I LOVE TO READ at CIS

Like most schools around the state, Cambridge Intermediate School is wrapping up their celebration for I Love to Read Month, which occurs every February. I would suggest children should feel every month is “I Love to Read” month!

I’ve pulled out a few pieces of an article titled “Reading Can Make You Smarter” from the magazine Principal 2003-2004 to share, and while the article was written over 10 years ago, the message is still the same – language development in early years (birth – preschool), helps elementary age students/readers (K-5) build vocabulary, and the greater the vocabulary, the better the cognitive skills. The good news: it is NEVER too late to get started!

Here are the highlights:

- “While it is generally agreed that most children’s vocabulary growth occurs indirectly through language exposure rather than direct instruction, we now realize it is reading volume rather than oral language that is the primary source of their differences in vocabularies.”
- “…if we want children to improve their vocabulary and fluency, we must get them to log many hours on printed text.”

It goes on to say that students who read more during their out of school time are more likely to be at or above the 50th percentile.

I am happy to report that CIS is doing much of what they recommended for schools to help in this process. Our Guided Reading/Daily 5 is providing us with a balanced literacy approach to reading instruction. Students do a lot reading with our leveled books, read at their instruction level, and are also challenged with text at higher levels.

Teachers instruct in whole group, but also work in small “guided reading” groups, and support students at their level on their needed skill development.

During the month of February, students are completing reading calendars to recognize their reading minutes outside of the school day; a recommended 20-30 minutes each day or 150 minutes per week. However, I hope, no matter the month, families and students love to read, and find that reading is not only a necessary skill to achieve to their fullest potential, but also an amazing tool that allows them to explore new places and learn new things!

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this information or any matter regarding Cambridge Intermediate School!

Scott Peterson, CIS Principal
(763) 691-6605
Mark your calendar! Picture Day is coming on Thursday, March 12th. Look for more information on your child's Picture Day flyer/order form which will be sent home on Monday, March 9th. Visit Lifetouch.com for clothing suggestions, online payment details and more.

News from our Media Center

The Friends of the Cambridge Public Library and CIS invite your students to take part in choosing the Maud Hart Lovelace Award!

Here’s a great way to encourage reading, and help your students to feel empowered! Students get to help pick the best book of the year! The Friends of the Cambridge Library invite your students to take part in the Maud Hart Lovelace vote for the best book this year.

Background:
Each year, students and adults from across Minnesota select the best book from those nominated for the Maud Hart Lovelace Award. The Award goes to the best books for young people.

How to participate:
This is free, and we tried to make this easy for teachers to take part. Here’s what happens:

1. Students read any 3 of the books nominated for Maud Hart Lovelace. The list of titles is available at the CIS Media Center and on Betsy Miller’s Web page. (http://www.cambridge.k12.mn.us/~betsy_miller/)
2. Students show that they have read 3 books by passing the AR quiz.
3. Students fill out a "Certificate to Vote," and ask a teacher to verify the reading.
4. Students take their completed "Certificate to Vote" to the CIS Library to cast their vote. Deadline to vote is Wednesday, March 25, 2015.
5. In early May, all student voters will be invited to a party at the Cambridge Library, complete with pizza, snacks, and activities. We hope you will be part of this fun celebration.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Miller, CIS Media Specialist.

Thank you,
Mrs. Betsy Miller, CIS Media Specialist, (763) 691-6651
betsy_miller@cambridge.k12.mn.us

Did you order your CIS Yearbook?
Bigger and better than ever and filled cover to cover with color photographs of friends, special events, classes, activities, and candid shots of all the happenings at CIS during the 2014-15 school year, the CIS yearbook will be a great reminder of some of the happiest times in your child’s life.

Yearbooks will be handed out at the end of May. Use the yearbook link to order online at the webpage shown below, or send $18 cash or check (payable to CIS) to school with your child.

www.cambridge.k12.mn.us/~cischool/
March 2015

3rd Grade News

The reading that took place for I Love to Read Month was fantastic!! The third graders really kicked it up a notch and read like crazy. The benefits of reading will be with them the rest of their lives. Our hope is that the reading skills they develop now will carry through in all subject matter as they go into the higher grades.

