



From

THE TOP

FEBRUARY 2015

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HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

cms.mntm.org

Cedar Mountain Schools held concerts in December to show parents, grandparents and community members the many talents our students have! The elementary held their annual Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 4th in Franklin, students in grades preschool through fifth participated. The preschool students were led by their teachers, Mrs. Sandy Nestande, Mrs. Sarah Sullivan and Mrs. Molly Lorang. The elementary students were led by Mrs. Jennifer Eberhard. On December 15th, students in grades 6-12 were able to showcase their talents. These students were led by Mrs. Holly Nester. It was a couple of exciting nights to see all of the amazing talent at CM!



Great job to all of the students and teachers.





Mr. Robert Tews
Superintendent

Construction Update

I've been trying to find a way to simplify the construction project. We really have three phases of construction going on:

- There is the new construction, which is taking place by the gym.
- A second part is the remodeling in the existing Morgan building.
- Phase 3 includes all of the Franklin projects.
- We also have unrelated facility issues involving HVAC and boilers in the existing Morgan building that are being addressed as an unrelated issue.



The new construction is going well. Footings are done in the classroom section and they are currently working on footings in the cafeteria/kitchen area. The block layers will be putting up walls and there will be visible progress over the next two or three weeks. The biggest problems have been the cold weather and the footings are taking longer than anticipated to complete. On the positive side, everything is coordinated between the various contractors as we move forward.



The remodeling of the Morgan existing building will take place primarily this summer. This will include sprinkling the building, replacing a substantial portion of the HVAC system, and putting in new ceilings and some windows.

Phase 3 projects in Franklin include air-conditioning classrooms, bringing the kitchen up to code, and entrance security improvements. The entrance security improvements were completed during Christmas break. Bids are going out on air-conditioning the classrooms and we have an estimate of the costs to bring the kitchen up to code. Our cost estimate bringing the kitchen is higher than previously thought because of state regulations. We will be getting bids on the kitchen and moving forward either this summer or next, as we have until November 2016 to complete these improvements.

A big part of what the public is hearing regarding frustrations with the building project are actually related to our existing HVAC system, which has been giving us problems. The age of the system is the main factor with these problems. There are steam traps that need replacing and return lines that have become plugged with minerals from water over the past 50 to 100 years. The needs of the heating system in the existing building have gone from an optional part of the project to a necessity. It makes sense that we do something about our existing HVAC in the existing Morgan building while we have the ceiling ripped out to install the sprinkling system and run heating lines to the new construction. This has caused the School Board to expand the project to include more HVAC in the existing building. We are also looking at upgrading our boiler system and adding modern controls to the system, as we currently operate on a pneumatic system, which is outdated by all standards.

Project costs for the new construction that came in higher than projected. Bids to lay block came in \$300,000 over estimates and we received no bids for providing steel or putting up the steel. Both of these areas were rebid and both now have qualified contractors to complete the project. We also plan to rebid the gym roof. A number of project alternatives also came in higher than expected.

As we have moved forward with the project, it has become increasingly clear we need to be aggressive in addressing our HVAC issues in the existing Morgan building. It is logical to complete this work during the construction project while building sprinkling and hot water heat pipes are being run through the existing building. The School Board is planning to use Alternative Facility Bonds, which will allow us to do this all at once. Alternative Facilities Bonding is available for health and safety projects. These projects must total over \$500,000 per site to qualify. The School Board approves this funding. The biggest benefit is that costs are spread out evenly over any number of years. Typically Health and Safety projects create a tax "spike". For instance, if we do \$500,000 in Health and Safety projects (sprinkling, HVAC), the tax impact is \$500,000 the next year. By using Alternative Facilities Bonding, the tax impact is \$25,000 a year if it is spread out over 20 years. The Board plans to use alternative funding to help cover the costs of the expanded HVAC needs. The Alternative Funding needed to cover the project will be about \$1.8 million.

We have saved money at the Franklin site. The Board also needs to look at the extent to which we pave our parking lots and if we can afford to replace all the windows in the existing Morgan building. We were fortunate to receive a low interest rate on the bond funding, and even with the Alternative Funding costs, we will be under the projected tax increase. However, construction costs are considerably higher than expected due to a building boom throughout Minnesota. If you do a Google search of "construction boom" and "Minnesota", you'll find numerous articles talking about all the projects in the state that are currently underway or planned within the next year.

