Order Your Elementary Memories!

There’s no better way to remember the school year than the elementary yearbook!

Ordering information has been sent home with students, and this year you will also be able to order online. The cost of the yearbook is $15 and can be ordered until March 26.

There is also an app you can download to share photos to be used in the yearbook. It is called ReplayIt, and all you do is download, select school, create an account, and add your photos.

Be on the watch for flyers and social media updates on when and how to order this year’s yearbook.

Middle School Exploratory Day Fun!

As is tradition, the day before winter break our middle school students were treated to an afternoon Exploratory Day event. Students selected 2-4 classes from a slate of 16 activities that happened in and around school, led by faculty and staff, as well as community volunteers. They signed up ahead of time, and teachers generated individualized schedules for students. This year, students participated in Ice Skating, Winter Survival, Winter Camping and Cooking, Archery, Logrolling, Basketball, Capture the Flag, Photography, Candy Crafts, Truffle-Making, Gingerbread Houses, Ornament-Making, Felting, Movies, Board Games, and Card-Making. It was a great success and a fun way to celebrate the end of 2019! Next up is our full-day outdoor field trip event on Wednesday, March 4th.

Thank you to WISE and the Lion Club for providing grant funding for our Exploratory Day events!

Gunflint Mail Run

Nearly three hundred dogs and 30 mushers competed in the Gunflint Mail Run Sled Dog Race at Trail Center Lodge on Poplar Lake this past January 9-10, 2020.

As part of the race, mushers are given their choice of “swag bags” containing gifts from local businesses. These are no ordinary grocery bags! For several years, Cook County Schools has helped decorate the bags with winter themed pictures from the school’s art class. This year, kindergarten and first grade students cut out and colored sled dogs for the bags.

~Julie Bishop
Education Foundation Kicks Off their New Year

The Cook County ISD 166 Education Foundation has kicked off the New Year with a new look! After nearly twenty years “at the helm” of the foundation, Hal Greenwood retired from the board, having served all those years as its president. New faces and folks serving in new positions on the board are evident! The 2020 Board of Directors includes Myron Bursheim, Leslie Conden, Gene Erickson, Dave Hanson, Autumn Hood, Marcie McIntire, John Oberholtzer, Karen Obinger (secretary), Doug Sanders (treasurer), Emma Spoon, Ann Sullivan (president), and Sharon Van Ruiswyk. This board represents all the geographic areas of Cook County.

This new board is up to the challenge and high expectations set for them by their founder, Hal Greenwood. Their big fundraiser, E.A.T.S. (Enriching Academics Through Sustenance), is scheduled for Thursday, March 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. Both the student band and choir will be performing, and if there are local performers out there who would like to contribute musically to E.A.T.S., there is a spot for one other performing group available.

Tickets for E.A.T.S. are still $25 and unaffected by inflation! It’s a real bargain to be able to sample so many wonderful dishes and beverages donated by local restaurants and food vendors. In addition, of course, there are gift cards, gift certificates, and all kinds of other “goodies” available to bid on during the silent auction. Just imagine, strolling through the halls bidding on items, eating great food, and listening to wonderful music. Of course you’ll get to see many friends and neighbors at E.A.T.S. too. At 7:00 p.m., the bidding ceases, and you’ll get to find out what you’re able to take home!

This is the only fundraiser all year for the Education Foundation. Funding requests are submitted by staff to the Board of Directors to support extraordinary education—accomplished through the development of motivating programs and project designs that enhance and complement existing curriculum initiatives. A few examples of recent requests that were granted include the Timber Frame Outdoor Classroom, Boating Safety, World Language and Culture Day, and Environmental Education in the School Forest. The Education Foundation has provided over $189,000 in funding requests over the years.

Mark your calendars: March 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. Buy your tickets from any member of the foundation’s board of directors. Your can also purchase tickets with $25 cash or a check written to “EATS 2020” at the ISD 166 school office, the Blue Water Cafe, or Java Moose. See you there!

Next Meeting:
Monday, February 3
@ 4:30 p.m. in the Sawtooth Library

Lots going on in February. Mark your calendars!

