

CMES NEWS

OCTOBER 2011

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Thank you to all staff, students, and parents/guardians for your patience and understanding, as we sorted through classroom reorganizations in September. Students are now settled into their classrooms and our staffing process is almost complete.

Our annual "Meet the Teacher Night" was, once again, a very successful event. A huge thank you goes out to our School Council for their organization and food service for the evening. Thank you also to staff for hosting families in their classrooms, and to the many families who were able to join us for this event.

This year's annual Terry Fox School Run took place on September 28th. Thank you to Mrs. Bonikowsky, Mrs. Ecclestone, and Madame Cleary for organizing this event at CMES. The weather held out and students had a fun afternoon, getting exercise for a very good cause. Thank you also to all community members who made financial contributions to this very worthy cause - we raised over \$650 to support the fight against cancer.

Looking ahead, there are many special events coming up during the month of October. From the QSP Magazine fundraiser (starting Oct. 3rd) to our Cross Country Running Meet, and Intermediate Soccer Tournament.

CMES recently received its 2011 EQAO results. Overall, we are very proud of the gains that our school has made. CMES students outperformed other UGDSB students on 5 of the 6 assessments. Furthermore, our grade 3 results were the best we have had in 5 years. While we are happy with our results, we continue to strive for improvements. This year staff will be heightening their focus on math instruction hoping to deepen our students' critical thinking skills when it comes to mathematical problem solving.

Sincerely,
Vicky Crandall
Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 3	School Council Meeting @ 3:30 p.m. QSP Magazine Kick Off
October 5	Cross Country Running Meet Walk to School Day Popcorn Day
October 6	Hot Lunch Day
October 7	Grade 3 CCAT testing
October 12	Sub Day Swimming...gr. 7
October 13	Career Pathways gr. 8
October 17-19	Earthkeepers ... gr. 5
October 19	Intermediate Soccer Swimming...gr. 7 Hot Dog Day
October 21	PD Day
October 25	Photo retake day Career Pathways gr. 8
October 26	Pizza Day Swimming...gr. 7
October 28	Cookie Day



iPods/Cell Phones/Cameras at School:

A reminder that students are not allowed to have cell phones, iPods or cameras at school. All of these items can be a distraction, but more importantly they jeopardize the privacy rights of others when used to take pictures.



If your child carries a cell phone for communication, or an iPod for entertainment to and from school, it is to be kept in your child's school bag and turned off during school hours. To ensure the safety and privacy of everyone, we ask for student and parent support in enforcing this expectation.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Lunch/Yard Supervisors Needed

Credit Meadows is currently looking for individuals interested in supervising students over the lunch hour for 2 days a week, or on an occasional basis. This is a paid position for one hour per day with the Upper Grand District School Board. Interested individuals should have a good understanding of general safety rules and an interest in helping students engage in positive play at recess.

Please notify the office if this is something you would be interested in.

STUDENT SAFETY AND SCHOOL SECURITY:



A reminder that our back doors are locked and that all visitors to the school need to sign in at the office. Even if you are only stopping in briefly to pick up your child from class, you must sign in at the office if you are going to the classroom. This allows us to know who is in our building at all times should an emergency arise. It also helps us to ensure the safety of our students.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES/LATES:



A reminder to parents that you need to notify the school of your child's absence each day your child will be absent or late. Doing this prior to 8:30 am is appreciated. Please select the "Absences and Lates" mailbox at ext. 100 to report if your child will be absent or late. Thank you.

A Message from the CMES Green Machine Team:

Hi Cobras! We're excited to be part of an environmental club. We're students who care about the Earth and want to make changes at our school that will make our planet a cleaner one.

We need your help! We want to reduce the amount of garbage we produce here at CMES—so we're hoping you'll pack litterless lunches that come in reusable containers. If you must bring drink containers, like Kool-Aid Jammers, to school, then please empty all of the juice from the foil pack, throw the straw in the garbage, and give the container a quick rinse. We will be working with the School Council to sell these containers so they can be reused and, in turn, kept out of our landfill sites.

The Green Machine, and more importantly, the Earth thanks you!

E.Q.A.O. PROVINCIAL TESTING:

Each year the Gr. 3 & Gr. 6 students complete Standardized Provincial Testing late in the Spring that takes place over three to six different days. Staff are in the process of examining individual, as well as overall grade results to discover learning patterns or trends. This is yet another way that we are able to identify specific areas of need that help drive teaching practices and our School Improvement Plans.

Tasks in which students were engaged are based on the expectations for Gr. 3 & 6 as described in the Ontario curriculum documents for Language and Math. Student work was assessed according to achievement levels 1 to 4.

Results are reported by the percentage of students achieving levels 3 and 4 combined. Level 3 reflects consistent knowledge of expectations (B achievement range of 70 to 80%.) Level 4 reflects a more thorough, complex knowledge (A achievement range or the equivalent to 80-100%). The following chart is a summary of the 2011 Primary and Junior EQAO results. This chart highlights the performance of students at our school, as compared to students in the school board and the Province.