The School Board is working to fulfill what they brought to the public and to do this in the most economical way possible. They are very focused on giving the district a facility that will meet the needs of students for many years to come. This is their community and school.





Elementary News

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

Mrs. P. Machart
Elementary Principal

Jane D. Hull

What You Can Do as a Parent to Help Your Child be Successful in School



Ask your child how their day was. Ask them open ended questions so their response isn't, "Nothing." For example; the best part of my day was...? In math we did...? The funniest thing that happened was...? I was frustrated when...?

Review progress reports, assessments, or graded work. Be aware of your child's grades, behavior, and progress throughout the school year. Are they understanding the curriculum?

Read to your child. This is beneficial in several ways.

- They improve in listening comprehension.
- They build comprehension and you can ask them questions about their reading; therefore assess their learning.
- They listen to a fluent reader, YOU
- You bond together for unforgettable memories.

Listen to your child read out loud. This will tell you how they're reading (fluency), what kind of book they're reading, and if they understand what they're reading.

Practice at home with your child about what they are learning in class. For example: review math facts in the car, have them help you measure ingredients while cooking, count change, tell the time, or practice spelling words at the dinner table. This helps to get involved with your child and learn about what is going on in school.

Correct homework before turning it in. Be there to catch mistakes and intercept wrong conceptions. The average child needs to see something at least 2 times to understand and engrave it into their brain. If taught wrong, this increases to 16 times! Yikes!

Support homework. Always do homework together. When your child does their homework alone, you will not be able to see their study habits or see what they need work on. Don't forget it's their homework, not yours. They need to learn it, not you.

Routine is key! Children (and adults) love routine. For example: Do homework right after school or after dinner, do the same chores each week at the same time or same day of the week, set a time to go to bed every night and/or eat breakfast right when they get out of bed. When a routine is established, your child will feel at ease and know what's expected of them. A good life skill too!

Involvement makes a huge difference! Thank you for being there for your child.

We often tell parents that they are the first and most important teacher for their child. Research is now telling us that the level of involvement of parents in a child's education is critical to their success in school. Involvement does not necessarily mean attending meetings or volunteering at school. Involvement means participating in your child's learning process and in their daily lives. Here are some great ideas that I found on the Teachers Take Out Blog. In addition – be on the watch for other opportunities specific to Cedar Mountain. FRED Night is coming up this spring. The Study Island Challenge is a great chance for you to encourage and help with continued learning at home. Students will be logging their reading during the month of February – here is a perfect time to read to or with your child. No matter the age --- your child needs your support and encouragement!

The fifth grade students have used the mini-iPads this year for various purposes. Most recently, they conducted a web quest of the Southern Colonies. Students logged in through their class wiki, and then followed the provided links to various websites. They kept a travel journal of the stops they made along the way.



iPads
in the
Class

Study Island Challenge

GRADES 2-5

Prizes are awarded monthly when students reach 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 blue ribbons.

Students that earn all the blue ribbons for **MATH** - will enjoy a pizza party with the principal

Students that earn all the blue ribbons for **READING** - will enjoy breakfast with the principal

Students that earn all the blue ribbons for both **MATH AND READING** will go on a bowling trip!!

Log into <http://www.studyisland.com> and start reviewing your grade level standards and earn those blue ribbons!!



Elementary Dates to Remember

Feb 19

Spring Conferences

Feb 27

I Love to Read Celebration

March 11

AAA Program

March 19 / March 23

Kindergarten Connection

April 10

Grandparent's Day

Elementary Poster Winners for Red Ribbon Week Congratulations!

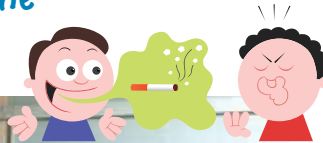


Blue Crue Tue – Service Project



The Blue Crue Tue helped load the donations that were collected during the food drive at Cedar Mountain Elementary. All donations were delivered to We Care in Morgan. Thanks to all who contributed!

