Principal’s Podium

Family and School Partnership

We all know that a strong family/school partnership is the cornerstone of a successful educational experience for a child. Research verifies our beliefs. Students with families that value school and appreciate the importance of education tend to achieve higher scores in school work and tests and have good attitudes and behavior regarding school. The strength of the family/school partnership at Churchill Road has been highly evident over the past several days at school.

Many parents were present last Friday while our students celebrated Halloween with a parade around the track and various festivities in the classrooms. This was a great opportunity for parents that could break away from their other responsibilities to have a little fun both with their children and teachers. Over the past couple of days, our halls have been filled with many CRS families attending their children’s conferences. I had many reports from teachers that CRS families arrived prepared to ask good questions, listened carefully to the teacher's commentary, shared information about their children, and showed a positive interest regarding the school and our programs. Parents’ involvement in the conferences is appreciated by our teachers and certainly helps to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Of course, on Tuesday, the CRS community had the opportunity to get involved with the electoral process. We all know how important it is to elect leadership that takes a supportive stance regarding education. Our community’s participation at events such as this actively conveys support and interest in our own school’s program.

As we begin the second quarter of the school year, we can breathe a sigh of relief because the school year is well underway. However, the parent/school partnership continues. The daunting obstacle ahead of us is the tremendous budget deficit we already know we will have to face in the next school year. It is essential for families to communicate with the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and the Department of Education in Richmond about our wants and needs for Churchill Road Elementary School. Our PTA will be publishing contact information as well as budget updates. If CRS families are concerned about issues such as class sizes, school programs and student supplies, the time is now to voice your concerns. Later in the year will be too late to have any impact on Fairfax County’s allocated school funds.

Finally, as part of our family/school partnership, let’s all remember that as adults we are modeling the behaviors that we want our children to display. Our children are watching and imitating our behaviors. In school, we have various procedures and routines that ensure the safety and well-being of everyone. For adults, simple acts such as following Kiss and Ride procedures or staying up-to-date by reading the weekly Churchill Chatter shows children how to apply the responsible behaviors we want them to demonstrate every day.

I am confident that the Churchill Road community will continue to enjoy a strong partnership. On behalf of the CRS staff - thank you! We are looking forward to a fantastic second quarter.

Don Hutzel, CRS Principal

Impact Aid Student-Parent Survey

IMPACT AID FORMS were distributed this week FOR EACH CHILD IN YOUR FAMILY. (A sample form was mailed to you a few weeks ago.) The forms are used by the school system in order to receive our share of educational tax dollar reimbursements. Parents or guardians who did not complete the form at parent-teacher conferences will receive the form in today’s (November 4) VIP folder. The form must be returned to each child’s teacher by THIS Friday, November 6.

Please note that a separate form needs to be completed for each child in your household. All the information that you provide will be treated confidentially. Please contact Carole Sullivan at 703-288-8400 with any questions.
CRS Book Fair is November 9-13

The results of the Book Fair poster contest are in and it was a very difficult decision for Ms. Brodzik, Ms. Gong, and Mrs. Haines to choose the winners.

After a lot of review and debate it was determined that the very best posters advertising the CRS Book Fair were submitted by:

Kindergarten: Andrew G.
First Grade: Caden P.
Second Grade: Naoto S.
Third Grade: Anthony X.
Fourth Grade: Emilia T.
Fifth Grade: Olivia Z.
Sixth Grade: Victoria C.

Each winner will receive a 10 dollar gift certificate to use toward purchases at the Book Fair. The gift certificates will be awarded on each winner’s Book Fair browsing day. Thanks to everyone who submitted a poster you we brighten the halls as we get ready for the Book Fair.

Book Fair Week Events
The annual CRS Book Fair starts NEXT week! Your child’s class will come to the library on Monday or Tuesday to browse the books available for sale and write down the title of the books he or she is interested in buying. Students will bring home the list and you can decide which, if any, of these books your child may buy when they return on for their "buying day".

Book Fair hours are:
Monday: 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday night: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
(Don’t forget the SCA pizza party)
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thank You from Martha’s Table

Thanks to our army of 4th, 5th and 6th graders and parent volunteers who helped make sandwiches for Martha’s Table last week. We also want to thank all the families who sent bread, meat and cheese into school. With your help we were able to make a record 2,148 sandwiches, which were gratefully received by the volunteers at Martha’s Table. A big thank you is also extended to Robin Hoeymans and Sarah Walter, CRS PTA Community Service Committee Chairs, for organizing this much appreciated event. The Community Service Committee appreciates the support of the Bobcat community. Look for forthcoming details about the Thanksgiving drive for SHARE the week of November 17.

