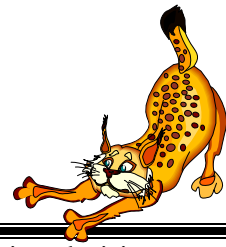




Churchill Chatter

Issue #13
December 3, 2008

Churchill Road Elementary
7100 Churchill Road McLean, Virginia 22101
Office (703) 288-8400 24-Hour Attendance (703)288-8484
<http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/>



Principal's Podium

As we enter the final month of 2008, we also officially enter the chilly months of the school year. An age old debate occurs in many households- what should the children wear to school?



CRS families should understand that it's the teachers' expectation that the children will have some outside recess everyday. As a staff, we have agreed that we will take the children outside, unless the temperature is below 20 degrees (including wind-chill) or there is some other type of inclement weather that prohibits outside recess. This decision is based primarily on the fact that we know fresh air and outside activity is healthy for the children, promotes positive socialization and peer interactions, and promotes better learning and retention of information for the duration of the day.

Children should dress in layers to have a healthy and comfortable day because some of our classrooms can become very warm, but there will also be outside time at some point of the day. The CRS staff will do their best to makes sure that your children wear the outerwear that you send to school. A warm jacket, gloves or mittens, and a hat are a winter necessity. Your children won't have the option of staying inside during recess time, so we appreciate your help in making sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

Even young children can take responsibility for making good decisions about their winter clothing. The children's sections of the newspapers or weather.com provide up-to-date information about the weather. Families can compare the weather in other areas of the world, analyze weather patterns and make predictions about the upcoming weather. If your child is engaged and has ownership in this daily responsibility, they will be more inclined to make good decisions about there winter clothing.

As we begin the winter season, another age old question is "When will we have our first snow day?" And this question leads to many other, more pragmatic, weather related questions, of course. The FCPS web site has information about how weather-

related school opening/closing decisions are made. The weather decision process web site address is: www.fcps.edu/news/weather.htm.

So, now that we are all going to be wearing our hats, gloves and warm coats, lets...

Think Snow!

Don Hutzel

Welcome Jody Sterling!!



We are pleased to welcome Jody Sterling to the Churchill Road family. Jody will be our school's new Office Manager and Finance Officer. Ms. Sterling has worked as an office manager and accountant for a variety of businesses, primarily law firms.

Ms. Sterling's proudest achievement is being the mother of three daughters ages 18, 23 and 24. In her spare time, she is enrolled in classes in landscape design; a skill which she eventually hopes to parlay into a retirement career.

Ms. Sterling was interested in working at Churchill Road because she liked the idea of working in a lively environment where the focus was on children, rather than making money. Our school's high energy is the right setting for her. After starting this past Monday, December 1, her first impression is "People are very nice and that's great!"

Please be sure to say "hello" when you see Ms. Sterling in our front office.

Save the Date: Join Mr. Hutzel for the next principal's coffee at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December, 17th



Hot Chocolate on a Cold Winter's Day



Once again, the CRS staff was spoiled rotten by the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee. And we loved it! Thank you for all the many great varieties of hot chocolate, the bonbons, the cookies and especially the chocolate-covered pretzels.

Don't Let the Holiday Spirit Pass You By!

Check Your Child's VIP Folder for Details on the 18th Annual Buddy School Holiday Gift Drive

Today's VIP folder includes a pink flyer from the CRS PTA Community Service committee detailing what *new, unwrapped gifts* you and your child can donate to help families at Dogwood Elementary have a happy holiday this year! We're supporting 40, rather than 30, families this year, so *we need your help more than ever.*



The 18th annual Buddy School Holiday Gift Drive starts on Monday, December 8 and runs through Friday, December 12. Please be sure to attach the pink flyer from the VIP folder to your gift so we know for whom it is intended. Collection boxes will be placed in every classroom to make it easy for children to drop off the gifts.

We would like to include rolls of gift wrap with the gifts that we deliver to each family. If you have an extra roll or two that you could donate, please send it in with your gift.

Finally, we are seeking parent volunteers on Friday, December 12 to help collect, sort, bag and tag the gifts. We'll start at 8:35 a.m. and finish by 10:00 a.m. so we can hand the cafeteria over to our hungry children for lunch!

Questions? Please contact one of the Community Service committee chairs: Liz Holzapfel, woodapple@cox.net, 703-827-0633; Kathleen Mullery, skmullery@verizon.net, 703-734-3220, Lezlie McBride, lezliemcbride@gmail.com, 703-893-5290.

