Principal’s Podium

Spring Break, although just a week ago, is a milestone in the school calendar. It’s an indication we are already heading towards the final months of the school year. Although there are many big plans and much that still needs to be learned between now and June, the PTA, teachers, and I are also making plans for the 2016-2017 school year.

One of our important tasks is determining class placements for the next school year. Throughout the Spring, the school staff will work collaboratively to begin planning teacher and student assignments for next year. Churchill Road’s staffing will be adversely impacted by our school system’s fiscal deficits, so it becomes the task of the grade level teachers, specialists, and I to determine distribution of teachers and students to optimally organize classroom assignments for next year. A variety of factors such as student personalities, friendships, and academic abilities are also considered as we create our new classes. Other factors impacting the decision-making process of student class assignments are new student enrollment and teachers moving to a new position.

Churchill Road families can assist us in determining class placement by contacting their child’s teacher or me to share insights about their child. Please note the following restrictions:

- I will not accept requests for specific teachers for the upcoming grade placement. This includes hints that reference specific teachers.
- We’ll strive to make sure there is at least one friend in your child’s class next year. While it’s helpful to share the names of your child’s friends, remember that assigning a child to be with their friend/s is not a high priority.

The deadline for any correspondence regarding the upcoming school year is **Friday, April 29th**.

Although we have much more to accomplish this academic year, it is very exciting to prepare for the new school year! We look forward to another successful and collaborative effort between the CRS staff, students and community.

**Don Hutzel, CRS Principal**

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**THE TRUTH IS IN THE BUDGET FACTS**

Is the increased investment requested for our schools out of the ordinary or asking too much of our Board of Supervisors?

**Comparison of FY 2017 Proposed Budget for FCPS and Surrounding School Divisions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Division</th>
<th>Increase (%) Requested Over FY 2016 Budget</th>
<th>Increase (%) Needed in Local Funding to Meet Budget Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prince George’s County</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudoun County</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria City</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falls Church City</td>
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<td>Fairfax County</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington County</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince William County</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manassas City</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manassas Park City</td>
<td>Information not currently available.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


This is part of a weekly series from the CRS PTA Advocacy Committee to share facts related to the FCPS budget.
Reflections Participants Honored

Congratulations to all the students who showed their creativity and participated in this year’s PTA Reflections contest. Please take a moment to look at all the entries. The submissions, reflecting the theme “Let Your Imagination Fly”, will be displayed in the hallway outside the library later this week.

A special congratulation is extended to the following students who received awards at the regional level, and were honored with a special reception:

Amrit S., Music Composition: Piano: 2nd place
Emma C., Photography: Soaring Imagination: 3rd place
Chloe J., Art: Imagine we have fairy power: 2nd place

Thank you to PTA Reflections Committee Chair Varnita Kohli for coordinating this program and to Jacqueline Hogg for helping with the student reception. Have your students start thinking now about next year’s Reflections theme: “What’s your story?”

CRS Represented at State Geo Bee

Fifth grader Daniel L. represented CRS at the State Geographic Bee Competition at Longwood University in Farmville, VA on April 1, one of only 12 5th graders among the 102 participants (who represent the top 2% of Geo Bee contestants in Virginia). Dr. Ed Kinnman, Assistant Dean at Longwood, and co-coordinator of the State Geo Bee congratulated him on his performance and hopes to see him at Longwood again next year. Thank you to Daniel for being such a good ambassador for CRS.

April Fool’s

Churchill Road first and second graders had quite a surprise when they arrived at school on April 1. First and second grade teachers switched grades and tried to convince the students that their old teachers were going to a different grade (above Mr. Suchoski in Mr. Healey’s room). Mrs. Diffie even donned a disguise – it was a “trick” for all.

By the end of the day, all the classes were back to normal and Ms. Finger’s class enjoyed an outdoor yoga class with school social worker and yogi, Wes Smith. What a great ending to the day!

