



Cumberland Academy
of GEORGIA



"An exceptional school for exceptional students."

www.cumberlandacademy.org

PIONEER SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

October 2011

- Oct. 2nd** Open House 2 p.m.
- Oct. 6th** Pioneer Soccer Game 4 p.m. against Swift at Waller Field
- Oct. 12th** Explorer Soccer Game 4 p.m. at Hammond Park
- Oct. 13th** Parent Conferences Noon Dismissal
- Oct. 14-17** Fall Break
- Oct. 21st** Explorer Midnight Madness
- Oct. 26th** Pioneer Soccer Game 4 p.m. against Swift at Hammond Park

Birthdays

- Oct. 11th** Mr. Carsia
- Oct. 14th** Blake Brumfield
Ian Thomasson
- Oct. 20th** Haley
- Oct. 21st** David Simanovsky
- Oct. 23rd** Ms. Kennedy
- Oct. 30th** Brandon Heaton



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



September proved to be an exciting month! We had our white water rafting trip, 2 soccer games, and Mt. Vernon came over and helped with a beautification day.

We also had 3 new students start, Welcome Evan, Tiger and David! Our schedules are becoming more routine and our enrichment programs have begun. I look forward to October as we have our Labitat (fish hatchery) beginning and we will receive 1100 trout eggs that we will take through maturation and the return to the environment.

Happy Fall!

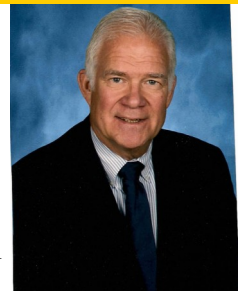
Happy Fall!

Debbi Scarborough
Founding Director

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Summer has passed and we now have entered the days of Autumn. Cumberland soccer is active, students are working hard in cross country, and we have completed a successful and exciting 8 1/2 mile and two hour white-water rafting excursion on the Nantahala River in North Carolina. No doubt your student is being challenged academically and hopefully progressing in his/her studies. I continue to be impressed by our faculty and staff and their commitment to these very special learners that we serve here at Cumberland Academy of Georgia. I was in Costco just yesterday and was stunned to see Christmas "stuff" already making an appearance! The year is moving along and the rhythm of school is in full swing. Let's enjoy the trip together!



Don Sasso

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1 www.cumberlandacademy.org

Ms. Thurmond's Classes



Wow, the first 9 weeks are nearly over! It has been a great start to the year. I've enjoyed getting to know our new students and seeing the maturity in our returning students.

My literature classes are finishing their first novels of the year in the next week. We completed our first essay, a personal narrative mid-September and we've been learning more about the writing trait of IDEAS in a variety of fun written activities. Throughout the month of October, we will learn literary terms to use as we discuss novels in class. Students should have a copy of the exam in the binders.

Elementary math classes will begin drill/speed tests this month. Ideally, the additional practice will help students become more efficient with their basic computation skills. We will stress multiplication facts. If students have mastered multiplication facts, then we will practice division facts. Basic multiplication and division facts are crucial when we begin working with FRACTIONS...later this year and next year. :-)

Course 1 students have completed their review lessons and we are now beginning multi-step, more complex skills. Students may start using calculators to complete more complicated multiplication and division problems. Look for a new vocabulary list of math terms to start the month.

Ms. Kennedy's Classes

It is finally getting cooler and I am so excited for fall! We created some beautiful fall landscapes with warm colors in art class. The students are currently working on a quilting project that will be unveiled in February. Also, the striking Koi fish pictures are currently hanging in the front staircase but are still available to purchase.

In Geography, we are studying Ancient Greece and Medieval Europe. We will be studying the birthplace of democracy and the Fall of the Roman Empire. Students have their individual European projects that they should be working on. I can't wait to see how they turn out!

In Social Studies, we are studying the causes of the Civil War. We will be working on our own individual biographies of well known Civil War figures.



Ms. Liang's Classes

4th grade literature is reading *The Sign of the Beaver* with Mrs. Liang. This exciting novel tells the story of Matt, a young settler who is left to guard his family's homestead and his friendship with Attean, an Iroquois boy who lives nearby. The students are enjoying it greatly. Our next book will be *My Brother Sam is Dead*.

The 5th graders are working on poetry this month. We've been reading a variety of poems written for young people and trying our hands at writing our own. Our next novel will be *The Great Brain* by John D. Fitzgerald. This is a very humorous book that I think the students will enjoy.

In Grammar, we have concluded our review of parts of speech and moved on to punctuation and capitalization. I've been introducing grammar centers to this class to give them a chance for independent practice and application of their skills. The students receive a packet for word study every two weeks. The first week focuses on definitions and vocabulary. The second week is spelling.

4th grade social studies is wrapping up our study of Native Americans and moving into the Age of Exploration. We'll be learning about the different European explorers, their reasons for exploring and the places they visited through a variety of kinesthetic and multi-media classroom experiences.

Explorer Literature is currently reading *The Wave*, by Todd Strasser. This book tells the true story of a high school classroom experiment with fascism that goes awry.

Ms. Smith's Classes

Spanish classes completed several vocabulary tests and one chapter test. I've been pleased and impressed with Spanish I students' eagerness to learn and with the high levels of abilities I've found in Spanish II. Classes are learning or reviewing the basics of Spanish grammar – personal pronouns, infinitive verbs, verb conjugations, how to say what you like and dislike as well as lots of vocabulary to increase their skills. We have a couple of recent Hispanic celebrations that the students are studying. Five Spanish-speaking Latin American countries celebrated their independence days in September. Also, with the Mexican holiday el Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) coming up on Nov. 2, students in both classes will be working in class on a Day of the Dead altar that will be put on display.

