Over the Moon and On to Mars

Wednesday, February 24 was a day for all to remember at Churchill Road. Thanks to a serendipitous conversation between CRS parent Mary Engola and a professional colleague students and staff were treated to a once in a lifetime assembly, with not one, but two, former astronauts: Kent Rominger (Captain, USN, Ret.), a three-time space shuttle pilot, two-time space shuttle commander, and former Chief of the Astronaut Corps; and Gene Cernan (Captain, USN, Ret.), who flew on Gemini IX, Apollo 10 and Apollo 17, and may be best known as the last man to walk on the moon.

Both astronauts captivated the audience with tales of their experiences in space. Speaking from the heart, Mr. Cernan stressed the endless possibilities for the students in the audience, asking them “What can’t you do?”, and then telling them the right answer is “Nothing”. All were swept up by the excitement Mr. Cernan conveyed about space travel and his experiences. Mr. Rominger shared video and photos of his shuttle missions, highlighting both the scientific accomplishments and the more humorous aspects of being in space. With a mission to Mars planned within the next decade, he pointed out to the students that they’ll be the right age for this mission.

At the conclusion of the assemblies, both astronauts took questions from students and visited with the staff. Ask your child about their favorite moment from this visit.

This Churchill Road visit was also featured in the Washington Post. To see the complete article, please go: here.

A very special thank you is extended to Ms. Engola and all those who made this visit possible, and to photographer Kate Patterson for sharing some of her outstanding photos of this event.
All About Weather

What an exciting week it was. Second graders learned all about weather firsthand from meteorologist Jon Malay, a past president of the American Meteorological Society. Students had hands-on demonstrations of how the sun and moon affect the earth’s weather; learned about how much technology has enhanced weather prediction capabilities and were able to ask many questions of Mr. Malay. Thank you once more to parent Mary Engola for arranging this instructive and fun presentation.

Thank You, Wheat’s Landscape!

Many of you noticed the freshly mulched and pruned gardens when you returned to school this week. A big thank you is extended to Wheat’s Landscape for once again sprucing up our school’s campus. Spring is coming, and thanks to Wheat’s, our outdoor spaces will be ready!

CRS Spelling Bee Winner Named

“t-y-r-a-n-n-y”: Sixth grader Neil B. spelled this word successfully to become the Churchill Road Spelling Bee Champion on Monday, February 22nd. During a tense 15 rounds, 21 Churchill Road students from grades 3-6 spelled over 150 words, including words such as “postprandial” and “pithily.” At the 12th round, only three spellers remained: 5th grader Aarti S., 4th grader Paul W., and Neil B. Four nail-biting rounds later, Neil was declared champion and Paul was named first runner-up. Neil will compete in the Fairfax County Spelling Bee on Sunday, March 13th. The winner of the County Spelling Bee will compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May.

This event could not have gone off so smoothly without the assistance of our teacher sponsors, Ms. Finger and Ms. Robosky, and Mr. Healey, who served as an additional judge for the Bee. A very special thank you is extended to PTA committee chair Cathy Witkop, who spent many hours coordinating the event.

PTA Used Book Fair

Thank you to all the families who donated gently used books and games to the PTA Community Service Committee’s used book drive. CRS teachers were able to find many great additions to their classroom libraries. Remaining items will be donated to Dogwood Elementary. Thank you to Committee Co-chairs Robin Hoeymans and Sarah Walter for coordinating this event.
**WELLNESS CORNER**

*Little changes make a big difference*

**There’s No Time Like the Present**

Ms. Robosky, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Haines celebrate Dr. Seuss.

Today is Dr. Seuss’s birthday; he would be 112 this year. Dr. Seuss transformed the way children’s books were written and motivated generations of readers. Dr. Seuss shared wisdom in a whimsical way. He reminded us that learning does not have to be dull and stressful, but should be an exciting gateway to exploring and understanding our world: “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

Dr. Seuss shared his sage advice for living in catchy, silly verse: “Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you.” He had a fun way of reminding all of us that no one else can live our life for us; it is all up to us to share our unique gifts. He was honest that it would not always be easy, but encouraged us to maintain a good attitude even when conditions weren’t perfect. “I know it is wet and the sun is not sunny, but we can have lots of good fun that is funny.”

Through his books, Dr. Seuss repeatedly buoys our expectations and prompts us that there is no time like the present to start making our mark: “Today I shall behave, as if this is the day I will be remembered.” Of course, he also emphasized a healthy dose of creativity: “Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living; it’s a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope.” His books allow us to escape into a zany world of fascinating characters who look different, speak different, and engage in the most unpredictable and delightful adventures. Enjoy celebrating with your family by reading some Dr. Seuss favorites, creating your own fanciful verses or characters, inventing a Dr. Seuss-inspired obstacle course in the yard, or engaging in an unpredictable and delightful adventure that “is youer than you.”

