



Cummings Elementary

Our Students are Above The Line!
Responsible, Respectful, Productive, Safe, Nice

Cummings Elementary Newsletter

October, 2014

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Dear Cummings Families,

Our first month of school is already behind us and we have all been able to establish our routines and procedures in the classroom, on the playground, and around the building. We are off to a great start and I have really enjoyed being back with the students!

In addition to establishing routines and procedures our students each also participated in our fall assessments to establish their individual baselines for academic growth throughout the school year. Students in

grades K-3 each took the DIBELS assessment. This assessment provides a quick snapshot or look at where the students are within the five "big ideas" of reading. (Phonics, Phonemic Awareness, Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Fluency) Students in grades 2-6 each took their MAP assessments. This assessment informs us of current achievement levels in the areas of both reading and math. The results of all of these assessments will be shared with you at our upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences. The students will also each take the same

assessments again in January and then again in May to track their academic growth.

October is sure to fly by, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Dawg Dash, the Ice Cream Book Fair Social, and during our annual Halloween Parade at the end of the month!

Sincerely,

David Martini
Principal

Cummings P.T.C.'s Annual Pumpkin Patch



The Great Pumpkin Patch Contest will be held again this year on Thursday, October 30 and Friday, October 31. Decorate a pumpkin with your whole family using any media. Be creative and have fun, too! Pumpkins can be dropped off on Wednesday, October 29 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. or

Thursday morning from 8:15 - 9:00 a.m. Judging will be held on Wednesday morning.

Classrooms and families may visit our Media Center to view the patch on Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. Please make sure all entries are picked up by 6:00 p.m. on Halloween. You'll want to display your creation for trick-or-treaters!

Great Start Readiness Preschool Openings



GSRP is a tuition-free, state grant funded preschool program for students who will turn four by December 1st. We offer morning (8:00-11:00) and afternoon (12:00-3:00) sessions. All sessions are located at Central Elementary School. Please call the hotline at Kent Intermediate School District (who oversees enrollment) at 616.447.2409 for information or an application.



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Follow us on Twitter @CummingsElement

Halloween Parties



Halloween parties will be celebrated on Friday, October 31 immediately following the parade, which begins at 2:00. Our DK class will hold their party at 10:30 that morning.

We ask that parents and students observe the fol-

lowing guidelines for costumes:

- ~Avoid violent or blood and gory costumes and masks.
- ~Weapons of any kind are not permitted.
- ~Roller skates or roller blades may not be worn at school.

~Costumes inappropriate for elementary students are not permitted.

~No live pets.

Students should bring their costume to school in a bag and plan to change here at school. Costumes should be safe and easy to put on.

Party Invitation Distribution

Just a reminder that invitations to birthday or other parties cannot be distributed here at school unless they are given to each person in a classroom. This will avoid hurt feelings between classmates.

We are in the process of creating a student directory, which should be ready by mid-October. Please call the office if you'd like a copy. The directory includes phone numbers and addresses that can be used to mail invitations to specific friends.



Parent/Teacher Conference Tips

Parent /teacher conferences are scheduled for October 16 and 21. To get the most out of your 15 minute appointment, here are a few suggestions:

- Arrive on time, or a little early, for the conference. With such a short time scheduled, it is essential to have as much time with the teacher as possible.
- Talk with your child ahead of time. Ask them for their perspective on their learning and school experience. Ask what they think the teacher will have to say and why they think that.
- Ask questions. It is important for parents to understand what is done in school and why. This is the

best way for you to support learning at home.

- Share information with the teacher and do not hold back any concerns. If you have noticed changes or difficulties at home, they may be impacting learning. Teachers are eager to work together to find solutions.
- Be open to suggestions or teacher concerns. Ask what you can do at home to support efforts at school. Challenges that students have at school or suggestions from teachers are not a criticism of your family or your ability as a parent.
- If disagreements occur, focus on facts and be honest about your perspective. Calmly explaining your perspective with supportive details is the best way to find a win-win solution.

- If you have additional concerns, questions, or run out of time, ask the teacher to schedule an additional meeting to continue the dialogue.
- Talk with your child after the conference. Few discussions between you and the teacher need to be kept private from the student. Be open about the concerns that were discussed and share the praise of their successes. Remind them that we are all working together to help them learn and care about them!

If you have questions or concerns about anything at school at other times during the school year, we welcome your phone call or email!

Bright Beginnings Play Groups

Bright Beginnings is a parent education and family support program available to ALL families with children birth to five years of age. Events will be held at Central Elementary, 4052 Prairie St SW, Grandville

10/22 10-11 am
"Fall Harvest"

If you have questions, please call
Laura Fasel at
616-291-6501.



Cummings Football Tailgater

The Cummings Tailgate Party and Game will take place on Friday, October 10 from 5:00—6:45 pm at the Grandville High School. For \$5 per person (or \$20 per family) you get a hot dog dinner and admission to the football game. The theme at this game is "Super Heroes."

Tickets are available in our school office, the Community Ed office, the High School Athletic office or at the Tailgater. Let's have some fun cheering for the BULLDOGS!

Library News-Book Fair is Coming!!!



Our annual Fall Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for October 6-9. Hours are 8:30 am—3:30 pm Monday through Thursday.

We are also open for after-hours shopping on Thursday, October 9 from 5:30-7:30. Please join us whenever you are able.