CRS SPELLING BEE

Is spelling your thing? Would you like to hone your spelling skills and have some fun! Have you watched the Scripps National Spelling Bee on television? Well, the CRS PTA will be hosting a Spelling Bee for students in 4th – 6th grades. Participants will be given a web link to study for the written round of the spelling bee to be held in early February 2009 and the oral round to be held the end of February 2009. Please look for the registration form in your child's VIP today.



For additional information, please contact:

Kimberly Bolin; triles2@aol.com

Rajee Ramesh; rajee_vis@yahoo.com

SCA Update

By Adriana Haleleh, Historian



During the first big SCA representative meeting of the school year, we talked about the events that are going to be happening throughout the school year. The SCA told the reps what their job is and what they have to do. We also told the older kids to partner up with the younger children. The first meeting went great and so far, everything the SCA had planned for is working out for the reps.



CRS Calendar of Events – December 3- 12, 2008

Wednesday, Dec 3 (A Week):

3:00-4:30	Math Enrich. Gr. 6	Room 208
3:15-4:30	Drama Grades 3/4	Stage
3:15-4:30	Spanish 1	Room 103
3:15-4:30	French 1	PTA Room
3:15-4:15	Bobcat Awareness Club	MOD3
3:15-4:15	Girl Power	Room 212
3:15-4:00	Lacrosse 5/6	Gym

Thursday, Dec 4 (A Week):

8:00-8:25	Jump Rope Club	Gym
11:00-1:00	Picture Retake Day	Stage
3:00-4:15	Artist Trading Cards	Room 219
3:15-4:15	Girls on the Run	Track
3:15-4:00	Lacrosse 3/4	Gym
3:15-5:00	Chess Club	Café

Friday, Dec 5 (A Week):

3:00-4:15	Artist Trading Cards	Room 219
3:15-4:00	Flag Football 5/6	Gym

Monday, Dec 8 (B Week):

8:00-8:25	Sports Club	Gym
12:45-2:00	Spanish 1	Room 103
12:45-2:00	French 1	PTA Room

Tuesday, Dec 9 (B Week):

9:00-10:00	Chorus Concert	Stage/Gym
3:00-4:30	Scrabble G r. 3-6	Room 219
3:00-4:15	Keyboarding Gr. 4-6	Tech Lab
3:15-4:30	LAST Drama Gr. 5/6	Rm. 121
3:15-5:30	Girls on the Run Dinner	EA Rm.
3:15-4:00	Flag Football 3/4	Gym
7:00-8:00	Chorus Concert	Stage/Gym

Wednesday, Dec 10 (B Week):

9:00-10:15	PTA Meeting	EA Room
3:00-4:30	Math Enrich. Gr. 6	Room 208
3:15-4:30	LAST Drama Grades 3/4	Stage
3:15-4:30	Spanish 1	Room 103
3:15-4:30	French 1	PTA Room
3:15-4:15	Bobcat Awareness Club	MOD3
3:15-4:15	Girl Power	Room 212
3:15-4:00	Lacrosse 5/6	Gym

Thursday, Dec 11 (B Week):

8:00-8:25	Jump Rope Club	Gym
3:00-4:15	Artist Trading Cards	Room 219
3:15-4:00	Lacrosse 3/4	Gym
3:15-5:00	Chess Club	Café

Friday, Dec 12 (B Week):

3:00-4:15	Artist Trading Cards	Room 219
3:15-4:00	Flag Football 5/6	Gym



Great News!!! Churchill Road ES is ranked **third** on the **Washington Post's** list of the top 100 Northern Virginia elementary schools – based on advanced Math and Reading SOL scores. For more information, go to the CRS home page and click on [Washington Post](#).

From the CRS PTA:

For a summary discussion of the 2010 school budget at the November 14, 2008 joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the FCPS School Board, see the latest Fairfax County PTA newsletter at http://www.fccpta.org/newsletters/newsletter_2008_12.pdf (see pages 4 & 5). Additional background information on the budget is available on the CRS PTA website at www.churchillroadpta.org.

Sally Foster

The Special Online Holiday Offer includes a **FREE \$20 GIFT** with ANY purchase as well as **FREE SHIPPING** on all orders of \$60 or more. Best of all, **50% OF EVERY PURCHASE HELPS SUPPORT CRS!!**



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Questions???? Please contact Angela Proxmire (aproxmire@gmail.com)

The CRS Home page address: <http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/>. To submit Chatter material, please email Editor Kim Moran at Kathleen.Moran@fcps.edu. **Deadline for submissions is the end of school each Friday.** Keep In Touch (KIT) reminders will typically be emailed to the CRS community on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 3:00 p.m.. Please email your brief KIT message to Kim Moran and Don Hutzel at [KIT Request](#). All KIT messages should be sent to the school at least 24 hours in advance of their posting.