**Langley Leapers Enjoy CRS “Internship”**

Over the past two weeks, a group of Langley High School seniors, called “Langley Leapers”, have been working with classroom teachers at CRS. The students, upon completion of their exams were given this opportunity to participate in this special “internship,” and even given the students some special lessons -- including looking at the sun through a filtered telescope (below).

Thank you to all the students (some of whom are Churchill alums) who came in and helped out with our students this month and good luck to them when they begin college in the fall: Catherine C. (William & Mary); Ahmaad C. (George Mason); Caroline D. (UNC Wilmington); Garrison E. (Baylor); Abby J. (William & Mary); Joseph M. (Carnegie Mellon); Christian O. (California); Julia P. (University College – London); Mackenzi R. (Christopher Newport); Sergei S. (Alabama); and Tavon T. (Spire Academy).

**Band and Strings Students End the Year with Spirited Performances**

Our school is alive with the sound of music! Last week, our strings students, under the direction of Jacqueline Robertson, gave a wonderful concert. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 performed a variety of contemporary and classic tunes.

This week, our 5th and 6th grade band students, as well as our student drum line, played for students and parents. Carina Gutjahr, our band conductor, lead the students through a variety of great songs.

Congratulations to our music teachers and students for sharing their accomplishments with all of us!
Retirement Celebration Honoring
Mrs. McHale and Mrs. Choi
Thursday, June 16

The CRS PTA Staff Appreciation Committee is hosting a celebration after school tomorrow, June 16, in honor of 4th grade teacher Mrs. Claire McHale and instructional assistant, Mrs. Young Choi. All are welcome and we hope to see both current students and alumni. Refreshments will be served in the Exploratory Arts Room from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Bugz and Biomes are Big Hits

On June 9th, second graders performed two musicals for parents and fellow students. Bugz (Ms. Bamdad’s, Mr. Healey’s and 2/3 of Mrs. Zemke’s students) focused on being inclusive with friends. Biomes (Ms. Dunleavy’s, Ms. Finger’s and 1/3 of Mrs. Zemke’s class) showed us that each animal belongs in its own habitat or biome. Second grade extends a special thank you to Langley Leap students Sergei, Abby and Joseph, who helped us with the sets and costumes. See the videos posted on the CRS homepage here.

6th Grade Gratitude! What a FUN Party!!!

Sincere thanks to the extraordinary Committee Chairs: Heather Schone, Michelle Kladakis, Tracy McGowan, Melissa Schwartz, Linda Rupli, Julie Broad, Agata Troy, Jae Han, Soraya Radwan, Jennifer Gatewood, Kim Jones, Kathy Wicker and Mel Quinn. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers and to our generous donors! The kids had an absolute BLAST! We couldn't have done it without you!

THANK YOU - Amy Swaak and Lisa Givens
Party Co-Chairs

Cheryl Bamdad - FCPS Teacher of the Year Nominee

On June 8th, Cheryl Bamdad, along with other FCPS Teacher, Principal and Support Staff of the Year nominees, was honored at a program held at George Mason’s Center for the Arts. Nominated by parent Micky Chopra, Ms. Bamdad was recognized for her organization, creativity, leadership, and dedication to the children of Churchill Road. Kudos to Ms. Bamdad!
President’s Pen

As the 2015-2016 school year winds to a close, I have found it is impossible for my closing President’s Pen to pick a single topic that has defined the CRS PTA this year. So, I decided to go with an old David Letterman standby…the Top 10 List (okay…space constraints, so we are going with the Top 5)! Here are the top 5 things that I will remember about this year at CRS. I challenge you to come up with your own Top 5 List (#CRS2016 Top 5), and share it with our CRS Facebook page.

1. **Standing Up and Speaking Out** – our Advocacy Committee reminded me why local politics and issues are so important. This is where citizens can most efficiently effect change on issues that affect their daily lives. Take time this summer to vet the arguments for and against the meals tax proposed by the Board of Supervisors, understand for yourself the concept of local revenue diversification (it’s a real nail biter)—but make your own informed decision. Please reach out to the Advocacy Committee as a resource.