STARS Members from the MS/HS presented to the Elementary Students for the "Great American Smoke Out"



Nurse's Nook

CHILDHOOD CAVITIES CAN BE PREVENTED

Childhood cavities can be prevented. To improve the oral health of your child you should limit sugary foods and drinks, and make sure your child's teeth are brushed twice a day with fluoride toothpaste starting with the first tooth. Take your child to the dentist every 6 months for exam and fluoride treatments. If you don't have a dentist ask your Doctor to apply fluoride varnish to teeth every three months. Fluoride makes teeth more resistant to damage and strengthens them and is important for all ages. If you would like more information visit the Minnesota Oral Health Project website at www.minnesotatoralhealthproject.com.



DENTAL

As part of their social studies class, 4th graders put on a State Fair in January, it didn't happen overnight, they put a lot of work into it! Each student had to select a different state and researched very hard to make a presentation with loads of information! This took about eight weeks. After they gathered all of their information, the students were required to either complete a display board or a float that displayed their state information. They needed to include things such as climate, state map, major cities, products made, tourist information etc... On Tuesday, January 13th, students held a "State Fair" in the cafeteria and showed off their hard work. Students were also required to wear a costume and dress as either a historical figure from their state or a famous person from their state. Each student was also to prepare a food that pays homage to their state.

Great job 4th graders!



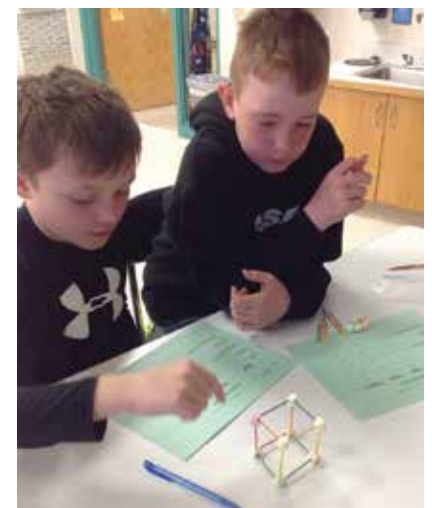
The State Fair *in January?*

ELEMENTARY MCA TEST DATES

April 14	4th Reading	April 22	3rd Reading	April 30	5th Math
April 15	4th Reading	April 23	5th Reading	May 1	5th Math
April 16	5th Reading	April 24	5th Science	May 4	4th Math
April 17	5th Reading	April 28	3rd Math	May 5	4th Math
April 21	3rd Reading	April 29	3rd Math		



3D Building



Math can be FUN! Recently, the 4th graders constructed their own 3D shapes and learned about the properties of 3D shapes: faces, edges, and vertices. When students are able to engage in hands on learning and relate it to real life experiences, they are better able to retain the information. Great job 4th graders!



Mr. J. Schultz
MS/HS Principal

Middle / High School

The building is rumbling with excitement (and rumbling from the soil compactors) as the foundation of our new building is being built. Even through the cold spurts, the construction continues. With an incredibly busy summer planned for summer remodeling, many of the contractors and engineers have been at

our school to be prepared for their activity windows in June, July, and August.

FFA Week is planned for 2/23-2/27, and will host a variety of

activities. These will include dress up days, the Ag Olympics, community breakfast, name that country tune, and several others.

The Geography Bee was held, pep band hosted SMSU's pep band, winter sports seasons are winding down, and student successes in academics and behaviors continue to be celebrated through our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program. Overall, we are on a great path as we move toward warmer weather. Remember to check out the great things happening at Cedar Mountain's FaceBook pages!



Cougar Connection



Cedar Mountain's "Cougar Connection", our 21st Century after school program continues to grow with over 30 students now registered in grades 6-12. We recently enjoyed learning origami, making a sock snowman, going on a fun trip to the WOW zone in Mankato, and a memorable Christmas party. Our February will be filled with a discussion on Salmon fishing in Alaska and some fun crafts.

We always look forward to spring so we can go outside more and start planning for summer. We continue to work on homework daily to keep grades up, do activities to keep connected to each other and the community and work toward preparing students for the skills necessary for success in the 21st Century.



WE

WE (Women Empowerment) gathered for a Christmas lunch prior to the holiday break. They enjoyed their lunch, decorated cupcakes, and played Pictionary. On January 19th, WE took a trip to the bowling alley for a fun afternoon.



