Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year and our first edition of our weekly newsletter, The Churchill Chatter!

Our community has spent the last couple of months enjoying summer schedules. Some went to summer school, others attended camps, and many families enjoyed vacations. As September 8th loomed closer, new clothes were purchased and school supplies were restocked. At school, teachers joined together to organize classrooms, develop new lessons, and plan for the new school year. And now, the 843 children of Churchill Road are joining the nearly 200,000 FCPS students that returned to school yesterday.

The School Board has charged us with creating a world-class school system that, "inspires, enables, and empowers students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship." While the Board is responsible for establishing policy, the school staff and I are responsible for turning that policy into action. Although this is only our second day of school, our classrooms are busy with productive activities and our students are already immersed in exciting learning opportunities. Important routines and procedures are being established and serious instruction is already occurring. As I visit the classrooms, it's impressive to see the many creative and purposeful lessons taking place.

Educating a child today might seem daunting, but our school is uniquely poised to meet this challenge. Our teachers, along with our PTA's programs, provide our students with great opportunities. Access to technology, lessons focusing on our international community, and participation in service learning activities are key pillars to ensure that our students have the skills they need to be successful citizens of the future. I feel confident that they will have the knowledge and skills to be our world’s future leaders.

A key ingredient to a successful school year is good communication between the school and your home. The Churchill Chatter is posted on our school's website every Wednesday by 4:00 p.m. Please get in the habit of reviewing each edition. You are guaranteed to learn something new every week.

In an effort to be available for parents, I host a monthly Principal’s Coffee, 8:00-8:45 a.m., prior to our PTA meetings on the following dates: October 7, November 11, December 9, February 10, March 10, April 13, May 11, and June 8. These events are informal gatherings that provide a forum for discussions about school and school system news and events.

Tonight and tomorrow night (September 9 & 10), we will be hosting our Back to School Nights (BTSN). BTSN is an important event because it provides both our PTA and teachers an opportunity to share essential information. Your attendance is noted and appreciated. The parent involvement here at Churchill Road is a critical element to the success of our school. On behalf of the staff and myself, thank you for your support.

I look forward to seeing you around the school. It’s going to be a great school year!

Don Hutzel, CRS Principal

Thank You, Wheat’s Landscape

Once again, Wheat’s Landscape donated their services to Churchill Road. A crew from Wheat’s worked for two days prior to the start of the school year, sprucing up the school grounds. Wheat’s has been tremendously supportive of Churchill Road and all of the surrounding schools. We appreciate their generosity.
**Back to School Nights 2015**

- **Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 7:00 PM:** Kindergarten and Grades 1, 3 and 5
- **Thursday, Sept. 10 at 7:00 PM:** Grades 2, 4 and 6

Following a brief PTA meeting, parents and guardians will have an opportunity to hear their children’s teachers share an overview of the school year. Please note: this is a meeting for adults. If possible, your children should not attend the meeting.

Meetings of the CRS PTA General Membership will be held during the two Back-to-School Nights on September 9th and 10th at 7:00 p.m. The membership will vote on whether to approve the following items: (1) the Audit Report for the 2014-2015 fiscal year; (2) the CRS PTA 2015-2016 draft budget; and (3) the Meeting Minutes from the PTA meetings held in March, April and May 2015. The Audit Report, the draft budget and copies of the Meeting Minutes can be found on the PTA website at [http://www.churchillroadpta.org/crs/forms-documents/](http://www.churchillroadpta.org/crs/forms-documents/).

**Volunteers Wanted!**

Would you like to be part of a fun group of volunteers who make the CRS PTA a huge success? The CRS PTA’s most valuable and important resource is its volunteers. Volunteer resources allow the PTA to provide the many programs, events and school support that enrich our children’s Churchill experience and create a strong CRS community. Please consider volunteering for one of the many opportunities currently available at CRS by clicking here: [2015-2016 CRS PTA Volunteer Sign-Ups](http://www.churchillroadpta.org/). Additional volunteer opportunities will be posted from time to time on the CRS PTA website: [http://www.churchillroadpta.org/](http://www.churchillroadpta.org/).

