

From the Top

Cedar Mountain



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6th Grade Cougar PRIDE Project

by Nolan Michael Freitag



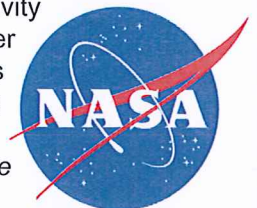
To show their school spirit, Mr. Baumgarten's 6th grade class started a painting of a Cougar in their room to show our school spirit. The Cougar looks the same as one in Mr. Schultz's room, but instead of being tan, it's our school colors. The picture is located on the back wall of Mr. Baumgarten's class room. We also painted tracks and our school class room expectations next to the Cougar. Everyone in Mr. Baumgarten's class room took part in the project.



**NASA Astronaut
Scott D. Tingle**

Skyping with NASA

The elementary students enjoyed celebrating I Love to Read Month!! Students in K-2 reached their reading goal of reading 3,000 books and grades 3-5 read 20,000 pages during the month of February. As a reward, the students were excited to visit and see Astronaut Scott Tingle through Skyping on March 12. Astronaut Tingle was selected in July 2009 as one of 14 members of the 20th NASA astronaut class. He recently graduated from Astronaut Candidate Training that included scientific and technical briefing, intensive instruction in International Space Station system, Extravehicular Activity (EVA), robotics, physiological training, T-38 flight training and water and wilderness survival training. Each grade came up with questions that they would like to ask Astronaut Tingle, and the child that was the top reader in each class got to ask the question. The day was an exciting time for all the elementary students and staff. *There are more "I Love To Read" articles and pictures on page 4 & 5.*





A Note from the Superintendent

Bob Tews

Many school districts in the state set aside money to be used for promoting themselves by advertising in the media. At Cedar Mountain, I hope that our students and parents do this for us. We want to use our resources to provide a great education while giving our students opportunities to experience the little extras that make our district special in every way.

Cedar Mountain has looked for ways to continue its educational excellence, beginning with a supportive learning environment and strong core curriculum. This is reflected in our consistently improving test scores. The District offers high school students are able to take college credit

classes through the Challenge Program at Southwest State University, ITV classes through Southwest Technical College or a variety of college classes through online learning options.

Research shows that both class size and school size affect learning and these areas are both reflected positively at Cedar Mountain. Because of this, we are able to give students a personalized education with high expectations. We have taken the best in educational programs and brought them into our school. Our goal is to provide comprehensive programs for all students.

These are but a few of the many examples of why we are proud of our school district. Stop in and see one of the building principals or me. From our Early Childhood programs to our high school college class offerings, we feel we measure up to your expectations.



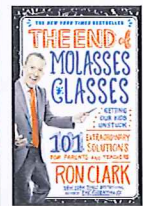
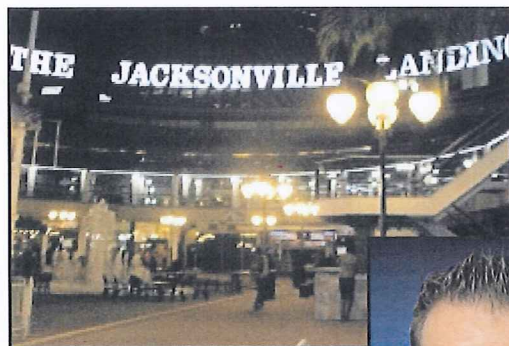
Mrs. Dawn Tietz, Cedar Mountain's Century 21 coordinator, was selected by the Project Coordinator for Pact, (Putting All Communities Together For Family) to attend, the "Beyond School Hours" conference in Jacksonville, Florida in mid February. This program covers our after school programs offered here at Cedar Mountain. It is a federally funded program that Mrs. Tietz has been the coordinator of for the past few years.

Mrs. Tietz, gladly accepted the opportunity, and flew to Jacksonville, Florida for a Wednesday evening, and all day Thursday and Friday conference.

Mrs. Tietz had the wonderful experience of hearing Ron Clark speak. Ron is an excellent motivational speaker who is a teacher and has written several books. His enthusiasm and love for children was phenomenal. The sessions she attended were focused on the need of the after school programs that are offered across America and how to incorporate them in our schools. We learned that all students are different and need to be respected in all areas and as leaders of these programs; they need to be positive, happy and have a passion for working with children. She also learned how important families are in children's lives and how these programs can keep families involved with each other.

