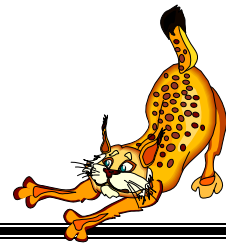




# Churchill Chatter

Issue #26  
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Churchill Road Elementary  
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<http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/>



## President's Pen



### It's Not Your Mother's PTA Anymore

Last week we held our eighth PTA meeting of the school year. Like most of our meetings, there were about 20 people present, mostly PTA officers, committee members, and school staff. A few non-committee parents or staff attend, but in general, their numbers are a few. I've asked a few non-attendees about joining us and found many of them hold the stereotype that PTA meetings are the ultimate example of administrative tedium.

Well, we've worked hard to counter that stereotype – to make sure that this is not “your mother's PTA.” Our typical agenda includes a presentation from one of the school's teachers/staff, discussion about timely policy issues (e.g., the County budget and school start times), a report from the principal on hot topics, and a few PTA committee action items. In February we had a lengthy discussion with our School Board representative, Janie Strauss, about the budget and several other issues. Last week, we spent much of the meeting talking about traffic safety issues. We also had a primer about website RSS feeds, which can automatically send new CRS PTA website content to you. In April, we have an evening meeting at which Margi Vanderhye, our State delegate, will be our guest speaker.

If you want to have an opportunity to learn more about what's going on at the school and in the school system, and add your voice, feel free to come to a meeting and participate. Agendas and minutes from past meetings and the meeting schedule for the rest of the school year are available on the PTA website: <http://www.churchillroadpta.org/MeetingsMinutes/tabid/106/Default.aspx>. Our April meeting will be held on Thursday evening, April 16, from 7:00 -8:15 p.m. in CRS' exploratory arts room.

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

*Eric Malès* (not your mother),  
CRS PTA President



## Bookmark Contest Winners!



On Sunday, March 15, CRS students Emily and Elizabeth, received awards from Michael Jones of the FCPS Office of Safe and Drug-Free Youth, for their “Safe and Drug-Free” bookmarks. Look for their designs in the bookmarks distributed to the CRS library. Congratulations girls!

## THANK YOU CHURCHILL ROAD!



Thanks to the generosity of the Churchill Road community, we were able to provide 773 sandwiches to Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. last week! Thank you to all the CRS families who brought in bread, meat and cheese, and to all our wonderful teachers and staff, especially Mr. Cheung, CRS cafeteria manager, for helping to coordinate this service project. Thank you also to our enthusiastic team of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders, plus parent and middle school volunteers, who assembled the sandwiches after school on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

In total this school year, the CRS community provided about 2,400 sandwiches for the hungry at MARTHA'S TABLE -- the highest total in years! Thank you for helping to feed the homeless!



## GOING GREEN at CRS

March 18, 2009, Volume 4

### REUSING RESOURCES TO HELP OTHERS

The idea of reusing resources is not a new one; we have just gotten into the habit of throwing out unwanted or broken items. Reusing resources is one of the best ways we can help our environment and those less fortunate than ourselves. Here are some tips for reusing items in our own homes:

- Once a week use linen napkins/ towels instead of paper.
- Pack your lunch in reusable containers rather than plastic bags.
- Use reusable shopping bags, both for groceries and all other purchases.
- Resole your shoes and repair other leather goods instead of buying new.
- Buy refillable pens and rechargeable batteries.
- Return wire hangers to the dry cleaner.

If you are interested in donating your used items to others, there are several local programs that need assistance:

Donate gently used clothing and furniture to **SHARE**. Drop off gently used clothing at McLean Baptist Church at 1367 Chain Bridge Rd., Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – noon. There is also a drop-box for after-hour donations. SHARE will pick up furniture. You can arrange a furniture pick-up by calling 703-448-1054. Learn more about how to help by visiting SHARE's web site at: [www.shareofmclean.org](http://www.shareofmclean.org).

