President’s Pen

I cannot believe that we are already three weeks into 2016. Hopefully everyone’s New Year’s resolutions are still on track; which brings to mind another New Year’s tradition—the exercise of reflecting on the events of the prior year…the ups, the downs and everything in between. And then, applying the wisdom and experience that we have gained as we look forward to the challenges and adventures facing us in the new year. As we start 2016, the Churchill Road PTA is in the process of a bit of self-reflection as well.

As you will see below, the CRS PTA is launching its biennial Long-Range Planning (LRP) Survey. Responses will be collected through January 29th. The goal of the LRP Survey is to take the pulse of the CRS community—to understand what is and is not working for CRS families and teachers. Just as important as looking back, we want to hear your vision on the future of the CRS PTA. Our LRP Committee co-chairs, parents F.J. and Alison Hueber and second grade teacher Cheryl Bamdad, have put together a comprehensive survey that focuses on PTA engagement, communications, budget allocations, programming, advocacy initiatives, teacher support, and more.

Please take a few minutes out of your day to complete the LRP Survey. This is your PTA—the executive committee wants to hear your voice and be responsive. The data gathered as part of the LRP Survey is essential as we plan for next school year and the future of the CRS PTA.

Speaking of the future, we are already there—planning for the upcoming school year has begun. One of the first steps is appointing the CRS PTA Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee generally consists of 3 or 5 volunteers, including parents and at least one CRS staff member. It is their mission to put together a slate of officers and committee chairs for next school year to be presented for election in the Spring. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, or as an officer or committee chair next year, please email me at president1@churchillroadpta.org. The vote to approve the Nominating Committee will be held at our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, February 10th, at 8:45 a.m. in the CRS exploratory arts room.

The role of the Nominating Committee is very important to the future of the CRS PTA. These officers and committee chairs will guide and influence the direction of the CRS PTA in the years to come. I would encourage you to consider volunteering as an officer or committee chair, or even as a member of one of the CRS PTA’s standing committees. There are a variety of opportunities to get involved and (seriously) a variety of commitment levels that can be tailored to fit a variety of schedules.

Being involved with the CRS PTA gives you an opportunity to participate in your children’s Churchill Road experience and to know what is going on at CRS and with the Fairfax County Public Schools and the CRS community generally. It is also a great chance to meet new people and put names to the faces of the teachers and other students that your kids mention every day.

In addition to the election of the Nominating Committee, the CRS PTA membership will also vote on a proposed update to the CRS PTA Bylaws at our next PTA meeting. The Bylaws Committee chaired by our Parliamentarian, Amy King, has posted the proposed Bylaws to the PTA website at www.churchillroadpta.org. The Virginia PTA requires that each local chapter update its Bylaws every five years, the result being that all CRS PTA multi-year cycles (LRP Survey, Bylaws, sales tax exemption renewal, domain name registration, etc.) have come together to create a “perfect storm” of paperwork for the 2015-2016 school year.

The PTA Bylaws represent another influence on the future direction of the CRS PTA, so I would encourage you to review the proposed Bylaws and attend the February 10th PTA meeting to submit your vote. Don’t forget—you must be a current CRS PTA member in order to participate in PTA business, including voting matters. If you haven’t had a chance to join yet—you may join using the link from the CRS PTA homepage here.

Please add the CRS PTA to your New Year’s resolutions this year:…(1) complete the Long-Range Planning Survey and (2) attend our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, February 10th at 8:45 a.m., to vote on the Nominating Committee and the proposed Bylaws.

Lend your voice to the future of the CRS PTA.

Melissa Schwartz
CRS PTA President
President1@churchillroadpta.org
Are Your Children Prepared For School Delays and Closings?

Temperatures have been dipping into the teens at night; and the weather forecasters are calling for the first big snowstorm of the year. It won’t be long before we may need to prepare for delayed openings 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.

