



Issue #19
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Churchill Chatter

Churchill Road Elementary
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<http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/>



Advanced Academic Resources at CRS

As the Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (formerly the GT Resource Teacher), I work with the students at Churchill every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Students have spent some time in the new Strategies Lab where they have been exploring the "Habits of Mind" (managing impulsivity, perseverance, curiosity, and flexibility) and problem solving strategies through games and experimental design. The funding of the lab by the PTA has been greatly appreciated by the teachers and students.



Pictured above, Mrs. Hennigan and fourth graders use teamwork to develop strategies for solving math problems.

Students in kindergarten through 2nd grade are developing critical and creative thinking skills through open-ended lessons. These lessons (which align with the Level 1 services for all students) support the core subjects. The first and second graders have also participated in lessons that focus on developing their creativity.



Pictured above, fourth graders make pollinators as part of an experimental design lesson.

Model Thinking Lessons are taught to students in grades 3-6. These lessons are designed to teach students how to think more effectively. Each of the nine lessons teaches one of the thinking strategies which can be applied in all content areas. So far this year, the students have been exposed to questioning, encapsulation, visualization, and mind mapping.

As an example, encapsulation helps children develop note-taking skills for research. Additional lessons with each grade level have focused on Jacob's Ladder, a program which supports CRS' reading and writing curriculum, experimental design, problem solving, primary sources and research.



Pictured above, fourth graders use a puzzle to work on visualization.

In addition to working with CRS students in the Strategies Lab, I serve as part of the local screening committee for placement in the GT Center. **Please be aware that the deadline for referring any student for gifted services for the fall of 2009 is Friday, February 6, 2009.** There will be **no exceptions** to this deadline.

The second graders in the pool do not need to be referred since they will be screened automatically. Parents may still submit additional information for the students in the pool. Please note that being selected for the pool does not offer guaranteed placement to the GT Center; it offers the opportunity to be screened by the GT Central committee without a referral form. Please refer to: <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/connections.html> (the GT website) for additional information and forms.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions. Email is the best way to reach me.

Thank you,

Willia Hennigan,
Advanced Academic Resource Teacher
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FCPS Accepting Applications for Elementary Magnet School Programs



Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is currently accepting applications for its elementary magnet school programs for students entering kindergarten through grade 5 for Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and for students entering grades 1 through 6 for Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences for the 2009-10 school year. Selection for available magnet school spaces is based on a lottery.

To be eligible for the magnet school lottery, students must be working at or above grade level in language arts and math and must demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behaviors. For Bailey's Elementary, students entering kindergarten should have attended preschool during the 2008-09 school year.

An information night will be held for families interested in the elementary magnet school program at Bailey's on **Thursday, February 5, at 7:00 p.m.** at the school; the snow date is February 12.

An information night will be held for families interested in the elementary magnet school program at Hunters Woods on **Tuesday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m.** at the school; the snow date is February 10.

If you have questions on the magnet school program, please contact the applicable individual: The **application process**, call the magnet information line at 703-846-8740; the **Bailey's magnet program**, call Marjorie McCarthy, liaison, at 703-575-6836; or the **Hunters Woods magnet program**, call Diane Beers, liaison, at 703-262-7405.

More information about both programs, including online application forms, is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/magnet.htm>. Applications must be postmarked by **Monday, March 2, 2009** and submitted to the FCPS Office of Elementary Instruction, Magnet Program, Lacey Instructional Center, 3705 Crest Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.

Super Super Bowl Luncheon!!



Thanks to the fantastic efforts of the CRS PTA staff appreciation committee, staff and teachers enjoyed a delicious luncheon. Several lucky raffle winners started the countdown to Super Bowl Sunday with snack packs, books, and tabletop football games. A special thank you to students Katie and Maggie, who gave up their day off to help with the luncheon and raffle.

Thank you from all of us at CRS for such a wonderful treat!

Parent Education Classes

Parents of children ages 5 to 12 – do you ever wonder if there's a better way to handle those daily parenting problems? In just **three powerful sessions**, this entertaining and informative program uses video, activities and discussion to show you ways to **raise responsible, cooperative children**.

Active Parenting Now in 3 is a research-based program by parenting expert Dr. Michael Popkin that will show you effective ways to:

- Improve communication with your children
- Use non-violent discipline techniques that work
- Teach responsibility and other important values
- Handle problems as they arise
- Defuse power struggles with your children
- Stimulate independence as your child grows older
- Encourage your children to be their very best

These parenting classes will be held at Colvin Run Elementary School and are sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition. There is a nominal fee of \$13.00 to cover the cost of the guide book that is yours to keep. Please join us on **Wednesday March 4, 11 and 18 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

To register, contact session leaders and Colvin Run ES school counselors:

Marlene Guroff, Marlene.Guroff@fcps.edu, or
Nathan Herendeen, Nathan.Herendeen@fcps.edu.

CRS Calendar of Events -- January 28 - February 6, 2009

Wednesday, Jan 28 (A Week):

3:00-4:30 Math Enrich. Gr. 6 Room 208
 3:15-4:30 Spanish, Sec 1 Room 103
 3:15-4:30 French 1 PTA Room
 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

Monday, Feb 2 (B Week):

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

Tuesday, Feb 3 (B Week):

9:00-11:00 IOWA Test for select 6th grade
 students
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 3/4 Gym
 3:15-4:30 Science Olympiad MOD1

Wednesday, Feb 4 (B Week):

3:00-4:30 Math Enrich. Gr. 6 Room 208
 3:15-4:00 Team Handball 5/6 Gym
 3:15-4:30 Spanish 1 Room 103
 3:15-4:30 French 1 PTA Room
 3:15-4:15 Keyboarding 4-6 Tech Lab
 3:15-4:15 Pottery Painting EA Room
 3:15-4:15 Bobcat Awareness Club MOD3
 3:15-4:30 Scrabble Club Room 219

Thursday, Feb 5 (B Week):

8:00-8:25 Jump Rope Club Gym
 3:15-4:00 Team Handball 3/4 Gym
 3:15-4:15 Keyboarding 4-6 Tech Lab
 3:15-5:00 Chess Club Café

Friday, Feb 6 (B Week):

Spirit Day - Crazy Hair Day
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 5/6 Gym

Get in the Bobcat Spirit! Crazy Hair Day is Friday, January 30th

Have fun and be creative on Crazy Hair Day! Bobcat Blue Hair? A funny wig? Surprise everyone with the craziest hair in the building!

Save the Dates

Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 3:10 p.m. at SkateQuest in Reston for an afternoon of ice skating. RSVPs are due by this Friday, January 30th. Admission is \$6 and includes skate rental. Questions? Contact Jenifer Lesan (703-288-3132 / jrlesan@aol.com) or Natalie Sturm (703-790-1540 / njsturm@cox.net).



Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Churchill Road exploratory arts room for the next Principal's Coffee. Please take this opportunity to speak informally to Mr. Hutzel about topics of interest. Dates for the remaining principal's coffees are: March 18, April 22, and May 20, 2009.

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

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.