



Issue #2
September 23, 2009

Churchill Chatter

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President's Pen

On behalf of the PTA, welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! If your household is like ours, you're already hip deep in homework, sports, and various other after-school activities. At Churchill Road School (CRS), the PTA is in high gear, as well. The week before school started, our Executive Board met in the cafeteria to assemble the Back-to-School packets. That same afternoon, the hospitality committee hosted a Back-to-School luncheon for the faculty and staff. Thanks to Suzy Thompson and Forough Yazdani for planning a well received event. During that same week, Gabriele Aulisi coordinated the distribution of pre-packaged school supplies and had them waiting in the classrooms for our children. I would like the chance to highlight a few activities to look forward to:

- **After-School Activities.** Information on this fall's after-school programs came home in last Wednesday's VIP envelopes. More information and registration forms are available on the [After School Activities page](#) of the PTA website, or contact Laurie Schaefer, myskin2@aol.com, or Sandra Bendler, mdbbmclean@cox.net.
- **Family Activities.** This committee organizes a number of family-centered activities during the year to encourage community spirit. The first of these is an outdoor family movie night on Friday, October 9 at 6:30 pm, behind CRS. The deadline for purchasing tickets is October 2nd. For more information, contact Jenifer Lesan, JRLesan@gmail.com, or Kara Kaldes, karakaldes@yahoo.com.
- **Armchair Fundraising.** You should have received a fundraising letter in the mail last week. A HUGE thank you to the 191 families (nearly thirty-five percent of all CRS families) that have ALREADY contributed!! Receipts will come home via the VIP folders starting in October. Our goal is to get 100% participation, with whatever amount you are comfortable giving. If you want to contribute, take a look at the information on the [Armchair Fundraising page](#) of the PTA website, or contact [Christine Peterson and Marti Friedman](#).

- **Volunteers.** Almost all of the PTA's activities depend, in part, on volunteers. You've heard about opportunities to participate, and thank you to everyone who signed up at Open House or Back-to-School night to help on PTA and/or classroom activities. This week, PTA committee chairs will be contacting those of you that signed up for PTA activities, and room parents should be contacting you soon about classroom activities. More information is available on the [Volunteers page](#) of the PTA website, or contact Andrea Favro, M_andreina@yahoo.com, or Lorraine Bettios, lorraine@bettios.com.

We're working hard to make the CRS PTA as open and accessible as possible. Take a look at our updated website, www.churchillroadpta.org. If you can, please come to our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, October 14, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in CRS' Exploratory Arts Room. And always, please feel free to contact any of the PTA Officers or Committee Chairs with any questions or suggestions.

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

Cat Lippman, CRS PTA President

Enthusiasm Contagious at Back-to-School Night



School Board representative Janie Strauss chats informally with Mr. Hutzel and the CRS staff prior to the start of Back-to-School Night on September 16.

PTA Reflections Program 2009

Calling all creative kids!

The PTA Reflections Program is kicking off for 2009. This year's theme is "Beauty is ..." It's so easy to enter. Just reflect on what beauty is to you. Create an original piece of artwork to express your ideas. Then submit it to the school.

There are six fun categories: visual arts, musical composition, literature, photography, dance choreography and film/video production. You can enter as many categories as you wish.

All entries are reviewed by judges recruited by the PTA outside the CRS community, for three age levels: K-2nd, 3rd - 5th, and 6th grade. The most outstanding entry in each age and subject category will be sent to the County level in November.

The goal of the Reflections program is participation, not winning. Every child who enters will receive a certificate and be invited to a special reception. Have a go and have fun! Just be sure to carefully read the program rules to ensure that your entry meets national guidelines.

Please visit the CRS PTA web site <http://churchillroadpta.org/CommitteesMZ/Reflections/tabid/73/Default.aspx> for complete details. Submissions may be turned into the marked box in the CRS front office from October 12-19, 2009. **All entries are due by 3:00 p.m. on Monday October 19.**

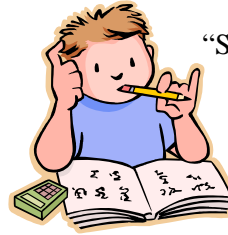
Jennifer Anthony (jennifer_l_anthony@yahoo.com)
Leanne McKinnon (mckrl@verizon.net)
Reflections Co-Chairs

The CRS Clinic Needs You!