It was also stressed that teenage years are such a tough time for children and everyone really needs to help teens develop a sense of self worth and help them establish a firm foundation they can build on their entire life. Overall, Mrs. Tietz said this conference was a wonderful experience and she felt very honored to have been chosen to attend.

21st Century "Beyond School Hours"



**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

Ron Clark

Founder, "The Ron Clark Academy"



Elementary News
from Mrs. Machart

Time To Celebrate!

We were so excited to receive the news that **Cedar Mountain Elementary was named a Celebration School!** Some folks have asked me if we get a monetary award ---- or a visit from the Governor ---- or a certificate for the wall! Actually - what we do receive is the pride in knowing that our students, staff, and families have worked hard to make student achievement a priority and it has paid off!

To be eligible to apply for a Celebration School status - our school had MMR (Multiple Measurement Rating) scores that placed us in the top 60th to 86th percentile of top performing schools. MMR ratings are based on student proficiency, student growth, and closure of the achievement gap.

More than 140 schools applied for this distinction and 57 were chosen. Brenda Cassellius, Minnesota Education Commissioner, wrote "Your selection is a direct reflection of the gains your school has made and the tireless efforts you and your staff have directed toward improving outcomes for your students."



In the application for the award, I highlighted these initiatives as being positive efforts in improving academic skills: our school wide behavior program, "reading buddies", 21st Century after School Program, Study Island Challenges, Power ½ Hour, and the use of testing data to set personal and class wide goals. The teaching of reading is a priority at our school. Each classroom has 90 minutes of reading instruction daily using our new Language Arts curriculum. Student progress is measured regularly and students receive additional instruction at their level in small groups.

Cassellius commented, "It takes focus and commitment to put systems and strategies in place that yield the kind of results your school has shown. You and your entire team deserve sincere congratulations for this outstanding accomplishment."

We will be celebrating this award with our students this month with special treats and activities! We are proud of our students and staff for this accomplishment!



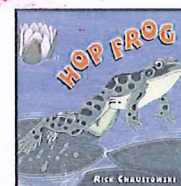
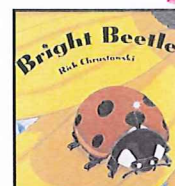
Elementary Upcoming Events

Grandparent's Day..... April 5 (1:30-3:00)
Minnesota Author Visit.....April 8
F.R.E.D. Father's Read Every Day.....April 18 (6:00-7:30)
Diversity Day (Grades 1-4).....May 13 and 14
End of the Year Dance.....May 17



Minnesota Author Visit

Author and illustrator, Rick Chrutowski, lives and works in a turn of the century farmhouse. When not working in his studio, he can usually be found in his garden or exploring nature. His interests in gardening and nature photography clearly influence his books. Chrutowski's wonderful books are filled with artwork which creates a world where "living is visual, colorful, and cool." He has written and illustrated Bright Beetle, Hop Frog and Blue Sky Bluebird. Rick will be at the Cedar Mountain Elementary School on April 8 to share his passion for books!





February was "I LOVE TO READ" month and schools and libraries across the nation were encouraging kids to surround themselves with books and appreciate the love of reading. The 6th graders and preschoolers at a Cedar Mountain MS/HS were no exception to this!

Mr. Baumgarten's 6th grade class paired up with preschoolers from the AM School Readiness class, in Morgan, and read together, the buddy pairs were also able to make "I LOVE TO READ" necklaces together.

Mr. Robinson's 6th graders paired with our FUN FRIDAY preschoolers to read and then were able to share a little of their time together coloring. Besides sharing the love of reading, this is an excellent time for multi-aged students to interact and learn from each other. A great time was had by all.



FUN FRIDAYS

Preschool Program



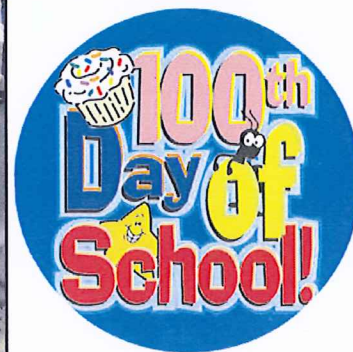
Speed Cup Stackers Are On The Loose!

