



From

# THE TOP

NOVEMBER 2016

DISTRICT OFFICE  
PO Box 188 • 207 GALLAGER STREET  
MORGAN, MN 56266  
PH: 507.249.5990 • FAX: 507.249.3149

CEDAR MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY  
PO Box 38 • 231 4TH AVE. E. • FRANKLIN, MN 55333  
PH: 507.557.2251 • FAX: 507.557.2116

CEDAR MOUNTAIN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOLS  
PO Box 188 • 207 GALLAGER STREET  
MORGAN, MN 56266  
PH: 507.249.5880 • FAX: 507.249.5887

## CM CELEBRATES HOMECOMING 2016-17!

[cms.mntm.org](http://cms.mntm.org)



### COURT 2016-17

HOMECOMING



Back: Blake Harmoning, Braxton Kerkhoff, Connor Nelson  
Middle: Kayla Elsing, Joci Nestande, Kayla Rasmussen  
Front: Andrew Distad, Andy Lux, Lauren Boyle, Kara Huwe







**Mr. Robert Tews**  
**SUPERINTENDENT**

# Winter Weather Information

No matter how much I hope we don't, I think that we are going to have severe weather this winter. Based on the assumption that cold temperatures, high winds and heavy snow will come eventually this school year, I want to assure everyone that Cedar Mountain Schools are ready to respond, as needed, when severe weather occurs.

When the weather turns bad, we consider several factors to determine whether to keep schools open, delay school openings, close schools for a day or close schools early. Road conditions are checked, and the temperature and wind chill is monitored closely. I also check weather radar and listen closely to forecasts for our area. If a decision is made to cancel school or adjust the

school schedule, I begin to call radio and television stations with that information. Please do not call the radio or television stations, as this tie up their phone lines. Some weather conditions, such as fog, are harder to react to, and the District respects parental decisions if you would choose to keep your child home until the conditions improve.

We live in Minnesota, which is famous for extremes in weather. I believe that we need to have school on days when the weather is not always ideal. If a parent or guardian feels it is unsafe to send their child to school, the school will respect that decision. You need to do what you feel is best for your child.

**Listed below are the general procedures we follow at Cedar Mountain:**

## PROCEDURES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. All school closings, delayed starting times, and early dismissals will be announced on KLGR- AM 1490, FM 97.7; KNUJ-AM 860; WCCO-AM 830, WCCO-4 TV; KARE-11 TV and KSTP-5 TV. They are also communicated through the Instant Alert system and on the district website at: <http://www.cms.mntm.org/>. Parents and pupils are urged to listen to one of these stations daily, but especially when the weather is inclement. Normally these stations will be notified of the closing of schools as soon after 6 a.m. as possible. Hearing no announcement, parents and students should assume that the schools will be in session.
2. There are also times when schools are closed earlier than the regular time. If an adult will not be at home, arrangements should be made so that young children have an appropriate place to go. Please make sure that all Snow Emergency Forms have been completed and returned to the principal's office at your child's school.
3. All school activities will not be held when school is closed due to inclement weather.
4. All after-school activities will be canceled when school is dismissed early because of inclement weather.
5. In case of a late start, breakfast will not be served that day.



## WINTER BUSING PROCEDURE

In recent years, winters have been extremely difficult due to snow, wind, and generally crummy weather. In the past, special procedures were put in place regarding bus transportation. I want to review these procedures, as we will follow them again this year.

We have always looked at transportation in terms of safety and we won't take buses on roads that have not been plowed. We will again be following a very strict "plowed roads only" policy for this school year. If you live on a rural road, I ask that you think about an alternate pick up or drop off point for your child in the event we are not able to travel on your road. An example of an alternate pick up or drop off point would be the nearest current stop on a plowed road. If you have questions, I encourage you to contact Cedar Mountain Bus Service at 249-3136. They can work with you to find an appropriate alternate stop. We cannot risk a bus becoming stuck on an unplowed road.

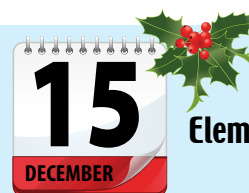
Our goal is to get students to school each day safely. We hope that the weather and road conditions are not a problem this year. But I believe it is best for everyone if we "prepare for the worst and hope for the best".



**Mark your  
calendars for  
CMS Christmas  
Concerts**



**Middle School &  
High School Performances  
at 7:00 pm**



**Elementary Performance  
at 7:00 pm**



**Mrs. P. Machart**  
Elementary  
PRINCIPAL

## Elementary News

Technology has become part of the educational process and it is exciting to see how we are integrating it at Cedar Mountain Elementary!