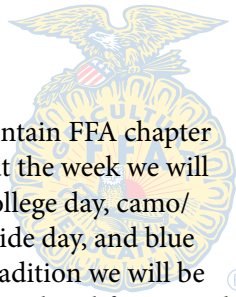
WOMEN Empowerment

FFA Week

Brittany Johnson

FFA Chapter President

On February 23-27, 2015 the Cedar Mountain FFA chapter will be celebrating FFA week. Throughout the week we will be having dress up days such as career/college day, camo/orange day, western day, chore/tractor pride day, and blue and gold day. For a new spin on an old tradition we will be holding a community and staff appreciation breakfast served by the chapter FFA members. This will be held on February 25, 2015 at the Cedar Mountain School. We are hosting this breakfast to thank everyone for the support throughout the year. Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 11th, by emailing Mr. Lammers at slammers@cedarmt.org. Hope to see you all there!



Congratulations...

Poultry.....9th place
Small Animals.....11th place
Crops8th place

...to all of the FFA teams that competed on Friday, January 23rd in Willmar.



iPads @ CMS

This year started a new iPad initiative in the MS/HS. The 7th grade students were the first to receive individual mini iPads to use during the school day. When they arrive at school, students pick up their iPad (each student was given a number associated with an iPad, they use that same iPad every day). Their teachers have been using them in various ways to enhance their teaching lessons. The students are looking forward to the day when they can take them home to complete assignments and to show their parents what they have been doing.



Jerry Ackerman Wrap-Up

Cedar Mountain Schools was fortunate to have a nationally known speaker come visit. On December 14th, Jerry Ackerman spoke to parents and community members about bullying vs. conflict, how to handle bullying at home and at school and parenting practices. Information was also shared on various websites/apps available to help parents. On December 15th, Mr. Ackerman presented to all students in grades K-12 at various times, spending some extra time with seniors.



Cougar Travelers

A tropical adventure awaits the Cougar Travelers. They will be traveling to Costa Rica for 10 days in mid-June. The trip focuses on biology, ecology and exciting activities, such as zip-line and canopy tours, hiking through the rainforest, relaxing at the hot springs, and white water rafting. Local guides explain the importance that the rainforests hold for wildlife in Costa Rica and the environment far beyond the country's borders. ¡Pura Vida! Five students from Cedar Mountain are traveling with Mrs. M. Hoffmann. They are: Emmily Kodet, Megan Hacker, Amber Tietz, Natalie Hoffbeck, Haley Weidman.



Early Childhood Development

Cedar Mountain's ECFE baby class was a success again this fall with babies exploring and playing while parents discussed topics related to parenting.

Our winter family session started with *Kids in the Kitchen* kickoff on Tuesday, January 20th. Families got together, made many fun kid-friendly recipes that they also got to enjoy eating! Some of the recipes included English Muffin pizzas, Ham and Cheese pretzel bites, Fish in the River, Banana Snowmen, and Dirt Dessert. Lots of giggles and messy fingers and faces were heard and seen throughout the evening. Family classes continue in Franklin and Morgan Monday and Tuesday nights through the month of February. There is a special "*I Love to Read Night*" on Tuesday, February 17th in Franklin.



Cedar Mountain's ECFE baby class yet another success

For more information on classes, contact

Emily Dahmes at 557-2251 or edahmes@cedarmt.org or

Dawn Tietz at 249-5990 or dtietz@cedarmt.org.



Mark your calendars!

I Love to Read Night
Tuesday, February 17th in Franklin.



Early Childhood Development



We are very excited to announce a new program at Cedar Mountain, coming this May.

Those children who will be attending Kindergarten in 2015-2016 are invited to attend "Kindergarten Jumpstart". In this program, the children will participate in many fun activities just like a kindergartener!

- Class meets for 4 full Fridays in May.
- Mrs. Nestande will teach the class and it will be held in Franklin.
- Students will ride the bus, eat lunch and participate in PE and Music
- Cost is \$80 for 4 days.

Learn more and register at Kindergarten Connection in March.

Fun Fridays

FUN FRIDAYS an additional ½ day of preschool programming you may choose for your child and it is offered 2x's a month at each site. If you would like more information or would like to enroll your child, please contact one of the following.

Sarah Sullivan – Morgan Site
ssullivan@cedarmt.org or 249-5990

Sandy Nestande – Franklin Site
snestande@cedarmt.org or 557-2251

School Readiness Preschool

If you would like more information on CM School Readiness Preschool, contact Sarah or Sandy.

