

# From the Top CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS

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C everal Cedar Mountain students along with Mrs. Machart attended the Young Author's Conference at SMSU on January 9th. Students learned from authors like Douglas Wood who talked about his struggles with ADHD and Dyslexia growing up and went from "worst reader in the class" to a NY Times bestselling author and Al Batt who is a writer, speaker, storyteller and

Students explored their creativity and discovered how to express thoughts using written words. Students also learned that writing is an exciting skill that can open up a lifetime of opportunities. In addition to hearing from the visiting authors,

> students were able to attend three hands on classes where they discovered their creative writing abilities during sessions such as poetry, journaling, using the power of the hook, acting, writers block, fairy tale, reporter writing, use your five senses and much more.





Young Author's Conference



Students in grades 3-5 were selected by their teachers to participate in this program, congratulations to all of you who participated. The students were so excited to hear about and practice how to become writers!

### Cedar Mountain Junior High



Are you smarter than a 7th, 8th or 9th grader? You may not feel like it after you watch a round of a JHKB competition. JHKB is an interdisciplinary academic program that strives to develop retention/recall skills, team skills, self-confidence, good sportsmanship and competitive skills. Teams work cooperatively to solve oral and written questions. The skills learned will

follow and benefit these students as they continue on in their schooling and later in their careers. Like students in other extra-curricular activities, these students put in time after school for practices and competitions. High School Knowledge Bowl is just getting underway, we wish them the same luck as the JH team has had! The CM Knowledge Bowl teams are coached by Mrs. Doreen Tyler. What skills are Fortune 500 Companies looking for?

- 3. Interpersonal Skills
- 5. Listening

These are exactly the skills students learn while participating in Knowledge Bowl.





4. Oral Communication

Excelling at Sub-Regions!





Mr. Robert Tews Superintendent

### **Cedar Mountain Positives**

So often it seems like negative news makes the headlines while positive news is overlooked. At Cedar Mountain, we are working to consciously develop positive behaviors and attitudes in our students. Here is a partial list of some positives from this year. Did You Know....

• In November, 65 juniors and seniors became certified in CPR and AED training. This service was provided through Ridgewater College and was a great opportunity for our students to obtain a life-saving set of skills. Students in grade 11 and 12 complete this training once every two years.

- The Veteran's Day program was hosted by the MS/HS on November 12th in the gymnasium. We want to thank our speakers Joel Harmoning for sharing his message with our students.
- 10 sophomore students attended the Region 2A Leadership Conference on November 29 at LeSeuer-Henderson High School. Kyle Krueger and Dwane Jemmings attended with the kids.
- Cedar Mountain elementary students observed Veteran's Day on Friday, November 10. In the elementary, speakers Bruce and Jacki Kyllonen for sharing their families' journey while serving our country.
- On October 11, Cedar Mountain received the 2018 DHS Commissioner's Circle of Excellence Award, along with Franklin Industries, Inc. This award recognizes the contribution of these organizations to the community.
- The Camp Cougar afterschool program is open daily from 3:15-5:30 PM for students in grades K-5. Contact Michelle Thooft at mthooft@cedarmt.org for more information.
- We had a great turnout for the 2nd annual Homecoming Color Run on Friday, September 21.
- Congratulations to the 58 Cedar Mountain Elementary students had perfect attendance the 1st trimester.
- Socktober was an event organized by the Cedar Mountain Blue Crue to raise awareness of homelessness. Throughout the month of October, students were asked to bring new socks to school. The socks were donated to Redwood County Human Services to be used for those in need. The Socktober sock drive collected over 400 pairs of socks.
- Cedar Mountain Blood Drive was held on November 20th. In addition to our students organizing and running this event, 24 Cedar Mountain students were blood donors that day.

