



GOVERNANCE BOARD NEWSLETTER

CHIPPEWA VALLEY
MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

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ANNUAL STEAM FAIR

On October 31st from 1-3pm our school was full of excited students, friends and family members. However, students were NOT parading around in Halloween costumes. CVMCS 1st - 5th grade students were showcasing their projects developed for our annual STEAM fair. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math. Students work primarily in small groups to develop, research, write and present projects that incorporate one or more of these subjects. As Mr. Kirk, E2 teacher states, "The STEAM Fair is an important early year project to open the door to project-based learning. It allows students to learn by following through with a large task and opens up opportunities for learning when they take the time to dig deep." We asked E1 and E2 teachers to answer a few questions after this year's STEAM fair and have highlighted some of their answers below.

1. WHAT WAS YOUR HIGHLIGHT FROM STEAM FAIR THIS YEAR?

Students were able to overcome the challenges of working with small groups. They learned the importance of listening to each other and discussing different ideas. They learned about keeping on task and learned about equal division of tasks/work. They learned to focus on important areas of research and to understand that the adults were supportive, but this was their project. In the end everyone had a successful project. Better-yet it was their own! (Ms. Jenny, E1)

2. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW YOU APPROACH STEAM FAIR WITH YOUR STUDENTS - IE GIVE THEM FREE REIGN OR WITHIN LIMITS?

We have some free reign, but it is within limits. We spend time as a classroom brainstorming possible ideas to work on. Students also spend time researching what they would like to do. I talk with each group to make sure it is something that can be accomplished with the given time period and then give them the go ahead. (Ms. Leslie, E1)

3. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF STEAM FAIR FOR YOUR STUDENTS? OR WHAT DO THEY GAIN FROM THE EXPERIENCE?

The most essential aspect of STEAM fair to me is the students' ability to take the project in any direction they want. They have a creative freedom to explore, create, discover, invent, and so much more that is completely directed and motivated by their own interests. (Ms. Maddie, E2)

4. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO NEXT YEAR DIFFERENTLY OR INCORPORATE?

This year I tried something new. I had one large theme for the students to work within. It worked well but next year I will ask the students if they prefer to have a theme or the ability to decide on a topic on their own. Ms. Pam (E1)



TEA PROJECT

The students in Mr. Kirk's classroom have taken on a new adventure this year: launching a business! The group has produced their very own tea blends--from growing to packaging to marketing--all from their classroom at CVMCS. The E2 Tea Company made its debut at November's Mallternative craft fair, where the 4th and 5th graders raised nearly \$85 selling their tea blends and mugs featuring (student-designed) E2 Tea logos.



"It seemed like a perfect opportunity for authentic economic engagement," Mr. Kirk said. "Students are able to do all the work right in the room, and it's a project that we get to watch develop each day."

This fall, the E2 Tea Co. received a grant from the Eau Claire Schools Foundation, which has allowed them to purchase supplies needed to grow their business. "Now that we have a real budget from creating and selling our goods, we will look at the spend, save, give model," Mr. Kirk explained. "We'll need to invest some of the money back into the business, but we also hope to save some for further expenses, as well as give some of the money back to our community."

FALL PARENT EDUCATION NIGHTS

This fall the Governance Board facilitated two different Parent Education nights.

- On Oct. 4th parents gathered to talk about Screens at Home and in the Classroom. There was excellent teacher-led discussion and relevant information on the subject. If you are interested in the resources handed out please check with Ms. Amy in the office.
- On Oct. 16th the topic covered being Citizens of the World and Community Service. This evening ended with brainstorming ideas for a school wide community service project. Participants also received a thorough guide providing ways to get involved in our community. If you are interested in this guide please check in at the office.

MEETINGS

The first Monday of every month at noon in the school library. All meetings are open to the public.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 2018

- Mr. Kirk presented on the E2 Tea Project in his classroom
- Discussion and review of all committee purpose statements
- Board received a review of Montessori expert Phil Dosman's visit to CVMCS

December 2018

- Committee updates
- Budget review and discussion
- GB grant applications for submission the first week of Dec. discussed

For review of full notes please visit CVMCS website under Governance Board

SAVE THE DATE!

- **Dec 24 - Jan 1** - Winter Break
- **Jan 2** - School Resumes
- **Jan 14** - Film Festival Kick-Off
- **Jan 21** - No School
- **Feb 1** - Enrollment Lottery
- **Feb 7** - Film Festival Registrations Due
- **Feb 8** - All E1 classrooms will be attending a ECCT performance at the Pablo Center
- **Feb 8, 5:30-7:30pm** - Winter Festival with crafts, pizza, poetry slams, raffle baskets, and more!



Peace Ceremony

October 19

The whole school gathered in the gym for our annual Peace Ceremony which acknowledges the importance of peace in our school and in our world.



Veterans Day

November 09

E2 students made cards for Veterans and Ms. Melissa's class stopped by the L.E. Phillips Senior Center to honor them during a portion of a special ceremony. Four students read a poem and the rest of the class delivered cards.



Pinkalicious

Children's House students walked to the Children's Theatre Oxford location to enjoy a viewing of the play Pinkalicious.



Mallternative

November 17

Our Parent Group coordinated the annual MALLternative event - a show for local artisans and vendors to sell and showcase their products. This event is a primary fundraiser for the school.