



MARCH 2023

FROM THE TOP

CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS • CMS.MNTM.ORG

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Students had the opportunity to share their talents with the community at the holiday concerts held in December. Students in grades 6-12 performed on Monday, December 5 in Morgan and students in grades PreK - 5 showcased their talents on Thursday, December 8 in Franklin. All groups did a fantastic job entertaining their guests and helping everyone get into the spirit of the holidays. Thank you to our music instructors and students for all of your hard work in preparing for these concerts.





Mr. R. Brandl
Superintendent /
MSHS Principal

Thank you CMS

January 23rd marked the start of 2nd semester and the official halfway point of the 2022-2023 school year. Our students had a successful first half of the year and we are excited for all the excitement of spring. Events such as winter sports playoffs, the spring play, concerts, prom and graduation are wonderful traditions and opportunities to celebrate Cedar Mountain. We hope that you are able to join us as we celebrate our students and

their accomplishments.

As you are likely aware, this will be my last school year at Cedar Mountain. I have enjoyed a wonderful seven years as the principal and superintendent. Cedar Mountain is a special place and I believe the students, staff and supportive community have positioned our schools to succeed for many years to come. Thank you for the support you have given me

as I transition into my new career outside of education.

With my resignation, the school district will be looking to fill both the middle/high school principal vacancy and the superintendent position. Ideally the board will hire exceptional candidates who will lead our students and staff towards success. The hiring processes are taking place in late January and hired individuals will start their new roles in early July. It is my intention to assist in this transition to ensure the newly hired individuals have the platform and information they need as they prepare for the 2023-2024 school year. Once any new hirings are official, information will be shared with families. Thank you in advance for welcoming the new administrators to the Cedar Mountain Community.

Thank you for your continued support of Cedar Mountain Schools.

Go Cougars!



We are proud to recognize Michelle Thooft for her dedication to our school and students. Michelle recently received her Golden Apple for completing 20 years of service at Cedar Mountain. Congratulations Michelle !



Spreading Joy

SADD members delivered close to 100 Adopt an Angel gifts along with several bags of food to We Care. Jessica gave the students a tour of the facility and also shared with them the many quilts that have been donated and will be handed out this holiday season. Thank you to all students and staff who donated to this important community service project.





Mrs. T. Miller
Elementary
Principal

Elementary News

So much to celebrate this year! We have been working hard at the elementary school. We have been working on things from students reading and increasing their AR points, to our Christmas program, to students collaborating in their classrooms but the biggest celebration this year is the resilience of both our students and staff. In a world that continues to change, it presents new challenges as we navigate what instruction, collaboration, and student learning looks like in the classroom. Students and staff have shown their flexibility

as well as their creativity in e-learning this year, classroom projects, and day to day activities.

As we have navigated through this year and continue to meet students where they are, we continue to encourage one another and look forward to activities to come yet this year. We are excited to bring back previous years activities as well as new opportunities. We look forward to inviting our families back into the building for many of the upcoming events.

Parent Teacher Conferences will hold both in person and virtual conferences on February 27th to accommodate families needs. We are looking forward to having you again back in the building and connecting with you all. Look for information regarding sign up soon.

I Love to Read Month – We are looking forward to celebrating reading the entire month of February. We are having a fundraising event that promotes reading and gets books into our students' hands in order to build their own libraries at home. Look for more information the first week of February to see how you can support students here at Cedar Mountain.

Grandparent's Day – We will be offering Grandparent's Day on March 31st. We look forward to celebrating with you again this year. Keep looking at our Facebook and Website to find more information.

AR Prizes – Students in grades K-5 have been working on AR reading quizzes throughout the year. Each month they continue to be recognized in their classrooms and awarded prizes at each different level. Students will also be recognized at the end of the year for the total number of points earned in one year. Keep reading!

Cedar Mountain's Got Talent – this will be our new version of Arts, Academics and Awards (AAA). Students will sign up to display their artistic projects in the lobby at school and share their talent performances with the entire school! We plan to have this event towards the end of the year to showcase all our hard work and celebrate the year.

BINGO



The elementary students celebrated the end of the 1st trimester by playing all school BINGO. Everyone had a blast. We are looking forward to the fun and learning that the 2nd trimester will bring!

CMS welcomes Guest Speakers from Child Advocacy Center



Ida and Amanda from the Children's Advocacy Center spent a few days with our elementary students teaching them about safe and unsafe touches. The students learned how to say no, walk away, and tell an adult.



