

# COUGAR TRACKS

CMS Online Parent & Student Newsletter

October 2017

## OCTOBER IS A BUSY MONTH AT CMS

*From the Principal's Desk*

It is a busy time at CMS. Students are involved in academics, athletics, and activities. September 26-October 6, students are taking the USA Test Prep Interim Assessments. These tests help us gauge where we need to improve instruction for students. We can see what standards and students need extra support. Teachers work with each other and the students to make strategic plans to improve their learning. We will do these assessments in December and March to help get ready for the state tests in April.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be October 16 and 17 from 4-7 PM each evening. Please call your grade level counselor at 355-8544 to schedule a time to meet with your student's teachers.

6th grade counselor is Ms. Debbie Bailey, 7th grade is Mr. Jerry Slawson and 8th grade Mrs. Glenda Brown.

I also want to remind you that Fall Break is October 18-22. Students will return to school on Monday October 23. I hope that you and your students enjoy the break and are ready to come back.

Buses arrive to school at 8:00 AM. LPS policy is to check every student's bag for the safety of students. We also provide free breakfast for all students. To ensure that we have all teachers here to monitor students and check bags, doors open at 8:00 AM. If students are walking or dropped off they will not be able to enter the building until 8:00 AM. Staff are not on duty prior 8:00 to supervise students.



Please encourage your students to come to school every day and to put forth the necessary effort. Remind them to follow procedures and to complete and turn in all assignments. We appreciate your support. Together we will help our students grow into responsible, caring adults.

Thank you!  
Blake Thomas

### Inside this issue:

8th grade Megamind	2
8th Grade Avengers	2
7th Grade Defenders	2
7th Grade X-Men	3
6th Grade Guardians	3
6th Grade Justice League	3
Battle of the Books	4
2016 A-F School Report Card	5
CMS Orchestra	5
Title I Suggestion	5

## CMS FCA FULL OF ACTIVITIES DURING OCTOBER

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) has several activities for the month of October.

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> our huddle meets in the Auditorium at 8:05. We have

guest speakers at each of those events.

October 5 is "Bring Your Bible to School Day".

October 11<sup>th</sup> is "Fields of Faith" at Cameron University at 7:00 p.m. A bus will leave

from CMS at 6:30(Permission Form is Required).

Lawton Public Schools  
Native American Parent Advisory Committee, PAC Meeting

October 10, 2017

Douglass Learning Center

Room 8-A  
5:30-6:30 pm.

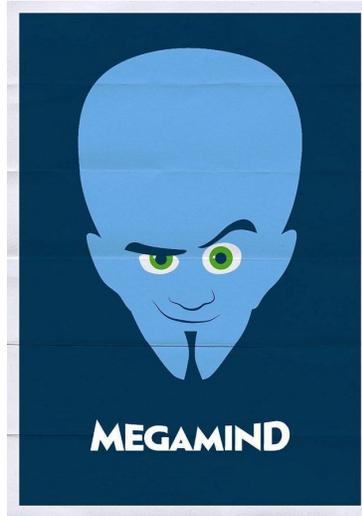
## EIGHTH GRADE MEGAMIND LOOKING TO REINFORCE STUDENT SKILLS

### Team Megamind

In Language Arts we're completing instruction on how to write informational articles and beginning to learn how to structure an argument and how to complete research.

STARBASE is getting ready to welcome a new group of students to our first official meeting on October 5th, in Ms. Ford's room.

Our Reading classes have been focusing on using context clues to determine the meaning of difficult words. Mastering this skill will help students become better at reading independently and increase their comprehension of what



they read. We will be working on main idea, supporting details, and summarization the next few weeks. We will also be looking at the results from their interim assessment to see what skills they have mastered and what skills need reinforcement. Please remind your student that if they are unhappy with their grade, they have the opportunity to do extra credit each week in the form of a Reading Log.

In US History we are beginning our lecture on the American Revolution and Early Republic.

## EIGHTH GRADE AVENGERS ENGAGED IN MANY ACTIVITIES



In Science we will start investigating Chemical reactions this month. We have several labs planned to help the students

engage and understand how and why chemical reactions are important not just in science but everyday life. Our students will use the reaction between baking soda and vinegar to set off a rocket and then create an airbag simulation bringing science to life! We will use batteries and thumb tacks to demonstrate a displacement reaction caused by electricity. I always love to watch the students come to an understanding about the world around them.

