



COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

Quick Notes

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

School Calendar

(Please visit http://www.communityschool.net/news_cal.html for a more detailed school calendar.)

Monday – Friday	Dec. 5 – Dec. 9	See Info Below	Community School Book Fair Location: Boxwoods House, 1 st floor art & Spanish rooms
Wednesday	Dec. 7	12:15-12:45 pm	Pizza Day (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome Bake Sale (proceeds benefit the Middle School Choirs)
Thursday	Dec. 8	6:00 pm	Bolivian Exchange Information Meeting (drama room)
Wednesday	Dec. 14	12:15-12:45 pm	Pizza Day (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome Bake Sale (proceeds benefit the Bolivian Exchange Program)
Monday – Friday	Dec. 19 - Dec. 30		School Closed for Winter Break
Monday	Jan. 2		Classes Resume

Weather Closing and Delay Information

If there is any chance of a weather-related school closing or delayed opening, please check one or more of the following TV or radio stations: WSLs-TV 10, WDBJ-7, Q-99 FM or K-92FM. (Note: WVTF no longer provides closing information on the air or online.) Best bet for accurate, timely information: call Community School (563-5036) after 6:00 am on the morning of a potential closing and listen to the voice mail message or check the CS webpage. Please recheck the listings throughout the morning as our opening status occasionally changes as weather conditions change. On days of a delayed 10:00 am opening: classes start at 10:00 am, and there is no Before School Care. You may drop off your children beginning at 9:45 am. If weather requires an early school dismissal, we will post it on our webpage and the TV and radio stations listed above. **Please note:** CS does not follow the other systems; we make our own decisions regarding weather closings and delays.

Would you like to receive notification of our school closings and delayed openings through Twitter?

Just go to our homepage (www.communityschool.net) and click on the small Twitter button on the lower right side of the page. You must have an account to follow us. If you don't have a Twitter account, you will be able to create one from this page. Don't worry, it's easy and free. As you set up your account, you will have the option to have our notifications sent to your cell phone as a text message, or you can read notifications on your computer. We recommend that you set your account to send our tweets to your cell phone, as you will know almost immediately, wherever you are, if we have to call for an early closing. At this time, we will only use this service for weather and early closing notifications. You don't have to worry about being inundated with tweets from us! If we decide to use this service for notifications of other school-wide events, you will read it in *Quick Notes* before we implement it.

Community School Book Fair This Week

Dates: December 5 - 9
Times: 2:00 - 5:00 pm daily and for special events (see flyer attached to November 22 QM)
Location: Spanish and art rooms (1st floor of the Boxwoods House) and online through the link on our website to Amazon.com

Friends and family (and busy parents) may access a Book Fair website for our school through a link on the Community School website. This website will have information specific to our Book Fair, schedules of special events, teacher wish lists, etc. This website opened on November 20. For the entire month of December, all Amazon purchases made through our website will be added to the Book Fair totals and will be split between the teachers for their classroom budgets. Just enter the Amazon site through the link on our website and your purchase will qualify for a donation to Community School. A wish list has been created for each teacher on the Amazon website. You can find it by clicking on "wish lists" and then typing pattie@communityschool.net into the search box. The teachers' names are listed on the left side of the Community School page.

Program Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides

Date/Time: Saturday, December 10, at 7:30 pm
Location: Taubman Museum of Art
Cost: Taubman Friends \$5, non-members \$10. Please RSVP to 540.204.4122 or RSVP@taubmanmuseum.org

The Taubman Museum of Art is very excited to welcome Mike Wiley and Eric Etheridge to their Conversations at the Taubman series for a dramatic program celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides, a key event in nationalizing America's Civil Rights Struggle. We often think of such events in mythic terms, but they were profoundly the result of individual human decisions and actions. Both Wiley and Etheridge work in their own way to document and dramatize the real lives, and real stories, contained within larger histories.

Mike Wiley is a playwright, actor, and was the 2010 Lehman Brady Visiting Joint Chair Professor in Documentary Studies and American Studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also a native Roanoker, and is, in the words of the writer Tim Tyson, "a home-grown genius." For over a decade, he has been dramatizing the African American experience in plays he writes, directs, produces, and performs himself. His work has appeared everywhere from school stages to PBS and the Discovery Channel.

Eric Etheridge is a native of Mississippi, and a former editor of *The Nation*, *Harper's*, and *Rolling Stone*. He is the author and photographer of *Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Mississippi Freedom Riders*, which includes portraits exhibited at the Smithsonian, the High Museum in Atlanta, and the Field Museum in Chicago, and published in *The New York Times*. It was also a primary source for Mike Wiley's new play, *The Parchman Hour*.

Josh C. (CS alumnus and current parent as well as CHS co-director) is the moderator of this program and the curator behind the Conversations at the Taubman series.

Buy a Holiday Song & Support the CS Choirs

The Middle School Choir and Show Choir are once again sharing holiday songs for \$1 per person, per song. Choose a song for your favorite Community School person, and a group of choir members will sing your holiday greeting during the week of December 12. Your recipient will also receive a card showing who sent the song. All proceeds go to the choirs for their spring trip to the Kings Dominion Choral Festival. What a great way to wish someone happy holidays and to support the choral program! Please fill out your requests on the form attached to *Quick Notes* on November 19 and return to Kim M. by Wednesday, December 14.

Feeding America Needs Our Help

Deadline to turn in UPC codes is
Friday, December 16.

