



Cumberland Academy
of GEORGIA



"Where Every Child Can Succeed"

www.cumberlandacademy.org

PIONEER SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

April 2011

FROM THE HEADMASTER

| | |
|-----------|--|
| April 1st | Noon Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| April 4—8 | Spring Break! |
| April 27 | Explorers to the Renaissance Festival |
| Fridays | 2:00 Dismissal |
| April 29 | Brown Bag - 1:00 Dr. Kelli Ritter - Part Two |
| April 29 | CAG Beautification Day |
| April 30 | CAG Yard Sale |

****Birthdays****

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| April 19th | Norman Jetmundsen |
| April 29th | Alexander Levy |

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.

Dear Parents:

March Madness is over and April has begun, it has been very busy and the year is flying by.

I want to thank all of you who attended and participated in our fabulous Denim & Dice event. It was not only a wonderful, fun evening, but very successful. I know how the committee worked tirelessly on creating it!

We had "the bird lady" here demonstrating her beautiful birds of prey, what a treat!

We are ending volleyball and starting track after spring break. We have also started our aquatic team with the Special Olympics that will compete at Emory University in May, Go Team!

We all send our prayers to those in Japan who are struggling from such a disaster.

Looking forward to spring flowers!!

Debbi Scarborough

THANK YOU CORNER

Thanks to Deidra Pratt for donating 2 microwave ovens and a coffee maker. We appreciate Bill Levy sending in a supply of snacks for those days when students forget. We also want to thank him for sponsoring "Hawk Talk." That was quite a treat! Mary Ryan has spent countless hours in the library cataloging our books—and she has made quite a few donations, as well. Thanks, Mary!

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CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. King's Class (The Explorers)

Physical Science – In Physical Science we just wrapped up our chapter on Light. We created posters regarding the many different facets of light, colors, on the electromagnetic spectrum, etc. Our next chapter promises to be an electric one – Electricity!

Spanish – In Spanish we are continuing our study of Puerto Rico via vocabulary, cultural activities, and the book When I was Puerto Rican.

All of the math students enjoyed the celebration of pi day by eating pie, learning about circumference, radius, etc.

Algebra – The Algebra Class continues our study of systems of equations, FOIL, etc. All of Ms. King's Science classes also participated in Pi Day.

Course 3 – In course three we are currently wrapping up Lesson 70. We have been working on lots of Pre-Algebra including direct variation and multi-step equations.

Algebra – Ms. King's Algebra classes are also wrapping up Lesson 70 this week. We have been focusing on working and graphing multi-step inequalities as well as systems of equations. The class thoroughly enjoys learning the concepts via brainpop.

Yearbook – The students are in process of creating our first digital yearbook. Emily Autrey, asst. editor, and Walker West, editor, have recently sent out a letter asking C.A. families to send in photographs as well as a description of their student. Peter Ryan, layout manager, has been creating the yearbook from the ground up in Windows Media Player!



Mr. Carsia's Classes (The Explorers)



Biology Class Plans Exhibit to Share and Honor Skidaway Excursion

The Explorer trip to take part in the Georgia State marine education program, MECA, was a great success. Students took part in numerous hands-on (as in "touch") experiences that included the collection of specimens, observation, identification, and even dissection labs run by professors in the field.

The Biology students are taking the experiences one step further and integrating the way we cover the system of taxonomy by selecting specimens of a broad range that could be found on the Georgia coast/Atlantic Ocean. The class is working on a hall display that will exemplify the coastal estuaries and a major activity performed aboard the "Sea Dawg" boat at Skidaway – trawling. The display will depict a boat with trawl nets out and the scene will be accompanied with student-made models of their specimens. It may take some doing, but the connection between what we're learning in the classroom and what we saw will show some of the great times and experiences in a 'cool' way.



CLASSROOM NEWS

Mrs. Martin's Class (The Explorers)

Literature I-The students have recently completed Macbeth and are beginning their study of The Outsiders by SE Hinton.

GA History-The students have completed their study of the Civil War. We enjoyed showing our Prezis! They are now studying reconstruction in GA.

World History-The students are studying the revolutionary factions in France and the United States in the late 1700's and early 1800's.

US History-The students are finishing a study of the 20's and the Great Depression. They will begin a study of World War II and the Cold War after the break.

Literature II-The students have completed Oedipus the King and have begun Antigone.



Ms. Thurmond's Class (The Pioneers)

Yellow literature students finished their novels at the end of March. One class enjoyed reading Loser by Jerry Spinelli and making the connection that sometimes friendships and understanding people is difficult for everyone. The other yellow literature class was reminded that it is good to be your own person but you still need to be honest in your actions as they read Lost and Found by Andrew Clements. After Spring Break we will begin our last novels of the year. 2nd period literature will read The Westing Game and 4th period literature will read Tuck Everlasting.

Red literature classes just finished two outstanding novels: Savvy and Maze Runner. Both books have sequels and the students are encouraged to the next book. Students in this class will read H.I.V.E: Higher Institute of Villainous Behavior or the first book in the Alex Rider series: Stormbreaker.

In all literature classes, this past month we practiced as a class using a graphic organizer to plan for a 5 paragraph essay. After completing the organizers, students wrote complete sentences to expanded upon their original thoughts. In all classes we stressed using a variety of sentence formats and vocabulary to keep readers interested. In April students will practice writing a 5 paragraph essay independently to prepare for the end of the year writing sample taken in May.

