

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A glance at the four-month school calendar in the staff room tells the story. CSS is a happening place! February is shaping up to be a very exciting month with a wide variety of activities and field trips taking place.

Basketball season is in full swing and the CSS teams are doing very well. Our Grade 4 classes are going on their annual snowshoeing expeditions and there are trips planned to the Calgary Science Centre, Fort Calgary and the Mount Royal College Climbing Centre. Many of our students are involved in debate, Science Olympics, Laserband and preparation for the CSS production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Add to the mix the Grade 4 Science Fair on February 6th, the CSS Science Fair on the 10th and all of the various clubs and intramural activities and you get a sense of the breadth of student involvement.

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Staff members will be presenting the CSS Gender Smarts Conference on February 3rd and the school is hosting a parents' evening with Barry and Therese on February 2nd. It's not too late to register. Tickets for the parent evening are \$10.00 per couple and can be purchased by calling Kathy at 282-2890. Don't miss these amazing speakers!

New Parent Orientation evenings are being held on February 6th and 7th and all teaching staff will attend a winter retreat at Entheos on February 16th and 17th where the focus will be professional development, the CSS Education Plan and planning for next year. February has turned into a very busy month!

In continuing to enhance our facility and capabilities, we are installing a mini-shop for student and teachers on the second floor in the space formerly used as a plant room. The plants and lights have been allocated to classrooms around the school. This small shop will be used in a

variety of ways including science projects at all grade levels and during Grade 6 to 9 electives. It contains band saws, sanders, a dust collector and a drill press. These tools go a long way towards meeting our needs in this area. All teachers using the mini-shop will receive training and we will take all necessary precautions to ensure our students' safety.

The *Calgary Living Annual Guide to Schools* will soon be distributed to your home. CSS is referenced several times within the pages of this issue. However, page 38 contains a misleading piece of information. Our average expenditure per student after all overhead including instructors salaries is around \$1350. The other charter schools have calculated this to include salaries and other expenses. If you do not receive a *Calgary Living Annual Guide to Schools* within the next week, please drop by the office to pick one up.

Ron Sweet



Grade 7 students admiring our new shop equipment.

CSI: CSS

A serious crime has been committed at CSS! The sleuths of Grade 6 are on the case because it is a part of their Evidence and Investigation Unit in Science. The Grade 6 students will be involved in every stage of finding out who committed the crime: investigation, lab analysis and defence and prosecution of the suspects.

To help us with our courtroom appearances some very special guests will be in attendance; some Grade 7 students, other teachers and hopefully you! All parents and students are welcome to come and watch the Grade 6s solve the mystery. All court dates will be in the afternoon. 6.1 and 6.2 will have their courtroom experience on Monday, February 13th and 6.3 and 6.4 will have

their's on Tuesday, February 14th. The courtroom will be set up in the library.

If you are involved in any aspect of Law/Law Enforcement and are willing to help out by telling the students about what you do, it would be greatly appreciated. We would like volunteers to do this before the court appearances of February 13th and 14th. Involving parents with unique knowledge in this field will help to make the experience more enjoyable and "real" for the students.

If you have any questions feel free to email either Mr. Hoyt-Hallet or Mr. Textor:

adrian.textor@calgaryscienceschool.com
jon.hoyt-hallet@calgaryscienceschool.com



INTERNET SAFETY - A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Note:

This article was written and submitted to the Spectrum by two concerned CSS students with the hope of offering some insight on Internet safety from a student's perspective.

As a Parent:

You should talk to your kids about the dangers and risks of using MSN, nexopia or any other chat or profile software online. Before allowing your kids access to these sites or programs, lay down rules such as: no more than half an hour each day, no talking bad about people and only type what you are willing to reveal to everyone. If you are suspicious of what your child is doing (eg. they get nervous and try to hide what they are doing on the computer or they are online for an unusually long time), feel free to check their messages or computer history. It is for the good of the kid and by doing this you could save them from getting into trouble one day. If you do find something inappropriate (swearing, bad mouthing or sexual talk), have a talk with your child and go over the rules. Remember that

MSN and chat lines can make you act like you're someone else and feel safe on your side of the screen, but you are not. Anything a child says can get out in the open. Be open and honest with your kids and lay down rules!

