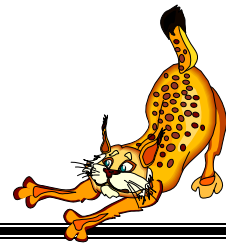




Churchill Chatter

Issue #31
April 29, 2009

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



CRS Celebrates Earth Week

On Wednesday, April 22, CRS celebrated Earth Day with a school wide assembly. Organized by PE teacher Mr. Craig Kuhn, the assembly featured a skit and roast of Mr. CK by Girl Scout Troop #3377, as well as their presentation of our new & official "Certified Wildlife Habitat" status (for the butterfly garden and land surrounding the school).



Mr. CK led a group in a hands-on Recycling Game that educated students on what items can and can not be recycled.



Several students read poems they wrote about environmental impact of humans on the Earth.



The assembly concluded with "Promises to the Earth," including Mr. CK's resolution not to eat or purchase *anything* that is individually wrapped for the next 365 days.

Earth week celebrations continued on Friday, April 24, with a tree planting ceremony in honor of Arbor Day sponsored by Wheat's Landscaping.



Coordinated by Michelle Stevenson from Wheat's Landscaping, CRS fourth grade students listened to a recitation of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* and worked in cooperative groups to design eco-friendly landscapes that would support native wildlife plants and animals.

Then, the children joined Jeff Lilja, one of Wheat's Landscaping production design managers, outside to plant a large Willow Oak tree. While the students took turns shoveling dirt and mulch, Mr. Lilja explained how to properly plant a tree and the benefits of Willow Oaks.



All of us at Churchill Road greatly appreciate Wheat's Landscaping's sponsorship and coordination of this great program that supports our "green" efforts!

Mr. Hutzel even enlisted the aid of 5th graders Domenick and Trevor with planting flowers in the pots at the entrance to CRS.



Nathan Geer Honored As "Outstanding First Year Teacher of the Year" Candidate



On Tuesday, April 28, third grade teacher Nathan Geer was one of 21 FCPS teachers honored at a reception for Outstanding First Year Teacher Award nominees. This award recognizes first year teachers who demonstrate outstanding performance and superior instructional skills during their initial year of teaching. The nominees serve as role models for other beginning teachers, interact well with students and demonstrate an excellent ability to communicate with faculty, staff members, parents and the community. Mr. Geer was nominated for this honor by his colleagues because of his organization, creativity, and individualized approach to instruction. Congratulations Mr. Geer- you are deserving of this distinction. Churchill Road is lucky to have you as one of our teachers!

SHARE Food Drive Springs up May 4-8
Diabetic-friendly Foods Requested

As spring is a time when food pantry shelves tend to be quite bare, the CRS PTA Community Service Committee is holding this year's SHARE Food Drive May 4-8. For this food drive SHARE has asked for special assistance in meeting the needs of its many diabetic clients, as well as for help stocking its pantry with basic household supplies and toiletries. (Please check today's VIP folder (April 29) for a specific list of the sugar-free food items and basic goods SHARE seeks.)

Send your donated items to school with your child; collection boxes will be placed in each classroom. The PTA will work with the CRS SCA to collect and sort all donated goods at the end of the week.

SHARE is a McLean-based volunteer organization working to feed the hungry in our own community. More families than ever are now relying on SHARE's services.

The CRS PTA Community Service Committee greatly appreciates your support. Please contact us if you have questions: Kathleen Mullery, skmullery@verizon.net, 703-734-3220; Liz Holzapfel, woodapple1@verizon.net, 703-827-0633; Lezlie McBride, lezliemcbride@gmail.com, 703-893-5290.