- The Cedar Mountain drama department presented the play "Team Justice and the City Hall Supervillains" on November 9 and 10
- The Cedar Mountain Adopt An Angel program had a goal this year to have students and staff adopt 100 angels. In the program, students may pick an angel for a boy or girl ages 1-13 years old, purchase a gift for them, wrap it, tape the angel to the gift, and return it to school. All 100 angels were adopted.
- Our Yellow Ribbon group sponsored a food drive to benefit "We Care", which is located in Morgan and serves families in the surrounding communities.
- On December 8, the Cedar Mountain National Honor Society sponsored Santa Day in the high school cafeteria. Students were able to visit Santa and students in grade 3 and younger received a gift from Santa.
- During American Education Week, we honored 3 staff members who have worked for the school district 20 years. Our 20 Year Apple recipients were Molly Lorang, Monica Sandmann, and Jeannie Tauer.
- On September 18th, 11 students were inducted into the Cedar Mountain Chapter of the National Honor Society. To qualify for NHS, students need to have a cumulative GPA of 3.5.
- The MS/HS concert on December 6 featured band and choir groups from the sixth grade, seventh and eighth grades, and grades 9-12. It was a great performance by our students.
- We had a great turnout for our Elementary Christmas Concert on December 10. Thanks to everyone who attended.
- Ten Cedar Mountain FFA members, along with FFA Advisor Hannah Wilts, attended the National FFA Convention.
- The Elementary Farmer's Market raised \$3,622.30 for student field trips.
- There was great attendance at the Honor Roll Breakfasts for Middle School and High School students. Middle School/High School teachers and staff did the planning, cooking, and clean up. Thank you, staff, for honoring our students at this event.

Behind the scenes on each of these "Did You Knows" are students and staff members who have worked to make the activity a success. On behalf of Cedar Mountain, I want to thank each of you for your support of our school and students.



Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.

– Helen Keller





Mrs. P. Machart Elementary Principal

### **Elementary News**

In January our character education lessons will focus on anti-bullying. The latest research shows that **one in three children are directly involved in bullying as a perpetrator, victim, or both.** But it doesn't have to be this way. As parents we have the power to help reduce



bullying. Here is an excerpt from Education.com's actions you can take to help address bullying:

Talk with and listen to your kids – everyday. You can encourage your children to buck that trend by engaging in frequent conversations about their social lives. If your children feel comfortable talking to you about their peers before they're involved in a bullying event, they'll be much more likely to get you involved after.

**Monitor your child's free time.** Research shows that 67% of bullying happens when adults are not present.

**Be a good example of kindness and leadership.** Your kids learn a lot about power relationships from watching you. When you get angry at a waiter, a sales clerk, another driver on the road, or even your child, you have a great opportunity to model effective communication techniques. Any time you speak to another person in a mean or abusive way, you're teaching your child that bullying is OK.

**Learn the signs.** Most children don't tell anyone (especially adults) that they've been bullied. It is therefore important to learn to recognize possible signs of being victimized, such as frequent loss of personal belongings, complaints of headaches or stomachaches, avoiding recess or school activities, and getting to school very late or very early. If you suspect that a child might be being bullied, talk with the child's teacher or find ways to observe his peer interactions to determine whether or not your suspicions might be correct.

Create healthy anti-bullying habits early. Help develop anti-bullying and anti-victimization habits early in your children – as early as preschool. Coach your children on what not to do – hitting, pushing, teasing, "saying na-na-na-na-na," or being mean to others. Help your child to focus on how such actions might feel to the child on the receiving end. Remind them to watch their own behavior - that if they have been asked to stop doing a specific behavior that hurts someone – and they continue to do it – that can be viewed as bullying. Listen to how children talk to each other – unwanted nicknames, repeated "just joking around" is possibly hurtful to the child on the receiving end.

Equally if not more important, teach your children what to do – kindness, empathy, fair play, and turn-taking are critical skills for good peer relations. Children also need to learn how to say "no" firmly if they experience or witness bullying behavior. Coach your child about what to do if other kids are mean – get an adult right away, tell the child who is teasing or bullying to "stop," walk away, ignore the bully and find someone else to play with.

Teach your child about cyberbullying. Children often do not realize what cyberbullying is. Cyberbullying includes sending mean, rude, vulgar, or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive, private information about another person; pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad; and intentionally excluding someone from an online group. There's a simple test you can teach your children about online posting: if you wouldn't say it to someone's face or you would not feel comfortable having your parents see it—don't post it (or take it down now).

