



CLARENVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

...Where Students Come First!



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CMS Newsletter



TIGER TRACKS



Nov 23, 2005

Principal: Mr. Craig Pardy

Assistant Principal: Mr. Tom Walsh

Check out the new curriculum feature in this newsletter!



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEAK-OFF!

TOP STORY

CMS's first **school - wide public speaking** session of the 2005-2006 school year was held Nov. 4th. Under the direction of Mr. Organ, students were selected from each class by their teacher to participate in the gym event. Kudos is sent out to **all home room teachers** for the great work being done with public speaking at the classroom level. Mr. Organ states that 'the high calibre of student speaking is symptomatic of the classroom experiences provided'. Well said sir! Congratulations to all speakers who represented their classrooms, and a special nod to those selected by the 3 judges as worthy of distinction : Zachery Caines and Kylie Mercer:

4 Drover
4 Vey
5 Pye
5 Fleming
6 Avery
6 Blackmore
6 Davis
7 Parrott
7 Spurrell
8 Noel
8 Organ

Marcus Neil
Con Hallohan
Kylie Mercer
Garrett Hiscock
Christian Pearce
Jessica Laite
Maggie Hughes
Alexander Brannan
Candice George
Zachery Caines
Katie Walsh

'The Best Place To Live'
'My Life in St. Jones' Within'
'Remember Remembrance Day'
'Canada's Role in Peace Keeping'
'Remember To Say Thanks'
'How I Remember'
'John Lennon'
'Gandhi'
'A Day To Remember'
'What is Terror?'
'Recipe To End Bullying'

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER . . .

- ☞ Thursday Dec. 1st Term 1 Report cards sent home.
- ☞ Thursday Dec. 1st Parent Teacher Meetings : 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- ☞ Friday Dec. 2nd Parent Teacher Meetings : 8:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Feel free to call for an appointment time during the following times to assure that our secretary is present to speak with you: 9:00 - 12:00 pm; 1:30 - 2:30 pm



IN THE NEWS...

MATH / SCI HELP CENTER

On Days 3 and 6, Mrs. Spurrell holds a Math & Science Help Center where students can ask questions regarding topics covered in class or get help with assignments and homework. The help center runs on Day 3 during lunch break from 12:20 - 12:40 pm and on Day 6 after school from 2:45 - 3:30 pm in the Science Lab. All grade 7 and 8 students are encouraged to drop by!

THROWING ITEMS

While we frequently remind students of the dangers to the eye sight of others with objects projected through the air, we would like parents to remind their child as well. Soon, we may have our first snow fall of the year and with it comes a whole lot of excitement. The school has for the last several years given a three day office detention to students caught throwing items, snowballs included, on or around school property. It is too late when we have a friend lose his/her eyesight. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

To date we have served over 3500 students breakfast and we wish to thank the many volunteers who faithfully serve each morning of the week. Again, any contributions would be greatly accepted. Financial donations in the form of cheques should be made out to 'The Kids Eat Smart Foundation' at which time they will match dollar for dollar the contribution. Wonderful!

TEACHER PARENT COMMUNICATION FORMS

In an attempt to improve communication between school and home in a timely manner, our school introduced these forms last year. While the best contact regarding a student is a face-to-face meeting with the parent(s) followed second by a phone call, it is often difficult to be timely. Many teachers have well over 130 students, with some having the entire school population thus making it practically impossible to make lots of contacts, albeit positive or negative. These forms assist teachers in becoming more timely although it is most certainly not the preferred option.

REPORTING TIME

We are hopeful that the student term 1 reports will be released on Thursday Dec. 1st. Why hopeful? Currently our school has embarked upon a common reporting format as part of the Eastern School District with new technological driven reports for both elementary (grades 4-6) and intermediate (grades 7& 8) students. The new printer required to print the reports will be installed on Friday November 25th and we sincerely hope that we will encounter no problems with production. Stay tuned!

