



COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL

# Quick Notes

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

## School Calendar

(Please visit [http://www.communityschool.net/news\\_cal.html](http://www.communityschool.net/news_cal.html) for a more detailed school calendar.)

Wednesday	Oct. 5	12:15-12:45 pm	Lunch-A-Month (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome (quesadillas, chips, corn, lemonade) Bake Sale (proceeds benefit the Middle School Choirs)
Wednesday	Oct. 5	6:15 pm	<b>Board of Trustees Meetings</b> (Emilie T.'s room)
Saturday	Oct. 8	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	<b>Auditions for CHS Folk Opera Production of "Miss Lucy"</b> (In the new CHS theatre. Please see information below.)
Tuesday – Thursday	Oct. 11- Oct. 13		<b>Fall Festival Trips</b> (Please see information below.)
Friday	Oct. 14		<b>School Closed – No Classes</b>
Tuesday	Oct. 18		<b>Bolivian Exchange Students Arrive in Washington, D.C.</b>
Wednesday	Oct. 19	12:15-12:45 pm	Pizza Day (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome Bake Sale (proceeds benefit the Bolivian Exchange Program)
Thursday	Oct. 20		<b>Bolivian Exchange Students – 1<sup>st</sup> Day at Community School</b>
Wednesday	Oct. 26	12:15-12:45 pm	Lunch-A-Month (12:05-12:45 for middle school) Parents Welcome (mac & cheese, green beans, lemonade) Bake Sale (proceeds benefit the upper elementary classes)
Wednesday	Oct. 26	7:30 pm (Note Time Change!)	<b>The Hudson Trio Concert</b> (Fall into the Arts Series) Talmadge Recital Hall, Hollins University
Saturday	Oct. 29	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	<b>Monthly Parent Work Day</b> (Please see information below.)
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	<b>Board of Trustees Meeting</b> (Emilie T.'s room)
Tuesday	Nov. 8		<b>Conference Day (No classes)</b>

## Take a Peek in Our Classrooms

The best way to understand Community School's unique blend of experiential, interdisciplinary learning is to spend time in our classrooms on a regular basis. We understand that parents are busy people, however, so we will try to provide up-to-date information about classroom activities that will allow you to "see" what's happening from the comfort of your home or office. Look for "Peeks" in this and future *Quick Notes* throughout the year. If you want more details about a particular activity, visit our teacher blogs first. You can access the blogs from the teacher pages on our website at <http://www.communityschool.net/about.html>. If you are so excited about an activity that you want to join the fun, contact the appropriate teacher about volunteering to help in the classroom.

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## Peek into Our Friday Groups

For parents unfamiliar with our middle school program, Friday Groups are electives scheduled from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each Friday for five- to six-week blocks. They offer opportunities to experience learning and activities beyond the confines and subject matter of a regular class schedule. Our middle school students are currently:

- Building and programming robots with Karen using the Lego Mindstorms NXT 2.0 kit and creating a wall display about the history of robots and current news in the robotics world
- Learning the fundamentals of digital photography with Katrina, editing and creating a portfolio of their work, examining the life history and work of a famous photographer, and writing a short essay about their chosen artist
- Learning the basics of chip wood carving with Pat and Jennifer using knives, hand chisels, rotary tools, and power tools to design and carve two projects—a sea creature and a kinetic sculpture.
- Exploring local cemeteries through art, math, language arts, science, and history with Linda; using gravestones to gather information about families and our community; sketching designs of gravestones and learning to interpret symbols; reading and writing epitaphs; and researching historical events for context
- Exploring Virginia's Crooked Road Heritage Music Trail with Kim; learning about the cultural roots; listening to the music; learning to perform some of the songs; taking trips to The Blue Ridge Institute and Museum in Ferrum, the Floyd Country Store, the Blue Ridge Music Center, and the city of Galax; and blogging about their experiences ([crookedroadgang.blogspot.com](http://crookedroadgang.blogspot.com))

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## Service Learning Project Underway

Once again, students from Community School will share music at the Roanoke United Methodist Nursing Home. Each month, an age level or group of students will perform and visit with the residents. In September, piano students shared their favorite tunes; in October, upper elementary students will share favorite class songs, Halloween tunes, and pumpkin carols; and in November, the Middle School Choir will kick off the holiday season with seasonal favorites. This was a wonderful and touching community outreach last year, and we're excited about the possibilities this year. On September 28, the following students shared their piano music: Joe H., Gracie M., Sophie G., Evelyn D., Charlie W., Sarah E., Leah B., Garrett W., Yutika P., Tallulah C., and Ari C.

