

Cumberland Middle School

Newsletter

www.cumberland.k12.wi.us

December 2011/January 2012



Dates to Remember

December 1	7 & 8 grade boys' basketball game at Barron, 5:00 start
December 5	Middle School Holiday Concert, high school gym, 7:30 pm
December 6	7 & 8 grade boys' basketball game at Siren, 4:30 start
December 12	7 & 8 grade boys' basketball game Unity home, 5:00 start
December 13	Midway 2nd Quarter
December 20	School Board mtg., district office
December 23-30	No school, winter vacation
January 2, 2012	School resumes
January 16	7 & 8 grade girls' basketball game at Barron, 5:00 start
January 17	7 & 8 grade girls' basketball game Spooner home, 5:00 start
January 18-19	Finals - Grades 7 & 8
January 19	7 & 8 grade girls' basketball game at Unity, 4:30 start
January 20	End 2 quarter/1st semester, makeup day for finals Middle School Solo & Ensemble at Barron
January 23	No school for students/staff development
January 24	7 & 8 grade girls' basketball game at Ladysmith, 5:00 start
January 30	Wolf Ridge parent mtg., choir room, 6:00 pm
January 31	7 & 8 grade girls' basketball game at Hayward, 5:00 start



8th Graders Use iPads for Video Projects



8th Grader Nic Stevens prepares to be filmed as Hernando deSoto, Spanish explorer.

Mr. Waite's 8th Grade US History students used their iPads to create a project on early European explorers. The project required partners to create a video, using their iPad for filming and film editing, and imbed the video in and around a Keynote presentation (Keynote is an application that works much like PowerPoint).

Each group was assigned a particular European explorer and then required to research their lives and achievements, with the final project being presented to the class on the classroom's whiteboard.

The students produced projects that were both creative and detailed, much more so than they have been in previous years where students created a poster board project with glued on text and pictures.

"The presentations ranged from very good to awesome this year," Mr. Waite said. "Using the iPads was a great example of how technology can not only motivate but provide tools that can increase learning exponentially."

