



# CAMERON CHRONICLE

## 2011-2012

### From the Principal's Desk

#### Welcome!

We want to welcome back our students in grade 7 and 8 and we look forward to greeting our new students in grade 6. This newsletter provides some very important information including the new schedule with times, activities we are planning this month and for the year, information about Open House when we hope parents will come to the school and meet teachers, and much more!

#### Literacy Labs!

This year our efforts will be still concentrating on literacy. This is the ability of all students to read well while improving comprehension, writing, speaking and listening skills. We intend to hold a "literacy lab" every day for 30 minutes. Some students will be concentrating on decoding while others will work on fluency and vocabulary. Some will be studying content matter through an approach that allows students more opportunities to read and draw inferences and participate in discussions. All students have been placed in a group based on assessments they took in the spring. Students either took the DRA (Diagnostic Reading Assessment) in grade 5, or the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing in grades 6 and 7 last year. We analyzed the data and made groups based on individual reading levels. This reading block will be

in addition to the other six blocks of classes each day. In September we will assess all the students in the school once again using the MAP assessment which students take while using computers. We will revisit the groups to ensure all students are in groups at their "just right" reading level. For those students who make excellent progress, they will be able to move from one group to the next as they improve their reading levels. In addition, one day out of the 6 in a cycle we will be doing some Citizenship training. We will continue to educate students about bullying, empathy, dealing with stress, peer pressure and other similar subjects. Each month we will concentrate on something specific and we hope you will support us at home in discussing these issues.

#### Assistant Principal Welcome!

We are very excited this year to have an Assistant Principal, Mr. Stephen Manning. He will be assisting with academics, school culture, and discipline. Mr. Manning has taught at Cameron MS in grades 7 and 8 for ten years and is thrilled to be able to work with students in all three grades and help us continue to provide a quality education to our students. We welcome him aboard with open arms.

**OPEN HOUSE for all parents and guardians will be September 22 from 6:30-8:00 this year.** We would love to have all of you attend and meet

the teachers. You will have an opportunity to hear about our curriculum, talk about instructional methods used in the classroom and ask questions. Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us for this special evening. We begin the evening in the school cafeteria where I will update you about the new teachers and events for this year. This is a great opportunity to see the school and meet all the people associated with your child's education.

### **Schedule**

This year we have the same times as last year even though our schedule is changing. The school's handbook is on line so please take a minute to go to [www.framingham.k12.ma.us/cameron](http://www.framingham.k12.ma.us/cameron) and download the handbook. It has a schedule for the entire year, the trimester schedule, building map and all the procedures that we follow on a daily basis. We begin each day by opening the doors at 7:55 and invite all students to participate in our breakfast program. Students need to be in homeroom at 8:10 each morning or they will be considered late. The first class begins at 8:15. Homeroom is very short. We do the pledge of allegiance and discuss important information that all students should know. The day concludes at 2:25 and students must be on their buses by 2:30. When the after school programs begin, we will have late buses at 4:15. These do not start in early September. More information about after school clubs and C-Camp opportunities will be forthcoming.

### **Food costs!**

Breakfast costs \$1.50 for students who pay the full amount and lunches are \$2.75. These costs have not changed since last year. However, we ask parents/guardians to fill out **free and reduced lunch forms** in early September so that if the cost of these meals is difficult to pay, then your son or daughter can get a free or reduced meal. We need these forms back as soon as possible. The materials

are given out on the first day of school so please fill them out and return them. They are written in three languages: Spanish, Portuguese and English.

### **Opening Day!**

School begins for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. Students in grade 6 should report to the auditorium. Students in grades 7 and 8 should walk upstairs and report directly to their homerooms. The homerooms will be on the schedules we will be sending out in the middle of August. We are still creating the schedules and making sure they are accurate. We have a new computer system so it is taking us a little longer to input the information. Breakfast will be served on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00! During the day the Principal and Assistant Principal will be meeting with all three grades in the auditorium. Students will also meet their teachers. The building is in excellent shape. The custodial staff has outdone themselves. Some of the rooms were painted, the floors waxed, the desks cleaned, the shelves dusted and the lawn manicured. The building is aglow! We are so fortunate to have such a great place to learn and custodians that continue to make it look fantastic and brand new.

