

Cosburn Middle School Newsletter

December 2016 Newsletter



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 8:30 am: Breakfast Club
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursdays & Fridays
- ◆ Dec 2: PA Day
- ◆ Dec 6 @ 5:30 pm: Grade 7 St
Donat Information Session
- ◆ Dec 6 @ 6:30 pm: Grade 6
Sheldon Information Session in
the Atrium - Ms Clark's and Ms
Levy-Johnson's classes
- ◆ Dec 24- Jan 8: Holiday Break
- ◆ Jan 9: School Resumes
- ◆ Jan 18 @ 7 pm: Parent
Council/Home & School
meeting in the staff room

December News

Thank you to all who came to Parent-Teacher interviews to discuss the Progress Report. Regular communication between school and home is invaluable to student success, so we encourage those who have not yet met with their child's teacher to please call them to arrange a time to meet soon.

Please Note, due to conflicts with Grade 9 High School Open Houses, our Winter Concert and Art Show have been postponed to February.

Cold Weather and Winter Safety Reminders

Winter is coming and so is the cold, snowy weather. We remind parents that morning entry is 8:50 and our field is supervised starting at 8:40. Please ensure your child is dressed to be outside during lunch and has a pair of indoor shoes.

Grade 7 & 8 Parents:

The rink at Dieppe Park opened recently and skating is popular at lunchtime for our students. We have a number of students who have come with hockey sticks and skates to school to take advantage of the outdoor rink.

The only concern raised here is safety.

Many of the students do not bring helmets, and as a school we are unable to supervise the activities at Dieppe Park. We are asking parents to please send a letter to school letting us know that it is fine for your daughter/son to skate during the lunch hour. They must be wearing CSA approved helmets. Skates and sticks are to be stored in the students' lockers.

David Finkelstein, Principal
Catherine Munro, Vice Principal



Cellphone and Electronic Devices

All students were reminded at our Recognition Assemblies on Thursday about our school expectations on cellphone and all other electronic devices. Unless a teacher has told the class they can bring their phone to class for a specific period, cellphones are to be stored in lockers during the school day. As useful as these devices can be, they can also be very distracting. Students found to not be following the rules will be sent to the office. The office will then discuss the expectations with the student and further consequences may be given. Please review appropriate cellphone use with your child and reinforce the importance of following our expectations here at school. Your support is appreciated.

Allergy Alert

Please be sure to check that all food sent to school is nut free. We have several students with serious life-threatening allergies to nuts. Several staff and students have allergies and are sensitive to scented products. We ask that you limit use of these products and remind all students that these should not be used at school. Cosburn is a Scent Aware School.

Student Absence

Please ensure to call Safe Arrivals (416) 396-2339 by 9 am if your child is absent or is going to be late for the day.

Early dismissals i.e. appointments, requires written notice to be provided to the teacher; otherwise a parent must sign the student out. **For safety reasons phone calls cannot be accepted for dismissals.**

Me To We

Me to We is very grateful for the support of the community in our annual We Scare Hunger Food Drive.

We were able to collect 1500 food items for the Salvation Army. Congratulations to the winners of the food drive challenge - Mme. Gargano-Lucanie's class - who collected over 400 items! We are now embarking on our holiday warm clothing drive - collecting new mittens, hats, scarves and other items of warm clothing to donate to local homeless shelters at this holiday season. Keep an eye out for our mitten tree and donation boxes in the front foyer!

Looking for a great holiday gift? Me to We will be selling rafikis and reusable metal water bottles in the front foyer at lunch time over the next couple of weeks. Rafiki bracelet/necklaces are \$10 and water bottles are \$15. All proceeds will support Me to We initiatives in third world countries.

Library News

Forest of Reading is in full swing! Students must read 5 books in their chosen category (Red Maple/ Silver Birch) in order to vote for their favourites in the spring.

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a great success! Thank you very much for supporting our school. We exceeded our goal by over \$2,400! We will be receiving credits from Scholastic soon to purchase new books for the library. Congratulations to all the winners of our Scholastic Book Fair Raffle!

Don't forget to follow the library on social media!

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @cosburnlibrary

Exciting News!