Grade 3	Reading	Writing	Math
School	72	69	72
Board	64	73	67
Province	65	73	69
Grade 6	Reading	Writing	Math
School	75	72	62
Board	73	68	53
Province	74	73	58

As a staff, we will continue to address student performance and school goals through our School Improvement Plan.

CREDIT MEADOWS' SCHOOL COUNCIL:



Thank you everyone for supporting the Meet the Teacher Pizza Night and thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make it happen. Thursday was also when we launched the CMES Spirit Wear Collection for 2011. We had a great fashion show thanks to Lorrie Wren, Charlene Sterling, Barb White and all of the students who showed off their school spirit on stage. Check out the flyer that was sent home to see what is on offer this year. More copies are available in the office if needed. We will be offering Spirit Wear every other year, so the next time that it will be available will be in 2013. Please return your orders by Tuesday, Oct. 11th. Sorry, no late orders accepted.

The other exciting thing we are trying is the catered hot lunch from Just for Kids Catering. This is in addition to our regular food days and is on a trial basis until December. Let us know what you think. As this is a separate company, please submit a separate payment for this. Thank you for bearing with us in the delay in getting the food order forms out. The new healthy food legislation has not been without it's challenges, but the bottom line is we are offering healthier food for our children. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know. While this block of food orders is just for two months, the next block that will be going out in November will be for three months and we may have different food offerings.

We are still looking for one or more parents to run the Student Council. This is a great opportunity to help build school spirit and make a big difference at our children's school. This would involve a couple of hours a month during school hours to help guide the students to run spirit days, school dances and possibly small fundraisers for various causes. It is a very rewarding opportunity and is a position that can be shared by several parents.

Technology and social networking use is steadily increasing and at a younger age than ever before. Come to our hands on workshop, Social Networking: What Parents Need to Know on Nov. 22nd from 7:00 to 9:00 in the computer lab and find out about how to set privacy settings and navigate Face book, Twitter and other social media to make it as safe as possible for our children. This free workshop is made possible through a Parents Reaching Out Grant and the CMES School Council. Free childcare and refreshments are available; please register early as spaces are limited.

Our next two meetings are on Monday, Oct 3rd and Nov. 7th at 3:15 pm, in the library. Free childcare and refreshments are available and it is a great chance to get involved and make a difference at our school.

Nancy Turner

School Council Co-chair

Full Day Kindergarten Capital Plan

The Upper Grand District School Board has approved in principle a capital plan to complete, by September 2014, the construction and/or renovation of classrooms required for full day kindergarten (FDK) students. The plan also includes the proposed construction of new schools in Guelph, Shelburne, Centre Wellington and Orangeville.

A draft schedule for implementation of the plan, and the dates for public meetings, will be available after October 11. We will have more details about what is proposed for our school and community in the November newsletter.

To view the the board's FDK Capital Plan, media release and Q&A, visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/fdk

Happy Fall from the Credit Meadows Library and Information Centre.

This year is shaping up to be an exciting one for our community with many literary events, some returning and some new.

The goal of our library is to help every student develop a love of reading, to become skilled users of ideas and information and to explore the world through print and electronic media. In addition to the books and materials in our wonderful library, students will be given the opportunity to work with a variety of web resources that includes the board web portal, UG2GO. This site is also accessible at home (<https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go>). All students need to know to sign in is their login and password from school. This is a wonderful learning tool for parents and students.

The Credit Meadows Reads selection committee will be meeting to finalize the five books that our school community will be reading for our annual literary event in November. Books selected will focus on the theme of character education. The list of books will be published in next month's news letter. Thank you in advance to our school council for supporting this event by purchasing multiple copies of the books.

Don't forget to support the our School Council's magazine campaign. There is something for everyone and magazines are a great way to engage reluctant readers, even if students are "reading" the pictures.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the CMES community for supporting our Back to School Book Fair. It was an overwhelming success. Credit Meadows children really LOVE to read and because of your support, we have many new books for our students to bring home. Stay tuned for details about our pre Christmas book sale in December.

Remember, our library is for everyone in our community. There are books for everyone.

Happy Reading
Kim Gammage
Teacher-Librarian



Free dental care for children aged 17 and under

If you don't have dental insurance and can't afford care, we have free services for your children at Public Health. At our dental clinics, we help children prevent cavities and disease. We also make sure that children with urgent problems get the treatment they need.

For more information about our dental services, call our Dental Line at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 2661 or visit www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca

Small group discussions about smoking in movies

Should smoking be taken out of youth-rated movies? Or should those movies be rated 18A? Join a small group discussion on this topic and tell us what you think. (Refreshments and grocery gift cards will be provided for your time).

For more information or to register, contact Ivona at ivona.mostarac@wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca or Beth at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4658.



Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public