President’s Pen

On behalf of the CRS PTA, welcome to the 2015-2016 school year at Churchill Road Elementary School. We are looking forward to a great year full of awesome programs and events for the entire CRS community. But first, I would like to de-mystify a few things and hopefully make the advent of a new school year seem a little less overwhelming.

I had the opportunity to meet several new CRS families at the coffee hosted by the New Family Outreach Committee during Open House and at our PTA table at the ASA Expo during Back to School Night. (Thanks to Julie Cox, Sarah Collett & Jennifer Redd for their mad organizational skills in putting those events together!) The most frequent questions asked by new CRS parents were “What is the PTA?” and “Why should I join?”

So, what is the PTA? – The CRS PTA is a non-profit organization that is run solely by volunteers who work without pay during their own free time, and serves as a partnership between parents and educators at Churchill Road Elementary to promote quality education, provide enrichment opportunities, encourage community involvement, and strive for a healthy and safe school. We also provide a forum for parents to learn about what is happening at CRS and to voice their opinions. The CRS PTA is a member of the National PTA (www.pta.org), the Virginia PTA (www.vapta.org), and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (http://www.fccpta.org), each of which advocates on behalf of children in schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

Alright then, why should I join the CRS PTA? – The #1 reason to join the PTA is that your child benefits. Your membership helps to support the programs and events provided by the CRS PTA, as well as National and Virginia PTA programs that benefit all children. Besides helping to fund PTA programs and events, the more people officially registered as members, the more we can influence local, state and federal legislators about matters that affect our children and community. This is particularly important as we advocate in support of funding for the FCPS budget and for continued class size reductions and increases in teachers’ salary and benefits—all of which are critical to making sure that CRS has the tools to remain at the top of its game. Also, as a PTA member, you get discounts on family events and the yearbook, as well as priority ASA registration, and you can take advantage of member discounts (like a 20% discount at Great Wolf Lodge) available to National and Virginia PTA members.

Do I have to be a member to attend PTA meetings or for my child to participate in PTA-sponsored programs? Absolutely not. We encourage ALL parents to attend PTA meetings, which are held at 8:45 am on the second Wednesday of each month, and being a PTA member allows you to participate in the process and be part of the solution. Members can vote and have a voice to influence the direction of the PTA at Churchill Road. The mission of the CRS PTA is to benefit ALL of the children at CRS, so ALL students can participate in PTA programs and events. However, the scope of what the PTA is able to provide is directly linked to how much parental support and involvement we receive.

And, what exactly is the CRS PTA going to do with my time and money? One of our CRS PTA initiatives this year is to be more efficient and coordinated in requests for your financial and volunteer support. The pleas of many of our veteran CRS families (“Can’t we just write one check?” and “If I’d known about that before the weekend…” have been heard, and we will be continuing to do our best to streamline. To start, we have rolled out our new “one stop shop” where you can join the PTA, donate to the Armchair Fundraiser, pre-order your CRS yearbook, and contribute to your child’s class fund, all with one easy click (www.cvent.com/d/wrqxxl/).

A portion of your $20 PTA membership fee will go to pay national, state and county PTA dues and enable you to take advantage of advocacy, resources and benefits available to their members. The remainder will go to fund a portion of the CRS PTA Budget. But, to provide the budgeted level of support to our school and children and to make our PTA programs and events possible, we rely primarily upon our Armchair Fundraiser (or direct donation campaign). The budget provides for over $81,000 in expenses this year for programs and events that benefit our children and the entire CRS community, such as school assemblies, field trips, curriculum enrichment, Artist Workshop, community service, classroom supplies, staff appreciation, and technology, just to name a few. The suggested donation amount to fully fund the PTA Budget is $100 per student. But, please give whatever you can. We appreciate your participation no matter the amount.

Class funds will continue to be managed through our Room Parent Program, and used to purchase food and other supplies for class parties and special events and to support classroom activities.

We welcome your input about where the money goes and how to raise it. Please email us or attend a PTA meeting to make sure your voice is heard.