Students at Cedar Mountain Elementary participated in a Speed Cup Stacking unit recently in physical education class. Speed Cup Stacking is new to the Cedar Mountain P.E. curriculum this year, but it has been around since the late 1990's. Invented in California, Speed Cup Stacking involves stacking 12 plastic cups into different patterns and then down stacking them as quickly as possible. This is a great activity for developing hand-eye coordination, quickness and ambidexterity. Sport stacking helps students develop bilateral proficiency equal performance on both sides of the body. By increasing bilateral proficiency, a student develops a greater percentage of the right side of the brain, which houses awareness, focus, creativity and rhythm. Stacking helps train the brain for sports and other activities where the use of both hands is important. Sequencing and patterning are also elements of sport stacking, which can help with reading and math skills.





The first graders are pictured with their special 100th day glasses that they wore during their 100th day of school celebration.



The first graders at Cedar Mountain Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school on Friday, February 8th. Mrs. Dahmes and Mrs. Tews planned a number of activities around the number 100, including doing 100 piece puzzles, flipping a penny 100 times, reading stories about the 100th day, and making a fun snack. The students were encouraged to dress up like they were 100 years old.



Mr. Jeremy Schultz Cedar Mountain MS/HS Principal

With the long winter nights beginning to shorten up, we begin to look anxiously toward warmer weather and the eventual changing of the seasons. It is at this time of year that we also find ourselves in the midst of changing the various sports and extra-curricular seasons here at school. We have had many successes in our various programs and are very proud of our students that have participated and continue to participate in each of our offerings.

Even with the winter months continuing to keep us indoors, there are many activities that our students continue to take part in to ensure a living school environment in which our building is in a constant state of motion. Basketball, Dance Line, Wrestling, Pep Band, Mock Trial, FFA, Knowledge Bowl, Spring Production, History Day Projects, Sophomore Skits, JH Music Festival, and other activities have been keeping our students continually growing as well-rounded individuals.



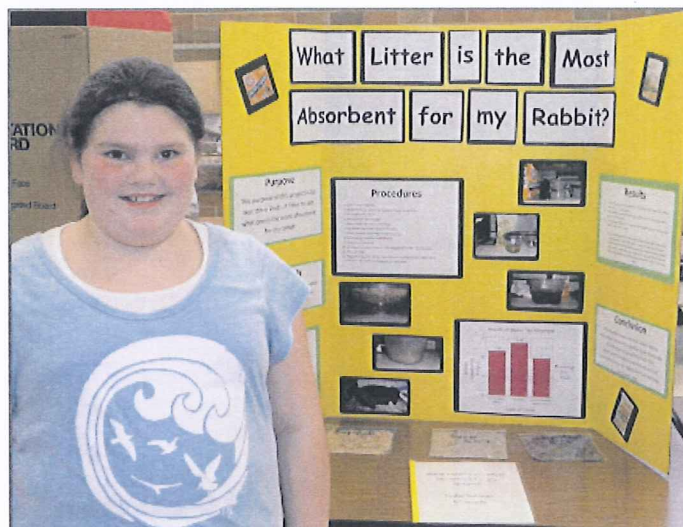
5th Grade Science Fair

Young scientists in the 5th Grade were given the opportunity to show off their science projects at the annual Science Fair held February 15, at Cedar Mountain Elementary School in Franklin. Students spent the afternoon being critiqued on their projects by judges from the community. Projects ranged from such topics as "What Habitat Does My Lizard Prefer?" to "What Type of Fabric Keeps Me the Coolest?" Students explored topics

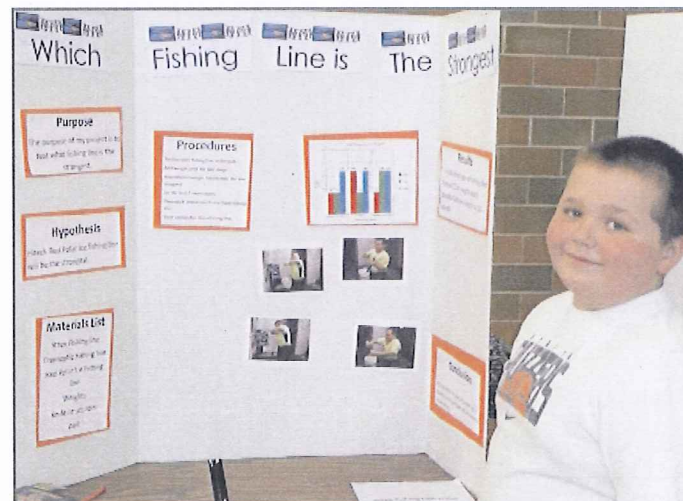
and questions concerning battery life, electricity, volleyball serves, solar energy, and sled speeds.