Estimating Weights

Fourth graders had a challenge in science class – they had to estimate the weights of items and balance the scale. The students came up with some interesting combinations to make the weights equivalent.
WELLNESS CORNER

Little changes make a big difference

Benefits of Running

Churchill Road 5th graders enjoy a run on the track during recess.

Running is a wonderful way to increase overall health. It can help improve lung function, raise levels of good cholesterol, and enhance immune function. In addition to the many physical benefits of running, running also boosts self-esteem, relieves stress, and improves mood. Running outside has the added benefits of engaging lesser-used muscles in the legs, arms, and core due to the need to balance your body as you cover a variety of terrain. In addition to the fresh air, running outside increases your awareness of your surroundings. While running you may gain a new appreciation for places you drive by regularly and become more cognizant of the grade of hills; they feel steeper on foot compared to riding in a car. Running can be a solo sport or you can enjoy the support and motivation of running with friends. If you want to enjoy a spirited 5K or fun run with the CRS community, sign-up for the Churchill Challenge on April 16. It’s a great course through our community, and after you finish you can enjoy awesome music with a DJ, fabulous arts and crafts, and an amazing inflatable obstacle course!

CHEERS OF THE WEEK...!

Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of March 25. Cheers are given to students who follow the four R’s. Winners are: Sean Bajaj (Kindergarten); Steven Wrenn (1st); Carlos Janada (2nd); Jonathan Ma (3rd); and Kiran Donnelly (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Pierce Hokenson (5th grade) and Cayla Edelstein (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.

5K Run and Exciting Online Auction

Look in your VIP folders today (Wednesday, April 6) for a listing of the extraordinary Churchill Challenge online auction opportunities for you, your child and your family to enjoy. From custom designed kayaks, a wine party for adults and VIP Nats and DC United tickets to a bounce house birthday party, custom cake or being principal for the day for your child, there’s something for everyone! Don’t miss this amazing chance to be the one who wins the auction item of your choice! Preview of auction items in the VIPs on Wednesday. Auction starts next week...more details to come!

You can register to run, walk or volunteer at www.churchillchallenge.com. Questions? Contact Claudette Kim, claudette_kim@yahoo.com

5K Race and Raffle

Profits will be used to support Annandale Terrace (an FCPS elementary school). Purchase your raffle tickets at the Churchill Challenge 5K to win one of three prizes for discounts on any CRS After-School Activity class offered during the 2016-2017 school year!
How to Raise an Adult?
What Can You Do?

✓ Join our CRS Book Club discussion on April 29 at 8:45 a.m. in the Exploratory Arts Room. Our discussion will be facilitated by Melissa Sporn, Safe Community Coalition President and Licensed Clinical Psychologist, who practices in the McLean area. The Book Club is sponsored by the CRS PTA Parent Education Committee. For more information, go to parenteducation1@churchillroadpta.org.

✓ Hear author Julie Lythcott-Haims speak at McLean High School on Monday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition. Tickets can be purchased for $20 in advance by going to: http://raiseanadult.brownpapertickets.com.

Where can I buy the book and help CRS?
Go to https://smile.amazon.com/ and select “Churchill Road PTA” before you order.

ENERGY ZONE KIDS FITNESS CHALLENGE
Research shows children copy the behavior of adults in their life. If parents are physically active, the children will be active too. Exercise burns calories, which assist in maintaining ideal weight.
Fit adults and children exercise 60 minutes per day.

KEEP MOVING TO STAY IN SHAPE TIPS
• Plan daily family walks.
• Limit television or computer time to 1 to 2 hours per day.
• Make exercise fun.
• Encourage play outside with other children.
• Assign chores that involve activity such as cleaning or walking the dog.
• Help your children find physical activities they enjoy.

Remember, making a healthy change takes time and don’t expect perfection.