2. **Community** – sharing popcorn at family movie night, cheering on friends at bingo, or crossing the finish line together at the Churchill Challenge–CRS is community. Whether it’s older students mentoring younger ones or parents keeping an eye out for the children of others, we are lucky at CRS to have that “village”. But, remember that while “we are Churchill”, we are also McLean…we are Fairfax County…we are Virginia and beyond. It has been inspiring this year to see that, even though our community members may have different views and different opinions, those differences are respected and do not divide our community.

3. **Appreciation** – a little appreciation goes a long way. Our Staff Appreciation Committee has done a fantastic job of showing our gratitude to our teachers and staff…creative ideas like that awesome gift card tree. Help us out by giving our teachers and staff members a smile and a thank you next week—trust me, you’ll be so excited to see them in September.

4. **Taking Ownership** – we should not take for granted the wonderful education and benefits we and our children enjoy at CRS. It can be hard to remember and appreciate that CRS is a public school because CRS does have so much to offer. But, CRS does not come with a $20K+ tuition bill, plus the various other fees and donations expected at a private school. That $20K will get you concierge service, lush rolling lawns, horses, and more. Our CRS teachers and staff do a fantastic job with the level of resources they receive from FCPS and the mandates they are given by the federal and state government. The CRS PTA does what it can to help fill financial gaps and provide volunteers to help facilitate and support CRS programs and initiatives. I appreciate that not everyone is able to volunteer or has limited capacity, but if you are interested in trying to find something that works for you, please reach out to me over the summer—I’m not joking when I say we have something for everyone. I fully support you in standing up and speaking out about how things are going, with the full expectation that in doing so you will also be stepping up to be part of the solution. The ability of the CRS PTA is limited by the amount of financial and volunteer support we receive from the CRS community.

5. **Joy** – this is my favorite take-away. Watching the 6th graders revel in the fun of the 6th grade party—and watching the eyes of the 1st graders going to music eagerly anticipating their turn. The excitement of the Science Olympiad team at their victory. The joy of the Shrek cast when their year of hard work paid off in laughter and applause. Watching CRS alums at bingo night helping younger kids and participating with the same level of excitement. Recess football refereed by Mr. Healey—need I say more? It’s probably my daughter’s looming 6th grade graduation next week making me sappy, but my favorite part of the year has been watching my children and their friends and school-mates take advantage of everything childhood and CRS have to offer this year.

Lest you think that I’m getting too sappy…you can re-live this year’s memories, too. There are still a few yearbooks available! Seriously, the CRS PTA will be hard at work over the summer—planning assemblies, beta testing new software, auditing this year’s books and preparing next year’s budget, and more. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Melissa Schwartz, CRS PTA President
President1@churchillroadpta.org
**WELLNESS CORNER**

Little changes make a big difference

**Importance of Reflecting on our Achievements**

*Students in Girls on the Run successfully completed a 5K race.*

We are in the final countdown of the 2015-2016 school year; tomorrow marks the last full Thursday and the following day is the final Friday! You may have a stack of books for summer reading or have already packed the car for the beach or for camping or other fun summer excursions. We tend to spend a lot of time thinking about the future, and planning is important to accomplishing things that are important to us.

However, it is also valuable that we reflect on our achievements. Take time this week to recognize the successes of the school year, new skills that were acquired, friendships made, successful performances, and the work necessary for long-term projects. Applauding our accomplishments builds confidence, brings awareness to our core capabilities, and helps us to recognize our unique talents and improved strengths.

Reflecting on our accomplishments also encourages us to set new goals, leveraging the skills we have mastered to reach a bigger challenge. Maybe a highlight of the year for your student was trying a new musical instrument, an in-depth inquiry project, taking the stage for a school production, being introduced to intriguing math concepts, or creating a clay masterpiece. Work to build on those strengths this summer and in the upcoming school year. Reflecting and celebrating our achievements also helps us to become more aware of others successes and breeds gratitude and appreciation for the effort necessary to succeed.

Congratulations to all our CRS students, teachers, staff, and families for a really wonderful year filled with successes and many moments of greatness!