Chelsey Green Demonstrates Violin’s Versatility

Chelsey Green and her band “The Green Project” wowed CRS with a beautiful violin and ensemble performance at last Monday’s Integrated Arts Assembly. Although Chelsey Green is a classically trained Violinist, she and her band demonstrated that we can create music that blends many different genres from Classical to Hip Hop to Jazz. CRS students even composed their own unique musical score that included elements of Rock & Roll and Pop music with a decidedly Techno beat! Thank you Integrated Arts Committee Chair Jenna Yellen for coordinating this performance, and to the PTA for sponsoring this fun event.

CRS PTA Long-Range Planning Survey Online Now – Please Respond

The Long Range Planning (LRP) Survey is our community’s opportunity share the current focus of the PTA and solicit input for our strategic direction and areas for investment. The focus is on three main areas: Engagement with the PTA, Budget Allocation, and PTA Programming.

This is your chance to share feedback and offer suggestions. The PTA asks you to be as open and detailed as possible. Responses will be accepted from Wednesday, January 20, 2016, until Friday, January 29, 2016. We expect to share the key findings with the community by the March 9, 2016 PTA meeting.

Please feel free to direct any questions to F.J. Hueber at crslongrangeplanning@gmail.com.

PLEASE SUBMIT ONLY ONE RESPONSE PER FAMILY.
**Stop Hunger Now –**
Friday is Our Last Day for Donations!

Our Pyramid goal this year is to raise $29,000, but as of last week, we had raised approximately $16,000. To help reach our goal, every Churchill Road student is encouraged to donate loose change or money that they earn and wish to donate to Stop Hunger Now. Donations can be brought into school on Thursday or Friday.

As you know, Stop Hunger Now is the Langley Pyramid’s schools’ annual community outreach. Students from all of the Langley Pyramid schools are coming together on Saturday, February 6th at Colvin Run Elementary to prepare meal packages for schools and orphanages around the world. Last year’s goal of $25,000 provided 100,000 meals to families in Ukraine and provided a wonderful service learning opportunity for children and adults in our community.

**Last Chance to Donate to the Schoola Clothing Drive**
Churchill Road Elementary is holding a Schoola Clothing Drive. Simply by cleaning your closets, you can raise funds for our school! It’s easy as 1-2-3:

- Stuff a bag with high-quality, well cared-for clothes for kids, teenagers and women. Drop off bags at school from Wednesday, January 13th to Friday, January 22nd. Attach a sticker from the drop-off location to be sure our school gets credit.
- Follow along and spread the word to your friends and family through our very own Schoola page: bit.ly/ChurchillRoadSchoola (case sensitive). They can also donate clothes to benefit our school by ordering pre-paid donation bags.
- Schoola will spiff and sell our clothes on their online shop (www.schoola.com). Forty percent of the proceeds go back to Churchill Road Elementary. How good is that?!

**CRS Students Learn About Martin Luther King, Jr.**
Churchill Road kindergartners and first graders have spent the last several weeks studying Martin Luther King, Jr. The students learned about his life and how he worked to make the world a better place. First graders created posters based on their research and presented key facts to their classmates (pictured above, Mrs. Williams’ class). Students in Ms. Lewis’s class made cut-paper portraits of Dr. King and wrote facts about his life on their portraits (above), while students in Mrs. Thurston’s and Ms. Zielinski’s classes listened to his “I Have a Dream Speech” and wrote about their own dreams for the world (below).
Bus Patrols Treated for Their Efforts

Last week, patrol sponsors Mr. Auzenne and Mr. Varhol treated bus patrols to hot chocolate on one of the coldest mornings of the year. Mr. Varhol even took over Kiss and Ride duties for the patrols due to the frigid temperatures.

4th Graders Learn Firsthand Why Colonists’ Revolted

Fourth graders have been learning about how King George taxed the colonists before the Revolution. Mrs. McHale demonstrated the concept by taking away Skittles from the students for taxes owed on food, clothing and other sundries. As you can see, the students were not fans of the tax.