5TH GRADERS HONOR VETERANS

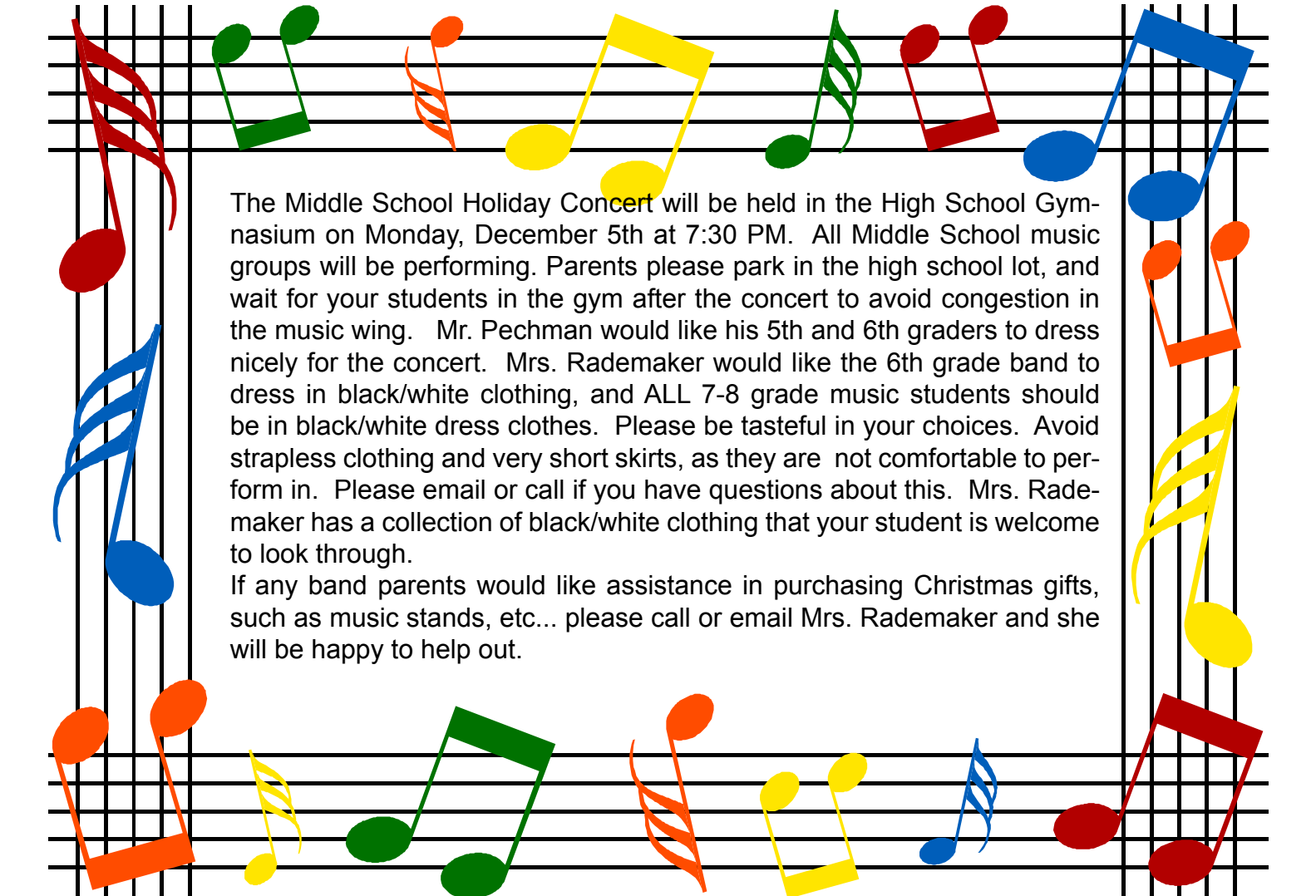


Fifth graders are proud of the “Veterans Wall of Honor” that they created to honor all Veterans on Veterans Day. The activity was based on the picture book *The Wall*, by Eve Bunting, which tells of a father and his young son who visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The boy observes the reactions of the visitors -



honor, sadness, and sense of loss. He also notices the small tributes left by visitors at the wall such as flags, pictures, flowers, and teddy bears. Following the story, the students wrote their own tributes to Veterans. Some students brought pictures of their relatives who are Veterans to add to their display, which includes flowers, flags, and other decorations. They were also fortunate to have guests, including relatives who served, attend the Veterans Day Program with them. The “Veterans Wall of Honor” is on display near the fifth grade hallway in the middle school.





The Middle School Holiday Concert will be held in the High School Gymnasium on Monday, December 5th at 7:30 PM. All Middle School music groups will be performing. Parents please park in the high school lot, and wait for your students in the gym after the concert to avoid congestion in the music wing. Mr. Pechman would like his 5th and 6th graders to dress nicely for the concert. Mrs. Rademaker would like the 6th grade band to dress in black/white clothing, and ALL 7-8 grade music students should be in black/white dress clothes. Please be tasteful in your choices. Avoid strapless clothing and very short skirts, as they are not comfortable to perform in. Please email or call if you have questions about this. Mrs. Rademaker has a collection of black/white clothing that your student is welcome to look through.

If any band parents would like assistance in purchasing Christmas gifts, such as music stands, etc... please call or email Mrs. Rademaker and she will be happy to help out.



Congratulations to Elli Vesley and all of the English 8 students who participated in the VFW writing contest. Students wrote essays about their pride in our country. Students who participated received movie passes and a gift certificate to the Isle Theater from the VFW. Elli's paper was chosen to advance onto the national contest. Good luck Elli!

