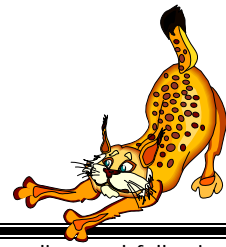




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# Churchill Chatter

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## Principal's Podium

This week, our fifth graders will be busy taking their writing SOL tests. Over the past couple of weeks, the fifth grade teachers have been working with the children, reviewing the various skills that are necessary for constructing a well written, five paragraph essay. This is an important assessment, because the data will provide teachers with insights regarding the skills and needs of the individual students and the grade level in its entirety. However, it is important to remember that this test is just one facet of a very complex subject.



Teaching writing skills is a major component of any elementary classroom, receiving tremendous focus beginning in kindergarten and continuing throughout a child's elementary years. In the early years, students are simply encouraged to use written words to express their ideas while engaged in a variety of writing activities. Inventive spelling or phonetically sounded-out words are the norm. Teaching letters, punctuation, and sentence structure becomes more and more sophisticated as the child progresses. Sometimes children are given opportunities to write merely to share ideas; most times, a typical lesson follows a process of pre-planning, writing, editing and, revising before a final product is accepted.

Within this format, the children learn the craft of writing. By the time a child graduates from sixth grade, he or she has been taught how to write multi-paragraph essays in a variety of modes (expository, narrative, persuasive, and enumerative) and in a variety of genres (types of writing such as stories, essays, letters, books, and poetry, to name just a few). Because children demonstrate a wide diversity of skills and teachers conference individually with students in response to their developmental needs, writing instruction is one of the most individualized programs.

Our school system provides a pacing guide outlining the expectations of what is to be taught at each grade level. Using the pacing guide as our basis, the CRS staff has begun meeting to address our overall program to best ensure a coordinated effort of comprehensive writing instruction at CRS. Recently, the entire staff met to specifically share resources used at each grade level. The teachers also began to formally outline the writing program at each grade level. The goal of these efforts is to ensure that we have a vertically aligned writing program, meaning that each grade level's writing

programs are in sync with preceding and following grade levels. With the introduction of a writing component in the SAT college entrance exams, establishing a strong foundation of basic writing skills becomes a paramount goal in elementary school.

Writing is a part of our everyday life. In the digital age, we know our students depend on the written word more than ever. Over this past year, our school has been fortunate to receive acknowledgment for the students' outstanding standardized test scores. However, it's important to remember that the scores of any individual test provide us with results of just some of the many facets of a holistic writing program. Let's enjoy our successes this year, but relish the fact that our children will be prepared to effectively use writing in many ways throughout their life.

*Don Hutzel, CRS Principal*

## Congratulations Science Olympiad



The Churchill Road Science Olympiad teams competed in the Northern Virginia Regional on February 28. The students worked very hard to prepare for 19 different events! They were competing against students in 5th through 8th grade. The following students placed in the top five for their events:

- ❖ 1st place- Road Scholar; Ming Ray and Junyoung
- ❖ 2nd place- Amphibians and Reptiles; Maya and Billie
- ❖ 3rd place- Dynamic Planet; Maya and Billie
- ❖ 5th place- Bioprocess Lab; Kevin and Tarun
- ❖ 5th place- Crave the Wave; Natalie and Saroja
- ❖ 5th place- Wright Stuff; Billie and Parsa

Teams are also scored based on their overall participation. The 6th grade team came in 7th place and the 5th grade team came in 11th place. **All of the students are congratulated for their hard work and dedication!**



## GOING GREEN at CRS

March 4, 2009, Volume 2

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Do you know the difference between regular trash and household hazardous waste that should not be placed in your regular trash can? You need to think twice about throwing out an old container of nail polish or the end of your cleaning products. According to the Fairfax County recycling website, "Household hazardous waste refers to used or leftover contents of consumer products that contain materials with one of the four characteristics of a hazardous waste: toxic, ignitable, corrosive or reactive as defined by the EPA. The Fairfax County Household Hazardous Waste Program accepts hazardous chemicals **from residents** free of charge and disposes or recycles them according to all local, state and federal regulations."

Hazardous household waste which should **not** go in your regular trash collection and is collected at specific Fairfax County locations includes: **acids, aerosol sprays, gasoline, brake fluid, windshield wiper fluid, batteries (other than lead acid), cleaning products (including standard household cleaners), coal tar products, wood treatment products, wood sealers, fluorescent light bulbs, solvent-based glues, varnish and stains, driveway sealers, inks and dyes, mercury products, moth balls, nail polish and nail polish remover, oil-based paints and thinners, poisons, pool chemicals, pesticides and yard care products.**

Let's do our part and teach our children the importance of recycling. Make an effort this week to recycle at least three items that would normally find their way into your trash bin. The facility that my husband and I use most often to dispose of hazardous materials is the **1-66 Citizens' Recycling and Disposal Facility at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA.**

It is open to residents for disposal of **non-hazardous** waste:

- Monday – Saturday 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

It is open to residents for disposal of **hazardous** waste:

- Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Friday 8:00 a.m. – Noon
- Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Materials accepted:** newspaper; plastic bottles and jugs; glass jars and bottles; mixed paper (cardboard, junk mail, magazines, envelopes, catalogs, office paper); metal cans (food and beverage); small and large appliances; used motor oil; used automotive batteries; leaves, grass and brush. Some fees apply. For a list of recycling locations in Fairfax County, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/doclst.htm>.

