



Cumberland Academy
of GEORGIA



"An exceptional school for exceptional children."

www.cumberlandacademy.org

PIONEER SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

May 2011

May 2-6	National Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6	No pizza—CJ's grandmother sending hotdogs
May 11	Drama - Mandatory Dress Rehearsal 3-4 All Students
May 13	Grandparents' Day and Spring Play
May 20	Book Fair
May 22	Team Cumberland Autism Walk
May 23	High Ropes Field Trip Explorers
May 23	Field Day Pioneers
May 24	High Ropes Field Trip Pioneers
May 24	Field Day Explorers
May 25	Clean up/Graduation Practice
May 26	Last Day of School Award Ceremony/ Graduation
May 27	Teacher Post Planning
May 30	Memorial Day
May 31	Teacher Post Planning **Birthdays**
May 2	Shale Arora
May 23	Ms. O'Neal

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

WOW, it is already MAY. How far we have come and how fast it has come! April has been a busy month, with the First Lady of Georgia, Mrs. Sandra Deal honoring our school, the Renaissance Festival was awesome, and Track has proven that we have amazing athletes! We also had our first yard sale (thanks volunteers)! I handed out so many honor roll, and A-B honor roll awards this past semester. Keep it up students!

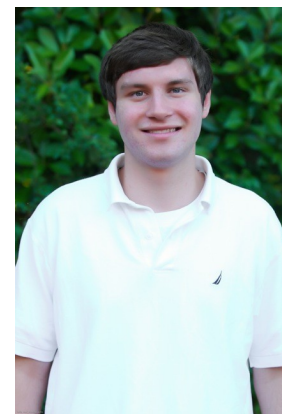
May is going to be a busy month. We are looking forward to our play production of Through the Looking Glass, our graduation and our year end awards ceremony. With the year coming to an end, I look at the growth (not just inches) in our students and I am so proud of all of them. Thank you parents for being so supportive of our school and your efforts with your amazing kids!!

Debbi Scarborough

Congratulations Graduates!



Emily Claire Autrey



Mitchell Scott Giles

You are our shining stars!

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1 www.cumberlandacademy.org

CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. King's Classes (The Explorers)

I can't believe that my first year teaching at Cumberland Academy is coming to a close. The year has flown by and I have grown to care about the students academically and socially more and more with each passing day.

In Algebra and Course 3 we are gearing up for our end of course testing. We are reviewing and studying via the benchmark testing and other teacher created review.

The Spanish class is continuing our study of Puerto Rico as a theme for the semester. We have used the book, When I was Puerto Rican, as a vehicle for understanding the culture of Latin Americans. Also, we have covered the GA Standards for Spanish by consistently reviewing conjugation, grammar, and delving into some of the history of Mexico and Spain.

Elementary Science is capping off the year with a comprehensive study of matter in all its states. We are also learning about atoms, compounds, the periodic table, and mixtures. Later this month each student will create an atom of his/her choosing.

The Physical Science class is currently wrapping up the chapter on magnetism. They have enjoyed learning about how magnets are a part of their day to day lives even if they can't necessarily see them. Our next chapter will lead us to studying matter and we will explore the periodic table and tie in some of the concepts we learned earlier this year.

Mr. Carsia's Classes (The Explorers)

Science: Perceptions and Connections

“Before I get too old, show me a garden that's bursting into life”*

During the last segment of each year, when it is time to introduce human sexuality into the Middle School students' curriculum and perceptions of Life, some very special exposure is scheduled in Science. At appropriate levels of involvement, the Middle Life Science and High School Biology classes will be immersed in new and very real views of interconnected organ systems in a number of the more complex animal phyla. These classes and labs focus not only on the anatomy of the systems on the dissection tray, but into the actual observation of the development of these same organ systems in living embryos of one species under the microscope. (A comparative view examining the effects of a 3% alcohol solution is added in the HS embryo lab.*)

Though countless numbers of the *Oryzias latipes* - Japanese rice patty Medaka fish - may have been lost during the tsunami, multitudes are reared in laboratories and classrooms across the world. The view of their three week embryology is completely visible through their transparent outer membranes and transparent inner cells from the fertilized, one cell stage to swimming hatchling fry. From the differentiation of cells into the first organ, the brain, to the coursing of blood cells as they move through chambers of heart on the sixth day, students can opt to capture the observations of their individually assigned eggs on the attached computer. One can take with them their own video log of this lab, a new appreciation for their past and current development, and most importantly the appreciation, implications, potential and choices for one's future and the future of our living planet.**

*Alcohol effects-Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhyUogSrtvU&feature=related>

**May Preview: The potentials for parent involvement in a related embryology project!

NASA Spacelab Link: <http://www.mix.msfc.nasa.gov/abstracts.php?p=3637>

CLASSROOM NEWS

Mrs. Martin's Class (The Explorers)

Literature I-The students have been reading *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton. We have greatly enjoyed our discussions about the Socs vs. the Greasers. Our favorite character is Ponyboy, who is the narrator of the story.

GA History-The students are studying the early 20th century and the changes that happened in GA at the time. One of the focuses of our study includes segregation and integration.

