



# Churchill Chatter

Issue #20  
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Churchill Road Elementary  
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## Principal's Podium

This year, Churchill Road Elementary School has had the unprecedented privilege of being the recipient of two distinguished honors. In November, the Washington Post listed Churchill Road as the #1 school in the Fairfax County Public School system and the #2 school in all of northern Virginia ([Washington Post](#)). Just last week, the Virginia Department of Education announced that Churchill Road was receiving the Governor's Award for Excellence ([Governor's Award](#)) for the second year in row. Both of these prestigious honors are based on the consistently high scores our students achieve every year in tests such as the Standards of Learning. These accolades are certainly worth celebrating, but we all know that an excellent school environment extends beyond awards. Some key ingredients that I believe are critical for overall student success are:



- ❖ Strong administrative leadership
- ❖ Excellence in instruction, with high expectations for each student
- ❖ Frequent monitoring/assessment of student performance
- ❖ Safe and orderly environment
- ❖ Parental involvement and support

Our teachers present a rigorous and relevant academic program that extends beyond the state and local standards, based on data and research that supports best instructional practices. The faculty and staff collaborate on a daily basis to create a productive environment for each and every child at CRS. Our community supports a dynamic learning environment that promotes a rigorous, well rounded academic program that is meant to prepare our children for success in their life beyond school. We know that young people today will be expected to respond, interact and communicate in a highly skilled global workforce that will require unique skills, different than what adults today once had to learn. We are fortunate that our school staff members are committed to their professional development and that our PTA supports their professional development efforts.

In order for children to become well-rounded global citizens, they need ongoing direction and assistance. One of our goals at CRS is to develop children who have personal and social consciousness coupled with responsible behavior. Since we embrace the fact that our

children are growing up in a world altogether different than we knew as children, we provide them with opportunities to develop personal relationships with adults and peers. Our PBS, Mediation, Patrols and Student Council are just few of the programs which provide our children with opportunities to interact with positive adult role models, learn how to develop and maintain healthy relationships, and be active participants in the school community. Additionally, our PTA provides opportunities for teachers and parents to sponsor a variety of other highly worthwhile programs such as Global Awareness Club and Girl Power.

The recipe for a successful school environment is a complicated one. However, the Churchill Road community has all of the critical ingredients needed to continue being successful. We know that there will be some challenges in future years, such as larger classes. Still, the staff and I are confident that whatever challenges we might face, they will not adversely affect our program. It will be essential that our parent community continues to support and respect the teachers and their programs. Our energies will need to be directed in a positive manner. Flexibility, openness to change and cooperation will be imperative!

Let's take time to reflect on our current successes and savor the moment- and take comfort that if we continue to work as a home-school team our children will be able to enjoy much more in the years ahead.

*Don Hutzel, CRS Principal*

### Thank you Mr. Lomax!!!

Ed Lomax, CRS building manager, worked tirelessly through the three days of inclement weather to make the school safe for students, staff, and families. Mr. Lomax and his custodial staff sanded, shoveled, and treated sidewalks



and entrances which allowed CRS to be open and ready for business. Co-workers, students, and parents all expressed their amazement and gratefulness at the phenomenal job Ed Lomax and his staff did this week!

## January SCA Update

*By Ricki, CRS SCA Secretary*

January 30, last Friday, was CRS's Wacky Hair Day. You probably noticed the crazy colors and the crazy dos. The SCA hopes everyone had fun, and we look for more participation in the months ahead. We believe the huge grins and silly giggles showed true CRS spirit.



The week before, on January 23, the SCA Board took a trip to Langley High School for their Winter Pep Rally. We met with the SGA of Langley, watched and even got to participate in the rally.



We also learned from the strong leadership skills of our high school counterparts. We encourage everyone to get involved in school activities, here at CRS, and in the future.

A special thanks to Mr. Mastaler and Ms. Griffith for taking time out of their schedule to take us to Langley – and, for everything they do for the SCA. We had a great time during this fun-filled month.

## First Graders go to Kennedy Center

First graders dressed up and enjoyed the cold morning by taking a field trip to the Kennedy Center to see "The President's Pet" on February 3.



## SCA Spirit Day Calendar

**Mark your calendars now** for the remaining school spirit days --- always held the last Friday of the month. Prepare to show your Bobcat Spirit, beginning with wild sock day on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**February 27th** - Wild Sock Day! Wear the wildest socks you got!

