



Cougar News
February 14, 2017

Dear Friends,

Last week I wrote about dialog and its importance to keep and build unity, and today I am going to develop that thought. Perhaps you have been in conversation with your student about some important issue and instead of a pleasant back and forth, it more resembles two pots being banged together. Or perhaps the conversation resembled two cats screeching? Or, perhaps you have heard the one sided conversation where one party does all the talking, and the other party does their best to look uninterested or defiant. In all of these instances, and all the other ones like them, the end result is the same or worse than the starting one. Instead, we want dialog that results in a better understanding and moves the ball forward. This means we have to work on the skill of dialog. Having good dialog does not mean one will always agree with the other, but it increases the chance of it. It does mean that everyone should walk away from the conversation feeling they were listened to and appreciated. Finally, it should drive toward the truth. This is a key skill to teach our students and to practice in our own lives.

Here are a few tips on how to achieve success in creating dialog with your students:

1. Make certain the conversation is peaceful. Avoid surprises and plan to do it at a time and place that is good for all. Trying to have meaningful dialog just before bed or early in the morning, as you try to get to school on time, is fraught with difficulty and has little chance of success.
2. Patiently listen to all sides, but do not allow unfounded accusations to proliferate. It is fine if someone lodges a complaint, but not fine if it becomes a diatribe.
3. Remember there are no winners or losers in this conversation. The goal is to discover the truth, not score points.
4. Practice makes perfect. We only get good at dialog if we practice it a lot. Listening and speaking is not something we humans do very well without doing it a lot. This is precisely why we were taught and why we teach manners. Manners (Saying "good morning" and how are you", etc.) are ways of starting proper dialog and while they might be pleasantries that does not make them any less pleasant.

It is a definite pleasure to come to work and see your wonderful children, God's gift of Love to us. I pray you have a wonderful week and success in your undertakings and until next week,

Pax et Bonum!
Tim Gallic

P.S. Questions, cares, comments or concerns are always welcome.

#

Revised Start Time for Friday, February 24th:

On Friday, February 24th, we are changing the start time to 7:55 am. Freshman and Sophomores will have testing. They will be dismissed at 10:45. Junior Recognition will end at 10:15. The Seniors will have their retreat at St. Michael's on Siesta Key. Details of dismissal will be discussed in their religion classes. Please mark this on your calendar.

Yearbooks:

Yearbooks are on sale now at <https://yearbookforever.com>. They sold out last year, so make sure to get yours today.

Current School Announcements:

The Technology Club will have their monthly meeting in Room 126 on Thursday at 2:35 pm. Those members who bring their dues will be able to join the Smash Brothers Tournament!

Sarasota Literacy Council is seeking a High School Board Member: Join a dynamic and vibrant team of local professionals who work to promote literacy for adults in the Sarasota community. The Sarasota Literacy Council is looking for a youth representative to join their board. Meetings are held once a month and you will gain great leadership and community involvement experience. It also looks impressive on any resume. Please see Fr. Matt or Matthew Twargoski (current member) for more information.

Telescopes at Mooney? Last chance to come join the fun on March 1st (March 2nd – backup date). The telescopes will be set up on the practice Lacrosse field from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Buhler in Room 221.

Attention Juniors: Florida Gulf Coast and Florida Atlantic University admissions counselors are coming to campus! Check your Naviance account for dates and to sign up. Get a good start on your college application list.

To kick start MDA fundraising to send a child to summer camp, Mr. Scheuer has agreed to have his bald head painted by one of your fellow students during Mooney Day. For a minimum of one dollar, you can vote on one of three designs that you want to see on Mr. Scheuer's head. Vote anytime Monday through Thursday this week during lunch.

Brr! The Junior class is selling hot chocolate in the courtyard before school this week, Tuesday through Thursday. Don't miss out on this opportunity to warm up and contribute to the Prom fund!

Are you good with Words?? Can you write Lyrics? How would you like to win a VISA Gift Card worth \$50? Enter the Cougar Fight Song Lyric-writing contest for your chance to win! Go to Canvas (under All School Announcements) and listen to the instrumental version. Then write your lyrics and submit them to Mrs. McCarthy: cmccarthy@cmhs-sarasota.org. Contest submissions are due no later than Wednesday, February 22nd.