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**We Love Our Custodians**

SCA representatives celebrated our dedicated custodial staff by creating posters expressing gratitude for all the many jobs our custodians perform every day and the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee provided a delicious surprise lunch from Panera Bread for our custodial team.

Custodians are the first ones to arrive in the early morning and the last to depart late in the evening after all school activities have ended. They keep up with repairs, maintain the school grounds, secure the buildings, set up and tear down for all school activities and events, keep our school immaculate and much much more -- always willing to help out whenever asked and with a smile! As you are visiting school please take a moment to express your thanks to our Building Managers Mr. Palma and Mrs. Torres and our custodians Mr. Huynh, Mr. Alonzo-Lopez, Ms. Sonia Carreno and Ms. Agyei-Yeboah for all the amazing work they do.

**Bagels and Fixings Galore**

Last Tuesday, the CRS staff was treated to a delicious Bagel Bar, complete with lox, luncheon meats, chicken and tuna salads, and some spectacular tulip bouquets. A very special thank you to the 6th grade parents, especially the volunteers who helped serve this luncheon: Vandana Goel, Jessica Gozzi, Katie O’Brien, Jean Schiro-Zavela, Carol Smith, Laura Toterola and Kristi West.
Parents Learn About Tech Safety

Parents were invited to a technology presentation presented by Technology Specialist Mr. Craig-Kuhn, 2nd grade teacher Mr. Healey and Media Specialist Mrs. Warren. Parents heard the latest updates on child Internet safety practices for the home & at school, the latest screen-time recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as an overview of Churchill Road’s 1-laptop-per-child program and the digital resources Fairfax County provides to all students.

Thank you to the PTA Parent Network Committee and to CRS counselors Jamie Meyers and Shana Schnaue for organizing this well-received presentation.

If you were unable to attend, the presentation is posted on the CRS homepage here.

Pizza for a Cause on Election Day

Many teachers and students who enjoyed a pizza lunch at Pizzeria Orso in Falls Church on Election Day. Thanks to chef Bertrand Chemel (a CRS parent), 15 percent of all proceeds from meals for CRS families will be donated back to the school! Thank you to the PTA Fundraising chair Elizabeth Marino for coordinating this successful event.

Eating Disorder Information

In 2013 the Virginia General Assembly passed HB 1406, Code of Virginia, 22.1-273.2 requiring Virginia Public Schools to provide, on an annual basis, parent educational information regarding eating disorders for pupils in grades five through twelve. According to the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA, 2013):

Eating disorders are real, complex, and devastating conditions that can have serious consequences for health, productivity, and relationships. They are not a fad, phase, or lifestyle choice. Eating disorders are serious, potentially life-threatening conditions that affect a person’s emotional and physical health.

In collaboration with the Fairfax County Health Department, FCPS has developed eating disorder documents with detailed information to be provided to all parents and guardians of Fairfax County Public Schools. An informational letter and fact sheet is posted on the school’s website (http://www.fcps.edu/ChurchillRoadES/) under “News”.

6th Graders Hold Mock Election

Sixth graders in Mrs. Ehrman’s social studies classes learned about the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates, and then held a mock primary election. As you can see below, the results for the Democratic candidates parallel those of the Fairfax County election; while the results for the Republican candidates vary greatly.

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<th>% Voting for Each Candidate</th>
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CRS PTA
COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE
MARTHA’S TABLE SANDWICH MAKING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016

We’re back! The CRS PTA Community Service Committee will be having its final sandwich-making project of the year next Wednesday, March 9th. 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, March 7th, Tuesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 9th.

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 (March 2) VIP folders for kindergarten and 1st-3rd grade students who are interested in participating in the sandwich-making in the CRS cafeteria after school on Wednesday, March 9th.

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).

Cheers of the Week...!

Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of February 22. Cheers are given to students who follow the four R’s. Winners are: Tabitha Maples (Kindergarten); Maddie Rojas (1st); Bram Ellis (2nd); Nuha Sheikh (3rd); and Colin Walter (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Ella Ramchand (5th grade) and James Lee (6th grade). Our whole class winner is Ms. Snyder’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 Calendar of Events -- March 2 - 12, 2016

### Wednesday, March 2
- **Read Across America Day**
  - 3:30-5:00: Minecraft Modding K-3 Cafe
  - 3:30-5:00: Minecraft Modding 4-6 Cafe
  - 3:30-5:00: Science Olympiad A EA Room
  - 3:30-4:30: Agility Soccer K-6 Outside/Gym
  - 3:30-4:30: Flag Football 5-6 Gym
  - 3:30-4:30: Acting/Mus Theat K-3 Stage
  - 3:30-4:30: Chamber Orch 5-6 Strings TR
  - 3:30-4:45: Scratch 2-6 Room 219

