

Cedar Cliff Local Schools
Superintendent's Newsletter
January / February 2022



It is the mission of Cedarville Schools to "Provide students with the best well-rounded education that teaches, challenges and develops the mind, body and character and prepares responsible graduates who contribute within society."

Hopefully, you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday season. And, hopefully, you had an opportunity to visit with family and have a nice meal just enjoying the fellowship of your friends and family. Time with family is, and should be, one of the best attributes of a joyous holiday season.

But, just for a moment, imagine that while you were eating that holiday meal, you looked out the window and noticed several hungry faces peering back at you. You can tell they are cold, hungry, and their clothes are tattered and worn. What is your next course of action?

One could easily just walk over and close the blinds—but could you still enjoy your meal knowing the individuals are there even though you can no longer see their faces and their need? Is *out-of-sight* ever truly *out-of-mind*? Does our obligation to humanity require we assist only when we actually *see* the misery or is knowing another individual is in need provide more than a perfunctory obligation on our part?

This metaphor causes me pause. How many times have I turned a “blind-eye” to those in need? How many times have I been presented with the knowledge of suffering and justified inaction by mentally supposing *someone* or *some agency* would do something to assist but I had too many things to accomplish to get involved in their current plight? Could we eat a hearty meal if someone starving is staring back at us across the table? Can we silently read our beloved novel if the person in the seat beside us is illiterate? Can we whistle the cheery melody when those in ear shot may be experiencing depression?

This is the time of year for New Year's Resolutions, promises we make to ourselves, usually, in the name of *self-improvement*. What if this year, instead of the usual eat less, exercise more, read more, stop _____ (fill in the blank with your selection) we all choose to keep the blinds open? Maybe, just maybe, the screaming might stop, even for just a bit. Maybe, just maybe, the waves of finger pointing would subside and produce moments of calm in our societal storm.

I honestly believe we will all answer some day for how we spent the time while we were here together. I believe that helping others, regardless of their individual needs, is both

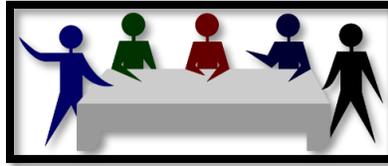
community *and* self-help. Therefore, this is my hope and wish for all of you—that we may look up from our devices, that we come out from behind the screens, and that we truly look out the window recognizing the needs of others.

Here’s to keeping the blinds open—*Happy New Year!*

Best Regards,



Chad Mason, Superintendent

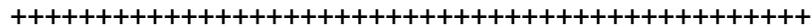


January: *School Board Recognition Month!*

The position of public school board member can often be a thankless job. The month of January is designated as a ‘School Board Member Appreciation Month,’ and offers us the occasion to thank each of the board members for their dedication and time commitment to Cedar Cliff Local Schools.

Our board members help us by developing governing policies for the district, future planning and goal oversight, as well as serving as the liaison for the community. If you see them, please take a moment and thank the following Cedar Cliff Board Members for their dedication and support for the district.