We are excited to announce that Ms. Mazloom's Grade 7 class will be participating in an YMCA Student Exchange with another Grade 7 class from Britannia Elementary School in British Columbia later this year! This exchange opportunity was initiated by Mr. Markovic when he met the Britannia teacher while working with a charitable organization named "Heros" (<http://heroshockey.com/>) this past summer. The BC teacher had led YMCA exchange programs in the past and Mr. Markovic became interested in the opportunity for our school and applied to have our school included. The school in BC has a large First Nations population and the exchange will provide both classes a unique opportunity to learn more about the cultures and communities throughout our diverse country. His proposal was accepted and Ms. Mazloom's class was chosen to participate, since Mr. Markovic teaches the class this language and therefore it is the class he has the most opportunity to draw connections with the students leading up to the trip. The students involved will be taking great leadership in planning the activities associated with the trip and will certainly be forging life-long friendships and memories. This will certainly be an exciting adventure!

Lost Something?

The Lost and Found has been overflowing lately. Next time you are in the school, take a moment to check for your students belongings. Thanks to the volunteers who have been helping keep the lost and found organized.

Lunch Reminders

Lunch at Cosburn is from 11:28 to 12:40. Once students are dismissed from class, they head to their lockers, collect what they will need over lunch and then proceed to the cafeteria or if they have written permission, go home or off property. Grade 7 and 8 students who do have parental permission to leave school property are reminded to be on their best behaviour. Students are not to be visiting restaurants along Coxwell Avenue or the Civic Centre cafeteria during lunch. They should not go further west than Dieppe Park.

Once students have finished eating lunch, they head outside to the field. Please note the front of the school is not supervised during lunch.

As we do have several students with life-threatening allergies, Cosburn is a nut-free school. Please ensure no nut or peanut-containing food is sent to school. Cosburn is proud to be a Platinum Ecoschool; Students and parents can help us maintain this by packing waste free lunches and by ensuring all waste is put in its proper place.

Reminders from The Office

A reminder to parents/caregivers that items that are left in the office for a student must be clearly marked with a name. Students are to take the responsibility of coming to the office to pick up their belongings. We will not be disturbing classes to call students down to the office.

Safe arrival calls should be made to (416) 396-2339 by 9 am
(messages can be left any time before 9 am)

Parents are reminded when leaving messages re: absences to slowly and clearly spell the students name and indicate their class and/or teacher name.

"Choices for 9" - Open Houses

This month the following secondary schools are hosting information evenings in our neighbourhood:

Dec. 6: Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute @ 7 pm

Dec. 8: Leaside High School: French Extended and Immersion programs @ 6:30 pm Open House

Dec. 7: East York Collegiate Institute - Day tour; Grade 8 staff walk students from Cosburn MS to visit East York CI (9:00 am - 11:00am)

Please check school websites for updated information for dates and times and for other secondary schools not listed here.

Optional Attendance - Note the list of *Closed* schools below. *Closed* schools do not take optional attendance applications.

REGULAR PROGRAMS			
Learning Centre 1	Learning Centre 2	Learning Centre 3	Learning Centre 4
Lawrence Park CI	Earl Haig SS	Lester B. Pearson CI	Humberside CI
Lawrence Park CI		Native Learning Center East	Malvern CI
Marc Garneau CI		RH King Academy	Riverdale CI
Vaughan Road Academy		SATEC @ W.A. Porter CI	
		Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI	
		Wexford CI School for the Arts	
EXTENDED FRENCH			
Humberside CI			
Lawrence Park CI			
Lawrence Park CI			
FRENCH IMMERSION			
Harbord CI			
Humberside CI			
Lawrence Park CI			
Richview CI			

A student may apply to any two "regular" schools beyond their home school and two "specialized schools or programs."

Once you accept an offer of admission to a school of choice, it becomes your "home" school and you are expected to remain there until graduation.

Important Dates:

Feb. 3/17 - Optional Attendance Forms due at Secondary Schools no later than 4pm (family delivers)

Feb. 17/17- High schools inform students of their Optional Attendance decision.

Please inform Mr. Daniele if you are accepting an Optional Attendance offer ASAP

Feb. 24/17 - Final "Course Selection Sheets" submitted to Mr. Daniele

March 3 2017 Course Selection Sheets due at all secondary schools. Elementary Guidance to deliver forms

Help Make This A Safe Winter Season!

