



CMES NEWS

DECEMBER 2011

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

November has now come and gone—and we only just received some snow to bring on the festiveness of December. We've been very fortunate with our weather this fall which in turn has benefited the cleanliness of our school (not to mention the hard work of our custodians too... Mr. Lackey, Mrs. Gray, and Ms. Bishop).

Reflecting back, November was a busy month. We had a wonderful Remembrance Day assembly supported by a variety of staff and students. A special thank you goes out to: Cole and Josh for their excellent work as our Masters of Ceremony; Mr. Blacklock for his performance with the bagpipes; Mrs. Lenny's class for sharing their poetry; and the many young performers from Mrs. Bonikowsky's, Mrs. Ecclestone's, and Mrs. Wellman's classes. Thank you also to Mrs. Gammage for her support in organizing the assembly; and all classes for their participation and wonderful wreaths.

During November our Credit Meadows' Reads event got off to a great start—thank you to our creative committee for their fun kick-off assembly. We're looking forward to finding out which book will win the majority of votes this year.

Junior Volleyball was our main sporting event for November. Our teams did an excellent job hosting and representing Credit Meadows in a tournament on November 16th. Thank you to Ms. Byers and Ms. Kennedy for coaching our Cobras, and to Mrs. Hollran-Thompson for convening this event!

We are certainly looking forward to the next few weeks of school—with the many activities that will be going on, Christmas break will arrive very quickly. Each of us here wishes each of you a very special and safe holiday season. We would also like to say "thank you" for your continued support of our school community. Whether it is supporting your child in homework activities, volunteering in the school, contributing to fundraisers, helping out with School Council initiatives, etc... your support is never-ending and greatly appreciated!

We hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday.

Sincerely,
Vicky Crandall
Principal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



- December 1 Christmas in the Meadow
- December 2 Swimming— Ms. Hendrie's class
- December 5 School Council Mtg. 3:15pm
- December 6 Guest Storyteller gr. 1-3
- December 7 Rick Hansen Anniversary Relay Swimming—Mrs. Lenny's class
- December 8 CMES Reads assembly
Choir Concert @ 7:00pm
- December 9 CMES Hockey 4-5pm
- December 12 Science Centre Trip—gr. 6s
- December 14 Swimming— Mrs. Lenny's class
- December 15 **Kindergarten Concert @ 6:30pm**
- December 16 CMES Hockey 4-5pm
- December 20 Swimming—Mrs. Teo's class
- December 22 Theatre Orangeville—gr. 8s
ODSS band presentation
CMES Band Concert @ 7:00pm
- December 23 Drama workshops—Intermediate
Dance gr. 6-8 @ 1:20pm

**Please see the School Council box (page 2) for Food Day dates.

News from our Student Council:

Credit Meadows' Student Council has had a good start to the year. We now have a full executive and 2 classroom reps from every grade 4 to 8 classroom.

We raised \$158.00 by selling pizza at the Junior Volleyball tournament, and we hope to host another fundraiser in the new year. This money is used to support special fun days and/or activities at the school, as well as certain student awards at the end of the year.

We have planned the following **Spirit Days** for December:

- Monday, December 19th—Reindeer day**
- Tuesday, December 20th—PJ day**
- Wednesday, December 21st—Elf day**
- Thursday, December 22nd—Red & Green day**
- Friday, December 23rd—Santa Hat day**



We're looking forward to lots of fun in December!

Service Dog Coming to CMES

This is a reminder to our school community that in the new year, there will be a service dog in our school assisting one of our students.



As mentioned previously, this service dog is a highly trained companion for our student and will assist in many of her routine activities.

There will be a full school assembly during the first week back after Christmas, to introduce our students to this new addition to Credit Meadows, and review some expectations.

SOME PLAYGROUND REMINDERS:

Now that the wintery weather is upon us, we'd like to remind students that snowball throwing is not permitted on school grounds.



Parents please take a moment to review this part of our Code of Conduct with your child(ren).

While throwing snow can be fun, it also has the potential of causing injury to others, especially when small stones or ice chunks accidentally get mixed into the snowballs. For the safety of all students it is very important that this rule continue to be reinforced.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

LOST and FOUND

Our lost and found piles are growing daily. Please remind your child to check for any lost items. Unclaimed items will be bagged and donated to charity when we close for the holidays.



SCHOOL COUNCIL:



The next two meetings will be on Monday, December 5th and Monday, January 16th at 3:15 pm.

Please join us in the library. We are always looking for input from our Parent community.