World History-The students are studying the 20th century around the world. We will be focusing on World War I and the Great Depression. We are looking forward to a possible reenactment of trench warfare.

US History-The students are studying World War II and the Holocaust. We have been discussing the downfalls of human genocide. As part of the discussion, we are creating ways in which society can ensure that instances like this never occur again.

Literature II-The students have completed *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*. We are beginning *Oedipus at Colonus*. Our discussions have included ancient history, as well as, current phrases based on this trilogy.

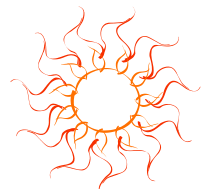


Ms. Thurmond's Class (The Pioneers)

Ms. Thurmond's **Yellow literature classes** will finish their novels, Westing Game, Charlotte's Web or Tuck Everlasting, the second week of May. Each class has extensive vocabulary list to support story comprehension. Please review the words regularly in preparation for tests. I look forward to grading your cereal box book reports. They are due May 17th; however, you may turn in the project whenever it is complete. Mid-May we will complete and independent writing sample. Students will be given a topic and the opportunity to complete a graphic organizer on the first day. Then students given another 2 classes to complete a 5 paragraph essay.

Ms. Kennedy's and Ms. Thurmond's **red literature class** will finish their novels, H.I.V.E or Stormbreaker by the 2nd week of May. Mid-May we will complete and independent writing sample. Students will be given a topic and the opportunity to complete a graphic organizer on the first day. Then students will be given another 2 classes to complete a 5 paragraph essay.

Course 1 and 2 math classes are begin to review essential skills taught over the year. We will break our comprehensive math final into 3 session with several days between each class. We hope that this breakdown of the test will reduce stress and increase performance. There will be a 4th day of testing for students that need to complete portion of the test again. There will study materials sent home throughout May.



CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Kennedy's Class (The Pioneers)

In **Geography**, we are finishing up learning about the conflicts in Southern and Eastern Africa. This next month, we will have finished the entire continent of Africa. North Africa will be the final region of Africa, which should be interesting with all of current attention being paid to that area. We will finish up the year in Australia and New Zealand.

In **Social Studies**, we have finished learning about World War I. We will finish up the year, covering the Great Depression and the World War II. Hopefully, we will also cover civil rights and the cold war.

In **Art Class**, we have finished up our super secret project just in time for that major holiday coming up in May! We will go on to complete an Egyptian project to compliment what we are working on in geography class.



Coach Henck (The Pioneers)

Elementary Science – We completed our Unit on Water and Weather. The next unit to be completed is the Unit on Matter.

Health – We are currently reviewing our year in health and physical education. Fitness time will be increased at the end of health class for the remainder of the year.

Coming Up – The high ropes course and geo-cache trip are coming up and we're excited about that. We are also looking forward to our Field Days and to Spirit Week.



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

2011-2012 School Year

Have you enrolled your child for the 2011-2012 school year yet? Be sure to do so as soon as possible. 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

I can hardly believe it is May! Our last month of school and what a great year it has been. We have focused on optimism, friendships, peaceful interactions, social skills and coping skills so far this year. Our counseling theme this month will be FLEXIBILITY. We are learning to be more flexible and compassionate. I will be using some of Dr. Carol Dweck's research on mindset to help our students adopt a *growth mindset* versus a *fixed mindset*. This should prove an interesting and challenging topic for our students and I look forward to being flexible as we see how it goes. If anyone is interested in learning more about mindset, feel free to set up an appointment with me on either a Monday or Wednesday morning. You may also want to take a look at Dr. Dweck's book *Mindset, The New Psychology of Success*. My research on how to support courageous and cooperative kids led me to Dr. Dweck's research. It also helped me take a deeper look at my own mindset and how I can continue to adopt a more flexible, growth mindset. This is a helpful tool for all of us, not just the students.

I am excited to explore flexibility and compassion with your children/teens this final month of the school year. Thank you for all the support this year!

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

FYI...

***Your summer packet will be mailed out by July 29th. This packet will contain forms needed to be completed before the start of the school year.**

We are enrolling now for Summer Camp. Dates are June 13-17, June 20-24, July 18-22 and August 1-5. We encourage all existing families to attend the week in August to reacclimate to school.

***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!

***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.**

***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.**

***The Autism Walk will be held May 22. Please contact Lori Cora (770-414-0243) to join the Cumberland Academy of Georgia Team!**

***Summer office hours:**

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 3:00

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!

Track at Cumberland

You may have already seen many Cumberland student-athletes outside on Tuesday and Thursday doing lunges, side shuffles, grapevines, Indian runs, and sprints. The reason is there is now a Track team at the Cumberland Academy of Georgia. So far twenty seven students have signed up and have been put through the hour-long, rigorous workouts of Coach Watson and Henck. The philosophy of the team is to build each athlete's core strength, refine their running form, and assemble the camaraderie that comes with team work. We are preparing for next year's admission into the Atlantic Athletic Conference and competing against the schools in that league. Parents are welcome to volunteer their time, especially if they have a background in Track and Field. At the end of the year each athlete will be given a summer work-out program to help stay in shape for next year's round of athletics. Please contact either coach if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. GO TEAM!!!!