

Dear CMIT Elementary Parents and Guardians,

I am happy to say that our first year together has been a success. I have enjoyed every minute and appreciate the close knit community of CMIT Elementary. As you may remember, at the beginning of last year, we conducted a parent workshop to get feedback on what are the weaknesses and strengths of CMIT Elementary. I would like to say thank you for your involvement in this workshops because they were our guide to improve educational practices here at CMIT Elementary! Based on this feedback, CMIT staff developed an action plan to improve the quality of education given to students.

I have provided a quick overview on the concerns and feedback at the first parent workshop at the beginning of last year 2017-18 and how we have overcome these hurdles together. Hopefully, the upcoming school year will be a more improved and colorful year with you involvement and dedication. Thank you for all of your efforts!

Gonul Ozturk

Principal, CMIT Elementary North

### **DESTINY Library System**

Before a child can improve themselves in any STEM area, they must have a passion for reading and have the critical skills that come with reading. Therefore, our first goal was to create an effective library system which each teacher could implement into their studies. A library is a critical resource for any school, and I am proud to say that thank to Mrs. Diana, we have a working library system which is used regularly. According to a report that she compiled, all of the goals that were met for the first year. These goals included establishing rules and expectations, establishing a system with DESTINY, organize the library/media center into smaller sections of reading, IT, STEM, and small workstations, expand resources, create a

diverse learning environment. Right now we have over 3,000 books in our system which is registered and ready to check out!

Our goals for the upcoming school year with implementing the library/media center includes encouraging more guest readers and allowing this as an outlet for parent involvement, work with ecology staff to bring in the community, developing a love of reading, understanding and using different forms of media, develop information of literacy, develop makespace as an outlet for creativity and innovation and more. The students will be provided with an engaging and hands-on learning space that was not available to them before. From this point on, the library/media center will improve and cater to the needs of our students. Another one of the critical goals is fostering a theme of teamwork, decision making, creativity and higher level thinking which can be possible with the diverse curriculum that will be implemented.

### **School-Wide PBIS Protocol**

It is important to refresh on what was mentioned during the first parent workshop and how our action plan has addressed, identified and worked on each issue. One of the most important aspects of a healthy learning environment is fostering a school-wide discipline system which treats students as equals. A concern that was put forth by parents during the workshop at the beginning of last year included the absence of a school-wide discipline system which caused discipline problems that hindered students learning environment. The staff at CMIT Elementary attended a professional development to initiate a school-wide discipline system that is based on positive behavior intervention system (PBIS) implementation. Each teacher worked hard to implement the school-wide rules and guidelines among their classrooms. Ms. Fryson led this program and we thank her for her hard work and dedication to have it run smoothly. As a result of dedicated staff we have vast amount of success with our behavior intervention system. Upon evaluation, suspension rates dropped significantly, in-class and hallway disruptions have decreased compared to other years at CMIT Elementary, and overall discipline issues have significantly decreased. Our behavior intervention system will be evaluated again in three years and we will evaluate how this system can be improved and honed for the better.

## **Communication Tools**

Communication was another issue that was brought up by parents within the workshop. A lack of school-wide, grade-wide and class-wide communication tools had resulted in major communication issues. A part of our action plan which we had developed at the beginning of last year included developing a school wide communication tool that addressed the needs of our community and brought the community of CMIT Elementary together. Classdojo was used regularly for class based communication. Although there were a couple of hiccups because of the structure of Classdojo, it allowed for communication within each class. We have identified these problems and adjusted the implementation of Classdojo to work more efficiently. For the upcoming year, Classdojo will be used in every classroom and teachers will be given training on how to effectively use this tool. A weekly newspaper was developed for grade-wide sharing of news within each grade. This will be improved and used throughout the upcoming school year. Additionally, we have updated the website this previous year and received vast amount of positive feedback from parents. We thank each parent who has supported and gave feedback about our website. Overall, we will continue implementation of Classdojo, weekly newspaper, and the school website for improved communication.