Dates to Remember:

- December 5 School Council Mtg. @ 3:15pm
- December 7 Pizza Day
- December 8 Baking Club Mtg. @ 12:40pm
- December 9 **LAST DAY TO ORDER REGAL PRODUCTS**
- December 14 Hot Dog Day
- December 15 Yearbook Club Mtg. @ 12:40pm
- December 21 Pizza Day

A full newsletter from our School Council will be available next week.

Bully Prevention....

The Power of One:

During the month of November our grades 1 to 8 students had an opportunity to participate in the "Power of One" presentation. This was a wonderful assembly that helped students understand the various roles that occur during incidents of bullying, and strategies to use when dealing with bullying. This presentation emphasized the need for everyone to take action to make our community a safe and inviting place. It also taught the students that we all have the "Power of One" to stand up and make a difference—including speaking out against bullying.



Health

What a good feeling!

December 2011

Bullying: It's Up to Everyone to Stop It

Bullying is;

- being mean to others, on purpose, to hurt them or their feelings
- about power and control
- occurring every seven minutes on elementary school playgrounds and most often happens while others watch
- does not stop when children are left to deal with it themselves

What to Do If a Child Is Being Bullied;

- Believe what they say, listen and try to understand their feelings
- Involve children in community activities to help them make friends
- Contact the school to talk about the problem and get support

Communication is important, talk to your child about bullying.



Public Health

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
1-800-265-7293 www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca

From the Green Machine...

Did you know that each year Credit Meadows is required to conduct a waste audit? Last month our grade five students sorted through one day's garbage, recycling and compost. They observed the types of waste we produce and the mass of each type. It was interesting and a little disturbing, too.

Based on this one day audit, it appears that we are reducing the overall amount of waste we are producing. We are recycling more material and have decreased the waste we send to landfill by 33% since last year. This is very encouraging, but we still have lots of work to do.

At school, The Green Machine is encouraging students to make environmentally conscious decisions through announcements and posters. We have decided to challenge students and their parents to do two additional things:

1. **Pack reusable drink containers with water or healthy beverages every day!** Students found many juice boxes and terracycle containers (like those Kool-Aid Jammer drinks). While we recycle the juice boxes, pop cans, water bottles and milk cartons, it takes energy and pollutes our Earth to do so. We also "upcycle" the terracycle packaging by cleaning and flattening the packages and selling them for 2 cents each so they can be fashioned into bags (remember, these cannot be put in the recycling containers). We are using precious water to rinse the packages and we know that eventually these will make their way to the landfill too.
2. Pack litterless lunches and snacks. We know this takes time and energy, so we would like to make at least one day each week a litterless lunch day. **Please help us in our efforts by participating in our Litterless Lunch Monday campaign!**

The Green Machine would like to thank you for your efforts in helping to green up Credit Meadows and the world beyond!

UG2GO

Our board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It's called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to web sites that are kid friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Noodletools (gives children help making bibliographies), Knowledge Ontario (a variety of approved encyclopedias, magazine articles suitable for elementary students), and much more. When students are at home they can go to the main address:



<https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go>

This address will prompt them to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need to login.



Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at any time in this information age!

Me to We & Free the Children

Many students from Credit Meadows have been learning about the ME to WE movement that encourages all of us to stand up and make a difference in the world. Me to We and Free the Children are organizations founded by Craig and Marc Kielburger of Canada. Their work focuses on empowering young people to be active global citizens. They provide support to children in developing countries by building schools, providing medical care, fresh water, and opportunities to earn income. Furthermore they focus on children helping children.

A group of our intermediate students recently attended the We Day celebration in Kitchener, hosted by Marc and Craig Kielburger. The purpose of this We Day was to teach students more about the "Me to We" movement and the work of Free the Children, as well as inspire students to become agents of change. These students will now be taking on a leadership role in organizing events at Credit Meadows to raise awareness about Me to We and social justice issues, as well as fund raising for the Free the Children organization.



Over the course of this school year, students will be having several small fund raising events (i.e. penny drives, selling beaded products, etc.) to support Free the Children. Our goal as a school is to raise funds for the "Adopt a Village Clean Water Program".



In the spirit of "Me to We" many classrooms and our library will be hosting a variety of initiatives—some will be in support of other charities/organizations and some will be in support of Free the Children. We are also hoping to encourage children to raise awareness about issues they care about and to take on projects that don't necessarily involve fund raising (i.e. helping in our community, working with the elderly, leading projects to green our school and community, etc....).

We realize that fund raising can be stressful on families, and for this reason we ask that you pick and choose the fund raising initiatives that you and your family would like to support. Many of these initiatives will be seeking only small donations throughout the school year....please remember, your donations are strictly voluntary. Thank you for your support and understanding with these initiatives.