday. Go Nighthawks!"

We'd also like to congratulate Mrs. Krislyn's first period class, the Krislyn Carmel Cobras for their exceptional tournament play. This group battled hard throughout the tournament, earning a shot at the championship while earning second place (and donut holes) for their efforts!

Finally, we'd like to thank all our first period 6th grade classes for their enthusiastic participation in the first period volleyball tournament and we hope they keep bringing their sportsmanship and positive attitudes into future competitions!

Up next, the 6th Grade Advisory Corn Toss Challenge!

That's it for this week. Once again we hope you enjoy Fall Break. We'll see you back at school on Monday, October 18th. The CMS office opens at 7:30 AM.

Fall Sports - Week of October 18 - 22

Tuesday - October 19th

6th Grade Girls Volleyball vs Pacific Grove @ CMS 4:00 p.m.

Boys Soccer vs Palma @ CMS 4:30 p.m.

Thursday - October 21st

Boys Soccer vs San Benancio @ San Benancio 4:30 p.m.

Girls Soccer vs San Benancio @ CMS 4:30 p.m.

Friday - October 22nd

Cross Country Center Meet @ CMS 4:00 p.m.

CMS Events and Important Calendar Dates

OCTOBER

11 - 15. Fall Break- No School

18. Winter Sports Registration is Open on Sportsnet

18. School Opens @ 7:30 AM

25 - 29 Red Ribbon Week

29. Halloween Dance or Event

NOVEMBER

5. 1st Trimester Ends / 6th Grade Cycle Change

11. Veterans Day - No School

22 - 26. Thanksgiving Break - No School

DECEMBER

1 - 15. Canned Food Drive

7. CMS Winter Concert 7:00-9:00 p.m.

13. World Language Finals - Spanish / Chinese

20. - 31. Winter Break

JANUARY

3. No School - Staff Development Day

7. 6th Grade Cycle Change / PE Flip

17. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

28. Winter Dance 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 4. Minimum Day - Staff Development
- 14 - 18. Kindness Week
- 18. 2nd Trimester Ends / 6th Grade Cycle Change
- 21 - 25. February Break
- 28. 3rd Trimester Begins

MARCH

- 30. CUSD District Band Festival, Sunset Center 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

APRIL

- 1. Minimum Day - Staff Development
- 5. CUSD District String Festival , Sunset Center 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 8. 6th Grade Cycle Change
- 11 - 15. Spring Break

MAY

- 2 - 6. CMS Staff Appreciation Week
- 6. Minimum Day - Staff Development
- 10. CMS Spring Concert
- 11. 8th Grade Panoramic Picture
- 20. Renaissance Faire 12:00 p.m.
- 23 - 27. Spirit Week
- 30. Memorial day - No School

JUNE

- 2. 8th Grade Promotion 5:00 p.m.
- 3. Last Day of School / 3rd Trimester Ends