



# CEDARVILLE CONNECTION

November 19, 2014

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[www.EACS.k12.in.us](http://www.EACS.k12.in.us)

**Our mission at Cedarville Elementary School is:**  
*To build a solid academic foundation and develop fundamental skills that will lead our students into a lifetime of success.*

## **From the Desk of the Principal...**

With the exception of creeping on my kids on Facebook, I am not much of a social media person. My children would say that it is because I'm just not tech savvy. I am not totally inept when it comes to social media and how to post pictures, Tweets, etc.; I just don't think anyone cares whether I am drinking a Jamba Juice (whatever that is) or what my latest recipe might be. (If you really want to know...steak, hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken all charred to perfection on a grill.) With the exception of daring your friendly neighborhood house burglar, I really don't see the lure in that part of Facebook where you let the world know that you are out to dinner or at a football game ... "I'm having a not so great time with my wife and friends at South Bend watching Notre Dame get their 'helmets' handed to them by Northwestern...D'oh. BTW: Could somebody run by the house? I left all of the doors unlocked"

Facebook, every once in a while, does grab my attention. One of the pieces frequently passed around last week I thought was worthy of sharing in part. This isn't a knock on anybody. As a matter of fact, **the Cedarville Elementary parents and children, that I know, are as understanding and supportive as the teacher portrayed in this article; as is the staff at Cedarville Elementary. For that, I thank you...and may God bless!**

## **Teacher to parents: About THAT kid (the one who hits, disrupts and influences YOUR kid)**

Amy Murray is the director of early childhood education at the Calgary French & International School in Canada. The following post is a powerful open letter directed to parents about THAT kid; the one other kids go home and talk about, the one who gets angry in class, the one who parents worry will hurt, disrupt and perhaps influence their own children.



*Dear Parent:*

*I know you're worried. Every day, your child comes home with a story about THAT kid; the one who is always hitting, shoving, pinching, scratching, maybe even biting other children...the one who always has to hold my hand in the hallway...the one who has a special spot at the carpet, and sometimes sits on a*

*chair rather than the floor... the one who poured his neighbor's milk onto the floor in a fit of anger...on purpose...while I was watching. Then, when I asked him to clean it up, he emptied the ENTIRE paper towel dispenser...on purpose...while I was watching.*

*You're worried that THAT child is detracting from your child's learning experience. You're worried that he takes up too much of my time and energy, and that your child won't get his fair share. You're worried that she is really going to hurt someone someday. You're worried that "someone" might be your child. You're worried that your child is going to start using aggression to get what she wants. You're worried your child is going to fall behind academically because I might not notice that he is struggling to hold a pencil.*

*I know, and I am worried, too. You see, I worry all the time about ALL of them. I worry about your child's pencil grip, and another child's letter sounds, and that little tiny one's shyness, and that other one's chronically empty lunchbox. I worry that Gavin's coat is not warm enough, and that Tabitha's dad yells at her for printing the letter b backwards. Most of my car rides and showers are consumed with the worrying. I know you want to talk about THAT child, because Tabitha's backward b's are not going to give your child a black eye.*

*I want to talk about THAT child, too, but there are so many things I can't tell you. I can't tell you that she was adopted from an orphanage at 18 months. I can't tell you that he is on an elimination diet for possible food allergies, and that he is therefore hungry ALL OF THE TIME. I can't tell you that her parents are in the middle of a horrendous divorce, and she has been staying with her grandma. I can't tell you that his asthma medication makes him agitated. I can't tell you that her mom is a single parent, and so she (the child) is at school from the moment before-care opens, until the moment after-care closes, and then the drive between home and school takes 40 minutes, and so she (the child) is getting less sleep than most adults. I can't tell you that he has been a witness to domestic violence.*

*That's okay, you say. You understand I can't share personal or family information. You just want to know what I am DOING about That Child's behavior. I would love to tell you. But I can't.*

*I can't tell you that she receives speech-language services, that an assessment showed a severe language delay, and that the therapist feels the aggression is linked to frustration about being unable to communicate. I can't tell you that I meet with his parents EVERY week, and that both of them usually cry at those meetings. I can't tell you that the child and I have a secret hand signal to tell me when she needs to sit by herself for a while. I can't tell you that he spends rest time curled in my lap because "it makes me feel better to hear your heart, Teacher." I can't tell you that I have been meticulously tracking her aggressive incidents for 3 months, and that she has dropped from 5 incidents a day, to 5 incidents a week. I can't tell you that the school secretary has agreed that I can send him to the office to "help" when I can tell he needs a change of scenery. I can't tell you that I have stood up in a staff meeting and, with tears in my eyes, BEGGED my colleagues to keep an extra close eye on her, to be kind to her even when they are frustrated that she just punched someone AGAIN, and this time, RIGHT IN FRONT OF A TEACHER.*

*The thing is... there are SO MANY THINGS I can't tell you about That Child. I can't even tell you the good stuff. I can't tell you that his classroom job is to water the plants, and that he cried with heartbreak when one of the plants died over winter break. I can't tell you that she kisses her baby sister goodbye every morning, and whispers "You are my sunshine" before mom pushes the stroller away. I can't tell you that he knows more about thunderstorms than most meteorologists. I can't tell you that she often asks to help sharpen the pencils during playtime. I can't tell you that she strokes her best friend's hair at rest time. I can't tell you that when a classmate is crying, he rushes over with his favorite stuffy from the story corner. The thing is dear parent that I can only talk to you about YOUR child.*

