Notes from the Office

Our school hours for the 2015-2016 school year are Monday-Friday, 8:35 a.m. – 3:20 p.m. We ask that students not be dropped off at the school prior to 8:25 a.m. each day, as there is no staff available to supervise them.

Late Arrivals:
Students who arrive at 8:35 a.m. or later are considered tardy. These students must sign in at the front office and obtain a tardy slip to give to their classroom teacher. Students are considered “excused tardy” when they have appointments or there are unusually bad traffic situations. A student receives an “unexcused tardy” mark for reasons including sleeping in, missing the school bus, and child care problems.

Student Absences:
Churchill’s 24-hour attendance line – 703-288-8484 – is the best way to let the school know that your child will be absent (tardy) first thing in the morning, out sick all day, or absent due to family travel. Even if you have emailed your child’s teacher, please also leave a message on the attendance line. We appreciate receiving calls regarding absences by 9:00 a.m. the morning of the absence. Otherwise, if we don’t know why your student is missing from school, you will receive an automated telephone call and/or an email letting you know that your child has an unexcused absence from school. You may also email absence information to churchillattendance@fcps.edu.

In accordance with FCPS guidelines, “excused absences” include illness, vacation, religious observances, a death in the family, or medical appointments. “Unexcused absences” are recorded when we have no idea why the student isn’t at school, and will generate the automated absence telephone call and email.

Did Your Child Forget a Lunch?
Please put on a visitor’s sticker in the lobby and take the lunch directly to the forgotten lunch table in the cafeteria. If your child is not aware that you are dropping off the lunch, please let the front office know, and office staff will email the teacher to let the student know.

Did your child forget a musical instrument, homework or other item?
If your child forgot his/her musical instrument, please leave it in the box in the front office. If your child forgot homework or other items, bring them to the front office, clearly marked with the student’s name, and leave on the round table. Office staff will email the teacher to let the student know that the instrument or other item has been dropped off.

Go Home Notes Begin October 1

Beginning next Thursday, October 1, CRS parents/guardians can register go home notes and early pick-up requests via the CRS PTA website. The Go Home Note system allows parents to do the following:

- Schedule an after-school play date. Your child may be a host or a guest for one other student. Submit a host request for your child to bring home another child, or a guest request for your child to go home with another child.
- An Early Pickup Request is a request to pick up your child early from school.
- A Transportation Change Request is changing the dismissal location for a specific date. For example, a bus rider will be picked up at Kiss and Ride instead.

The go home note registered on the PTA website will allow parents, students, and office staff to communicate and track changes in the normal dismissal routines. The daily report generated by this system is distributed to the teachers, office staff, and bus drivers, allowing increased safety and accountability by creating a record of how the children will get home from school.

Directions on how to login to the Go home note system are in VIP’s today (September 23)! The directions to use the go home note system are also on the PTA website. Login accounts and go home note access will only be available to those families who have created a username and password for the Go home note website, with an updated teacher, grade, and dismissal route for each child. Go home note requests must be entered by 8 a.m. each day. Please note, BOTH families (host and guest) must submit a go home note for the note to be valid.

The front office needs each family to use the Go home note system instead of notifying individual teachers of your child’s after school plan. Teachers are not able to remember and keep track of these individual requests. If there is an emergency at the end of the day, then it is important that the front office know how and when your child was dismissed.

Many thanks for your cooperation and have a great school year! Questions can be directed to gohomenotes@churchillroadpta.org.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2nd is the NOT TO BE MISSED ... ANNUAL FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!!

Bring your family and join your classmates and friends at our Family Movie Night on Friday, October 2 in our own CRS backyard. We'll be showing the movie PADDINGTON (rated PG). Pizza will be on sale at 6:00 p.m. and the movie start time is 7:00 p.m. Everyone receives popcorn and a water free with a ticket, and pizza is $2/slice. This is always a favorite CRS PTA Family Activity! We look forward to seeing you there! The advance ticket price for children and Adult PTA Members is $6 per person, $9 for Adult Non-PTA members. Children 4 and under are free. Tickets at the door are $10 but PLEASE register in advance so we can plan for the popcorn & pizza. (In the event of inclement weather, the movie will be in the gym.)

TO REGISTER:  http://www.cvent.com/d/zrgyzyh

That’s right! To join the PTA and donate to the Armchair Fundraiser!

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to register for and contribute to the PTA, we are still counting on you! The Armchair Fundraiser is THE primary means by which the PTA funds over $83,000 in programs that make Churchill Road an exciting, vibrant and thriving school.

Online registration is ongoing: Visit the PTA’s website at www.churchillroadpta.org!

Remember, the CRS grade level with the highest participation in the Armchair Fundraiser as of October 31st will enjoy a special Ice Cream party!

Please lend your support to help us reach our goal of 100% family participation!

Questions? Please contact CRS PTA Membership /Armchair Secretary Elizabeth Marino at membershipsecretary1@churchillroadpta.org.

Calling All Entries for Nationwide Reflections Contest 2015-2016

Annually, thousands of students reflect on a common theme and create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts.

