Creativity Blossoms at CRS During Youth Art Month!

March is Youth Art Month and as usual there are a number of events to celebrate our young artists, so get ready to mark your calendars. The most significant of these are this year’s student show at the McLean Project for the Arts Emerson Gallery. This show represents the schools in the Langley Pyramid, featuring work from students in elementary, middle, and high school. Students will be able to see the opportunities available to them in future art classes and the community will get a progression of our students’ growth as artists. The show will run from Thursday, March 10 through Saturday, March 26, with an opening reception on Thursday, March 10 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We hope you come out to support our young artists! Additionally, keep an eye out for more student artwork on display at the Churchill Challenge 5K and in the frames decorating the hallways and offices.

At the start of this school year, we were thrilled to welcome new Churchill Road Art Teacher, Ms. Katie Gong. Ms. Gong and Ms. Brodzik have had a great time collaborating and developing exciting new lessons this year, with an emphasis on critical and creative thinking. Ms. Gong is thrilled to be a part of the Churchill Road community, and is eager to share her passion for art and art history with her students. If you haven’t met Ms. Gong yet, stop by Room 205 to say hello and check out which Artist of the Month she is featuring.

In other Art Room News, students are working hard to complete their latest creations despite Mother Nature not always agreeing! Our sixth graders are beginning work on collages focusing on activities they would like to pursue in middle school, just as they are choosing their future electives. Fifth graders are in the midst of painting projects designing homes for environments all across the globe. Fourth graders are finishing up their own painting projects creating commemorative architecture for people, places, events or wildlife significant to Virginia (see photo at top of right-hand column).

In third grade, students are honing their skills in clay in both Artist Workshop and art class with a terracotta figure project and a ceramic tile in the style of the ancient civilizations they are studying in their homerooms. Second graders are beginning their animal inquiry projects in art class – first by creating a model version of their animal in clay, then building it a cut paper habitat to live in. Finally we will use our iPads to film a stop-motion animation of the animals in action. First graders are creating still life paintings based on their favorite family meals. Finally, our kindergarteners are beginning their architecture unit. Over the coming weeks we will design clay house facades, and invent fantastic futuristic homes.

We would love to take this opportunity to give a shout out to all of our dedicated volunteers who support our art rooms in so many ways. From helping our littlest students develop their art skills to preparing and distributing materials to washing smocks at home, we couldn’t do what we do without you! If you are interested in learning about how you can volunteer in the art rooms, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Brodzik at jebrodzik@fcps.edu or Ms. Gong at kagong@fcps.edu.

Additionally, we would like to thank the Artist Workshop volunteers who make sure that our students receive extra opportunities to explore the arts and how it connects to all of their learning. To learn more about the Artist Workshop program or to volunteer, please contact Anne Marie Marenburg at artistworkshop1@churchillroadpta.org.

Art is an integral part of your students’ education. Please contact either one of us without hesitation regarding the CRS art program. We are always happy to discuss the curriculum or ways you can help support the fine arts.

Sincerely,
Ms. Julie Brodzik & Ms. Katie Gong
**Important Notice: Annual Tornado Drill on March 14**

On Monday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m., our students and staff will take part in our annual, state-mandated “Tornado Drill” for the school year. In the event that widespread severe weather threatens the county or state and a tornado warning is issued to all schools, a real “tornado drill” procedure would be initiated. Signs will be posted on the entrance doors indicating that the school is conducting a tornado drill. The doors will be locked and no one will be allowed to enter the school during this time. Please take this into consideration if you student is arriving late, or you need to pick up your child for an appointment this coming Monday, March 14.

The drill will help ensure that we are able to successfully protect our students during an actual tornado. Please contact Jennifer Niccols, CRS Assistant Principal, at jniccolls@fcps.edu, should you have any questions or concerns about the drill.

Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation.

**HELP WANTED**

Looking for a wonderful group of enthusiastic parents dedicated to creating the best possible learning experience for Churchill Road students: The PTA. By volunteering for a job on next year’s PTA, you’ll help make Churchill the kind of school you want for your child. There are many different opportunities for parents to help out -- and a place for everyone! For more information on PTA positions, please email lisa.givens@ymail.com.

**CRS Spring 2016 SOL Dates**

Mark your calendars! Churchill Road students in Grades 3-6 will be taking the **Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests** from May 18 through June 2, 2016. If your student will be absent on a scheduled testing date, please notify his or her classroom teacher. Make-up tests will be scheduled upon the student’s return, through the end of the testing window.

It will be very helpful if you can avoid appointments which may take your child out of school during this time period. Also, it will help your child perform his or her best if he or she has had a good night’s rest, a healthy breakfast, and comes to school with a positive attitude. Dates for each grade level test are shown below.