**Spread the word that bullying should not be a normal part of childhood.** Some adults hesitate to act when they observe or hear about bullying because they think of bullying as a typical phase of childhood that must be endured or that it can help children "toughen up." It is important for all adults to understand that bullying does not have to be a normal part of childhood.

Bullying is a serious problem, but if we all work together, it's one we can impact.



Each time a student earns a blue ribbon for a Study Island quiz, they will have their name put in for a monthly drawing. This month the winners received a Jenga game.

Prizes for earning all blue ribbons in:

MATH – breakfast with the principal READING - pizza party with the principal SCIENCE – special snack TWO SUBJECTS – will go on a bowling trip complete with pizza and treats!

Log into *http://www.studyisland.com* and start reviewing your grade level standards and earn those blue ribbons! This is a great way to improve grades and prepare for the MCA tests in the spring!



#### **MARCH 14 & 19**

More information will be coming home with your child from preschool, if your child does not attend CM Preschool, please call 557-2251 for more information. We are excited to share information with you and your child about CM Kindergarten!

#### ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

#### GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



# A lesson in Safety



Sheriff Hable and Chief Deputy Mathwig were visitors Wednesday afternoon in the Library. They read the book "Officer Buckle and Gloria" and then talked to the kids about 911 and being helpful. The kids were then able to ask questions. The kids area looking forward to their next visit!





Yellow Ribbon members and advisors delivered around 100 Adopt An Angel gifts as well as several bags of food to WE Care. Thank you to all students and staff who contributed!!









Mr. R. Brandl Principal/Assistant Superintendent

### Middle / High School

As we reach the halfway point of the 2018-2019 school year, students and staff at Cedar Mountain have a lot of success to celebrate. Students at school have worked very hard and it has been wonderful to see the success that they have had. We added some wonderful new courses such as College in the Schools Art, Dakota Language, Work Based Learning, and Computer

Applications/Coding at the middle/high school. The fall play and winter concerts were both great opportunities for our students to display their talents in the fine arts. The middle school Knowledge Bowl team had a great amount of success winning a large meet and advancing to regions. Athletically this fall we saw our students make us proud with their effort and play while they committed themselves through our Cougar Athletic Training program. Our students continue to be great examples of what hard work and dedication can accomplish.

The 2nd semester of the school year is always full of excitement, opportunities and major events. Students in the middle school will be participating in a new and individualized math intervention and enrichment program. We are excited to be able to utilize our 1:1 Chromebooks within this program as we help students prepare for success in the classroom and on their MCA tests. Students will again have opportunities to participate in athletics, speech, trap shooting, FFA, the spring play and more. At Cedar Mountain we believe that students participating in these extra-curricular activities both make them better students and well-rounded individuals. This spring Cedar Mountain will again host major annual events such as prom and graduation. Hopefully you will be able to join us as we celebrate our students in all that they do.

On behalf of the students and staff at Cedar Mountain, thank you to everyone for their continued support of our schools. We are proud of the opportunities we are able to provide our students and we appreciate all that our local communities and residents do to support us. Go Cougars!



# Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week presentations this year focused on the legal aspect and consequences of using tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Thank you to Redwood County Deputy Jason Jacobsen, Redwood County Probation Officers Duane Frank and Laurie Anderson, Judge Patrick Rohland, and Redwood County Attorney Jenna Peterson.





Cedar Mountain's Blue Crue organized "Soctober" and collected over 400 pairs of socks that went to those in need in Redwood and Renville counties.

Thank you to everyone who came to donate blood November 20th.

59 Donors
47 units collected Goal was 65

Your donation makes a difference in a life!

# **Nurse's Nook**

#### What are head lice?

The head louse is an insect that can infest people. These tiny insects (about 1/8" long) make their home in human hair and feed on blood. Head lice multiply rapidly, laying small greyish-colored, oval-shaped eggs (called nits) which they glue to the base of the hair, close to the scalp. Head lice are not known to spread disease.

#### Who can get head lice?

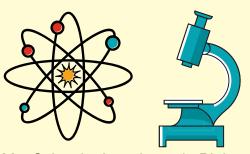
Anyone can get head lice. They are not a sign of being dirty. Most people don't know they are infested until they see the nits or lice. They are found throughout the world, most commonly on children.