Also, please feel free to drop me an e-mail at [greenteam@churchillroadpta.org](mailto:greenteam@churchillroadpta.org) and give me your recycling tips! They might just be in next week's *Churchill Chatter*.

Happy recycling!

Susan Gregory,  
Matt's Mom

## AND THE WINNER IS.....



Congratulations to fourth grader Rayyan, winner of the inaugural 2009 CRS Spelling Bee held Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. An enthusiastic group of 25 grade 4-6 bees participated in the oral round after being selected from the earlier, very challenging written round. At the conclusion of a suspenseful 20 rounds, Rayyan won by spelling the challenge word, followed by Ellen (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Kiley (3<sup>rd</sup> place). Parent Liz Holzapfel was the pronouncer and CRS 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Jackie Brody and parent Terri Markwart were the judges (pictured below).



Rayyan will represent CRS at the Fairfax county spelling bee on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The PTA presented Rayyan with a trophy and also a 1 year free subscription to the kids online Encyclopedia Britannica from Scripps. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners were presented with ribbons and all the oral bee participants received a certificate from Scripps. The CRS PTA congratulates the winners and all the participants and would like to thank everyone for making this event a grand success!!



### Cheers of the Week...!



Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of March 2nd:

**Julia Sensiba** (Kindergarten); **Norman Hayward** (1<sup>st</sup>); **Joyce Yang** (2<sup>nd</sup>); **Jack Rosener** (3<sup>rd</sup>); **Yuta Takagi** (4<sup>th</sup>); and Whole Class: **Ms. Van Valen's 2nd grade**. Great job!

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

# "We are the World" Pep Rally Rocks CRS

Churchill Road Elementary School celebrated respect for all cultures in the "We Are the World" pep rally on Friday, February 20. The Parade of Nations highlighted the 44 countries represented at



CRS. Costumed students and staff members enchanted the audience by saying "hello" and "respect" in their native languages.

Following weeks of daily practices, the pep rally featured students and staff cheering and dancing to music from around the world.



Highlights included a respect cheer (pictured above), a salsa dance and the cotton-eyed Joe (pictured below).



A fierce geography bee competition pitted a student team against a teacher team. The student team won!



Thank you to all the talented performers and organizers of this spectacular event. A very special thank you goes out to assistant principal Kathy Manoatl and counselor Katie Griffith for leading daily rehearsals to ensure that the salsa, cheers, and cotton-eyed Joe went off without a hitch.



### Student Cell Phone Use at Churchill Road



As you may be aware, students are allowed to bring cell phones to school as a means of communication with their families. We want to make sure, however, that everyone is aware of the guidelines and restrictions that accompany this privilege, as stipulated by FCPS regulations. Student cell phones must be turned off at all times unless the student has explicit permission from a teacher to turn it on and call home. Under no circumstances are students allowed to use the phones to take pictures or text friends while at school. If a student uses his/her phone inappropriately, it will be confiscated by a teacher, and the parents or guardians will be called to come down to the school and retrieve the phone personally. We care a great deal about our students and appreciate your support in helping them stay safe and responsible. Thank you.

### St. Patrick's Day Ice Cream Social and Dance



**Last chance** to join your lucky CRS Friends for a St. Patrick's Day Ice Cream Social! This fun-filled event will be held on Friday, March 13, 2009, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the CRS cafeteria and gym. Admission is \$5 per person. Flyers for this

event were distributed in last week's VIPs. Please note that you must RSVP by **this Friday, March 6.**

Interested in helping with this event? Volunteers are needed for setup (3:30-5:00 and/or 5-6:30) as well as serving and cleanup (6:30-8:30). If you can help, or if you have any other questions about the event, please contact Natalie Sturm ([njsturm@cox.net](mailto:njsturm@cox.net) / 703-790-1540) or Jenifer Lesan ([jrlesan@aol.com](mailto:jrlesan@aol.com) / 703-288-3132).

