



Cedar River Elementary

January 25, 2024

What You Otter Know

Hello Otter Families,

Conferences will begin Monday, January 29th. We highly value your involvement in your child's education, and these conferences serve as a crucial platform for open communication between parents and teachers. Your insights and support contribute significantly to the overall success and well-being of our students.

During the conferences, our dedicated teachers will provide you with a comprehensive overview of your child's academic performance, as well as insights into their social and emotional development. This is also an ideal time to address any questions or concerns you may have and to work together to ensure your child's continued success. We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is key to fostering a positive and enriching learning environment for our students.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to seeing you at the Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Sara Spangler

Zero Hour Link

New classes have been added, check them out here.

Conference Week Schedule

Monday 9:10-12:50	Tuesday 9:10-12:50	Wednesday 9:10-12:50	Thursday 9:10-12:50	Friday 9:10-1:50 Normal Early Release
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PTO NEWS

(click above for the PTO website)

General Meeting - Our next PTO meeting will be Monday, February 12 at 7:00pm in the school library. We will have CRES admin as guest speakers to discuss recent survey results.

Yearbooks - Have you ordered your yearbook yet? Final sales for them ends March 1st. [Get yours now by clicking here.](#) Keep sending in yearbook photos to yearbook@crespto.net

Yearbooks Dedications - [5th grade dedication spaces are now available for purchase](#) on the PTO website until 2/9.

Family Fun Paint Night - Family Fun Paint Night with Clayopatra February 9 from 6-8pm. Kits need to be ordered by February 7.

WatchD.O.G.S - Want to sign up to be a WatchDOG? [Here is the sign up for the rest of the year.](#) Remember you must be cleared as a volunteer to sign up.

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>

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Are You Future Ready?

Dear Otterly Awesome Families,

In January, our Future Ready Foundations lessons were focused on the Effective Communicator Future Ready Skill, as well as learning about and celebrating how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an Effective Communicator.

Students are also learning about the thinking and feeling parts of their brains: the pre-frontal cortex, the hippocampus, and the amygdala and their specific functions. These lessons help students understand that their brains can change and grow. They learn that when they recognize and understand what's happening in their brains when they feel a strong emotion, they can use calm-down strategies to keep their pre-frontal cortex in control or can get it back in control if they "flip their lids". This knowledge empowers students to stop and think before they act or speak.

In addition, we are beginning our unit on Identifying and Understanding Emotions. I have included a link from Vanderbilt University that you may find useful as you help your child learn this important skill of identifying and understanding their emotions. https://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/documents/teaching_emotions.pdf

Learning targets for each grade level for Effective Communicator are listed below. Each grade level builds on the previous learning target, fifth grade students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of all learning targets.

Kindergarten

- I can listen carefully to others and respond appropriately.

1st Grade

- I can identify a clear purpose for communicating.

2nd Grade

- I can choose the best way to communicate my ideas.

3rd Grade

- I can consider my audience.

4th Grade

- I can pay attention to my audience and change my communication as necessary.

5th Grade

- I can use appropriate media and technologies to support my message.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions (kjohnson@tahomasd.us)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Johnson

PreK-5 Future Ready Specialist
National Board Certified Teacher

2024-25 Kindergarten Registration is Open

Kindergarten registration for next school year (2024-25) is now open for children turning age 5 on or before August 31, 2024. If you have a little one, or have a neighbor who does, please visit www.tahomasd.us/kindergarten to get started.

Families are encouraged to register by Jan. 31, 2024 (or as soon as possible) to receive important communication about transition events, such as Kindergarten Assessments, Kindergarten Camp and Family Connection Meetings.

Would you enjoy working at your child's school?

Hello Families,

We have hired some great new staff members at Cedar River, but we wish we had even more. We are still in need of substitute paraeducators. This is a great option for those of you who would love a more flexible option to work with the best students and staff around! Even if you are only able to work one day a week, we love having Otter parents as substitutes. If you are interested, please check out our hiring portal here:

<https://www.tahomasd.us/employment>

The Substitute Paraeducator position can be found on page two. The location says Central Service Center, but once you are hired as a substitute you can select which schools you are willing to work at.

Thank you for considering!

Fritz Gere

Cedar River Elementary Principal