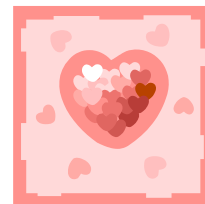




Cumberland Academy
of GEORGIA



"Where Every Child Can Succeed"

www.cumberlandacademy.org

PIONEER SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

February 2010

- Feb 2 Parent Work Day 8:30am
Blue Jean Ball Mtg 1:30pm
- Feb 4 Open House
for prospective families 6pm
- Feb 10 Field Trip
Reinhardt College
- Feb 15 **No School /Presidents' Day**
- Feb 16 Field Trip
The Great Map! 
- Feb 19 **Noon Dismissal**
Teacher/Parent Conferences 
- Feb 20 Parent Work Day 9am
- Feb 27 **Blue Jean Ball 7pm**
- Feb 28 GAPSEC School Fair
Student Birthdays
- Feb 8 Happy B'day Steven!
- Feb 23 Happy B'day Aubrey!

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...

Happy 2010 -SNOW DAY - that was very fun!! What a month of wacky weather we had in January - I hope you all were aware of our postings on channels 2,5,11. 2010 Has been off to a great start - We had 17% straight A students 72% A-B students - I know how hard all of the students have worked and I am very proud of them. We are very excited about our new specials that have already begun - Drama, Yoga and Computer Modeling!! Thank you again parents for all you do to help your school!

Debbi Scarborough

Admissions Corner...

Please welcome Frank Blackburn and his family to our school! Debbi Scarborough has been asked to speak at the Education Forum 2010 on January 30, 2010. Please see me if you would like more information on this event.

Cumberland Academy of Georgia will also be represented at the Kids Enabled fair on January 31st, GAPSEC fair on February 28th and ASA-GGC Autism-Asperger Conference March 1st -2nd. For more information on any of these fairs, please email me at kathy.ellison@cumberlandacademy.org

Kathy Ellison



IN THE NEWS

Ms. Kennedy's Classroom...

I hope everybody had a good start to the New Year! The geography class have spent the month of January on everything Russian! The students have been working on biographies of famous Russians and these will be hanging up in our Russian Hall of Fame outside of my classroom. The students have found some interesting and unusual dirt on these impressive people, so make sure to come check it out! Geography students are also looking forward to their field trip to the Giant Map of Africa in February.

The entire school has just finished an art project on deep sea adventures. This lovely masterpiece is on display outside of the art room. The students who have art this semester will be working with clay, which will also be on display shortly.

Ms. Thurmond's Classroom...

2010 was a rocky start for math in both Course 1 and elementary math. The students needed to review 1st semesters skills and practice combining skills into multiple step problems. By mid-January, we were back on track. Course 1 students are completing mathematical operations with decimals and fractions. In February, we will learn more Geometry and all about factoring. Elementary math is learning to solve multi-step problems with whole numbers and fractions. We will also learn to use basic geometry and corresponding terms. As we prepare for the next school year, please expect homework to become a little more difficult and possibly more time consuming.

My literature groups will be finishing up their novels by mid-February. Elementary students have either enjoyed reading Mouse and the Motorcycle or Bud, Not Buddy...two favorites of mine! They boys have really enjoyed the humor in both stories. These novels will help students nearly reach their AR goals; however, they will need to read at least one other novel on their own before March. For writing we completed a voice activity by writing a riddle. It was challenging; yet, fun to write 5-6 sentences describing common objects without using the specific word! Next month we will tackle the Ideas as a writing trait. We won't read a novel, but we will have a ton of fun with the poet Shel Silverstein.

My other literature classes have really enjoyed the suspense of Found in January and will finish in early February. We will spend the rest of the month studying the poems of Walt Whitman. Students need to continue to read AR books at home, or they will have trouble reaching their goal by March. We just completed a challenging writing assignment that emphasized the importance of good conventions. Please walk through the halls to see written expression inspired by Charles Dicken's opening to A Tale of Two Cities. Students worked in groups to compose a comma filled, extra long sentence. Then each student edited the group assignment into multiple sentences with appropriate transitions.



IN THE NEWS

Ms. Crisci's Classroom...

We are having a very exciting second semester so far!

Grammar students are working hard to become the best writers they can be. Our work is getting harder and grading is becoming more particular, but we are continuing to make lots of progress. I am so proud of all of my students for rising to the challenge!