Charlene Campbell
Matt Sheridan
Maria Waymire
Brittnay Gillaugh
Chris Cross

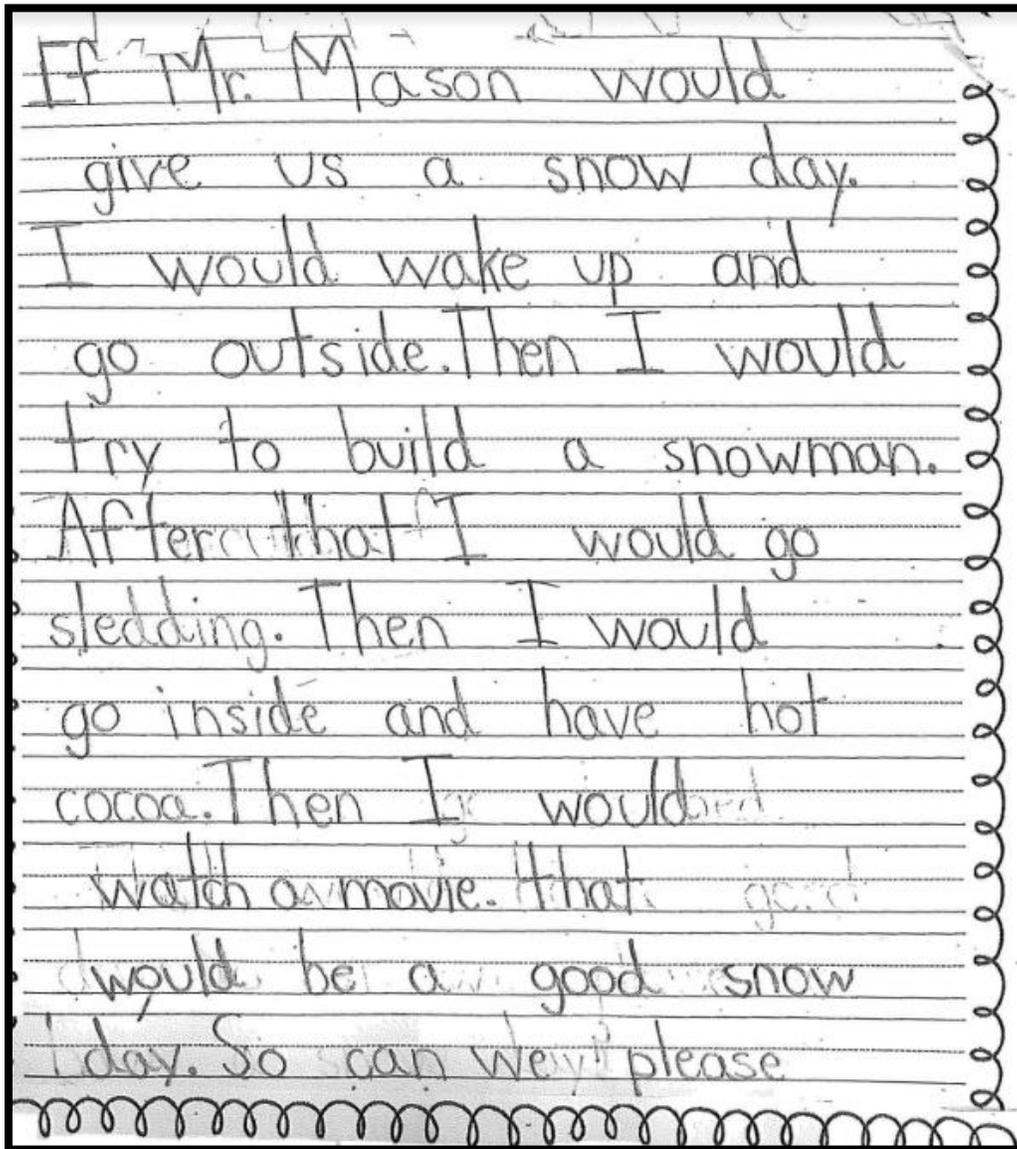


Cedarville Elementary 2nd Graders Request Snow Day!

Snow days are just part of the joy of growing up. This year, thus far anyway, there seems to be a break in the normal holiday weather. This did not stop some of our Elementary Students from reminding the Superintendent's office of the importance of snow days, and just how they would spend their time with the opportunity of getting some time off. This is just an example of the enjoyment that can come along with a writing assignment—Great work, students, and we will see what we can do about that snow day (assuming we get some snow).



Check out the explanations below!



(Snow Day Request—cont.)

If there was a snow day I'll tell you what I'd do! First I'd will go sled sledding! Second I'd make an igloo and make hot cocoa and drink it in the igloo. If there was a snow day that's what I'd do.



Spelling Bee Results are in...and Wow!

Sophia Lopez, an eighth grade student, won the Cedarville Middle School Spelling Bee and Joscelyn Evans, another eighth grade student, finished second. It was a tough competition between two very good students and exceptional spellers. This year's competition between these two young ladies ***lasted, a school record, 48 rounds!*** Some of the successful words included: *bivouac, justaucorps, conurbation, montmorency, and linsey-woolsey.*



In the Elementary Spelling Bee, Fourth grader William Landon (pictured left) was the champion, with fourth grader Eliza Spracklen (center) and third grader Avery Walker (pictured right) sharing runner-up honors.

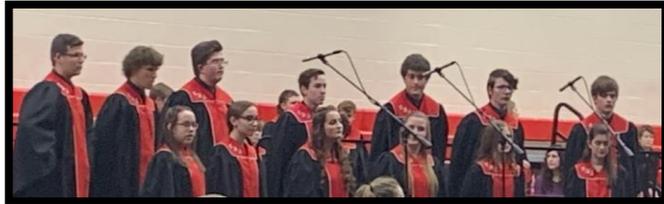


Congratulations to our winners!

Christmas Events in Cedar Cliff Schools!!

The Elementary, MS, and HS Christmas concerts were held in December before the break as well. First year teacher, Will Patton, took the reins of the Elementary Concert and the students did an excellent job under his tutelage, while Mr. Mahan directed the MS and HS students to a, once again, outstanding performance for all to enjoy. This event always adds to the holiday season!

Congratulations to the Music Department and all of our students for a fantastic show!