Send in gently used books you no longer want to Churchill Road School. The **Bobcat Awareness Club** is hosting a Gently Used Book Donation and Resale with all proceeds going to *Free the Children* non-profit to benefit children's education in East Asia. They are collecting books in specially marked boxes around the school the week of March 23-27. On April 18, at the CRS Funfair, you can buy gently used books for \$2-\$7! What a deal! If you have any questions, please contact Jacqueline Brody at [Jacqueline.Brody@fcps.edu](mailto:Jacqueline.Brody@fcps.edu).

Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bonzai Sports at 2826 Fairfax Drive, Falls Church, VA will be collecting working and repairable bikes for **Bikes for the World**. The bikes are donated to charities overseas and distributed to people in need of affordable transportation. A \$10 per bike donation is suggested to defray shipping to overseas charity partners.

Help us, help others. Reuse rather than throw away! If you have other recycling tips, please e-mail them to me at [greenteam@churchillroadpta.org](mailto:greenteam@churchillroadpta.org). I would love to print them in an upcoming edition of "Going Green at CRS".

Happy reusing!

Susan Gregory, Matt's Mom

## St. Patrick's Day Ice Cream Social Draws a Huge Crowd

On lucky Friday the 13th, 350 CRS students, staff and family members came to CRS to the St. Patrick's Day Ice Cream Social, where everyone had delicious sundaes and danced the night away with the DJ in the gym. All the kids had a blast! Thanks to all who came to support and participate in this PTA event!



### Cheers of the Week...!



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

Connor Poirier (Kindergarten); Brian Feinstein (1<sup>st</sup>); Adrian Hermansen (2<sup>nd</sup>); Christopher Dillard (3<sup>rd</sup>); Alex Wallach (4<sup>th</sup>); and Whole Class: Mr. Ickowski's 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Great job!

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

### One More Week for Free Tickets with Gameband Order!

Order your Fun Fair gamebands by next Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> to receive **10 free tickets** (a \$2.50 value) which can be used for the children's raffle, zoo dip, popcorn and cotton candy. Gameband order forms are available on the table near the office or may be downloaded from the CRS PTA website, [churchillroadpta.org](http://churchillroadpta.org). Special \$10 gamebands for preschoolers will **only** be sold at the Fair. Remember, everyone who wishes to play games must purchase a gameband. Gamebands and free tickets will be sent home in the April 1<sup>st</sup> VIP. If you have questions, please contact Christy Slade at [christyslade@verizon.net](mailto:christyslade@verizon.net).

### Fun Fair Poster & T-Shirt Contest Ends Monday, March 23

Students in all grades are invited to participate in the Fun Fair Poster & T-shirt contest. The design of the grand prize winning poster will be used for the Fun Fair t-shirt design. The grand prize winner will receive 3 free game bands and 1 free cotton candy. The grade winners will be awarded 1 free game band and 1 free cotton candy. Grade runner-ups will receive 1 free cotton candy, 1 free slice of pizza, and 1 free drink.

The contest will run through **next** Monday, March 23. The theme of the contest is Fun Fair Favorites. Use your imagination and show us what you are most excited about when you think of either the Churchill Road Fun Fair or other fairs you have enjoyed. Here are the **CONTEST RULES:**

- ❖ On the front of your poster make sure you include the words: *Churchill Road Fun Fair* and *Saturday, April 18, 2009*.
- ❖ On the back make sure you include your first and last name and your teacher's name **PRINTED CLEARLY!**
- ❖ Use regular poster board.
- ❖ Place your poster in the box in the office labeled **POSTER CONTEST** by 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 23.

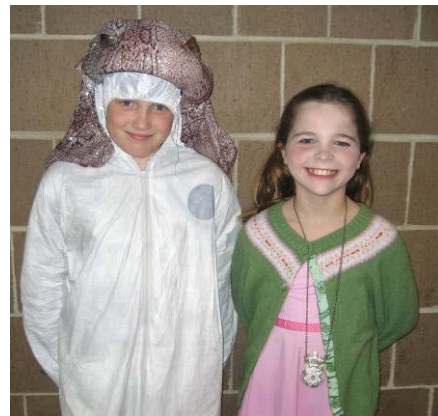
Please contact Penny Peress, 703 356-2372, or [penny.peress@gmail.com](mailto:penny.peress@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Reminder from the Clinic:** If a child needs medication at school, the parent needs to bring the medication to the CRS clinic in its original container and complete a Medication Authorization form. Most prescriptions require a physician to sign the authorization. Forms may be found on the FCPS website: <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/forms/se63.pdf>.

