

Positive Thoughts for Christmas

So often it seems like negative news makes the headlines while positive news is overlooked. At Cedar Mountain, we are working to consciously develop positive behaviors and attitudes in our students. Here is a partial list of some positives from this year. Did You Know....

- The Veteran's Day program was hosted by the MS/HS on November 10th in the gymnasium. We want to thank our speakers Bruce and Jacki Kyllonen for sharing their families' journey while serving our country.
- Cedar Mountain elementary students observed Veteran's Day on Friday, November 10. In the elementary, students celebrated and learned about Veteran's Day with guest speaker Austin Guetter. In addition, a 5th grade group shared what Veteran's Day means and the 4th and 5th grade sang a patriotic song.
- The *Cougar Cub Child Care Center* has been open for one year. The child care center currently has openings in the toddler and preschool programs. For more information, contact Center Director Jody Rose at 507-557-2254.
- The *Cougar Cub Child Care Center* had a new playground installed behind the daycare center in Franklin.
- Cedar Mountain student Chasyti Pendleton was officially appointed by Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith to the Minnesota/Mnnesota Tribal Youth Gathering Steering Team on December 1st. Chasyti is a sophomore and is the current president of the Cedar Mountain Unity Group.
- Congratulations to the 85 Cedar Mountain Elementary students had perfect attendance the 1st Quarter.
- Socktober was an event organized by the Cedar Mountain Blue Crue to raise awareness of homelessness. Throughout the month of October, students were asked to bring new socks to school. There was a friendly competition between grades, and point totals were kept. At the end of October, over 500 pairs of socks were donated to a homeless shelter in St. Paul.
- Cedar Mountain Blood Drive was held on November 21st. In addition to our students organizing and running this event, 25 Cedar Mountain students were blood donors that day.
- Cedar Mountain graduate and former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives Marty Seifert spoke at school on November 1st. Marty spoke to our juniors and seniors about his book "Sundown at Sunrise" and the process he went through getting published. Marty also took time to meet with our Male Leadership members and talked about his experiences in public service.
- Cedar Mountain's Blue Crue attended WE Day at the Xcel Center Wednesday, November 8. Groups were recognized for volunteering and community service projects completed last school year. It was an amazing day with celebrities and high school groups who have made a difference to others.
- Cedar Mountain Elementary had 1298 pounds of pop tabs collected over 6 years for the Ronald McDonald House.
- The first annual Color Run on held on Friday, September 29. Over 120 runners/walkers took part in this event. It was a great addition to our Homecoming Week activities.
- The high school has started a male leadership program to help prepare our young men to be great citizens and leaders. They have heard many outside speakers talk about what it means to be a leader.
- Cedar Mountain Elementary enjoyed Critters and Company's presentation called Teasing Hurts! Students learned that saying I'm sorry is good...but changing their behavior is better.
- The CMC Volleyball hosted MVL for their Kill Cancer event on October 3. Tables were set out in the lobby with activities for people to do such as cookie decorating, pink hair dying and nail painting. Funds raised will be used to support those affected by cancer in our area.

- The Cedar Mountain drama department presented the play “*Tune in to Murder*” on November 10 and 11.
- Junior High Knowledge Bowl team is having a successful year. The team placed 5th of 27 teams at Marshall and 9th out of 31 in Windom.
- The Cedar Mountain Adopt An Angel program had a goal this year to have students and staff adopt 100 angels. In the program, students may pick an angel for a boy or girl ages 1-13 years old, purchase a gift for them, wrap it, tape the angel to the gift, and return it to school. All 100 angels were adopted.
- Our Yellow Ribbon group sponsored a food drive to benefit “We Care”, which is located in Morgan and serves families in the surrounding communities.
- On December 2, the Cedar Mountain National Honor Society sponsored Santa Day in the high school cafeteria. Students were able to visit Santa and students in grade 3 and younger received a gift from Santa.
- Juniors attended a college fair in Marshall on October 23.
- Cedar Mountain 8th grade students took a canoe trip in September on the Minnesota River.
- During American Education Week, we honored 3 staff members who have worked for the school district 20 years. Our 20 Year Apple recipients were Joel Christianson, Karen Malecek, and Sue Luna.
- On September 19th, 11 juniors were inducted into the Cedar Mountain Chapter of the National Honor Society. To qualify for NHS, students need to have a cumulative GPA of 3.5.
- Red Ribbon Week, a nationally recognized and celebrated week for the purpose of drug prevention and education as well as teaching students the benefits of living a drug free life, was celebrated.
- Hannah Wilts, Cedar Mountain Middle/High School Ag teacher, was named Minnesota Farmers Union Ag Educator of the Year!
- The MS/HS concert on December 7 featured band and choir groups from the sixth grade, seventh and eighth grades, and grades 9-12. It was a great performance by our students.
- We had a great turnout for our Elementary Christmas Concert on December 11. Thanks to everyone who attended.
- 11 Cedar Mountain FFA members, along with FFA Advisor Hannah Wilts, attended the National FFA Convention.
- Students in grade 10 attended the SMSU Career Fair on October 3. Students learned about a variety of careers available to them in southwest Minnesota.
- The Elementary Farmer’s Market raised \$3,675.44 for student field trips.
- There was great attendance at the Honor Roll Breakfasts for Middle School and High School students. Middle School/High School teachers and staff did the planning, cooking, and clean up. Thank you, staff, for honoring our students at this event.
- The Yellow Ribbon group is open to students in grades 9-12. The Yellow Ribbon committee is students committed to raising awareness of suicide and mental health issues.
- Franklin and Morgan Fire Fighters gave tours of the fire hall to our students in pre-school and Kindergarten during Fire Safety Week.

Behind the scenes on each of these “Did You Knows” are students and staff members who have worked to make the activity a success. On behalf of Cedar Mountain, I want to thank each of you for your support of our school and students.