

Quick Notes

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

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School Calendar

Tuesday	Sept. 29		Student Pictures – Middle School Students & Siblings (Please see details below.)
Wednesday	Sept. 30	12:15-12:45 p.m.	Lunch-A-Month (12:05-12:45 for middle school) - Parents Welcome (chicken nuggets, chips, brownies, lemonade)
Monday	Oct. 5		No Classes - School Closed for Staff In-Service Day
Wednesday	Oct. 7	12:15-12:45 p.m.	Lunch-A-Month (12:05-12:45 for middle school) - Parents Welcome (pancake & sausage on a stick, syrup, cooked apples, cookie, lemonade)
Tuesday – Thursday	Oct. 13-15		Fall Festival (Please see details below.)
Friday	Oct. 16		School Closed – Everyone rest up after the Fall Festival trips!
Wednesday	Oct. 21	12:15-12:45 p.m.	Pizza Day (12:05-12:45 for Middle School) - Parents Welcome No pizza day for Seminar students.
Thursday	Oct. 22		Bolivian Exchange Students Arrive
Saturday	Oct. 24	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Monthly Parent Work Day (Please see information below.)
Wednesday	Oct. 28	12:15-12:45 p.m.	Pizza Day (12:05-12:45 for Middle School) - Parents Welcome No pizza day for Seminar students.
Tuesday	Nov. 3		Conference Day – No Classes

Notes from the Administrative Director (Michi)

Plans are underway for this year's *Fall Festival*, our annual outdoor/camping tradition at Community School. *Fall Festival* trips will take place the second week of October. At Gatherings, the teachers distributed handouts providing details about cost, schedules, gear, and supplies your child will need. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions, or if you did not receive the handouts. *Fall Festival* days are considered school days, and attendance is expected.

Fees cover the cost of food, supplies, activities, and shelter/accommodations. **All payments should go directly to the classroom teacher and should be paid by Monday, October 12.** We understand that some families find it difficult to pay for this activity. We welcome contributions toward the expenses of students for whom the fee is too costly. Our priority is for every student to have the opportunity to experience our *Fall Festival* tradition.

Fall Festival Trip Information

Classes	Trip Details	Cost
Katlyn, Tulie, Ruth Ann	Pumpkin Patch Trip Wednesday, October 14	No fee
Beth, Katie, Lena	Peaks of Otter Thursday, October 15	\$10 per student
Kim and Betsy	Apple Ridge Farms Tues. – Wed., October 13-14	\$35 per student
Middle School	Sherando Lake State Park (Linda, trip leader) Watoga State Park (Emilie, trip leader) Tues. – Thurs., October 13-15	\$40 per student

Carpools Needed!	Several CS families are currently looking for carpools in the following areas: Salem, Vinton/Hardy, northeast Roanoke County close to CS, and Cave Spring/Bent Mountain. If you are interested in a carpool arrangement in one of these areas, or if you can help out one of these families, please contact Victoria (victoria@communityschool.net).
Of Special Interest to Piano Students	The Hollins University Music Department is sponsoring a piano ensemble concert by duo pianists Paul Hanson and Joanne Kong. Featuring Russian and French masterworks, including Stravinsky's Concerto for Two Solo Pianos, Ravel's Mother Goose Suite, and Messiaen's monumental Visions de l'Amen, this free concert takes place on Sunday, October 4, at 3:00 p.m. in Talmadge Recital Hall, Bradley. For information, call the Hollins Music Department at 362-6511.
Please Return Your Family Handbook Receipt	Each family should have received a Community School Family Handbook Receipt at their respective Gatherings or via their child. If you have not already done so, please sign and return the form as soon as possible. If you did not receive a form, please pick one up in the main office.
New Cell Phone Safety Policy	<p>Community School's parking lot is very congested during drop off and pickup. For the safety of your child and everyone at Community School, we are implementing a new cell phone safety policy:</p> <p><u>CELL PHONES ARE PROHIBITED DURING DROP OFF AND PICKUP.</u></p> <p>We need everyone to give full attention to their driving while on our school property. This reduces the risk of an accident involving another vehicle or, more seriously, an accident involving a child, parent, staff member, or visitor. Thank you very much for your cooperation.</p>

