



Churchill Chatter

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Churchill Road Elementary
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President's Pen



For those of you that were not able to attend last week's PTA meeting -- which included a lengthy discussion with our School Board representative, Janie Strauss -- let me catch you up on all of the activities and issues happening during this busy time of the school year. At the County level,

Budget deliberations are in high gear right now. On February 5, 2009, the School Board adopted a preliminary FY 2010 budget (referred to as the "Advertised Budget") that it forwarded to the Fairfax Board of Supervisors for approval. It includes cuts of \$157.5 million, which will result in a net loss of 248 positions countywide. Class sizes will be increased by 1/2 child per class, all FCPS salaries have been frozen, and some programs and services will be cut. Your PTA continues state and county level advocacy to keep the school budget as robust as possible, and we plan to testify at the upcoming March 30th - April 1st Board of Supervisors' public hearings. It is still timely for parents to submit comments to the Board of Supervisors, as well.

The School Board is considering the possibility of changing school start and dismissal times next school year and a Transportation Task Force has found a way to sequence start times and revise bus routes so that there would not be any additional transportation costs. The school system is now evaluating other potential consequences, such as changes to after school activities, which would be in competition for "daylight," buses, field availability, etc. Recall that the impetus for changing start times are well-accepted studies that show later start times for middle and high school kids improve academic performance. (CRS's start time would probably not change significantly - e.g., 8:40 vs. 8:25 a.m.) If you would like to register your opinion, you may use the on-line survey on the FCPS website at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tOTu1ydJNZTSKZNLyFLChw_3d_3d. There will also be a series of community dialogue meetings to discuss the change, including one on Tuesday, February

24th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Longfellow Middle School.

For more information on these issues, see "Items of Interest" on the [CRS PTA homepage](#).

Here at Churchill, there have been numerous PTA-supported programs this month, including a "Mad Science" assembly, a Parent Networking Seminar on alcohol and drug abuse, the start/continuation of 17 After School Activities (with nearly 400 participants), and a Family Ice Skating afternoon.

Upcoming PTA-sponsored events include:

- Spelling Bee Oral Competition: Monday, February 23, 12:45 p.m.
- Reflections Reception: Friday, March 6, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Martha's Table Sandwich Making: Wednesday, March 11, 2:30 - 3:30 pm
- Ice Cream Social: Friday, March, 13, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Thank you all for making our school and community such a great place.

Eric Malès, CRS PTA President



Mrs. Manoatl Accepts on Behalf of Churchill Road School



Governor Tim Kaine is pictured with Kathryn Manoatl, CRS assistant principal, at the recent ceremony in Richmond congratulating schools who received the 2009 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. Churchill Road has received this distinction two years in a row!

Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart

Mr. Mastaler and Mr. CK

Many Successes! Thank you Churchill Road Community – we've done it again. Our 11th annual Jump Rope for Heart unit full of skills, knowledge and philanthropy has yet again come and gone with much fanfare and success. A total of 234 students and their families raised funds to fight heart attack and stroke in the United States in partnership with the American Heart Association (AHA). It is my great pleasure to announce that these 234 students and their generous families raised a total of **\$20,000!** As a "thank you" from the AHA, CRS also receives \$800 to purchase new equipment for all students to use in the coming year.

Congratulations! As a community, we are working together to fight heart disease & stroke and fund research and rehabilitation services for those already afflicted, and disseminate literature on prevention. At the same time,



we are spreading essential knowledge and valuable skills to our future generation in the hopes that they can avoid these horrible illnesses through a rigorous daily exercise regimen, eating healthy foods daily and learning about the dangers of smoking tobacco. By building these habits in elementary school, we are working to remove strain from our health care system through wellness and give our students a longer, higher quality of life.

Many Firsts to Become Tradition! This year, the Churchill Road PE Department implemented several new methods to engage and motivate our students. It is our pleasure to announce some highlights from this year that will remain tradition due to their success:

- We combined Hoops for Heart and Jump Rope for Heart. This year, students were able to learn and participate in basketball skills for half of their PE time and participate in jumping activities for the other half. For their "Heart Celebration" party at the end of the unit, students were able to choose their participation time between shooting hoops or jumping rope. This decision was well received by the students, heightened their motivation and will continue as a staple in years to come.
- A fantastic jump rope team called the AT Jumpers from a neighboring elementary school gave a knockout

performance on January 30th for those students who were participant fundraisers. This team was truly amazing and teachers and students alike were wowed by their abilities. We hope that we are lucky enough to have them return next year.



- For the first time in our short careers, Mr. Mastaler and Mr. CK opened up fundraising to the entire school encouraging all of the grade levels to participate. This decision turned out to be a huge success and allowed a community-wide feel for this program.

Congratulations to our top fundraisers! The top two fundraisers will throw a pie in Mr. CK's face during the awards ceremony at the end of the year and will receive a medal for their efforts. The top fundraisers are...

#6 \$300 each 4-way tie: **Ariana Aulisi; Dominic Aulisi; Joshua Hayden; and Elena Shklyar**

#5 \$320 Emma Kim

#3 \$500 each 2-way tie: **Megan Guberman & Jake Holzapfel**

#2 \$505 Zach Yazdani

#1 \$665 Laura Johnston

The top fundraising class at CRS is **Mr. Suchoski's class** which raised **\$1,588!** This class will earn extra PE time with Mr. CK.