The teachers and students are excited about using technology --- in the classrooms students are blogging to their teacher, checking out e-books on their ipads form an app called EPIC, watching a live weather report, creating picto collages and imovies, responding to teacher created quizzes and getting immediate feed-back and lots more.

- Teachers are able to incorporate technology into their daily lessons with SMART boards and mobile labs. We have an ipad cart in each classroom and our computer lab is equipped with 25 new computers.
- 4th and 5th graders will use ipads to learn their Social Studies curriculum. They will be using an on-line book and teacher created materials that they can interact with rather than text books.
- We purchased the World Book on -line encyclopedia and it is amazing. You can look up an item, watch a video on it, listen to the sound it may make, and view several other sites that may be related to your topic. *Our families can access this on our school website. The*

*user name is cedarmountain and the password is cougars.*

- Check out our school webpage at [www.cms.mntm.org](http://www.cms.mntm.org). Go to the Elementary section and the Cougar Pride link. From there you can watch videos created by Blue Crue Tue highlighting our behavior expectations.
- Alissa Steve is a Tech Integration Specialist and works with staff and students as they incorporate technology into their daily lives. Of course, technology has its glitches – and it is comforting to have our technology staff to lead us as we learn together!
- Follow our school on Facebook --- you can see and read about highlights and reminders for our school!

## FARMER'S MARKET



The Farmer's Market was once again a huge success at Cedar Mountain Elementary. \$3,279.65 was the grand total raised this year! Our parents are very creative and awesome bakers – the donations were fabulous and delicious! All proceeds are used for class activities and field trips. Thanks to the families for donating, purchasing and working at the Farmer's Market!





# CMS welcomes new Reading Corps Tutor

Hello! With this being my first year working at Cedar Mountain Elementary, I thought I would take the time to introduce myself and explain what I do at school every day. My name is Joshua Guetter, and I am the new Reading Corps tutor at Cedar Mountain. This past spring, I graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University with a degree in 5-12 English Education. I completed my student teaching experience last May at RTR Middle School in Russell, MN. Although my degree is focused in middle and high school, I have had a number of experiences working with elementary students, which led me to become interested in the Reading Corps program. For those unfamiliar with the program, Reading Corps is a branch of Americorps (a national service program), and members of Reading Corps specialize in giving reading interventions to students in grades K-3, 20 minutes each day. The goal of Reading Corps is to have students reading

fluently by the end of third grade. My experiences in college and in the classroom have emphasized the importance of this goal. Students that struggle with reading beyond third grade often struggle in other important academic areas. It's become abundantly clear that the foundations of a good education start with reading, which is a big reason why I decided to join the program in the first place. It's been several weeks since I've started, and I already love the job, the staff, and most importantly, all of the students! Cedar Mountain is a great school, and I can't wait to watch the student's progress throughout the school year!



## Technology takes it's place in Social Studies

Fifth grade is using a new online Social Studies curriculum titled, "Social Studies Alive." It is an interactive curriculum which allows students to read the material, have the material read to them, and work on their iPads. Teachers are able to teach the curriculum directly from the Smart board. We are super excited about this curriculum!



# 5th Grade Youth Football Goes Undefeated!



*Reading stools, books and games were some of the items purchased from the Monsanto grant CM Elementary received. Thank you to Monsanto for the grant money to update our library, we appreciate your generosity!*



*Thank you Monsanto*



# Cougar Connection



Cedar Mountain's after school program, Cougar Connection has started another school year. This program is for students in grades 6-12 and is funded by a federal grant through the MN Department of Education.

After a fun-filled summer of meeting about 6 days a month we are now back in the after school routine. We meet 4 days a week and some Friday evenings or Saturday's. We have a healthy snack every day, homework time and enrichment activities. The skills that we focus on during our enrichment time fit one of the following categories: collaboration, communication, service learning, creativity, health, fitness, problem solving, leadership or readiness for High School and College.

So far this fall we have done lots of get-to know you

activities, some walking/jogging, baking, crafts, a scavenger hunt, puzzles, a Harkin store visit, kick ball and a 4H activity that involved chucking pumpkins. We look forward to what our teachers will plan for the following months.

