



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where kids achieve!

CHALLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL ■ 1700 6TH AVENUE ■ STERLING, IL 61081
815-626-3300 ■ WWW.STERLINGPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG/CHALLAND

Sept. 2011 Issue

What is New at CMS?

We welcome 6 new teachers to our esteemed CMS staff including:

- **Mr. Rolando Torres-Bilingual Teacher:** Mr. Torres brings a varied background to his new teaching position. He has experience in the world of business having worked for Caterpillar in Aurora. He has teaching experience in Elgin U-46.
- **Mr. Gonzalo Reyes - Art Teacher:** Mr. Reyes has extensive teaching experience, having taught the past 9 years at Rockford Jefferson High School. Mr. Reyes has strong ties in our Sterling community through his large family and from his experience as a Sterling Public Schools Board of Education member.
- **Ms. Lauren Missel - 7th Grade Special Education:** Ms. Missel has 5 years of teaching experience in Streator Public Schools, including 3 years at North lawn Junior High School and two years at Streator High School. She is engaged to Mr. Dan Rodriguez, a teacher at Sterling HS.
- **Ms. Laci Cox - 8th/6th Grade Special Education:** Ms. Cox is a Sterling Public Schools grad. She has five years of teaching experience and is engaged to be married this October.
- **Mr. Ron Brock - Computer Education:** Mr. Brock taught Business Education part time at Genoa-Kingston High School last year. He will be teaching computer classes to all three grade levels at CMS. Mr. Brock is a volunteer coach with the SHS football team.
- **Mr. Steve Prorok - 6th Grade Language Arts and Social Studies:** Mr. Prorok has two years teaching experience having covered a maternity leave in Lake Zurich District 95. He was married on July 22nd

Thank you to all parents who attended the Back to School Night. You saw the new lockers, newly painted hallways, and the newly refurbished gym floor and newly painted gym. All of these improvements contribute to a caring culture in our building.

New Encore Class for 8th Grade Students

All 8th grade students will have the opportunity to take Personal Finance/Career Planning as an encore class. Mrs. Lynn Heffelfinger will teach this class. She is also the Consumer Science class teacher at SHS. The Consumer Science class is a graduation requirement for high school students. Personal Finance/Career Planning will be a great introduction to consumer education before students begin high school.

Homework Book Study

A group of CMS teachers and administrators are working together as a book study team to analyze the current homework procedures/policies at CMS. After we gather information through surveys we will work with our entire staff to establish consistent procedures/policies that are based on best practices. If you are interested, the book that we read together is Rethinking Homework by Dr. Cathy Vatterott. It is an easy read and very thought provoking.

IMPORTANT DATES



- 9/5 Labor Day - No School
- 9/9 "Back to School" dance 3:00-4:30pm
- 9/16 1st Quarter Mid-term
- 9/21 8th Grade EXPLORE Test
- 9/21 Early Dismissal - 11:25am
- 10/10 Columbus Day - No School
- 10/18 "Parent Café" @ CMS - 5:30-7:30pm
- 10/19 Early Dismissal - 11:25am
- 10/21 End of 1st Quarter
- 10/25 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:30pm
- 10/25 "Parent Café" @ CMS - 5:30-7:30pm
- 10/27 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:30pm

7th Grade

Science Classes



Seventh grade science classes are learning about wildflowers and prairie plants in the Challand courtyard. The outdoor classroom provides a natural environment for hands on learning about the structure and function of flowers and their link with the history of our area.

Speaker on Disaster Response and Preparedness
Education coming to Sterling

Parents and students are invited to attend a great educational, entertaining and free event sponsored by the Sterling Township. On Wednesday September 21st and Thursday September 22nd from 6:00 PM – 7:30PM, nationally renown speaker Eddy Weiss will be at the Sterling High School Centennial Auditorium. With a background in crisis counseling and rescue work, Mr. Weiss has become a leading authority in the areas of Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Mitigation, and practical problem solving for families and their children during a crisis. Mr. Weiss, who serves as the Assistant Director of Chasing4Life as well as for [The Whirlwind Foundation](#), brings a unique perspective and a breath of fresh air into a subject few wish to talk about; “Disaster, what if it happens here?”

CROSS
COUNTRY



Cross Country is off to a quick start already this year! We had camp August 8th - 12th, and we are now starting our season. There is still time to join us, but hurry! If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Lauff at CMS.

HEARING AND VISION

Eighth graders will be screened for vision and hearing the first week of October as required by state regulations.

CMS PTO



Our CMS Fall Fundraiser Kickoff will be Thursday, September 8th with an assembly in our gym @ 2:15pm. Selling will continue through September 20th. Money and orders need to be turned in on Wednesday, September 21st.

There will be a “Back to School” dance to kick off the fundraiser on Friday, September 9th from 3:00-4:30pm in the CMS gym. All fundraising money raised will go to students fieldtrips. SELL!! SELL!!