As a Student:

You should remember that you are responsible for your actions on the computer. Talking bad about someone, swearing or anything else you wouldn't normally do in front of a parent is wrong on MSN and other chat lines. Remember to type only what you would say to a person's face and remember that nothing you say on the computer is private. Anyone can be forwarded an email that you send. On MSN a person may ask you something private and when you answer they can go to their browser and click **save conversation**. That conversation can then go anywhere from there. Maybe they want to forward it to their best friend. Basically, you should act responsible when on a computer and remember that nothing is private!!

ART DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who created holiday art work. All of the regular art projects that are completed and marked can be taken home. Projects such as clay pieces need to be taken home as soon as possible. There are a number of clay works that were even fired, but no one has claimed them and it's hard to return them to the rightful owner without a name. Some people come to retrieve their clay work months after it is finished, but I need the space right now, so please come and take them home.

Currently, we are making posters for the *Pirates Of Penzance* musical along with scheduled art projects such as one-point perspective, two-point perspective with the older grades and some painting work as well.

If you have any questions, please contact me and I'll get back to you as quickly as I can. Again, please take all completed and marked work home. Thank you.

Mr. Szabo

Art Teacher

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

The Pirates Are Coming! Mark April 19th and 20th on your calendar. These are the two performance nights for the CSS production of *Pirates of Penzance*.

70 Grade 4 to 9 students will be performing in this classic Gilbert and Sullivan musical. Auditions were held before Christmas and participants have been placed in one of three choruses. There will be plenty of movement, action and of course, music!

Rehearsals will begin shortly in preparation for the performances. A production of this size will involve many staff members working collaboratively over the next few months. We would also appreciate some help from our parents. If you can sew and would like to help with the creation of costumes and props, please e-mail Mrs. Armstrong ASAP so she can organize a volunteer meeting. Arrrr! The Pirates are coming.

Mrs. Humphrey

Drama Teacher



TOY COLLECTION FOR NICARAGUAN CHILDREN

New or gently used small toys are being collected by Charles (7.4). His mom and brother are going to Nicaragua in February with the relief organization, Humble Hearts. They will aid a team of dentists and hygienists who will be treating impoverished children in rural villages in this poor Central American country. They will also distribute toys, food and clothing to families. Suggested items and much appreciated donations are:

Beanie Babies (small stuffed animals), mini footballs & soccer balls, hacky sacks, toy cars, hair clips, school supplies, crayons, coloring books, colored band aids, non-violent action toys and Nerf balls. Please drop off all donations at the office before February 14th.

6th Annual CSS Science Fair

Friday, February 10th, 2006

Public viewing takes place from
1:00 - 2:30 pm in the CSS gym.
Awards ceremony is at **3:00 pm.**

The top projects in Grade 5 & 6 will go to
the city science fair in April.
All junior high projects go to the city science fair.

2nd Annual CSS Grade 4 Science Fair

Monday, February 6th, 2006

Public viewing takes place from
11:30 am - 12:05 pm & 12:22 - 1:30 pm

PUBLISHED POETRY

Two CSS Grade 7 students are having their poems published in an international anthology of youth poetry, *A Celebration of Young Poets*.

Anna and Lauren submitted poems into the Creative Communications Writing Contest early in the fall.

Anna's poem *Poppy* and Lauren's *The Invisible Me* are eligible for publication if these fine young authors give their permission. If you are interested in entering a writing contest, talk to Anna (7.1), Lauren (7.4) or your Humanities teacher.

FOUND ITEMS

A very expensive looking necklace was found in the playground on Jan 16/06. It is a gold cross and it is being stored in the CSS office. If your child has lost a piece of jewellery that matches this description, please contact the school to claim it.

An iPod and MP3 player were also found a few months ago. These items can be claimed by the owner with an accurate description.

Mrs. Babink

282-2890

HOMework HEADACHE? A CURE MAY BE AT HAND...

CSS was fortunate to again feature Dr. Sal Mendaglio at a Parent Information Session on January 18th. Following-up on the topic of motivation he addressed in his November presentation, this encore visit dealt with what Dr. Mendaglio referred to as "the potential minefield" of homework. A group of about 50 parents were in attendance to gain insight on how to effectively motivate students to complete projects and assignments while maintaining their self-control and sanity.

