



# CMES NEWS

March 2017

## FROM THE OFFICE...

Despite the cold temperatures outside, we have amazing learning opportunities and extracurricular activities happening inside. February was definitely a busy month at Credit Meadows. We had a visit from author, Eric Walters and a karate demonstration that focused on building character traits such as assertiveness and confidence building to name a few. We celebrated the importance of Black History Month. CMES recognized Pink Shirt Day and the value of working together as a school community to keep CMES a safe and inclusive learning environment for all. We had an exciting presentation for our students by Earth Rangers. Our students loved the assembly, especially seeing the animals up close. In sports, we had Primary mini sticks hockey, the start of Intermediate ice hockey, curling, as well as, the Badminton Tournament for Dufferin County. Intermediate and Junior basketball season has begun. Thank you to our Cobra athletes who continue to represent our school so well!

It is hard to believe that March has arrived and spring is just around the corner. This month we are looking forward to our CMES Dance-a-thon, Zumba, Lego Club, Reading Club, Basketball, Tech Club, Adopt-A-Shelf, and Creation Station to name a few events that will be happening.

Mrs. Papavasiliou and I will participate in a "Google Hangout" hosted by our Superintendent, Ms. Heaslip, and other Principals in the Dufferin Family of Schools. The "Google Hangout" will allow us to each share information about our school improvement goals and what strategies we are implementing to help close the gap for our students in math and reading. We will talk about strategies that teachers are using to help build our students' problem solving skills and engagement level when doing math and reading. It has been truly impressive to see the learning that is taking place in our building.

We are also working on reading strategies to help our youngest students who are learning to read, as well as, our students who are struggling with reading.

The walls at CMES share the story of what we are focused on and what we are about as a school community. You can definitely see our math focus when you enter the classrooms and our foyer. You can also see Character Education is extremely important to our school, if you look at the walls with anti-bullying messages, to hearing morning announcements with a character education thought or a quote for the day. There are many initiatives where our staff, students, and parents support our outside community, to our community partners working with our students and staff when they visit us.

The staff who work in our building, those who volunteer countless hours, our amazing students and our supportive parents make our school a wonderful place.

On behalf of our staff at Credit Meadows Elementary School, we wish you all a restful and Happy March Break!

Sincerely,

Ms. Lagundzija-deFreitas (P) & Mrs. Papavasiliou (VP)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



Fridays in March are popcorn days. Please bring in \$2 to help support our grade 8 grad and trip.

- March 2 Food Day: Subway
- March 6 Gord Deppe Character Presentations Gr 1-8
- March 6 School Council Meeting 7pm— all are welcome!
- March 7 Character Ed Assembly: Responsibility
- March 8 School Council: Dance a thon
- March 9 Grade 3s to Mansfield/ Pizza Day
- March 13-17 March Break— no school for students!
- March 21 Smoothie Day
- March 23 Pita Pit
- March 24 Earth Hour at CMES
- March 28 Deadline to reorder more food days (April– June)
- March 30 Pasta Day



UGDSB Dufferin Joint Council and the Ministry of Education Regional PRO Grant Present:

## Are You As SOCIAL As Your Kids?

Getting on the same page as our kids when it comes to SOCIAL MEDIA.

**Keynote Speaker: Chris Vollum**

**Seminar Presenters: Constable Scott Davis & Michelle Campbell (UGDSB)**

\*Social Media Responsibility \*Internet Safety \*FREE Educational Tools

This is a **FREE** event

for **ALL PARENTS** in the Orangeville/  
Dufferin Area (and all parents in the UGDSB)

### When

Saturday, April 8, 9:00—Noon

### Where

Westside Secondary School (Theatre)

For More Information and to Register, go to:

**www.ugdsb.on.ca/pic**

and click on the "Events" page

(Students, 10+ are welcome to join in as well)



Will be provided for school age children — 4+

See registration page for more information.

## Grade 8 Fundraising: Be on the Lookout for These Opportunities....

To help support our grade eight graduation and grade eight trip to Ottawa, parents and children are fundraising. Please support our grade eights if you can.

### Ongoing popcorn days on Fridays

**April 6/17** Shop at **M&M Foods** all day and mention that you are from CMES. 10% of your total sale will go towards the grade eight grad and trip! It's all day!!!! A perfect opportunity to get everything you need for Easter!

**April 10-11/17** We will be collecting old clothes for the Kidney Clothes Line Drive. The grade eights will be collecting all donations on April 10th and 11th at the front of the school. It's the perfect time to spring clean and donate it to the grade eights! Acceptable items include: clothing, belts, shoes, boots, purses, hats, mitts, gloves, scarves, slippers, draperies/ curtains, beddings, linens, towels, shower curtains, bath mats, wallets, makeup bags, wool/yarn, fabric, craft materials, sports bags, and knap sacks.



Thank you for your support!

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### Digital Saturday returns this March!

All parents in the UGDSB are invited to attend Digital Saturday, which will be hosted at JD Hogarth PS in Fergus.

See a variety of technology used in the UGDSB. Meet with Special Education staff to learn more about how they support all students. Discover the rich online digital resources available to your children from home and at school.

Presentations include: devices in our schools, Homework Help, Cospaces and Ozobot, Google Apps for Education, UG2GO, Coding in the Classroom, MIT App Inventor, Grandpals, Virtual Reality, SEA, and My Blueprint.

Digital Saturday is on March 25 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.