**Grade 3**
- Thursday, May 26 - 8:45 AM Reading
- Tuesday, May 31 - 8:45 AM Math

**Grade 4**
- Weds., May 18- 8:45 AM Reading
- Friday, May 27 - 8:45 AM VA History
- Thursday, June 2 - 8:45 AM Math

**Grade 5**
- Friday, May 20 - 8:45 AM Science
- Monday, May 23 - 8:45 AM Reading
- Weds., June 1 - 12:15 PM Math

**Grade 6**
- Thursday, May 19 - 8:45 AM Reading
- Wednesday, June 1 - 8:45 AM Math

The Virginia SOL tests measure the extent to which students have learned the content and skills specified in content areas such as writing, reading, mathematics, history/social science and science.

Please look for additional information to be posted on the BlackBoard, future Churchill Chatters, and in Keep in Touch messages.

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**THE TRUTH IS IN THE BUDGET FACTS**

In 2014, 63.3% of households did not contain any children less than 18 years of age.

Source: American Community Survey 2014 Profiles for Fairfax County, Virginia

Why should these residents care about school funding??

On average, homes in a highly-rated school zone sell for **$50 more per square foot** than homes in an average-rated school zone.

Source: Redfin 2014

This is part of a weekly series produced by the CRS PTA Advocacy Committee to share facts related to the FCPS budget.
Dr. Seuss’s Week

Churchill Road students and staff celebrated Read Across America Day on Tuesday, March 2 in honor of Dr. Seuss’s 112th birthday and promoting reading. Teachers and students spent time reading some Dr. Seuss favorites and worked on a variety of writing and reading projects. Over the course of the week, the focus was on reading and writing. The first grade team even dressed in red, white and black to honor Dr. Seuss.

Ms. McLendon’s class began their mystery book unit with a bang. Students discovered a “crime scene” in their classroom complete with footprints and clues pointing to the culprit who absconded with the letters “D” and “E” from their READ sign (hint: the perpetrator’s initials are DE).

Sixth graders prepared a variety of Seussical games and activities for first and second graders.

Fourth graders worked with their second grade buddies on writing (above) and Mrs. Dierman’s third graders presented their book reports to their classmates (below).

Cheers of the Week…!

Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of February 29. Cheers are given to students who follow the four R’s. Winners are: Danni Marino (Kindergarten); Sophia Robertson (1st); Katherine Chopra (2nd); Melania Kolcio (3rd); and Savion Grante (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Josephine Delguie (5th grade) and Marin Heberlig (6th grade). Our whole class winner is Ms. 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.
WELLNESS CORNER

Little changes make a big difference

Training for the Churchill Challenge 5K

Former 4th grade teacher, now Airman First Class, Steve Nicklas, leads some 5th graders in a mini-boot camp.

The fabulous Churchill Challenge 5k run and .80 mile walk is about a month away! On Saturday, April 16, students, teachers, staff, and families will enjoy fitness demonstrations, a great run or walk, and jumping on inflatables. Now is the perfect time to start your training plan. The difference between exercising and training is that you have a specific target you are working towards when you work out and, accordingly, you tend to make each session a priority. Make sure you have comfortable shoes and start where you are. That may mean carving out twenty or thirty minutes two or three times a week to walk or run or to do a combination of the two. Instead of time, you could also use distance as your training goal. Measure a route and then work weekly to increase your distance. If you need help measuring, talk to a 2nd grader; they have just completed a measuring project, including the metric system, and can help you break the 5k into incremental segments to build on each week.

You can also train by playing with a student. Kids naturally do interval training, alternating between activities that require different rates of speed and degrees of effort. Tag is a lot of fun and requires fast starts (when you are chasing or being chased) interspersed with brief rest periods (when you are not being pursued). Training is always more fun with a community so invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join you. A few key points: always begin with a warm-up to prepare your body for the run; run comfortably— you should be able to talk while running, not gasp for air; and take time to recover to avoid injury and allow the body to strengthen.

Box Tops News

Our Box Tops for Education program student winners for February are Kanuux Chaudhuri (370) and Lane Hueber (357)!

The leading class for the 3rd Quarter is currently Mrs. Zemke’s 2nd grade class. So far, 23% of the students in her class have brought in Box Tops. Also, Mrs. Zemke’s class has submitted 986 Box Tops so far, the most of any class this year. Let’s all give them a big Bobcat cheer!

Congratulations to all of you for helping our school earn money! You can be a winner, 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. 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.

Bonus Box Tops Program

Each person can earn $12 in bonus box tops. This is a very easy way to earn money for CRS! For offer details, please see below:

1. Please set up an account at http://www.boxtops4education.com and designate CHURCHILL ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL if you have not already.

