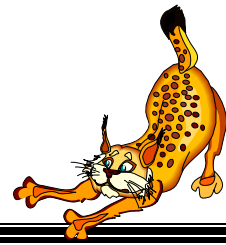




Churchill Chatter

Issue #29
April 15, 2009

Churchill Road Elementary
7100 Churchill Road McLean, Virginia 22101
Office (703) 288-8400 24-Hour Attendance (703)288-8484
<http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/>



Greetings from the CRS Music Department!



The date for the CRS Chorus spring concert is rapidly approaching! The concert will take place on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. here at Churchill Road. The program will feature folk songs from around the world.

So, who are these students involved in the CRS Chorus? Members of the chorus are fifth and sixth grade students who are excited about singing. During their tenure in chorus, students further develop their singing voice and learn to become more independent part singers. Perhaps most importantly, they gain experience performing as a member of a large ensemble.

The chorus rehearses in two groups on Monday mornings. During each forty minute rehearsal, the students prepare music for upcoming concerts. This preparation involves lots of hard work! They focus on singing words with clear diction, creating musical phrases, blending their voices with the group, proper breathing, as well as breathing in appropriate places in the music. Of course, at the same time, the students are also working to maintain the correct pitches and rhythms of the various songs, in addition to memorizing the lyrics. By the time the forty minute rehearsal is over, the students have put in quite a workout!

This coming weekend we are excited to be taking five sixth graders from the CRS Chorus to the All-County Choral Festival at Mt. Vernon High School in Alexandria. **Helena Dukovich, Mina Parastaran, Ella Shapland, Jenny Witzel and Megan Zwicker** have been attending weekly rehearsals here at CRS since December to prepare for the big event.

We look forward to seeing you at the chorus concert on May 12th!

*Ms. Judkins and Miss Menard,
CRS General Music Teachers*

Save the Date: Join Mr. Hutzel for a principal's coffee, next Wednesday, April 22 from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the CRS exploratory arts room. This is an excellent opportunity to informally discuss topics of interest with Mr. Hutzel.



News 4 Weatherman Bob Ryan Visits CRS



On the rainy Thursday morning prior to spring break, at the invitation of teachers Anna Corley and Corinne Almqvist, News 4 weatherman Bob Ryan visited CRS.



Mr. Ryan answered questions from the first grade classes (pictured below) and gave a more formal presentation to all the CRS 6th grade classes (pictured above). Mr. Ryan even showed pictures from his visit to Churchill on his evening weather report.



Thank you to Bob Ryan for sharing his love of weather phenomena with CRS students and staff.



GOING GREEN at CRS

April 15, 2009, Volume 7

EARTH DAY

Every day should be EARTH DAY. With this thought in mind, we the educators at CRS would like to strive to promote environmentally positive behavior changes in our young people. Teaching our children to respect themselves, respect others and respect property also means to respect the Earth. At this year's CRS Earth Day Assembly we will ask the question, "How can our young people live a long and respectful life when our world is deteriorating around us due to our collective actions and inactions?" On April 22nd, every student and staff member at the school will gather in the gymnasium to celebrate our beautiful world and learn valuable lessons on how each of us can reduce our "footprint".

Our students will have a *tremendous* impact on this Earth. They have inherited a planet that has been neglected and must learn globally healthy behaviors at a very early age. We must educate them how to conserve resources, how to purchase items which are not harmful to the environment and how to minimize their personal carbon footprint on this home we call Earth.

Collectively, we the people of this Earth, must make a pact to act intelligently to end the wastefulness and lead by example so that we rear a generation of responsible and respectful citizens of our non-renewable planet. At the assembly, we hope to instill a sense of urgency within our student body that will lead to 700 lifetimes of environmentally nurturing behaviors that will help save our planet.

If you are looking for ways for your family to celebrate Earth Day, visit the Fairfax County website to learn more about local Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/announcements.htm>.

You might want to attend the celebration at the Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale on Saturday, April 25, 2009 or attend one of many spring native plant sales in the area.

We plan to educate our students about the importance of doing our part in saving our planet. Please help us spread a consciousness of enthusiasm, pride, and unity. We hope the CRS Earth Day assembly will lead to lasting success that we can all relish for a lifetime.

Happy Earth Day!