Elementary students in grades K-5 each decorated a tree for the Christmas season. It was a great way for students to get a sense of the joy of the holiday season and enjoy a special moment with their teachers. Additionally, the Elementary School “*Christmas Around the World*” event took place once again this year (After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic). The pictures showcase each grade level’s tree and work they put into a special project for the Christmas season.



(Christmas Events--cont.)



Cedarville Elementary Travels Around the World!

This year, the Cedarville Elementary staff and parents collaborated in celebrating “Christmas Around the World” so all students in grades K-5 could see just how different countries and different cultures celebrate the Christmas Holiday. Students were given a passport and could “travel” to various countries such as Germany, Israel, South Africa, and Brazil to see their customs, engage in their holiday traditions and even sample their holiday cuisine!

Each class studied and learned about a different country then took tours of the other classes to see the work of their peers. The students had an enjoyable time and they learned a great deal about the world around them. Great Job goes out to Mr. Gainer, his staff, and all the parent volunteers helping to make this endeavor a great experience!



(Christmas Around the World—cont.)



Cedarville Elementary Students put Coding skills to use!

Mr. Justin Richardson’s wellness and life skills course put students to the test. They had to work in teams, code a robot through an obstacle course they had never seen, and make certain to complete all the assigned tasks associated with the challenge (including running into a basketball and knocking over the bowling pins). There were many great lessons the students learned and they really seemed to enjoy the challenge. Great job to all the students and Mr. Richardson!



Mandatory Active Shooter/Intruder Drill Information



Friday, January 28th, Cedar Cliff Schools will conduct the required active intruder drill with students and staff. This drill is now required by Ohio Revised Code and is meant to better equip and prepare faculty, staff, and students in the event of a horrific incident, that of an active shooter on our campus.

Three drills are mandated as part of this legislation: *a traditional lock-down* drill where there is a threat to student safety ‘outside’ the actual building, an *evacuation* drill where there is a need to quickly exit the building (i.e. gas leak/bomb threat/etc.), or *an active shooter/intruder* drill where someone enters the building attempting to do harm to one or more persons in the building.

In October, Cedar Cliff completed the traditional lock-down drill and January marks the second of the trio of drills. During this time, nationally recognized ALICE techniques will be reviewed and discussed for preparing students and faculty for an active shooter incident.

More detailed information will be posted on the Cedar Cliff website. Included in this information is an Open Letter to the Community with an outline of the day’s events, a video explaining ALICE techniques, and a video for K-2 students utilizing stranger-danger techniques. While no efforts are perfect and can prevent a catastrophe such as this, it is the hope of the Cedar Cliff administration that these efforts, in coordination with law enforcement, will assist in saving lives in the event of an actual emergency.

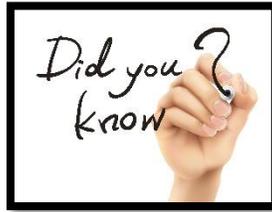


Pass along the Information!

If you know of someone who would like to receive the newsletter, feel free to forward the information. We will also have copies available at the board office and the Senior Citizens’ Center if someone would like the traditional paper copy. Once again, you can sign up to receive the newsletter from the Cedar Cliff Website at: <http://www.cedarcliffschools.net/>



Interesting information



This article was passed along to me. The topic is college funding and I thought it might generate some “food for thought” for those families with students who will be attending college soon.

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They’re trying to make your bill look like \$0.

You probably spent a lot of time trying to impress your dream school, but now that you’re accepted, they’re trying to impress *you*. So just like you exaggerated your bold leadership of the intramural fencing club, schools may, um, try to cast a more flattering light on their mediocre aid package.

“Some colleges do creative things to make your final cost look as close to ‘zero’ as possible,” says Patricia Thompson, assistant vice chancellor for student financial aid at the State University of New York. Prime example: They might subtract your loans to make it look like you won’t owe anything—when in reality, you will (see: the definition of “loan”). “You need to make sure they’re clearly identifying loans that must be repaid, including loans that could have high interest rates or require a cosigner, as part of their math,” Thompson says.

SOLUTION

Make your own spreadsheet to compare each school’s package, apples to apples. Which schools will leave you with loans? What type of loans, and what’s the interest? Which are dangling scholarships you won’t need to pay back? What’s the total cost of each option once you add room and board, your meal plan, and travel—and how much of this total do your grants and loans cover?

They might yank your aid if you win outside scholarships.

