



CHERRY PARK ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE IMMERSION



What Do We Learn from Groundhog Day?

It's official. Spring will come early because the groundhog did not see his shadow on yesterday. Of course, that is a silly belief, but we will attribute any warm and sunny days in February to our friend, the groundhog. This belief has been passed from generation to generation. We pass on all kinds of beliefs about learning to our kids as well. Here are a few examples. "I wasn't good at math so you won't be either." "Learning will always come easy to you because you have a high IQ." "You won't need that (music, art, PE, science, etc.) to be successful in life." "It (whatever the problem is) isn't really that big of a deal." "Don't worry, it won't hurt to miss some of your class time." I have learned that our children live up to our expectations whether those expectations are good or bad. They believe what we believe. That places a huge responsibility on us as parents and teachers to be thoughtful about what we are "really" teaching our kids. Have they picked up our bad habits? Are they repeating what we wish they wouldn't? Do their beliefs about themselves and their learning reflect what we want them to know and do? Believing that spring is coming sooner than later because the groundhog didn't see his shadow is pretty harmless. This may be a good reminder for all of us to reflect on what our kids believe because of our example. It will be time well spent.

Mr. Maness, Principal

Erin's Law

Over the next few months, our guidance counselors (Mrs. Sanders and Ms. Brooks) will teach lessons related to Erin's Law concerning how kids can keep themselves safe. Attached is a letter

about our instruction. This curriculum is the same units we have taught over the past few years. If you have any questions, you can contact Mrs. Sanders or Ms. Brooks.

Information Night for Spanish Speaking Parents on February 11 at 6:00 PM

We will host an Information Night for our Spanish Speaking Parents on Monday, February 11 from 6:00-7:00 PM. During this time, we will update parents on enrolling rising kindergarten students, enrolling rising sixth graders for immersion in middle school and new procedures at Cherry Park Elementary. We will also have time for questions and answers. Computers will be available for School of Choice applications. (We will send this information out in Spanish as well. See attached flyer in Spanish.)

Valentine's Day

Your child's teacher will be sending home information this week about Valentine's Day parties on February 14. Please follow their lead concerning what will work best for them and their classes. While we appreciate parents being willing to provide items, there can be a point where there is too much. Please also remember that any food coming into our school must have labels and must be store bought so that we can track down ingredients if a student has a food allergy. I will send more information soon giving you clear guidance about food brought into the school.

Sixth Grade Letter of Intent for Middle School Immersion

Attached is a letter explaining the process for continuing in the immersion program in middle school. We realize that there are some information meetings ahead that will help provide guidance in making this decision. You can go to the [Sixth Grade Immersion Letter of Intent](#) link to complete your application for middle school immersion. We would like to have these completed by February 19 if at all possible.

Sullivan Middle School Immersion Parent Night (For Current 5th grade & 6th grade Immersion Families.) Thursday, February 7 at 6:00 PM in the Sullivan Auditorium

Everyone is welcome! We will:

- Inform immersion families about immersion at Sullivan
- Provide insight into the transition from Cherry Park Elementary to Sullivan Middle immersion
- Explain the 6th-grade immersion curriculum
- Current 6th-grade students will share testimonials
- Explain 7th-grade immersion
- School Tours for Sullivan will be January 23 and February 13 from 8:30-10:00 AM

First Grade French Immersion Next Fall

Please help pass on the word to other families that we are going to allow a limited number of new students to join our First Grade French classes next fall. Current kindergarten students who are not at CPESOLI can apply for First Grade French Immersion for next fall. They must

complete the application by February 28. Limited slots are available. (This is only for French Immersion in first grade for next year.)

School of Choice Calendar

The application window opened **December 3 and stays open until February 28**. If you have a rising kindergarten student who has a sibling already in the immersion program, you need to complete a School of Choice application. Rising K5 students who have siblings already in the program are grandfathered into the program if an application is filled out during the application window. You can go to the [School of Choice Webpage](#) to complete the application. Please tell friends and neighbors about our program. We will have tours at CPESOLI on Wednesday, January 30 at 8:00 AM and Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 PM.

Parent Teacher Organization and School Improvement Council Update

The PTO serves to raise funds, coordinate volunteers and encourage teachers through appreciation activities. We had a great meeting last week and minutes from the meeting were sent out earlier this week. We will meet again on **Monday, February 18 at 6:30 PM** to continue organization efforts. We encourage all parents to come and participate. We will meet in the Cherry Park Elementary Library starting in January. Meeting dates have been set for the following Mondays at 6:30 PM for the rest of the year: **March 18, April 22 and May 20**. **Our School Improvement Council will meet on the same days at 5:30 PM** in the Office Conference Room. All parents are invited to attend either or both meetings. Both groups are working on bylaws and have started organizational efforts. There will be a table at Open House to sign up for PTO and to volunteer. **We would like to have at least one representative from each of the schools on the PTO Leadership Team** so we can take the best ideas from all the PTO's and put them into practice for our CPES PTO. The group at PTO divided into committees to work on Bylaws, Fundraising, Volunteers and Teacher Appreciation. We hope you can come and join one of these subcommittees.

Got Questions?

Attached are answers for our Transition FAQ. Please don't forget that you can ask them at our [Transition Survey](#) site. These are being collected and will be answered on our FAQ page on our school website as well.

Calendar Dates

Wednesday, February 6--CARLA Conference School Visit (During the morning we will host 40 attendees of the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition Conference that will be in Charlotte, NC.)

Thursday, February 7—Current Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade Immersion Parent Meeting at 6:00 at Sullivan Auditorium

February 12--Prospective Parent Tour for CPES at 6:30 PM

February 13—8:30-10:00 AM Sullivan Middle School of Choice Tour

February 14—Valentine's Day

February 15 and 18—Bad Weather Makeup Days (School is in session.)

February 18--5:30 PM SIC (Office Conference Room); 6:30 PM PTO (Media Center)

February 23—2:00 Winthrop Back the Pack Game

Attachments:

 [CPES Rising 6th Grade Letter of Intent.pdf](#) (134.0 KB)

 [Erin's Law elementary letter1 \(002\).pdf](#) (207.8 KB)

 [Spanish Immersion meeting.doc](#) (957.5 KB)
