

February 26, 2008

Tuesday Times

Maria Libby
Principal

Aaron McCullough
Asst. Principal

In this Issue:

Parent Group	2
Sports News	2
PTA News	2
Marvels of Motion	2
Underage Drinking	2
Yearbook	3
Basketball Events	3
Calendar	3

Camden Rockport Middle School
207-236-7805
<http://www.fivetowns.net/crms/crms/>

Principal's Note

Welcome back to school from February vacation. I was lucky to get a little sun in South Carolina as I teed off with my first golf lessons. I returned with a hand full of blisters and the satisfaction of making a solid, sailing drive.

As I wrote before vacation, Maine state tests, or MEA's (Maine Educational Assessments), begin next week. We will test all students in grades 5 and 6 next week, and students in grades 7 and 8 the following week. The grade 5 and 8 tests include science and writing in addition to math and reading. Grades 6 and 7 are only tested in math and reading. It is really important for students to be rested and ready for testing. MEA's are important for several reasons. Here are some of the top reasons:

- 1) MEA's are used in placement decisions at CRMS.
- 2) MEA's are used as a measure of school effectiveness.
- 3) MEA's are the official measure of whether students are learning what they are supposed to be learning. Test results also inform our instruction.
- 4) MEA's determine whether MSAD 28 meets Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the NCLB act.

Please make sure your child goes to bed early and eats breakfast during MEA week. Also, please make every effort to make sure your child attends school and arrives on time. It is a state mandate that every student take MEA's. If students miss the test, it can prevent the district from making AYP. Thanks for your help with this.

I don't know how many of you saw the cover article of Time magazine last week about hiring and retaining good teachers. Like many news articles, it focused on the mass teacher exodus expected through retirement in the next five years. At the same time, young teachers are leaving the profession at an alarming rate. Although it is a frightening prospect from where I sit, I tend to think we are lucky here. Camden is an attractive place to teach for a variety of reasons, so I don't expect to face the brunt of the decline in the teaching force. At the same time, the article reinforced the research that teacher quality has a more significant impact on learning than any other factor. Again, we are lucky because we have many gifted teachers in our district. The article did remind me, however, of the importance of a continual focus on improving teacher effectiveness. It is **the** most important consideration in improving student learning. Therefore, as principal, I always want to bring our focus back to what is happening in classrooms. There is a great body of research by Robert Marzano on effective classroom instruction. I plan to use this as a springboard to much of our professional development this spring and next year. The following website provides a great overview of this research. If you have any questions or ideas on this topic, don't hesitate to stop in and chat with me about it.

<http://www.middleweb.com/MWLresources/marzchat1.html>

Until next week,
Maria

CRMS Parent Group

A DISCUSSION WITH MAINELY GIRLS

Mary Orear, Executive Director of Mainely Girls, Christina Venditti, Programs Director of Mainely Girls and Heather Jackson, Counselor of Middle School students will join us for a presentation and discussion about the issues and challenges middle school girls face as they cross the bridge from childhood to adolescence.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH
CRMS LIBRARY
6:00 – 7:30 PM

Questions? Please call 236-3018 for further information and/or visit www.mainelygirls.org.

Sports News

Spring Athletics update

WELCOME BACK!

While we have had overwhelming signup responses in some CRMS spring sports, SOFTBALL has only had two seventh grade girls sign up (not enough for a team), and six eighth graders. We need more girls to field teams in Softball!

We have plenty of 8th grade boys for BASEBALL, but only 3 seventh grade boys have signed up to date. So, seventh graders, step up to the plate!

It's important to register in advance of the season for planning purposes. Signup forms are available in the office, or through homeroom teachers.

For more info you can email kbrace@hughes.net or call 691-3285.

PTA News

Our Second Annual Fedco Seed Sale has begun! Information and order forms should have come home, and don't forget that orders are due back to school tomorrow, Wednesday, February 27th. It seems unlikely now, but our gardens will grow again!! Please plan ahead and order your seeds through the PTA. We appreciate your support as we support SAD #28!

