Are Your Children Prepared For School Delays and Closings?

Temperatures are already dipping into the 30s at night; it won't be long before we need to prepare for two-hour delays and snow days. Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home. Specifically, you should develop and discuss a plan with your child to cover emergency situations. These discussions should include how your child can access spare keys, neighbors they could stay with, how to contact you, and the importance of contacting you when they arrive home, etc. In the event of a 2-hour early closing, students will have an opportunity to contact parents by using the classroom phones. Parents/guardians will also be notified via KIT (Keep in Touch) messages.

Proper planning for emergencies will help to make both you and your child feel safe and prepared to handle these situations. FCPS will communicate information on delays and closings via the following outlets:

- FCPS website under the “Emergency” tab on the homepage (http://www.fcps.edu/index.shtml);
- Posted to Facebook and Twitter;
- Posted on TV Channel 21 (Cox, Reston Comcast and Verizon only);
- Sent via e-mail to parents, employees, and KIT Plus subscribers of Delayed Openings and School Closings through the KIT e-mail notification system;
- Called in to area radio and television stations; and
- Sent via text message to KIT Plus subscribers who have opted to receive Delayed Openings and School Closings through the KIT notification system.

Please note that FCPS does NOT make an announcement when schools are open or when sports and other after-school events are being held according to schedule.

To learn more about how FCPS makes the decision to delay or cancel school, please go to: http://www.fcps.edu/news/emerg.shtml. For answers to frequently asked questions, go here.

THANK YOU TO OUR VETERAN’S DAY VISITORS

Thank you to the many members of the U.S. and foreign armed services who took the time to share their experiences with our students on Veteran’s Day.
Three More Days to Enjoy the Book Fair

Come by to the Book Fair in the CRS library during the following hours!

**Wednesday:** 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
**Thursday:** 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
**Friday:** 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Check Out the Lost and Found

Lost and Found is filling up again. Please take the time to look for your student’s lost items the next time you visit the school. Please note that the Lost and Found has been relocated to the CRS front lobby this week.

Cheers of the Week...!

Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of November 2. Cheers are given to students who follow the four R’s. Winners are: Richard Park (Kindergarten); Patrick Wright (1st); Sophie Stute (2nd); Ruhma Mariam (3rd); and Nicholas Capps (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Caroline Wicker (5th grade) and Sara Wellborn (6th grade). Our whole class winner is Mrs. DiCamillo’s third 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.

CRS Math Leads Present at Regional Math Conference

CRS Math Lead teachers, Nick Kilpatrick (4th grade) and Cheryl Bamdad (2nd grade), spoke at the Region IV Mathematics Teachers Consortium Fall Conference in Bealtown, VA on Saturday, November 7, 2015. Mr. Kilpatrick and Ms. Bamdad reprised their 2014 Parent Education presentation “13 Math Rules That Expire and How we Can Fix Them” for math teachers from several nearby counties. Their PowerPoint is available on Blackboard under the Mathematics button on the CRS Specials and School Information page, if you are interested in learning more.

CRS Crisis Team Reviews School Emergency Plans

The school staff were involved in more than just parent conferences last Tuesday. Teachers that serve on the Crisis Team met with Ms. Niccolls and Mr. Hutzel to review our school emergency plans. The school Security Plan is updated and reviewed on an annual basis so that we are prepared in the event of an emergency.
**In the Spirit of Giving…**

**Board Game Request**

This week, November 9-13, we will be collecting board games and puzzles in the front lobby of our school. These games will be donated to Annandale Terrace Elementary School. Due to the unique needs of that community, Annandale Terrace has a large afterschool program for students. The donated games from our school will be utilized by their afterschool program. Any gently used board games and puzzles (for children) will be gratefully accepted. Some game suggestions are:

- Sorry
- Trouble
- Categories for Kids
- Pictionary for Kids
- Dominos
- Perfection
- Parcheesi

There will be a donation bin in the front lobby of our school throughout the week. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Questions: contact Mr. Hutzel at Donald.Hutzel@fcps.edu.

**Annual SHARE Food Drive**

Next week, November 16-20, the PTA Community Service Committee at Churchill Road is organizing a Thanksgiving drive for SHARE, a McLean-based volunteer organization working to feed the hungry in our own community.

SHARE has indicated that they are most in need of the following items:

- Laundry Detergent
- Cooking Oil
- Diapers and baby wipes
- White Rice
- White Sugar
- Grape or strawberry jelly or jam
- Ground Coffee
- Black Tea
- Mayonnaise, mustard, and ketchup
- Chunky Chicken Soups (only this kind)
- 100% Juice
- Soap, toothpaste, toilet paper
- Tuna Fish

Please send in any of the above items with your child next week. We will collect donated items in gray bins located outside each classroom. Questions? Please contact Community Service Committee Chairs Sarah Walter (sarah@walterdc.com); or Robin Hoeymans (martinora@aol.com).

**WELLNESS CORNER**

**Little changes make a big difference**

**Benefits of Gratitude**

Students and parents enjoy a special Thanksgiving luncheon in the school cafeteria.

The Thanksgiving holiday commemorates when the colonists gave thanks for a good harvest and for their survival in a new land. Today, Churchill students celebrated Thanksgiving by sharing a meal with friends, teachers, staff, and family.