Book Fair Jungle: Elephants, Tigers, and Books, OH MY!
February 18-20, 3:30-6:30 p.m. in the Sawtooth Library.
Sign up today to help ttps://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a8a62da0fe3-welcome

February conferences!
Help feed our teachers February 18th.
Sign up today: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4EA5AB2FA4F58-sloppy

Many Tiny Lights February 16th @ 6pm at Drury Lane Books
A donation of $5 per candle - brings light to our beautiful town.
Bonfire, live music by SVEA singers, and treats. Thank you for your help!! Watch for a flyer in your students folders to donate for a candle.

Read-A-Thon will be happening February 10-21 for Kindergarten-5th graders.
Get ready to log reading minutes and raise money for the school!

Special Lunches:
3rd grade - Feb 11th
4th grade - Mar 10th
5th grade - April 14th

Carin Gulstrand, President
Marcela Perez-Abreu , Vice President
Jill Boen, Secretary
Brooke Shannon, Treasurer
pta@isd166.org  Facebook: ISD 166 PTA

www.cookcountyschools.org
Lunch Time with 2nd Grade

Our Second grade families enjoyed a Special Lunch with their students! During the special lunch the students and family members enjoy a taco lunch as they spend time together in the Arrowhead Center for the Arts lobby area. The memories created during this socialization time are priceless. Thank you to the PTA, families, and staff for making this positive event happen.
Snowmobile Safety Course Opportunity

In conjunction with our 6th grade Safety & Technology class, the Minnesota DNR will be hosting a Snowmobile Safety Field Day on Monday, February 10th. All Cook County youth who complete the online safety course ahead of time are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity.

According to Minnesota Law, “Minnesota requires snowmobile certification by law for anyone born after December 31, 1976.” Any youth ages 11-15 who want to become certified to operate a snowmobile must complete a DNR-approved online course and participate in a hands-on field day training. All CCMS 6th grade students will be completing the online course in class ahead of the field day. For all other students, the online course needs to be completed at home and has a cost of $29.95.

In order to participate in the field day and complete the certification requirements, students need to provide proof of online course completion and have a guardian sign the DNR-required Parent Release Form before the Field Day. See www.mndnr.gov for more information about certification requirements. Contact 6th grade teacher Emma Spoon (espoon@isd166.org) for more information regarding participation in the field day.

Common Ground Summit 2019-20

Greetings, Cook County Middle School and High School families!

The Diversity Committee is excited to announce our plans for the 2019-20 Common Ground Summit. This year’s Common Ground Summit is focused on connecting curriculum to community through intentional project-based learning. Teachers have been working behind the scenes to develop this new model into standards-based classroom instruction. All 6th-12th grade students will be involved in at least one CGS project in a core class, and many will have the opportunity to participate in multiple projects in core, exploratory, music, art, and PE classes. In the coming months, teachers will develop their projects with students, focusing on building community and connecting the human experience to their classroom content.

We invite families and community members to the school cafeteria on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22nd, from 3:30-6pm, for a time of fellowship, viewing the CGS projects, and sharing in a meal. Students will view, interact, and reflect on the Common Ground Summit done by other classes during the school day. After school, the Summit will be opened to the community, and all are welcome to visit the school to see the projects and join in a community meal. This meal will be the culmination of both the Sawtooth Seeds of Change event and the MSHS Common Ground Summit.

Clip and save!

Planting Seeds in Common Ground Community Dinner

Save the Date

Earth Day, April 22nd from 3:30-6pm in the Cook County Schools Cafeteria

Join us in celebrating our students through viewing our school-wide Seeds of Change and CGS projects and building community by breaking bread and enjoying soup together.
**February 2020 Calendar**

**Saturday, February 1**  
Nordic Skiing vs. Ely @ Hidden Valley - 11:00 a.m.  
Girls Basketball JV, Home vs. Duluth East - 1:00 p.m.  
Girls Basketball Varsity, Home vs. Duluth East - 2:45 p.m.