**March 27th** - Twin or More Day! Dress exactly the same as your friend or friends!

**April 24th** - Favorite Movie/Book Character Day! Dress like your favorite movie or book character!

**May 29th** - Back from the Future Day! Dress like you're from the 70's, 80's or 90's!

**June 12th** - Grade Color Day! Completely dress in your grade's color from head to toe!

Kindergarten - **Orange**

1<sup>st</sup> Grade - **Purple**

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - **Green**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - **Yellow**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade - **Red**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade - **White!**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - **Blue!**

## US Public Health Services Gives Health & Safety Demo at CRS

On January 14th, CRS parent Melanie Shin from the United States Public Health Service met with children from Miss Van Valen's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to discuss healthy eating habits and Mrs. Diffie's & Mrs. Fry's 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes about personal safety.



Offered as an outreach from this federal office, our physical education teacher, Jordan Craig-Kuhn coordinated this special visit, during which the children learned the importance of following the food pyramid to help them make good decisions in the future.



Mrs. Shin said, *"Our focus is always on Public Health and giving people, no matter how young, information that helps them make better choices. Our obesity presentation emphasizes the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Our safety presentation makes a number of points including trying to impress on very young people to be very careful around cars and buses"*.

Mrs. Shin was joined by her colleagues LCDR Jihee Lee, LCDR Beverly Weitzman, LT Lisa Tung, and LCDR Sadaf Nabavian.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** The CRS Front Office will be closed from 2:30-3:00 on Monday, February 9 2009 for training. Thank you for your understanding.

## Tips from the Wellness Committee...



February is **National Children's Dental Health Month**. Children typically have 20 primary teeth in their mouth by the age of three. The primary teeth begin to loosen and fall out around the age of six. The first permanent molars (six year molars) erupt and become visible in the mouth also around the age of six. Proper dental hygiene of the primary teeth is needed in order to ensure a healthy transition to the adult teeth, and also to help children learn the proper maintenance of their adult teeth.

Dental check-ups are important to help with the regular maintenance of oral health. The check-up includes a clinical examination of the teeth, bone, and soft tissues in the mouth, as well as a thorough removal of plaque (a white sticky material on the teeth) and calculus, which is a "cement-like" plaque on the teeth. X-rays of the teeth or jaws may be recommended as well to check for possible disease or developmental problems deep within the teeth and bones. After the initial examination, teeth are cleaned using a special instrument to remove the calculus and other debris. Teeth may then be polished with a polishing paste. Lastly, flossing is done to complete the cleaning part of the check-up.

Once the cleaning part of the exam is over, the dental professional often reviews the proper techniques for brushing and flossing. Brushing is recommended as soon as your first tooth erupts into the mouth. When all 20 primary teeth are in the mouth, it's time to begin enforcing the "2" rules for brushing: "2 times a day for 2 minutes". An electric toothbrush with a timer is far superior to a manual toothbrush. Flossing is recommended as soon as two teeth are touching each other side by side in the mouth and should be performed once each day. Parents should supervise the brushing and flossing routine until children have the manual dexterity to remove all of the plaque from the teeth.

During your check-up your dental professional may recommend topical fluoride treatments or sealants. Topical fluoride will help to strengthen the outer tooth structure to resist tooth decay. Sealants help to seal out cavities in the crevices on the chewing surfaces of the back molars. Sealants are a thin plastic coating routinely placed on the six year molars and the twelve year molars as soon as they erupt into the mouth.

For a healthy smile to last a lifetime, begin good dental hygiene habits early. See your dental professional for routine dental check-ups every six months, brush "2 times a day for 2 minutes", and floss once every day!

For a great resource to learn more about National Children's Dental Health Month or other dental questions, see your dental professional or visit the American Dental Association website at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org). References: American Dental Association ([www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)).

Wanda Goldhush, DDS

For questions or comments, contact Heidi Appel, MD [hja@gunet.georgetown.edu](mailto:hja@gunet.georgetown.edu) or Liesl Curtis, MD [curtis7007@cox.net](mailto:curtis7007@cox.net), PTA Wellness Committee.

## CRS Chorus Performs at Langley Pyramid Concert January



On January 29, the CRS Chorus, directed by music teachers Karen Judkins and Danielle Menard, performed at the Langley Pyramid Concert. They sang a winter concert favorite, A Round 'Bout Winter and a new selection, Hands 'Cross the Ocean, both by Jill Galina. It was a fantastic event for the students to witness the other elementary and secondary choral programs around our pyramid.

## Cyber-Summit for Children

Thursday, February 19, 2009 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Vinson Hall Auditorium

The Safe Community Coalition will host its 3rd annual Cyber Summit on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 pm, in the Vinson Hall Auditorium (6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean). Iris Beckwith, President of connectED4safety LLC, will speak to adults in our community about cyber-safety, cyber-ethics, and cyber-security issues that affect our families today. Please join us to find out how, as parents and other significant adults, we can help teach our children about these important issues. There is no fee for this program.

