



COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

Quick Notes

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

School Calendar

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

Wednesday	Nov. 2	12:15-12:45 pm	Lunch-A-Month (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome (all beef hotdog, chips, fruit, lemonade) Bake Sale (proceeds benefit the Middle School Choirs)
Wednesday	Nov. 2	6:15 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting (Emilie T.'s room)
Tuesday	Nov. 8		Conference Day (No classes) Schedules attached. See additional information below.
Wednesday	Nov. 9	12:15-12:45 pm	Pizza Day (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome Bake Sale (sponsored by Keri's class)
Tuesday	Nov. 15	10:00 am	Open House for Prospective Parents
Wednesday	Nov. 16	12:15-12:45 pm	Lunch-A-Month (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome (tacos, chips & salsa, black beans, lemonade) Bake Sale (proceeds benefit the Bolivian Exchange Program)
Wednesday	Nov. 23	11:00-1:00 pm 12:00-1:00 pm 1:00 pm	Student Art Show (Ballator Gallery, Moody Center) Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon (Moody Center dining hall) (Watch for details in <i>Quick Notes</i> on Nov. 8) Early Dismissal from Hollins University. No ASP.
Thursday-Friday	Nov. 24- Nov. 25		School Closed for Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday	Nov. 30	12:15-12:45 pm	Lunch-A-Month (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome (quesadillas, chips, corn, lemonade) Bake Sale (sponsored by upper elementary)
Monday – Friday	Dec. 5 – Dec. 9	Time: TBA	Community School Book Fair Location: Boxwoods House, 1 st floor art & Spanish rooms (Watch for details in <i>Quick Notes</i> on Nov. 8)
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)
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

Notes from the Executive Director (Holly)

New Building Addition in the Planning Stages

As we watch your children learn and grow, we will be watching our campus facilities grow as well! We are proud to announce that we are working toward building an addition onto our music, technology, Early Learner, and elementary building. This addition will house our new music lab and a new science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) lab. This exciting opportunity presented itself due to the positive fundraising campaign for our Yamaha keyboard lab and a generous gift designated to outfit a STEM facility.

Although we are still in the planning stages, we welcome your questions, ideas, and donations. You may contact Holly at hollyh@communityschool.net or 563.5036.

Conference Day on November 8

Please see the attached schedules for your child's conference time.

On Tuesday, November 8, CS will hold its first Conference Day of the year. There will be no school on this day, but children are expected to attend their conference with their parent or caregiver. Prior to conferences, students, with the help of their teachers, compile a portfolio of the work that best demonstrates their progress over the past nine weeks. Students evaluate their own progress, share how they feel about their work, and set goals for the upcoming nine weeks. Conference Day is an important component of your child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive assessment. Please contact your child's teacher if you need to reschedule your child's conference.

Remember:

1. No regular classes on Tuesday, November 8.
2. Bring your child to his/her conference.
3. Please arrive on time and please respect the appointment, staff lunch, or planning time that follows your child's conference.

Fall Open House

Date: Tuesday, November 15
Time: 10:00 am

Our Fall Open House is one of our most important opportunities to recruit new students and a great chance for prospective parents to learn about our curriculum and philosophy. You can help our recruitment efforts by reminding your friends, neighbors, and co-workers about this event, giving out invitation postcards, and placing flyers around the Valley. You can pick up flyers, postcards, and referral cards in the main office. Remember: Current families can earn a \$250 tuition credit for referring a new student who enrolls at CS (details below). We have space in the middle school classes for mid-year transfers, and we are accepting applications for all levels for fall 2012.

The open house will begin with registration at 10:00 am in the drama room, followed by a brief information session at 10:15. From 10:35 to 11:45, current parents and students will lead tours through our classrooms. The tours will conclude back in the drama room with refreshments and a chance to chat with other parents and staff.

If you have any questions about this event or admissions in general, please contact Victoria (563-5036 or victoria@communityschool.net). Thank you for supporting our extraordinary school!

Parent Assistance Needed

Parent volunteers with a graphic design and/or marketing background are needed to help design a series of promotional postcards for Community School. These postcards will be placed around the Valley in libraries and similar locations, distributed in real estate relocation packets, mailed to prospects, and adapted for use in advertising admissions events. If you would like to help, please contact victoria@communityschool.net.

School Calendar Change

New Arts Festival Date: May 18

Please note that this year's annual Arts Festival, originally scheduled for Friday, May 25, 2012, has been moved to Friday, May 18, 2012. The event will take place on the campus of Hollins University. Dismissal will be at 1:00 pm from Hollins, and there will be no after school care provided. If you have any questions, please contact Holly at hollyh@communityschool.net.

Peek Into Our Classes

These “peeks” are intended as a sampling of the learning activities occurring in our classrooms. Not every child will participate in each of the activities listed for their level. For specifics about your child's class, please visit the teacher blogs on our website.