Techstravaganza!
April 23, 2016
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
TJHSST
6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22312
Techstravaganza is a science, technology, math, and engineering exploration day. It is intended for elementary and middle school girls and their parents, although everyone is welcome. Students will have the opportunity to conduct hands-on science experiments as well as witness demonstrations and speak to scientists. The scientists and engineers who participate alongside TJHSST students are a valuable source of information on future careers, opportunities in their field, and how they arrived at their positions. Questions? Please email twistcoordinators@gmail.com or visit http://activities.tjhsst.edu/twist/

Box Tops News
Our Box Tops for Education program student winners for March are Kanuux Chaudhuri (370) and Lane Hueber (366)!
The leading class for the 3rd Quarter is currently Mrs. Zemke’s 2nd grade class. So far, 41% of the students in her class brought in Box Tops. Also, Mrs. Zemke’s class has submitted 1,108 Box Tops so far, the most of any class this year. Let’s all give them a big Bobcat cheer!
In addition thank you to everyone who participated in the BJs Box Top Bonus. Thanks to you our school was able to earn almost $200 extra.
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.
More details about the Box Tops program at CRS are on the CRS PTA website (www.churchillroadpta.org); 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
Wednesday, April 6
3:30-5:00 Minecraft Modding K-3 Café
3:30-5:00 Minecraft Modding 4-6 Café
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 Cancelled
3:30-4:45 Scrabble 2-6 Room 219
3:30-4:45 Girls on the Run 3-6 Field/Track

Thursday, April 7
3:30-5:00 Chess Club 2-6 Café
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, April 8
8:45-2:00 Spring Individual & Class Pictures Gym
3:30-4:30 Minecraft Anim 1-3 Café
3:30-4:30 Java Prog 3-6 Café
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, April 11
3:30-5:00 WeDo Robotics K-2 Café
3:30-4:30 Art Brains K-2 Staff Lounge
3:30-4:30 Lego Robotics 3-6 Café
3:30-4:45 Girls on the Run 3-6 Field/Track

Tuesday, April 12
3:30-4:30 3D Printing 3-6 Café
3:30-4:30 Intro Comp Sci K-4 Café
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, April 13
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 Café
3:30-5:00 Minecraft Modding 4-6 Café
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 Scrabble 2-6 Room 219
3:30-4:45 Girls on the Run 3-6 Field/Track

Thursday, April 14
3:30-5:00 Chess Club 2-6 Café
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, April 15
3:30-4:30 Minecraft Anim 1-3 Café
3:30-4:30 Java Prog 3-6 Café
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
4:00-8:00 Churchill Challenge 5K Packet Pick-up Stage

Saturday, April 16
8:00-1:00 Churchill Challenge 5K School

SMILE, IT’S……..Spring Individual and Class Picture Day!

Smile….Friday, April 8th is Spring Picture Day! Individual and class photos will be taken. Order forms were sent home in last week’s (March 30) VIP folder; extras are available in the front office.

April Principal’s Coffee and PTA Meeting on Wednesday, April 13

Join us for the April Principal’s Coffee at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13 in the CRS exploratory arts room. Take this opportunity to speak with Mr. Hutzel in an informal setting on topics of interest.

The general membership meeting of the Churchill Road PTA begins at 8:45 a.m., immediately following the principal’s coffee. At this month’s meeting, the Long Range Planning survey results will be discussed and the nominating committee will present their slate for the 2016/2017 school year. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Mark your calendar for the remaining principal’s coffeees and PTA meetings of the school year: May 11 and June 8, 2016.

Final Superintendent’s Listening Tour April 13

Superintendent Karen K. Garza invites students, parents, employees, and community members to participate in the final 2016 Listening Tour meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m., at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly. Garza, accompanied by the regional assistant superintendent, will provide an update on the budget, Strategic Plan, classroom initiatives, and other happenings in FCPS and listen to ideas, comments, and questions from the audience. Those planning to attend are asked to register in advance online and indicate if an interpreter is needed. Additional information is available at http://www.fcps.edu/news/listening.shtml.

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 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.