



## MESSAGE FROM MR. CORDES Principal of Cedarwood School



### 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE EARLY MORNING SPOTLIGHT

If it seems like you are constantly reading about endless, wonderful accomplishments and fun activities being experienced by our second grade class, that is because this class is having an exciting year. Through the hard work and coordination of their teacher, Ms. Niki Gazeley, our second students visited the WDSU Channel 6 News station for a behind the scenes, top-notch tour. Parents and students were overly complimentary of the kindness shown to our students by the WDSU news reporters. The station made our students feel like celebrities. To top off the field trip, our students recorded a video message that was aired on the November 9<sup>th</sup> newscast.

### CEDARWOOD HONORS AMERICA'S FINEST



On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Cedarwood's students and faculty honored the men and women who proudly served our nation. Our school's annual Veterans Day celebration has become one of the many anticipated events of the year. This year was no different. The 4 and 5 year old preschool classes joined the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> students for a patriotic musical performance. Our Music Plus students provided our guests with a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem.

Each year, we invite a member of one of the five branches of the United States Armed Services. This year, we were honored to have Captain Mike McKean as our guest speaker. Captain McKean's service to our country, as a member of the United States Coast Guard, serves as a wonderful example of what a true American patriot can be. Captain McKean's loyalty has always been to his family and his country ...however, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge his family's endless support of Cedarwood School. When asked to join us on this special day, Captain McKean responded in true Cedarwood fashion and offered to do whatever was needed. On behalf of our school, God Bless Captain McKean.

# CEDARWOOD: WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE!

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Cedarwood School opened its doors to numerous schools who were competing for the 2018 N.I.A.L. Varsity Volleyball Championships. On Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, I had the honor of joining with Coach Morgan Spencer (Athletic Director) to present the Division I championship to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School following its two game sweep of P.C.A. (Pontchartrain Christian Athletics). Earlier in the evening, I presented the Division II championship to St. Joseph Catholic School following its exciting three game match win over Courtney Christian School.

In 2017, Coach Spencer accepted an invitation from the Northshore Independent Athletic League to host the Division II Junior Varsity Championship Tournament. Quickly word spread throughout the league regarding how well the tournament was planned and executed ....not to mention the beautiful location within our new gymnasium. When the planning meeting occurred for the 2018 tournaments, the League Director didn't hesitate to, once again, award the prestigious Division I and Division II Varsity Championship tournaments to Cedarwood School. What a wonderful testament this was to the success and efficiency of Cedarwood School's Athletic Department. We are all grateful to the many teachers, parents and students who joined with Coach Morgan to make the 2018 N.I.A.L. Varsity Championship tournament a huge success.



As word spread throughout campus that the championships would be held at Cedarwood School's beautiful gymnasium, *The Cedarwood Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society* was the first to step up and volunteer to assist. One of the four pillars of the NEHS is the commitment to endless service on behalf of others. During each night of the tournament, our guests were greeted by the smiling faces that make NEHS such a wonderful organization. The members were excited to see some of their favorite teachers join in on the call to service. Thank you to Ms. Salty, Ms. Gazeley, Ms. Ford, Ms. DiFranco, Ms. Ellis and Ms. Vehnekamp for helping at the admission table, concession stand, and scorer's table.

Prior to completing their studies at Cedarwood School and advancing to the high schools of their choice throughout St. Tammany, members of the NEHS reminded the present members of the society that it was their duty to ensure the legacy and traditions of NEHS continued. One of those traditions is the belief that once you are a member of *The Cedarwood Chapter*, you are a member for life. Therefore, we were not surprised when past members of the society returned to campus to assist with the big tournament. Throughout the tournament, NEHS demonstrated to all that service is one of life's great goals.



## N.E.H.S. SERVES UP A WINNING PERFORMANCE



## A Cornucopia of Learning

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our beloved 1<sup>st</sup> Grade teacher Ms. Salty always turns a typical Friday into the legendary *Food Friday*. Each week, her “babies” wait to see what scrumptious learning activity Ms. Salty has planned for them.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ms. Salty began preparing the students for Thanksgiving by creating “cornucopias” loaded to the brim with sweet treats. Students learned what the term meant and how it is used during the Thanksgiving celebration. I was so excited when the entire class came to my office to show off their creations. Some students were so proud of their creation that they asked for a Ziplock bag to take their cornucopia home to show Mom and Dad. You know you hit a homerun when a kid refuses to eat their snack because he/she would rather receive compliments from home!



