



COUGAR NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CMS FAMILIES

• MARCH 2020 •



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear CMS Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and well. On Tuesday we held Student Conferences. Thank you to all the parents who attended with your child(ren). It is an opportunity for our students to share their learning experience with you by showcasing their work through the lense of our Learn Essential Expectation. I know many of you were able to speak with at least one of your child(ren)'s teachers during this time. Please remember all of your child(ren)'s teachers are ready to answer any questions you have about their learning at any time. You can contact them through email or by calling the school.

Prior to the February vacation an email with a link to the UA Selections survey was sent to all 5th, 6th and 7th grade families. If you have not completed the survey online or with your child's teacher please contact CMS guidance at 264-5802. This information is necessary for us in making sure your students get scheduled as best we can into the classes they hope to take. These include choice of world language, math exploration, band and chorus.

Happy March!

Michele

DATES TO KNOW

MARCH

- 6 Dance 6:00 pm CMS Cafe
- 10 PTA Meeting 6:00 pm CMS Library
- 18 Basketball Banquet 6:30 pm CMS Cafe
- 19 PE Dance Performance 6:00 pm CHS Gym
- 20 No School for students
- 27 Dance 6:00 pm CMS Cafe

APRIL

- 3 3rd Quarter Ends
- 8 Early Release Day students dismissed at noon
- 20-24 School Vacation



INFORMATION FOR 8TH GRADE FAMILIES

Please plan to attend the 8th Grade Parent Dance Committee Meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 6pm in the library. Come help plan and support the preparations for the 8th Grade Send Off Dance scheduled for Friday, June 5th at 6pm.

8th Grade Send Off Dance - Friday, June 5th - Cafe 6pm

8th Grade Celebration - Monday, June 15th - CHS Gym 6 pm (Students expected to arrive at 5:15pm)



INFORMATION FOR 5TH GRADE FAMILIES

Please join us for 5th Grade Parent Information Night on Wednesday, May 13th at 6 pm in the CMS Cafeteria. During this evening you will meet the CMS administrators and hear from them, students and other staff about the transition activities that will happen in the spring to prepare your children to enter 6th grade in the fall. You will also get to see what the day in the life of a 6th grader looks like and hear from current 6th grade students about their experiences. There will be time for questions and answers.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CHROMEBOOKS

Each school vacation we will be collecting all student chromebooks to keep at school over the break. We will be sending a reminder to families and students the week before each vacation.

REMINDER Dance Residency and Evening Performance

The CMS Physical Education Department is excited to announce an amazing artists-in-residence experience happening at CMS this month. Sarah Cover (Urban Dance Complex) and Jessica Ashton (Up North Dance Studio) are guest educators who will be teaching our students hip-hop dance from March 5th through March 19th. They bring over ten years of teaching experience in similar school-based programs in Vermont. Sarah and Jess will teach our students for five classes during their scheduled physical education times. Each class will create unique hip hop dances during the two weeks and then will present them during two performances on March 19th. The dress rehearsal will occur in the afternoon for the student body, in the middle school gym. This will be a closed performance due to limited space. Parents and the community are invited to watch the dances that evening at the high school gymnasium. Showtime is 6:00 pm.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT CMS

TENNIS EXPERTS PARTNER WITH OUR PE TEACHERS

In February we had tennis experts from an organization called Kids on the Ball teaching our morning PE classes alongside our PE teachers to give our students the benefit of learning tennis skills from the pros! Not only did our students benefit from their tennis expertise, but our school received a donation of tennis racquets and tennis balls from the organization. A huge "Thank You" for their donated time and equipment!



WHAT'S GOING ON AT CMS

SCIENCE COMES TO LIFE



Our 7th and 8th grade science classes are learning about life science this year. In February, all classes were conducting dissections. Many started with pickle dissections as a way to practice using the tools and techniques they were learning and then the students moved on to earthworms and sheep hearts. As you can imagine some students were “grossed out” while others found it interesting and cool.