**Monday, February 3**  
Girls Basketball JV, Home vs. Chisholm - 4:45 p.m.  
Girls Basketball Varsity, Home vs. Chisholm - 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 4**  
Alpine Skiing Section 7A Meet @ Giants Ridge - 10:00 a.m.  
Girls Basketball Varsity @ Denfeld - 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 5**  
North House - 5th Grade

**Thursday, February 6**  
Nordic Skiing Section 7A @ Giants Ridge - 11:00 a.m.  
Girls Basketball Varsity, Home vs. HS for Recording Arts - 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 7**  
Alpine Skiing Invitational @ Giants Ridge - 3:30 p.m.  
Boys Basketball Varsity @ Barnum - 6:30 p.m.  
Boys Basketball JV @ Barnum - 4:45 p.m.  
Girls Basketball Varsity @ Barnum - 4:45 p.m.  
Girls Basketball JV @ Barnum - 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 8**  
Nordic Skiing vs. Denfeld @ Spirit Mountain - 11:00 a.m.

**Monday, February 10**  
3rd Grade Special Lunch - 12:15 p.m.  
Boys Basketball Varsity @ Silver Bay - 6:30 p.m.  
Boys Basketball JV @ Silver Bay - 4:45 p.m.  
Girls Basketball Varsity @ Silver Bay - 4:45 p.m.  
Girls Basketball JV @ Silver Bay - 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 11**  
Alpine Skiing State Tournament @ Giants Ridge - 10:00 a.m.  
Nordic Skiing vs. Mesabi East @ Giants Ridge - 1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 13**  
Varsity Knowledge Bowl  
Nordic Skiing State Tournament @ Giants Ridge - 10:00 a.m.  
Boys Basketball Varsity, Home vs. Duluth Marshall - 6:30 p.m.  
Boys Basketball JV, Home vs. Duluth Marshall - 4:45 p.m.

**Friday, February 14**  
NO School - PDD Day  
Conferences in Grand Portage 1:00-3:30 p.m.  
Boys Basketball Varsity, Home vs. Esko - 4:45 p.m.  
Boys Basketball JV, Home vs. Esko - 6:30 p.m.  
Girls Basketball Varsity, Home vs. Esko - 6:30 p.m.  
Girls Basketball JV, Home vs. Esko - 4:45 p.m.

**Monday, February 17**  
NO SCHOOL

**Tuesday, February 18**  
Conferences - 3:30-6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 19**  
Mid-Term

**Thursday, February 20**  
Conferences - 3:30-6:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 21**  
Boys Basketball Varsity, Home vs. Nashwauk-Keewatin - 6:30 p.m.  
Boys Basketball JV, Home vs. Nashwauk-Keewatin - 4:45 p.m.  
Girls Basketball Varsity, Home vs. Nashwauk-Keewatin - 4:45 p.m.  
Girls Basketball JV, Home vs. Nashwauk-Keewatin - 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 22**  
Alumni Basketball Tournament - 11:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, February 25**  
ACT Test for Juniors - 8:00 a.m.  
North House - 3rd Grade

**Wednesday, February 26**  
North House - 3rd Grade

**Thursday, February 27**  
Varsity Knowledge Bowl  
North House - 3rd Grade

**Friday, February 28**  
Boys Basketball Varsity @ Fond du Lac - TBD

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**Save the Date!**

There is a special event coming to Sawtooth Elementary on February 24, 2020. The LOON Theatre (Little Opera of the North), a professional opera company, will be here that day to perform Jules Massenet’s “Cinderella” in our elementary gym. Some of our students will be “up front” and have an opportunity to perform with the cast. Friends and family are welcome to attend. Last February this troupe came to our school and performed Donizetti’s “The Elixir of Love.” More information will be coming as details are established. Special thanks to the North Shore Cooperative for providing the funds to make these artistic opportunities possible.

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**Choir News**

The Middle School Choir went to the Care Center and sang for residents on December 18. Students selected a number of holiday songs for their December performance. As one student noted, “the Elders really liked our singing. One resident cried a little when we sang ‘Silent Night.’ We should go there again to brighten their day.” I agree!!

The Middle School Choir also performed the afternoon of December 18th for Second Graders. It is wonderful to have appreciative audiences readily available for performances during the school day. The report from Mrs. Barras was that the holiday songs were “amazing and fun.” Music is a gift you can share.

~Cindy Johnson, Choir Teacher
Third Grade News

Mrs. Viren’s class has been growing this amaryllis since before the holiday vacation. This student was awarded the opportunity to take it home! The third graders also took a break from academics one snowy afternoon and enjoyed snowshoeing on the school trails. After the fun the students used manipulatives to learn long division concepts.