## **Additional Technology Tools**

During the parent workshops, a comment that was made by a majority of the parents included “we are a technology school but where is the implementation?”. This is a really important comment because the mission of CMIT Elementary focuses on STEM implementation. As a result, the staff of CMIT Elementary analyzed and identified key issues dealing with technology implementation upon each class. During the year PTO worked hard and provided our school with chromebook carts which allowed for uninterrupted classroom instruction and a smooth testing schedule. Pearson curriculum instruction was initiated and implemented into the curriculum. To further improve technology integration into classroom instruction, teachers will be given technology training. The lego and computer classroom were great data gathering resources to develop these trainings and identify best practices for technology based instruction. Additionally,

in computer classes students were taught how to program and code two dimensional objects on the computer. This year we are introducing ozobots which will allow for students to program and code three dimensional robots. Therefore, they will learn how to apply their skills and learn based on an application level. The lego class has also been improved with the added additional tools which will allow students to work on engineering rather than only the design aspect. One of the tools is **Modular Robotics** Cubelets Blockly which is the perfect platform to learn how to program their own robots and is a free coding environment for Cubelets robot blocks. Please check out the link: <https://www.modrobotics.com/> . Another great tool that we are going to add into the Lego instruction this year is **Edison Robotics!** Edison is a programmable robot designed to be a complete STEM teaching resource for coding and robotics education for students. These tools will help us to integrate coding and robotics into the Lego Curriculum. Also it will create a continuous learning between computer room and Lego room. Please check out the link for Edison: <https://meetiedison.com/works-with-lego-bricks-robotics/>

### **Ecology Updates**

Ecology was a challenge for us since beginning of the year 2017-18 The teacher left and we couldn't hire new teacher until the teacher officially removed from the system. WE were lucky to have dedicated science teachers who combined ecology activities with their science curriculum activities. This year Ms. Kocaaslan will be the ecology teacher. She worked hard to revise ecology lab curriculum and updated with the new futures and more hands on activities in to the curriculum. For example, we are going to request a virtual appearance utilizing Skype to connect an astronaut via video conference. Another activity is sending a camera to space via balloon. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y0nHhFGXDo> one of the new future is Mudwatt, students will learn Microbes, Electricity and Circuits, and Soil Ecology by using iPads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZk8DqIN2uw>. Stay tune for a lots of exciting topics that will motivate students for more learning!

## **Saturday School**

In order to improve Saturday Academy, advanced students were added which directly affected the success of advanced students during their weekly instruction. Additionally, improvement upon Saturday Academy allowed it to be a great intervention tool for students to cover their need areas as well. For the upcoming school year, the plan is to allow for certificate based learning. Courses such as microsoft academy course, android app developer course etc will be given for students. This will allow them to enhance and improve their set of skills outside of school hours.

Additionally, Parent Academy has been a vital resource for parents which has been lead by Mrs. Watkis and Monroe. This allowed for parents to have an active role in their child's education pathway. Because of the positive feedback and success we will continue providing Parent Academy for parents who need guidance on how to help their child both academically and socially throughout their elementary school years. Our ILTs also continued pull out sessions for PARCC Preparations, push in sessions to ensure every student will have proper attentions, leading pd sessions to improve teacher practices.

## **School Counseling**

School Counselor, Ms. Green, played a great role to improve our educational practices at CMIT Elementary. Parent workshops, reaching social emotional needs, she regularly visited classrooms to perform character education lesson and activities. She conducted parent and teacher surveys that show clearly this year was a great success! Thank you Ms. Green!

## **2017-2018 SY Accomplishments**

1. Established School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention Program (PBIS) (2016-17 SY, 39 student received suspension by March 30. 2017-18 SY, 5 students received suspension by March 30)
2. Project Based Learning - Vocabulary Parade, A Chick's First Home Project, Butterfly Projects etc..

3. Stem Fair
4. Library Improvements
5. Integrating Ecology Curriculum into Science
6. Updated Tech Integrated Common Core Curriculum for every subject area  
(Pearson Products for each Grade Level)
7. More Tech Devices - Thanks to PTO!
8. More Field Trips - Walter's Art Museum Baltimore, visiting Annapolis, Camp Schmidt, PE STEM/Roller Skate etc.
9. Better Traffic Management ( No more late students because of the traffic line! )
10. Parent Academy
11. Parent Workshop's
12. Parent Breakfasts
13. Second Place from LEGO Competition
- 14.1 Gold Medal from Perennial Math Competition
15. Perfect Scores Medals from Perennial Math Competition
16. Regional Elementary School Champion Award from MESA
17. Regional Storybook Theme Park Ride 1st Place Winner
18. Regional Effective Communication 1st Place Winner
19. Regional Scratch Game 1st Place Winner
20. Regional Balsa-Wood Bridge 2nd Place Winner
21. DATA Walls for Each Grade Level
22. More Parent Volunteers
23. Counseling Curriculum Adapted
24. More PTO Events