8th Grade Science

Mrs. Zip's 8th grade science classes are preparing to identify, study, collect supporting data, and propose possible solutions to a water contamination scenario. They started by reviewing topographical maps. In small groups they had to create their own topographical map using a landform model and colored water. Once their map was created they had to compare it to the real map. Following the activity the groups answered a series of analysis questions regarding the contour lines and intervals created on their maps. This information will help them trace the contamination in their investigation. Next, they will be using electronic sensors to collect some field data.



CMS Sixth Graders Work With Canadian Counterparts on Monster Craze

The 6th graders at CMS have been in a MONSTER CRAZE this past month. Students were given an interactive, hands-on assignment of creating a monster and then writing a descriptive essay so someone else could re-create it. Ms. Swiontek's homeroom was able to participate in a Polycom conference with a 7th grade classroom in Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada.

Ms. Swiontek's students were able to see their monsters recreated by the students of Spruce Grove. Students learned valuable lessons on how they can improve their descriptive writing in the future. Not only did students learn about their writing skills; they had a lot of fun meeting and learning about their new Canadian friends!

The pictures are CMS students with their monsters as well as their re-creations that they made from the descriptive writings of the Spruce Grove students.



Literature 7



Literature 7 students created their own podcasts to present common Greek myths. The students turned the myths into radio plays. They also analyzed the purpose of the myth and modern day connections to it. The use of editing techniques and music helped the student create professional sounding podcasts. Coming up next this quarter we will be analyzing nonfiction styles and working with the nonfiction reading students encounter everyday.

Meet our new student teacher!

My name is Josh Bazey, and I am student teaching at CMS with Mr. Dietrich in the math room for the second quarter. I currently am attending UW-Superior and am majoring in Secondary Education-Mathematics with a minor in coaching. My interests include sports, golfing, dirt track racing, bowling, hunting, and coaching basketball. I am looking forward to a positive experience at CMS for the second quarter!



FUEL UP TO PLAY 60 UPDATE:

Once again Cumberland Middle School will be participating in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. This program, which is sponsored by the NFL and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, encourages students to eat healthy and get 60 minutes of exercise a day. On Friday, November 18, during the Beaver Bash, the committee displayed the new banner and this year's representative from the Green Bay Packers. Jordy Nelson will be greeting students as they enter the Library. Committee members include: Caitlyn Weaver, Sara Behling, Rena Erickson, and Camaraya Schutte. Advisors are Kay Capra, Nancy Scharhag and Jennifer Snowbank.

English 8

English 8 students wrote persuasive letters on topics they were passionate about. Topics ranged from new sporting teams to C.P.R. training requirements to the dangers of distracted driving. Many decided to mail their letters to the appropriate recipient. Some have even heard back already! The students showed a lot of enthusiasm for making a positive change in our world!



7th & 8th Grade Girls Basketball



Monday, January 2	1st Practice	
Monday, January 16	at Barron	5:00
Tuesday, January 17	Spooner-Home	5:00
Thursday, January 19	at Unity	4:30
Tuesday, January 24	at Ladysmith	5:00
Tuesday, January 31	at Hayward	5:00
Thursday, February 2	at Siren	4:30
Tuesday, February 7	Chetek-Home	5:00
Monday, February 13	Rice Lake-Home	5:00
Thursday, February 16	at Bloomer	5:00
Tuesday, February 21	Barron-Home	5:00

Practices will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays in the Middle School gym right after school. There will be no practices on Wednesdays.



7th Grade Science

Mrs. Zip's 7th grade science classes are studying minerals and rocks. First we discussed what makes a mineral a mineral. To be classified as a mineral it needs to be a solid, naturally occurring, inorganic, with a chemical composition, and a crystalline structure. So to reinforce this we made "bubble quartz crystals" in class. Students used raisins and toothpicks to represent the chemical composition of quartz and then dipped their models into a bubble solution to show the distinct crystal structure. Next we will be identifying specific minerals based on hardness, streak, color, etc. The students will conduct the lab tests and then use their iPads to enter the lab data to identify the specific mineral they tested.