Theme: LET YOUR IMAGINATION FLY
Deadline: OCTOBER 20, 2015

Please look for flyer in today's (Sept. 23) VIP folder.

For more details: http://www.churchillroadpta.org/crs/committee-information/reflections-2/
Easy Year Long Opportunities to Support CRS

Let’s make every penny count and help support the many different activities and needs of the teachers and students at Churchill Road!

Do you shop online? Do you buy grocery’s locally? There is a good chance that the things you are doing on a regular basis can help Churchill Road. In the past, CRS has received thousands of dollars from these organizations. Changes to the programs this year mean that we really need everyone (especially our new families) to do the one time setup if they haven’t already. Really! A few minutes of your time now and CRS will benefit!

The biggest advantage this year with most of these programs is you do not have to renew each year!

Descriptions and enrollment instructions are listed below. If you have questions or need help – contact Jennifer Schuette at groceryscrip@churchillroadpta.org. More information is available on the PTA’s website (www.churchillroadpta.org).

A few minutes of your time now and CRS benefits all year long. You won’t find an easier way to donate someone else’s money. Sign up NOW to help make the biggest impact!

GROCERY PROGRAMS

- Giant’s A+ School Rewards. To add your card to the list, go to http://www.giantfood.com/aplus to enroll. Our school id is 01991. The changes to their program mean that a school coordinator can no longer register cards. (Sorry – I would if I could!) The good news is they no longer require yearly renewal so those that participated last year are already enrolled in the program. These card numbers will no longer be stored in our directory database.

- Harris Teeter’s Together in Education. There were no changes to this program. Go to http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education and click “Link to your School.” Our group ID is 7808. You may also save your card in our school directory database. (www.schooldirectoryupdate.com) Enter the numbers when you verify your information or log in any time and select “Edit My Information” and then choose to edit your household. Once your Harris Teeter card is in the database, AtoZ will submit them to the program for us. Please make sure that the last name and phone number match what is on your VIC card.

(continued from column at left)

- Safeway announced they are no long participating in the Escrip program. This year they are donating a set amount to us based on our past participation. Next year there will be a grant program introduced. We have no current information on that but will let you know as soon as we do. These card numbers will also no longer be stored in our directory database.

ONLINE SHOPPING

Escrip Online Mall

I think for many people Escrip has meant the Safeway grocery program. However, for many years now they also have been contributing funds based on sales through their Online Mall. Nowadays most of us shop online. Hundreds of merchants participate including Sports Authority, Verizon Wireless, Gap, Forever21, Amazon.com and Macy’s. They even offer coupons for the participating merchants so you can save while shopping. Now that we no longer have income from Safeway – we’d like to see many more families help by joining this program.

Visit http://www.escrip.com/ to get started and for more details about privacy, how it works and a current list of participating merchants. Our school ID is 6488346. Contact groceries1@churchillroadpta.org if you have any questions or trouble logging in.

Also consider using the ForgetMeNot app which alerts you when you are on a website that participates. A link to the app is on the CRS PTA website (http://www.churchillroadpta.org/grocery-scrip/) Some sites like Amazon requires that you start at the online mall https://shopping.escrip.com/, - maybe this could be your home page?

Amazon Smile

Amazon has their own program which contributes slightly less than the Online Mall but still is a benefit to CRS through the PTA and you do not have to register a card. Visit smile.amazon.com/about for more details. You will be asked to select a charity. You may search for Churchill PTA and you will find us. After selecting the charity, you simple shop from smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com and money will be sent to CRS PTA.

TARGET

Another opportunity, Take Charge of Education, is out there for those that have a Target REDCard. If you go online at www.target.com/tcoe and enroll your card, Target will donate up to 1% of the amount of your purchases when you use your Target card. (That’s a nice donation considering that you also get a 5% discount at Target if you use a REDCard to make purchases!)
WELLNESS CORNER

**Little changes make a big difference**

**Benefits of Play**

As we establish a new routine for the school year—making time for homework, after-school activities and other commitments, and maybe even adopting an earlier bed time— it is also important to carve out time for play. Play is crucial for a child’s development. Engaging in unstructured, creative play can help children create, gain focus, feel challenged, learn cooperation, improve social skills, and have fun. Play can be physical—from an impromptu game of freeze tag or kick ball—or play can be more relaxed—maybe working on a puzzle, playing a board game, or creating Lego structures. Play can be independent or with a pet, but for even greater benefits play should involve at least one other person, and not include electronic devices.

Play is equally important for adults. George Bernard Shaw said, “We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.” Play can relieve stress, add joy to your day, and connect you to others. Play will also help to fuel your imagination and problem-solving abilities.

Making play a priority for your family is easy. You can play charades with the family after dinner, have a rock-paper-scissor tournament as you wait for the bus, share silly knock-knock jokes, arrive early to a sports team practice to play with friends, create fun ways to celebrate less known holidays (September 24th is Punctuation Day), ride bikes, play twenty questions, or have a pajama dance party before heading to bed. Play and laughter are essential to our emotional and physical health; plus, play is so enjoyable!