Many of the judges commented on the unique experiments and topics by saying that "students were very interested and enthusiastic about their projects." Another judge said the students were "very knowledgeable about their subjects" while another commented that "I was impressed by the preparation of the students."

Students receiving a Blue Ribbon have the opportunity to advance to the State Science Fair in Mankato on April 27.



Lydia Sullivan standing beside her project "What Litter Works Best for My Rabbit?"



Tanner Engholm displays "What Fishing Line Works the Best?"



Mrs. Machart listens while Trista Smith explains her project "What Habitat Does My Lizard Prefer?"



Speech Team



Cedar Mountain's Speech Team has had several opportunities for competition this season. They've participated at 4 varsity tournaments and 2 junior high with several awards won. Members below, listed clockwise from bottom left are: Lexi Eidem (storytelling), Maddie Hurias (serious drama), Jason Carlson (discussion), Aaron Walter (discussion), Anna Gebert (serious prose), Taelor Schmidt (serious drama and duo), Eden Nesburg (humorous), Katlynn Fjeld (creative expression), and Olivia Mathiowetz (duo). Others not pictured are: Seth Dehncke (humorous), Bonnita Steinbeisser (serious drama and poetry), and Annie Lee. Subsection competition will be held at MVL on April 2.



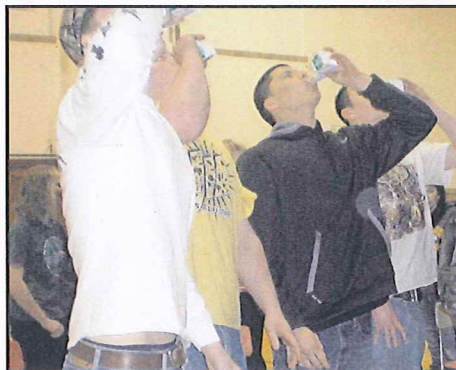
KNOWLEDGE BOWL

Students involved in Senior High Knowledge Bowl: Zachery Wilhelmi, Brittany Lemcke, Mitchell Norlin, Seth Dehncke, Erin Christensen, Trevor Serbus, Alix Hansen-Reding, Emily Ochs, Andrea Ochs, Breanna Walberg, Sydney Kerkhoff, Alexandra Eidem, and Eden Nesburg. This year our teams competed at events held at Red Rock Central and Redwood Falls. These students competed in the SW/WC Service Cooperative's Senior High Knowledge Bowl Sub-Regional Competition in March. Congratulations!





Ag Olympics



Celebrating National FFA week is always a fun time for the entire Cedar Mountain school system. Ms. Rehak, our FFA advisor, dedicates many hours in making this a learning, yet fun time for everyone. They scheduled a different activity and dress up-day for each day of the week. On Thursday morning, of that week, they prepared and served a delicious breakfast for the staff at the MS/HS. On Friday they held Ag Olympics in the afternoon. Something new this year was a team of community members consisting of Joel Matiwetz, Tony Mages, Ken Johnson, Jeff Sorenson, and Joe Serbus. Thanks to Ms. Rehak and the FFA members for providing both an educational and fun week for everyone.

Staff Breakfast Highlights





Easter Activity Night

Tuesday, March 26 (6:15-7:15)

Morgan Cafeteria

Ages: 0-5 Parents (siblings are invited)

Fee: \$5.00/child • Max: \$15/family

IT'S EASY TO REGISTER

Fill out the the registration form below *or*
Email: ngehrke@cedarmt.org *or* Call: 507-249-5201

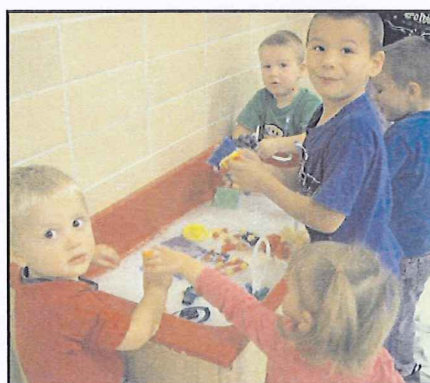
Enjoy special time with your child doing Easter activities! There will be art activities, games, and a special visit from the Easter Bunny!

You must pre-register for this event before March 25th.