Cougar Proud Moment

The elementary celebrated the end of the trimester in November and these students received the award "Be Respectful".



Back: Ray Welter, Jaxen Gewerth, Ava Radermacher and Kylie Krenz
 Front: Rhett Jacobs, Briar Larsen, Lila Kelton and Connor Rieke



PRIDE

Action
COMMITTEE

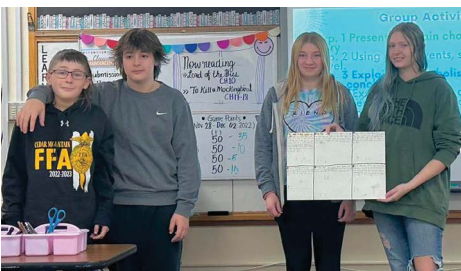
Shout Out to CPAC for the donation of funds to purchase sensory equipment and an analytical balance for the chemistry classroom! Thanks again for your generous donation.

Mrs. Haberman MSHS Science Teacher

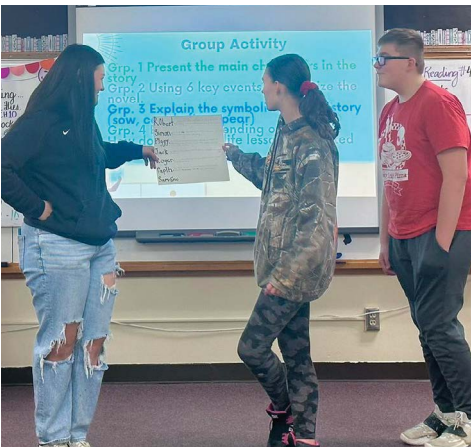


Are you new to the school district?
 Did you recently have a new baby or have a child move into your home?

Cedar Mountain keeps a census of all children ages 0-18. Please contact CM Elementary to be sure your child gets put on the census list. This helps us plan for the future. Contact Lori at CM Elementary 557-2251 or lhacker@cedarmt.org to add your child or to check to make sure your child is on our current list.



8th Grade



Grade 8 students recently finished reading their novel "Lord of the Flies". The classes enjoyed making their own island flag, maps, and masks.





Cedar Mountain staff and students were a few of the players who participated in the Franklin Fire department Donkey basketball fundraiser held on Tuesday, January 10. This was a fun event and a great way to support the community.



Thank you to all of the fans and participants.

Play HILLBILLY HANKERIN

Cedar Mountain Middle School/ High School students performed the play, Hillbilly Hankerin by Pat Cook, on November 11 and 12. Ms. Julia Garms was director and she was assisted by Brittany Johnson.



Elementary students participate in S.M.A.R.T. program.

STIMULATING MATURITY THROUGH ACCELERATED READINESS TRAINING



Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training (S.M.A.R.T.) is a program that helps children's brains and bodies get ready to learn by building the foundation required for basic readiness skills, critical for successful learners.

The program consists of fun, physical activities for developing and/or enhancing large and fine motor skills, balance and coordination, visual efficiency, eye-hand coordination, attention and much more. Once these readiness skills are in place, children have the necessary tools to be able to attend and learn, making them ready for school and prepared to become life-long learners.

Students in preschool through second grade participate in S.M.A.R.T. room activities to help them build skills for classroom and lifelong learning. Here's what some of our Cedar Mountain students have to say about the program:

"The SMART room's the best!" Kyler Ahrens

"The SMART room is really fun and it has really fun activities for us!" Letty Huiras

"It's pretty fun, I like it!" Weston Wanzek

"It's the best place!" Cora Christensen

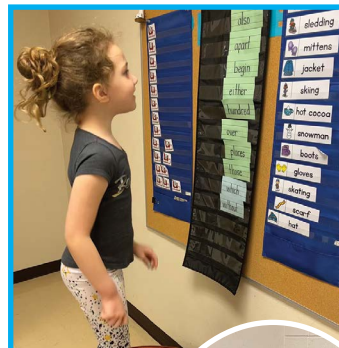
"The best activity is the crazy 8!" Kinsey Kaardal

"I like the pencil roll the best!" Nova Spotted Bear

"I like the trampoline!" Kenidi Schottenbauer

"I like the alligator crawl" Carson Garnhaardt

The SMART program works on preparing students to learn. Traditional school curriculum is based on the assumption that children arrive with the skills necessary to learn. Many children have deficits in foundational skills that prevent traditional learning. These may include *retained or immature reflexes *visual efficiency and perceptual problems *auditory processing problems and *immature sensory systems. Without a curriculum focused on building these skills these students may never mature the skills needed for learning readiness. The SMART program introduces these skills in a play style that is engaging for all students. Students complete a cycle of motor, visual, and auditory activities to build foundational skills. Since the activities are presented as play most children look forward to this part of their school day.