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Kinnicutt @ 815-622-2839 or send e-mail to borah@comcast.net.

First PTO meeting Thursday, September 15th @ 6:30pm in CMS cafeteria. All parents welcome.

CMS Orchestra



Orchestra is off to a quick start already this year! We held our 11th annual Music in Motion 5K on Saturday, August 6th, 225 runners and walkers attended to support our Orchestra program. If any student wishes to join Orchestra, please contact Mrs. Lauff at CMS.

BLAST

(Building Life-Long Assets in Students Today)
Mr. Morris, 8th grade Counselor &
Brooke Clevenger, 7th Grade Teacher

Interested in community service, visiting the local animal shelters and working with the high school BLIND program? Then this might be a club for you!!! Please see Mr. Morris or your grade level counselor for more information. We will be meeting twice a month on Wednesdays after school. Looking forward to seeing you there!!

ATTENTION
PARENTS



For any parents that would like to get the newsletter on line, please e-mail your e-mail address to:

cbrown@sterlingschools.org

STERLING ALL STARS SOFTBALL TEAM
WORLD CHAMPIONS

Starting June 28, the Sterling All Star Softball Team started their memorable voyage here in Sterling playing in the 5 team District Tournament, and ended their season at the Little League Softball World Series in Portland, OR the week of August 8th. The girls went 6-0 while at the World Series to claim the World Championship title and ended their season 19-0 outscoring their opponents 202-24. The girls also known as “Central” represented Sterling with great pride. Members of the team were: Cheyenne Harrington, Emily Berogan, Kylie Burkett, Nadia Trujillo, Hannah Escamilla, Abri Hale, Lexy Staples, Kylie Powers, Erin Stroup, Shannon Long and Mya Pearson. They were coached by Eric Staples, Ed Long and Pete Trujillo.



Congratulations!! CMS is so very proud of you!!!!

Mrs. Milnes

7th/8th LA/Social Studies

In language arts classes we have centers on Tuesdays and Fridays containing four areas. Students take part in SSR, then read out loud to me before moving on to the summary area where a 3-4 sentence briefing of what has been read is recorded in a notebook for future reference. The last stop is Study Island, which we started last year here at CMS.

In 7th grade geography one student looks up a location of their choosing and shares the weather report with the class. The 8th grade social studies class looks up “On This Date in History” and reports important events. Each student has an opportunity to be the presenter and enjoys their time at the computer.

A Note from our CMS Nurse

Mrs. Ashlock



Parents please remind your student if they do not feel well, to go to the nurse’s office, not to call or text you. All students are able to call parents from the nurse’s office after they check in with her.

Any doctor appointments scheduled during school hours should be during lunch periods if possible.

Students should bring their appointments cards back with them when returning.

Fall Parent Teacher Conference Dates

October 25th & October 27th

More info later

EXPLORE TEST

Wednesday, September 21, 2011



8th Grade students will take the EXPLORE Test on Wednesday, September 21st. EXPLORE Test results are used in helping students take appropriate classes in high school. The test also prepares students for taking the ACT which is often required as a college entrance exam. To prepare for the test, be sure to get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast. Students will need 2 sharpened pencils and a calculator.

PLEASE BE SURE TO BE ON TIME FOR SCHOOL!!!!!!

Students cannot be admitted to the testing rooms once the test has been started.

CMS BOOK FAIR



The annual CMS Book Fair will be held the week of October 24th. If you would be interested in working anytime during that week, please contact Kim Bohms, librarian, at 815-626-3300, ext. 2205.

SPS Service Award Winners:

Left to right:

Cindy Mallicoat - 15 years, Jennifer Dykeman - 5 years, Jessica Truedson - 10 years, Suzanne Palumbo - 20 years, Kathy Howard - 5 years, Cliff Bardell - 15 years, Callista Derrer - 10 years, Roy Calkins - 10 years, Kelci Eakle - 5 years

Lora Peugh - 10 years



NEW STAFF MEMBERS @ CMS

Left to right: Lauren Missel, Ronald Brock, Steve Prorok, Rolando Torres, Gonzalo Reyes and Laci Cox

SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT

“TEACHERS”

Chicago Tribune - Sunday, August 28, 2011

When Americans are asked which occupations contribute the most to society’s well-being, they answer teachers, second only to military personnel, according to a 2009 Pew Research survey. (Scientists were third and medical doctors fourth.) That esteem for educators appears to be even higher among Generation Next, those born from 1981 to 1988, who are twice as likely as older generations to name a teacher or mentor when asked to list people they admire.

CHALLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL PBIS FAMILY COOKOUT



Students and family enjoying time with one another and learning about the fire engine at the Family BBQ Night!



Staff, students and family enjoying food at the Family BBQ Night