TO REGISTER FOR THESE CLASSES: CALL Nancy Gehrke at 507-249-5201
OR EMAIL AT ngehrke@cedarmt.org OR COMPLETE AND MAIL IN THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW:

Parent's Name _____
Street/City/State/Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Child name _____ Age _____ Birthday _____
Class Attending _____
Sibling Care: Child's Name _____ Birthday _____
Check cost that applies: _____ \$15.00 Family _____ \$5.00 for each child _____ Scholarship _____

Return this form and check to: Cedar Mountain School - ECFE Program • P.O. Box 188 • Morgan, MN 56266



ECFE HIGHLIGHTS

Cedar Mountain's ECFE is finishing up the winter session. We once again had excellent classes with some great kids and parents involved. The children explored shapes, hearts for Valentine's Day, children's books among many other fun things. Parents discussed "Battle's Worth Fighting", "Technology", and "Showing love to children." Some great discussions generated around our table, and our parent time together always seemed to go too fast. Our gym night is always a huge success even if it was postponed because of bad weather. We will finish spring with our Easter Activity night in Morgan.

Mock Trial



The Minnesota High School Mock Trial Program is an exciting law-related education program that introduces students to the American legal system.

It provides a challenging opportunity for students to exercise their critical thinking and teamwork skills as well as learn about the justice system first

hand. A team consists of three lawyers and three witnesses who compete against other teams from participating schools. Teams are judged on their presentation rather than who wins the legal merits of the case.

This year's case this was The State of Independence vs. Dustin Beaver. Beaver was a senior who took some of his friends boating following the school prom. Alcohol was consumed before they went tubing on the river. At about the same time, another group of students decided to go swimming. One of them disappeared after Beaver's boat sped by the area. The body was found several days later with injuries consistent with being hit by a boat. Beaver was charged with aggravated manslaughter and death by vehicular homicide.

Cedar Mountain competed three times, winning one trial and losing the other two. Lawyers for the defense were Shawn Sherman, Allison Madsen and Haley Weidman. Acting as witnesses were Brittany Lemcke, Brianna Weinzetl and Nick Malecek. On the prosecution side, trying to convict Beaver, were lawyers Andy Berkey, Brianna Weinzetl and Mary Mace. Witnesses were Nick Malecek, Jordan Kleinschmidt and Jennica Hacker. Sherman, Madsen, Lemcke, Weinzetl and Berkey are all seniors. Gaining valuable experience were freshman Weidman, Malecek, Mace, Kleinschmidt and Hacker.



'55 Alive' Driver Safety Program

The Cedar Mountain Community Education program is sponsoring spring "55 Alive Refresher" programs for area residents who are 55 years of age or older. Classes will be held at the Cedar Mountain Elementary School Library in Franklin. Class fee is \$15.00/person. Dave Nack is the instructor. Call 507-249-5990 to register for this class.

Refresher 4-hour Class: Thursday, April 4 from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. The four-hour refresher course is for those who have completed an eight-hour course, but need to renew their certificate. Bring your driver's license to class.

Initial 8-hour Class: Monday and Tuesday, April 8 & 9 from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. The two-day, eight-hour course requires attendance both days in order to be awarded the certificate of completion. Bring your driver's license to class.



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BOXHOLDER

CEDAR MOUNTAIN'S 21ST CENTURY PROGRAM

Cedar Mountain's 21st Century after school program is enjoying a great winter with some fun classes and some great kids. We finished a unit on drama and have moved to a unit on rocketry. The students will be making their own rockets and weather permitting be launching them later this month. They are also practicing their skills with table tennis, which they have seemed to enjoy. We continue to work on homework daily to keep all students caught up in the classroom also. We are looking forward to spring so we can get outside and do some other fun activities.



Cedar Mountain MCA Testing Dates

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MCA Reading:

April 16-19.....Grades 3, 4, 5
1 section each day during Reading Block

MCA Science On-Line:

April 22 & 23.....Grade 5 (10:30-12:00) & (2:00-3:00)

MCA Math On-Line:

May 1 & 2Grade 3S (8:30-9:30)
Grade 3L (1:30-2:30)

MCA Math On-Line:

May 6 & 7.....Grade 5KB (9:30-10:30)
Grade 5KS (10:30-11:30)
Grade 4MG (8:30-9:30)
Grade 4JG (1:00-2:00)

May 10Testing Window Closes

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL

MCA Written Composition Grad:

April 16.....Grade 9 (Statewide)
April 23.....Make-Up Scheduled

MCA Reading (paper format):

April 16 & 17.....Grade 10

MCA Math On-Line:

May 6-10.....Grades 6-8 & 11

MCA Reading (paper format):

May 6-10.....Grades 6-8

MCA Science On-Line:

May 13-17.....Grade 8 & 11

May 10Testing Window Closes