Course 1 and Course 2 math students will continue working on lessons 70 and up to lesson 100 by May 11th. We are stressing showing our work for every problem to reduce the careless mistakes made. At this point in both classes, problems are multi-step and students must learn to write down the “middle” steps of the problems on the way to find the correct solution.



CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Kennedy's Class (The Pioneers)

I am excited that nice weather is finally here and I hope everyone enjoys their spring break!

In **Geography**, we have finished up West and Central Africa. Students did a great job on their Top Ten Posters! Congratulations to Logan Woods and Flynn Becker on winning top prize for their posters. We have moved on to East and South Africa, where we are going to focus on colonialism and apartheid.

In **Social Studies**, students had a great time on our field trip to Kennesaw Battlefield! We all made PowerPoint presentations on Civil War Battles and have moved on to industrialization. From there we are going to be working on World War I. Students will learn about the causes that lead to the Great War.

In **art class**, we have finished our pirate ships. These ships travelled through some dangerous seas, which you can view outside the art room. We will then be moving on to a TOP SECRET project.

Coach Henck (The Pioneers)



Volleyball and Badminton were both exciting new sports that were introduced for our after school athletic programs. Having both gave a new perspective on what other sports are available for us to enjoy for our leisure time. Volleyball and Badminton will end on March 31. Track/Running and Fitness will be introduced the week following Spring Break on April 12th.

We have **weight lifting** equipment that has been donated and we will introduce the after school weight lifting and exercise activities. We have two sets of weight lifting equipment and also have another set needed to be delivered. One exercise activity would include cross country running. Other activities will focus on cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility and body composition. These activities will help give the students a better understanding of how our bodies work during physical activities and how we can improve our overall fitness.

Please make sure your child has the appropriate apparel to dress into for each practice. Preferably, this should include a white or navy shirt, navy gym shorts and tennis shoes. Students that come without proper clothes and shoes may not be able to participate. Proper clothes and shoes are for your child's safety and to build the concept of team unity and responsibility.

New and Used 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. Used uniforms are priced from \$2 to \$7.



CFO Corner, Valerie Siciliano

Denim & Dice Fundraiser

The Denim & Dice Fundraiser was a huge success! The gymnasium was transformed to a Vegas style casino. Everyone had a great time playing Black Jack, Craps, Roulette, and Poker...all with “fun money” of course. Those that attended have made several comments about how great the event was. Thank you to the Host Committee for putting on such a spectacular event! Be sure to check out the photos from the night in our Denim & Dice photo album located in the Admissions Room.

2011-2012 School Year

Have you enrolled your child for the 2011-2012 school year yet? Be sure to do so in the next couple weeks. We have started planning for next year and we want to make sure we have your child in mind.

FACTS Online Tuition Manager

For the 2011-2012 school year, all tuition payments are required to be made through our online tuition manager FACTS www.factsmgt.com.

When you sign your enrollment agreement, you will receive instructions on how to create an account with FACTS. If you did not receive the instructions for FACTS, Terri Brooks has copies in her office. If you need assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Dr. Kelli's Korner

Pro-Peace Efforts in Process

I am currently in the process of talking with students about creating a peaceful school environment – what that means, how it looks, what behaviors are helpful in the process and which behaviors are unhelpful in the process. The idea comes from Vivian Gussin Paley’s work and her book “You Can’t Say You Can’t Play”, a pro-peace campaign that encourages inclusiveness. When the teachers and I met during our last teacher work day, we talked about the idea and how we might use some of the concepts at our school. Our Pioneers have been very helpful in providing ideas and possible slogans for our school – “No teasing, just pleasing” and “Work together like champions” are two examples. I have just begun talking with our Explorers on the subject and will continue the process. As I gather ideas from students and listen to their concerns I am keeping notes to share with staff. We will be attempting to determine how we can further develop the pro-peace environment at our school. The teachers and staff will come together with all the information and determine our next steps and which slogan we will eventually adopt.

A Resource to Share

I recently met with a highly recommended licensed psychologist, Dr. Dora Soublis. She offers assessment, treatment and consultation for children, adolescents and their families. She visited our school and learned all about our kids. I was more than impressed and feel comfortable sharing her information with all of you. Additionally, she will come to the school to administer the psychological assessments (comprehensive psychological or psychoeducational evaluations) if needed. It is helpful to keep assessments updated with evaluations that are no more than 3 years old. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding Dr. Soublis.

Dr. Dora Soublis, 770-362-4815, www.DrSoublis.com

Kelli B. Ritter, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
Cumberland Academy of Georgia
Counselor



FYI...

***Cumberland Academy of Georgia is now 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!

*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.mvpsdrivereducation.com; however, Driver's Ed has been cancelled for this Spring.

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

*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.

Kathy Ellison will be joining us one day per week to assist in Admissions. We are thrilled to have her back!!

The Autism Walk will be held May 22. Please contact Lori Cora to join the Cumberland Academy of Georgia Team!

Wish List

- * LCD Projectors
- * (4) Color Printer/ Scanners
- * Xbox 360 Games
- * Dolly Hand Truck
- * Blinds, Lighting and Carpet for the Drama Room
- * Metal storage shelving
- * Large Color Copier
- * Digital Camera
- * 2 Nunchuk Wii Controllers
- * Picnic tables
- * Outside benches



Publix 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

We have been very busy for the past two months! There have been a lot of tours and shadows and the students have been wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Two new students joined us in March. Please join us in welcoming John Everette and Rebecca Weiss. John joins us as an Explorer and Rebecca joins us as a Pioneer.

Please don't forget about Summer Camps. We have some great programs planned for this year. Sign up soon while there is space.

Terri Brooks, Director of Admissions