SCHOOL CLOTHING

Middle school hoodies are available for the purchase of \$49.00, complete with name and school logo. Deadline for orders are Friday December 2nd.

From the Guidance Counsellor... **BULLYING STOPS WHEN RESPECT BEGINS**

Ms. Stanford, our guidance counsellor, recently attended a 2-day training session on cyber-bullying. Cyber-bullying is when a person asserts power, ridicule or control over another by hurting, intimidating, threatening or frightening another person by using the internet, mobile phone or another type of digital technology. It is increasingly becoming a problem in schools across Canada. Many students who bully over the internet feel that they are invisible or anonymous. We need to break down this myth among our youth. If they become involved in cyber-bullying they can be traced and your home may lose its internet. Ms. Stanford and our student "Beyond the Hurt" team hope to offer an after Christmas information session to parents on "Cyber-bullying" and what parents can do to stop it. More information on this will be in a future bulletin. In the meantime parents need to WATCH for symptoms that your child may be a bullying victim. Is your child exhibiting any of the following signs? Your child is afraid to go to school. Your child changes his/her route to school. He/she avoids the school bus or asks you to drive. Your child complains of feeling ill in the morning. He/she loses stuff or comes home with belongings destroyed. He/she regularly loses lunch money. He/she has nightmares or becomes withdrawn. He/she starts to do poorly in school. If so, your child may be a victim of bullying and you need to ask for help.



RECENT WAY TO GO'S



The following items were published in the CMS morning bulletin. The intent is to celebrate the many wonderful student actions and deeds that occur in and outside our school. **We have lots to be proud of!**

Way to go to **Emily Vey (7S)** who brought to the attention of her teacher a great website that contained many math activities which you could select by grade. The site is www.funbrain.com. This site was checked out by a classmate Lucas Slade who recommends it as a beneficial site to improve math skills. Thanks grade 7 Math students.

Way to go to the members of the Middle School boy's choir who performed for ALL the teachers of Vista Region and school board staff at the in-service on Monday Nov. 7th. The singing of Newfoundland People, Flanders Field, and the bilingual singing of O Canada **was a treat for all**. The first to mention it to Mr. Parry was Mr. Noel who commented that the choir's presentation was splendid. Mr. Allan Fudge, our boss, wishes to pass along his thanks for your participation and his congratulations for a marvellous job. **Way to go middle school boys and to Ms. Drover for undertaking this endeavour!**

Way to go to: **Ann Norris (5Pye)** and family who contributed 70 Campbell Soup Labels to the school's rewards program. Thank-you Ann and be sure to say thank-you to all who assisted you.

Way to go to **Con Hollahan (4Vey)**, overheard by Ms. Pond-Bowring returning to the group of breakfast volunteers and stating 'that was great toast'. An appreciative middle school student who made our volunteers feel appreciated. Super Con!

Way to go to the students of Grade 6 and their teachers who put off a wonderful Remembrance assembly on Nov. 10th. A special tip of the hat to:

- ✓ Robert Pond, Breanna Drover and Danika Carter who did a great job as Emcee's
- ✓ The grade 6 Band under the direction of Ms. Warren
- ✓ The 7/8 Choir, lead by Ms. Drover, who sang *In Flander's Field* and *A Piece of This World*.
- ✓ and the very talented Ms. Avery and Mr. Organ who dazzled those in attendance.

Overall, as stated by Ms. Drover, one of the best assemblies ever!

Way to go to Brandon Vey, who found a blue elastic wrist band titled PEACE, and brought it along to Mr. Blackmore in order for the owner to be found. He realized the possible importance of this to some student. A big thank-you Brandon!

Way to go to **Zachery Austin (6D)**, and his mom who on Wednesday Nov. 16th saw a black wallet on the parking lot and brought it to the office in order for 'Inspector Walsh' to find the owner. It belonged to a high school student from Port Rexton who was playing in the High school gym. In the wallet was his supper money - he was REALLY thank-ful!!

IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER :

- Bussing pick-up times (am) to minimize students standing longer than necessary during winter months
- Grade 5 Art Club
- The Gr 8 science trip to the 'Environmental Education Centre' nestled in the boreal forest of Deer Park on the Avalon Peninsula
- The CMS homepage and teacher web-page creations
- Gr 6 CRT results from May 2005 - this year's Gr 7's
- Grade 4 & New Student 'surveys'
- Backpack (school bag) toting health tips for students

TIDBITS

At the end of last year Jenine Sheppard was informed that she was provincial winner of the 'Protect Your Voice' contest. Her first place winning art work has been framed and is currently displayed at the main office. It will be there for a couple of weeks. Thereafter, it will be given to Jenine to take home. Stop in and have a look! Great job Jenine!

A big Thank-you to Mrs. Goodman (Matthew's mom) for arranging to have our cafeteria trays cleaned at the College of The North Atlantic. Much appreciated.

Pictures of your Halloween DANCE can now be found on our homepage, Thanks to Mr. Parrott.

Middle School Volleyball Players Shine. The invitational tournament held at our school this past weekend saw one male and two female teams display great skill. The girl's 8 squad captured the Gold Medal getting by the Bobcats from Shoal Harbour while the boys came up a 'tad' short in the 3rd game of a best of 3 contest to the older and experienced Bishop White Barons team.. The 4 grade 9 players on the Barons had lots of playing experience! It was also pleasing to see the great skill level of our grade 7 girls squad, who performed well each and every game! Congratulations to all players and also to the coaches - Mr. Walsh and Mr. Randell for the time dedicated to elevating the skill level of all students!

Red Cross Babysitting Course: Students interested in participating in this course are asked to sign-up on the form outside the guidance office. The cost is \$30.00 and the time will be announced later. Great opportunity for our students!

BIG thank-you to **Mary Brown's and Pizza Delight** who have contributed \$1000.00 to the school in support of the Hot Meal and Breakfast Programs. Much thanks to the Squires family!

CURRICULUM FEATURE

In each school newsletter our goal is to add a curriculum feature, an educational segment, for the benefit of the students' #1 teacher - the parent(s). The first deals with the usage of possessives. What's *that* you say?

- S Students come across **possessives** in their readings and many use them in their writing, but they often pose problems for students. They often confuse possessives with plurals and some contractions. Plurals and possessives end with the same sound - for example, **men's umbrellas** - but are spelled differently. The apostrophe is a visual cue in writing to provide information about **ownership** to the reader. This is what possessives are all about!
- S When writing, the students need to recognize the two kinds of words in which an apostrophe is used and be able to distinguish between the two - possessives show ownership, for example, **Meghan's** boots; and contractions combine two words (can't - combines the words **can and not**).
- S The spelling of words is easier for students when they understand the relationships between word meanings and spelling patterns. It is important for the students to realize that the 's or s' at the end of a word to show possession is always spelled the same way, and means the same thing.

THIS student understands the use of apostrophe to show possession in "Melissa's" and "Peter's".

*A few weeks later it was **Melissa's** birthday and Melissa invited a lot of her friends like Peter, Amber, Chris, Jennifer and a lot more. The same day **Peter's** twin Michael was coming to live with him, so he decided to make him be Melissa's surprise.*

At four o'clock Melissa was so excited because she didn't know what Peter was getting her for her birthday.

If your child has problems when spelling possessives, you might make a list like the following:

- Joshua's skateboard
- Marcus's movie
- Lyndon's hockey stick
- the dog's tail
- Katie's volleyball
- the people's choice

Hope this curriculum feature was beneficial to you and your child. Our next newsletter will contain info on **root words**, a major tool for spelling while the January newsletter will profile **abbreviations**.

The NEXT **Tiger Tracks** NEWSLETTER will be on DECEMBER 13, 2005