The audience, including two Grade 6 students, shared their thoughts and observations as to why homework completion was such a topical issue. Among the responses were:

- students get frustrated when they don't know how to do something;
- as kids age, projects and assignments get larger and more complicated;
- some students have no concept of time or time management.

Dr. Mendaglio put forth a further, more generic, cause for children to resist or ignore the inevitability of homework – anxiety. Defined as "fear of a future event", anxiety can result from student's anticipation of homework as being difficult, boring or irrelevant. The anxiety of not completing homework is compounded by the anxiety of knowing it will not be handed in, which leads the procrastinating student into a cycle of noncompliance and stress.

In the most pragmatic terms, "success" relies on the following elements:

1. the student must be attentive to teacher requests;
2. the student must comply with teacher requests;
3. the student must take note of the teacher's expectations;
4. the student must bring home all required materials;
5. the student must complete the assigned work.

It is important to note that each of these five functions places the onus of compliance on the student and not the parent or the teacher. The parent role in any effective intervention begins with the elimination of any strategies that have proven unsuccessful in the past. Repeating what doesn't work will lead to increased frustration and negative emotionality, which will in turn lead to heightened anxiety and further resistance to completing assigned tasks.

Dr. Mendaglio offered concrete suggestions that may serve as a template to refurbish a homework program:

1. Use of the term "schoolwork" in place of "homework" more accurately reflects the nature of the assigned tasks which only need to be completed at home because they weren't finished during classtime.
2. Parental guidance is different from interference. In guiding a schoolwork program, establish a clear, consistent schedule that is understood by the child and carries the expectation of work completion before moving on to other activities.
3. Encourage independence and set realistic expectations. Focus on completion and presentation of the assigned work. It is the teacher's role to mark the work, conduct error analysis and determine how to reinforce the curricular concepts. Avoid the urge to correct mistakes and, essentially, do the work for the child. An important exception to this point occurs when the child is sincerely "stuck" and asks for assistance.
4. Employ natural consequences for noncompliance with schoolwork expectations. Natural consequences include loss of privileges or activities that would occur when assigned schoolwork is completed (i.e. computer access, television, playing with friends, etc...)

5. Recognize and celebrate improvement. Until the motivation for excellence becomes intrinsic, it is important to provide positive reinforcement when the schoolwork expectations are exceeded. Having said that, it is equally important not to reward tasks that are expected (i.e. paying for homework).
6. Maintain open communication with teachers to ensure you are aware of assignment expectations and criteria. While this may be more universally important at the younger grades, the diverse developmental rates of children may necessitate continued parent-teacher contact even into junior high school.

Homework headaches can elevate tension within families in ways that very few other aspects of school can. If this is a concern for you and you require further support to establish a comprehensive "schoolwork" program, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail to discuss possible solutions.

Phil Butterfield

Counselor
282-2890 ext. 115
phil.butterfield@calgaryscienceschool.com

The next Calgary Science
School Council meeting
will be held on

FEBRUARY 1, 2006
@ 7:00 PM
IN THE CSS LIBRARY

Everyone is welcome.

Please come out and support
your School Council.

