

Pond Street Press



Happy
Thanksgiving

November 2020 Issue

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COVID Adjustments - Hybrid Model Opinions from The Teachers

By ~ Anne Gordon



This past week, I spoke with CMS teachers to get their thoughts on the hybrid learning model. Reactions were differing from enjoying the many benefits that the hybrid model presents, to the difficulties of teaching students in-class and remote at the same time. I spoke with Ms. Jewell, the 7th grade science teacher first, to get her thoughts.

“I love seeing the kids, even if it's not all five days a week!” Mrs. Jewell observed. Mrs. Jewell also expressed concern about some challenges with the new model. She explained, “I miss seeing the kids all five days, it does take a ton of work to prepare lessons and grade assignments.”

With safety as a top priority during this pandemic, most teachers agreed that the hybrid model has been a good decision. Mrs. St. Peter, the 6th grade science teacher, noted that, “It allows people to stay home when they are ill and not worry about work and makes everyone feel safer.” However, “Blending the 2 platforms (in-person and online) at once is hard,” added Mrs. St. Peter. The topic of synchronous (everyone, in-person and remote, working on the same assignment) and asynchronous (in-person and remote students working on different assignments) teaching was also important. Ms. Jewell finds the synchronous model most effective. “I am experimenting with both synchronous and asynchronous, and am finding that the synchronous model is working better for me and my students.” But, she would also like to try new ways of engaging with students. “I'd like to incorporate more experiential (hands-on) activities that are both safe and engaging for students so it feels a little more like our usual science class.”

Mrs. Carmody, the 8th grade English teacher, finds the new model tricky. “It’s difficult and new for everyone. I give the students in school an assignment, and the remote students another.” The use of technology in the classroom is now a necessity. Mrs. Carmody has embraced this opportunity. “I like that it’s allowed me to use technology in a more meaningful way.” Mrs. St. Peter also sees hybrid learning as a great chance for teachers to learn from each other’s experiences. “Educators should also be given professional development time to share technology tips and best teaching practices to ensure the hybrid model works well for everyone.”

We are in unprecedented times. As CMS Skippers, we will navigate these uncharted waters and we will continue to learn, improve, and succeed together. As Mrs. Carmody observes, “I think we are very creative as individuals. We can make some alterations to the schedule to improve everyone's experience.”

Stay tuned for the student opinions on the hybrid model in the next issue of “The Pond Street Press”!

Photo credit ~ Eva Harries



Day of the Dead

By ~ Sari Reyes



While everybody is sad that Halloween is over, Mexico is just beginning to celebrate. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Day of the Dead is a holiday that originates from Mexico. The two day celebration of family and friends that have passed away.

The Mexicans aren’t the only people who like to celebrate Dia De Los Muertos. Señorita Lima is also excited and she has decorated her room with a traditional altar filled with sugar skulls, pictures, paper flowers, and photos of skeletons.

“ I love the idea of everyone coming together and all of the decorations,” Señorita Lima shared.

To enrich students in the culture of this holiday, the sixth graders have been watching movies and videos about this day.

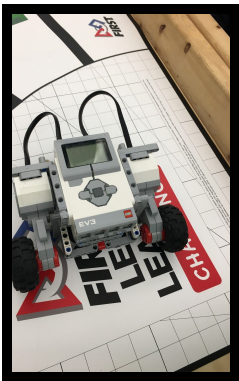
Down the hallway, Señora Barry prepared for the Day of the Dead as well. Like Señorita Lima, this Spanish teacher has decked out her room with decorations. The 8th graders work on cultural significance and customs. They also decorate paper skulls with bright colors.

“ I really like the bright colors and decorations, “ Señora Barry added. Señora Barry loves the idea of all of the Mexican holidays, such as, Cinco De Mayo, and the Running of the Bulls.

Overall, these teachers celebrate what this day is really about; remembering our loved ones who have passed and celebrating their amazing lives. They share the holiday, the decorations and most of all the rich Mexican culture.

Robotics Club At CMS

By ~ Aidan Donnelly



The Robotics Club has started up again at CMS, and they're ready to tackle this year's challenge. CMS is lucky to have four teams organized by grade level and cohort. Each team meets once a week for an hour after school with Mr. Erlandsen and Mrs. St. Peter.

All of this work is so that the teams can participate in The First Lego League competition. This year's challenge is called RePLAY, which the step counter, the basketball hoop, the big tire, and the bench press. Teams will be working together to design and then code a functioning robot made of Legos. After the robot is built and equipped with attachments for each task, teams must code it to successfully complete its designed function. On each task, there will be a different number of points awarded depending on how well the robot performs.

All of the team's hard work will pay off in December when the competition will happen via Zoom. If it can't happen via Zoom, then the CMS



teams will compete against each other. Do you think the teams will perform well? We'll find out in December or January's issue! (Photo Credit - Finley Sheffield & Hadley Berns)

Pink Day!

By ~ Aidan Donnelly and Will Chisholm



Did you know that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month?