TO: Parents and Students
FROM: Barry Rose, Superintendent
DATE: October, 2011
RE: Closing Schools Due to Inclement Weather/Early Dismissal

The following information is provided regarding closing of schools and delays because of inclement weather, e.g., snow, sleet, ice, fog and other severe storms and conditions.

Closing school due to weather conditions – The decision to close district schools is made by the superintendent after consultation with the transportation owner, weather bureau and sheriff's department. The following stations will be notified by 6:00 AM, or as soon as conditions are known, of the decision to close district schools.

Radio Stations	AM	FM
Rice Lake	WJMC 1240, WAQE 1090	WJMC 96.1, WAQE 97.7, WKFX 99.1
Shell Lake	WCSW AM 940	WGMO FM 95.3
Minneapolis	WCCO 830	
Eau Claire		WATQ FM 106.7, WBIZ 100.7

TV Stations	Channel
St. Paul/Mpls.	WCCO, Channel 4
St. Paul/Mpls.	KSTP, Channel 5
St. Paul/Mpls.	KMSP, Channel 9
St. Paul/Mpls.	KARE, Channel 11
Eau Claire	WEAU, Channel 13
Eau Claire	WQOW, Channel 18

Delays - Under unusual and rare circumstances, a one or two-hour delay in starting time may be considered due to inclement weather conditions. This delay would also be announced on the above-listed stations. The morning session of the early learning program in Cumberland will not be held.

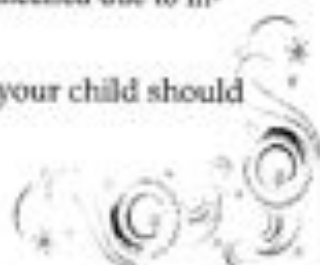
Early Dismissal of Students - Early closing of schools during the school day due to weather conditions will be announced on the above radio stations. School personnel ARE NOT responsible for contacting parents by telephone. Parents should make arrangements with neighbors or friends for the safe care of their children in these types of situations. **Please notify the principal of these arrangements in writing.** If early dismissal occurs during or near the lunch period, every attempt will be made to allow students to eat prior to dismissal. We may close the afternoon session of the early learning program if inclement weather is imminent.

If early dismissal occurs or if there is no school, co-curricular, after school and evening activities will be cancelled from the time of dismissal.

Buses - In the event a road is judged unsafe for travel, the Cumberland Bus Service will notify the schools of the students not transported. Buses for after-school activities may be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Remember, you as the parent/guardian, have the final say whether or not your child should be traveling to school in unstable weather conditions.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your building principal or district superintendent.



7th & 8th Grade Art



Taylor Olsen - 7th Grade



Erin Brierton - 7th Grade



Amber Avery - 8th Grade



Nick Bearhart - 7th Grade

ART NEWS

Students have continued to work hard in Art class. During the last couple of months we have experimented with clay and learned about many artists and cultures from throughout art history.

The 7th grade students recently created fish sculptures using clay. They also completed a project using metallic scratch board. Our inspiration for this project was Gustav Klimt, a well known Art Nouveau artist.

The 8th graders have been learning about gargoyles and created 3D sculptures that depict the heads of these creatures. Another recent project that has kept these students busy is the creation of cartoon blowups. Please stop by the Middle School to check out the artwork on this page as well as other pieces that are on display throughout the school.



Jenna Romanowski - 8th Grade

8th grade High School Registration Meeting

On Monday, January 23rd at 7pm, all 8th graders and their parents are required to attend a high school registration meeting in order to receive registration materials for their freshman year of high school. At this meeting, students will hear from high school principal Mr. Narges and their high school counselor Mrs. Koehler to help transition them from the middle school to the high school.

At this meeting, parents will learn about the registration process and be able to assist their students in signing up for the classes they will need as freshman.

Middle school counselor, Mrs. Flier, will also explain the purpose for the 8th grade planning conferences and you will have the opportunity to set up a time for you and your 8th grader to meet and discuss high school etc. one-to-one.