Join us next Friday night, March 7th, at 6:30pm in the CRMS gym for our popular Mad Science Night!! This year's program is **Marvels of Motion**: "Come one, come all... to the Mad Science Physics Olympics! This interactive event is all about the fun-damentals of moving science including Newton's 3 Laws of Motion and all sorts of surprises including dancing, egg-tossing, and even amazing space-age rocket packs. Children will have a chance to compete in wacky events and win medals, while the mad scientists prepare to unveil their top-secret motion machine. Come and discover the science behind some of your favorite Olympic sports and find out why this show is such a 'blast!'" This Family Fun Event gets bigger every year, so get there early to get a great seat!!

Also, mark your calendars to join us as we partner with the CRMS Parent Group to bring the Maine Boys Network to CRMS on Monday, March 17th at 6pm in the Mini-Theater. Maine Boys Network Executive Director, Layne Gregory, will present their forum *It Ain't Cool to Like School: Why Boys are Underachieving and What We Can Do About It*. This interactive workshop for parents will explore school-based and cultural dynamics that effect boy's education, as well as review approaches that engage and connect to boys and support their academic achievement. See you there!

Marvels of Motion

Come one, come all... to the Mad Science Physics Olympics! This interactive event is all about the fun-damentals of moving science including Newton's 3 Laws of Motion and all sorts of surprises including dancing, egg-tossing, and even amazing space-age rocket packs. Students from RES and CRMS will have a chance to compete in wacky events and win medals, while the mad scientists prepare to unveil their top-secret motion machine. Come and discover the science behind some of your favorite Olympic sports and find out why this show is such a "blast!"

Join the fun at the Camden Rockport Middle School Gym on Friday, March 7th at 6:30pm!!

This is another family fun event sponsored by the C-R PTA and presented by Mad Science.

Underage Drinking

PARENTS - SAVE THIS DATE:

Wednesday, March 19

TIME: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

PLACE: CHRHS

for a forum on underage drinking.

The Attorney General, Steve Rowe, will be joining community members to discuss the issues around social hosting at a forum titled: "Social Hosting: It's more than taking the keys". More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Yearbook

Yearbook staff meeting
 Thursday, February 28th
 2:15
 5th grade Science Lab

Basketball Events

Boys 7th & 8th grade Basketball teams will hold an end-of-season event this Thursday, February 28th beginning at 3pm. Boys should bring uniforms to the locker room Thursday at 3:00 to turn in. Wear practice shirts for games that afternoon. (Uniforms MUST be turned in in order to play in the games!) Teams and procedures for the games are posted on the bulletin board in the gym. Games will be followed by a pot-luck dinner at 6pm in the cafeteria.

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

26 CRMS Parent Group
 Mainly Girls Presentation
 CRMS Library
 6:00 pm – 7:30pm

29 CRMS Five Town Dance
 Sponsored by Grade 8
 Sea Spray Café
 7 – 9:30 pm

27 CRMS Musical Review
 Performance
 Strom Auditorium
 6:30 – 8:30pm
 Open to public

28 Dance @ CRMS
 Five Town
 Sponsored by Grade 8
 7 – 9:30pm

MARCH

3 – 7 Grades 5 & 6
 MEA's

10 – 14 Grades 7 & 8
 MEA's

17 -21 MEA Make-Ups
 All Grades

3 Knox County Spelling Bee
 Warren Community School
 6:30 pm
 Snow date the 4th

4 Midway Quarter 3

7 Exel term 3 ends

7 Mad Science Night
 6:30 pm
 CRMS Gym
 PTA Sponsored

17 Maine Boys Network Presentation
 Parent Group & PTA Sponsored
 CRMS Mini Theater
 6 – 9pm

26 School Performance of the Musical
 Review
 Strom Auditorium
 8:45 -10:45am
 Gr. 5 – 8

APRIL

4 Quarter 3 Ends

4 & 5 District 3 Festival
 Grades 7 & 8

14 – 18 Spirit Week

21 Patriots day

21-25 Vacation Week

30 –MAY 16 NWEA Testing

MAY

1 Lifetouch School Pictures

2 Exel term 4 ends

14 Grades 5 & 6
 Band Concert
 Strom Auditorium
 7:00 pm

20 All Chorus Concert
 Strom Auditorium
 7:00 pm