Middle School Friday Groups



Experiential Learning at its Best

One of the many unique features of our middle school curriculum involves the series of experiential learning opportunities known as Friday Groups. Each quarter, middle school students choose from a variety of electives that vary from quarter to quarter and year to year. The duration of each elective, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. over six to eight Fridays, enables students to focus in depth on their topic and allows for off-campus components. Elective topics frequently involve subjects covered only briefly or not at all in a traditional middle school curriculum. The topics range from the visual arts, science, drama, literature, and music to practical life skills, sports, community service, and environmental studies. This quarter, our middle school students are exploring the following subjects:

- Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, and *Much Ado about Nothing*, including such fun activities as performing *Hamlet* in 45 seconds (or less) and perfecting the ability to hurl Shakespearian insults and compliments.
- Claymation, a study of art and technology involving teams of students creating and producing short original animations.
- Nutrition, exercise, and classic games, including certification through the Red Cross Babysitter Training Course.
- Rock and rap concert tour and Guitar Hero Classics involving the study of classic rock groups, the formation of imaginary rock and rap groups, and planning a twenty-city concert tour with tour promotion.
- Fall Festival trip preparation including hiking and biking excursions and learning about camping gear, first aid, biking skills, and bike repair.

Student Pictures

Make-up Pictures: Date to be announced

Please call the school office to request a sibling photo--only students on the list will be photographed with siblings. Clothing for portraits can be dressy or casual. Small prints, plaids or solids work well. T-shirts with pictures or writing generally take attention away from the face. Most colors of clothing work well, although large areas of black and white **do not** work well.

New this year! Monthly Parent Work Days

October 24
November 21
December 19

There is always something to fix and repair at CS; the list is never ending. If you were not able to participate at our rainy August parent work day, don’t despair. We plan to have monthly parent work days. With your help, we can keep repairs costs to minimum. **Join us on October 24, November 21, and December 19, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.** Please call the office, so we will know how many people to expect. You will be working with Gene Lurker, our maintenance and repair supervisor. Thank you!

Box Tops for Education – Special Drawing

Box Tops for Education is having a big promotion to win a ton of extra box tops for Community School. During the promotion, you can enter daily. If we win the drawing, we can get either \$25,000 (2nd/3rd) or \$50,000 (grand prize)! Please visit: <http://www.thebigclip.com/index.tbapp>. Last year, we received over \$500 from Box Tops. Whether or not you enter the drawing on our behalf, please clip those coupons and send them to school!

<p>The Best “Free Money” We’ll Ever Get</p> <p>Both of these programs are a great benefit to CS, and anyone can participate—THERE IS NO COST TO THE PURCHASER. Please encourage grandparents and other family members to sign on, too.</p>	<p>Last year, we received almost \$3500 from Kroger from our families' use of Community School/Kroger Gift Cards to purchase groceries and gas. This is such an easy program. Gift Cards are for sale in the main office for \$5 (which is returned to you as a credit on the card). You add value to the card either at the Kroger Service Desk or at the checkout, then use the card to pay your bill. The card is electronically tied to Community School, and Kroger donates a percentage of your total bill to the school. If you already have a card and use it whenever you shop at Kroger, thank you! If you shop at Kroger but aren't "Shopping for Community School," please stop by and get a card from Connie. It's a great program for the school.</p> <p>Food Lion also has a great shopping benefit program...go to their website and link your MVP card to Community School. Then each time you check out, the amount is tallied, and we receive cash back from Food Lion. Easy!</p>
<p>Scholastic Software Clubs Earn Software for CS</p>	<p>All software purchases made from Scholastic Software Club earns points toward software for our computer lab and classrooms. You may view the software titles available and make your purchase online. This cuts down on paper wasted by sending out fliers with each student and also the necessity on your part to send a check in with your child. It should be a simpler and "greener" process all the way around. Approximately one week after the cut-off date on the ordering site, your software will be delivered to school and Lelia will deliver it to your child. Please consider supporting our technology department by purchasing your children's software through Scholastic. The website for you to view the software and place the order is http://teacher.scholastic.com/clubs/routing.asp. The user name is "lelia" and the password is "software." You can find this link and another simple way to support us on Lelia's blog: http://purple-puter-lady.blogspot.com/. This information will be in the sidebar. Thank you very much!</p>