As promised at the outset, Mr. CK shaved his head on the morning news show this past Wednesday as a motivator for reaching \$20,000. The students of the school were very excited – perhaps you heard about it ☺



Your Input Is Needed on Two Important Safety Issues...

Front Lawn Trees

For safety and maintenance reasons, I am proposing that the two large Sweet Gum trees in the school's front lawn, directly outside of the cafeteria, be cut down and replaced with another type of shade tree. The primary reason for this proposal is the safety issue. Although the trees are beautiful, the Sweet Gums generate hundred of large round seed pods that fall across the front steps and sidewalks everyday throughout the winter and spring. We frequently have people comment that they have lost their footing when stepping on the hard, round pods. My fear is that someone will be injured after slipping on one of the pods. The seed pods also require tremendous maintenance. Our custodians need to sweep the front walk daily and the front lawn requires constant raking to gather seeds pods.



I am interested in hearing our community's comments about this proposition. While I feel that the safety and maintenance issues are compelling reasons to replace the trees, I also know that chopping down a tree can be an emotional issue for a community. Therefore I am interested in our community's feedback regarding this proposition. If you have strong feelings about the Sweet Gums, please contact me at donald.hutzel@fcps.edu.

I am still in the investigation stages of determining if cutting down the trees is even a possibility. It's not an expense that I want our school or PTA to accrue and I do want to make sure that if we are able to move forward with the cutting down the Sweet Gum trees, that good shade trees are quickly replanted in that area. I will keep the community updated on our plans.

Kiss and Ride Procedures Will Be Changing

Due to the overwhelming volume of traffic during our morning and afternoon Kiss and Ride, it has become necessary to develop some new Kiss and Ride procedures that will be implemented in the next couple of weeks. Next year, there will be dramatic changes with the Kiss and Ride procedures. We typically have over 150-200+ families dropping off

their children every morning before school. The police have notified me that our current practice of having CRS staff direct traffic makes both the staff and me liable for accidents. Finally, our community members that are required to walk to school using streets such as Capitol View and Raymond Avenue are regularly reporting the traffic on these streets during arrival and dismissal times is very dangerous.

Therefore, beginning on **Monday, March 2, 2009** the police officers will not be allowing cars to park near the Raymond Avenue intersection. Also, cars will not be able to turn south down Raymond Avenue (turn off of Churchill Road, onto Raymond Avenue). Drivers dropping off or picking up their children from school will be required to travel to Balls Hill Road or Thrasher Road to turn off Churchill Road.

Starting next year, what is currently used as the Kiss and Ride lot will be blocked off during arrival and dismissal times. Families that drive their children to/from school will be required to drop/pick up along Churchill Road, Carper Street or Thrasher Road. We will share more information with you about next year's Kiss and Ride plans as our second semester progresses.



If you have ideas, questions or concerns about Churchill Road's Kiss and Ride procedures, please contact me at donald.hutzel@fcps.edu.

Don Hutzel, CRS Principal

Beginning Strings Concert



On Tuesday February 10th, 72 Beginning Strings students performed their first concert, under the direction of Mrs. Christine Wuhrman. Pieces performed included Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* and *A Mozart Melody*. An enjoyable time was had by all.

CRS Calendar of Events – February 18 - 27, 2009

Wednesday, Feb 18 (B Week):

3:00-4:30	Math Enrich. Gr. 6	Room 208
3:15-4:00	Team Handball 5/6	Gym
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 19 (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
7:00-8:30	Cooper Elective Fair for Rising 7 th Graders	Cooper MS

Friday, Feb 20 (B Week):

1:30-3:00	Respect for All Cultures Assembly	Gym
3:15-4:00	Flag Football 5/6	Gym

Monday, Feb 23 (A 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, Feb 24 (A Week):

3:15-4:00	Flag Football 3/4	Gym
3:15-4:30	Artist Trading Club	Room 219
3:15-4:30	Science Olympiad	MOD1

Wednesday, Feb 25 (A Week):

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

Thursday, Feb 26 (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

Friday, Feb 27 (A Week):

9:30-10:30	Coffee for Parents of Rising 7 th Graders	Cooper MS, Rm 130
3:15-4:00	Flag Football 5/6	Gym



CRS 3rd Graders Raise Food for SHARE

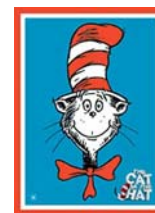
To celebrate the 100th day of school on February 11th, CRS thirds graders decided to donate “100 bags of dried beans” to SHARE of McLean, a local food pantry. Dried beans are a high source of protein, and therefore a desirable donation. Organized by Mrs. McHale, students brought in a whopping **167 bags of beans**. Pictured are the third grade SCA representatives, who sorted and packaged the beans for delivery to SHARE.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

Read Across America is **Monday March 2**. Now in its 10th year, we honor this day by celebrating the joys of reading with Dr. Seuss' Birthday! To honor this author, we would like everyone to wear red, black, and white to school that day. We will have guest readers visit classrooms and read their favorite Dr. Seuss book.

At home, here are two websites to visit for more “Seussical” fun:

www.nea.org/readacross and www.seussville.com



Cheers of the Week...!



Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of February 9th:

Sean Loftus (Kindergarten); Jane Gerrard (1st); Brian Kim (2nd); Toby Anthony (3rd); Lauren Pratte (4th); and Whole Class: Ms. Garvin's 3rd grade. 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 Hutzel at KIT_Request. All KIT messages should be sent to the school at least 24 hours in advance of their posting.