Counselor's corner

LOTS TO DO IN THE COMING SEMESTER

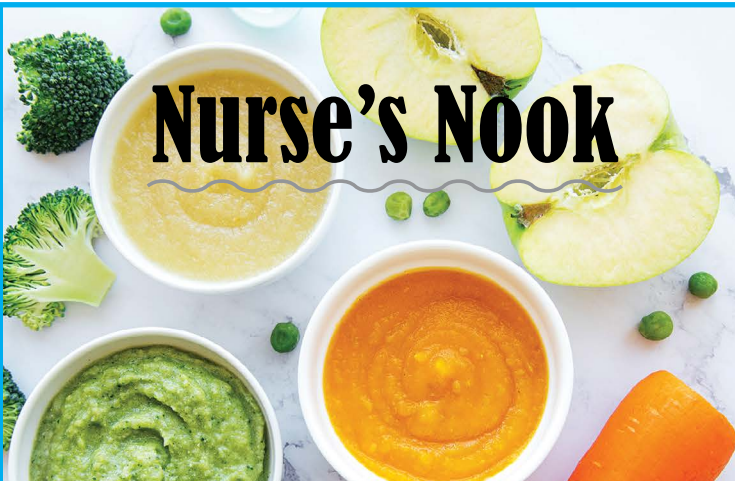
Starting in January and going all spring, is a time getting ready for the next school year. We will start planning the registration guide and class schedules for the 23-24 school year. Spring is also a time when assessments start.

We will be offering the Pre-ACT to 10th graders who may want to take it to prepare themselves for the ACT. The ACT will be offered then in April to the juniors. Also starting in April will be the MCA's. We are starting to get quite a few scholarships as well for seniors, they should be gathering those to fill out. Applications can be found on the school website under Counselor's Corner or can be picked up in my office. We will also have colleges and universities starting their spring visits so that will be going on as well.

SENIORS... don't forget to check for scholarship applications at cms.mntm.org



The Cougarettes held their annual recital on Saturday, January 14 with over 70 dancers in grades PreK - 5 participating! Thank you to coach Tasha Zieske as well as her assistant, Lydia Sullivan. Also assisting were CM dance team members.



Nurse's Nook

5 Healthy Habits

Get Enough Sleep. Getting a good night's sleep is important at any age, but especially for children as they grow and develop.

Spend More Time Outside

Read Every Day

Limit Screen Time

Eat a Well Balanced Diet

IN THE COMMUNITY

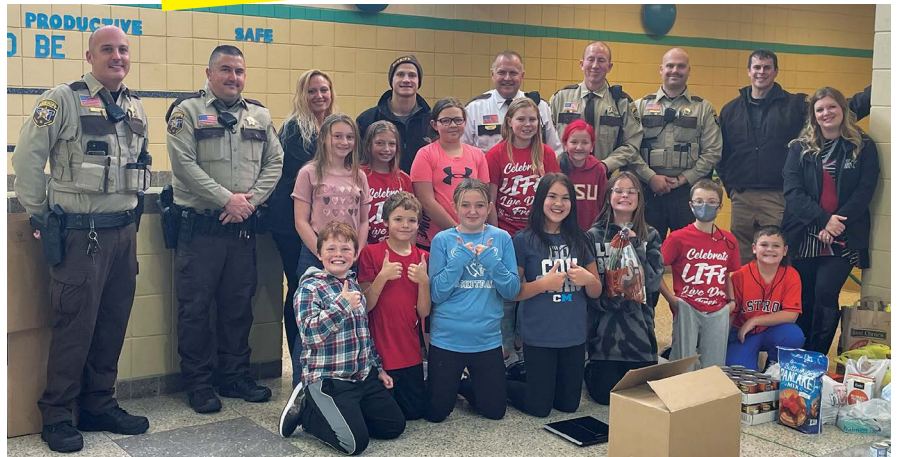


316 Pounds!

Stuff a Squad Car



The Stuff a Squad Car Food Drive was a huge success. There was a total of 1,409 pounds of food donated. The 5th grade won a donut party with the sheriff by donating 316 pounds. Student Council students assisted with loading the food. Thank you to everyone for being so generous!



