



Cumberland Academy  
of GEORGIA



**"An exceptional school for exceptional students."**

[www.cumberlandacademy.org](http://www.cumberlandacademy.org)

## PIONEER SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

### September 2011

- Sept. 5th Labor Day - No School
- Sept. 7 - 9 Assessment Testing
- Sept. 15th Curriculum Night 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 20th School Photos
- Sept. 23rd Rafting Trip

#### Birthdays

- Sept. 4th Ms. Thurmond
- Sept. 14th Connor Young
- Sept. 16th Ben Miller
- Sept. 18th Rebecca Weiss
- Sept. 21st Walker West
- Sept. 28th Flynn Becker



#### Our Mission Statement

The mission of the academy is to provide a safe, supportive, educational environment in partnership with faculty, staff, students and parents. The Cumberland family embraces the uniqueness of every child by challenging and inspiring them to reach their full potential. Our academic and social curriculum encourages the development of life skills essential in becoming independent and self-sufficient adults.

### FROM THE HEADMASTER

60 students, Welcome back!!!! We have had an awesome first 3 weeks! Our students have done a great job adjusting to their schedules. Our "West Wing" opened with Mr. Sasso doing our official ribbon cutting! After school programs have started and we have had great response to our soccer/cross country sports as well as game club and study hall. We still have some openings in after school programs.

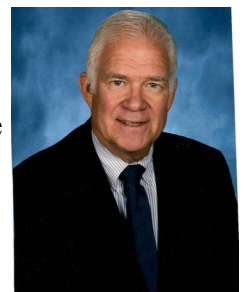
We are looking forward to our white water rafting trip in September. Drama will also start in September; this is part of our enrichment program. The Pioneers will be performing "Godspell" and our explores will perform "Cumberland Idol". This is going to be an exciting school year!!

Debbi Scarborough  
Founding Director

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

I have enjoyed these opening days of school with our students. Each morning as we assemble we like to share some thoughts with the students. We are stressing this year the "THINK" approach in the way we communicate with one another. It is important to think before we speak and to make sure what we are communicating is **True, Helpful, Important, Necessary and Kind**. Also, we have spoken to the students about persistence, i.e. staying at a task and not giving up. We also shared with them a quote by Charles Schulz, the creator of the Peanuts comic strip, who observed, "Life is like a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use." You may want to pick up on some of these themes in your interactions at home.



Don Sasso

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1 [www.cumberlandacademy.org](http://www.cumberlandacademy.org)

## Ms. Thurmond's Classes

Wow...August went by fast and the Pioneers have really settled into their routine!

My math classes have brushed off the cobwebs and greased the gears...and we are ready to get down to business in September. All of my math classes will be concentrating this year on increasing their vocabulary. After our 3 day weekend we will begin vocabulary tests in math every other week. In addition to sounding like a mathematician, we will practice using our resources (charts and visual aides) efficiently and correctly. Saxon textbooks start off deceptively easy for the first 10 or 15 lessons, but they will get harder soon. You should expect homework most nights in math.

Red Literature began this year with a two week study of Greek Mythology. Please come into school soon and check out our display across from the art room. The students were creative and cooperative as they worked in groups to complete the Greek Character Study. If your child hasn't read the Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan, Ms. Kennedy and I highly recommend it.

We will begin our first novels right after Labor Day. Some students will be reading Gary Schmidt's Wednesday Wars, an endearing book set in the 1960's in New York. The students should enjoy the funny situations the protagonist finds himself in as he tries to survive 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Other students will read the first book of the Magnificent 12 series, The Calling, by Michael Grant. This story centers around a student that "suffers" from being ordinary and boring until a 3000 year old man knocks on his door and delivers extraordinary news!

## Ms. Kennedy's Classes

I love this time of year and I am looking forward to the fall! It may have taken us a while, but I believe we are all back in the swing of things and enjoying school.

In my geography classes, we are learning about our neighbor to the north, Canada! We have been investigating the differences between the United States and Canada. We will also do a case study on Canada's icy north and the Inuit people. All students should be able to log in to their geography account by now. Feel free to contact me if there is a problem.

In my social studies class, we have spent most of August brushing up on what we learned last year. Next, we will jump right in to the Civil War! I know the students are excited for this chapter and will have lots of fun things planned.

In art class, we have created some very vivid koi fish portraits that parents may purchase at Curriculum night. We are also working on some beautiful fall landscapes to go along with what is hopefully beautiful fall weather!

## Ms. Liang's Classes

## Ms. Smith's Classes

This is my first year at Cumberland Academy and I am very excited to work with your students. I am lucky in that I teach both Explorers and Pioneers. Already I have gotten to know most of the students by name. Here is what we are working on this week:

Literature – Our class read "A Fruit and Vegetable Man" and did accompanying work. The learning outcomes were that the students expanded and improved their existing vocabulary as well as learning to identify and examine content and plot.

Grammar – Students reviewed the parts of speech and learned the difference between long and short vowels.

Spanish I – Students are learning the basic introduction to Spanish. They are learning and practicing how to greet one another at different times of day, the days of the week, numbers, how to calculate mathematical problems in Spanish and how to pronounce letters of the alphabet. The class just finished their first vocabulary quiz over 15 words and can expect a vocabulary quiz every Thursday.

Spanish II – Students are undergoing extensive review of what they learned last year in Spanish I. They are rapidly reviewing how to greet one another at different times of day, the days of the week, numbers, how to calculate mathematical problems in Spanish and how to pronounce letters of the alphabet. The class just finished their first vocabulary quiz over 15 words and can expect a vocabulary quiz every Thursday. The class will move on next week to reviewing subject pronouns, how to introduce others, how to say where people are from and how to express likes.