Langley Pyramid Principals Visit CRS for a Literacy Walkthrough

Langley HS principal Fred Amico discusses reading with a Churchill Road ES 4th grader during the pyramid principals’ Literacy Walkthrough (above), while Ms. Rook worked with a group of her students during the visit (below).

Check Out the Lost and Found!

The Lost and Found has been relocated to the CRS front lobby this week. Please stop by and check for any lost articles of clothing. Any items remaining in the Lost and Found next Friday, January 29 will be donated to Schoola.

Dressing for Outdoor Recess During Cold Weather

With cold temperatures coming on strong, we’d like to remind parents and guardians to make sure that children dress appropriately for outdoor recess. Warm coats, hats and gloves are suggested. All children are expected to go outside for recess, as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or higher -- this includes wind-chill. We check Weather.com to find out what the temperature feels like outside before making a decision. Thank you for your help ensuring that your children are prepared for the cold weather.
### CRS Calendar of Events -- January 20 - 29, 2016

#### Wednesday, Jan 20
- 3:30-5:00 Minecraft Prog 1-3 Café
- 3:30-5:00 Prog/Scratch 4-6 Café
- 3:30-5:00 Public Speaking 4-6 Library
- 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, Jan 21
- 8:45-9:00 Picture Day for Teams and Clubs Gym
- 3:30-5:00 Chess Club 2-6 Café
- 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
- 7:00 ASA Priority Registration Begins for PTA Members

#### Friday, Jan 22
- 1:00-2:00 Geo-Bee Final EA Room
- 3:30-5:00 WeDo Robotics 1-3 Café
- 3:30-5:00 EV3 Robotics 3-6 Café
- 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

#### Monday, Jan 25
- 3:30-5:00 Drawing Club 3-6 Café
- 3:30-4:45 Python Prog 3-6 EA Room
- 7:00 ASA General Registration Begins

#### Tuesday, Jan 26
- 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
- 3:30-4:30 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 Café

#### Wednesday, Jan 27
- 3:30-5:00 Minecraft Prog 1-3 Café
- 3:30-5:00 Prog/Scratch 4-6 Café
- 3:30-5:00 Public Speaking 4-6 Library
- 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, Jan 28
- 3:30-5:00 Chess Club 2-6 Café
- 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, Jan 29
- 3:30-5:00 WeDo Robotics 1-3 Café
- 3:30-5:00 EV3 Robotics 3-6 Café
- 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

---

### Calling All Chocolate Lovers to McLean’s 5th Annual Chocolate Festival!!

**Sunday, January 31, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the McLean Community Center**

The McLean and Langley High Interact Clubs and the Rotary Club of McLean are partnering to hold McLean’s fifth annual chocolate festival on Sunday, January 31, from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the McLean Community Center. The Community Hall will be filled with vendors selling anything chocolate: candy, cakes, ice cream, cupcakes, etc. In other rooms American Heritage, a Mars company, will demonstrate how chocolate was made in the 1750’s, and LHS and MHS Interact Club students will lead children in chocolate-related games. For the kids, there will be half-hour performances by Ukelele Phil and the Hula Kids at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and accordionist Dave Lovins at 3:30 p.m. Admission to the Chocolate Festival is $2. Children under 6 get in free. Twenty-five percent of all proceeds will support local community organizations like the Falls Church/McLean Children’s Center, Homestretch, Literacy Council, Timber Lane Elementary School, high school senior scholarships, the Safe Community Coalition’s 6th Grade Ethics Days, and many others. For more information, please visit [www.McLeanChocolateFestival.org](http://www.McLeanChocolateFestival.org).

---

### Cheers of the Week...!

Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of January 11. Cheers are given to students who follow the four R’s. Winners are: Violet Yan (Kindergarten); Maddie Rojas (1st); Tara Chun (2nd); Leni Stanton-Parker (3rd); and Raka Adakroy (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Maria Lopez-Cartagena (5th grade) and Harry Moon (6th grade). Our whole class winner is Mrs. Brownley’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.

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 March 7 and May 23, 2016.