#### How does a head lice infestation occur?

Head lice have no wings and do not fly or jump, but they can crawl or run through hair quickly. Most commonly, head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact with an infested person. They may also be spread by sharing personal items such as combs, brushes, other hair-care items, towels, pillows, hats, and other head coverings. Dogs, cats, and other pets do not spread head lice.

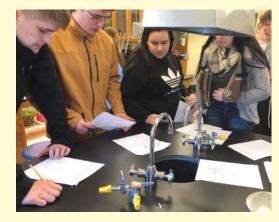
#### What are the signs of a head lice infestation?

Look closely for nits along the hairline at the back of the head and neck and behind the ears. Nits should not be confused with an accumulation of hair spray, hair gels, or dandruff, which can be easily flicked off the hair; nits cannot because they are firmly attached to individual hairs. One telltale sign of head lice is a persistent itching of the scalp, which is sometimes accompanied by infected scratch marks or what appears to be a rash. If you have questions about the diagnosis of head lice, call your doctor.



Ms. Schroden's 11th grade Biology class used their decoding skills to figure out which students had specific genetic and personality characteristics in their class.

### Genetic Decoding











Cedar Mountain Elementary Blue Crue Tue members spent part of their afternoon with residents of GilMor Manor playing bingo.



Front - Walker Slettedahl, Ali Rudenick, Nevaeh Hacker, Grace Sullivan, Leah Rudenick

Back - Danielle Schumacher, Thomas Dahmes, Bailey Woodford, Lilly DeGre, Kayden Christensen



# **TECHTIPS** Growing up in the Digital Age

In a world where children are "growing up digital," it's important to help them learn healthy concepts of digital use and citizenship. Parents play an important role in teaching these skills. Here are a few tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics to help families manage the ever-changing digital landscape.

• Set limits and encourage playtime. Media use, like all other activities, should have reasonable limits. Unstructured and offline play stimulates creativity. Make unplugged playtime a daily priority, especially for very young children.

- Screen time shouldn't always be alone time. Co-view, co-play and co-engage with your children when they are using screens it encourages social interactions, bonding, and learning. Play a video game with your kids. It's a good way to demonstrate good sportsmanship and gaming etiquette. Watch a show with them; you will have the opportunity to introduce and share your own life experiences and perspectives, and guidance. Don't just monitor children online, interact with them you can understand what they are doing and be a part of it.
- Know the value of face-to-face communication. Very young children learn best through two-way communication. Engaging in back-and-forth "talk time" is critical for language development. Conversations can be face-to-face or, if necessary, by video chat with a traveling parent or far-away grandparent. Research has shown that it's that "back-and-forth conversation" that improves language skills—much more so than "passive" listening or one-way interaction with a screen.
- Create tech-free zones. Keep family mealtimes, other family and social gatherings, and children's bedrooms screen free. Turn off televisions that you aren't watching, because background TV

can get in the way of face-to-face time with kids. Recharge devices overnight—outside your child bedroom to help avoid the temptation to use them when they should be sleeping. These changes encourage more family time, healthier eating habits, and better sleep.

• Don't use technology as an emotional pacifier. Media can be very effective in keeping kids calm and quiet, but it should not

be the only way they learn to calm down. Children need to be taught how to identify and handle strong emotions, come up with activities to manage boredom, or calm down through breathing, talking about ways to solve the problem, and finding other strategies for channeling emotions.

• It's OK for your teen to be online. Online relationships are part of typical adolescent development. Social media can support teens as they explore and discover more about themselves and their place in the

grown-up world. Just be sure your teen is behaving appropriately in both the real and online worlds. Many teens need to be reminded that a platform's privacy settings do not make things actually "private" and that images, thoughts, and behaviors teens share online will instantly become a part of their digital footprint indefinitely. Keep lines of communication open and let them know you're there if they have questions or concerns.

Media and digital devices are an integral part of our world today. The benefits of these devices, if used moderately and appropriately, can be great. But, research has shown that face-to-face time with family, friends, and teachers plays a pivotal and even more important role in promoting children's learning and healthy development. Keep the face-to-face up front, and don't let it get lost behind a stream of media and tech.