## Mr. Watson's Classes

## Coach Henck's Classes

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science – Currently, we are learning about cells and classifying organisms. As we learn more about our ecosystem we will become familiar with plants, animals, and life processes.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science – We have been learning about the five kingdoms as it relates to earth science. As we move forward next month we will be able to classify all living things based on similarities and differences.

Healthy Living – Students will learn that good health habits can prevent illness and prevent injury. More importantly as a motivating factor, they will also learn that good health habits can improve the way they look, the way they perform in school and sports, the way they interact with others, and the way they feel about themselves.

## Ms. King's Classes

I am thrilled to be back at Cumberland Academy for a second year. I love walking in the door each and every day and working with all of our amazing students. This year the Explorer group has moved into the West Wing. All of the Explorers are now contained in this area and even have their own space called The Commons. The Commons area is utilized for community meetings, snack time, and other activities. The Explorers are so excited to have a space to call their own which include lockers and an area for BYU Courses. Please come by and see our new space!

The first week of school the Explorers participated in a multitude of icebreakers as well as team building activities. We have finally started getting into the routine of changing classes and working through the curriculum.

Here's an update from my classes –

Course 2 - We've started some remediation in class via multiplication bingo and some other handouts. However, the students have already worked through Lesson 3 in the Saxon Course 2 book.

Sociology – The class has delved into the definition of sociology as well as learning how sociologists use paradigms in order to understand societies on a micro and macro level. The class has already had many lively discussions on why and how people are grouped within society.

High School Literature – The students started the year off by reading “The Lottery” by Jackson. “The Lottery” served as a vehicle to spring board the students unit on short stories. We plan to start our first novel within the next couple of weeks – The Book Thief.

Applications in Math – The Applications in Math class is truly a differentiated learning experience. In Applications in Math the student's areas of remediation are targeted and each student works with me individually.

**I am looking forward to a wondrous 2011 – 2012 school year!**

## Mr. Carsia's Classes

## Dr. Ritter's Corner

We started a new program this year. All of the students received THINK bracelets to help them remember, before they type, text or talk they should THINK. Is what they are about to say:

T rue

H elpful

I mportant

N ecessary

K ind

You can work with your child at home using the same concept. Please encourage them to think before they speak or type.

Dr. Kelli Ritter

## New and Used Uniform Shirts for Sale at School

We have white short sleeve Cumberland Academy of Georgia polo shirts and blue hoodies for sale at the school. Both Youth and Adult sizes are available. Polo shirts on sale for \$19.00 and dark blue hoodies \$31.00. Light blue hoodies \$27.00. Used uniforms are priced from \$2 to \$7.



## CFO Corner, Valerie Siciliano

Hello, Parents! The school year is just underway and I hope you have had an incredible summer break with your children. We are excited about the new school year.

If any of you have questions regarding tuition, FACTS, SB10 or GOAL please do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to help.

Speaking of GOAL, how many of you would love to receive a state tax credit at the end of the year while filing your taxes AND help a student in need of financial assistance attend Cumberland? The Georgia GOAL Scholarship Organization is just the way to do it! You can contribute to the GOAL scholarship fund, which in turn will help a child in need attend Cumberland and receive the special attention and education he/she needs. **AND YOU GET A FULL TAX CREDIT FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION ON YOUR GEORGIA STATE TAX RETURN.** You also get a charitable tax deduction on your federal return! It's a win-win situation for everyone. Please contact me for more information on the GOAL scholarship fund. It's such a great opportunity to give AND receive.

Valerie Siciliano/CFO • (404) 262-0404 • [valerie.siciliano@cumberlandacademy.org](mailto:valerie.siciliano@cumberlandacademy.org)

## FYI...

**\*Cumberland Academy of Georgia is on Facebook!** The page is titled Cumberland Academy of Georgia and the school crest is our profile picture. The page is filled with pictures from class trips this year and it's a great location to share information about our school with other parents!

\*Cumberland Academy of Georgia will once again partner with Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School for Nathan's Driving School Teenage Driver Education Programs. For more information and to register, please go to [www.mvpsdrivereducation.com](http://www.mvpsdrivereducation.com).

\*You can support the library through "Birthday Book Club." This allows parents, friends, and grandparents to have an opportunity to make a contribution to the library in honor of your student's birthday. See Terri Brooks for more information.

School office hours are 7:30 - 4:30.

## Wish List

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| * LCD Projector                                       | *Large Color Copier        |
| *Xbox 360 Games                                       | *Digital Camera            |
| *Dolly Hand Truck                                     | *2 Nunchuk Wii Controllers |
| *Blinds, Lighting and Carpet for the High School Area | *Picnic Table              |
| *Sectional Sofa for the High School Area              | *Outside Bench             |
| *Mac Computer for Yearbook                            | *Oreck Vacuum Cleaner      |
|   | *Metal storage shelving    |

**Cumberland Academy of Georgia is a 501c3 Organization**



### Public Partner in Education Cards

**Be sure to pick up some cards located in the side lobby. Please give cards to your friends and family. The school receives a percentage of every sale scanned!**

## Admissions Corner

Our new students seem to be settling into the routine well. Friendships are forming and new and returning students are getting into the groove.

I will be contacting you in the near future if I am missing any required paperwork. Immunization forms are of particular importance. We must have forms that are current within 12 months or a signed letter waiving immunizations in order to comply with Georgia Law. If you receive a letter from me, please provide the missing documents as soon as possible.

Thanks!

Terri Brooks, Director of Admissions  
404-835-9000 admissions@cumberlandacademy.org