Sandy Nestande – Franklin Preschool Teacher
snestande@cedarmt.org 557-2251

Sarah Sullivan – Morgan Preschool Teacher
ssullivan@cedarmt.org 249-5990

SCHOOL READINESS SCHEDULE

Registration Fee: \$25 (used to hold your spot and cover snack fee)
Cost: \$60/month



The Importance of Play for Children



Play is special for children. Not only is it fun, but it is also important for healthy development. It is their "work" and their way of learning about the world. Through play, children try out new skills, explore their imagination and creativity, and develop relationships with other people in their lives. Play can be an especially powerful bonding time for you, as a parent or caregiver. Playtime with your child also brings out the best in you. The beauty of this learning and growing time is that the motivation for a young child to play is already there – it is enjoyable!

The following are common stages of play:

ONLOOKER BEHAVIOR

- Watching what other children are doing, but not joining in the play

SOLITARY PLAY

- Playing alone without regard for others; being involved in independent activities like art or playing with blocks or other materials

PARALLEL ACTIVITY

- Playing near others but not interacting, even when using the same play materials

ASSOCIATIVE PLAY

- Playing in small groups with no definite rules or assigned roles

COOPERATIVE PLAY

- Deciding to work together to complete a building project or pretend play with assigned roles for all of the members of the group

FRANKLIN

3 year old class	4 year old class
Mondays & Wednesdays	Mondays & Wednesdays
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

MORGAN

3 year old class	4 year old class
Mondays & Wednesdays	Mondays & Wednesdays
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Child Action, Inc.

www.childaction.org

Community Education / Youth Activities

Chanhassen Dinner Theater Presents **MARY POPPINS**

Date: **Saturday, May 16th**

Time **1:00 p.m.**

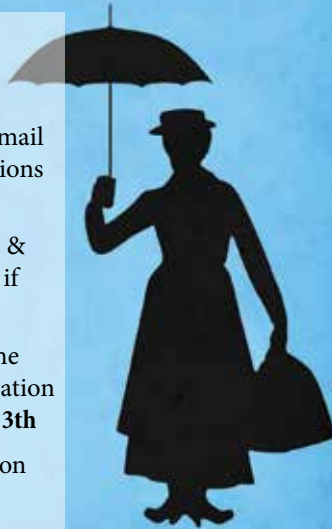
Call CM Schools at 249-5990 or email ssullivan@cedarnt.org with questions or to register.

Bus pick-ups in Morgan, Franklin & Fairfax (possibly other towns also if needed).

Departure times will depend on the number of pick-ups. More information will be coming. **Register by April 13th**

\$75 per person ~ Due at registration

(Includes lunch, show, and coach bus ride)



Limited tickets available • Register Soon!

Cedar Mountain Community Education Proudly Presents

CM Cougarettes

Dance Recital

Saturday, February 28th

2:30 p.m.

CM MS/HS Gymnasium

Everyone is welcome!

Doors open at 2:00 p.m.

\$2.00 – Adults • \$1.00 – Students (K-12)

Under 5 Free



Intro to Essential Oils

Date: Thursday, March 12

Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Location: MS/HS Conference Room in Morgan

Register by: Monday, March 9

Cost: \$5

Instructor: Jenny Melby

Discover Essential Oils - Learn all about essential oils and why everyone is talking about them! Discover how oils can be used to benefit your health; eliminate health concerns such as anxiety or pain or increase concentration and focus, heal emotionally and much more. How to use oils safely to get the most benefit will also be discussed. Oils will be available for purchase that evening.

To Register Call 249-5990 or email ssullivan@cedarnt.org

55+ Driver Improvement Program Class



If you are 55 or older, you can get 10% off your Auto Insurance, for each of the next three years, by taking this Driver Improvement Class. If you have never taken the classes, you must take the 8-hr course first, for your first 3 years of discounts. After that, you will need to take a 4-hr refresher, every 3 years. **NO TESTS!!**

This Driver Improvement Program is not just for the auto insurance discount. It will help refresh past skills, learn about the effects of age on aspects of driving and mobility, in the vehicle. We will also learn about new laws and skills, such as zipper merge, roundabouts, shared turn lanes, etc. Vehicles have also changed dramatically, in the last few years, and we will look at those features that may help you with the effects of aging. This program includes videos, power points, handouts, etc.

