



*Cumberland Academy*  
of GEORGIA




**"Where Every Child Can Succeed"**

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

## PIONEER SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

### March 2010

- March 1 –2 Autism/Aspergers Conference
- March 5 End of 3rd Nine Weeks
- March 8 Teacher Workday  
**No School for Students**
- March 9 Post Blue Jeans Ball Mtg 1:30pm
- March 10 School Photos 8am
- March 12 Report Cards Issued
- March 19 Brown Bag Luncheon 12:30pm—2:00pm
- March 23 Field Trip Physical Science and Chemistry Classes only.
- Student Birthdays**
- March 6 Happy B'day Jesse!
- March 17 Happy B'day Mrs. Scarborough! 
- March 27 Happy B'day Mr. Bushey!
- March 29 Happy B'day Bryan!

#### 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...

February was a busy month- One of our classes went to see the giant map of Africa - this was very exciting. We will be getting grades out next week, I am looking forward to seeing all the A-B honor roll students, and all the straight A stars, and proud for all those who have really worked hard to get their grades up! Our Blue Jeans Ball was a HUGE success—We cannot thank everyone enough for their participation and tired less efforts that were put into making it our most successful event!!! We were able to sell all the classroom baskets, which were beautiful. We will have pictures for all of you to see. I know we are all looking forward to warmer weather ahead.

Debbi Scarborough

### Admissions Corner...

*It's been a busy month in admissions. This week our school was represented at the GAPSEC school fair and the Autism/Aspergers Conference.*

*Thank you to all the families who met the registration deadline for the 2010/2011 school year. If you have any questions or concerns with registration for next school year, please call or email me. We have several new families who will be joining us next school year. Information on your child being an ambassador for a new student will be coming home soon!*

*Kathy Ellison*





## Ms. Kennedy's Classroom...

Both of my Geography classes did a great job at the Giant Map of Africa. It was both educational and interactive and I think the kids had a blast! Thank you to those who helped me with the field trip! In March, geography classes will be focusing on the Middle East and will be writing and essay on different religions.

In art classes, the orange group will be finishing up their clay wizards they have been working on. Their next project will be working on a Celtic design. The yellow group will be finishing up their clay mice. They will then start work on aluminum repousse snakes. The kids have had a lot of fun working with different mediums!



## Ms. Thurmond's Classroom...

Wow we only have a few weeks before spring break! This March will be busy with reading new novels. One of the literature classes is tackling Mark Twain's classic Tom Sawyer. As we read this book we will practice using context clues to decipher unknown vocabulary. At the end of March, each student will present their Tom Sawyer project. Students can choose from doing a replica of Tom Sawyer's hometown, making a time capsule with Tom's favorite items or writing another crazy adventure for Tom Sawyer and his friends.

The yellow literature group will be reading a Roald Dahl classic, The BFG. Mr. Dahl has a fantastic imagination and wonderful sense of humor. After reading this novel, I hope students will be excited to read more novels by Dahl. This literature group will be completing individual book reports during March and April. Students will choose a novel on their independent reading level. Their completed report will include summary information and fun games.

Elementary math students will be focusing on using their multiplication facts more productively to solve multi-step problems. Students passing all of their timed tests will earn a special treat from Ms. Thurmond. We will have fun with probability over the next few weeks, too.

Course 1 students are finishing up learning how to solve problems with mixed numerals. Then we will focus on a variety of geometry skills; including, angles, measuring degrees, classifying shapes and moving shapes.

## IN THE NEWS

### Ms. Crisci's Classroom...

Both grammar classes are going well! We have really been focusing on vocabulary and sentence correction and continue to work on our Mountain Language wall. We have also had tons of fun playing grammar games, which is great for social skills, as well.

In social studies this semester, we finished mastering the Civil War and all of its causes and effects, studied famous inventors while trying to recreate their inventions, discovered all kinds of fun facts about the Industrial Revolution, and "solved" the mystery of what started the Great Chicago Fire. Now it's on to World War I!

Ms. Crisci

### Mr. Rocco's Classroom...

#### Photosynthesis in a test tube ...or not?



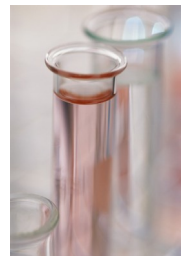
A piece of an *Elodea*, water plant, was placed under light in two test tubes that contain the reactants that the chlorophyll in its leaves . Water is one of the two reactants in the life sustaining equation that basically defines planet Earth.

However, the test tube on the Left holds pure, distilled water and the one on the right has had a chemical added which releases available, dissolved Carbon Dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) into the water (Sodium Hydrogen carbonate).

Without both of the reactants,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ , present, the photo-synthesis reaction cannot take place, and the products, sugar (glucose) and Oxygen, cannot be produced. Though the *Elodea* plant uses the sugar it produces within the plant itself, it gives off the second product,  $\text{O}_2$  .Oxygen, as a waste/by-product.



Very small bubbles of this by-product are on the submerged plant and on the walls and top of the test tube at the **right**. This tube's label indicates that  $\text{CO}_2$  was added & is dissolved in its distilled water.



## PARENT HERO CORNER

Thank you to.....

\*The Blue Jeans Ball Committee for all of their hard work!

\*To the following parents for their help beautifying our school: Lori Cora, Jennifer Cora, Peri Cavusgil, Sally Giles, Isabella Woods, Devon O'Dell, Frank Blackburn, Christine Caudill, Julianne Reed, Anita Holderfield, Kathy Fripps, George and Philip Keckler, Angel Meriwether, Terri Leonard, Cynthia Abbott, Ian Thomasson, Krystal Evans, Jill and Davis Pohar and Jennifer Julius.

## 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
- Microwave for Teacher Lounge
- DVD



## Pioneer Game Club

\*Every Wednesday and Thursday

\*3:15pm-4:30pm

\*Computer and Board Games

\*Fun Time With Friends

\*\$10.00/day (snack is included)

\*10 spaces available per day

You must RSVP by Monday of that week to [kathy.ellison@cumberlandacademy.org](mailto:kathy.ellison@cumberlandacademy.org)

Supervised by

Renata Crisci and Kathy Ellison



## 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](http://www.goalscholarship.org) or see Debbi Scarborough or Kathy Ellison for more information.