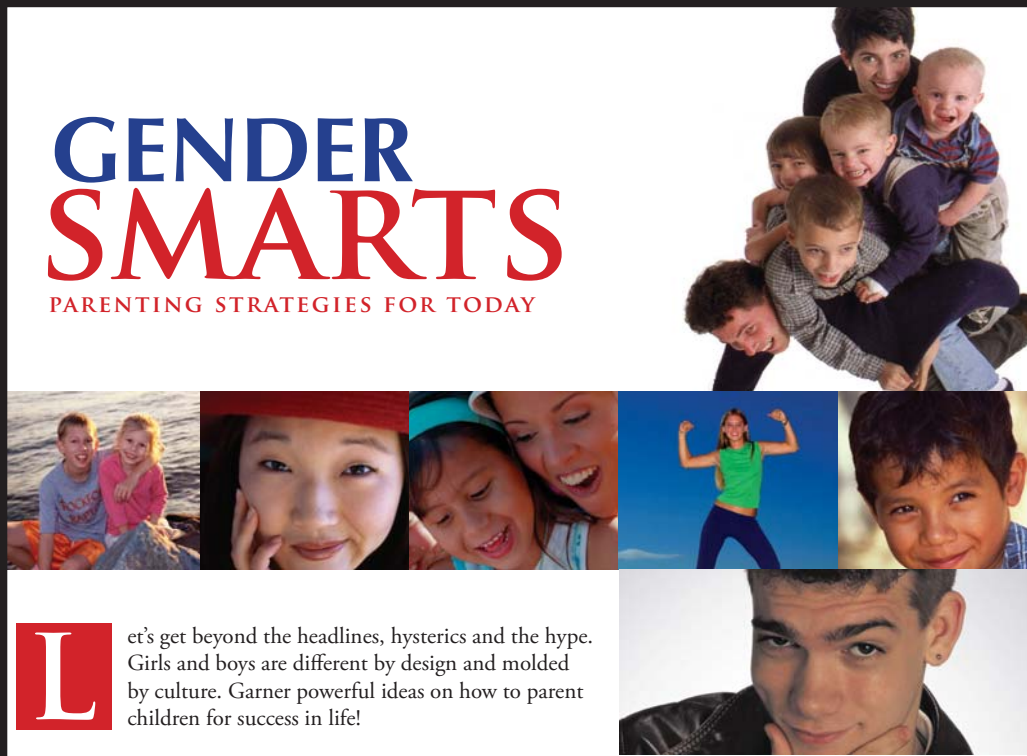
GENDER SMARTS CONFERENCE - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd

Please call Kathy Babiuk at 282-2890 to order tickets. Tickets can be picked up at the door.

GENDER

SMARTS

PARENTING STRATEGIES FOR TODAY



Let's get beyond the headlines, hysterics and the hype. Girls and boys are different by design and molded by culture. Garner powerful ideas on how to parent children for success in life!

- **How does gender factor into parenting?**
- **What do fathers and mothers need to know to be effective parents?**
- **How is motivation different for girls and boys?**
- **What are practical parenting tools to adjust for gender?**
- **How can we raise kids to be caring and ethical?**

THERESE & BARRY MACDONALD are pioneers in the study of gender, communication & learning. They have received wide acclaim for their gender work with parents & teachers. Barry was identified as One of 25 People to Watch by the *Vancouver Sun* & is the author of *Boy Smarts – Mentoring Boys for Success at School* (available at www.MentoringBoys.com). Therese's nursing and counselling background has given her a deep understanding for how to raise confident, capable and caring children. They are a powerful and lively husband and wife team!

WHEN:	Thursday, February 2, 7-9 pm	COST:	\$10 per parent or couple
WHERE:	Calgary Science School 5915 Lewis Drive SW	TICKETS:	School 403-282-2890 Logos Bookstore

NOTE: A Gender Smarts Conference for teachers will be hosted by CSS on February 3rd, 2006. Tickets are available for \$129. Please help spread the word by passing this info along to any teachers you know.

CSS Athletics

BOY'S VOLLEYBALL

The CSS boy's volleyball team had a lot to conquer this year in order to end up where they did. After merging the junior and senior teams into a single senior level team at the beginning of the year, we were set to go and pumped (thanks to Miss O for taking everybody from both teams).

We got off to a shaky start, winning the same number as we lost, but soon we were back on track and ready take command of our league. We headed into the final tournament ranked 3rd in the league and knew that if we were going to take the championship for the fourth straight season, it would take a lot of determination and concentration.

In the seeding round, our team lost our first match to FFCA and won are second against Westmount. This placed us 2nd in our division. Next, we played Ecole Rose, the 1st place team in the other group, winning two games to one. Yes, after everything, we were going to the finals for the fourth straight season. Our opponent in the finals was Airdrie.

We dominated the first game thanks to stellar serving and big plays at the net. We were so psyched going into what could possibly be the final game of the season. We came out firing, but so did Airdrie, tying the game at 17. With a combination of great teamwork and high morale, we finished in style and won our fourth straight Senior Boys Volleyball Championship. The team was once again the Senior Boys League Champions. Way to go CSS Lasers!

D.N.

CSS Boy's Volleyball Captain



Here are the Grade 6s ready to chip in and help out at basketball reffing. Thanks A., M. and P. You're always willing to lend a hand to Miss O.



The Grade 4s are ready for an exciting floor hockey unit.