Eighth Grade Civics Teacher, Mrs. Gordon, noted, "I think it's very important to be aware that not everyone has enough help and need some more help. I

think that Pink Day will send good cheer to people that need it in order to stay happy."

Most of the teachers wore pink to support this great spirit day. Many students have shown their support with pink masks or pink ribbons.

This spirit day was started to raise awareness for people that needed help paying for their medical bills while going through treatment. Some of the money also goes to finding new treatments and cures for breast cancer.

Pink Day was started in 1992 by the Estee Lauder Cosmetics Company. It is now 28 years old. The company handed out 1.5 million pink ribbons to people all over the world! Since then about 3 million dollars have been donated to foundations that support people with



breast cancer. Pink Day helps raise awareness and money for breast cancer. Let's show our support! Happy Pink Day CMS! (Photo Credit: Eva Harries)

CMS Newspaper Program

By ~ William Chisholm

Cohasset Middle School has its own newspaper program called *The Pond Street Press*.

Founded two years ago, the school newspaper allows for the students of Cohasset Middle School to write about what is going

on at the school and in the community and to fill in the other

students. The newspaper program is held on Mondays at 3:00 to 3:45

P.M. for Cohort A and Thursdays for Cohort B. *The Pond Street*

Press will release a new issue every month. Students can get the

latest news on a special Google Classroom and parents will be emailed a .pdf of the paper.

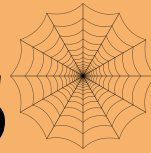
To date, nineteen 6th grade members, three 7th graders, and three 8th graders have signed up as writers, editors, photographers and graphic designers. The students are all committed to accurately reporting what's happening at Cohasset Middle School and presenting the information in an engaging manner.

Even though we have only finished one paper this year, we all think as a group that you will love to hear what has been going on throughout the two months we have had school. And don't worry the news will keep getting better and better. You can see the specific staff members' names at the bottom. (Photo credit: Hadley Berns)





THE ARTS AT CMS



The Art Room

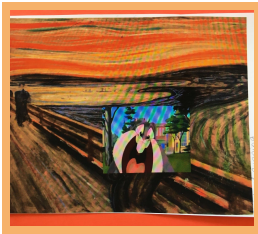
By ~ Sari Reyes

Everyone has an artistic side and Mrs. Swartz let those sides shine. For the last few weeks, our fellow peers have been making Halloween artwork and creating fun takes on the well known painting "Scream" by Edward Munch.

Sixth grade students have been working on special holiday artwork, making fun compositions, and creating overlaps with geometric shapes. To link the learning to the Halloween season, they have been



making pumpkins and overlapping them with other spine - chilling shapes. 6th graders have been making some Halloween specials with toilet paper tubes and decorating them with paper, pipe cleaners, googly eyes and more. Every grade has been making spooky variations on the traditional Edvard Munch scream painting. Turning the painting into beautiful, fearful, and humorous pieces of art.



Meanwhile, the 7th graders are hard at work creating works of art focusing on emphasis and changing color, shape, size and more. Unfortunately, our fellow peers have come to a conflict because of the in school - remote schedule. Because of this, these projects have taken a bit longer than expected. "Everyone works at different speeds," said Mrs Swartz, the art teacher. Even if some of our 7th grade peers have finished their emphasis work, Mrs Swartz has come up with more projects for these artists to make. " I get a lot of Inspiration from Pinterest, " Mrs. Swartz mentions.

In addition to 6th and 7th grade art class, Mrs. Swartz also teaches the 8th graders to play with different techniques. The 8th graders are working on some 9 square media artwork. The students have been hard at work for a couple of weeks getting these projects done.

While our fellow peers are working hard with their artistic projects, they have inspiration to help them get through to their art. Mrs Swartz helps everyone whether it is coming up with projects or assigning them she is always there to help you. Scream, square media, overlapping designs, toilet paper designed rolls, and emphasis are all ways to show off your creativity and artistic side.

Artwork above by: Max Crews (Home Alone kid), Michael Cunning (Tasmanian Devil Screaming) Amanda Fox (Autumn Tree) Photo Credit: Hadley Berns & Eva Harries

EDITORIALS

We should have a CMS Basketball Team

By ~ Charlie Manewal



I was working on a project about school sports when I discovered something shocking; we don't have a middle school basketball team! As a dedicated basketball player, I find this incredibly unappealing. We have plenty of talented players here, so give us a team! We need to show our school spirit by attending and playing sports. Spirit isn't just for high schoolers. We are represented in school government, why not let us stand for our school on the court, the turf, or the diamond?

"We hoped to start with cross country, then work our way up," says Principal John Mills when asked about the subject. Isn't basketball a better starting point than cross country, which is a significantly less popular sport? No offense to our track superstars, but nobody really says, 'I can't wait for the big *solitary* running meet.'" You can't really stand and cheer for a track team.

We should make it our goal by 2022 to have a Basketball team representing the Cohasset Middle School. Who's in?

