



Cumberland Academy
of GEORGIA



"Where Every Child Can Succeed"

www.cumberlandacademy.org

PIONEER SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

February 2011

- Feb 10** **GISA Spelling Bee
@Greenfield Hebrew
Academy**
- Feb 14-16** **Space Camp for
Pioneer Group**
- Feb 17** **Open House for
Prospective Parents
9am—6pm**
- Feb 18** **Noon Dismissal
Teacher/Parent
Conferences**
- Feb 21** **No School
Presidents' Day**
- Feb 24** **GISA Advanced
Spelling Bee**
- Feb 25** **Brown Bag Speaker
1pm**

****Birthdays****

Jan 1 **Mrs. Martin**

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

Dear Parents:

Well we made it through our big snow and ice week. In order to fulfill our Georgia Standards and SACS requirements we will need to make up a couple of days since we had already added some additional days in our schedule. As of Friday February 25th, we will be staying one hour later on Fridays up until March 25. This will only increase FRIDAYS from our usual dismissal of 2:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. If there are any other changes we will let you know! Happy February!!

Debbi Scarborough

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Your student is very important to each of us at Cumberland Academy of Georgia. And for this reason, the faculty and staff spend a lot of their time educating themselves and each other about the variety of learning differences represented by our student body. I know first hand that our teachers are constantly reading about effective strategies for our students and attending conferences to make themselves more aware of current trends in education. We have also constructed a robust Professional Development Plan for the 2011 school year and know it will only give our valuable teachers that much more knowledge in their perspective fields.

Cheers,

Dr. Preston



Ms. King's Class (The Explorers)

Physical Science – We just wrapped up our study of waves. Next we're going to do a unit on sound. The Physical Science students will participate in a project that involves their favorite songs. We will also continue our integrated study of individual elements as well.

Spanish – In Spanish we are continuing our study of Puerto Rico via readings, vocabulary, and activities. Soon we will begin reading "When I was Puerto Rican" by Santiago. The book will give the students a clearer picture of the culture of Puerto Rico.

Elementary Science – The Elementary Science students have been studying all about the "guts" of the Earth. Ask any Elementary Science student in Ms. King's class what the 7 layers are and they will be able to list them – in order! Our next unit, the Solar System, promises to be one of the most popular units of the year. The students' trip to Space Camp will coincide with the unit.

Algebra – In Algebra class we are continuing working with multi-step equations as well as brushing up on our basic math skills. We have also been looking at analyzing data in graphs, measures of central tendency, and breaking algebraic word problems.

Course 3 – In Course 3 each student has learned how to calculate surface area, circumference, and perimeter. We have also continued to brush up on our focus skills while learning new content. Recently, we began working with two-step equations in preparation for Algebra next year.

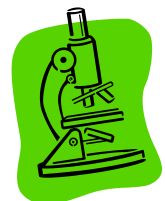
Yearbook – In Yearbook we are just getting CA's first digital yearbook off the ground. Walker West will serve as Editor of the yearbook and Emily Autry will be Asst. Editor. The students plan to create a slideshow using windows movie maker for each student in the school and compile them on a DVD which they will sell in the spring.



Mr. Carsia's Classes (The Explorers)

Science classes have been integrating an environmental theme into the topics of the general curriculum. It is most surprising to see the level of interest that has been seen generated by the students. Life Science and Current Science has followed the developments of a shy boy that took on social/environmental activism after learning of deforestation and a rare bear species in British Columbia. These classes have taken pages of interactive notes while viewing a biography of shy Simon Jackson's growth and motivation to take on deforestation and its threat to the "Spirit Bear." At fifteen, Simon managed to bring about the largest land protection act ever accomplished. In his early twenties, he still manages the massive membership and operations of the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition. In progress is their involvement in making a major animated movie called Spirit Bear. (www.spiritbearyouth.org.)

My Middle Level science classes are being inundated with space themes that are being integrated with earth's magnetosphere and other topics of connection. This is hopefully helping them to prepare for large amounts of information and questioning while preparing for Space Camp in February. Similar, interactive note-taking is done with a stop-and-go process while viewing the contents of Space Station and IMAX production on the international space station.



CLASSROOM NEWS

Mrs. Martin's Class (The Explorers)

Lit I-The students are doing an awesome job with their Prezis. This new type of presentation software is internet accessible and feature a zooming form that works well with the way our students learn.

GA History-The students are beginning a wonderful study of the Civil War in GA. The students will be viewing excerpts from North and South to see what life was like before, during, and after the Civil War in both the North and the South.

World History-The students are enjoying an engaging study of Medieval Europe. We have greatly enjoyed our discussions of Lords, Ladies, and Knights.

US History-The students are working on life in the US during the early 1900's. We recently learned that the average yearly salary for a worker in 1911 was \$312 verses today's equivalent at minimum wage of \$15,080.

Lit II-The students are doing an awesome job with their Prezis. This new type of presentation software is internet accessible and feature a zooming form that works well with the way our students learn.

Ms. Thurmond's Class (The Pioneers)

Ms. Thurmond's literature classes are busy with their literary projects inspired by their current novels. Please stop by and check out our work in the halls after Space Camp. Students reading Witches by Ronald Dahl are creating PSA posters to warn the children of our community about the dangers of witches. I invite you to flip through our Watson Family scrapbooks in a few weeks to learn about the hilarious incidents that happen on their trip to Birmingham in 1963.