Celebrating gratitude with a special school lunch, or, perhaps, with a gathering with family and friends on Thanksgiving, is a beautiful way to acknowledge and appreciate the goodness in our lives. Additionally, research shows a strong correlation between gratitude and well-being.

Gratitude helps to improve health, to foster strong relationships, to savor good experiences, and to cope with challenges. Of course, a sense of thankfulness does not need to be reserved just for Thanksgiving, or special occasions; we can cultivate gratitude by observing the abundance around us on a daily basis.

Each day, take a moment to acknowledge the tangible and intangible that makes your life better, from someone holding the door, to great schools, to not getting stuck in traffic, to a helpful friend. You can express your thankfulness with a thought, a spoken word, or in writing. Focusing on what we are grateful for also helps to remind us of what we have, rather than what we lack. Plus, in addition to making us feel better, when we share our appreciation with others, the recipients of our gratitude feel better, too.
Turn Your Purchases into Donations -
Online Shopping Supports CRS!

Have you signed up yet? Please take time now (before the holiday season gets underway!) to join Escrip and setup your browser to use the Online Mall. Changes this year mean that we are relying on our families to sign themselves up for the programs. The Escrip Mall does not require you to use a specific card, but you must designate Churchill as your beneficiary and then you can start shopping. Downloading the ForgetMeNot app makes it very simple to remember that the site you are visiting can donate money to CRS - in some cases up to 21% of your purchase! Most likely your favorite website is one of the hundreds of merchants participating. Details are at http://www.churchillroadpta.org/grocery-scrip/.

Signing up and using the ForgetMeNot app has the potential to earn thousands of dollars for Churchill Road. (Find details about other programs that let your purchases become donations to CRS on our PTA website: http://www.churchillroadpta.org/grocery-scrip/). If you have questions, please contact groceryscrip@churchillroadpta.org.

Quarterly Box Tops Winners

The results of the most recent quarterly box tops challenge are in, and congratulations are due to Mr. Kilpatrick’s 4th grade, Ms. Robosky’s 6th grade and Mrs. Williams’ 1st grade classes. They all achieved 100% participation during the quarter. For their efforts, they will be treated to their choice of extra recess or a read-aloud with Mr. Hutzel. A big Bobcat cheer for them!

Our student winners through October are Lane Hueber (283) and Kanuux Chaudhuri (274)! They have turned in the most Box Tops so far this year. Congratulations to all of our participants for helping our school earn money!

You can help too – just collect Box Tops from household products and grocery items and bring them to school. Remember, in order to receive credit for your Box Tops, make sure they are labeled with your full name and teacher’s name. Then give them to your teacher or drop them in the collection bin in the front office.

For 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

Family Life Education (FLE) Parent Information and Viewing Night

Monday, November 16 at 7:00 PM

All FCPS students in Grades K-6 take part in Family Life Education (FLE) lessons as part of the FCPS Health curriculum. Classroom instruction on Social and Emotional Health occurs throughout the year. Human Growth and Development lessons for our students in grades 5 and 6 will take place the week of December 14, and the lesson for Grade 4 will take place on May 6. Additionally, a sixth grade lesson on positive self-image, contributing positively to a group or community, child neglect and abuse, and human trafficking will be taught in the week of March 14.

On November 16 at 7:00 p.m., parents are invited to read the curriculum and view the videos that will be presented. Parents will have the opportunity to “opt out” of some or all of the lessons with signed documentation of the request. Parents may also view the curriculum and media used in these lessons by logging onto FCPS 24-7, selecting the Curriculum tab, then Family Life Education.

Questions can be directed to Ms. Niccolls (jniccolls@fcps.edu) or your child’s homeroom teacher.

Important Reminder from the School Health Room

Parents, please help curb the spread of germs in school by keeping sick children at home when they are not feeling well. It is important that you keep your child home until they have been fever free for 24 hours without medication. They should also be kept home for 24 hours without vomiting before returning to school.

Please remember these preventive measures to help stop the spread of germs: wash hands often, use tissues and discard immediately, stay home if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Thank you.
Parenting for Independence: A Presentation and Q&A with Dr. Heather Tedesco

Friday, November 20 at 8:45 a.m. in the Exploratory Arts Room.

All parents share the goal of raising their children to be independent adults. But it’s hard to know how to encourage it as our children grow. What are appropriate expectations? How much help should we provide? How can we use the elementary school years to prepare children for increased independence in middle school and beyond?

Dr. Tedesco held a very popular session last year called "Effective and Counterproductive Approaches to Parenting." She is an applied psychologist who works with parents to resolve problems and help them take the long view of raising children into happy, authentically successful adults. Her purpose when working with parents is to make parenting less stressful, more effective, and more enjoyable. For more information, visit www.DrTedesco.com. (Brought to you by the Parent Networking Committee of the CRS PTA.)

Plan Ahead for the Thanksgiving Holiday

Students will be dismissed two hours early, at 1:20 p.m., on Wednesday, Nov. 25, so that families may prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday. School will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26-27. Please call the CRS 24-hour attendance line at 703-288-8484 or email churchillattendance@fcps.edu if your student will be absent additional days surrounding the holiday. Thank you!

The CRS Home Page address: 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 Hutzal 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 December 7, 2015 and March 7 and May 23, 2016.