### 7 THINGS YOU WILL NEED BEFORE FILLING OUT YOUR 2019-20 FAFSA FORM

If you need financial aid to help you pay for college, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form.

The 2019–20 FAFSA form is available now. You should fill it out as soon as possible on at the official government site, fafsa.gov.

It'll be easier to complete the FAFSA form if you gather what you need ahead of time. Below is what you'll need to fill it out.

#### 1. Your FSA ID\*

- Anyone who plans to fill out the 2019–20 FAFSA form should create an FSA ID as soon as possible.
- If you are required to provide parent information on your FAFSA form, your parent should create an FSA ID too
- Because your FSA ID is equivalent to your signature, parents and students each need to create their own FSA IDs using their own email address and phone number. Parents should not create an FSA ID for their child and vice versa.
- In some situations, you may need to wait up to three days to use your FSA ID after creating it. If you want to avoid FAFSA delays, create your FSA ID now

#### 2. Your Social Security number\*

#### 3. Your driver's license number

If you don't have a driver's license, then don't worry about this step.

#### 4. Your 2017 tax records\*

In case you didn't hear about the changes we made to the FAFSA process, beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA form, we now require you to report income information from an earlier tax year.

The IRS DRT is the fastest, most accurate way to input your tax return information into the FAFSA form. To address security and privacy concerns related to the IRS DRT, the tax return information you transfer from the IRS will not be displayed on fafsa.gov or the IRS DRT web page. Instead, you'll see "Transferred from the IRS" in the appropriate fields on fafsa.gov.

#### 5. Records of your untaxed income\*

The FAFSA questions about untaxed income may or may not apply to you; they include things like child support received, interest income, and veterans noneducation benefits. On the 2019–20 FAFSA form, you'll report 2017 tax or calendar year information when asked these questions. Find specific details for parents and students.

#### 6. Records of your assets (money)\*

Note: Misreporting the value of investments is a common FAFSA mistake. Please carefully review what is and is not considered a student investment and parent investment to make sure you don't over- or underreport. You may be surprised by what can (and cannot) be excluded.

7. List of the school(s) you are interested in attending Be sure to add any college you're considering, even if you haven't applied or been accepted yet.

TIP: To be considered for state aid, several states require you to list schools in a particular order (for instance, you might need to list a state school first). Find out whether your state has a requirement for the order in which you list schools on your FAFSA form.

\* If you're a dependent student, you will need this information for your parents as well.

#### Ready to start?

Once you're ready, you have several ways to complete the FAFSA form, including the fafsa.gov website or the new myStudentAid mobile app. Using the app, you can fill out the FAFSA form safely and securely from your mobile device. On the app, you can also manage your FSA ID, view your federal student aid history and loan information, and more. The myStudentAid app is available from both the Apple App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android).

More information can be found at:

https://blog.ed.gov/2018/09/7-things-you-need-2019-20-fafsa/



There are various scholarship opportunities for students to help with college costs. Check the school announcements frequently for names and deadlines of scholarships or talk to Mr. Palokangas, School Counselor.

CM EdMN offers a scholarship to a CM graduate who has been accepted into a teaching program at a college. If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please contact **Alissa Steve at asteve@cedarmt.org** 

# Early Childhood Development

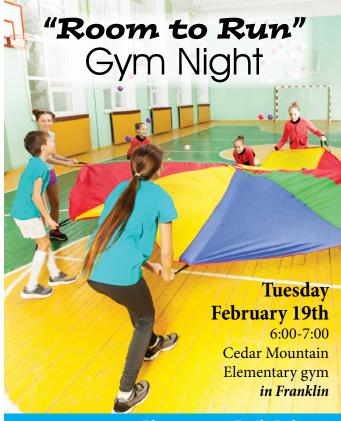
Cedar Mountain had a busy fall with classes and some special events. Santa's Workshop was well attended with lots of fun Christmas crafts made and the visit from Santa was great. Kids in the Kitchen was a lot of fun also with snacks to make that were













Please contact Emily Dahmes at 507-557-2251 or edahmes@cedarmt.org or Dawn Tietz at 507-249-5990 or dtietz@cedarmt.org for more information.