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## Fall Festival Trips

While grades and test scores are not the primary focus at Community School, we have always believed there is a direct and positive link between physical/outdoor activity, academic behavior, and personal well-being. The Fall Festival trips, our longstanding, annual, outdoor and camping tradition at Community School, have proven time and again to be a valuable experience for our students, staff, and parents. We consider Fall Festival days to be school days and expect students to attend.

Fall Festival trips will take place the second week in October. Teachers distributed handouts at Gatherings. These handouts provide details about cost, schedules, and the gear and supplies your child will need. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Fall Festival fees cover the cost of food, supplies, activities, and shelter/accommodations. **All payments should go directly to your child's classroom teacher. Payments are due by Friday, October 7.**

Classes	Fall Festival Trip/Activity	Fee
Katlyn's, Sharon's, and Ruth Ann's	Pumpkin Patch Day Trip Day of trip TBA	No fee
Beth's, Tulie's, Emily C.'s, and Keri's Classes	Camp Alta Mons (overnight camping) Wed. - Thurs., Oct. 12-13	\$60 (1 parent/1student)
Kim's and Betsy's Classes	Douthat State Park (overnight camping) Tues. - Thurs., Oct. 11-13	\$40 per student
All Middle School Classes	Watoga State Park (overnight camping) Tues. - Thurs., Oct. 11-13	\$40 per student

### Auditions for CHS Folk Opera Production

Community High School for Arts & Academics is looking for actors and singers for the folk opera "Miss Lucy." There are parts for both adults and children (ages 10 and up). They hope to have a children's chorus of at least 10 performers and an adult chorus of equal size. Auditions are Saturday, October 8, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the June M. McBroom Theatre in the new CHS facility on the corner of Williamson Road and Campbell Avenue in downtown Roanoke. Please bring one song to perform. There are solo and chorus parts available. For more information, contact Les Epstein at les@communityhigh.net.

### Free Concert at Hollins University

Sunday, October 9, at 3:00 pm in Talmadge Recital Hall, Hollins University

Hollins University Department of Music presents Asteria, a duo performing late medieval vocal and instrumental music with timeless love songs of wide appeal, transporting their listeners back to the age of chivalry. *The New York Times* describes Asteria as "intimate and deeply communicative... meltingly beautiful." Admission is free and open to the public. More information about Asteria may be found at <http://nueva.asteriamusica.com/> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB4CehJek8A>.



### Needed for Art Classes

The art department needs old blue jeans, especially larger sizes, for an art project. Also, please don't forget to have your children bring in their rocks for the cairn project.

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## “Fall Into the Arts” with The Hudson Trio

The October performance of our new Fall into the Arts Series will feature The Hudson Trio, a New York-based piano trio comprised of Vladimir Valjarevic on piano, Caroline Chin on violin, and Robert Burkhart, "the adventurous cellist." Musical selections will include chamber music pieces from Mozart, Mendelssohn, and some contemporary composers, as well as a few Hungarian ballads. A generous local donor has underwritten this event, so 100% of the proceeds will go towards our new Yamaha MIE piano lab.



**Location:** Talmadge Recital Hall, Hollins University  
**Date & Time:** Wednesday, Oct 26, at 7:30 pm (**Note Time Change!**)  
**Tickets:** \$16.50 each, available through our website ([www.communityschool.net](http://www.communityschool.net))  
**Babysitting:** Available for free on the CS campus for CS students

In addition, we are delighted to announce that Vladimir Valjarevic has offered to donate his time and talent to conduct a master's class for our students on October 27, the day following the concert. This is an incredible opportunity for our students to work with and learn from a talented performer.

Mark your calendars, purchase your tickets, get ready for some beautiful music and a great date night (with free babysitting), and help bring your child a little bit closer to the wonderful learning opportunities of our piano lab. To learn about The Hudson Trio, visit their website at <http://thehudsontrio.com>. If you have any questions about this performance or the Fall into the Arts Series, please contact Pattie at [patties@communityschool.net](mailto:patties@communityschool.net).

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## Monthly Parent Workdays

Many of the forty parents who participated at our parent workday in August expressed interest in helping meet our continual need for repairs during the school year. With your help, we can utilize a variety of maintenance & repair skills to keep the school in good shape while keeping costs under control. To that end, we have scheduled six monthly parent workdays this year.

**Dates:** Oct. 29, Dec. 3, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 3, and April 21  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please email Michi Hines, administrative director ([michi@communityschool.net](mailto:michi@communityschool.net)) if you can help. You will be working with Gene Lurker, our maintenance and repair supervisor. Thank you!

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