In US history 8 the students will finish

learning about the American Revolution and we will be starting on our first form of government under the Articles of Confederation. October will be a month focused on elections and voting. Students will learn how to be active citizens in a democracy by filling out their own voter IDs and private ballots.

In math, we just finished our first 6 weeks by taking our first interim assessment. We are going to learn how to combine like terms, distribute numbers, and simplify expressions. Please urge your children to use IXL at home to review the objectives we are going over in class. Repetition is the best way to learn the material. Hopefully, your child is having a great start to their last year in middle school. Remember, if you have any questions or concerns, you can schedule a meeting with our team

during parent teacher conferences.

In the last month students have continued to work on improving their writing skills. Currently, we are taking a closer look at word choice and how it can greatly impact the tone of writing. Students created foot prints to show how "walk" can look differently through ages, charted imagery from jelly bean tastings, and worked collaboratively to create anchor charts for overused words.

Each week students also complete Bell Work that includes a reflection from a famous quote and a response to a video journal. I have seen some wonderful writing come from these and exceptionally creative insights. I look forward to their thoughts on such a wide variety of topics.

## SEVENTH GRADE DEFENDERS SHARING AND CARING

Following is the list of tentative October activities for the Defenders.

**Math:** Working with proportional reasoning and moving into probability.

**Geography:** We have started a semester long project during which students must restructure their government and economies while facing a devastating natural disaster that takes away a large portion of the global population. They will work on issues of migration, immi-

gration, making and enforcing laws, and the development of a monetary system. We will be working on the challenge of climate change and making political cartoons that expresses the individual students opinions. Participating in a change challenge to send aid to the



earthquake devastated area in Mexico. Drive will end October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**ELA:** Ms. Bauchman's Honors ELA class members attended the Comanche County Free Fair. For our Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Fruit of the Month celebration, we tasted peaches and tomatoes.

## SEVENTH GRADE X-MEN EXPANDING MINDS



The X-Men are extremely excited about the upcoming Spirit Week

and are looking forward to supporting our exceptional athletes. We are ready to show our excellence on the district's Reading and Math Interim Assessments in the next few days.

In Reading, we will be starting our novel, *The Outsiders*, soon and will be doing some unusual short stories close to

Halloween. We will be using these texts to practice many different reading skills.

Narrative Writing is the focus in Language Arts. We have been constructing essays and will be analyzing the elements of good narratives. We will be moving on to our Informational Essay

**"We are ready to show our excellence on the district's Reading and Math Interim Assessments in the next few days."**

later in the month.

It's all thing metric in Science as examine this form of measurement, apply Greek and Latin root words to the units, and create an F-16.

In Geography, we will be exploring world governments and religions, and in Pre-Algebra, we are analyzing probabilities, or the likelihood that an event will happen.

We've got a month of activities that will expand our minds and enrich our experiences!

## SIXTH GRADE GUARDIANS IN FULL SWING



School is in full swing and so is Team Guardians.

Next week, students will be taking the first interim assessment in reading and math next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Students need to be here if at all possible.

In math, Ms. Pennington's classes have been working on GCF and LCM. Within the next few weeks we will be moving in to working with decimals, percent,

and fractions.

In geography, The Guardians of the Galaxy will begin working on the Five Themes of Geography and continue to sharpen our map skills.

Ms. Claborn's reading classes are working on author's purpose and point of view. We are reading a Greek play this week, and next week, we will be working on story elements.

Young Scientists have mastered metric conversions and measuring. We will continue to practice these skills

throughout the year to keep them sharp! We are now exploring how matter cycles through the environment, with a specific focus on the photosynthesis plays in cycling matter. It has been grammar central in Ms. Miller's English Language Arts classes. Subjects, verbs, prepositions, oh my! Students have been scoring well on their weekly Common Formative Assessments (CFAs). Hopefully, this is an indication of how they will score on the interim assessment. After testing, we will write personal narratives and begin a novel study.

## SIXTH GRADE JUSTICE LEAGUE BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!

In Ms. Long's Math class, we are working on Greatest Common Factor, Least Common Multiple, and Factor trees. We will be moving to multiplying and dividing fractions next.

Mr. Mietchen's Science classes will be exploring ecosystems next.

Mrs. Pool's World Studies classes will be wrapping up their map skills unit to begin learning about the 5 themes of geography.



Ms. Floyd's Language Arts students will be writing narratives in class while exploring free verse poetry writing using paint chips during Cougar Achievement Time.