Want to be part of next year's yearbook team? The class is application only, so see Mrs. Naylor in the Media Center for an application and make sure to turn in on time. They are due March 3rd.

Seniors: Grad Bash is April 28th, and tickets are now o sale! Don't miss your chance to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity. Tickets are \$100 and your ticket includes admission to both Universal and Islands of Adventure. The deadline to buy your ticket is March 10th. Tickets can be purchased from Ms. Lacertosa.

This is just reminder that our school's National Honor Society offers homework and assignment help to all students after school Monday – Thursday from 2:40 to 3:10. Monday's in room 205 and Tuesday-Thursday in room 107. These National Honor Society students are well prepared to help with homework in all subjects taught at Cardinal Mooney. This is not tutoring but assistance in homework and assignments.

Guidance:

On February 24, the 9th and 10th graders will sit for the Pre-Act Test at CMHS. This is a multiple choice test that includes English, math, science and reading subject areas.

The Pre-Act helps students gain testing experience and helps them understand how they are doing in core subjects. More information on this test is forthcoming. Dismissal will be at 10:45.

We are preparing the course registration paperwork for the 2017-18 school year. Starting February 28, counselors will visit Theology classes to review graduation requirements, course worksheets, and hand each student a four-year-plan. Students will take these home. Please consult our Friday Guidance newsletters for more information as it becomes available.

Mark your Calendar:

2/15 – Incoming Freshman Parent Meeting at 7:00 pm

2/17 -- Mooney Day – Start @ 8:50 - Early Dismiss @ 12:15

2/20 – No School – Presidents Day

2/24 – Freshmen and Sophomore Testing, Junior Recognition, Senior Retreat (Start time 7:55 am for all students)

2/25 – Dinner Auction @ White Buffalo (call Advancement for more information at 941-379-2647)

Cougar Athletics:

Highlights from last week...

Congratulations to the Boys Soccer Team on a great season. The team lost to Berkeley Prep in the Regional Finals. They concluded their season 13-3-5.

The Boys Lacrosse team opened their regular season at home with a 20-0 victory over SMA. For complete scores from all of our teams, please visit the sport team pages on our website under ATHLETICS.

Come Support Your Cougar Teams at home this week...

Tue Feb. 14 at 3:30 - Track and Field Tri-Meet vs. Saint Stephens and ODA

Wed Feb. 15 at 5:00/7:00 - Boys JV and Varsity Lacrosse vs. IMG

Thursday Feb. 16 at 5:30/7:00 – Girls and Boys Lacrosse vs. Saint Stephens

Best of luck to our Cougar Baseball team at the Pre-season Classic this week. Also, the Boys and Girls Cougar Tennis teams begin their season on Wednesday on the road against Palmetto. Let's go Cougars!!!

Advancement:

Cardinal Mooney's Country Nights Dinner Auction Early Bird tickets are on sale now until February 10th. Be sure to go to <https://www.biddingforgood.com/cmhs> and click "Register". Contact KMercurio@cmhs-sarasota.org for any questions.

We are still in need of Class Basket donations:

Freshmen- Wine and Spirits - Please bring in a wine bottle or spirit bottle. Can also donate gift cards to Total Wine, ABC Liquor, Norman's Liquor, wine glasses, or cash donations.

Sophomores - Outdoor and BBQ - Please bring in any outdoor, camping, or BBQ item; can include grills, kayak rentals, Yetis, coolers, camp gear, any outdoor adventure theme, Dick's gift cards or cash donations.

Juniors - Restaurant Gift Cards - Please bring in any amount of gift card to a restaurant or cash donations.

Seniors - Lottery Tickets - Please bring in any denomination of scratch-off lottery tickets or cash donations.

Misc. - If anyone owns a vacation property, hotel or airline points that they would like to donate, please contact KMercurio@cmhs-sarasota.org or call 941-379-2647.

These items can be delivered to the Media Center any time between 7:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.

We appreciate all of your help in making the CMHS Dinner Auction a success.

*****If you have any baskets you could donate please bring them in*****