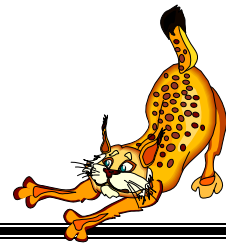




Churchill Chatter

Issue #16
January 7, 2009

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

Every school facility in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has in place crisis management and emergency preparedness plans, designed with the help of the school system's security planning staff, local law enforcement, and emergency management officials. Plans are regularly reviewed and updated. The plans include procedures to respond to critical incidents, like fire and tornadoes, and we practice these drills regularly. Now, Churchill Road, along with other Fairfax County schools, has formally added an additional drill, called a lockdown drill.



A lockdown is a well-established procedure designed to protect students and staff members in a case in which there might be threats of violence within a school. During a lockdown, students remain in their classrooms or are escorted to classrooms if they are in the halls, and all interior and exterior doors are closed and locked. Once the facility is rendered safe and students are accounted for, the school is returned to normal operation.

While we have no reason to believe that any threat of violence will arise, it is always best to be prepared. It is important to train students and staff members so that we can effectively implement a lockdown in the event one becomes necessary. Training helps ensure a calmer, more effective lockdown. To implement this training, our school will conduct a lockdown drill on Thursday, January 15. This drill is generally short, typically lasting no longer than a fire drill. It will be conducted in collaboration with the FCPS Office of Safety and Security.

I will continue to keep you informed of the safety and security measures we have in place at Churchill Road to protect your children.

On behalf of all the staff, we appreciate your continued support in these matters.

Don Hutzel
CRS Principal

Wacky Hat Day Fun for All On December 19th

Photo credit: Adriana H., CRS Historian



A Holiday Thank You

THANK YOU Each of us in the front office sends a warm thank you to all of the families who spoiled us with sweets and other treats over the holidays. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is truly appreciated!

Happy New Year from Mr. Hutzel, Mrs. Manoatl, Mrs. Moran, Mrs. Redding, Mrs. Sterling and Mrs. Sullivan

**CRS PTA COMMUNITY SERVICE
COMMITTEE**

MARTHA'S TABLE SANDWICH MAKING
Wednesday, January 14, 2009

The CRS PTA Community Service Committee will be making sandwiches right in our own CRS cafeteria for MARTHA'S TABLE, which is located in Washington, D.C. MARTHA'S TABLE serves more than 2,500 meals every day to needy citizens. We ask that interested families please provide the following sandwich ingredients:

P.M. K through 2nd Grades:

A loaf of pre-sliced bread (squishes less if frozen)

A.M. K & 3rd through 6th Grades:

Pre-packaged lunch meat or cheese slices

A permission slip will be sent home in this week's VIP folders for 2nd and 5th grade students who are interested in participating in the sandwich making in the CRS cafeteria after school on **Wednesday, January 14, 2009.**

Last year, CRS students and parent volunteers prepared about 2,200 sandwiches for the hungry at MARTHA'S TABLE. Together, let's continue our great history of helping those less fortunate in our area. **Thank you for helping to feed the homeless!**

Questions? Please contact:

Lezlie McBride, 703-893-5290 or

lezliemcbride@gmail.com

Kathleen Mullery, 703-734-3220 or

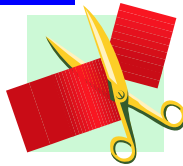
skmullery@verizon.net

Liz Holzapfel, 703-827-0633 or woodapple@cox.net

Parent Volunteers Needed:
One Hour Will Do It

Support the CRS Bookmark Contest, our annual school-wide poster contest promoting a safe and drug free school, by cutting white poster board into 7"x22" pieces at school.

Everything except an hour of your time will be provided. Two volunteers by Friday, January 9 will be appreciated by teachers and students alike. Please contact counselor Ann O'Brien at ann.obrien@fcps.edu or (703) 288-8424.



"Strategenie: Back in Time"
A Family Math Night for Grades 3-6

Thursday, January 15, 2009

6:30-8:00 p.m. -- CRS Gym

Conjure up some family fun with math at "*Strategenie: Back in Time*," a family math night for grades 3-6 students and their families. This highly popular evening will feature about 20 different ancient and not so ancient math games and activities for students and parents to play together. Be sure to visit with *Strategenie*. Can you guess which CRS teacher that will be? CRS teachers will be manning each activity but Community Service hours are available for older alumni who'd like to help out too so contact Ms. Bamdad. Please contact Cheryl Bamdad, math lead teacher, with any questions. cheryl.bamdad@fcps.edu.



Come and discover the strategies to these ancient games! It's a night not to be missed!

Winter Snowflakes

CRS second and third graders had to make their own snowflakes before the winter break as "mother nature" did not cooperate.



Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart!

Yes, it's that time of year again – Churchill's annual Jump Rope for Heart (JR4H)! This year, Churchill is also simultaneously running Hoops for Heart (same concept, only students can better their fitness through basketball as well as jumping rope) so that interest levels of students are at their peak. During each PE class for the four weeks surrounding Winter Break, students will explore jump roping skills (led by Mr. CK) for the first half of their PE time and explore basketball skills (led by Mr. Mastaler) for the second half. From January 21- 23, all CRS students will participate in our annual "Heart Celebration" as part of PE, regardless of fundraising participation.

A Little Background:

This annual fundraiser that supports the work of the non-profit, American Heart Association (AHA) is one of the most fun-filled events of the year in Physical Education class. Those students who wish to raise funds to help the AHA fight heart attack and strokes across America are volunteering their efforts for a fantastic cause and earning some small prizes in recognition of their efforts to fighting heart attack and stroke. But JR4H/H4H is not just limited to those students who wish to fundraise; every student in the school is learning valuable jump roping and basketball skills which they can use for a lifetime to battle heart attack and stroke inside their own bodies. Students learn that three simple means – daily exercise, healthy eating habits and avoidance of tobacco products can help them fight heart attack and stroke. Not only will they avoid these costly health care needs later in their lives, but they will live longer healthier lives because of it.