## Your Child's Hearing is Important!

Seventy-five percent of a child's day is spent listening; listening to complex language, directions and instructions which need to be comprehended. Being able to hear peers is important for developing social skills and friendships. That is why it is important that any hearing difficulty be discovered as soon as possible because even mild hearing loss can put a child at risk for academic and communication difficulties. **Audiologists** are experts who assess hearing sensitivity and functioning that provides a window into the language/listening parts of the brain. Since listening is a critical learning skill, test results can be helpful in planning a program of intervention. Students who wear hearing aids, cochlear implants, or use personal FM systems should routinely visit an Audiologist to have their equipment checked. If you suspect your child has difficulty with hearing or attention it is recommended that you have your child tested by an **Audiologist**.

To find an Audiologist in your community, visit the website of the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario ([www.CASLPO.com](http://www.CASLPO.com)) and click on "Find an Audiologist" and search for Private Practice.

At UGDSB you can call 519-941-6191 ext. 231 for information.

## Engaging Your Child in Mathematics At Home!



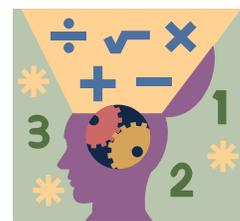
As parents we have the wonderful opportunity and responsibility for nurturing our children's growth. Parents play a key role in the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of their child. As parents we can usually find time to read a story to our children, thereby instilling a love of literature, but we are often at a loss as to how to instill a love and appreciation for mathematics.

Like reading, mathematics is a subject that is indeed necessary for functioning adequately in society. More than that, mathematics is a subject that should be more enjoyable than it is perceived to be. Parents' attitudes towards mathematics has an impact on their children's attitudes. Children whose parents show an interest in and enthusiasm for mathematics around the home will be more likely to develop that enthusiasm themselves.

## Activities in the Home

If you have dice, playing cards, and a bit of time....oh the "number sense" fun you can have.

1. Work on Place Value-use a grade appropriate number of dice and use the numbers rolled as digits to "make the biggest number you can, make the smallest number you can, make a number close to 100" etc.
2. Work on Number Sense-use 2 die to add numbers together....to make it harder, you can use the 2 die to subtract, and multiply.
3. War-Use a deck of cards to compare numbers. Each person flips their cards at the same time, the person with the



**MONTHLY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR PLANET**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> is Earth Hour!**

*It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment.*



**Join the global Movement! Celebrate Earth Hour on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm.**

Earth Hour's mission is uniting people to protect the planet by raising awareness of about climate change and encouraging positive action.

*“Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 172 countries and territories worldwide.”*

*Earth Hour is more than an event. It is a movement that has achieved massive environmental impact, including legislation changes by harnessing the power of the crowd.”*

Click [here](#) to see a short video clip of Earth Hour's story around the world and click [here](#) for highlights of 2015

**Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!**

Earth Hour belongs to you. Celebrate your commitment to the planet with your friends, family, community or at work - in your own way.

A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet. To celebrate, you can:

*prepare a candle lit dinner,  
talk to your neighbours, or invite people over  
stargaze, or go camping in your backyard  
play board games, or charades  
host a concert, or a sing-a-long  
create or join your own community event  
have an Earth Hour every month*

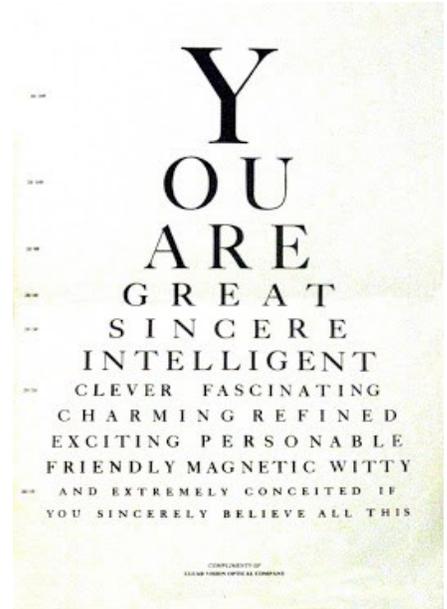
The possibilities are endless!



Quotes and information taken from: <https://www.earthhour.org/>

## Vision Health

If you suspect that your child is struggling with vision issues, there are several things that you can do. First, book an eye exam with an optometrist. Basic OHIP coverage for eye exams, is available free of charge, for children from birth to age 19. Speak with your child's teacher regarding your concerns and encourage your child to clearly express to the teacher the difficulties they are having (Are they having trouble seeing things on the board? Are they having trouble copying information? Are they having trouble seeing the information in novels/textbooks/notebooks etc.?) There are a number of accommodations that can be made to quickly address potential problems, including seating closer to the board or larger print on computers or photocopies. You can also discuss with the classroom teacher or SERT the possibility of making a referral to one of the Vision Itinerant Teachers who provide support to your school.



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## Transition Planning

While it may feel like it is early in the year to think about moving on to the next school year, plans are underway to ensure that students have a successful transition in September. For students that are changing schools, visits may have already begun. Specific transition plans are often particularly important for students with an Individual Education Plan and therefore are a required component of any IEP. For many students, the support provided to the whole class is all they need to have a successful transition, however other students may need more specific goals and support to help them deal with a variety of changes throughout the day.

### **Common transitions that can be addressed on a transition plan include:**

- entry to school
- move to a new school or new grade/teacher
- transition to post-secondary: workplace, apprenticeship, college, university, community etc.
- in school transitions could include: starting/stopping activities, leaving the classroom, going to recess/gym, going on field trips

### **As a parent, you can play an important role in transition planning for your child by:**

- working together with school staff to discuss the transition goals
- providing visits to the new school
- talking about the transition in a positive way
- looking at pictures of the new teachers and school building (CMES will help with this)
- reading social stories to give your child the reassurance they need



***Preparation is crucial for transitions to be successful, and a team approach between home and school is key.***