Community School is participating in Feeding America's program (FeedingAmerica.org) to reduce childhood hunger. ConAgra Foods will make a monetary donation to Feeding America based on the number of UPC codes collected for a total of 5 million meals on behalf of local food banks throughout the school year. You should have received a handout on Conference Day with details on this program and a list of brand foods. If you use these products, cut the UPC codes and send them to school with your child. Childhood hunger is a serious and growing problem in our country.

Sibling Applications for Fall 2012

If you are interested in enrolling a sibling in our fall 2012 classes, please contact Victoria by January 13 (victoria@communityschool.net). This year, our early learner and elementary classes are full, and we anticipate that spaces will be very tight again next fall. Siblings of current students have priority for available spaces, but we must know how many siblings are interested in order to reserve those spaces. Students must turn three by the end of September 2012 in order to apply for our early learner classes. **Please note: We cannot guarantee priority placement for siblings unless parents notify us of their intent by January 13.**

Coats for Kids Service Project

The middle school will be collecting gently used coats to donate to Roanoke Area Ministries as part of the annual Coats for Kids program. Coats can be any size, but should be clean and in good condition. Linda's classroom in the middle school has a donation box for them and will accept coats from December 1 through January 17. Thank you for your help.

Needed for Art Project

We are still in need of rocks for our cairn. If you are taking a trip over the holiday break, perhaps you could bring back an interesting rock for our project? Or, if you have visitors coming, perhaps they could bring one to share? Thank you for your assistance!

Alumni Updates

- 1) Recently, *The Roanoke Times* featured an article on yet another CS alumnus. **Alex B.** (Seminar class of 2007) received attention for his passion for herpetology. Now a senior at Salem High School, he breeds and sells corn snakes and ball pythons and collects data on their natural habitat. Alex surveyed reptiles and amphibians in western Roanoke County's Fort Louis Mountain and presented his findings in October in Raleigh at the North American Association for Environmental Education conference. He was the youngest presenter there. You can find the article on Alex at <http://www.roanoke.com/theedge/stories/wb/301459>. While a student at CS, Alex won the grand prize in two national competitions sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and Random House Books and by The National Geographic Society.
 - 2) **Houston J.** (Seminar class of 1996; CS Extended Studies Program 2000), who completed his Ph.D. in history at the University of Tennessee this past May, is currently teaching at Bridgewater College as a visiting assistant professor of history. His sister, **Paige J.**, (Seminar class of 1999) is currently living in Pasadena, California. For the past four years she has been the Curatorial Assistant at the Dinosaur Institute of the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History. After being intensely involved with the design, development, and opening (this past July) of the widely renowned new Dinosaur Hall at the museum, Paige decided to move on to new challenges. She has just started a new job in a support role with the JCAP (Joint Centre for Artificial Photosynthesis) program at Cal Tech in Pasadena. Even though she majored in philosophy at Occidental College, Paige credits her lifelong interest in science to her Community School roots.
 - 3) **Alex L.** (Seminar class of 2001) is currently pursuing a master of arts in classics at Washington University in St. Louis. He was also accepted into the classics program at U.C. Santa Barbara. Alex remains torn between pursuing a Ph.D. in classics or a M.D. He graduated from Carlton College in 2009 with a major in classical languages and a concentration in chemistry.
 - 4) **Maggie H.** (Seminar class of 2008), a first-year student at Burton Center for Performing Arts, was chosen recently to be the dance captain for their upcoming "Holidazzle" show. She also received first place in the Hidden Valley High School's Shakespeare Competition sponsored by the English-Speaking Union of the United States. She will go to the district competition at Virginia Western Community College on December 10. Maggie is a very busy young lady, including among her extracurricular activities: vice president of the HVHS Drama Club, secretary of the HVHS chapter of the International Thespian Society, Flag Corps member, Prevention Council leader, youth leader and organizer of the regional YADAPP (Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project), director of the HVHS competition play "Cagebirds," and Professional Actors Studio member of the Kevin Jones Performing Arts Studio. She also dances for Linda Watkins' School of Dance.
 - 5) **Sam S.** (Seminar Class of 2011) was recently inducted into the Junior Honor Society at Salem High School where she is in pre-International Baccalaureate classes and is on the A/B Honor Roll. Her mother observed that the high school transition has been painless and that Sam was extremely well prepared academically.
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How Do Parents Influence Student Achievement?

How much influence do you as a parent have on your child's academic achievement? According to a recent op-ed piece by *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman, quite a bit. Check out his column (November 19) discussing the recently published findings of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/opinion/sunday/friedman-how-about-better-parents.html?_r=1&ref=thomasfriedman, then go home and share a book with your child.

Thank you!

Thank you to Tom O., Chris N., Ann & Frank L., Carol T., Gerard M., Howard H., and Charles K. for volunteering your time at our recent parent workday. We appreciate all that you accomplished! Your combined effort to maintain and repair things at CS helps our budget, and it is a great way to meet other parents. Missed volunteering because of your busy schedule? Not to worry—the next parent workday is Saturday, January 14.

Tuition Payment Information

The December tuition payment is due December 20 for those parents/caregivers on the monthly payment plan. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Nelson at sue@communityschool.net.

Visit our Staff Bulletin Board

This week's featured staff: Katrina (middle school teacher), Holly (executive director), and Ruth Ann (early learner teacher). Come by the second floor hallway in the Boxwoods House to learn all about us!

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