---

**Support the CRS PTA!**

Join by 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, 9/15, for Priority After-School Activities Registration

TODAY-- Check out the flyer in your child’s VIP or visit the Churchill Road PTA website @ www.churchillroadpta.org for more information about why your participation is critical to the success of the PTA and our school. Not to mention, the PTA and our activities are a lot of FUN!

TOMORROW -- Sign up for the PTA and contribute to the Armchair Fundraiser! Remember, next TUESDAY is the deadline to qualify for priority After-School Activities registration, a valuable benefit of PTA membership. While you may join the PTA at any time, members who join by 12:01 a.m. on 9/15 will have the best shot to secure a spot in their child’s preferred activities.

Thank you for your consideration and support of our school! Questions? Please contact CRS PTA Membership Secretary/Armchair Fundraiser Chair Elizabeth Marino at membershipsecretary1@churchillroadpta.org.

---

**Distribution of Community Fliers for the 2015-2016 School Year**

The weeks of October 5, December 7, March 7 and May 23 have been designated for the distribution of fliers and newsletters to CRS students by non-profit organizations.

Please note that all fliers must be submitted at least 48 hours in advance for the principal to review and contain the following disclaimer: "These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school."

For complete information on regulations governing their distribution, please go to: [Distribution of Fliers by Outside Groups](http://www.churchillroadpta.org/).
Do you like volunteering in the classroom and having fun? This is a great opportunity for you. Volunteer for **Artist Workshop**, a CRS PTA-sponsored program that presents curriculum topics through the perspective of fine art examples. There are only five Artist Workshop one-hour sessions held throughout the academic year. Prepared Power Points and write-ups on the images and projects are provided and are used to facilitate the presentation. All you need to do beforehand is study the write-up information and images provided, check on supplies and then go into the classroom and open a child’s awareness to the wonder and beauty of art. You will give the presentation to the students engaging them in careful looking to understand and create meaning about the artworks. Afterwards, students make their own art project reinforcing the session’s objectives.

All sessions are specifically tied to classroom topics (science, social studies or math), as well as art curriculum. No artistic ability or art history needed to volunteer—just enthusiasm for working with students and enjoying the discovery process.

If you are interested in participating in this fun hands-on activity, please attend one of the short informational sessions on Thursday, September 17th at 8:45 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. in the Exploratory Arts Room. And if you are a returning parent volunteer to the Artist Workshop program, please come to one of the sessions for a quick review and some new information. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact the PTA coordinator, Anne Marie Marenburg at marenburg@mindspring.com or lead art teacher, Julie Brodzik at jebrodzik@fcps.edu. Thank you for your interest.

---

**AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CATALOG AVAILABLE ONLINE**

The **After-School Activities Catalog** is now available online [here](#).

- Priority registration for PTA Members begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 17th.
- General Registration will open at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21st.

**Registration will close at midnight on Friday, September 25th** so that the ASA committee can generate rosters for the instructors and CRS staff. No refunds or schedule changes are provided after September 25th. Please be respectful of the deadlines and plan accordingly.

Musical Theater Revue (Show Choir) begins on Tuesday, September 29th. All other clubs begin on or after Thursday, October 1st. Please see the catalog for more information.

ASA instructors and vendors will be present to answer questions in the gym at the **Back to School Night Expo** on September 9th and 10th at 6:00 p.m. Please email the ASA Committee ([afterschoolactivities1@churchillroadpta.org](mailto:afterschoolactivities1@churchillroadpta.org)) with questions.

**CHINESE AND FRENCH OFFERED AFTER-SCHOOL**

The GLOBAL Program is an approach to language learning that allows students to develop basic communicative skills in a language, using fun, interactive SMART board technology. We will be offering this valuable language program again this fall! Enroll now at [http://tinyurl.com/GLOBALclasses](http://tinyurl.com/GLOBALclasses). Don’t miss our new Early Bird Discount! Register by September 23rd and save $10. See more information on languages offered, schedules and discounts on our flyer here! Chinese and French for grades 1-4 will begin on October 6th and end on December 15th. This 10 session program is $169.