So, what I can tell you is this:

*If ever, at any point, YOUR child, or any of your children, becomes THAT child...I will not share your personal family business with other parents in the classroom. I will communicate with you frequently, clearly, and kindly. I will make sure there are tissues nearby at all our meetings, and if you let me, I will hold your hand when you cry. I will advocate for your child and family to receive the highest quality of specialist services, and I will cooperate with those professionals to the fullest possible extent. I will make sure your child gets extra love and affection when she needs it most. I will be a voice for your child. I will, no matter what happens, continue to look for, and to find, the good, amazing, special, and wonderful things about your child. I will remind him and YOU of those good amazing special wonderful things, over and over again. And when another parent comes to me, with concerns about YOUR child...I will tell them all of this, all over again.*

*With so much love,  
Teacher*

## **CEDARVILLE ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD**



In Washington D.C., on November 10-11, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized 337 schools as the 2014 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools, based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in improving student academic achievement. The Department honored 287 public and 50 private schools which included **East Allen County Schools' Cedarville Elementary**.



On Friday, November 14, the entire Cedarville Elementary student body and staff celebrated receiving the National Blue Ribbon Award! The Leo High School Band set the atmosphere by rendering celebration music as guests arrived.

Several parents, community members and government officials were also in attendance. Dr. Folks read a proclamation on behalf of Senator Joe Donnelly. A representative from Congressman Marlin Stutsman's office presented the students and staff with a statement from the Congressman, and State Representative Casey Cox was present to extend his congratulations. EACS board members also congratulated students and staff for a job well done!

Most importantly, students received a blue helium balloon, ice cream, a magnet, and a bookmark celebrating our school's tradition towards excellence. Check out the video reminiscing some of our favorite times.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HT1Nvv5uPJA&list=UUumqDybQgupj697YNcPamHQ>

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### **Thank You Blue Bell Creameries...**



You may see Blue Bell Ice Cream at your favorite grocery store. Their home office is in Brenham, Texas. But even though they are so far away, they reached out to Cedarville Elementary last week. They had heard we were celebrating our Blue Ribbon Award and company executives hand delivered over 700 ice cream treats for the students, staff, and guests on Friday. Blue Bell Creameries produces over 250 different frozen products. Of these, 66 are flavors of ice cream. Twenty of the flavors are offered year-round, while an additional two to three dozen are offered seasonally. In addition to ice cream, the company produces frozen yogurt, sherbet, and an array of frozen treats on a stick. So, the next time you are having a craving, think Blue Bell Ice Cream.



### **More Celebration Pictures...**



# Art to Remember

## Art to Remember Late Orders ...

Online late orders are available through January 16, 2015. You can, by accessing [Arttoremember.com](http://Arttoremember.com), place an online order with your child's individual access code that was located on the Art To Remember packet brochure. All online orders placed now through January 16<sup>th</sup>, will be shipped to Cedarville in late January/early February.

© Thank you for helping the Cedarville Art program!

If you have any questions please contact:

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### Komets Report Card Night...



On Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Fort Wayne Komets will recognize students in the area for their academic prowess.

One free ticket will be provided to any student who receives an "A" or "A Equivalent" on this month's report card. Just take the report card to the Coliseum Ticket Office any time between now and game night and cheer the Komets onto victory against the Greenville Road Warriors at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum @ 7:30 p.m.

### Principal for the Day...



On Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Mr. Steve McMichael, local business owner and realtor, as **Principal for the Day**. Mr. McMichael's visit was part of a district-wide event to promote understanding and build relationships between schools and the business community. As "Principal", Mr. McMichael had the opportunity to experience a "typical" day in our school, including welcoming students in the morning, a tour of the building, classroom observations, time to meet and visit with some of our staff members and students, and an overview of other administrative duties.

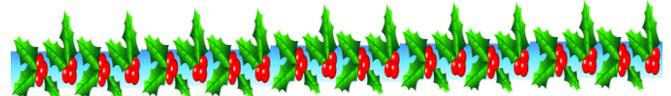


Share the joy of the Christmas holidays with families in need by bringing non-perishable food items to place under the Christmas tree in the school's front entrance. Canned meats/fish (such as canned beef, tuna, or sardines), canned fruits or vegetables, dry goods, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, laundry products, and paper products will be accepted.



All items will be donated to Leo United Methodist Church and Grabill Food Bank. Collection ends Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Best wishes for a safe and prosperous new year!



### Mark Your Calendar...

- Nov. 19: Collaboration Day – dismiss @ 3:10
- Nov. 21: Popcorn/Pretzel Friday and Spirit Day
- Nov. 22: **Komets' Report Card Night**
- Nov. 24: Canned Food Drive begins
- Nov. 26: Collaboration Day – dismiss @ 3:10
- Nov. 27 – 28: Thanksgiving Break – **NO SCHOOL**
- Dec. 1: Character Counts November/December is "Fairness Month"
- Dec. 2: Winter Music Program for grade 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 5: PTO Meeting @ CEEL 9:30 a.m.
- Dec. 11: Winter Music Program for grade 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12: Labels for Education collection day
- Dec. 17: Canned Food Drive ends
- Dec. 18: **Class Holiday Parties**
- Dec. 19: End of Second Grading Period and First Semester Popcorn/Pretzel Friday and SPIRIT DAY
- Dec. 19: 
- Dec. 22- Jan. 2: Holiday Break – NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 5: Teachers' In-service Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