Community Play

MURDERS IN THE HEIR

Do you like the game Clue? Then you will love the community play, Murders in the Heir! In this hilarious mystery, nearly every character has the weapon, opportunity and motive to commit the murder.

March 3 & 4
7:00PM

March 5
1:30PM

MSHS Auditorium
in Morgan



MSHS Spring Play



Jolly Roger & the Pirate Queen

March 31 & April 1
7:00 pm
MSHS Auditorium

Come along on a journey to the high seas and the exciting world of pirates in the play "Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen" by Craig Sodaro. There will be a little romance, some suspense and lots of humor.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Special Events

Ages: 0-5, Parents/Siblings are invited. Fee: \$5 per family



Canvas Painting Night
Tuesday, March 14th
Time: 6:00 - 7:15
Place: Morgan Cafeteria

HOPPING INTO SPRING

Tuesday, April 4th

Time: 6:00 - 7:15

Place: Morgan Cafeteria



PLAYGROUND party

Tuesday, May 23rd

Time: 6:00 - 7:15

Place: Franklin Playground

ECFE

Spring Class Schedule

Family Class

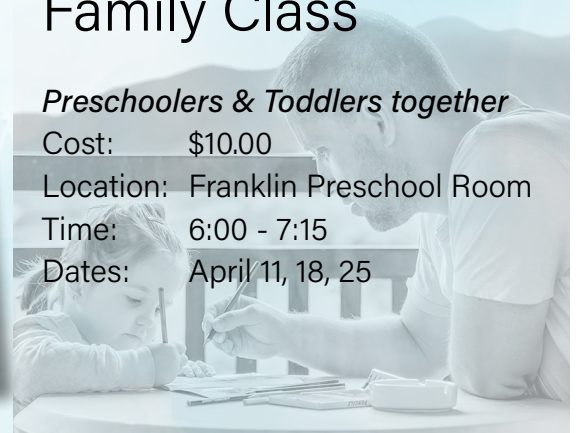
Preschoolers & Toddlers together

Cost: \$10.00

Location: Franklin Preschool Room

Time: 6:00 - 7:15

Dates: April 11, 18, 25



**Dates and times are subject to change based on other school activities.
Watch Facebook or your child's backpack for updates.**

Parents today are making decisions about technology that didn't even exist when they were young, here are 10 tips that might help when making technology decisions for your young child.

By Laurel Bongiorno, Ph.D <https://www.naeyc.org/>

1. USE TECHNOLOGY FOR COMMUNICATION.

FaceTime or Skype with Grandma. Read a bedtime story together from afar. Email family and friends so children can know and communicate with extended family.

2. MODEL USING TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL.

Take photos with your smartphone or iPad. Watch a short video of a volcano erupting, if your child shows an interest. Use the calculator to add. Use the magnifying app to examine nature. Listen to music on an iPod. Use the online dictionary to spell or find the meaning of words. Technology is an everyday tool.

3. BE INVOLVED.

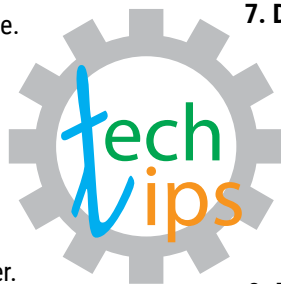
Resist the temptation to routinely use technology as a babysitter, and instead use it as a way to connect with your child. If you are reading a book on an e-reader, read together. Write emails together. Play games together. Look at science video clips together. Engage together.

4. MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS GETTING HANDS-ON PLAY EXPERIENCES DAILY.

Before you buy an iPad or other technology for your 3- to 5-year-old make sure he already enjoys building with blocks, creating artwork, reading books, engaging in dramatic play, and playing board games. And remember to provide plenty of playtime outside. Make real-world experiences the priority.

5. CREATE BOUNDARIES.

Like a previous generation's creation of boundaries around watching television, you need to decide what is desirable for your child in terms of screen time, whether television, movies, computer, tablet, or cell phone. Is it 30 minutes a day? Is it when you need focused time to pay bills? Is it not interrupting their creative engagement? Establish your family's technology boundaries.