Contact your CRS GLOBAL rep, Mel Quinn, [imelda_quinn@yahoo.com](mailto:imelda_quinn@yahoo.com) for more information about registration! For questions regarding the GLOBAL Program, please contact GLOBAL Program Specialist, Paulina Nicopoulos ([pnicopoulos@fcps.edu](mailto:pnicopoulos@fcps.edu)).
Our Volunteers Rock!

A big thank you to PTA School Supplies Chair Wendy Biliter and her outstanding parent and student helpers, who sorted and delivered more than 400 boxes of school supplies to our classrooms prior to the Open House.

Thank you to CRS parent Sarah Collett for taking time before the new school year began to waterproof and stain the platform and podium in the Outdoor Classroom, as well as the handrails leading into the modular. As you can see below, it looks great! Sarah chairs the “Fix It Up” committee and is always looking for good volunteers. Please contact Sarah, especially if your skills lend themselves to weekend handy-person activities!

A huge thank you is also extended to this year’s Staff Appreciation Committee, chaired by Luz Panduro, Carole Smith and Kristi West, as well as their many parent helpers. The CRS staff was treated to a delicious lunch following last week’s Open House. After a very busy and hectic week, the luncheon was greatly appreciated by all of the Churchill Road teachers and staff.

Last but not least, our new families enjoyed a warm welcome to CRS thanks to the generous donation of baked goods from many parent volunteers and the efforts of Hospitality Committee Co-chairs Sarah Colette and Julie Cox. Thank you to all!
The New School Year Gets Off to a Great Start...

No Play Dates until Thursday, October 1, 2015

Due to the many activities occurring at Churchill as we get school routines in place, students will not be allowed to schedule play dates until October. This includes bus notes and notes for picking up a student other than the driver’s own child. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Look for more information about the CRS PTA’s online go home note program in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.
School Lunch Information

Paying for School Meals:
Families may pay for school meals in one of three ways; by setting up an online payment account, via check or by paying cash. Detailed information on payment methods is outlined below.

1. Online Meal Payment Accounts:
New users can sign up for a meal payment account by visiting www.MySchoolBucks.com. IMPORTANT: Within the MySchoolBucks “Add a Student” section, the student’s first and last name will need to match with the FCPS student record on file.

Current MyLunchMoney.com users should log into www.MySchoolBucks.com. Your MyLunchMoney user e-mail address will become the MySchoolBucks “username.” Your MyLunchMoney user password will stay the same for the MySchoolBucks “password.” Balances on your current MyLunchMoney meal account will transfer over to MySchoolBucks. Your current MyLunchMoney user settings (Smart Pay) and profile details will transfer over to MySchoolBucks.

Questions about online meal payment options? Contact MySchoolBucks (Heartland School Solutions) by phone (1-855-832-5226) or e-mail at parentsupport@myschoolbucks.com.

2. Check
Write a check made out to Churchill Road Food and Nutrition Services and bring the check to the food service manager’s office. CRS’s Food Service Manager is Mr. Yan Cheung. A parent who wants his or her check payments to be for meals only (no à la carte items) should write instructions on the check or tell Mr. Cheung.

3. Cash
Cash may be brought to the food service manager’s office for deposit in student accounts, or students may pay cash daily for lunch.

NOTE: Monthly school lunch menus are available on the FCPS website by going to: http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/serve/lunchmenus.shtml.

Special Lunches at CRS:
We are always happy to see parents, grandparents, and other family members come to eat with a student. It is a special occasion for the entire class. Visitors typically either purchase a lunch from the cafeteria or bring a bag lunch from home. It is nice for the students to see that grownups also eat nutritious lunches. We ask that you not bring in “fast-food” lunches. Also, please note that soft drinks are prohibited. The emphasis on nutritional eating is reflected in our health curriculum and in the selection of food sold in the cafeteria. We ask that when you come to eat lunch with your child, you help us continue to model healthy, nutritious eating. It is your presence, more than anything that makes the occasion special for your child.