### **PTO and School Council dates for the 2011-2012 year**

**October 4, November 1, January 10, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1**

The School Council meetings begin at 5:00 and the PTO meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Both are held in the Cameron library. We would love to have many parents and guardians join us for the PTO meetings each month. At these meetings the administration is always present and we update parents on what is happening in the school. We also have different teachers present who talk about their curriculum and answer questions. So mark your calendars with

these dates. We are looking for some parents to join the School Council. If you are interested, please let Judith Kelly know and we will have parents vote during the Open House if we have a number of interested parents. Drop the principal an email at [jkelly@framingham.k12.ma.us](mailto:jkelly@framingham.k12.ma.us) or call the school main office number if you wish to serve on the School Council.

### **New Staff Members:**

**Deepti Sirohi** is our new eighth grade social studies teacher and the learning disabled teacher for English and mathematics. .

**William Kalinowski** is our seventh grade green team social studies teacher and he will be teaching a literacy lab.

**Mark Baptista** has been in the Framingham system a number of years but joins us as the sixth grade science teacher on the yellow team.

**Robin Fleming** is our new art teacher. She was at Walsh Middle school the past few years.

**Peter August** is an assistant teacher in grade 8 working with Mr. McElearney.

**Kate Porter** is an one to one aide in the sixth grade.

We welcome all these teachers to Cameron Middle School!

### **Calling Students in absent or tardy**

It is important that parents/guardians call the school at 508-879-2290 and press Option 1 to leave a message for the attendance secretary. Please tell your child's name, grade and homeroom. We must hear from an adult if a child is being dismissed, tardy, or absent. If your child is being dismissed then please have your child bring a note to the main office before school begins. If we do not hear from you then we will be calling you to make sure your

child is home. It helps us out greatly if you would contact the school. Remember however, that a child learns best when in school and in class. We know there are occasions when children cannot be present but it is important that all children attend as much as possible. Being tardy also interrupts learning so please try to make all appointments after school is done at 2:25.

### **Homework**

Cameron Middle school gives all students a free agenda homework book to use for the year. We also give each child a homework folder to keep loose papers. We teach students in grade 6 how to use the agenda book and homework folder and our goal is to help students remain organized and learn the skill of knowing what homework needs to be done and when short and long term projects are due. We only charge students if they lose the book we give them on the first day of school. Staying organized, bringing materials back and forth from home to school, and writing down assignments is all part of being a good student. All teachers write their homework assignments on the boards every day. Students must then copy these assignments into their agenda books. Some teachers do use *yourhomework.com*. Some have their own webpage but all teachers write assignments on the board for students to copy.

### **School pictures**

Your student will have a school picture taken in September. We will have more information available in late August. At that time you will be asked to fill out a form and include a check. On picture day each child brings the completed form and check to the auditorium and gives it to the photographer before having a picture taken. If you do not like the picture or your child was absent the day of pictures we have the photographer return another day for retakes.

## Contact Information

At any time that you wish to contact the school please use the following information. At the end of last year we were given new phones so the extension numbers have changed.

### Cameron Middle school

215 Elm Street

Framingham, MA 01701

Phone number: 508-879-2290

Fax number: 508- 788-3560

Judith S. Kelly, Principal,  
[jkelly@framingham.k12.ma.us](mailto:jkelly@framingham.k12.ma.us)

Steve Manning, Assistant Principal,  
[smanning@framingham.k12.ma.us](mailto:smanning@framingham.k12.ma.us)

## Bus Information

As you know, in the morning and the afternoon when buses are coming, we ask that parents do not use our driveway. There are signs that are posted asking drivers to please use Elm Street when dropping off or picking up children. In the morning it can be dangerous when parents try to drop students off in the front of the school and buses are trying to pass cars. Last year we had a minor fender bender and we hope not to have that happen again. So if you are dropping off students or picking them up please stay on Elm Street and we will have the student come to you. If you prefer to use Michael Street, then please park on only one side of the street and make sure your son or daughter uses the crossing guard when crossing Elm Street. Our goal is to provide the utmost safety to all students. We need everyone to cooperate to make the morning and afternoon times as safe as possible.