In art class, students are:

- ✓ continuing their creative journaling—recycling and repurposing old books into works of art that express each student's individuality and enable them to visually communicate their learning experiences across the curriculum
- ✓ working on individual pieces for our student art show on Nov. 23; these multimedia works emphasize the fall color palette and seasonal materials.
- ✓ learning about perspective (fore-, mid-, and background) while creating collages out of recycled materials (upper elementary)
- ✓ working in three-dimensions and using overlapping techniques while creating paper sculptures and simple collages (middle elementary)
- ✓ working in three dimensions, exploring with leaves, and creating “bugs” (lower elementary)
- ✓ studying watercolors and the use of watercolor pencils (middle school)

In music class, students are:

- ✓ starting instrumental lessons—piano in lower elementary, recorders and ukuleles in upper elementary; middle elementary will start a drum unit in January
- ✓ finishing a music composition unit and transcribing their new creations using Finale Notepad software (middle school)
- ✓ learning about traditional regional music while listening to a hammered dulcimer concert by a local folk musician during an al fresco lunch on October 7

In drama class, students are:

- ✓ exploring the use of neutral masks, delaying the use of spoken words and focusing on communication through gesture and movement; exercises incorporate the four elements (fire, earth, water, air), animal movements, and human actions (middle school)
- ✓ developing characters with costumes and props (elementary)
- ✓ using characters they create to work toward group-devised scenarios, introducing students to script writing and directing (middle elementary through middle school)

- ✓ developing vocal and physical experience through drama games (early learner)

In **Spanish class**, students are:

- ✓ interacting with and learning from our eleven Bolivian Exchange students
- ✓ learning the vocabulary for body parts in conjunction with a cultural unit on All Saints and the Day of the Dead
- ✓ working on “ar” and “er” verb conjugations and studying the irregular verb “to go” (middle school)

Thank You!

The second event in Community School’s “Fall Into the Arts” series was held on Wednesday, October 26. The Hudson Trio performed classical, Bulgarian folk, and Broadway inspired music. Special thanks to Caroline Chin, violinist, Robert Burkhart, cellist, and Vladimir Valjarevic, pianist, for their beautiful performance. Thanks also go to Pattie S. and Kim M. for organizing the concert and the master classes. We greatly appreciate all the attendees and sponsors for supporting Community School’s piano lab initiative.

Monthly Parent Workday

Date: December 3
Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please email Michi Hines, administrative director (michi@communityschool.net) if you can help. You will be working with Gene Lurker, our maintenance and repair supervisor. Future parent workdays are scheduled for Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 3, and April 21. Thank you for your assistance!

Visit our Staff Bulletin Board

This week’s featured staff: Betsy (upper elementary teacher), Karen (technology teacher), and Tulie (lower elementary teacher). Come by to learn all about us!

It’s always funny to see a student’s reaction when they meet a teacher or staff member outside of school! We really don’t live on campus. We have families and pets of our own, and we all have interests and hobbies that keep us busy. In order to introduce the faculty and staff to you and to the children, Holly has created a bulletin board on the 2nd story of the big house. Each week, information on three staff members will be displayed.

Save \$250 on Your Tuition Bill!

Community School families are eligible for a \$250 tuition credit for referring a new student who enrolls full time at CS. To qualify for the credit, you must submit a completed referral

form or e-mail the referral information to Victoria **before** the family has submitted an admissions application. If multiple current families refer the same student, the \$250 credit is divided evenly between the referring families. The credit will show up on your account in the semester that the new student enrolls. Referral credits are not given for siblings of current students or for talking to prospective parents who are visiting CS if you did not previously refer those parents -- that includes talking to prospective parents while you are a substitute teacher, volunteering at CS, or just hanging out on campus. Please note: Your referral will stay active for only two years. After that time, you need

With our fall Open House fast approaching, now is the perfect time to submit your referrals. There is no limit on the number of tuition credits that you can earn. One family received 3 credits this semester—a substantial tuition savings!

to resubmit the form. Referral forms are available in the office and on the admissions page of our website (<http://www.communityschool.net/apply.html>). You can reach me at victoria@communityschool.net.

Class Community Service Project

Keri's students are currently taking donations for Angels of Assisi. Please help us help them. They are in need of the items listed below. If anyone would like to donate any of these items, please send them to Keri's classroom. Thank you!

Sam's Club gift card	Kitty litter scoops	Sponges & scrub brushes
Purina cat, kitten, dog and puppy foods (dry)	Dog & cat toys	Window cleaner
Regular kitty litter	Paper towels	Bleach
Rabbit food	Small rags for cleaning	Laundry detergent
Rabbit shavings	Towels	"Scrubbing Bubbles" cleaner
Cat towers		

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