Principal’s Podium

As our first quarter of school winds down, our annual parent/teacher conferences will be held later this month. I’d like to offer some tips to guide you through parent-teacher conferences. Armed with these guidelines, you can be confident that your conference will be productive and that your child’s teacher and you are working in partnership.

During a parent-teacher conference, you want to learn about your child’s progress in a number of areas. Good communication is key. Plan your conference ahead of time. Talk to your child to find out if there is anything your child would like you to talk about with the teacher. Once you have identified your concerns, prioritize them in a list. Some of the topics and questions you might want to discuss are:

- Does your child have friends in the class?
- What are your child’s strong areas and areas that need to be addressed?
- Does the teacher have suggestions for helping your child be successful?

When meeting with your child’s teacher, take a “partner” attitude. Positive teamwork pays off. It is important to view the meeting as collaboration. If your child needs help with a behavioral or an academic issue, you and the teacher should agree on specific plans—that you both will work on—to help your child do better. Be sure you understand what the teacher suggests. Set up a way to check on your child’s progress. You and the teacher can decide how best to stay in touch, such as through phone calls, email, or additional meetings.

School is a place where your child does a lot of growing. Your child’s teacher is sharing the responsibility of raising your child so it’s essential to pay attention to what he or she tells you. They are in a unique position to observe your child’s academic, emotional and social development. Take seriously anything your child’s teacher communicates with you.

By following these guidelines, you’re likely to have satisfying and productive parent-teacher conferences.

Don Hutzel
CRS Principal

Getting Our Voices Heard

#SAVEFCPS RALLY!

Thank you to our CRS PTA Advocacy Committee (Maddie Ellis and Esther Lee), for organizing a fantastic rally this past Sunday prior to the McLean Citizens Association Local Political Candidates Debate. The CRS PTA Advocacy Committee solicited co-sponsors for the event that included Langley HS PTSA, Haycock ES PTA, and Kent Gardens ES PTA, among others. Advocacy Committee members joined CRS parents, students and staff, in braving the cold to let our politicians know that the CRS community is concerned about the projected 2016-2017 FCPS budget shortfall of $75 million.

If you missed the rally and would still like to make your voice heard, please visit our CRS PTA Advocacy site to see how you can participate: http://www.churchillroadpta.org/crs/committee-information/advocacy/.
It’s Chocolate Toffee “CRUNCH” Time!

Just a week and a half left until the CRS grade level with the highest participation in the PTA Armchair Fundraiser wins a special Ice Cream party! Second Grade is still in the lead at 63 percent participation, but kindergarten is close behind. Ice cream aside, what’s the most important reason to support the PTA? Our Armchair Fundraiser is THE primary source of funding for over $83,000 in programs that directly benefit every single CRS student, including yours!

This will be the final update of the competition, so get your donations in now! Deadline is October 31st. Please visit the PTA’s website at www.churchillroadpta.org to contribute.

“The President’s Own” United States Marine String Quartet Performs for CRS Students

“The President’s Own” United States Marine String Quartet performed to an enthusiastic audience of fourth through sixth graders and their teachers on Wednesday, October 14. Members of the quartet played selections typical of those that the group might perform at State dinners for foreign dignitaries at the White House, including “Begin the Beguine” by Cole Porter and “Over the Rainbow” from The Wizard of Oz. The musicians complimented the students on their exemplary behavior and their astute questions.

Parent Math Night

On October 15th, CRS Math Lead Teachers Nick Kilpatrick (4th) and Cheryl Bamdad (2nd) gave a presentation focusing on Fairfax County’s revised pacing guide for Math. They also discussed online testing and how online testing allows teachers to better analyze student data. Finally, they addressed Reflex Math and how parents can gain access to the data on their child. Thanks are extended to Jill Farah and Cece Hallisey, PTA Parent Education and Resources Committee Co-Chairs, school counselor Jamie Meyers, and to Mr. Kilpatrick and Ms. Bamdad for sharing their expertise.

Cheers of the Week…!

Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of October 13. Cheers are given to students who follow the four R’s. Winners are: Emily Paschkewitz (Kindergarten); Mana Yamazaki (1st); Haley Lucier (2nd); Hannah Xue (3rd); and Jwana Al-Shihabi (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Iris Guo (5th grade) and Daniela Chiriboga (6th grade). Our whole class winner is Mrs. McHale’s fourth grade. Keep up the good work!

Remember, at CRS we follow the five R’s. We Respect ourselves, we Respect others, we Respect property, we Respect the Earth, and we are Responsible.
WELLNESS CORNER

Little changes make a big difference

Benefits of Dressing in Layers

Second graders stay comfortable at recess with sweaters and jackets.

Autumn has arrived! Leaves are bursting with color and scattering on sidewalks and lawns. Mums are blooming and pumpkins are decorating porches. Fall also brings fluctuations in the weather. Cold mornings can turn into warm afternoons and there can even be the possibility of snow flurries!

To keep students comfortable and healthy at the bus stop, at recess, and in the classroom, remember to dress in layers. Layers allow students to be more flexible to changing weather conditions and activities. Layers create an air space between the skin and the cold insulating the body. Layers are also looser, allowing for better blood circulation which helps to maintain body temperature.

Keep in mind the head and neck are major sources of heat loss so it is a great idea to keep a hat and a scarf in your child’s backpack, as well as gloves or mittens to keep hands warm on colder days.

CRS Families Enjoy “Paddington”

Winston the bobcat had a great time with students at Movie Night.

More than 250 Churchill Road students and their families came out last Friday night to enjoy a showing of “Paddington” in Churchill’s backyard. It was a perfect fall evening and fun was had by all. Many thanks to Kim Jones, PTA Movie Night Chair, for organizing this great event!

Check Box Tops Expiration Dates!

Did you know that many of your Box Tops are due to expire on 11/1/2015? They won’t bring in any money for our school after that date, so please remember to bring your box tops in ASAP!! Each one is worth 10 cents, and that adds up.

Box Tops are on all kinds of household products and grocery items. Be sure to check tissue boxes, binders, ziplock bag boxes, and freezer items that might not get used right away.

Remember, in order to receive credit for your Box Tops, they must be labeled with your full name and teacher’s name. Please trim them on the dashed lines and then give them to your teacher or drop them in the collection bin in the front office.

For more details about the Box Tops program at CRS, please go to the CRS PTA website (www.churchillroadpta.org) and click on the Committee Info tab, then scroll down and click on “Box Tops”.

Thanks for your support!

Carla Gilbertson, CRS Box Tops Coordinator
boxtops1@churchillroadpta.org
Ms. Blasko’s students, along with their parents and the class, enjoyed a beautiful fall day on their field trip to Clemyjontri Park. The children enjoyed the playground equipment, while they learned to share and take turns. What a great way to spend a lovely afternoon!

Mrs. Thurston’s kindergartners made observations about ant behavior in their new ant farms.

Ms. McLendon’s fourth graders had a special guest reader last week. Ms. McLendon’s younger sister visited the class. The students got a kick out of hearing about the sisters’ experiences at Spring Hill, Cooper and Langley.

Second graders exhibited environmental stewardship by cleaning out the weeds in the school’s raised beds. The students worked hard and did a great job!

Sixth graders in Mr. Ericson’s and Mr. Shaw’s science classes launched alka-seltzer propelled rockets; measuring the height that each travelled.
**CRS PTA**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**MARTHA’S TABLE SANDWICH MAKING**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015**

We’re back! The CRS PTA Community Service Committee will be having its first sandwich-making project of the year next Wednesday, October 28th. We will be making sandwiches for MARTHA'S TABLE, which is located in Washington, D.C. MARTHA’S TABLE serves more than 2,500 meals every day to needy citizens. We ask that interested families please provide the following sandwich ingredients on Monday, October 26th, Tuesday, October 27th and Wednesday, October 28th.

**Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade** -- A loaf of pre-sliced bread (squishes less if frozen)

**3rd through 6th Grades** -- Pre-packaged lunch meat or cheese slices

Food can be dropped off in the Community Service bins located near the school office, cafeteria, gym, or outside most classrooms. We will collect donated food each morning by 9:15 AM and refrigerate it immediately. A permission slip was sent home in this week’s (October 21) VIP folders for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students who are interested in participating in the sandwich-making at the CRS cafeteria after school on Wednesday, October 28th.

Last year, CRS students and parent volunteers prepared over 5,500 sandwiches to help feed the hungry at MARTHA’S TABLE. Together, let’s continue our great history of helping those less fortunate in our area. Thank you for helping to feed the homeless!

**Questions?** Please contact Robin Hoeymans (marinora@aol.com) or Sarah Walter (sarah@walterdc.com).

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**Enter the CRS Book Fair Poster Contest**

The annual CRS Book Fair will be held November 9-13, 2015 and we hope your child will help us promote one of the schools’ favorite events by participating in the poster contest!

The requirements for the poster are:

- Poster size: 22” x 28”
- Most mediums allowed, including paint, chalk, pencil, pastels, crayons etc.
- Computer generated drawings and/or text are not acceptable

The following information about the book fair must be included on the poster

**Dates:** November 9-13

**Location:** CRS Library

Posters are due Wednesday, October 28 and can be dropped off in the box in front of the library. Don’t forget to put the artist’s name, classroom, teacher and grade on the back of the poster. Questions? Contact Wylie at wylie.marshall@verizon.net.

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**Calling All Entries for PTA Nationwide Reflections Contest**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED** to Monday, October 26

One Last Week to Let Your Imagination Fly

Have you heard of Reflections contest? Not yet? You’re not too late. Here’s the scoop: Reflections is a program that lets you show your creativity by making art related to a theme. This year the theme is "LET YOUR IMAGINATION FLY". Ask your child: If reality had no limits, what could you do? Think outside the box and dream BIG!

It is easy and kids can participate in several ways: you can do a drawing, painting or collage; write a poem, prose or drama; create a dance choreography; create a musical composition: voice, instrumental or a combination of the two; produce a film: fiction or non-fiction; or submit one photograph or a group of photos.

Dream, inspire and be creative. It's really easy:

1) Complete a work of art.
2) Complete an entry form.
3) Turn it in by Monday October 26 to the Reflections box at the library entrance.

For ideas and inspiration please see:
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNSyp5DVmkU
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KlzPN4mTdE

Students should submit their work at the Reflections box by Monday, October 26. For more details on rules and entry form: http://www.churchillroadpta.org/crs/committee-information/reflections-2/

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**Attendance Reminder from the Front Office**

Friday, October 30, 2015 is the end of the first quarter. School will be dismissed two hours early at 1:20 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, November 2 and 3 are teacher workdays. There is no school for students.

If your student will be absent any additional days surrounding the holiday, please report the absence by calling the CRS 24-hour attendance line at 703-288-8484 or by emailing churchillattendance@fcps.edu.
## CRS Calendar of Events -- October 21 - November 3, 2015

### Wednesday, Oct 21:
- 3:30-5:00: Minecraft Prog 1-3 - Cafe
- 3:30-5:00: Prog/Scratch 4-6 - Cafe
- 3:30-5:00: Public Speaking 4-6 - EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Agility Soccer - Outside/Gym
- 3:30-4:30: Flag Football 5-6 - Gym
- 3:30-4:30: Acting/Storybook 1-3 - Stage
- 3:30-4:30: 3D Game Design 3-6 - Staff Lounge
- 3:30-4:30: Scrabble 2-6 - Room 216
- 3:30-4:30: Mad Science 1-3 - Room 205
- 3:30-4:30: Math Enrichment 6 - Room 219

### Thursday, Oct 22:
- 3:30-5:00: Chess Club 2-6 - Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Minecraft LUA 1-3 - Room 205
- 3:30-5:00: MTC 3-6 - Gym/Stage
- 3:30-4:30: Tiny Chefs 1-3 - EA Room
- 3:30-5:00: Musical Prod 3-6 - Room 208