The CRS Clinic needs parent volunteers for the 2009-2010 school year. If you are a returning volunteer, please contact Kris Lowry in the school clinic at 703-288-8410. If you are a new volunteer, training is required. The first training date is Tuesday, September 29 from 9:00-12:00 noon at the Falls Church District Office, 6245 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. For additional training dates and times, please contact Kris Lowry.



Is Your Home Structured for School Success?



"Structuring Your Home for School Success" will be presented Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the CRS library. This is the first in a series of evening programs sponsored by the CRS PTA Parent

Education and Resources Committee. "Structuring Your Home for School Success" will focus on motivation, goal setting, fostering responsibility for studying, organizing space and time, adapting your home environment to meet your child's learning needs, and homework challenges. Please come! For more information, contact Lezlie McBride at lezliemcbride@gmail.com, Lisa Ugone at curtlisakd@msn.com, or Sarah Tyler at sarah.t.tyler@gmail.com.

Become a CRS Library Volunteer

Do you like books? Want to find out what the students at CRS are reading? Then volunteer in our own Churchill Road library. If you have 1-2 hours per week or 2 hours every other week, we would love to have you join us. You can even get your own library card and check books out of the library, too! If you are interested, please contact Terri Markwart LTMarkwart@gmail.com.



Hello from the PE Department!



With the school year in full swing, it is time to reinitiate our Physical Education Club activities for the year. Running Club is open to all students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Students do not need to sign up or be accompanied by an adult but adults are welcome to run with us. This is a "drop-by-on-any-Thursday" club. Students simply run or walk on the track at their own pace to get some exercise before the school day starts. Their laps will be recorded for the entire year and tallied for total miles run by year's end. Running Club will commence on Thursday, September 24th at 7:45 AM. We will meet on the track behind the playground. If it is raining, we will jump rope in the gymnasium. Please do not drop children off before 7:45 a.m. because no adult supervision will be provided prior to that time. We hope to see lots of students there!

Mr. CK and Mr. Mastaler, CRS PE teachers

Community Dialogue Session on FY 2011 Budget Shortfalls

Fairfax County is projecting a **significant budget deficit for FY 2011** (beginning July 1, 2010). The County, including FCPS, is in the midst of a **multi-year, cyclical downturn** requiring that county decision-makers continue to make expenditure and revenue adjustments. Our ongoing challenge is to develop a budget with an appropriate level of services that are both sustainable and acceptable to the community.

To this end, FCPS and Fairfax County will be co-hosting a series of community dialogue sessions this fall focused on addressing the projected budget shortfall for FY 2011. Twelve meetings will be held on six dates between late September and mid-November, 2009. For the complete list of community dialogs and their locations, go to the following website: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/community.pdf>.

The first of the sessions will be held on **Tuesday, September 29 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** at the **McLean Community Center**. Another convenient session will be held on **Wednesday, October 14** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at **Marshall High School**. This is a great opportunity for members of the community, as well as employees, to present their suggestions for cuts for the FY2011 school year budget. County decision-makers will use the input from these meetings as a key factor to help them develop the criteria for making budget decisions.

FCPS Familygram Is Now an Electronic Publication

As you may know, due to budget cuts, FCPS' *Familygram* will no longer be provided as a print publication and will only be available electronically. To view this publication or for a printer-friendly copy, go to:

<http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/publicat/familygram/backtoschool2009/fop.pdf>.

Familygram will continue to be translated into Spanish and will be posted online shortly after the English version.

Congratulations to CRS 4th Grader Shreya Ramesh

Every year lots of kids (K-3) from Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia send their illustrated stories to the WETA Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators contest and Reading Rainbow picks the top 3 stories from each grade level.



Congratulations to current CRS 4th grader Shreya Ramesh for placing 2nd in this contest. Shreya's story, "*Journey of the Runaway G,*" won 2nd place in the 3rd grade level in the 2009 Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrator's contest. She received a Barnes & Noble gift card, a Reading Rainbow episode DVD, and a Certificate of Honor from Reading Rainbow host, Le Var Burton. To view and read Shreya's story, go to:

<http://www.weta.org/kids/readingrainbow/winners/2009>.