CRS Proposed Bell Schedule to Start 15 Minutes Earlier Next School Year

Despite the controversy generated by the now-rejected January proposal to make major changes to the bell schedule in order to accommodate sleep patterns of older students, FCPS is now proposing less dramatic adjustments to the bell schedules in order to save more than \$4.6 million per year. FCPS' press release notes that minor changes in bell schedules are usually made every year about this time, but this year's changes are somewhat more extensive because of the opportunity to save money in a tight budget year (<http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm>). The proposed new bell schedules will not be implemented until, and if, the School Board adopts them as part of the FY 2010 budget process. The proposal includes the following changes:

School	Current Schedule	Proposed Schedule	Change
Churchill Road ES	8:25 am - 3:05 pm	8:10 am - 2:50 pm	15 minutes earlier
Cooper MS	7:30 am - 2:20 pm	8:00 am - 2:50 pm	30 minutes later
Longfellow MS	7:30 am - 2:20 pm	7:50 am - 2:40 pm	20 minutes later

The proposal will be discussed at a Board Work Session on April 30. More details are available here: <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/0/CC7EA38835A318EE8725759F006F9253?OpenDocument>

Favorite Character Spirit Day a Success!

Friday, April 24, marked another SCA sponsored Spirit Day. Students and staff dressed up as their favorite characters from books and movies. There were many VIP sightings of Hannah Montana, Luke Skywalker, Sponge Bob Square Pants, a spy and even Ms. Frizzle from *Magic School Bus* fame! The SCA would like to thank all students for participating in our special day! Our next Spirit Day is May 29th and it's BACK FROM THE FUTURE DAY! Dress like you're from the 70's, 80's or even the 90's!





GOING GREEN at CRS

April 29, 2009, Volume 9

LET'S MAKE THE CAFETERIA GREEN!

Every day, Churchill Road Elementary School throws out large amounts of trash. For most schools, the cafeteria represents about half of the garbage that a school generates each day. According to the State of Massachusetts, schools produce between 3 and 6 pounds of milk cartons and drink boxes per student per school year. Add to that all of the zip-lock bags, disposable utensils, paper napkins and left over food and we have one big mess.

As a result, recycling in the cafeteria is very important to the community and should be very important to every student that attends Churchill Road Elementary School. Here are some tips on what each of us can do to help make our cafeteria green. For once, it is o.k. to bother your parents. Tell them it is time we all took some small steps that will make a huge difference to our environment.

- Use plastic containers instead of zip-lock bags. If you have to use zip-lock bags PLEASE TAKE THEM HOME AND REUSE THEM OR RECYCLE THEM!
- Use water bottles instead of juice boxes
- Buy food in bulk and package them in recyclable containers – no more individual serving size bags to throw away.
- Consider bringing in metal silverware and cloth napkins that you can take home and wash.
- Bring your lunch in a lunch box instead of brown paper bags.
- After eating, make sure to recycle all your paper and plastic bottle materials.
- If you buy lunch at Churchill Cafeteria, always remember to recycle your trays and other recyclables.

And teachers, please no more Starbuck disposable cups. Use reusable coffee mugs instead. If we each make just a few changes we can make a huge impact on the health of our environment.

-- Ricki Libby and Adriana Haleleh, CRS SCA



Cheers of the Week...!



Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of April 20th:

Rio Yamazaki (Kindergarten); Vincent Watson (1st); Lily Kleinknecht (2nd); Elenitsa Sgouros (3rd); Michael Long (4th); and Whole Class: Mrs. Bamdad's 2nd grade. Great job!

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

FCPS Swine Flu Update

Fairfax County Public Schools has created a web site devoted to the Swine Flu Outbreak and its potential impact on FCPS. The link is:
<http://www.fcps.edu/news/swineflu.htm>

Tips from the Wellness Committee...

Let's hope swine flu doesn't make it to Virginia, but just in case, here's a little information about it.



What is Swine Flu?

Swine Flu, also called swine influenza, is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus.

Are there human infections with swine flu in the U.S.?

In late March and early April 2009, cases of human infection with swine influenza A viruses were first reported in Southern California and near San Antonio, Texas. Other U.S. states have reported cases of swine flu infection in humans and cases have been reported internationally as well.

How can humans catch swine flu?

Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections have occurred. These cases usually occur in persons with direct exposure to pigs.

Can people catch swine flu from eating pork?

No, swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food.

What are the symptoms of swine flu in humans?

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Other symptoms include runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

How does swine flu spread?

Influenza viruses can be directly transmitted from pigs to people and from people to pigs. Human-to-human transmission of swine flu can also occur. Transmission is mainly through coughing or sneezing of infected people. People may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Good handwashing is essential for preventing the spread of these viruses.

Is there treatment for swine flu?

Yes, medicine is available through your doctor. (References: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/swineflu).