---

**School Supply Reminder!**

As of the first day of summer break, all school supply lists will now be listed on Amazon Smile ([www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)). Parents will have the option of buying directly from Amazon or of printing the list out and purchasing supplies from brick and mortar stores. Please consider purchasing directly from Amazon Smile as CRS will receive a small percentage of your purchase price as a charitable donation from Amazon! In order for this to work, you must have an active Amazon Smile account with Churchill Rd Elementary listed as your beneficiary. Register at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). For detailed instructions on finding these school-supply lists on the web, please go to the CRS PTA website at [www.churchillroadpta.org](http://www.churchillroadpta.org).

If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Marino, 2016-17 CRS PTA VP of Fundraising, at membershipsecretary1@churchillroadpta.org.

---

**Langley Pyramid Crayon Initiative**

As the school year draws to an end, many used and unwanted school supplies are routinely thrown in the trash. The Langley pyramid schools are working together on a pyramid-wide service project to collect and recycle used crayons for The Crayon Initiative. The Crayon Initiative collects unwanted crayons, remanufactures them, and provides them to pediatric wards at hospitals all over the country. Art helps hospitalized children by alleviating anxiety and offering creative outlets for self-expression. In addition, The Crayon Initiative supports environmental efforts by diverting non-biodegradable crayons from the landfills.

Crayons will be collected from all the elementary schools and the middle school in this pyramid. Langley High School students will sort and mail the crayons to The Crayon Initiative as their first service project of the new school year in September 2016. Please donate crayons for The Crayon Initiative by placing crayons in the collection box located in our school. Students are also encouraged to bring in used crayons from home for this collection. Donations will be accepted through the last day of school. Thank you for your contributions.
Year-End Box Tops Update

Our Box Tops for Education program top 10 student contributors for the school year are:
- Kanuux Chaudhuri (628)
- Christopher Tillotson (400)
- Lane Hueber (372)
- Liam Schuette (356)
- Christie Keiser (349)
- Catherine Zavela (272)
- Sarah Waits (265)
- Julia Jackson (257)
- Nicholas Anthony (252)
- Grant Peterson (252)

Congratulations to our top 10 students. Each of these students will receive a prize. The winning classes are:
- Ms. Robosky’s 6th grade class – (100% participation, 59.9 Box Tops per student)
- Mr. Kilpatrick’s 4th grade class – (100% participation, 43.5 Box Tops per student)
- Mrs. Stowe’s 3rd grade class – (100% participation, 22.5 Box Tops per student)
- Mrs. Kuhfuss’ 6th grade class – (100% participation, 17 Box Tops per student)
- Mrs. Williams’ 1st grade class - (100% participation, 16.9 Box Tops per student)
- Mr. Depa’s 5th grade class– (100% participation, 10.8 Box Tops per student)
- Mrs. Zemke’s 2nd grade class – (45% participation, 79.5 Box Tops per person)

These classes will each do something fun with Mr. Hutzel!

Congratulations to all of you, and thank you all for participating in the Box Tops program this year and helping our school earn a lot of money!

If you have any more Box Tops, particularly those that will expire during the summer, please turn them in by the last day of school. And don’t forget to look for Box Tops over the summer months – we will be collecting them again in the fall.

Thanks again for your support!
Carla Gilbertson, CRS Box Tops Coordinator
boxtops1@churchillroadpta.org

1st Grade Reading Rodeo!

First graders had a beautiful day for their annual reading rodeo, where the students shared their realistic fiction with students and parents, square-danced, had a picnic lunch and enjoyed outdoor games.

Cheers of the Week…!

Congratulations to our Churchill Cheer winners for the week of June 6. Cheers are given to students who follow the five R’s. Winners are: Jack King (Kindergarten); Kingston Zhang (1st); Katherine Chopra (2nd); Dhilan Desai (3rd); and Luke Greehan (4th). Our good citizenship winners are Sophia Stagaraescu (5th grade) and Emilie Kim (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.
Over the past weekend, Churchill Road’s Musical Theater program presented *Shrek: the Musical* at the Arena Stage in Washington DC. The student performers sang, danced, and joked their way through the story of lovable ogres, boisterous princesses, and talking donkeys, to name just a few of the offbeat but lovable characters. Directed by teachers David Ericson and Scott Gustaveson, and produced by teachers Nick Kilpatrick and Mary Lynn Robosky, the show was a rousing success!