The money raised from this Book Fair allows us to buy new books for our own library. If you cannot visit our library during shopping hours you may also shop online at:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/>

[homepage/cummings](http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/cummings)

Online shopping starts October 1 and ends October 14.

We could still use volunteers to help in the book fair during the mornings of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and also during the evening hours on Thursday. Please call Mrs. Burdick at 254-6044 or email her at tburdick@gpsbulldogs.org if you are available. Thank you!

Math Night—Coming Soon!

Plans are underway for a “Math Night”, which will be held on Wednesday, November 12 from 6—7:30 in the gym. Mark your calendars and watch for more information coming home in the next couple of weeks.

Student Awards

We would like to congratulate our September **Terrific Kids**. These are students in grades K-3 who have displayed outstanding citizenship. They were awarded a certificate from representatives of the Kiwanis Club:

Kindergarten, Young Fives:
Henry Freeman, Louis McCarthy, Lauren Dunham, Ava Kolkman

1st Grade: Antony Alamilla, Alan Conklin, Adan Spaak

2nd Grade: Tristen Freeman, Alyssa Spence, Drake O'Dell, Mason Osterink

3rd Grade: Leah VanSpronsen, Heath Haik, Alivia Martinez, Anthony Hathaway



YEARBOOK PICTURES

Angela Lawson has once again agreed to be our yearbook coordinator. She would like parents to send photos that are school and school event related to her throughout the school year. (Pictures taken with cameras provide the best quality.) Her e-mail address is:

angela@aglphotography.net

Thanks for your help!



Punt, Pass and Kick Results



The annual Punt, Pass and Kick competition was held recently at

Grandville Middle School and more than 60 students from Cummings participated. What a great representation! The following students placed in the top three positions.

Ages 6/7 Girls:

1st: Presley Smith
2nd: Amia Bidle
3rd: Kendall Gray

Ages 6/7 Boys:

1st: Colin Nahs
2nd: Demario'n Pierce
3rd: Ethan Brown

Ages 8/9 Girls:

1st: Sydney Denney
2nd: Emily Brown
3rd: Lean VanSpronsen

Ages 8-9 Boys:

1st: Ian Briggs
2nd: Will Shults
3rd: Josh Kulhanek

Ages 10-11 Girls:

1st: Makenna Apsey
2nd: Hayleigh Heyboer
3rd: Carson Sanderson

Ages 10-11 Boys:

1st: Payton Mazzola
2nd: Carson Smith
3rd: Roenan Bingle

The 1st place person from each age group will go on to compete in Regionals. Congratulations everyone!

Congratulations to second grade student, **Owen Barrett**, who was named Youth Honoree for the **Jingle Bell Run**. This event is sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation and will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 9 am. For more information visit www.jinglebellrungrandrapids.kintera.org



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Mr. David Martini, Principal

Learn more at
www.grandville.k12.mi.us

The Five C's of Cummings: Cooperation, Creativity, Challenge, Community and Caring

PTC Highlights

We are off to a great start and have lots of fun activities planned for this year! Please join the PTC blog at cummingsptc.com to keep up to date on all PTC events and also the weekly schedule here at school.

We want to thank you for supporting our PTC by selling and purchasing products from the Goodies Factory. You can pick up the products your child sold on **October 9**.

Since our school reached the total sales goal that was set, the students who participated in this sale will be invited to a Black Light Dance in a couple of months.

Important October Dates:
Our Frandale Sub/Soup Sale begins on **October 13**, and Jet's Pizza Night is scheduled for Monday, **October 20**. We appreciate everyone's support of our fundraisers. The money raised

by our PTC pays for classroom parties, field trips and many other activities.

Looking Ahead: Santa's Secret Shop is just around the corner and the PTC is already busy making their purchases. We are looking for donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, tape and gift tags. Please send your donations to the office.

Thank you for everything you do to support our PTC!

Reading at Home!

Dr. Jennifer James, School Psychologist

Welcome back to school! As a School Psychologist, I often have parents ask me how they can help improve their child's reading at home. Here are a few tips to improve the three areas of reading:

1. Reading Fluency

- Model fluent reading by reading aloud to your child daily. Use expression in your reading. Even it is a comic strip!
- Echo reading helps build fluency. You read a phrase or paragraph aloud and have your child read the same afterwards, like an echo.
- Have your child read a simple book to share with a younger child.
- Paired reading. First you will read a passage to your child. Then you and the child read the passage together several times. Then your child reads a passage to you.
- Set aside reading time every day!

2. Vocabulary

- Draw a picture- Have your child use their artistic talents to draw a picture of each vocabulary word and have them write a sentence about it.
- Guess that word- During a car ride or down time, pick a vocabulary word but don't tell your child. Describe the word and have them guess it. Take turns and have them do the same.
- Charades: Family fun night acting out each vocabulary word!

3. Comprehension

- Hold a conversation to discuss what your child has read and ask probing questions ("How do you think he felt? Why?")
- Help your child make connections between text and similar experiences he/she has felt, saw in a movie, or read in another book.
- Help your child monitor his/her own understanding by teaching questioning.
- Read material in short sections, making sure your child understands each step of the way.

Retake pictures are scheduled for Friday, October 10. Please send the package of photos you would like to have retaken with your child that day. If your child has not yet had their school picture taken, call the office for an order form if you wish to purchase pictures.