10, 20, 30, 40 Handfuls

.....Math Made Happy



I enjoyed watching these Students find interesting ways to use their leftover Halloween pumpkins.

*Carvin' up fun!*

Hi Mr. Cordes,

## CHECKING-IN with Collin Cusimano

Hope you are doing well! Great idea putting out a school newsletter and including updates about former students.

Life at SPS is going great. I joined the St. Paul's Wrestling Team and I'm enjoying every minute of it. It's definitely a huge commitment but when your heart is in it, it's not as painful (it's only painful for my mom to watch....haha). This past weekend we had our first match of the new season and I'm excited to say that I won my first match. YEP!

I also joined the St. Paul's *Wolves on Wheels Club*. I'm super excited about being in this engineering club and I'm looking forward to completing my first group project. I will keep you posted for when you can be on the lookout for our completed motorized wheels to roll in next year's Mardi Gras parades. I'm also in the Key Club and it's been rewarding doing things for the community through this service club.

Last but not least...you're gonna like this one... With lots of long hours of studying I made the first 9 weeks AB Honor Roll.

*Collin*



Book Character Day 2018 was an epic hit. Our students embraced the day of revelry by honoring some of their favorite authors and novels. As amazed as I was to see the costumes, I was equally amazed and grateful to see the impressive crowd in attendance. On numerous occasions, I have asked parents to embrace The Cedarwood Experience and join us for as many events as possible. On this day, the gym was filled with proud moms, dads, and grandparents. It was the perfect way to start the day. Through a collaborative effort between our teachers and our parents, we are providing our students with a truly memorable year! Visit our social media accounts of Facebook and Instagram to see more pictures.

## CHARACTERS ON PARADE





Dear Cedarwood Family,

November 9, 2018

As you are aware, the 2018-2019 academic year is a very important milestone for our school. Thirty-five years ago, Cedarwood School opened its doors to the families of St. Tammany. As we celebrate this anniversary, we reflect on what has made us such a successful school and contemplate the steps and process needed to ensure our continued success. It seems only fitting that during this year we honor our past, while preparing for continuous improvement through the reaccreditation process.

Every five years, we are required to complete an in-depth formal review of our mission, instructional practices, and proposed action plans. In order to complete this process, I have asked multiple members of our faculty to join me in completing the official report that we will submit to *AdvancED*. I am happy to announce that Ms. Alicia Ford, Ms. Molly Moore, Ms. Niki Gazeley, and Ms. Kris Royer accepted the invitation to join with me, Ms. Kathy Leblanc, Ms. Cindy Braud, Ms. Lanie McKnight and Ms. Kim Ellis to form our *Cedarwood School AdvancED Leadership Team*.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the Leadership Team met to complete our recent progress report. I am happy to announce to you that upon the completion of the meeting, I am confident that our report will be very positively received by *AdvancED* review team.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, our school's administrative team will address our Elementary and Preschool faculty regarding the review process. During this Professional Development Day, your child's teachers will provide me with their input, suggestion(s), and requested additions to the school's improvement plan and report. This collaboration is arguably the most important aspect to *AdvancED*'s decision to renew our school's accreditation.

After the start of the new year, I will invite you to join me for an evening meeting to review the report. I thank each of you who have answered the Parent Survey. Your input is being used to complete the multiple written summaries that are included in the official report. To ensure our school's continued success, I request that each of you accept this invitation to come to campus and review the data-driven results of our thorough evaluation. I am a strong believer that when the school's stakeholders are well informed, the school performs at its ultimate level.

I look forward to providing you with additional information and the observations obtained from this review. Upon completion of this multi-step process, I am confident you will continue to be extremely pleased with your family's decision to be a part of *CEDARWOOD SCHOOL*.

*Brian*



Here Are a Few Pictures from Our 2018 Veterans Day Celebration