We will see you the night of January 23rd!



Congratulations to our new 8th grade National Junior Honor Society inductees: Makenna Olson, Kallista Relford, Sara Behling, Annie Larson, Amber Avery, Jenna Romanowski, Chase Boucher, Jack Ault, Hannah Kupferschmidt, Kaitlyn Dorn, and Elliana Vesely.

8th grade Planning Conferences

Each year, all 8th grade students and their parents are invited to sit down with their school counselor, Mrs. Flier, and discuss their high school plans and career goals. The purpose of this meeting is to help students understand how courses and credits work in high school, prepare them for the post-secondary options, and it allows a one-on-one opportunity to ask questions specific to a student's career goals.

These conferences generally last 30-40 minutes and are beneficial to a student's (and a parent's!) transition into high school.

In years past, some comments parents have made about the conferences:

"I appreciate the importance placed on planning at this age – while the students may look a bit dazed by it all, I believe it does a lot of good to hear other adults reinforcing the need to look ahead."

"I found the conference very informational and it gets your child excited about doing well in high school. I wish I would have been this prepared when I started high school."

While you can sign up for these conferences at our 8th grade Parent and Student Registration Meeting on January 23rd, you can also call or email ahead of time to set up a time to meet – during the school day or immediately before or after school. Times are available for parent/teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 13th as well. Call 715-822-5122 ext. 204 or email sflie@csdmail.com to set up a time!



5th Grade Studies the Circulatory System

Students in fifth grade science classes have been learning about human body systems including the circulatory system. They have learned that the main job of this system is to move blood throughout our body carrying oxygen and nutrients to our cells. The main organ of the system is the heart, an amazing muscle. After learning about the parts of the heart, students had the opportunity to dissect a sheep heart and explore its parts in comparison to a human heart. It was an interesting experience and most students were very willing to participate!

Counselor's Corner

We have wrapped up the WKCE state testing! Thank you to our students for their excellent attendance during our week of testing and for working so hard. We appreciate your work and look forward to seeing your great results in the spring!

At this point in the year our 5th graders will begin talking about bullying and what they can do as bystanders and victims if they witness or become a target for bullying. Students will learn effective ways to handle bullying situations and be able to identify and define what bullying is. In January, we will segue from bullying to appreciating individuality – sometimes the root of bullying is when we don't really know others and their individual strengths.

Mrs. Haughian and Ms. Swiontek's 6th grade classrooms have just wrapped up their Slick Tracy program and are now beginning a short unit on bullying that will stem from what they learned in 5th grade regarding how to stand up against bullying as bystanders. The most powerful people in eliminating bullying from our school are students!

At the start of the second semester, I'll be visiting Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Frye's 6th grade classrooms every other Friday morning for classroom guidance! We will start out with our unit on bullying and learn strategies for changing our school climate to a welcoming one free of bullying.



Student iPads will be collected before winter break for repairs and upgrades. Please remind your 7th or 8th graders to have all of their iPad equipment at school on Dec. 22. They will be returned to students on January 2, 2012.

Social Networking and Education

Students in Mr. Dietrich's math classes are using an online website that closely resembles a website many of them know well – Facebook. Edmodo is a social networking site created exclusively for education. It is similar to Facebook, but contains no apps, games, or advertisements. Only those invited by the teacher may join groups, and the teacher is the sole person responsible for the content. It is not meant for sharing personal information, but for communicating information about assignments and posting interesting information beyond what can be shared in the classroom.

Students are expected to use Edmodo for educationally enriching purposes only. Teachers post assignments and students have the ability to submit work to the teacher through Edmodo. Teachers can message students directly, post to small groups or large groups. Assignments and quizzes can be completed and graded. Students are encouraged to post interesting findings, post questions, use the site to check on work missed when absent, ask questions about assignments, and respond to the teacher's postings.