2. Go to www.bjsboxtops.com. Enter your BTFE Email Address and BTFE Login Password along with the following code: GLKLCGCYC3YEWX

3. You will earn 50 cents for CRS each time you enter the code. You can enter this code up to 24 times per BTFE account as long as you only enter once a day per email address (so basically you need to enter for 24 days). You can note your progress in “Your Activity” section of your box tops account. Offer expires August 31, 2016.

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”. Please email carlagilbertson@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for your support!

Carla Gilbertson, CRS Box Tops Coordinator
boxtops1@churchillroadpta.org
Art Department News

MPA Annual Youth Art Show
The McLean Project for the Arts will once again host the Youth Art Show at the Emerson Gallery at the McLean Community Center. This is an extraordinary showcase of art created by children in our community. The Langley Pyramid Show will run from March 10th through the 26th with a reception on Thursday, March 10th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Churchill Road students with work featured in the show will receive certificates in today’s VIP folder (March 9th).

Square 1 Art is Here!
Your child’s art was mailed to Square 1 Art, a company that specializes in creating custom products from student artwork and it has been returned with personalized order forms and free stickers! Our relationship with Square 1 Art allows us to provide you with the opportunity to showcase your student’s artwork on a special item, with the bonus that one third of the cost directly supports the art program at Churchill Road. The encouragement you show your students as artists allows us to continue to do all the amazing art activities and events you see at CRS.

Examples of products available through Square 1 Art are on display in the showcase outside the library. Orders are due this Friday, March 11th. Please note that no late orders will be accepted.

Needed in the Art Room
Men’s dress shirts and clean, dry, plastic grocery bags. Please send donations to the art room. We are also in great need of helpers to wash smocks. If you are interested in helping us stay healthy and clean in the art room, email Ms. Brodzik at jebrodzik@fcps.edu or Ms. Gong at kagong@fcps.edu.

Clean Hands Kill Germs
Kindergarten students learned firsthand from our Fairfax County school nurses the best way to wash their hands to keep germs at bay. The cold and flu season is still in full swing, and this lesson is very much appreciated.

Case Day at CRS
Langley High School seniors visited Churchill Road 6th graders as part of their Case Day outreach. They enjoyed the students’ interpretation of a fictitious 4th amendment search and seizure case involving a stolen donut. Thank you to Katherine C., Savannah M., Shrey D. (all CRS alums), Josh H. and Nikhil K., for teaching the 6th graders about constitutional law and to Mrs. Ehrman for coordinating this visit.

CRS Summer Camps
Churchill Road is excited to host five unique, summer camps sponsored by some of our very own teachers! All camps will be held at Churchill Road Elementary School. Camp descriptions and flyers can be downloaded and printed from the Churchill Road homepage here.

ART CAMP: Unleash your child’s imagination this summer at Art Camp, hosted by Ms. Brodzik!  
Schedule: Five 1-week sessions, July 11 – August 12, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

BOBCAT SPORTS CAMP: Register for Bobcat Sports Camp, with Mr. Varhol and Mr. Auzenne!  
Schedule: Five 1-week sessions, June 27-July 29, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

COUNT ME IN MATH CAMP FOR GIRLS: Increase math confidence in this unique program with Ms. Hamlin and Mrs. Lackey.  
Schedule: Two 1-week sessions beginning July 11 and August 1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MUSICAL THEATER CAMP: Theater Camp with CRS teachers, Mr. Ericson and Mr. Gustaveson.  
Schedule: Four 1-week sessions, June 27-July 1, July 5-8, August 8-12 and August 15-19 and two 2-week session July 11-22 and July 25-August 5, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

NATURE CAMP: Join Mr. Woler on an outdoor adventure in Nature Camp.  
Schedule: Four one-week sessions beginning July 11, July 18, July 25, and August 1, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Barnes and Noble Book Fair is This Saturday, March 12

Saturday, March 12 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Tysons Corner Center

Join us for special events, including performances by the CRS Orchestra, CRS Musical Theater and the CRS Show Choir and special guests! And there will be an hourly raffle.

All day long, our school will earn a percentage of in-store and café purchases. Just make sure you have a voucher or mention that you are with CRS. Vouchers are on the CRS homepage [here](http://www.fcps.edu) 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.

College and Career Readiness Week is March 14-28; College Spirit Day on March 28

The week of March 14th will be college and career readiness week! Ms. Meyers and Mrs. Schnaue will have announcements, fun facts, career lessons, and teachers will be sharing about their college and career pathways. We will end this celebratory week on Friday March 18 by wearing our favorite college spirit wear.

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 fliers for distribution the week of May 23, 2016.