Cheers of the Week...!



Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of September 14. Winners are: Jack Schwartzberg (Kindergarten); Spencer Nash (1st); Carsyn Lauback (2nd); Caroline Buttz (3rd); and Elizabeth Li (4th). The class winner is Ms. Zielinski's second grade.

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

CRS School Hours for 2009-2010

Monday: 8:10 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

AM K 8:10 – 10:10 a.m.

PM K 10:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday: 8:10 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

AM K 8:10 – 11:25 a.m.

PM K 11:35 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.



Please note the **new** Churchill Road bell schedule for the 2009-2010 school year.

CRS Calendar of Events -- September 23 - October 4, 2009

Wednesday, Sept 23 (B Week):

No activities scheduled

Thursday, Sept 24 (B Week):

8:30-2:30 Fall Individual Pictures Stage
8:30-10:30 PTA Rm Parent Orientation Cafe

Friday, Sept 25 (B Week):

No activities scheduled

Saturday, Sept 26 :

10:00-5:30 National Book Festival on the National Mall

Monday, Sept 28 (A Week)

2:30-3:30 CRS front office closed for staff training.

Tuesday, Sept 29 (A Week):

No activities scheduled

Wednesday, Sept 30 (A Week):

No activities scheduled

Thursday, Oct 1 (B Week):

3:00-4:30 Chess Club Cafe
7:00-8:30- PTA Parent Seminar, "Is your House Homework Ready?" Library

Friday, Oct 2 (A Week):

No activities scheduled

Sunday, Oct 4

10:00-5:00 MPAartfest Mclean Central Park

Upcoming Events of Interest...

Saturday, September 26 is the date for the National Book Festival! Head down to the National Mall this coming Saturday for a day of reading and fun! More than 50 children's and adult authors will be speaking and signing books. Visit <http://loc.gov/bookfest> for more information.

Sunday, October 4 is the McLean Artfest. Join other Churchill Road families on Sunday, October 4th from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at McLean Central Park as we celebrate with the MPAartfest. Experience local artworks, art activities, live performances and treat yourself to local refreshments. The highlight of the show will be the Children's ArtWalk, sponsored by the McLean Citizens Foundation, featuring artworks from area elementary schools including CRS. For more information visit www.mpaart.org/artfest.php, or email CRS art teacher Ms. Whiteman at jennifer.whiteman@fcps.edu.

Friday, October 9 is the CRS Fall Family Movie Night. Please join us for the showing of everyone's favorite family classic, *E.T.*, on Friday October 9th outside under the stars in CRS's own backyard. Seating will begin at 6:15 p.m., and the movie starts at 7:15 p.m. If the weather is cold or rainy, this event will be moved to the gym. Tickets are \$5 each (children under 5 are free). A bag of popcorn and a drink will be included in the ticket price. If you would like to come early and participate in the Halloween Costume Swap/Donation before the show, be there by 6:15 p.m. The flyer was sent home in last week's VIP, or you can go to the CRS website for details and to sign up. Please return payment and the completed form to your child's teacher **by Friday, October 2**. Tickets will be distributed at the gazebo when you check in. Questions? Contact Jenifer Lesan 703-288-3132, jlesan@gmail.com or Kara Kaldes 703-847-9337, karakaldes@yahoo.com. This fun event is brought to you by the PTA Family Activities Committee.

Saturday, October 10 is the 4th Annual StarKid 8K and Family Fun Run. Sponsored by INOVA Fairfax Hospital for Children, join other area families in support of children's heart health. For more information or to register, go to www.runwashington.com.

Monday, October 19 is the Help the Homeless Mini-Walk to support Pathway Homes. Save the date for this annual event. Look for more information in your child's September 30 VIP folder. To help or for more information, please contact Colleen Newman, CRS 3rd grade teacher at Colleen.Newman@fcps.edu.

Notes from the CRS Office:

The CRS front office will close at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2009 for staff training. We will return at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday morning.

The CRS front office will not be accepting go home notes for matching until Thursday, October 1. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

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.