By the way, did you hear the knock-knock joke about the broken pencil? Oh, never mind, it is pointless. **Ba-dum-dum.**

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**Box Tops News**

The Box Tops for Education program is underway again this year! Our school earns money for each Box Top turned in from your household products and grocery items.

**COLLECTING/SUBMITTING BOX TOPS:**

- Box Tops (including Bonus Box Tops) may be submitted loose or in sealed ziplock bags or envelopes. They may also be submitted taped or glued (not stapled, please) on paper or collection sheets. Fun collection sheets may be printed from this link: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)
- Expired, copied, or illegitimate Box Tops cannot be accepted (torn is OK as long as the expiration date is still readable).
- **Please trim excess material from outside dotted lines of each Box Top to save us postage.**
- To receive credit for your Box Tops, make sure your bag, envelope, and/or collection sheet is **labeled with your full name and teacher’s name.**
- Box Tops should be turned in to your teacher or to the Box Tops collection bin in the front office.
- Turn in Box Tops as soon as possible to avoid having them expire—**don’t save them up!**
- You may also earn eBoxTops for our school by [www.2ways2earn.com](http://www.2ways2earn.com).

Students and classes have the opportunity to be recognized and to earn prizes for participating in this program. For details, please go to [www.churchillroadpta.org/?page_id=167](http://www.churchillroadpta.org) on the CRS PTA website. Also, be sure to watch our progress on the poster between the front office and the cafeteria.

Thanks for your support!

Carla Gilbertson, CRS Box Tops Coordinator

boxtops1@churchillroadpta.org

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**From the CRS Health Room**

Please note that students MAY NOT transport or keep medication with them, unless this has been approved by the Principal, along with the appropriate medication authorizations.
**McLean Project for the Arts**

**9th Annual MPAartfest**

_Sunday, October 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m._

_McLean Central Park_

Art. Music. Food. Fun! For more information, visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org)

Come see artwork by Churchill Road students at MPAartfest — McLean’s only outdoor arts festival! View the work of young artists from McLean area schools as you stroll through the _Children’s ArtWalk_. Budding artists may create their own artwork at _MPA’s Hands-On Art Studio_.

Picnic on delicious selections from local restaurants, and enjoy a great day with your family outdoors! Parking is easy and free with shuttle buses running all day from designated parking lots near the park.

A host of STEAM (STEM + Art) experiences offered throughout the day will engage creative minds—including a STEAM Tent with visual arts experiences applied to robotics, science, math and engineering in collaboration with the Children’s Science Center, kite designing, architecture demonstrations and MORE!

Enjoy a great day with your family outdoors!

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**Students Practice Bus Safety**

Churchill Road PE teacher Alex Auzenne coordinated bus safety drills for our kindergarteners and third graders. The students learned the importance of staying seated on the bus, the role of safety patrols, and how to evacuate through the emergency door. Thank you to Mr. Auzenne for organizing this event and to representatives from FCPS Transportation for taking the time to instruct our students.

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**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 [here](http://www.mpaart.org).

Today is the last day for the Early Bird Discount! Save $10 by registering by September 23rd. See more information on languages offered, schedules and discounts on our flyer [here](http://www.mpaart.org)!

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_).

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**After-School Activities Registration Ends at Midnight on Friday!**

Several clubs have spots available! Try Jazz, Structural Engineering, Zoology, Minecraft Animation, Agility Training for Soccer, or Stop Motion Animation! Support the CRS teachers by enrolling in their clubs: Art Club, Flag Football, Musical Production, and Scrabble. To register, click [here](http://www.mpaart.org).

Questions? Contact the After-School Activities Committee at _afterschoolactivities1@churchillroadpta.org_.

Please email the ASA Committee (_afterschoolactivities1@churchillroadpta.org_) with questions.
SMILE, IT’S……….FALL PICTURE DAY Tomorrow, 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.

Fall Picture Make-Up Day is Thursday, October 29th

It has come to our attention that the September 24th picture day is in conflict with Eid-al-Adha. We apologize for the oversight and will be more conscientious of the scheduling in the future.

The picture make-up date is Thursday, October 29.

Both picture days are for individual photos only. Individual photos taken on either of these dates will be included in the yearbook. There is an additional make-up day at Splendid (our photography company), if there is a conflict with the October 29th make-up date.

Sincerely,
Don Hutzel, Principal

Reminder! 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 Mrs. 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.

Cheers of the Week…!

Congratulations to our first Churchill Cheer winners for the 2015-2016 school year. Cheers are given to students who follow the four R’s. Winners are: Cormac Stephens (Kindergarten); Annika Desai (1st); Paige Poulos (2nd); Felicia Lee (3rd); and Will Wynne (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Matt Knook (5th grade) and Campbell Al-Khafaji (6th grade). Our whole class winner is Mrs. Dieman’s third grade. Keep up the good work!

Remember, at CRS we follow the four R’s. We respect ourselves, we respect others, we respect property, and we respect the Earth.

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 flyers for distribution the weeks of October 5 and December 7, 2015 and March 7 and May 23, 2016.