Ms. Beckwith has 15 years of prevention education experience. In addition to serving as Director of Prevention Programs for children with Childhelp of Virginia and Vice President of Program and Partner Relations for the Internet Keep Safe Coalition, Ms. Beckwith has provided training and presentations for Penn State University Department of Education, DARE, University of Maryland Cyberethics Conference, AOL/Childhelp Internet "SafetyBot" Program, and many others.

Please contact Sheri Wilson, Safe Community Coalition Board Member, at 703-967-4878 with questions or for more information.

## Prevention Conference: What Today's Youth Need You to Know.

Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section and its Unified Prevention Coalition (UPC), in collaboration with Fairfax County agencies and organizations in Northern Virginia, are organizing the first county-wide substance use and violence prevention conference, "*What Today's Youth Need You to Know.*" The conference, designed for Fairfax County residents and employees, will focus on educating adults, youth, and professional service providers on current trends recently reported in the 2008 Fairfax County Youth Survey, as well as issues pertinent to raising healthy families. The conference will take place on **Saturday, March 28, 2009**, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at **Oakton High School** at 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, VA 22181.

This year, Fairfax County's Dept. of Community and Recreation Services (CRS) annual regional Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) conference will be integrated into the 2009 Prevention Conference. YADAPP youth leaders and its regional partners—from Manassas and Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services--will plan and implement four youth workshops, as well as the closing program, and have arranged for a youth-focused keynote speaker.

A wide variety of workshops will be offered for adults, youth, families and professional service providers, including translated language workshops. We will serve a continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for service providers who remain at the conference all day; the certificates will be handed out at the close of the conference.

Exhibitors from local county agencies, organizations and businesses will be available with valuable information and resources for everyone. Youth attending the conference will have the opportunity to receive prizes at the end of the day. For more information or to register, go to [www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org) and click on the conference logo for information. Youth attend for free, individual adults are \$10; families (2 adults) \$15 and we will take requests for waiving fees in cases of hardship.

The just-released Fairfax County 2008 Youth Survey results prove we are making progress with our county-wide prevention efforts. Please join us to help continue educating our community on substance use and violence prevention safety issues. For information please contact Lisa Adler, prevention conference coordinator, at (571) 423-4270 or [Lisa.Adler@fcps.edu](mailto:Lisa.Adler@fcps.edu).

# CRS Calendar of Events – February 6 - 13, 2009

## 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  
 3:15-4:30 Artist Trading Club Room 219  
 3:15-5:00 Chess Club Café

## Friday, Feb 6 (B Week):

3:15-4:00 Flag Football 5/6 Gym

## Sunday, Feb 8

3:10-5:10 Family Ice Skating SkateQuest

## Monday, Feb 9 (A Week):

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

## Tuesday, Feb 10 (A Week):

8:00-9:00 Principal's Coffee EA Room  
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 3/4 Gym  
 3:15-4:30 Drama Club 5/6 Stage  
 3:15-4:30 Artist Trading Club Room 219  
 3:15-4:30 Science Olympiad MOD1  
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 3/4 Gym

## Wednesday, Feb 11 (A Week):

9:00-10:15 PTA Meeting EA Room  
 3:00-4:30 Math Enrich. Gr. 6 Room 208  
 3:15-4:00 Team Handball 5/6 Gym  
 3:15-4:15 Girl Power Room 212  
 3:15-4:30 Drama Club 3/4 Stage  
 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  
 4:00-7:00 Longfellow Elective Fair for Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Longfellow MS

## Thursday, Feb 12 (A 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  
 3:15-4:30 Artist Trading Club Room 219  
 3:15-5:00 Chess Club Café  
 7:00-8:30 Parent Network Event Library

## Friday, Feb 13 (A Week):

3:15-4:00 Flag Football 5/6 Gym



## Community Dialogues on Changes in the Bell Schedule

The Fairfax County School Board invites parents and interested citizens to comment on changes that are under consideration to school start and dismissal times by attending one of seven upcoming community dialogue meetings in February and by completing an online survey. Contact: Barbara Hunter, 571-423-1202 or [Barbara.Hunter1@fcps.edu](mailto:Barbara.Hunter1@fcps.edu). More information is available at

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm>

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=1064> and

## Save the Dates

**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 [rbaxley@verizon.net](mailto:rbaxley@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](mailto: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](mailto:KIT.Request). All KIT messages should be sent to the school at least 24 hours in advance of their posting.