We invite all students in grades 6-12 to join us after school any time during the year when it works with their schedule. We guarantee some great educational experiences and lots of fun. For more information please contact Mrs. Tietz at 507-249-5990 or dtietz@cedarmt.org



## COUGAR PRIDE!

Each Friday we announce the Cougar Pride recipients of the week. Staff recognize students that have done well in the classroom either academically, socially, or by following the Cedar Mountain expectations. The students receive a pencil, have their picture taken, and get a postcard sent to their home. Mrs. Machart reads a few of the postcards to the students so they can hear what staff have noticed about them. You can see in the picture, that this individual attention is a moment of pride for that student! We hope the parents are hanging their postcards on the paw magnet that we gave them at Open House. We want this positive attention to carry out at home as well as at school!





**Mr. R. Brandl**  
Middle/High School  
PRINCIPAL

## Middle / High School

The new school year at Cedar Mountain is off to a great start! Each year brings changes and new opportunities for our students and staff to better themselves and grow as individuals. We at Cedar Mountain are working extremely hard to develop and maintain a school culture that prides itself on student achievement, strong communication, and creating an environment that is both positive and welcoming for all. As a school community we understand that education does not have a finish-line and that successful schools create life-long learners. High expectations have been set for our students and it is extremely fulfilling to see so many of our students meet those expectations. Thank you to all the stakeholders who are proud supporters of Cedar Mountain. Together as a school and community we can and will accomplish great things.

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

On September 12th, the Cedar Mountain National Honor Society had their induction ceremony. Fifteen new members were inducted into Cedar Mountain NHS. To become a member, a student must show the following qualities: leadership skills, be of good character, minimum GPA of 3.5 and willing to perform community service. Students are invited to apply by demonstrating these skills and providing letters of recommendation. After the applications are reviewed by a staff committee, students are notified of their acceptance.



**Front:** Jordan Kevelin, Heather Lemcke, Kylie Wesal, Abby Jemmings, Torie Lemcke, Becca Tietz • **Middle:** Connor Johanneck, Kayley Spaeth, Ben Nissen, Erica Bock, Makenzie Kerkhoff • **Back:** Josh Wolling, Matt Larsen, Carter Kleinschmidt, Lauren Zeug



Cedar Mountain MS/HS students are off to a great start with their new Chromebooks. This is the first year of the 1:1 initiative for all students in the MS/HS using Chromebooks. Students and teachers are exploring new ways of learning with technology using their new devices.

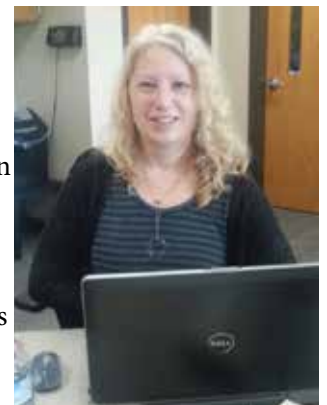
## Welcome!

Those who have come to the Cedar Mountain MS/HS office recently may have been greeted by a new face! Mrs. Stephanie Fladhammer is new to CM and is working in the office part-time, primarily working with attendance. When not in the office, she is in various classrooms as a paraprofessional.

Mrs. Fladhamer grew up in Seaforth and has lived in Wabasso for the past 17 years with her husband, Daryl. Together they have two children, Elizabeth who is 26 and works at SMSU in Admissions and Ally who is 16 and a 10th grader at Wabasso Public School.

Mrs. Fladhammer attended Moorhead State University and received a teaching degree in Special Education and has since worked in different areas of Special Education and secretarial, her most recent employment was with White Law Office in Wabasso as a secretary for 16 years before the attorney she worked for retired.

Mrs. Fladhammer is excited to be here at CM and finds remembering everyone's name the most challenging task right now.





# NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

## Thank A Principal!



We have outstanding principals at Cedar Mountain Schools who are dedicated to making a difference for our students.

October is National Principals Months and it's important to recognize the essential role that principals play in making a school great.

Principals have a tough job. They set the tone for a school. Their commitment to academics, their vision, dedication, and hard work provide the driving force behind student achievement. They're responsible for hundreds of students, parents, dozens of staff, and countless community stakeholders.

Cedar Mountain wants to say THANK YOU to Mrs. Machart and Mr. Brandl for their tireless efforts in educating our students and pursuing excellence in education.