SCA Pizza Party
Tuesday, November 10

Take the night off from cooking and bring the family to CRS for dinner on Tuesday, November 10th. The CRS SCA will be selling pizza and water for one dollar each, during the CRS Book Fair. The hours are 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening for both the pizza sale and Book Fair.

Cheers of the Week…!

Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of October 26. Cheers are given to students who follow the four R’s. Winners are: Emily Foley (Kindergarten); Landon Nguyen (1st); Finn Marino (2nd); Ivan Gorban (3rd); and Amaya Oppong (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Alejandro Peche (5th grade) and Oliver Tu (6th grade). Our whole class winner is Mrs. Isom’s first 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.
Halloween Happenings
Turkey Luncheon Schedule for Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Mark your calendars. Please join your child for a special Thanksgiving lunch in the CRS cafeteria on Wednesday, November 11.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
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<td>10:05 – 10:35</td>
<td>Thurston</td>
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<td>10:10 – 10:40</td>
<td>Zielinski</td>
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<td>10:20 – 10:50</td>
<td>Brown</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
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<td>10:35 – 11:05</td>
<td>Snyder</td>
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<td>10:40 – 11:10</td>
<td>DiCamillo</td>
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<td>10:50 – 11:20</td>
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<td>Kilpatrick</td>
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<td>12:30-1:00</td>
<td>Rook</td>
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<td>Ericson</td>
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<td>Baumgardner</td>
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<td>1:20-1:50</td>
<td>Shaw</td>
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<td>1:30-2:00</td>
<td>Robosky</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:35-2:05</td>
<td>Kuhfuss</td>
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Please note that first grade classes and Ms. Blasko’s students will eat lunch in their classrooms.

Benefits of Reading Aloud

“Super-Reader” Mrs. Thurston does a Halloween read-aloud with her kindergarten class.

Reading with your child promotes school success, as well as benefits his or her health. Spending one-on-one time with your student and a book provides a nurturing, reassuring environment that reduces stress and improves concentration. Reading with children also expands their vocabulary and exposes them to rich language and sophisticated ideas.

Reading together should not be dismissed once children begin reading on their own. Independent readers may enjoy snuggling close to a parent while reading, especially close to bedtime or during a relaxing weekend. Plus, children’s listening skills are more developed than their reading skills until eighth grade; with parents children can enjoy challenging plots that may be too complicated for them to read on their own. Reading books beyond your child’s reading level allows you and your child to grapple with explosive issues in the storyline together, and maybe even explore how you would handle the difficult situation confronted by the characters. Reading with older children also allows you to share some of your favorite chapter books from your youth, or to finally read the classics you missed.

CRS’s book fair starts next week and it is an ideal time for you and your student to select a book that you would enjoy reading together. Enjoy your reading adventures!
Wednesday, Nov 4
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
3:30-4:45 Scrabble 2-6 Room 216
3:30-4:30 Mad Science 1-6 Room 205
3:30-4:30 Math Enrichment 6 Room 219

Thursday, Nov 5:
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, Nov 6:
3:30-5:00 WeDo Robotics 1-3 Cafe
3:30-5:00 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

November 10 from 6-8 PM
Late Night Book Fair and
S.C.A. Pizza Party

Volunteer for the Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 11:
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4da8a822a02-crs-thanksgiving.

Monday, Nov 9:
8:45-3:30 Book Fair Library
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, Nov 10:
8:45-3:30 Book Fair Library
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
3:30-4:35 Chinese 1-4 MOD20
3:30-4:35 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
6:00-8:00 S.C.A. Pizza Party Cafe
6:00-8:00 Book Fair Library

Wednesday, Nov 11
8:30-8:45 Principal’s Coffee SACC 102
8:45-9:45 PTA Meeting SACC 102
8:45-4:00 Book Fair Library
10:00-2:00 Thanksgiving Lunch Cafe
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
3:30-4:45 Scrabble 2-6 Room 216
3:30-4:30 Mad Science 1-6 Room 205
3:30-4:30 Math Enrichment 6 Room 219

Thursday, Nov 12:
8:45-4:00 Book Fair Library
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, Nov 13:
8:45-4:00 Book Fair Library
3:30-5:00 WeDo Robotics 1-3 Cafe
3:30-5:00 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

Fighting Childhood Obesity

Today, childhood obesity is a major national health crisis affecting about 25% of all students. Poor diets and lack of exercise are the major causes of this epidemic. Parents are role models who must take an active role in guiding their children’s food selections and encouraging physical activity. It is recommended that children exercise at least 60 minutes a day and spend less time in front of the television or computer.

Family Exercise Tips
• Be an active family.
• Plan a daily exercise routine.
• Wear a pedometer
• Limit TV and computer time.
• Adults and children should exercise 60 minutes a day.

The goal is 10,000 steps per day (2,000 steps = 1 mile)