Jordan CK, Earth Day Event Coordinator

(Jordan.CraigKuhn@fcps.edu) and

Susan Gregory, President of CRS Green Team

(greenteam@churchillroadpta.org)

Fun Fair Poster and T-Shirt Contest Winners

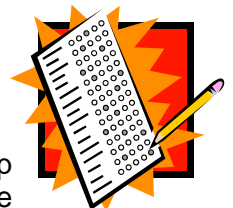


Congratulations to all of the Fun Fair Poster Contestants. Thank you for participating in this year's Fun Fair Poster Contest. The grand prize winning design was submitted by 6th grader Billie Males. Billie's poster design is being used for the Fun Fair t-shirt design (pictured above). Prizes will be handed out on Thursday, April 17. The winners are:

- ❖ Kindergarten – **Lina Al-Atrash**
- ❖ 1st Grade Winner – **Muhammad Al-Atrash**
- ❖ 2nd Grade Winner – **Jack Hoeymans**
- ❖ 2nd Grade Honorable Mention – **Caroline Buttz**
- ❖ 3rd Grade Winner – **Elizabeth Hoeymans**
- ❖ 3rd Grade Honorable Mention Tie – **Claire Mullery and Shreya Ramesh**
- ❖ 4th Grade Winner – **Katie Slade**
- ❖ 5th Grade Winner – **Lyric Yu**
- ❖ 6th Grade and Grand Prize Winner – **Billie Males**

Testing Corner

Ecart testing: In March and April, students in grades 3-6 are involved in taking the Ecart tests which help teachers see what students have mastered in mathematics and language arts. The Ecart tests are formative tests which allow teachers to personalize the instruction given to students based upon individual results. If students have mastery of concepts, they can move on to new concepts, whereas if they have not yet mastered a skill set or understood a concept, the teacher can reinforce that area of the curriculum.





Fun Fair Cake Walk Last Call for Cakes!!!

Grades 1-5: Consider donating a cake(s) to the Fun Fair Cake Walk! The more cakes we get, the longer we can keep the Cake Walk alive at the Fun Fair! (Cakes can be home-made or store-bought.)

Drop-Off Times: Friday, April 17th: 8:00 - 8:45 and 3:00 - 3:30; Saturday, April 18th: 9:00 - 10:00.

Grade 6: There's still time to enter the Cake-Decorating Contest! Bakers of the top three cakes in each of five categories will win prizes from the Fun Fair, AND all cakes will become a part of the Cake Walk!

Drop-Off Times: Thursday, April 16th: 3:00 - 3:30; Friday, April 17th: 8:00 - 9:00. (Judging starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. on April 17th.)

Please contact Terri Markwart (tmarkwart@gmail.com) or Marlen McKinney (marlenmckinney@aol.com) with questions.

HAPPY BAKING!

Morning Sales of Gamebands & Tickets

Avoid the lines at the Fun Fair! Gamebands and tickets will be on sale Thursday and Friday mornings, April 16 and 17, from 8:15 - 9:00 in the hallway outside the cafeteria. Gamebands cost \$15 and tickets cost \$5 for 20 tickets. Special \$10 gamebands for preschoolers will only be sold at the Fair. Remember, anyone wishing to play games must purchase a gameband. Questions? Contact Christy Slade at christyslade@verizon.net.

Wanted: Fun Fair Volunteers...

The Fun Fair is more fun with your help. Churchill Road is holding its 2009 Fun Fair this Saturday, April 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We can still use more volunteers. Shifts will be filled on a first come-first served basis, so sign up early. Shift times are listed below. Community service volunteers are welcome!

Thank you in advance!!

Friday-April 17, 3:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday-April 18, 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The shifts are 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, and 3:30-5:30.

Please contact Linda McNair if you are able to volunteer, lindagayle29@yahoo.com or 703-448-6977.

Save the Date for the Backyard BBQ & Family Movie Night

The CRS PTA invites you to this year's Backyard Barbecue & Family Movie Night. Come join us for Red Hot & Blue BBQ, an outdoor viewing of *Madagascar - Escape 2 Africa*, and other fun surprises. You must RSVP for this event by May 6. Look for the flyer in next week's VIPs (April 22).



When? Friday, May 15, 2009, 6:00 -9:30 p.m.

Where? The backyard of CRS

Cost? \$7.00

Questions? Contact Natalie Sturm (703-790-1540 / njsturm@cox.net) or Jenifer Lesan (703-288-3132 / jrlesan@aol.com).

Celebrate our Staff

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3-9 and National Teacher Day is Tuesday, May 5. This is a special opportunity to honor our teachers and staff and acknowledge the important contributions they make to the quality education received by the students at Churchill Road. Please join the PTA in showing our teachers and staff how much we appreciate all they do for our children and families. Watch for details in e-mails from your room parents and flyers in your Wednesday VIP folders.