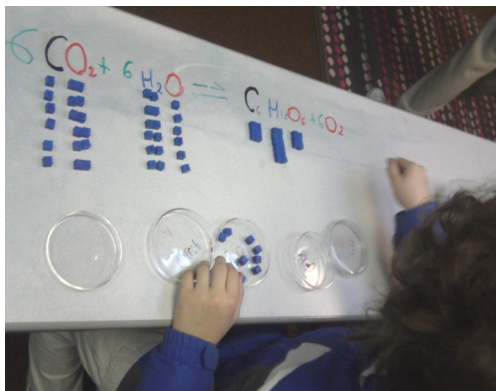
We have been VERY busy in yellow social studies! We are in the process of shooting a "movie" about the Civil War. Our premiere will launch in March! We have also moved on to study about the Industrial Revolution. So far, we have recreated the telephone (It really worked!) and compared our present day light bulbs to the one Thomas Edison invented. (Ask us how they work!) There are many more exciting in-class projects to come, and we have been having a blast learning about the history of our great country. Happy February to all!

Mr. Rocco's Classroom...

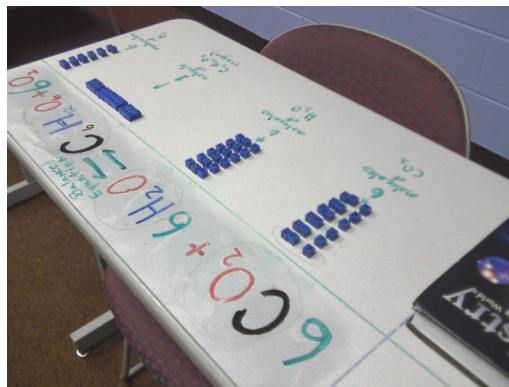
Chemistry class activity: "**Balancing equations of chemical reactions**":

Students made "non-roll" atoms from small, plastic cubes and set them up according to the formula for each of the four molecules that take part in likely the most important equation on the planet – *photosynthesis*! Balancing equations not only defines the quantities of each ingredient needed, but represents the universal law of "Conservation of matter". The number of each type of **atom** must be the same in the products as in the reactants – that is, equal or *balanced* on both sides of the chemical reaction.

Students must "tweak" the coefficients or multiples of each **molecule** until the changing number of each **atom** is equal or "balanced" on both sides. It is a bit tricky; for example, as an increase of just one water molecule (H₂O), increases the number of Oxygen en atoms by *one* – but, simultaneously increases the number of Hydrogen atoms by *two*. It can actually become a challenging game.



Philip at work.



Amber's Completed Chemical Reaction.



Andrew and Sara at work.

PARENT HERO CORNER

Thank you to.....

*The parents who donated money for the teacher/staff Christmas gifts.
* Parents who donated food for the student Christmas party. * To our "Media Center Mom", Mary Ryan, for all her hard work organizing our Library!

Did you know...

- *Our students were invited to attend Nathan's Driver Ed courses at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School
- *Students from Holy Innocents' Episcopal School dropped by to hang out with our students
- *Ms. Johnson's Economics Class will be opening a School Store soon
- *We sell gently used uniforms - \$5 per item
- *Our students collected money for the Haiti victims on January 26, 2010

Pioneer Game Club

- *Every Thursday
- *3:15pm-4:30pm
- *Computer and Board Games
- *Fun Time With Friends
- *\$10.00/day (snack is included)

RSVP by Monday of that week

to renata.crisci@cumberlandacademy.org

Supervised by

Renata Crisci and Kathy Ellison



WISH LIST

- Paper Shredder
- Color Copier
- Foosball Table
- Vacuum Cleaner
- LCD Projector
- Laminator (small or big)
- New or Used 10 gallon aquarium tanks
- New or Used Games (board games, chess, checkers etc)
 - Wii



Holy Innocents visits Cumberland Academy of Georgia

GAPSEC-GOAL FUND



Information on Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program was sent home this week.

This program allows taxpayers to take a credit against their Georgia income taxes for amounts contributed to qualifying K-12 student scholarship organizations. Cumberland Academy of GA has qualified to receive scholarship funding.

Please visit www.goalscholarship.org or see Debbi Scarborough or Kathy Ellison for more information.