

Happy Weekend CMS Families!

We've had another great week at CMS and both students and staff are starting to settle into the rhythm and flow of the school year. You'll probably notice (or have already noticed) an increase in homework as teachers start getting deeper into their curriculum and now is a great time to begin monitoring your student's progress on Aeries. If you're still not sure how to use Aeries for parents, give our office a call and we'll help set you up. Once you're able to access Aeries I'd recommend a healthy, balanced approach to monitoring grades and would personally recommend checking in 1-2 times each week (I recommend Monday and Friday). If your student is struggling or if any issues arise, please contact the teacher directly as they'll have the best insight on any challenges your student may be facing in the classroom. For broader academic concerns, please contact your student's counselor. We're just a few weeks away from our first trimester progress reporting period and it's a great time to start working with your child on academic progress monitoring.

Highlights of the Week

CMS Leadership Hosts First Spirit Week: This week our leadership class hosted the first CMS Spirit Week of the year. This week included 4 dress up days and some exciting lunchtime grade-level competitions. The dress up days and lunchtime competition descriptions are described below.

Tuesday: PJ Day – Popcorn Partner Toss – Spirit points awarded for the partner group who can catch the most popcorn in their mouths!

Wednesday: Decade Day – Hula Hoop Contest – Spirit points awarded to the person who can keep the hula hoop going the longest!

Thursday: Spirit Day; Wear your CMS Colors – Tricycle Races – Big kids on little bikes! What could be more fun. Spirit points awarded to all competitors with the winner collecting bonus points for their class. The races this year were awesome!

Friday: Favorite Childhood Character Day – Name That Tune – Spirit points awarded for teams who were the first to name the song featuring a wide variety of musical selections!

Congratulations to our 8th Graders who were the Back-to-School Spirit Winners! It was a close race up until the end. Eighth Graders finished the week with 803 points! Sixth and Seventh Graders ended with a one point difference! Sixth graders had 746 points, while the seventh graders had 745 points. We hope that your student participated in some of the fun events at school this week. We also hope they enjoyed the spirit and grade level camaraderie created by leadership's first Spirit Week and had fun showing off some Cougar Pride!

First School Dance: Last night we hosted our first school dance. This event is always a lot of fun, especially for our new 6th grade students as the dance is usually the first they've ever attended. The night was full of great dance moves, food, and entertainment and our DJ, John Upshaw (aka DJ Mix-N-Spin), did a fantastic job mixing up the tunes to keep kids dancing and having fun throughout the evening.

Once again I'd like to thank our Leadership class and their parents for all their work decorating for the dance and staying late to clean up! I'd also like to thank all our parent volunteers who came for the evening to help run our concession stand, game stations, and supervise the high energy crowd. Finally, a big thank you to our PTO for their continued financial support of these

events, allowing us to keep dances free for all students while paying for our DJ and inflatable obstacle courses.

The Week Ahead

Serve A Thon! Next week we will be hosting our annual Serve-A-Thon. As mentioned in previous letters, the SAT is our one and only all school fundraiser so we need our students to collect as many pledges as possible to help make this year a success. There are two important dates to have on your calendar as we head into next week. First, **SAT turn in day is Wednesday, September 11th**. Students need to bring pledges collected to the main quad before school. In our main quad, tables will be set up that correlate with the first letter of a student's last name. Simply figure out which table to turn the money in, and drop it off.

The next important date is **Friday, September 13th, SAT Day!** For SAT Day, we will be on a revised schedule with classes ending at 12:00. Students will then report either to their buses for off campus activities, or to the CMS Gym for our SAT Kick Off event. Following the Kick Off program, students will participate in approximately 2 hours of community service in various locations on the CMS campus in conjunction with our community partners. School ends at the regularly scheduled time on Friday (2:45) but several items such as cookies and planter boxes will be available for purchase curbside during pick up.

Thank you, once again, for supporting our fundraising efforts through this program. We look forward to hosting another meaningful and positive event!

Announcements and Community Events

Chromebook Shut Off – Beginning this week CMS will be activating a feature allowing us to shut off access to our server at 10:30 PM each evening. After examining trends in student use of Chromebooks for the past several years we have determined that the majority of activity taking place after 10:30 PM is not education based or school related. Therefore, to minimize late night gaming and inappropriate content searches we have asked our tech department to shut down server access each evening beginning at 10:30 PM. We also hope that this change encourages positive sleep patterns for all students as research shows that using electronic devices late into the evening has a negative impact on student sleep cycles.

Students can still access their google accounts as needed on a different home device or computer as your personal devices are not tied to our server, so if late night homework is necessary, please allow your child to access their assignments on a home device.

First Friday Coffee: A small group of middle school parents wanted to provide an opportunity for all middle school parents to just connect, so this idea was suggested and we are going to see how it grows.

Please help us spread the word.

First Friday Coffee - a fun and casual meet up for our middle school moms and dads. The first Friday of each month at Coffee Bank from 8:00-9:30 am on the back patio. This is an opportunity to just connect, ask questions, make new friends, and enjoy conversation over a cup of coffee. We hope to see you there! Please help spread the word. Upcoming dates: Oct. 4, Nov. 1, and Dec. 6. at Coffee Bank located at 26135 Carmel Rancho Blvd. Contact Cerry Rasmussen at caunsery@gmail.com with any questions.

SEPTEMBER

11. Serve A Thon Turn - In Day

- 13. Serve A Thon Day - Service to Others
- 13. Serve A Thon - Music for the Elderly
- 15 - 20. 8th Grade Lava Bed Trip
- 16-18. 7th Grade MBOE
- 17. Sportsnet opens for Fall sport registration
- 26. Monterey Jazz Festival Lunch Concert, Monterey Fairgrounds 10:55 - 12:55 p.m.
- 27. Serve A Thon Pizza Lunch
- 30. Serve A Thon Jamba Juice

OCTOBER

- 3. Serve A Thon Taco Lunch
- 7. Fall Strings Concert, CMS Theater, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 8. CMS: Fall Conferences and Minimum Day, school dismissed at 12:00
- 10. Conference Night 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- 11. Serve A Thon Student Rewards Day
- 14. - 18. October Break
- 23. Picture Retake Day
- 24. Fall Choir Concert, CHS Performing Arts Center 7:00 - 9:00 p.m
- 25. Halloween Dance, CMS Gym, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- 28. - 31. Red Ribbon Week

NOVEMBER

- 1. Minimum Day- school dismissed at 12:00 p.m.
- 6. 6th Grade Rosicrucian Field Trip
- 8. 6th Grade Rosicrucian Field Trip
- 11. Veteran's Day / School closed
- 12 - 15 Kindness Week
- 15. End of 1st Trimester
- 15. Drama Presents - Fall Play
- 26. Staff vs. Student Volleyball Game
- 27 - 29. Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 6. Carmel Tree Lighting Ceremony, Carmel By the Sea
- 8. Tree of Life Lighting and Ceremony
- 9 - 18 Canned Food Drive
- 10. Winter Concert, CMS Gym, 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 10 -12. Chinese Finals
- 16 - 18. Spanish Finals
- 18. Cougar Cub Concert, CMS Gym , 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- 19. BAC Activity (5th period)
- 23 - Jan. 3 Winter Break - School closed