### Order Your Fun Fair T-shirts Today!!!

It's not a Churchill Road Fun Fair without the T-shirt! Fun Fair T-shirt order forms will be in your Wednesday, March 11 VIP envelopes. Please fill out the t-shirt order form for your Churchill Road student(s) and family members and return it with payment to the school office by the end of the day on Monday, March 23. The order form will be available on the Churchill Road PTA website - [churchillroadpta.org](http://churchillroadpta.org) - on March 11 under the Fun Fair committee. Please call or e-mail Penny Peress at 703 356-2372 or [penny.peress@gmail.com](mailto:penny.peress@gmail.com) with questions.

### Join in the Fun!



Two CRS fifth graders, Jessie and Josh, are in the Alden Theater's production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Performances are this weekend March 20-22, Friday at 7:30, Sat and Sunday at 3:00 pm.

### Calling all 4th, 5th and 6th Graders!

Do you have a talent you'd like to show CRS? Are you in grades 4, 5 or 6? If so, come and sign up for our 2nd Annual SCA Talent Show! The try out sign up sheet is located outside Ms. Griffith's office! Try outs will be held the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>: Monday afternoon after dismissal and Tuesday-Friday mornings prior to school. The final day to try out is Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Try outs aren't until after spring break and the show is Friday, May 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. here at CRS! So you have plenty of time to perfect your performance!



We hope to see you there!

-CRS SCA

# CRS Calendar of Events -- March 18 - 27, 2009

## Wednesday, March 18 (B Week):

8:00-9:00 Principal's Coffee EA Room  
**3:15-4:15 Girl Power CANCELLED**  
 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 19 (B Week):

8:00-8:25 Running Club Track  
 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 20 (B Week):

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

## Monday, March 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, March 24 (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 25 (A Week):

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 26 (A Week):

8:00-8:25 Running Club Track  
 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 27 (A Week):

**SCA SPIRIT DAY - TWIN OR MORE DAY.**  
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 5/6 Gym



**Plan Ahead: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS FRIDAY, APRIL 3 (Teacher Workday) and APRIL 6-10, 2009 (SPRING BREAK).** If your child will be absent any additional days due to travel plans, please call the CRS attendance line at 703-288-8484.

## Upcoming Events of Interest:

**Thursday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m. at McLean Baptist Church:** The Safe Community Coalition invites you to participate in the Adult Roundtable at Middle School Forum. For more details and to register, please visit our website at [www.safecommunitycoalition.net](http://www.safecommunitycoalition.net).

**Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the McLean Community Center:** Think Your Child Has Never Been Bullied or Has Never Bullied Anyone Else? Think Again. The Longfellow Middle School PTA and the Safe Community Coalition invite parents in all Langley/McLean schools to attend a parent focused presentation entitled: "Bullying & Cyber Bullying in Our Schools." The guest speaker is Stefan Mascoll from the Fairfax County Office of Safe & Drug Free-Youth.

Someone is doing the bullying! Is it your child? Is your child the victim? Do know the warning signs? According to guidance counselors in our McLean Schools, bullying is one of the major problems our students face daily. Parents are an important part of educating students on what is and is NOT ok behavior. Find out how to prevent your child from being a bully or help your child know the best way to handle things if they are bullied. Understand what bullying and cyber bullying are and how to deal with it at home and at school before it's too late. Questions? Please contact: [sophiabruner@verizon.net](mailto:sophiabruner@verizon.net). (This reflects the views of the Longfellow PTA and the Safe Community Coalition.)

**Saturday, March 28, 2009, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Oakton High School:** The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section, in collaboration with Fairfax County agencies and organizations in Northern Virginia, are organizing the first countywide substance use and violence prevention conference. The conference, "WHAT TODAY'S YOUTH NEED YOU TO KNOW," is designed for Fairfax County residents and employees, and 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 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.