### Thursday, March 3
- 3:30-5:00: Chess Club 2-6 Cafe
- 3:30-5:00: Writing Fund 1-3 Staff Lounge
- 3:30-5:00: MTC 3-6 Gym/Stage
- 3:30-4:30: Tiny Chefs K-2 EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Spanish Room 103
- 3:30-5:00: Musical Prod 3-6 Room 208

### Friday, March 4
- 8:45-8:45: PTA Focus Group EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Minecraft Anim 1-3 Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Java Prog 3-6 Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Gourmet Chefs 3-6 EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Basketball K-6 Gym
- 3:30-5:00: Creative Writing 4-6 Staff Lounge
- 3:30-5:00: Exper Design 4-6 Room 200

### Monday, March 7
- 3:30-5:00: WeDo Robotics K-2 Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Art Brains K-2 Staff Lounge
- 3:30-4:30: Lego Robotics 3-6 Cafe
- 3:30-4:45: Girls on the Run 3-6 Field/Track

### Tuesday, March 8
- 3:30-4:30: 3-D Printing 3-6 Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Intro Comp Sci K-4 Cafe
- 3:30-4:30: Crazy Chem K-2 EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Flag Football 3-4 Gym
- 3:30-5:00: MTR 3-6 Stage
- 3:30-5:00: Debate 4-6 Staff Lounge
- 3:30-4:45: Science Olympiad B Room 200
- 3:30-4:45: Art Club 2-6 Room 219

### Wednesday, March 9
- 8:00-8:45: Principal’s Coffee EA Room
- 8:45-9:45: PTA Meeting EA Room
- 3:30-5:00: Minecraft Modding K-3 Cafe
- 3:30-5:00: Minecraft Modding 4-6 Cafe
- 3:30-5:00: Science Olympiad A EA Room
- 3:30-4:30: Agility Soccer K-6 Outside/Gym
- 3:30-4:30: Flag Football 5-6 Gym
- 3:30-4:30: Acting/Mus Theat K-3 Stage
- 3:30-4:30: Chamber Orch 5-6 Strings TR
- 3:30-4:45: Scratch 2-6 Room 219
- 3:30-4:45: Girls on the Run 3-6 Field/Track
- 3:30-3:0: Martha’s Table
- 3:30-4:30: Sandwich-Making K-3 Cafe

### Thursday, March 10
- 3:30-5:00: Chess Club 2-6 Cafe
- 3:30-5:00: Writing Fund 1-3 Staff Lounge
- 3:30-5:00: MTC 3-6 Gym/Stage
- 3:30-4:30: Tiny Chefs K-2 EA Room
- 3:30-5:00: Musical Prod 3-6 Room 208
- 3:30-4:30: Spanish Room 103

### Friday, March 11
- College Spirit Day
  - 3:30-4:30: Minecraft Anim 1-3 Cafe
  - 3:30-4:30: Java Prog 3-6 Cafe
  - 3:30-4:30: Gourmet Chefs 3-6 EA Room
  - 3:30-4:30: Basketball K-6 Gym
  - 3:30-5:00: Creative Writing 4-6 Staff Lounge
  - 3:30-5:00: Exper Design 4-6 Room 200

### Saturday, March 12
- 10:00-2:00: Book Fair Barnes & Noble Tyson’s Corner Center

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**Future of the CRS PTA Focus Group on Friday, March 4**

As mentioned at our February PTA meeting, the CRS Executive Committee is looking for ideas of ways to re-energize—to promote efficiency, improve communication, increase family engagement, and generally to ensure the continued success of the CRS PTA in future years. If you are interested in participating in a focus group to brainstorm ideas, please join us this **Friday, March 4, from 8:45 to 9:45 am**, in the Exploratory Arts Room at CRS. If you have questions, or are not able to attend but would still like to share your ideas, please contact Melissa Schwartz (president1@churchillroadpta.org). Thank you!

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**Mark Your Calendars: Barnes and Noble Book Fair is March 12**

Are you or your kids in need of some new books before spring break? Do you want to get some of the newest titles? If so, come join us on **Saturday, March 12 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Tysons Corner Center**. We will have special events, including performances by the CRS Orchestra, CRS Musical Theater and the CRS Show Choir. We will also have guest readers including Mrs. Haines, Mrs. Menard Mazurowski, Ms. Hamlin, Ms. Finger, Ms. Robosky, Mrs. Thurston, Mrs. DiCamillo and Mr. Hutzel! And there will be an hourly raffle.

However, all day long, our school will earn a percentage of in-store and cafe purchases. Just make sure you have a voucher or mention that you are with CRS. Vouchers can be found on the CRS homepage here and we will have extras at the book fair! If you can’t make it to the book fair, but want to purchase online – any online purchase made between March 12 – March 17 will give us credit! Use the ID 11730264 at checkout! We hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Mrs. Warren at sewarren@fcps.edu.

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 flyers for distribution the weeks of March 7 and May 23, 2016.