## Welcome!



Christina Kirchoefer

Hi, my name is Christina Kirchoefer and this is my first year teaching at Cedar Mountain Elementary School. I am teaching K- 5 General Music, Band, and Global Explorations. Ever since I was a student in elementary school I had already known that I wanted to be a teacher; however, before pursuing that as a career I decided to continue my education by focusing on musical theater and performing in general. I attended a small school for the arts in Florida and then completed my Bachelors of Arts in Musical Theater at Columbia College Chicago. Soon after I moved to England to work as a music director for the church. It was during that time that I realized how much more I enjoyed teaching others how to make and appreciate music. I then moved to St. Paul, Minnesota where I worked on completing a Masters in Teaching at the University of St. Thomas. Whenever I wasn't studying or in classes

I worked as a substitute teacher for grades prek - 8th. My husband and I moved to this region of Minnesota in August since we were both able to find teaching positions in the area. I feel quite fortunate to be teaching at Cedar Mountain. Not only am I able to share my love and knowledge of music with the students, but I am also able to share the many travel experiences I have been blessed to have. As I have already mentioned a few of the places I have lived there are actually more because while I was growing up my father served in the military and my mother worked as a teacher on the military bases overseas. That being said we moved a lot and we traveled a lot. Both music and traveling have truly had a positive impact on my education overall, so I truly hope that by teaching here at Cedar Mountain I too can make a positive impact on students.

## CMC Supports Cancer Awareness

The CMC Football and Volleyball teams recently held events to bring awareness to the all too common disease...cancer. On October 3rd, CMC Volleyball hosted Red Rock Central for their Kill Cancer event. Tables were set out in the lobby with activities for people to do such as cookie decorating, pink hair dyeing and nail painting. The 3rd annual Tackle Cancer game between CMC and NUC was held in New Ulm on Friday, October 7th. Together NUC and CMC sold over 300 t-shirts to help raise funds! Thank you to everyone for their support of these two events. Funds raised will be used to support those affected by cancer in our area.



There are a few **Tackle Cancer T-shirts** left and are on sale for \$5 each. Contact Sarah at [ssullivan@cedarmt.org](mailto:ssullivan@cedarmt.org) or 249-5990 if you are interested in purchasing one.





**to our  
Volleyball Champions!**

**The CMC Cougar volleyball team  
are Co-Champions of the 2016  
Tomahawk Conference. They  
finished the conference season  
with a 7-1 record.**



***Great job Cougars!***

## ***Inspirational Speaker Visits CMS***



John Crudele, internationally acclaimed speaker, author, and expert on youth and family issues visited Cedar Mountain Schools on Wednesday, September 21st. Our elementary, middle school, and high school students were given the opportunity to hear his message in 3 separate presentations along with our community members in the evening. Using his own personal and professional experiences he was able to deliver a message of hope and encouraged healthy life choices. He was also able to empower parents and community members to connect and communicate with our youth. Thank you to Harvest Land Cooperative and AgQuest Financial Services for helping to sponsor his presentations.





## Blue Crue Attends WE Day

Twenty-four Cedar Mountain Blue Crue students attended WE Day at the St Paul ExCel Center on Tuesday September 20th with their advisors. WE Day is a celebration of youth making a difference in their local and global communities. Other groups shared about their successful community service projects which impacted local communities as well as global. The students also enjoyed getting to see Buzz Aldrin, George Takei, Paula Abdul and many other amazing speakers and performers. The students represented Cedar Mountain very well and plan to do a service project and return again next year.

## Making a Difference in their Community



## Daycare UPDATE



The new Cougar Cub Child Care Center is on schedule to open in December. The center is being built in Franklin and will have child care for infants – preschool aged children. Jody Rose, the new director, has been busy hiring staff, training and getting the facility ready for the children to come! Please contact Jody at 507-276-1805 to register your child or for more information.

## CMS Theatre

Cedar Mountain Drama will be putting on their annual Fall play.



This year there will be two short plays combined together. The first is “*Complaint Department*”, a comedy about the many things we complain about daily and a few things hopefully no one ever does complain about.

The second short play will be a murder mystery called, “*The Crooked House Murder*”. This classic whodunit parodies many Agatha Christie storylines. Come and watch the large cast of 38 7th-12th grade students perform November 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. in the Morgan auditorium.

## TECH TIPS – By Alissa Steve

- **Ways to increase your device's battery life**
  - ★ **Dim the screen brightness or use auto brightness** – the brighter the backlight the more battery power you are using
  - ★ Turn off vibrate – the vibrate setting uses more battery than an audible alert
  - ★ Turn off apps in the background – if you do not plan on using an app again for more than an hour turn it off, the more apps you have running the more battery power you are using
- **Running out of storage space on your device?** Photos and videos take up a lot of space, try saving them to Google Photos. With Google Photos you will be able access them from any device using your google account. Once your photos and videos are synced with google photos you can delete them off your phone, freeing up valuable storage space!
- **Tired of ads popping up on your web browser?** Use the Google Chrome web browser and install the adblock extension. It blocks ads from all over the web creating a family friendly search experience.

Who needs a flu vaccine?