Melissa Schwartz, CRS PTA President

September 16, 2015

Churchill Road Elementary
7100 Churchill Road  McLean, Virginia 22101
Office (703) 288-8484  24-Hour Attendance (703) 288-8499
http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES
Greetings from the Counselors!

We wanted to introduce ourselves and tell you a little bit about what we do as the school counselors at Churchill Road. Jamie Meyers is currently in her 4th year at CRS, but her 9th year as a school counselor and is looking forward to another great year with her students. Shana Schnaue is new to Churchill this year, but also in her 9th year of school counseling and is excited about starting the new year!

Ms. Meyers will be working with the following grades this year: kindergarten, grades 2 and 4, and 6th grade teachers Mrs. Kuhfuss, Mr. Baumgardner, and Mr. Ericson. Mrs. Schnaue will be working with grades 1, 3, 5, and 6th grade teachers Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Ehrman, and Ms. Robosky. We will be giving a guidance lesson to each class once a month, focusing on a range of life skills that are important for the academic success and personal growth of the student body. We also run structured “lunch bunches” where we get to know students and work towards specific goals. Additionally, we are leaders of student committees such as Student Council and Peer Mediation, as well as staff committees such as PBIS and our Mentorship program. We also lead small group counseling as the need arises on topics such as changing families, grief, anger management and social skills.

Additionally, both Ms. Meyers and Mrs. Schnaue are available every day to all students for individual counseling to discuss academic, personal and social issues. Please note that we will notify parents with concerns or when running groups. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Finally, we would like you, the parents, to know that we are always available to talk or meet with you!

Here’s to a fantastic 2015-2016 school year!

Ms. Meyers, jlmeyers@fcps.edu, and 
Mrs. Schnaue, saschnaue@fcps.edu

Churchill Road is Recognized as a Virginia Naturally Schools for the 2nd Year in a Row!

For the second year in a row, Churchill Road Elementary School has been recognized by Governor McAuliffe and the Virginia Department of Education as a Virginia Naturally School. Fifty-six schools, including three other FCPS schools, were acknowledged for this honor. Virginia Naturally is the official environmental education school recognition program of the Commonwealth, administered by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with support from the Department of Education, Department of Environmental Quality and other resource agencies. The Virginia Board of Education recognizes the Virginia Naturally Schools program as the official environmental education school recognition program for the state. This program acknowledges the wonderful efforts of many Virginia schools to increase environmental awareness and stewardship with their students. Churchill Road was saluted for our community’s leadership in recycling, composting and the various gardens that have been planted by teachers and students.

For more information on Virginia Naturally, visit: http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/education/school-recognition/

Save the Date! AAP Parent Information Night Scheduled for October 1, 2015

Carrie Reinders, our Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART), will be holding a parent information meeting on Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Mrs. Reinders will provide information about the Advanced Academic Program’s (AAP) levels of service and answer questions about the screening process for full-time, Level IV services. This meeting is open to all K-6th parents.

Parents who are new to FCPS and want to refer their child to Level IV services will have to submit a Referral Form to Ms. Reinders by October 9th. Forms are available on the AAP website (http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/forms.shtml) and in the Parent Information Packet available at school.
WELLNESS CORNER

Little changes make a big difference

Apples for the Teacher

Once upon a time, the first day of school was commemorated with students bringing shiny red apples to their teachers to successfully begin a new school year. Apples are a particularly good choice because apples pack a nutritional A+, and the start of our school year coincides with peak apple season.

Students and their families can also enjoy all that apple goodness traditionally offered to teachers. Apples are a sweet and filling treat that provide a healthy dose of soluble fiber and a vitamin C immune boost. The “Apple a Day” adage is not just an old wives’ tale; research has indicated apple consumption reduces the risk of coronary heart disease, lowers cholesterol levels, inhibits inflammation, lowers the threat of a stroke, and may reduce the risk for diabetes. Enjoying an apple before a workout has been shown to improve endurance because apples deliver an antioxidant that makes oxygen more available to the lungs. Plus, apples are beautifully prepackaged by nature so there is no prep work; you only need to wash them before packing an apple in a lunch or snack bag or before enjoying as an after-school (or work) snack.