Mrs. Morlett's classes are continuing to work toward their Accelerated Reading goals with at least 15 minutes of AR reading time in class each day. Please encourage your student to read at home and ask them about the 3 goals they must meet to get to attend the AR dance! The teachers also kindly ask to check with your student about their supply needs.

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Battle of the Books meetings and the books we will be discussing at each meeting.  
Meetings are 8:00-8:25 a.m. in the Library on the following dates.

Oct 16 – Fever 1793

Oct 30 – Roller Girl

Nov 13 – The War That Saved My Life

Nov 27 – The Boys Who Challenged Hitler

Dec 4 – Orbiting Jupiter

Dec 11 – What If

Dec 18 – Blackbird Fly

Jan 8 – Gregor the Overlander

Jan 22 – Life As We Knew It

Jan 29 – Circus Mirandus

Feb 5 – This Monstrous Thing

Feb 12 – A Step Toward Falling

Feb 26 – Shadowshaper

March 5 – The Seventh Most Important Thing

March 12 – The Boy in the Black Suit

March 26 – I Am Princess X

April meetings TBT – battle practices

May School and District Battles

## CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

1201 NW Fort Sill Blvd.  
Lawton, OK 73507

Phone: 580.355.8544  
Fax: 580.585.6452  
E-mail: [bthomas@lawtonps.org](mailto:bthomas@lawtonps.org)

*Central Middle School Develops  
Tomorrow's Leaders.*

We're on Facebook  
[Facebook.com/  
lawtoncentralms](https://www.facebook.com/lawtoncentralms)



## CMS IS A SUCCESSFUL TITLE I SCHOOL

### 2016 A-F School Report Card

Parents are encouraged to access the Lawton Public Schools Website and view our 2016 School A-F Report Cards. The Lawton School Report Cards are available at the following website address: <http://afreportcards.ok.gov/>

If you do not have internet access at your home, you may request a copy of the school report card at the principal's office.



## CMS ORCHESTRA HOSTING ALL-REGION CLINIC

CMS Orchestra is hosting the Annual Texhoma All-Region Honors Orchestra Clinic on Wed. and Thurs. Oct 11th and 12th. 8th and 9th graders from 7 secondary schools played a blind audition to win seats. CMS lead the number of middle school students winning seats in the area. We are so proud. The following students deserve recognition: Evan Anderson 1st chair Concert Mistress, Joyce Ronspiez, Amber Uplinger, Katelin

Bookard, Kymani Cuyler, Braydon Polluck, O'Marrion Williams, Kristin Johnson, Ryan Robles, Fernando Hermsillo, Sydney Campbell, Eric Sales, and Zaedriion McCray. The students will enjoy 2 days of combined work and fun while developing 6 challenging pieces of music with the Clinician. The Clinic will culminate with a concert on Thursday at 5:30pm, free and open to the public. Congrats on these great kids from CMS!!!!!!

## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF NONFICTION READING TIME

### *Title I Suggestion*

Reading together remains one of the most important things adults can do with their young learner. Today, recommendations include reading information or nonfiction books with much more regularity. Nonfiction books present many opportunities to learn new concepts and vocabulary, as well as broaden a child's view of the world. Nonfiction books are written differently than picture books in that there are often more pictures, graphics, charts and photographs included within the pages. Parents can ease the transition into more nonfiction reading by encouraging your child to preview a book before reading and to be an active reader who asks lots of questions.

#### Take a "book walk"

One great way to make predictions about an unfamiliar nonfiction text is to take a "walk" through the book before reading. By looking closely together at the front and back cover, the index,

table of contents, the glossary, and the photographs or other images, readers can start to get a sense about the topic. This scanning and skimming helps set the expectation for the reading. Take the time to walk through the book before starting to read.



#### Encourage questions

A second way to develop more understanding with nonfiction books is to encourage your child to be an active reader who asks lots of questions. Parents can model these behaviors by talk-

ing or thinking out loud as you turn the pages of the book. This is a helpful way for your child to see and hear what a successful reader does when faced with difficult or unfamiliar topics. For example, "When I looked at this photograph, I asked myself, "Where is Antarctica? Is that the same place as the South Pole?" Then talk together about how and what you would need to do to find the answer to the questions. This will reinforce that many questions can be answered by reading a text closely and by paying attention to captions and picture titles. Some children enjoy writing their questions on sticky notes and working to answer them during the reading.

Previewing a text and asking questions are two terrific ways to navigate nonfiction texts. Enjoy spending more time with some fascinating informational books!

excerpt from: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/getting-most-out-nonfiction-reading-time>