



CRAIG ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Craig Elementary & Middle School December Board Report Principal: Christy House

It's hard to believe that since my last report we have wrapped up quarter one and reached the midpoint of quarter two, with progress reports recently sent home. From the Veterans Day assembly to the Poetry Slam, basketball tournaments, and even an unexpected tree concern, this past month has been full of activity at Craig Elementary and Middle School. These events highlight the flexibility, teamwork, and dedication of our staff and students and reflect the vibrant learning community we are proud to support.

CEMS Staffing Updates

We received the resignation of our middle school social studies teacher, Mr. Jim Anderson, at the end of the first quarter. We are actively seeking a long-term substitute to support the CMS social studies program and maintain continuity of instruction. In the meantime, we are fortunate to have Ms. Daisy McNamara serving as the classroom substitute, and her support has been invaluable. I am currently acting as the teacher of record to ensure that a certified educator oversees instruction and grading during this transition.

Mr. Chuck Hanson also recently resigned from the CMS wrestling head coaching position. We are interviewing candidates this week and hope to move forward with a new hire soon. Mr. Hanson continues to serve as a long-term substitute in the PE/Health position, and we are extremely grateful for his continued support.

We continue to experience paraprofessional vacancies; however, we are pleased to welcome Natasha Durgan, who recently joined our team in one of the open positions.

CEMS Enrollment (as of December 4, 2025)

- **CES:** 86 students
 - **CMS:** 44 students
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CEMS Extracurricular Activities

CMS Basketball – Both the boys' and girls' teams wrapped up their seasons in November, finishing strong at the Stikine Tournament in Wrangell and the Island Tournament hosted in Hydaburg. Congratulations to both teams on a great season!

Cheerleading – Our cheerleading team also wrapped up its season, and we're proud of the spirit, teamwork, and energy they brought to every event.

CEMS Events and Happenings

CES Swimming Lessons – Swimming lessons were recently reinstated for CES students after many years without the program. Fifth grade was the first to return to the pool, and fourth grade is now midway through their sessions. We are grateful to offer this opportunity to our students once again.

Veterans Day Assembly – CMS band students traveled to the high school to perform in the newly established Veterans Day Assembly, organized this year by Ms. Balcom. Ms. James' class also joined the event, delivering heartfelt letters of appreciation to the veterans in attendance.

Food Drive – The CEMS Student Council organized a schoolwide food drive throughout November. All donated items will be provided to families in need. Our students showed wonderful generosity and school spirit—great job, Panthers!

Poetry Slam – CMS students shared impressive ideas and writing at the annual Poetry Slam, a long-standing event started by Mr. Bill Seibel. This year marked his final Poetry Slam, and we extend our heartfelt appreciation for the tradition he created and nurtured. Thank you, Mr. Seibel, for your dedication.

CES Youth Gathering – CES students attended the Youth Gathering and Cultural Day at CTA, a joyful event filled with singing, dancing, painting, weaving, beading, totem pole creation, and celebration of the rich culture of our region. A huge thank-you to everyone who helped bring this meaningful experience to life—our students were thrilled to participate.

Gym Water Shutdown – Due to construction needs, water has been temporarily shut off to the gym, impacting bathrooms and water fountains in that space. Students bring personal water bottles to PE, and a portable outhouse has been placed nearby for emergencies. Students are encouraged to use the restroom before attending PE.

Tree Safety Precaution – CMS students were evacuated from the modular classrooms for part of one afternoon, and through the following day, after concern arose that a nearby tree was leaning toward the buildings. Students and staff moved quickly and calmly to safe spaces within the elementary building, creating a full but friendly environment. Once the area was assessed and deemed safe, students returned to class. We appreciate everyone's calm and flexible response, which helped ensure the situation was handled smoothly.

CEMS Assessment Updates

The Middle-of-Year (MOY) mClass DIBELS assessment is scheduled for the two weeks leading up to winter break. This assessment will provide an updated picture of student reading progress. Our students have been working hard, and we look forward to celebrating their growth.

Upcoming Activities and Events

- **December 9:** CEMS Family Literacy Night @ 5:30
- **December 11:** CES Concert @ 6:30 (CHS Auditorium)
- **December 18:** CMHS Concert @ 6:30 (CHS Auditorium)
- **December 22–Jan 4:** Winter Break
- **January 5:** School Resumes
- **January 15:** End of Quarter 2
- **January 16:** No School – Teacher Work Day
- **February 12:** Parent-Teacher Conferences / Early Dismissal @ 1:45
- **February 13:** Parent-Teacher Conferences – No School