### Friday, Oct 23:
- 3:30-5:00: WeDo Robotics 1-3 - Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: EV3 Robotics 3-6 - Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Electronics 3-6 - EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Basketball 1-6 - BB Court
- 3:30-5:00: Jazz Dance 2-5 - Stage
- 3:30-4:30: Gourmet Chefs 4-6 - Staff Lounge
- 5:30-5:45: PTA Meeting - Library
- 6:00-8:00: Parade of Cuisines - School

### Monday, Oct 26:
- 3:30-5:00: Drawing Club 3-6 - Cafe
- 3:30-4:45: Struct Eng 1-3 - Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Python Prog 3-6 - EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Golf 1-6 - Field/Gym
- 3:30-4:30: Art Brains 1-5 - Staff Lounge

### Tuesday, Oct 27:
- 3:30-5:00: Mus Theatre Revue - Stage
- 3:30-4:45: Art Club 2-6 - Room 219
- 3:30-4:45: Science Olympiad B - Room 200
- 3:35-4:35: Chinese 1-4 - MOD20
- 3:35-4:35: French 1-4 - Room 216
- 3:30-4:30: Flag Football 3-4 - Outside/Gym
- 3:30-4:30: Hip Hop Dance 1-3 - EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Minecraft Mod 1-4 - Cafe

### Wednesday, Oct 28:
- 3:30-5:00: Minecraft Prog 1-3 - Library
- 3:30-5:00: Prog/Scratch 4-6 - Library
- 3:30-5:00: Public Speaking 4-6 - EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Agility Soccer - Outside/Gym
- 3:30-4:30: Flag Football 5-6 - Gym
- 3:30-4:30: Acting/Storybook 1-3 - Stage
- 3:30-4:30: 3D Game Design 3-6 - Staff Lounge
- 3:30-4:45: Scrabble 2-6 - Room 216
- 3:30-4:30: Math Enrichment 6 - Room 219
- 3:30-4:30: Martha’s Table 4-6 - Cafe

### Thursday, Oct 29:
- 9:15-1:15: Fall Individual Picture
- 3:30-5:00: Chess Club 2-6 - Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Minecraft LUA 1-3 - Room 205
- 3:30-5:00: MTC 3-6 - Gym/Stage
- 3:30-4:30: Tiny Chefs 1-3 - EA Room
- 3:30-5:00: Musical Prod 3-6 - Room 208

### Friday, Oct 30:
- **Halloween Spirit Day**
  - 1:20 p.m. 2-Hour Early Dismissal
  - No After-School Activities

### Monday, Nov 2 & Tuesday, Nov 3:
- **Teacher Workdays**
- **No School for Students**

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**Join CRS Staff and Parents for the 22nd Annual Parade of Cuisines**

Come to the 22nd Annual Parade of Cuisines at CRS on Friday, October 23rd from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.! This is a festive occasion and a great opportunity to experience the many cultures at our school through food! Feel free to dress up in your ethnic attire. Just make your favorite cultural dish to share and drop it off in the CRS cafeteria on Friday, October 23rd between 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. with your name on the bottom of the dish and on the serving utensil. Please note on a small card which country it is from and if it contains any nuts. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Food will be served in the cafeteria, but you will eat in your child’s respective classrooms with their teachers. If you can help set-up or clean-up for the event or have any questions, please contact Seema Lohia Singh at [seemasanju@gmail.com](mailto:seemasanju@gmail.com).

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**I Got 99 Problems**

**AND THEY'RE ALL DUE TOMORROW**

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**FIND YOUR CHILL**

**Saturday, October 24, 2015; 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

*Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA*

School has only been in session a month. Are you already stressed out? Schedule crazy-packed? Missing summer?

Come to the Old Firehouse for a FREE skill-building event featuring the UnRuly Theater Project, and learn what to do with stress and make it all a little easier. No need to register – just show up!

Brought to you by the McLean Community Foundation and the Old Firehouse Teen Center.

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The CRS Home Page address: [http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/](http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/). To submit Chatter material, please email Editor Kim Moran at kmoran2@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.

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