**Nurse's Nook**

NO!

Even healthy people can get the flu, and it can be serious. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine. This means you. This season, protect yourself—and those around you—by getting a flu vaccine.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

CDC U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

# Early Childhood Development

## Kids at Work

Cedar Mountain ECFE had their “Kids at Work” night on Thursday, September 29th at the Cedar Mountain High School. There were construction hats, dirt dessert, fun projects and even some construction vehicles for everyone to see.

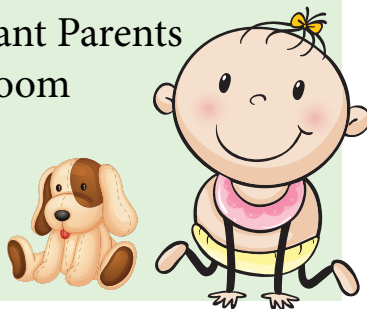
Check the school website or call Mrs. Dahmes at 507-557-2251 or Mrs. Tietz at 507-249-5990 for information on upcoming classes.



## Winter ECFE Classes

### Babies Night Out

0-12 Months/Expectant Parents  
Morgan Preschool Room  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
3 Sessions @ \$9.00  
November 7, 14, 21



## SANTA'S Workshop

Thursday, December 8  
6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.  
Morgan Cafeteria/Gym  
\$5.00 per family • Ages 0-5  
Parents/Siblings are invited

## FAMILY CLASS

Preschoolers & Toddlers together  
6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.  
3 Sessions @ \$10.00  
**MORGAN**  
Tuesdays, January 17, 24, 31  
**FRANKLIN**  
Mondays, January 16, 23, 30



## Kids in the Kitchen

**TUESDAY**  
January 10th  
6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.  
Morgan  
Cafeteria/Gym



# Community Education / Youth Activities

## **BARN**

### Canvas Painting Class

Date: Tuesday, November 22

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Place: Elementary Cafeteria  
Franklin

Cost: \$35

Instructor Amanda Mathiowetz

To Register:

Email: [ssullivan@cedarmt.org](mailto:ssullivan@cedarmt.org) or

Call: 507-249-5990 or

Text: 320-212-3403



## **DANCE** Starting Soon!

Registration forms have been sent home in the elementary school and are available in the MS/HS office for grades 6-8.

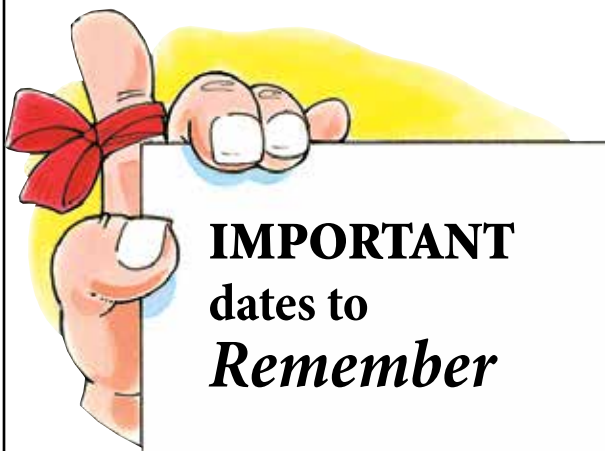


More info available on the school website.

## *Flag Football has been a hit with K-3rd graders!*



## POSTAL PATRON



### IMPORTANT dates to *Remember*

#### EARLY DISMISSALS

- Friday, November 18 - 12:10 dismissal
- Wednesday, November 23 - 12:10 dismissal

#### THANKSGIVING VACATION

- NO SCHOOL - November 24 & 25

#### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

- Nov. 15 @ MS/HS Only 4:00-7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17 @ Elem. & MS/HS 4:00-7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 21 @ Elementary Only 4:00-7:30 p.m.

#### CONCERTS

- MS/HS Concert - Dec. 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Elementary Concert - Dec. 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

#### CHRISTMAS VACATION

- NO SCHOOL - December 23 - January 2

## MS/HS BLOOD DRIVE

9AM-3PM

WE  
*need*  
YOU



TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER  
22nd

### WANTED - Pep-BAND SHIRTS

The Pep band along with Mrs. Eberhard is looking for the most recent navy blue pep band shirts. If you have one or know of someone who is no longer in band or has graduated and they would like to donate it back to the pep band please drop it off in the music room or the High School office. - **Thank you!**



## Winter Sports Start Dates

**NOVEMBER 14**

Girls Basketball  
JH Basketball  
Hockey

**NOVEMBER 21**

Boys Basketball  
Wrestling