For questions or comments, please contact Liesl Curtis, MD at mcurtis7007@cox.net or Heidi Appel, MD at mhja@gunet.georgetown.edu, PTA Wellness Committee.

CRS Calendar of Events -- April 29 - May 8, 2009

Wednesday, April 29 (A Week):

3:15-4:15 Girl Power Room 212
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 5/6 Gym
 3:15-4:15 Bobcat Awareness Club MOD3
 3:15-4:30 LAST Drama Club 3/4 Stage
 3:15-4:30 Scrabble Club Room 219
 7:00-8:00 Art & Literacy Night K-3 Gym

Thursday, April 30 (A Week):

8:00-8:25 Running Club Track
 3:10-4:25 Girls on the Run Track
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 3/4 Gym
 3:15-4:30 Artist Trading Club Room 219
 3:15-5:00 Chess Club Caf e
 7:00-8:00 Parent Network Mtg. Library

Friday, May 1 (A Week):

3:15-4:00 Flag Football 5/6 Gym
 7:00-8:00 SCA Talent Show Gym

Monday, May 4 (B Week):

8:00-8:25 Sport Club Gym
 2:00-3:30 GT Center Orientation Cafe

Tuesday, May 5 (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, May 6 (B Week):

3:15-4:15 Girl Power EA Room
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 5/6 Gym
 3:15-4:15 Bobcat Awareness Club MOD3
 3:15-4:30 Scrabble Club Room 219

Thursday, May 7 (B Week):

8:00-8:25 Running Club Track
 2:00-3:00 Orchestra Concert Gym/Stage
 3:10-4:25 Girls on the Run Track
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 3/4 Gym
 3:15-4:30 Artist Trading Club Room 219
 3:15-5:00 Chess Club Caf e
 7:00-8:00 Orchestra Concert Gym/Stage

Friday, May 8 (B Week):

2:30-4:00 SHARE Food Sorting Cafe
 3:15-4:00 Flag Football 5/6 Gym

This Week's Events at Churchill Road

Tonight's the Night! Calling all artists! Our **K-3 Art & Literacy Night** is tonight, Wednesday, April 29, from 7:00–8:00 p.m. Join us as we weave together art & words in a variety of activities. Hope to see you there!

Tomorrow night, Thursday April 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the CRS library. Please join us for a PTA-sponsored Parent Networking event to learn more about **Relational Aggression**. Relational aggression is emotional bullying in which students use relationships to hurt others. Relational aggression is not found in just girls either! It can involve social/emotional games that victimize others through exclusion, rumors, gossip, eye rolling, pitting friends against each other, and sarcasm. Relational aggression can lead to academic and social withdrawal, decreased self esteem and dysfunctional relationships. Sometimes our students (and adults) unknowingly take on roles in the victimization process. Presenting this topic are asst. principal Kathy Manoatl; counselor, Katie Griffith; and teachers Corinne Almquist, Laura Swetra, Colleen Newman & Jennifer Ezzell.

Churchill Road's Got Talent! Come one, come all! Come support our shining students at our 2nd annual **SCA Talent Show!** The show is Friday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the CRS gymnasium. And we'll be taking donations at the doors before the show to benefit the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. so don't be late!



SOLs Start on May 18. A complete list of spring 2009 SOL dates for Churchill Road is provided below:

Third Grade SOL Testing Dates		Fifth Grade SOL Testing Dates	
Weds., May 27	English: Reading, Parts 1 & 2	Tuesday, May 19	Math 6 (incl. Turner & Ezzell)
Thursday, May 28	Math	Tuesday, June 2	Math 5 (Newman, Brody, Drye)
Friday, May 29	Science	Weds., June 3	Science
Monday, June 1	History/Social Science	Thursday, June 4	Reading
Fourth Grade SOL Testing Dates		Sixth Grade SOL Testing Dates	
Thursday, May 21	English: Reading	Monday, May 18	Reading
Friday, May 22	Math	Tuesday, May 19	Math for Grade 6 students taking Grade 6, 7, 8 or Algebra 1 (incl. Turner & Ezzell)
Tuesday, May 26	VA History	Weds., May 20	US History

Reminder: The CRS front office will close at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11th for staff training.

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