## community Education / Youth Activities

# HOLLDAY Craft Night

Holiday Craft Night was on December 13 for grades K-2 and December 20 for grades 3-5. There were 55 students total that participated in these two events! The theme was "ornaments", students were able make ornaments that were planned for them as well as use the many craft supplies to be creative and design their own! It was a great couple of nights to get everyone into the holiday spirit.









#### CM OPEN GYM

#### REMINDERS

- Respect yourself, others and property.
- Bring your own equipment (gym shoes, basketballs etc...).
- No street shoes.
- Stay in the gym areas only.
- Supervisor has final say.
- Open Gym may be cancelled due to weather conditions.
- All members of the communities are invited.
- Please "Like" the CM Community Education page on Facebook for updates on open gym.

#### FRANKLIN OPEN GYM

Sundays 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Supervisor: Dave Distad

#### **MORGAN OPEN GYM**

Sundays 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Supervisor: Aysha Erickson

Questions? Please contact Sarah at ssullivan@cedarmt.org or 320-212-3403

### Community Education / Youth Activities

### Succulent PLANT GARDEN

Instructor: Talana Mathiowetz Date: Thursday, March 28 Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, March 21
Location: Cedar Mountain MS/HS Cafeteria

Cost: \$35

Min: 2 Max: 10

Item Needed: Something to plant your garden in, anything goes! Approximate dimensions should be 10"-18" diameter and at least 4" deep (can be deeper) and can be plastic, glass,

Items provided: Soil, charcoal, plants (5-6 each), rocks

Talana will be teaching us the beauty of the succulent plant garden and then we'll be planting our own! Talana is a local horticulturist and also works for Blossom Town in Redwood Falls. Your succulent garden will be beautiful indoors and will look perfect placed outside on your patio or deck during the summer months.

### Beginning Crocheting

Have you ever wondered how people make such cute dish rags, potholders, scarves etc... and wished you could be creative too? Here is your chance to learn basic/

easy crochet stitches to make a square and/or circular dish rag during class. If the

and/or circular dish rag during class. If there is enough interest, we'll follow up with a scarf making class at a later date!

Data:

Date: Tuesday, February 19 Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Location: Cedar Mountain Elementary Library

Fee: \$15

Instructor: Dakotah Harmoning

Supplies Needed:

- Crochet hook H/8 5.00mm
- 1 ball of "Red Heart" brand yarn (any color)
- Scissors

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, February 13



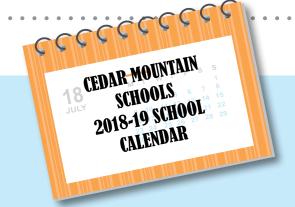
CM will again be hosting a Summer Rec program. Look for information coming this spring on activities and registration!



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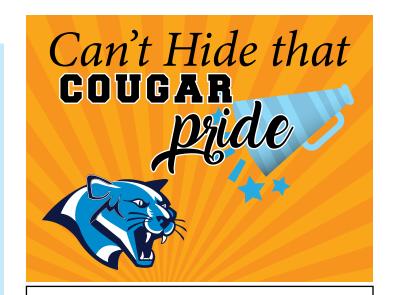
### **POSTAL PATRON**



Feb. 18 Presidents' Day (No So	chool)
Feb. 25 Early Dismissal –	12:10
Feb. 25 Parent/Teacher Conf. (12:30-	-6:30)
March 8 No S	chool
March 22	12:10
April 17 Early Dismissal –	12:10
April 18-22 Spring Break (No So	chool)
May 4	Prom
May 27 Memorial Day (No So	chool)
May 30Last day of s	chool
May 31Gradu	uation

Visit our website to see any updates to the calendar.

cms.mntm.org





Dates: Tuesday, March 5th & Thursday, March 7th (You must attend both nights)

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Franklin Elementary School Library

Cost: \$60 (includes book & card)

Instructor: Carol Baune

You will be trained for all ages (adult, child, infant) in the

American Heart Association CPR.

Class Limit: 9

Contact Sarah at ssullivan@cedarmt.org or 249-5990 to register.