LOCATION

Franklin – Elementary Library

4 Hour – March 23 • **8 Hour** – March 23 & 24

All classes are 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Cost: 4 hour class \$20 & 8 hour class \$25

No discount for AARP Members

Please register by sending a copy of your current driver's license along with what class you are registering for and payment to:

CM Schools – **Attention: Community Ed.**
PO Box 188 • Morgan, MN 56266

Community Education / Youth Activities

Do you have a special talent or interest?



Have you thought of hosting a Community Ed class?

We would love to offer some different classes, chances are if it's something you enjoy, others will too!

Please contact Sarah Sullivan if you would like to set something up or if you have questions, 249-5990 or ssullivan@cedarmt.org

SCHOOL CENSUS: If you are new to the Cedar Mountain area or recently have had a new baby, please be sure to call the school and put your children's names on our school census. **Call CM Elementary at 557-2251. Thank you.**

Digital Photography Competition

April 24, 2015

This competition for 9-12 grade students is held at the SW/WC Service Cooperative in Marshall. In addition to the opportunity to compete, students also spend time learning from industry professionals.



This year Gene Stukel will be our guest presenter. His topic will be "Use of Natural Light in Photography."

For more information and to register, go to www.swsc.org/photography

Open Gym Schedule through March

Franklin: Sundays – Starting December 7
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Supervisor: Dave Distad

Morgan MS/HS: Sundays – Starting November 23
7 pm – 8:30 pm

Supervisor: Jim Lueken

REMINDERS

- Respect yourself, others and property.
- Bring your own equipment (gym shoes, basketballs etc...)
- Stay in the gym areas only.
- Supervisor has final say.
- Open Gym may be cancelled due to weather conditions.
- All members of the communities are invited.
- Morgan – Enter at the quad doors near construction site, the main doors by district office will not be open.
 - Morgan doors will not open until 7pm. Please keep this in mind for the safety of your child.
 - Morgan doors will lock at 8pm and you will not be able to enter after that time.
- Franklin – Enter on the East side of school (bell door).
- Please "Like" the CM Community Education page on Facebook for updates on open gym.



Science & Nature

Conference for Youth

May 13, 2015

What do you get when you combine the curious nature of students with cutting edge topics in science and technology? One of the largest and most popular science conferences for students in the country!

This conference features a keynote presentation and hands-on sessions on a variety of topics related to science and nature. Topics like archaeology, firefighting, veterinarian, engineering, wizardry, cryogenics, planets and stars, rockets, GPS, helicopters and more.

We welcome students, grades K-8; Regular Ed, Students with Special Needs, Gifted & Talented, Home School, etc.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Grant Smith, KELOLAND Meteorologist from Sioux Falls, SD

For more information and to register, check out the website www.swsc.org/scienceandnature



Culinary Skills CHALLENGE

March 31, 2015 (Snow Date April 1) • Registration Deadline March 13

The Culinary Skills Challenge features high school students showcasing their artistic and scientific creations through hands-on competitions and seminars. The event is held at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) in Marshall, MN. Competitors in the Culinary Competition vie for SMSU Scholarships of \$2000, \$1000, and \$500! For more information, log onto www.swsc.org/culinary



POSTAL PATRON

Cedar Mountain Schools Calendar & Dates

School Calendar 2014-15

- No School – President’s Day February 16
- Spring Conferences February 19
- No School - Teacher Work Day March 13
- Kindergarten Connection March 19 and 23
- End of 3rd quarter March 27
- 12:10 Dismissal April 2
- No School April 3 & 6
- FRED Night TBD in Spring
- Grandparent’s Day April 10
- Preschool Celebration May 18
- Elementary Year End Dance May 22
- Kindergarten Celebration May 27
- Commencement May 29

Building Entrance and Exit

Remember that, during construction, the gym entrance/exit has changed. Please watch for signs around the school to indicate the new traffic flow. Also, during the winter season there will be limited concession items due to a lack of space (no hot food).

The public is reminded that during games, diagonal parking in front of the school is allowed and encouraged. There are 2 handicapped parking spots in the gravel parking lot next to the district office. We want to keep vehicles out of the area during school dismissal, but after route buses leave, parking is allowed in front of the building.

Please also remember that parking is allowed in front of the school during the school day. It is not allowed from 7:00 to 8:15 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. At other times, it is allowed.

Save
The
Date

Prom
Saturday
April 25th