### CRS PTA COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

#### MARTHA'S TABLE SANDWICH MAKING

*Wednesday, March 11, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades:

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

#### A.M. K & 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grades:

**Pre-packaged lunch meat or cheese slices**

A permission slip will be sent home in this week's VIP folders for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in participating in the sandwich making in the CRS cafeteria after school on **Wednesday, March 11, 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: Kathleen Mullery, 703-734-3220 / [skmullery@verizon.net](mailto:skmullery@verizon.net); Lezlie McBride, 703-893-5290 / [lezliemcbride@gmail.com](mailto:lezliemcbride@gmail.com); or Liz Holzappel, 703-827-0633 / [woodapple1@verizon.net](mailto:woodapple1@verizon.net)

**Important Reminder:** The CRS front office will be closed for training from 2:00-3:00 on Monday, March 9, 2009. The office will reopen from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

### Kindergarten Orientation for 2009-2010

Parents and their rising kindergarten students are invited to an overview of the school's kindergarten program on Monday, April 20, 2009 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the CRS cafeteria. This program allows for school administrators, kindergarten staff, and other staff members to meet parents and answer any questions they may have. The meeting will include information about the kindergarten curriculum, health and immunization requirements, SACC and more. Registration packets are available online at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and in the CRS front office. This is an excellent opportunity for parents who are unsure if their child is ready for kindergarten to come, listen and make an informed decision. Children are invited, and will have the opportunity to visit the kindergarten classrooms with CRS staff members.



Parents are welcome to come to the CRS office Tuesday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to register their child. Please complete the FCPS registration forms and bring the following documents:

- Proof of residency (lease, deed, or contract)
- Proof of birth/citizenship – an original birth certificate or affidavit. We cannot accept a copy.
- Physical examination completed within 12 months prior to starting school, along with proof of required immunizations
- Parent ID

If you have questions about the registration process, please contact Christine Spencer-Redding, CRS Registrar, at 703-288-8400.

### Safe Community Coalition Meeting

Are you concerned about underage drinking, drugs and the high school party scene? The **Safe Community Coalition** will be discussing ways to address these issues at our next meeting. Please join us on **Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **McLean Community Center**, 1234 Ingleside Ave. All members of the community are invited to attend. We welcome your input and support.

You are also invited to participate in the **Adult Roundtable** at Middle School Forum on **Thursday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m.** at **McLean Baptist Church**, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. For more details and to register, please visit our website at [www.safecommunitycoalition.net](http://www.safecommunitycoalition.net).

# CRS Calendar of Events -- March 4 - 13, 2009

## Wednesday, March 4 (B Week):

9:00-11:00	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Direct Writing SOLs	
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
3:15-4:00	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, March 5 (B Week):

8:00-8:25	Jump Rope Club	Gym
3:10-4:25	Girls on the Run	Track
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, March 6 (B Week):

2:00-3:00	Reflections Reception	Café
3:15-4:00	Flag Football 5/6	Gym

## Saturday, March 7:

11:00-2:00	CRS Day at Barnes and Noble in Tyson's Corner Mall
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## Monday, March 9 (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, March 10 (A Week):

3:15-4:00	Flag Football 3/4	Gym
3:15-4:30	Science Olympiad	MOD1
3:15-4:30	Artist Trading Club	Room 219
3:10-4:25	Girls on the Run	Track

## Wednesday, March 11 (A Week):

9:00-10:15	PTA Meeting	EA Room
2:45-4:15	Martha's Table Sandwich Making for Grades 3/4	Café
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, March 12 (A Week):

8:00-8:25	Jump Rope Club	Gym
3:10-4:25	Girls on the Run	Track
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, March 13 (A Week):

3:15-4:00	Flag Football 5/6	Gym
6:30-8:00	Ice Cream Social and Dance	Gym/Café



## Churchill Student Artwork on Display

Starting today you can check the Blackboard Specials page to see who will be on display at the McLean Project for the Arts Youth Art Show this year. These students will also receive an award in this week's VIP. The show will be on display from March 5<sup>th</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The opening reception will be this Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. More information about the MPA and this show can be found at [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org).

## 8<sup>th</sup> Graders-Volunteer Hours!!!! Available March 28<sup>th</sup>-Spring Hill Fun Fair at Spring Hill Elementary School

Attention all 8<sup>th</sup> graders needing volunteer hours for this quarter. The Spring Hill Fun Fair needs your help with games and activities. There are shifts available so it is not necessary to work the full day-unless you need the hours! We need to know if you are interested in assisting us and what hours we can count on you for. These are the times of the shifts: 9:45- 1:35; 11:25-1:15; 1:05-3:00 and Clean up-2:45-3:45. Please take a moment to check your schedule and make sure you are available, and then email us at [funfairvolunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:funfairvolunteers@yahoo.com) with the shifts you prefer to work. Please provide a proper phone number and email address where you can receive future updates from us. We will send an acknowledgement that we received your email and can participate. Thank you for helping us to make this a fun day!!

Jennifer Smoyer 703-556-3727 and Cindi Ross 703-725-6676

## MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

In partnership with the American Dietetics Association, the Energy Zone is celebrating National Nutrition Month. The Energy Zone's Top 3 Nutrition Facts are:

1. Use [MyPyramid.gov](http://MyPyramid.gov) as a reference for healthy eating habits. Lifestyle changes are more effective than "quick fixes"
2. There are many diet myths. Make sure the nutrition information you are getting is from a credible source – a registered dietitian or science-based articles.
3. Evaluate a food by reading nutrition labels. Basic understanding of a food label can help you make smart food choice.



American Dietetic Association

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