6. BE A CRITIC FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAKE.

Pay attention to G ratings, but remember that the raters don't know your child—you do! If you decide on screen time, preview what they view and watch with your child to help her process what she sees. And consider the value of the apps you choose—are they active and do they promote creativity, innovation, and problem solving? Use the apps together so you can make a good decision. Make intentional choices.

7. DON'T LET TECHNOLOGY GET IN THE WAY.

Family meals are a great time for conversation, catching up on the day, and developing relationships. Car rides are a great time for talking, singing, and playing games like I Spy. Cooking together not only supports relationships but also engages your child in using math and literacy skills. Consider whether technology is getting in the way of precious family time together.

8. MODEL HEALTHY BEHAVIORS YOURSELF.

It's time to look in the mirror. Do you watch hours of television or movies each night? Is the television on in the background, even when no one is watching? Do you have your cell phone at the dinner table? Do you play games online in the middle of the night? Consider what your technology use models for your child. Your child learns from you.

9. IT'S OKAY TO SAY NO.

There are plenty of families who live their lives without smartphones, cable, televisions, or computers. Follow your instincts for your family, and remember, technology companies market to you as a consumer, so be smart. Be intentional about your decision to add technology to your child's day—or not.

10. BE SMART; BE SAFE.

Pay attention to your privacy settings. Share your rules about posting on social media with your friends and families. Make sure your early childhood program asks your permission before posting images of your child on Facebook or a website.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; **and**
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

Who is eligible?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Please visit fcc.gov/acp for more eligibility information.

TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

- 1 Go to **AffordableConnectivity.gov** to submit an application or print a mail-in application
- 2 Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must **both** apply for the program **and** contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

Learn More
Call 877-384-2575, or
Visit fcc.gov/acp



FFA @ Cedar Mountain

The FFA's national emblem features five symbols representing the history, goals and future of the National FFA Organization. Each symbol has its very own meaning.

THE CROSS section of the ear of corn provides the foundation of the FFA emblem. Corn has historically served as the foundation crop of American agriculture. It also serves as a symbol of unity because corn is grown in every state of the nation.

THE RISING SUN is for progress, holding the promise that a new day will be glowing with opportunity.

The plow signifies labor and tillage of the soil. The plow is the backbone of agriculture and the backbone of our nation's strength.

THE EAGLE represents the freedom of the nation and new horizons in the future of agriculture.

THE OWL is for wisdom. It represents the knowledge required to be successful in agriculture industry.

FFA 8th graders learned about the emblem and what each symbol stands for. They created their own cookies to demonstrate their learning.



CM FFA invites you to a **Community Appreciation Luncheon.**

CMS Cafeteria

Sunday March 5th

10:30AM - 1PM

Free Will Donation Appreciated

On the Menu

Spaghetti or Alfredo Pasta, Salad, Breadstick, Ice Cream

Lemonade and Water

(Take-Out available)

Contact: bjohnson@cedarmt.org

Mix it Up

At Lunch Day

On January 31, 5th grade student council members organized Mix It Up At Lunch Day for the elementary. This year's theme was sports, students and staff received a sticker with a ball on it and had to sit at tables that matched their "sport", the goal was to meet new friends and learn a little more about each other.



POSTAL PATRON

CALENDAR

February 17 *See change below* 12:10 Dismissal - All Staff In-Service
February 20 President's Day (No School)
February 27 12:10 Dismissal - Conferences
March 10 Teacher In-Service (No School)
March 24 12:10 Dismissal
April 5-10 Spring Break (No School)
April 28 *See change below* 12:10 Dismissal - All Staff In-Service
May 29 Memorial Day (No School)
June 1 Last Day of School
June 2 Graduation

CALENDAR CHANGES

Due to the number of snow days earlier this winter, the following dates are now full days instead of ½ days of school.

February 17 Full Day
April 28 Full Day



SPRING SPORT

Start Dates:

TRACK & FIELD
(W/SLEEPY EYE, SESM, AND
SPRINGFIELD) - MARCH 13

SOFTBALL
(W/RV) - MARCH 13

BASEBALL
(W/RV) - MARCH 20

GOLF
MARCH 20

TENNIS
(W/RV) - MARCH 27



JOB OPENING

Open Coaching Position
Assistant Track Coach
Individuals interested can
contact Jeremy Robinson at
jrobinson@cedarmt.org
for additional information.