“Outside scholarships may or may not change your financial aid offer,” says Chanell Thomas, associate director of the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships at Vanderbilt University. In some cases, applying for that \$1,000 scholarship from your mom’s company might just end up getting you \$1,000 *fewer* dollars from your school. So congrats, you just saved your school—not yourself—\$1,000. How’s that for some BS? (And no, you can’t hide these scholarships, since most get sent directly to your school.) Ask your financial aid office if they

practice “aid displacement,” and if they say yes, see if your outside donor can hold their cash for another semester (in case your aid is reduced) or apply it to summer courses. You could also opt to push back by visiting the financial aid office and saying, “I found this outside scholarship to help defray other costs beyond the aid you’ve given me,” suggests Rachel Fishman, deputy director for education policy at New America and a coauthor of “Decoding the Cost of College.” Oftentimes, aid displacement can be negotiated. “It’s best to check with each school regarding their policy,” says Thomas.

You could also lose your money for random bureaucratic reasons.

“We had a situation where one student lost her scholarship because she moved off campus and the aid only applied to the dorms,” Thompson says. “We see students lose scholarship money all the time because they didn’t realize there were certain requirements.”

Call and confirm: Do you need to maintain a certain GPA? Study a certain subject? Take a given number of credits each semester? Live on campus? Changing your major or moving out of the dorms could cost you thousands, no exaggeration. Don’t lose money because of a technicality.

One way to game their system is to team up with your sibs.

“Schools are usually sensitive to how many family members are in college at the same time,” reveals E. Whitney Soule, dean of admissions and student aid at Bowdoin College.

So if you and your sib are close in age, why not take a gap year and work to save money until they graduate high school, then apply to colleges at the same time? With two kids in school, your family could be on the hook for far less \$\$ per student.

KIERA CARTER: Kiera Carter has a decade's worth of experience covering fitness, health, and lifestyle topics for national magazines and websites.



January/February Events

Friday, January 7

End of First Semester (87 days)
End of Second Nine Weeks (46 days)
6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Triad

Saturday, January 8

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. West Liberty Salem

Monday, January 10

Music Booster Mtg.
Quick Recall -Greeneview/Home
Regular Board Meeting (6:45 Organizational Meeting / 7:00 Regular Meeting)
5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Mechanicsburg
5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Mechanicsburg

Tuesday, January 11

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. West Liberty Salem

Wednesday, January 12

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Northeastern High School

Thursday, January 13

5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Greenon
5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Greenon

Friday, January 14

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Fairbanks High School

Saturday, January 15

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. West Jefferson High School

Monday, January 17

Martin Luther King Day No School

Tuesday, January 18

Quick Recall - home
5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Greeneview
5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Greeneview
6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Mechanicsburg

Wednesday, January 19

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Southeastern

Thursday, January 20

5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Southeastern

5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Southeastern

Friday, January 21

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Catholic Central

Saturday, January 22

12:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Catholic Central

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Greenon

Monday, January 24

Quick Recall - home

5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Madison-Plains

5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Madison-Plains

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Newton High School

Tuesday, January 25

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Southeastern HS

Wednesday, January 26

K-12 Early Dismissal (1:00 p.m.)

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Greeneview

Thursday, January 27

5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Catholic Central

5:30pm--MS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Catholic Central

Friday, January 28

Crisis Drill

6:00pm—HS Boys Basketball (A) vs. Greeneview HS

Saturday, January 29

High School Solo and Ensemble 9th-12th graders Morning/Afternoon

Quick Recall

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Madison-Plains

6:30pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Franklin Monroe HS

Monday, January 31

Blood Drive in the High School

5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Greenon

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (H) vs. Kenton Ridge High School

Wednesday, February 2

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Greenon

Thursday, February 3

PTO Meeting

5:30pm--MS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Greeneview

Friday, February 4

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (H) vs. Greenon

Saturday, February 5

6:00pm—HS Girls' Basketball (A) vs. Mechanicsburg

Monday, February 7

Book Fair

Music Booster Meeting (7:00)

Tuesday, February 8

Book Fair

6:00pm—HS Boys' Basketball (A) vs. Madison-Plains

Wednesday, February 9

Book Fair

US Naval Academy Band

Thursday, February 10

Book Fair

K-5 Parent Teacher Conferences (3:30-6:45)

Friday, February 11

Book Fair

8th Grade GCCC Field Trip

Saturday, February 12

ACT Test

Monday, February 14

Book Fair

Tuesday, February 15

Book Fair

K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences (3:30-6:45)

Wednesday, February 16

Book Fair

Thursday, February 17

Book Fair

Friday, February 18

No School In-Service Day

Monday, February 21

Presidents' Day No School

Regular Board Meeting (7:00)

Thursday, February 24

Musical Performance (7:00)

Friday, February 25

Musical Performance (7:00)

Saturday, February 26

Musical Performance (7:00)

Tuesday, March 1

ACT Test

Winter Concert for High School Ensembles