## Materials needed for school

- Backpack
- Pocket folders for loose papers
- Three ring binders and lined paper
- Pens (black and blue)
- #2 Pencils and pencil sharpener (pencil case)
- Colored pencils
- Erasers
- Highlighter
- Tab dividers

At home it is important to have a place for your student to do homework. We ask that you talk about school each day and look at your child's agenda book to see what homework needs to be completed each night.

Your student might also need additional supplies such as poster board, scissors, glue stick, scotch tape, ruler, dictionary, calculator, highlights, index cards, and other school materials.

## Activities for 2011-2012 (All dates are subject to change.)

1. Open House Thursday, Sept. 22 6:30 – 8:15PM
2. Halloween Haven Saturday, Oct. 29 5-6:30PM
3. Cameron Middle School Yard Sale Saturday, Nov. 19 8-12PM
4. Musical Thursday, Dec. 8 7-8:30PM
5. Spaghetti Dinner/Book Fair Thursday, Jan. 19 5:30-6:45PM
6. Winter Concert, Jan 12, Thursday, 7-8PM
7. Fifth Grade Parent Orientation Thursday, March 8 7-8:30PM
8. Literacy/Math/Visual Arts Nights Tuesday, March 13 7-8PM
9. Sixth Grade Concert Thursday, May 3 7-8PM
10. Pops Concert Thursday, May 31 7-8PM
11. Promotion Ceremony Thursday, June 14 5-6:30PM
12. Sixth Grade Activity Night Thursday, Oct. 20 6-8PM

13. Seventh/Eight Grade Activity Night  
Thursday, Feb. 9 6:30-8:30PM
14. PTO meeting 7:00-8:00 October 4  
(School Council at 5:00)
15. PTO meeting 7:00-8:00 Nov 1 (School  
Council at 5:00)
16. PTO meeting 7:00-8:00 Jan 10 (School  
Council at 5:00)
17. PTO meeting 7:00-8:00 Feb 7 (School  
Council at 5:00)
18. PTO meeting 7:00-8:00 March 6  
(School Council at 5:00)
19. PTO meeting 7:00-8:00 April 3 (School  
Council at 5:00)
20. PTO meeting 7:00-8:00 May 1 (School  
Council at 5:00)
21. Family Fun Day Thursday June 7 5-7pm

Not listed but possible: Drama in the spring  
*These dates may be subject to change. Changes will  
be communicated home and on our web page.*

## **Term Schedule**

### **2011-2012 Trimester Schedule (This schedule is subject to change based on school closings.)**

#### ***Trimester I 60 days***

Trimester begins August 30, 2011 – Ends December  
1, 2011

Midterm closes October 17 – Reports go home  
October 24

Trimester I report cards go home December 8, 2011

#### ***Trimester II 60 days***

Trimester II begins December 2, 2011 – Ends  
March 13, 2012

Midterm closes January 24– Reports go home  
January 31

Trimester II report cards go home March 20, 2012

#### ***Trimester III 60 days***

Trimester III begins March 14, 2012 – Ends June  
15, 2012

Midterm closes May 3 – Reports go home May 10  
Trimester III reports are mailed home after school  
lets out.



# September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		August 30 First day of school – Full day for all students	August 31	<b>1</b> Breakfast w/Principal for SOM Family Fun Day 5-7pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> No School – Labor Day	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Staff Meeting – 2:30pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Team Leader Meeting – 2:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Early Release – 11:25am Prof. Dev. Open House 6:30-8pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> No School – Rosh Hashanah	<b>30</b> No School – Roah Hashanah	