Here are the Grade 5s playing their new favourite game of Hollandball!

NOTES

- Miss Olson wanted to say thanks to all the parents for all the support with the boys volleyball team. She really enjoyed working with such awesome boys!
- Special thanks to K.H. (Grade 8) for preparing the floor hockey teams for intramurals! Game play started on January 16th .
- Good luck to the junior and senior boys and girls basketball teams!
The coaches are: Mr. Krar and Miss Olson (sr. girls), Mr. Textor (sr. boys), Mr. Tickle and Mrs. Anderson (jr. girls), Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Bolen (jr. boys)

FEBRUARY 2006

			Day 6 8.3 & 8.4 to Science Centre 4.3 Snowshoe Trip to Kananaskis (all day) Sr. Girls B-ball CSS @ CGS Jr. Boys B-ball St. Johns @ CSS School Council Meeting 7:00 pm	Day 1 4.3 Snowshoe Trip to Kananaskis (all day) Jr. B-ball Jewish Academy @ CSS Gender Smarts Parent Night 7:00 - 9:00 pm	Day 2 P/D Planning Day (No Classes) Gender Smarts Conference 8:00 am-3:00 pm	
Day 2 Grade 4 Science Fair Sr. B-ball CAA @ CSS New Parent Orientation 7:00 pm	Day 3 4.1 & 4.2 to Fort Calgary (am) CRC G5 Lab 6:00 - 9:00 pm New Parent Orientation 7:00 pm	Day 4 4.3 & 4.4 to Fort Calgary (am) Sr. B-ball CSS @ FFCA	Day 5 Grade 8 Science Olympics Science Fair Set-up After School	Day 6 CSS Science Fair Whole School Assembly 3:00 pm	2006/2007 Entrance Testing 10:00 am	
Day 1 Sr. B-ball Airdrie @ CSS	Day 2 Board Meeting 5:30 pm CRC G5 Lab 6:00 - 9:00 pm	Day 3 Laserband Sr. Girls B-ball CGS @ CSS	Day 4 P/D Planning Day (No Classes) CSS Teachers Winter Retreat	Day 5 P/D Planning Day (No Classes) CSS Teachers Winter Retreat		
Family Day (School Closed)	Day 4 8.3 to Mount Royal College Climbing Wall 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Day 5 8.1 & 8.2 to Science Centre	Day 6 CSS Debate 4:00 - 8:00 pm (25 Rooms)	Day 1 8.2 to Mount Royal College Climbing Wall 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	2006/2007 Entrance Testing 10:00 am	
Day 2 Sr. B-ball Playoffs (TBA)						

Check out the full colour Spectrum at www.calgaryscienceschool.com.

MARCH 2006

			Day 4	1 Day 5	2 Day 6	3	4
			Sr. B-ball Semi-Finals (TBA)		Outdoor Pursuits 6/7 to COP (All Morning) 8.1/8.4 to Volleydome & U of C Volleyball Championships (All Day)		
5 Day 1	6 Day 2	7 Day 3	8 Day 4	9	10	11	
	Sr. B-ball Finals (TBA) Grade 5 Parents' Fort Steele Meeting 7:00 pm	Evergreen Theatre Show 2:00 pm (Grades 4-6)			Organizational Day (No Classes)	2006/2007 Entrance Testing 10:00 am	
12 Day 5	13 Day 6	14 Day 1	15 Day 2	16 Day 3	17	18	
Grade 9 Bamfield Trip Departs from CSS @ 6:30 am	Grade 9 Bamfield Trip	Grade 9 Bamfield Trip Board Meeting 5:30 pm CRC G5 Lab 6:00 - 9:00 pm	Grade 9 Bamfield Trip	Grade 9 Bamfield Trip	Grade 9 Bamfield Trip	Grade 9s Return @ Midnight	
19 Day 4	20 Day 5	21 Day 6	22 Day 1	23	24	25	
	Report Cards Go Home	CRC G5 Lab 6:00 - 9:00 pm		Student-Led Conferences 4:00 - 8:00 pm	Student-Led Conferences (No Classes)		
26	27	28	29	30	31		
<h1 style="color: orange;">SPRING BREAK UNTIL APRIL 10th</h1>							

Check out the full colour Spectrum at www.calgaryscienceschool.com.