



Cedar River Elementary

February 2, 2024

What You Otter Know

Principal's Letter

Hello Otter Families,

Thank you for attending conferences this year. Our teachers appreciate the opportunity to share and learn with you regarding the academic and social growth of our Otter students. On another note, I hope you will consider attending the PTO general membership meeting on Monday February 12 at 7:00 PM in our library. We look forward to gathering feedback from our parent community on what you feel is going well and areas we might grow in our support of students. Have a great week.

Warmly,
Fritz Gere
Cedar River Elementary, Principal

Zero Hour Link

New classes have been added, check them out here.

PTO NEWS

(click above for the PTO website)

PTO Spirit Wear Store - We are excited to announce the opening of the PTO's CRES Spirit Wear site! This store will be open year round and offer multiple sales throughout the year. [Take a look here](#) and see all the cool designs and customizable pieces offered. Enjoy 25% off site wide for our grand opening until 2/13!!

O.A.R. - January reading logs are due now! Please turn logs into teachers by Wednesday 2/7. [Find your February reading log here.](#)

Code Ninja Fundraiser - A coding and Stem workshop for kids K-8 - \$30 Per kid.

1. Dates: Feb 3rd, Feb 10th, Feb 24th 12:30 - 2:00 PM
2. Event Link: <https://cn.mystudio.io/e/?=cncovington/411/30617//1705978926>
3. Details: Code Ninjas Covington: 17265 SE Wax Rd. Ste 104, Covington, WA 98042

Family Fun Paint Night - Family Fun Paint Night with Clayopatra February 9 from 6-8pm. **Kits need to be ordered by February 7.** [Click here to purchase a kit.](#)

Yearbooks Dedications - [5th grade dedication spaces are now available for purchase](#) on the PTO website. **Deadline for purchasing and sending photos is 2/9.**

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

WatchD.O.G.S - Want to sign up to be a WatchDOG? [Click here to sign-up.](#) Remember you must be cleared as a volunteer to sign up.

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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 as soon as possible to receive important communication about transition events, such as Kindergarten Assessments, Kindergarten Camp and Family Connection Meetings.

Greetings from Gym A and Gym B!

The long awaited sign up for 5th grade track is now open on the CRES website Zero Hour page. If your child is interested in running in the morning and participating in an elementary district track meet on May 17th, please have them join us for Zero Hour. The track meet will be at MVMS on May 17th from 2:30-6pm.

Reminder...February 12th – 16th, we will check in with students on their fitness concepts of cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength/ endurance, and flexibility. Students will also look at previous pacer run, push-ups, and sit and reach goals to adjust where needed and identify improvements over the last few months.

Please be sure that your student is prepared for their PE classes during the week with gym shoes.

Mr. & Mrs. Milligan
PE Specialists

Counselor's Corner

Hello Otter Families,

I want to tell you about an exciting program I am teaching in one of our 4th grade classrooms. It is called Roots of Empathy. <https://rootsofempathy.org/>. As the Roots of Empathy Instructor, I have introduced the class to Baby Karter, a "Tiny Teacher", a baby from our community that the class will get to know through 9 monthly visits to the classroom. Over the course of the school year, we will watch the baby grow. I will also coach students in observing and reading the emotional cues of the baby. I am using this discussion as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel. Roots of Empathy is founded on the loving relationship between a parent and baby, which is where empathy starts.

Roots of Empathy is an award-winning program delivered in every province of Canada and on four continents around the globe. Roots of Empathy is a tried, tested, and proven effective program that increases children's kindness, caring, including, sharing and helping behaviors as they develop empathy. Research from 3 continents shows that as empathy develops, aggression and bullying behaviors are reduced. I am so excited to have this program at Cedar River!

As a reminder, 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 425-413-5440

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