Calling All Volunteers:

We request your help! Not only can you choose to help your child raise money for this cause but you are also invited to join your child for their "Heart Celebration." From January 21st through the 23rd, your child will be participating in this celebration during *their normal PE class*. Last year, there was at least one parent at each scheduled event. These volunteers were cordial enough to lend a hand with the various activities, provided some heart healthy snacks *and* took some time to jump rope with their child. Please consider helping out and thank you very much in advance for any support you can provide.

If you are interested in attending, please email Mr. CK at Jordan.craigkuhn@fcps.edu with the following information:

Child's Name:

Child's Teacher:

How you would like to offer support:

Then, you will receive an email back accepting your offer as well as alerting you to you child's "Heart Celebration" time during that week.

Thanks very much,

Mr. CK & Mr. Mastaler

Grading Policy Decision by January 22

The long-awaited FCPS study of grading policies was released last Friday and will be discussed at School Board meetings on January 8, 12, and 22. The report presents four possible options:

Option 1: No action

Option 2: Change weights only (0.5 for honors and 1.0 for AP/IB, and dual enrollment)

Option 3: Change scale only (10-point)

Option 4: Change both

Superintendent Dale will recommend only that honors/IB/AP weights be changed (Option 2). He believes "Option 2 enables FCPS to maintain high academic standards while recognizing and rewarding students who choose to take the most rigorous courses. Option 3 lowers performance expectations and grading standards, and would not substantively address decisions on merit scholarship or honors at the time of admission. Option 1 does not address the merit scholarship or honors at admissions issue, but does maintain high academic standards and performance expectations."

FAIRGRADE, the parent advocacy group, disagrees strongly. They believe that "the FCPS report definitively shows conclusive evidence that the current grading scale hurts students' chances for college admissions" and that "FCPS' own research report concludes that changing the weights would benefit the highest achieving students (those with GPAs of 3.75 or higher), but changing the grading scale would benefit ALL students, especially those in the mid and lower ranges of the grade distribution (see FCPS Executive Summary, page 10 and FCPS Findings, page 49)." Information on FAIRGRADE's position and ongoing advocacy is available at www.fairgrade.org.

Everyone in the FCPS community is invited to attend the School Board meetings, which are held at 7:00 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, located at 3020 Gallows Road in Falls Church. (This message reflects the views of the PTA.)

CRS Calendar of Events -- January 7-20, 2009

Wednesday, Jan 7 (B Week):

3:00-4:30 Math Enrich. Gr. 6 Room 208
 3:15-4:30 French 1 PTA Room
 3:15-4:15 Bobcat Awareness Club MOD3
 3:15-4:15 Girl Power Room 212

Thursday, Jan 8 (B Week):

8:00-8:25 Jump Rope Club Gym
 3:15-5:00 Chess Club Café

Friday, Jan 9 (B Week):

No activities scheduled

Monday, Jan 12 (A Week):

12:45-2:00 Spanish 1, Sec 1 Room 103
 12:45-2:00 French 1 PTA Room

Tuesday, Jan 13 (A Week):

3:00-4:30 Science Olympiad MOD1

Wednesday, Jan 14 (A Week):

2:45-4:15 Martha's Table Sandwich Making
 for Grades 2&5 Cafe
 3:00-4:30 Math Enrich. Gr. 6 Room 208
 3:15-4:30 Spanish, Sec 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

Thursday, Jan 15 (A Week):

8:00-8:25 Jump Rope Club Gym
 3:15-5:00 Chess Club Café
 6:00-8:00 Family Math Night Gr. 4-6 Gym

Friday, Jan 16 (A Week):

No activities scheduled

Monday, Jan 19 (B Week):

School closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.
 Holiday

Tuesday, Jan 20 (B Week):

School closed for Inauguration Day

PTA Meeting this Thursday Evening, January 8

All CRS parents, teachers, and staff are invited to attend the PTA's monthly meetings. January's meeting will be held **tomorrow night**, Thursday, January 8, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Exploratory Arts Room. The meeting agenda is available on the PTA website, at <http://www.churchillroadpta.org/MeetingsMinutes/tabid/106/Default.aspx>.

Roots & Shoots EVENT on Saturday, January 17 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Cub Run RECenter, 4630 Stonecroft Blvd. Chantilly, VA 20151



Join other elementary school students, age 5-12 for a special recycling and energy saving project as part of the "**Roots & Shoots**" program. The Roots & Shoots program is about making positive change happen—for our communities, for animals and for the environment. And it all starts with you! With tens of thousands of young people in almost 100 countries, the Roots & Shoots network branches out across the globe, connecting youth of all ages who share a common desire to help make our world a better place. This powerful, youth-driven network fosters a fun, flexible and supportive environment where young people and adults alike come together to share ideas and inspiration, implement successful community service projects and participate in special events and global campaigns.

For additional information on the Roots and Shoots program and to register, contact: Debbie Lodato, Volunteer Manager, at 703-817-9423 or Deborah.lodato@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Cheers of the Week...!



Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of December 22nd

Sasha Dodzin (Kindergarten); Peter Moran (1st); Nihal Khurana (2nd); Morgan Poirer (3rd);

Oliva Maes (4th); and Whole Class: Mr. Ickowski's 4th grade class. More than 600 Cheers were handed out in the last week before the holiday. Wow! Great job!

Remember, at CRS we follow the three R's. We respect ourselves, we respect others, and we respect property.

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 Hutzal at KIT_Request. All KIT messages should be sent to the school at least 24 hours in advance of their posting.