Parents can join a group by asking the teacher for the parent code. The parent can also ask for notifications to be sent to their email addresses on assignments, posts, and quizzes. They can also view the calendar to find out what students did in class or when an assignment is due or when a test or quiz is scheduled.

Go to this website and join your child's group!



PTA NEWS

Jennifer Snowbank-President

November 2011

Next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8 at 5:00 PM in the MS Library

FUNDRAISER is a HUGE SUCCESS!!



This year the PTA decided to try a local company for our fundraising needs, and we could not have been happier. Club's Choice from Eau Claire offered the PTA a brochure sale with pizza insert along with online ordering opportunities for students in PreK-8. Sales were at an all-time high and comments about the quality and ease of this fundraiser are numerous.

As an added incentive to sellers, there was a LIMO LUNCH for anyone selling over 30 items (50 for siblings) and there were over 20 students who earned this privilege!! These students rode in style to Burger King where they ate and chatted about how cool it was to ride in a Hummer Limo!

Thank you to all who purchased items, sold items, and helped with the handout in the gym!!

PTA Membership Challenge

The PTA would like to extend the PTA Membership challenge for parents and community members until December 22, 2011. Please consider joining the PTA to demonstrate your support for this great organization. The PTA strives to provide funding and volunteers for activities and programs that impact students in the Cumberland School District, grades Pre-K through 12. Join today!! Membership form is in the newsletter or can be downloaded at:

<https://sites.google.com/a/csdmail.com/cumberland-pta/>



Cumberland PTA

Join us and help make a difference in
your school and community!!

The Cumberland PTA is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that partners with Cumberland School District to help create the best possible learning experience for all students and staff. PTA also provides parent and family learning opportunities and activities throughout the year.

We invite PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, TEACHERS, and FRIENDS
to join the PTA at one of the following levels of membership:

- Level 1:** YES! I support the PTA, but regretfully do not have time to volunteer right now.
- Level 2:** YES! I support the PTA, and I am willing to volunteer. The best number to reach me at is _____
(PTA strives to ask volunteers for a maximum of 90 minutes of their time per year).
- Level 3:** YES! I support the PTA, and I am willing to volunteer, PLUS I would be interested in attending PTA meetings. The best number to reach me at is _____
(PTA strives to ask volunteers for a maximum of 90 minutes of their time per year).

Registration for 2011-2012 PTA Membership: **\$7.00/person OR \$10.00/couple**
(Membership dues go to National PTA to provide resources and information to our local chapter)

YOUR NAME(S) _____

YOUR CHILD'S NAME _____

GRADE _____ TEACHER _____

*Please keep me informed of all PTA Events and Happenings at the following email address: _____

Please return this form and membership dues to your child's teacher, school office,
or mail it to: Cumberland PTA, 1530 2nd Ave. Cumberland, WI 54829.

THANK YOU!!

Jennifer Snowbank
2011-2012 PTA President
(715) 822-5122 x 253 jsnow@csdmail.com

Family Fun Night

Fun for all ages!!



http://www.dipity.com/flickr/Flickr_clue_game/

Thursday, December 15

Join the PTA at our
First Annual Family Game Night
Cumberland Elementary School Commons
Pizza at 5:30
Games at 6:00
Prize Drawings at 7:00
(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!)

You must REGISTER to attend!!

For more information: Jennifer Snowbank

jsnow@csdmail.com

(715) 822-5122 x 253



Family Fun Night

Sponsored by PTA

Registration is a MUST in order to have enough pizza and games for all families.

Please complete registration form and return to Elementary or Middle School Office
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9.
Absolutely no late registrations will be accepted.

Pizza 5:30 PM

Games 6:00 PM

**Prize Drawings
7:00 PM**

(MUST be present to win)

Sign us up for the PTA Family Fun Night
in the Elementary School Commons on
Thursday, December 15!!

Student Name _____ Teacher _____

Total Number Attending from Family _____ {very important!!!}

Age(s) of Children:

Under 5 years

5-9 years

10-14 years