



# Cedar River Elementary

December 8, 2023

What You Otter Know

## Note from the Principal

Dear Otter Families,

This time of year is always a fun time at school. It's so delightful to see the excitement in the eyes of our Otters, as they share about their planned activities over holiday break. We have a few exciting events coming up to share with you. First, our Honor Choir will be performing a concert next Thursday evening, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Bauer and our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade choir students have been practicing and are ready to perform. We hope you can make it. Also, our Student Leadership Team has planned our first Spirit Day of the year for next Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to come to school in 'comfy' clothing. These can include pajamas, sweats, or any clothing your child finds comfortable. More information is being shared with students via school announcements. On behalf of the CRES staff, I want to thank you for the gift of partnership you have given us in the education of students. We truly value your support as we work together to cause learning for all kids. Our HOPE is that you all have a peaceful and joyous holiday season filled with good friends and family love.

Warmly,  
Fritz Gere  
Cedar River Elementary, Principal

Tahoma High School Leadership is hosting Winterfest on December 13th from 5-7 p.m.! There will be tons of holiday games and prizes, along with a story corner! Everyone who attends can also enjoy FREE hot chocolate and apple cider. There is no cost to attend this event, and if you would like to support the community, we invite you to bring non-perishable cans of food for donation



### Math Support

Did you know that we have a K-5 Math Support Site that is FILLED with resources that families can use to support their lil' mathematicians at home? Check it out:

[K-5 Math Support Site](#)



**General Meeting** - Our next PTO meeting will be December 11 at 7:00 in the school library or virtual via link provided on PTO Facebook page.

**Spirit Nights** - Crown Donuts, Dec 15-17

**Glow Dance Fundraiser** - Thank you to everyone who participated in the Glow Dance and fundraised! What a fun event! We raised \$5,623.00 from Glow Dance fundraising - Way to go Otters!

**Yearbooks** - Yearbook prices go up on 12/15! [Get yours now by clicking here.](#)

**Yearbooks Dedications** - 5th grade dedication spaces are now available for purchase on the PTO website.

**Wreath Fundraiser** - Our Wreath fundraiser raised \$584.50 - Impressive and what beautiful wreaths they are!

**Staff Appreciation** - We have a *Teacher's Favorite Things* list and our Amazon Wishlist to stock the staff room. If you would like to help us stock the staff room with goodies for the staff, use this link- <https://www.crespto.net/programs/staff-appreciation>

# Cedar River Elementary

December 8, 2023

What You Otter Know

## We Are Future Ready

I hope you are looking forward to fun times with family and friends over Winter Break! November's Future Ready Skill was Responsible Decision Maker. Below are the learning targets for each grade level. This is a progression, each grade level may add one or two, but also includes the ones from the prior grade level.

### Kindergarten

- I can identify safe, responsible and respectful choices.

### 1st Grade

- I can think about (brainstorm) all of the choices I could make.

### 2nd Grade

- I can think about my choices and how they may affect me or others.

### 3rd Grade

- I can choose the best option, take action, and communicate my choice.

### 4th Grade

- I can accept responsibility and the consequences of my choices.

### 5th Grade

- I can reflect and evaluate the results of my choices.
- I can make safe, responsible, and respectful choices.

Students are also learning about their thinking and feeling parts of their brains, the Pre-Frontal Cortex (PFC or Wise Owl), the Amygdala (Guard Dog), and the Hippocampus (Memory Saver represented by an elephant). They are also learning calm-down strategies to use when an emotion gets too big and their Amygdala (Guard Dog) takes over and they Flip Their Lid, or in other words, speak or act without thinking. Students also learned how gratitude can help us be mindful and can wire our brain to be more positive.

### December's Future Ready Skill is Quality Producer

#### Kindergarten

- I can choose and use appropriate tools to complete my work.
- I can identify steps to do my best work.

Students learned about symmetry and drew half of a butterfly to complete a drawing.

#### 1st Grade

- I can pay attention to details in my work.

Students created art using their names in a grid with all uppercase letters and created a color pattern using at least two colors in each square.

#### 2nd Grade

- I can be creative and original in my work.

Students used the eye of a scientist and drew and colored a picture of a swallowtail butterfly by studying a photograph.

#### 3rd Grade

- I can identify ways to improve my work.

Students colored a detailed bookmark of their choice using a variety of mediums.

#### 4th Grade

- I can make a plan to meet a goal.

Students created a snowflake with their first names. It took a lot of focus and attention to details.

#### 5th Grade

- I can use criteria, self-reflection, and feedback from others to meet my goal and improve my work.

Students created a nameplate in the style of Romero Britto.

January's Future Ready Skill is Effective Communicator. February's Future Ready Skill is Collaborative Teammate. Students will also be learning about identifying emotions and how to calm big and/or uncomfortable emotions when they arise.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to continuing to build your child's confidence in their Social/Emotional and Future Ready Skills.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Johnson

National Board Certified Teacher - TK-5<sup>th</sup> Future Ready Specialist

## Calling All Future Otters!

Online enrollment for the 2024-25 kindergarten school year has begun. For more information, click [HERE](#).

## Zero Hour Link

### Counselor's Corner

Hello Otter families,

Lunch bunch is going strong! Students seem to really be enjoying it and making connections. Each teacher has two passes and rotates who attends. This is optional, the focus is building community. I also have started small skills groups. These groups will continue after winter break. The goal is to learn/practice social emotional skills and have fun together. I'm also continuing to teach Second Step Lessons (Tahoma's SEL curriculum) in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

Below are resources available for families in our community. Maple Valley Food Bank and Vine Maple Place also have programs for holiday help.

- [Maple Valley Food Bank](#)
- [Vine Maple Place - Ending Homelessness](#)
- [Tahoma Wellness Support](#)
- [King County Holiday Assistance Programs - Free Food And Gifts \(ths-wa.org\)](#)

Please contact me if you have questions, need resources, scholarships, support or would like me to check in with your child.

Warmly,

Kalei McKittrick

CRES Counselor

[kmckittr@tahomasd.us](mailto:kmckittr@tahomasd.us) 425-413-5440