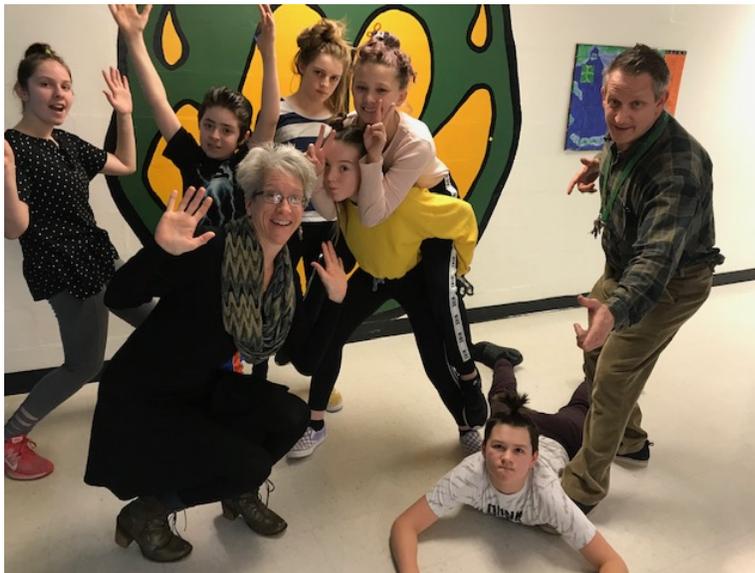


WHAT'S GOING ON AT CMS



SPIRIT WEEK

The week of February 10th was devoted to Spirit Week. Each day had a different theme and students and staff participated by dressing up according to the theme. One day was “crazy hair day.” A couple of TAs spent time in the morning making their hair crazy while others came into school with crazy hair already in place! Spirit Week is a great opportunity for community building in the school.



Pennies for Patients

During our recent Spirit Week which was held the week of February 10th, the Student Council held a fundraiser for Pennies for Patients. This is a part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society which supports schools raising money for cancer research. At CMS, the Student Council held a competition between the grades to see which grade could raise the most money. In all, students raised more than \$350, with the 7th grade winning the competition! Thank you to all our students and parents who were able to support this cause.

PARKS AND RECREATION



- All Parks & Recreation programs require registration – sign up online at <https://secure.recl.com/VT/colchester-vt/catalog>.
- It's time to sign up for Youth Lacrosse! Boys & Girls Teams are offered for Gr. 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8. Season runs 3/30 – 6/14. Visit <https://colchestervt.gov/recreation/LAX> for details.
- Teen Open Gym will be open for two more nights: Wed., 3/11 & 3/18. Come shoot some hoops at the CMS Gym, 7:30 – 9:00pm. \$5/night.
- Parks & Rec is hosting two e-sports tournaments at the Bayside Activity Center (open to Gr. 4 – 7). Grab a friend and join us for a Saturday night of pizza and gaming, 5:30 – 8pm. Sat., 3/21 will be NBA, Sat., 4/4 will be NHL. You must pre-register to be placed in the bracket: \$36/person (\$46 for non-residents).
- Basketball Players: One-night clinic with St. Michael's College Men's Basketball team @ CHS Gym! Tues., 4/7, 6 – 8pm. \$15/person (\$25 for non-residents).
- Baseball Players: One-day clinic with Coach Perry & the CHS Varsity Baseball Team! Sat., 4/4, 10am – 12pm @ CHS Baseball Field. \$20/person (\$30 for non-residents).



NEXT MEETING

**TUESDAY
MARCH 10TH
6:00 PM
CMS LIBRARY**

PTA NEWS

Questions?

ColchesterMiddleSchoolPTA@gmail.com

Our PTA is looking for folks who are willing to pick up bottles from the CMS bottle hut located near our outdoor basketball court and drop them off at Cap and Cork. We are looking for people who can either commit to a period of time for picking up and dropping off or once in awhile. Dropping off is easy. All you have to do is let the staff at Cap and Cork know you are leaving bottles for CMS. You don't need to wait around for the bottles to be counted. The store takes care of it after you leave and credits our account. The bottle hut is the primary fundraiser for our PTA which provides funding to the school for student activities and teacher and staff recognition.



Please plan to attend our next meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:00 pm in the library.