Trick or treat

By ~ Jay Naples

Ah, Halloween. The great holiday when little kids all across the country wear costumes and get candy all night long! But, will this great holiday get cancelled? In this editorial, I; Jay Naples will be sharing my thoughts on halloween this year and what I think should happen!

To state the elephant in the room, I think masks are required. But, that is not a bad thing. This allows us to get really creative with our costumes! But, on the other hand we still have to be socially distanced. You can't give out candy while being socially distanced (other than putting a bowl on our steps).

We also can't have large groups of people. No parties, no sleepovers, nothing! Maybe a small party of 7-10 people would be ok. We could maybe up the numbers to 15 people if they wear masks the whole time and stay outside. I say you should check peoples temperatures to make sure they are fully healthy and you should ask them if they have come close to someone with Covid-19 in the last 14 days.

But as of now, this is what I *personally* think should happen. There are Halloween guidelines posted by Mass.Gov and you should follow those rules not mine! (These are just suggestions!)

I hope Halloween will happen, but it is doubtful. At the least, you can go buy some candy and binge watch scary movies.



SPORTS



Field Hockey

By ~ Saoirse O'Duggan



COVID-19 has negatively changed yet another activity; field hockey. Masks make it hard for players to breathe after running up and down the field.

Social distancing challenges the girls when they try to do drills and play in games. All of

the precautions girls have to take to play safely, make the sport very different.

Practices are held at different fields depending on the grades. Fifth and sixth graders, meet at the deer hill field. Whereas, the seventh and eighth graders practice on the CMS turf. During these sessions, the girls learn and work on basic skills. (Of course, they do all this while following COVID-19 safety guidelines.)

Now the craziest part; the Coronavirus safety precautions. As I said before COVID-19 has made a big impact on Cohasset's girls field hockey. It has players wearing masks, social distancing and still trying to play normally! Even with a low contact sport like field hockey, it is still hard to keep apart. These precautions are a huge struggle for the girls who play. Because, they can't always keep their distance. It has also been made clear not to attend practice or games if a player is not feeling well.



Games have surely changed a whole lot as well. For example, the Cohasset team is only playing against Hingham's girls. The players still look forward to some friendly competition. The games are once a week and last about one hour.

To wrap it up, COVID-19 has *heavily* impacted girls field hockey. From its guidelines to crazy safety precautions! It's clear that girls playing the sport do not have it easy. But, they are adjusting to the change well. They stay positive and have fun even during these tough times!

Town Soccer Update

By ~ Ollie Buckley, Sports Page Editor

Soccer in Cohasset has started back up with COVID-19 rules that have altered the game as a whole. The Board of Cohasset Town Soccer has worked hard to create a set of new rules that follow the COVID-19 guidelines.

The biggest change, however, is the fact that travel teams no longer play other towns. Instead, all the different teams in an age group are mixed up into teams of about eight players and teams play each other randomly each week. This idea was from the fear of spreading cases from town to town. One of the new rules within the sport are kick-ins instead of thrown-ins to avoid contaminating the ball. However kick-ins have to be on the ground, so if the ball is kicked in the air and accidentally hits another player in the arm, the ball won't be contaminated. The students also

have to wear masks throughout the game, but are given the opportunity to take down their mask for a couple clean breaths if they are 6 feet apart from other players. Lastly, there is no heading the ball and you are highly advised not to touch the ball with your hands when setting it up for a kick.

Club soccer has a partially different set of rules. The ball can go in the air on kick-ins and the referees ease off mask break rules a little bit more than in town soccer.

When asked about the new rules in soccer this year, the club and Cohasset Town Soccer player, Garrett Wimberly, said the rules affect his ability to play the sport because he is used to getting the ball quickly up the field, but when the ball has to stay on the ground, it prevents him from penetrating the defense. He also stated, "I like the new rules because the kick-ins are more fun, but they are also harder to defend."

Although some of the Coronavirus rules for town soccer can be annoying, I'm sure many people are happy Cohasset Town Soccer is happening, while some other sports cannot.

SOS - Save our Skippers!

By ~ Charlie Manewal



Due to COVID, most sports are grasping at attempts to survive. School sports were hit the hardest. Are the Skippers going to compete this year?

"I don't know for sure," says Wellness Teacher Michael Pimental. "I know they were hoping to do them." Mr Pimental volunteers for the running team.

"I hope so," says Principal John Mills. "By that, I mean we have to make sure that we can do it safely." When pressed further, he noted that it would only be possible if other schools nearby would be willing to participate. He was asked by our reporters about Mr Pimental's cross country team. Mr. Mills commented on the Skippers. "We had hoped to have it in the fall, but now we're looking to have it as a

spring sport.” The principal noted that the school would need to get parents to sign up to chaperone clubs, teams and extracurricular activities.

Join the News Crew! Positions needed: editors and reporters. Sign up anytime in Room 234.

THE POND STREET PRESS

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