As winter approaches, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. Below are some tips that might be helpful to review.

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic.
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.
- Never run into the street.
- Obey crossing signals.
- Cross only if clear.
- Walk on sidewalks.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

The safety of our students is always a top priority.

Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer

MyBlueprint - Career/Life Education Planning

Grade 7 and 8 students are actively creating and updating accounts using the web-based tool, MyBlueprint. This resource is licensed for TDSB students in Grades 7-12. The tool provides opportunities to complete assessments to support students in developing their IPP and to support decisions around high school choices and course selection. Please have your child work with you to create your parent/guardian account so that you may link with your child's account as well.

www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb

The Wonderful World of Sports at Cosburn

Grade 6 Boys' Volleyball Team:

Our junior boys volleyball team has shown steady improvement this Fall. The coaches, Mr. Stone, Ms. Moyer, and Mr. Pendleton are impressed with the enthusiasm displayed by the team for regular lunch practices in The Den. Good communication, serving well and successfully using all three hits have been the team goals this year. The team played a 5 game After School schedule featuring games with McMurrich, G.A. Brown, Bowmore, and Wilkinson. Team members: Sherwin V. (capt.), Steven X., Dylan D., Connor L., Ryaan F., Zaine F., Patrick A., Colin I., Savas L., Alex B. Well done, boys!

Grade 7/8 Girls' Basketball Team:

The senior girls basketball team is practising daily in preparation for the upcoming TDESAA Basketball Playoffs. In November the team participated in the TDESAA Grade 8 Div. 1 After School League - East Pool with Glen Ames and Earl Grey. The team enjoys playing an up tempo style, often scoring on transition fast breaks. The team, coached by Mr. Savedra, Mr. Markovic, and Mr. Stone, is comprised of the following students: Madelyn Briggs (capt.), Antonia F., Juliana R., Yianna R., Jelena R., Katerina M., Fariha M.-N., Jacqueline L., Marina I., Meghan H., Abigail B. Go Wolves!

Grade 6 Girls' Basketball Team:

Congratulations to the Grade 6 Girls Basketball Team on winning both of their games at the pool tournament held at Cosburn on Wed. Nov. 23rd. The team played very well both defensively and offensively against Jackman and O.O.O.P.S. The team is coached by Mr. Hershorn and Mr. Manastirli. Team members: Maya A., Zoriana, Elizabeth H., Lauren G., Riley V., Diana D., Katie W., Victoria B., Arianna S., Renee W., Josie Z.. Good luck in the playoffs, girls!

Cosburn Ball Hockey League (C.B.H.L. - Grade 6):

Throughout November the Lair has played host to some exciting early morning ball hockey games thanks to the keen participation of many of our Grade 6 students in the C.B.H.L.. The *C.B.H.L. (Grade 6) Cosburn Cup Playoffs* take place the first week of December. Good luck to all of the teams participating in this year's intramural ball hockey league: *Flames, Red Wings, Canadiens, Maple Leafs, Senators, Jets, Penguins, Oilers, Canucks*.

Eco Club News

The Eco Club continues to work hard to care for our environment and to encourage all members of the Cosburn community to be good eco-citizens. Here are some of the Eco Club activities planned for this month: we will kick off the month with Earth Hour on Thursday, Dec. 1. Then on Tuesday, Dec. 6, the Eco Club will do a waste audit. On Dec. 12 we will have a bake sale and the proceeds will go to our WWF "Save an Endangered Animal" Campaign. On this occasion, we will also sell Red Noses for the Toronto Foundation for Student Success. They make great stocking stuffers. All proceeds go to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) to help provide food, warm clothing and other essentials to Toronto students in need. The TFSS is the independent charitable foundation for the Toronto District School Board. For more information on the TFSS, please visit their website at www.tfss.ca. We will finish the year with a Pizza Party for the very hardworking Eco Club members on December 19. The Eco Club welcomes any student who would like to join.

General Reminders

- ◆ Morning Entry Time is 8:50, students MUST be in class by 8:55
- ◆ Lunch is from 11:28 - 12:40, entry is at 12:40, students MUST be in class by 12:45
- ◆ Dismissal is 3:18

ALL VISITORS TO COSBURN, INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS, ARE TO SIGN IN AND OUT WITH THE OFFICE.