With sincere thanks for your support,

Your CRS PTA Staff Appreciation Committee - Patricia Dunne (dunneptrc@aol.com), Jennifer Feinstein (jennfein4@aol.com) and Marlen McKinney Bellaschi (marlenmckinney@aol.com).

Hands On Science Day

Saturday, April 25th, 2009



The Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's Biology Society is announcing Hands-on Science Day 2009. This year's **free** event will be held on Saturday, April 25th, 2009 at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria, Virginia, 22312. There will be three sessions: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.; and 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. In keeping with prior events, the second two sessions are open to any K-6 grader, while the first session is reserved for those students with special needs.

Register at <http://activities.tjhsst.edu/biosociety/hosd/>. As in past years, we ask that parents come with their children to this event to help us help them get the most out of it. Questions? E-mail us at mTJHSSThandsonscienceday@gmail.com.

CRS Calendar of Events – April 15 - 24, 2009

Wednesday, April 15 (A Week):

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	Bobcat Awareness Club	MOD3
3:15-4:30	Scrabble Club	Room 219

Thursday, April 16 (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
7:00-8:15	PTA Meeting	Exploratory Arts

Friday, April 17 (A Week):

3:15-4:00	Flag Football 5/6	Gym
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Saturday, April 18:

**Fun
Fair
10-3**

Monday, April 20 (B Week):

12:45-2:00	Spanish 1	Room 103
12:45-2:00	French 1	PTA Room
2:00-3:30	Kindergarten Orientation	Cafe

Tuesday, April 21 (B Week):

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

Wednesday, April 22 (B Week):

8:00-9:00	Principal's Coffee	EA Room
1:45-2:45	Earth Day Assembly	Stage/Gym
3:15-4:15	Girl Power	Room 212
3:15-4:30	LAST 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	Bobcat Awareness Club	MOD3
3:15-4:30	Scrabble Club	Room 219

Thursday, April 23 (B Week):

8:00-8:25	Jump Rope Club	Gym
9:00-2:30	Spring Picture Day	Stage
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, April 24 (B Week):

3:15-4:00	Flag Football 5/6	Gym
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The next **PTA meeting** will be held **tomorrow evening**, Thursday, April 16, from 7:00 -8:15 p.m. in CRS' Exploratory Arts Room. Margi Vanderhye, our state delegate, will be our guest speaker. All CRS parents, teachers, and staff are welcome to attend. A more detailed agenda is available on the PTA website at <http://www.churchillroadpta.org/MeetingsMinutes/tabid/106/Default.aspx>.

Attention Running Club & Jump Rope Club participants: Jump Rope Club will soon transition back into Running Club since spring is in full swing. The last day of Jump Rope Club will be Thursday, April 23rd. Running Club will resume on April 30th and continue every Thursday until the end of the year. Running Club DOES require a permission slip which can be filled out on the track the day a child joins the club. Running Club participants who signed permission slips in the fall will NOT need to fill out another one. Please wear appropriate clothing including sneakers that lace up. If the weather is not good for running, Running Club will be canceled for that day.

The **4th Annual Special Education Parent Conference** will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Marshall High School from 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The conference provides parents an opportunity to learn more about Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), special education services and Fairfax County community resources. For more information, call 703-204-3941 or visit <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/conference/> for updates about the conference.



“WHAT ARE OUR KIDS REALLY TELLING US?”

Find out on **Monday, April 20**, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean HS Lecture Hall 187, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean, when **Denise Raybon**, Fairfax Countywide Prevention Coordinator, and **Diane Eckert**, FCPS Prevention Specialist, will present the Langley/McLean School Pyramid findings from the 2008 Fairfax County Youth Survey. This is the first time that the county is releasing information specific to our community from this highly regarded survey. The survey covers both healthy and risky behaviors by youth in 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades. This will be an

outstanding opportunity to learn what our children think about stress, body image, alcohol, drugs, bullying and depression among other things (both good and bad). Following the presentation, we will discuss the ways that we, as a community, can address areas of concern. We encourage everyone to attend this important, free program. Please see our website, <http://www.safecommunitycoalition.net/>, for additional information. Co-sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition and the Longfellow Middle School PTSA.

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 Hutzal at KIT.Request. All KIT messages should be sent to the school at least 24 hours in advance of their posting.