If you are interested in picking your own apples, a quick internet search will lead you to many wonderful orchards within easy driving distance from Churchill Road. Orchards can allow you and your family to try a variety of flavors to choose which apples best suit your taste, as well as the adventure of climbing on shoulders in pursuit of the perfect apple, which inevitably will be on one of the highest branches.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
PRIORITY REGISTRATION BEGINS TOMORROW!

Priority registration for PTA Members begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 17th. PTA members will receive an email with the special link. The After-School Activities Catalog is now available online here. 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 email the ASA Committee (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 at 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, at 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).
Summer Reading Bingo Winners!

Congratulations to summer reading bingo winners! Each of these students received a $10 gift certificate for the CRS book fair this November. And the winners are:

- Tyler W. and CJ L. (Kindergarten)
- Alexander R. and Lucas G. (1st)
- Mia T. and Tyler E. (2nd)
- Anthony X. and Elizabeth G. (3rd)
- Liam S. and Michaela P. (4th)
- Young Min H. and Owen M. (5th)
- Kyra L. and Jackie L. (6th)

Thank you to everyone who participated in summer reading bingo!

Let’s Talk About…..Head Lice!

The head louse is a tiny, wingless parasitic insect that lives among human hairs and feeds on tiny amounts of blood drawn from the scalp. Lice are a very common problem, especially for children. They’re contagious, annoying, and sometimes tough to get rid of. Unfortunately, head lice are a common occurrence in schools. At Churchill Road, when a child is identified with head lice, we will notify the child’s family. Families of the students in the same home room also receive notice that a case of head lice has been identified in that classroom. Our custodians will thoroughly clean carpets, pillows, and other soft materials in the classroom.

To learn more about head lice and their treatment, please visit the CRS website “For Parents” tab: [http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/](http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/) or visit the following link:


Reading and Writing Routines

It’s only the second week of school, but first graders in Mrs. Williams’s class (above) are already practicing independent reading and building their stamina, while Mrs. Diffie’s students are working on their writing journals (below).

Mrs. McHale’s 4th graders are sharing their reading with classmates (above) while Ms. McLendon’s students enjoy their reading time (below).
SMILE, IT’S………FALL PICTURE DAY on Thursday, September 24th!

Smile….Thursday, September 24th is Fall Picture Day! These are individual pictures only and will be used in the CRS yearbook. Please look for your order forms in today’s (September 16) VIP folder.

SAVE THE DATE … FRIDAY OCTOBER 2nd IS … THE ANNUAL CRS FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2nd (note the change in date since the calendar was published)
6:00 p.m. DOORS OPEN, PIZZA & POPCORN SERVED
7:00 p.m. MOVIE TIME!!
You don't want to miss this annual event to socialize with friends old & new! Details to follow!

Join Us! Cooper PTO Meeting on October 6, 2015
Guest Speaker: Chad Brockway, “Vulnerabilities through Technology”

We again welcome Chad Brockway, former CMS parent, to present his program, “Keeping Your Kids Safe – Vulnerabilities through Technology”. This is an informative, interactive community discussion on how your kids are using technology and how technology can be used against them. Topics will include bullying, “sexting”, social media, blackmail, child crimes and more. Learn how to talk to your kids about safe online behavior and what resources are available to you for support. This program is tailored for parents only. Please mark your calendar now for this excellent presentation!

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. Additional volunteer opportunities will be posted from time to time on the CRS PTA website: http://www.churchillroadpta.org/.

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 NOON each Friday. Keep In Touch (KIT) reminders will typically be emailed to the CRS community on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 4:00 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. Non-profit organizations may submit fliers for distribution the weeks of October 5 and December 7, 2015 and March 7 and May 23, 2016.