Red literature students are completing their projects, as well. Students reading The Underneath have recreated their favorite setting from the book, including the beloved characters. Check out our student created comic strips inspired by The Schwa was Here. The humorous book has had the students laughing since page one.

Course 1 and 2 math classes continue to progress through the curriculum. Due to our snow break, we needed to review many of the previously taught skills. However, we are back on track in February and should take 2 tests this month, one before Space Camp and one after.





Ms. Kennedy's Class (The Pioneers)

In geography, we are finishing our study of the Andes and the Pampas. I was really impressed with the quality of the Galapagos Journals! The students really enjoyed sharing them with the class. Next, we are moving on to Brazil to finish up South America. While we are in Brazil, the students will spend some time researching the area and go job-hunting there.

In Social Studies we are finally arriving at the Civil War. I know the students have been looking forward to this unit and they are going to really enjoy it! We will start by studying the different causes that led up to the Civil War. Once, we understand the reasons behind the war, we will move on to the actual war between the North and the South.

In art class, we will have finished up our ceramic snowmen. They look fabulous and students seem to draw inspiration from the real snowmen they made outside! Next, we will move on to our Valentine's Day projects.



Coach Henck (The Pioneers)

Cumberland Academy of Georgia hosted our last regular season basketball game versus Chrysalis Academy on January 18, 2011.

Chrysalis Academy arrived as Cumberland Academy of Georgia players were preparing for the game despite having time off due to the winter break, snow storm and only having two practices but the team was just as prepared for the game had they practiced. During warm-ups our player's excitement started to grow and they were ready to take on Chrysalis. In comparison to our first game, I believe this energy help carry our effort throughout the entire game because our player's excitement transferred to them using that energy the entire game.

The Chrysalis Academy team was indeed a team that has a strong foundation resulting from the building of fundamentals of basketball and teamwork. Although we came up just shy from winning the game, the loss was not a result from lack of fundamentals and teamwork. Most lessons in life increase our knowledge but the best teacher is experience. The lack in experience is compensated by our players playing with heart and determination but also the understanding that it is just a game and to have fun.

Volleyball and Badminton Practice are now in session on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.



New Uniform Shirts for Sale at School

We now have short sleeve Cumberland Academy of Georgia, white, polo shirts and 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.



CFO Corner, Valerie Siciliano

The Hal's Fundraiser Kick-Off Dinner was a HUGE success! Even with the threat of snow (and ultimately a blizzard—by Georgia standards) we had a great turnout! Our raffle alone raised over **\$5,000!** Cathy Miller took amazing photos of the evening and created an incredible photo album. Be sure to check it out in the Admissions Room.

Also, we received a gracious donation from a long-time Cumberland Supporter. This Supporter has offered to pay **all of the expenses** incurred from the Denim & Dice fundraiser. **SO...ALL PROCEEDS** (that's 100%) from the fundraiser will go directly to Cumberland and our students!

Remember to mark your calendars for the **Denim & Dice** annual fundraiser—**Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** in the gymnasium. It's always a fun night of dinner, dancing, and entertainment. This year we will have gambling tables! Be sure to look for your invitations in the next coming month!

DEADLINE FOR TUITION DISCOUNT is February 18, 2011. Be sure to re-enroll your student by February 18, 2011 in order to receive your tuition discount for the 2011-2012 school year.

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

Dr. Kelli's Korner

We had Teacher Training this past Monday titled “The Magic of FEEL: Using Play Skills to Develop Cooperation and Courage in the Classroom.” The training covered four basic skills (FEEL) and how those skills can help teachers build stronger relationships with students, increase cooperation in the classroom, and help students develop more courage and confidence. Concepts from play therapy, Individual Psychology and Positive Psychology will be incorporated in this training. The four FEEL skills are: F - Following; E – Encouragement; E - Empathy, L - Limit Setting. Teachers learned the skills and discussed how to apply the skills in their classroom settings. Teachers also had an opportunity to discuss specific cases and how to use the skills with those particular children.

Thank You Corner!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Gellis family for everything they have done and continue to do for our school. Words are inadequate to express our gratitude for their generosity and kindness. The items they have donated will make a tremendous difference in the education of all of the children in the school.

FYI...

*Please check out Autism Speaks website at www.autismspeaks.com for the Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism Tool Kit. It's a great source of information.

*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.mypsdrivereducation.com.

*Pioneer Parents will be scheduling a "work day" soon. Dates and times will be sent home through Snapgrades.

*We have "gently used uniforms" for sale. Please donated any uniforms that your student has outgrown.

*The Caterers menu for the month of February is posted on Snapgrades.

*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 Kathy Ellison for more information.



Wish List

* LCD Projectors

*Microwave

*(4) Color Printer/
Scanners

*Used tennis balls
(for Hailey)

*Xbox 360 Games

*Dolly Hand Truck

*Nice Bookcase for
Admissions Room

*Text Books

*Large Color Copier

*Sand Trays

*Digital Camera

*2 Nunchuk Wii
controllers



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!

Spelling Bee

We had a wonderful time at our first Cumberland Academy of GA Spelling Bee. The students did a fabulous job with their spelling. The results of the bee were as follows:

1st Ian Thomasson

2nd Elena Flood

3rd Grant Ashton

4th Flynn Becker

The winning word was: dawdle

On February 10th, Ian and Elena will travel to Greenfield Hebrew Academy to participate in the GISA Spelling Bee. Congratulations to Ian and Elena!!