
Clearwater Secondary

Newsletter November 7th 2025

Sense of Belonging at School

Hello Parents,

One of our school goals is **sense of belonging**, which is often hard to explain but important. Sense of belonging is being accepted, valued, and supported within a group or community. When we talk with kids about this I share some of my personal experiences regarding a mountain bike riding group that I belong to, my sense of belonging makes me want to participate and contribute. In regards to school, sense of belonging is not only valuable on its own, but it impacts academic performance as well. Students with a stronger sense of belonging tend to have lower dropout rates, increased motivation, and no surprise here, higher academic achievement.

Back in 2019/20 when we started receiving data on student sense of belonging we were doing poorly, 15% below the provincial average. After including this as one of our three goals and making it a point of focus we have seen an upward trend and our latest data from 2023/24 shows that we are now above provincial averages. We are waiting for the 2024/25 data to be shared with us.

The photos included in this newsletter speak to sense of belonging. I hope you enjoy this small window into the daily happenings at CSS.

Thank you,

Darren Coates, Principal

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Volleyball Season

The volleyball season has seen a lot of fan support and student leadership. In the photo below we can see a few of the boys who acted as the unofficial team cheerleaders, both at home and away, helping put some pep in the teams step.

Two of our senior players stepped forward in a huge way to support their younger peers. Shanti Proctor and Keeley Yurkiw, who agreed to coach the grade 8 team. This was much appreciated and they did a top notch job helping the younger players continually improve over the season.



House Teams

CSS has had a long long tradition of house teams dating back to the opening of the school 50 years ago. When students enter grade 8 they are placed on a house team and they compete for house team points all year long. The winning team is awarded the coveted House Team Cup and a celebration. This year, new members of the house teams were welcomed to their house teams by the current members of the team.



Breakfast Program

For a number of years now CSS has had students step up and volunteer their time to feed their peers both at break and on Thursday mornings. They regularly roll out amazing breakfasts, and as you can see in the photo, have fun in the process.



Link Leaders

Grade 8 is the most challenging year for our students, both research and our own small group interviews tell us this. In an effort to make the transition from grade 7 to grade 8 a bit smoother a select group of our senior students, under the direction of Mrs. Giesbrecht, mentor our grade 8 students on a regular basis. Pictured here are two of our senior students, Nathan and Keeley, working with their group of grade 8 students.



Halloween 6/7

Each year our staff dresses up for Halloween along with our students. This year both students and staff had some of the most creative costumes I have seen for years. Great job.



