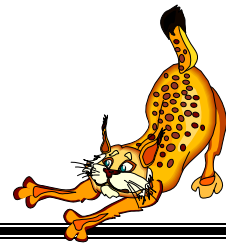




Churchill Chatter

Issue #18
January 21, 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/>



Strategenie a Huge Success



CRS students stepped back in time with *Strategenie: Back in Time*, a family math night themed around ancient math games from many different cultures including Egyptian, Chinese, Japanese, Incan,

Colonial American, Greek, Medieval European and more. CRS teachers dressed to fit the time periods and helped to man the games along with a cadre of 8th grade CRS alumni looking for community service.



Students and parents came to play with the 20 different strategy games, puzzles and activities. Some parents were even more involved than their kids! One couple worked on a Magic Square for 30 minutes, but they got it! Persistence pays off in mathematics.



Mr. Hutzel is still working on the Towers of Hanoi puzzle. Did you solve it? Check out the CRS web page photo gallery to see more pictures and to get a list of the games and where to find them.

Girl Scouts Receive \$500 for Clean Green Stream Project

Four CRS girl scouts from Troop 3377 received a prestigious Johnie Forte, Jr. Memorial Grant* for their upcoming project to reduce erosion and prevent litter from entering the stream in Churchill Road park directly behind CRS. *(The Johnie Forte, Jr. Memorial Grant is made possible by Clean Fairfax Council, Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program, Fairfax County Wastewater Management and Vantria Federal Credit Union.)



CRS sixth graders Julia, Maya, Natalie and Billie wanted to do a Bronze Award service project that would help make a difference for the environment near the school. After observing water flow patterns, stream bank erosion, and litter entering the stream, they decided upon a project that would help reduce human impacts on the stream. The girls tested the stream water quality last year during Outdoor Odyssey, and submitted planting plans to the Fairfax County Park Authority this month for their Clean Green Stream project.

The project includes constructing two small log and stone berms to slow runoff and reduce erosion, adding native plants to prevent erosion near the footbridge, and increasing student awareness of litter prevention. If a matching donation from CRS/PTA can be secured, grant funds may buy outdoor recycling containers for the playground and track areas. The Scouts' ultimate goal is to apply for certification of the CRS gardens and grounds and park area as a certified wildlife habitat.

Let's all do our part to keep our CRS grounds clean and **green**—please dispose of recyclables properly and don't litter. Thank you, girls!

Congratulations Churchill Road!!!



On behalf of the Churchill Road School staff, we are pleased and proud to be the recipients of the 2009 Governor's Award for Education Excellence for the second consecutive year. This year, 31 Fairfax County public schools were among the 162 Virginia public schools honored with the Governor's Award. An additional 45 Fairfax County public schools have also been recognized by the state Board of Education for 2009 Board of Education (BOE) Excellence Awards.

To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve Governor Kaine's goals for elementary reading; enrolment in Algebra 1 by grade 8; enrolment in college-level courses; attainment of advanced diplomas; increased attainment of career and industry certifications; and participation, if eligible, in the Virginia Preschool Initiative. Schools and school divisions also earn bonus points for other performance measures, including the Governor's Nutrition and Physical Activity Scorecard. For complete information on the award and the complete list of schools that were honored, go to the link on the [CRS website](#).

Don Hutzel, CRS principal

Box Tops for Education Really Pays!



We are pleased to announce that Churchill Road has received a check for **\$1,453.70** from the Box Tops for Education program. That's a lot of box tops and these extra funds will be put to good use, supporting our purchases of school equipment for the children. Earnings from this payment reflect box tops collected from March-October, 2008.

Special thanks are extended to last year's chair people, Lynn Pfadenhauer and Kay Hollar and this year's chairperson, JoAnn Watson. We appreciate their dedication to this program and the hours they have spent organizing this program!

Lost and Found



Lost something? Please come and look through the lost and found! As you can see, there are many jackets, sweaters, lunchboxes, gloves, etc. waiting to be reunited with their owners. After the teacher workdays on Jan. 26 and 27, everything left will be donated to Garfield Elementary School. The lost and found is located across from the teacher workroom near the gym.

Wow! 879 Sandwiches to Martha's Table

With meat, cheese and bread donated by the CRS community of families, volunteers from the 2nd and 5th grades made 759 sandwiches last Wednesday for Martha's Table. Then, the Ramminger family took home the leftover meat and cheese and made 120 more sandwiches, for a grand total of **879 sandwiches!** These were gratefully received by Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. This is a big contribution to the 3,000 sandwiches Martha's Table makes and distributes, **EACH DAY**, to our city's low income and homeless residents.

Many thanks for this tremendous outpouring from our families. Thank you to all the adult volunteers who helped this event move along smoothly. And a very special thank you to the Ramminger family. There is one more Martha's Table sandwich-making event scheduled for this school year: 3rd and 4th graders will have their turn on March 11.

3rd Graders Enjoy Math Games



On Friday, January 16, third graders in Mr. Geer and Mrs. McHale's classes combined for math games and working on Team Building as well.