Third grade is a transition year where children are still learning to read, but others are progressing to the point where they are now reading to learn! These early years are the most crucial for developing the skills they will need always, and one will never regret the parent that encouraged and kept them reading at home as well.

We will be very busy in March preparing for our April NWEA and MCA tests! (You will get more information about specific dates in late March.) We will continue to learn new 3rd grade material along with reviewing material from the first months of school. Your child’s attendance makes a difference!

March will bring a mix of weather and changing temps (we hope)! That also means that our playground conditions change! Please continue to send boots and snow pants with your child. The playground is often times very wet. Please encourage your child to bring their winter gear home for frequent washings as well!

Fourth graders filled their month of February with a focus on READING! Students worked hard to meet their “I Love to Read” month goals. Students who met their reading goals will be rewarded with a movie at the Cambridge Theater on Friday, March 13th!

We enjoyed seeing all the creative Valentine containers as 4th graders participated in a Valentine “Parade.” This was a fun experience for all students.

Students had a great time ice skating, swimming or watching a movie during the mid-year Micro reward. There will be another great Micro celebration at the end of the year. Students need to continue to be responsible with their science and social studies Micro work.

March 9th marks the start of Trimester 3. Fourth graders should continue to put forth effort in trying to earn CIS Dog Tags. They can earn these for AR points, 50 states, state capitals, perfect attendance, sticker acts in Music, and kids with character. It is great to see our CIS students take pride in achieving these accomplishments!

What’s Coming Up in Social Studies?

Now that we are through the Revolutionary War we are going to be looking at how our country was shaped after the war ended and start an economics unit. Students are going to be learning about the different branches of government and what their jobs are, how a bill becomes a law, and budgeting money. Economics is a newer unit that we have started in our social studies curriculum last year. We are excited about all of the activities and lessons that we have planned! Be sure to ask your child about what they are learning!
Our March Fife Award recipients are our CIS Administrative Assistants of Terri Elvendahl, Sheila Nelson, and Karla Neumann!! Their amazing ability to communicate effectively with families, students and staff, organize their duties, appreciate the diversity in our families, and welcome our visitors, is the necessity needed to make Cambridge Intermediate School the best place it can be!! We value and appreciate your skills and talents, and we thank you for all you do!! Congratulations!

Marnie Joy, ECFE Administrative Assistant, receives an honorary recognition for the Fife! Thank you Marnie!!

Upcoming Music Events:

March 13—Grade 5 Band Explore Day in the morning
March 20—Grade 5 Music Registration Forms due
May 7—Grade 5 Concert 6:30 pm in the CIS Auditorium. Students line up in the CIS cafeteria by 6:20 pm
May 18-22—Last “Sticker Acts” for Grades 3-5

If you have questions, please call or email me at wressell@cambridge.k12.mn.us

Thank you, Mrs. Gloria Wressell, Music Teacher, 763-691-6633

Help us raise money for our classrooms!

Clip and save! Although it might not seem like much, your efforts to clip and save food labels fund a lot of things at Cambridge Intermediate School that otherwise just wouldn't be possible - things like field trips, special classroom supplies, and other "extras" that school budgets can't fund. In fact, together these programs bring the school hundreds -- sometimes thousands -- of dollars each year. Remember to ask your friends, relatives and neighbors to save things too. It's a simple way to help that goes a long way.

Box Tops for Education

Earn cash for our school every time you shop for groceries. Clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of products found at your local grocery store. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when we redeem them from General Mills.

Campbell’s Labels for Education

The Labels for Education program is a great way to get FREE merchandise for our school, and Campbell’s makes it so easy to redeem labels. Participating in the program is easy - simply save the UPC labels from Campbell's products and send them to school!

Target Take Charge of Education

Target generously donates 1% of your Target Card or Target VISA Card purchases to the school of your choice – CAMBRIDGE INTERMEDIATE in the form of a cash donation through the Take Charge of Education program. Signing up is easy. Just visit taget.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate Cambridge Intermediate as the school to receive a percentage of your purchases.