Ice Skating on February 8th

Join your CRS friends for an afternoon of Ice Skating on Sunday, February 8! We'll be at SkateQuest in Reston from 3:10-5:10 p.m. RSVP forms were distributed in your child's VIPs. Tickets are \$6 each and must be purchased in advance—please RSVP by Friday, January 30. Tickets will be distributed at the door. Admission includes skate rental. Questions? Contact Jenifer Lesan (703-288-3132 / jrlesan@aol.com) or Natalie Sturm (703-790-1540 / njsturm@cox.net).



FCPS Grading Policy Update

On Monday, January 12, the School Board held a work session where FAIRGRADE was discussed. School Board members acknowledged at the Work Session that parents have lost confidence in the current grading system. The following update is based on a summary provided by FAIRGRADE:

GRADING SCALE: The consensus among a majority of School Board members is that a grading scale change is needed. But there was no consensus on what type of scale change is needed. It appears a motion will be presented **TOMORROW (January 22nd)** that will task Dr. Dale and FCPS staff to study the pros and cons of available grading scales and report back to the School Board within 2 – 2 1/2 months. Their goal is to implement a grading scale change for the 2009-10 school year.

FAIRGRADE will remain engaged in this process, providing high school profiles from schools currently using the more standard 10-point grading scale (with pluses and minuses). FAIRGRADE will continue to lobby FCPS officials for this specific grading scale.

WEIGHTS FOR AP/IB: The School Board agreed with Dr. Dale's recommendation to add extra weights for advanced courses. The discussion focused on adding 1.0 extra weights for AP/IB coursework and applying those weights retroactively for AP/IB courses taken up through this school year 2008-09. The School Board's discussion implied this motion would pass when a vote is taken TOMORROW, January 22nd.

WEIGHTS FOR HONORS: The School Board was in agreement with Dr. Dale's proposal to POSTPONE adding a 0.5 extra weight for Honors coursework for THIS year, i.e., to begin weighting for Honors coursework starting with the 2009-10 school year. Because of the various types of Honors-level courses across the county, FCPS officials stated they need to spend several months determining which courses will fall under the Honors designation and receive the additional 0.5 weight. School Board officials reiterated they want parents to have reasonable expectations about implementation timelines and what affect, if any, a grading scale change might have on a student's individual letter grades and GPA. The School Board will discuss these issues further and vote on the weighting proposal TOMORROW, Thursday, January 22nd. FAIRGRADE believes that parent attendance remains critical at this meeting, and that parents must remain active to keep FCPS officials focused on grading scale changes. This article reflects the views of FAIRGRADE.)

Clean Hands Kill Germs!



So many viruses and bacterial infections can be kept to a minimum, if we practice hand washing. Please remind your students to wash after using the restroom and BEFORE eating lunch. Strep throat, intestinal viruses, even the common cold will be minimized with frequent hand washing.

CRS Calendar of Events -- January 21 - 30, 2009

Wednesday, Jan 21 (B Week):

3:00-4:30 Math Enrich. Gr. 6 Room 208
 3:15-4:30 Spanish 1 Room 103
 3:15-4:15 Bobcat Awareness Club MOD3

Thursday, Jan 22 (B Week):

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

Friday, Jan 23 (B Week):

No activities scheduled

Monday, Jan 26 (A Week):

Teacher Workday – No school for students

Tuesday, Jan 27 (A Week):

Teacher Workday – No school for students

Wednesday, Jan 28 (A Week):

3:00-4:30 Math Enrich. Gr. 6 Room 208
 3:15-4:30 Spanish, Sec 1 Room 103
 3:15-4:15 Bobcat Awareness Club MOD3
 3:15-4:15 Girl Power Room 212

Thursday, Jan 29 (A Week):

8:00-8:25 Jump Rope Club Gym
 9:00-3:00 Pictures, Team & Candid shots for the yearbook
 3:15-5:00 Chess Club Café

Friday, Jan 30 (A Week):

No activities scheduled

Note from the Office: Another 4-day Weekend

As you know, we have a second 4-day weekend coming up for students: January 24-27. If your child will be out any additional days around these dates, please let the school know your child will be absent. Call the attendance line to leave a message at 703-288-8484. Thank you.



Save the Dates

Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Churchill Road Library for a Parent Networking event on Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Awareness presented by Kara Isadoridy, Alcohol and Other Drug Specialist, FCPS Division of Safe and Drug-Free Youth. Light refreshments will be provided. This workshop will include information on current drug trends in the county, how to spot drug use, and how to prevent drug use. This event is sponsored by the Parent Networking Committee of the CRS PTA. Questions? Contact Ruth Baxley at jrbaxley@verizon.net.

Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Tyson's Corner Center. Churchill Road is having another community event at Barnes and Noble. Save the date, and keep an eye out for who our guest performers will be and where to find the voucher! See you there

Langley High School Fashion Show



Come one, come all! The Langley High School Fashion Marketing Department will host its annual Fashion Show on February 21, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Langley auditorium. Mystique, a Cirque du Style.....dense with lion tamers, acrobats, and ring masters galore will be sure to keep you at the edge of your seat growling for more. For ticket information, please contact Tricia Poythress at tricia.poythress@fcps.edu



Cheers of the Week...!



Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of January 12th.

Justin Choi (Kindergarten); Vincent Watson (1st); Jacque Im (2nd); Timmy Swiers (3rd); Joey Gafni (4th); and Whole Class: Mr. Geer's 3rd grade class. 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.