Sixth-grade science students did extensive study on volcanoes. They learned how volcanoes are created, what makes explosions, famous volcanoes, and a number of interesting volcano trivia. Be sure to ask your student where is located the largest volcano in our solar system! We culminated the study by building a volcano and using it to create both types of lava flow, then began our study of plate tectonics.

Sixth-grade literature students finished reading "Twister on Tuesday" and began reading "Vacation under the Volcano." Both books complement the students' studies in science. Students read aloud one chapter each day with several stops to discuss plot and events that were read. Students write a short summary of the day's chapter, then take a six-question quiz over the day's chapter. Students began their nightly reading log. Parents, don't forget to initial your child's reading log and return it by Oct. 31.

Fourth- and fifth-grade grammar students continue their work on punctuation. We finished nouns, verbs and adjectives, are currently working on comma rules and will then move into the study of the colon, semi-colon, other punctuation marks, adjectives to express amount and subject, object and possessive pronouns.

Mr. Watson's Classes



This year the Georgia History class is going to embark on a historical landmark expedition. An historical marker is an indicator such as a plaque or sign to commemorate an event or person of historic interest and to associate that point of interest with a specific locale one can visit. There are many hundreds of historical markers in and around Atlanta; many are likely right near your home. Students of the Georgia History class are going to find five to ten of these markers, have a picture taken of them at the marker, and write a brief history about what the marker represents. This illustrative history will be made into a picture book, collage, or any interesting way the student wishes and presented to the class.

Students are currently poring over maps looking for different markers they want to use for their project. (Proximity to home is an important characteristic and has been strongly encouraged.) Disposable cameras and art supplies will be provided by Mr. Watson if needed. We will be working on this project over the course of the first semester and will have presentations ready before Christmas break.

This is a great way for our students to get out and enhance their learning of Georgia history and I am really looking forward to seeing what each student discovers and how they present their finds.

Coach Henck's Classes



Health - Understanding the food guide pyramid is the current spotlight. Each student will be able to identify each food group, how many servings from each group, and be able to identify nutrients associated within each group.

Elementary Science (4th & 5th) - The Scientific Method is the current spotlight for both 4th Grade and 5th Grade Science classes. Students are conducting in-class experiments while identifying each step as it applies in the Scientific Method.

Ms. King's Classes



It's hard to believe that it's already almost October. My classes have been busy academically with quizzes, tests, discussions, etc. The students have also been busy socially, as well, with our new activity lunch in the commons area, white water rafting, and after school activities. The Explorer teachers are truly making an effort this year to foster a sense of community with our High School students.

Sociology – In Sociology we've been studying the terms that are important to the course as well as the 15 most important sociologists. The students have participated in some lively discussions centered around the three core paradigms and the two different types of functions within a society. We will take our first test on Friday!

Physical Science – The Physical Science class has already participated in an experiment with food tasting that engaged each student to better understand the scientific method. Currently, we are about to wrap up our unit on force, pressure, etc.

High School Literature – We've made great progress in The Book Thief. The Book Thief is a beautifully written story set in WWII dealing with the themes of Nazi Germany. The students have also answered several writing prompts about the book which have enabled them to delve more deeply into the reading. The book is quite long; therefore, we are currently plowing through the material looking at the themes, symbolism, etc. There is quite a bit of German vocabulary sprinkled throughout the novel which has proved quite interesting for the students to pronounce. Walker West has been a huge help with the pronunciation and translation of much of the German vocabulary words.

Applications in Math – All of the students in Applications in Math are working on differentiated material and concepts. Many of the students have been reviewing for a test this coming week.



Mr. Carsia's Classes

There are many driving forces in the world that indirectly have very large effects. In our Earth Science classroom, students examined the functioning of Lava Lamps to determine how the heat of the light bulb has such a tremendous effect, creating a mesmerizing cycle. It is really very



simple: heat separates the molecules of the wax and its density decreases; it then rises and loses the heat energy which moves the molecules closer again. The density increases and it sinks to begin the cycle again. It may be surprising, but on a much larger scale, this same process can make the Earth move beneath your feet. At mid-ocean ridges, new crust forms from magma beneath and the sea floor spreads; the crust is renewed and recycled as it then subducts beneath continental plates. The process is responsible for plate tectonic movement!

The topic of "driving forces" is always being discussed in science and is actually a part of the current topics in Life Science Class and often in Environmental Science. They are not always physical but they certainly initiate, or help initiate, the directional process where something or even someone moves in. In Life Science, it is the nucleus of a cell and the software of DNA.

The topic of finding the driving force for each student in a classroom is quite another thing. Sometimes it takes capturing the attention of the class by using words and concepts of interest or attention getters, like flatulence, or just by using an intriguing device like a lava lamp of the 70's.

Counselor's Corner

It has been a busy first of the school year in the counseling office. We now have counselors here every day of the week and all day long. We are better able to meet the needs of our growing student population.

We have been getting to know the new children and teens while we help all the students settle into the school routine. This month we will be working with many of our students on ways to reduce anxiety. Anxiety tends to be one of those emotional states that we all need to learn to manage. Our October counseling theme will be "Kindness". Every opportunity to practice kindness will be utilized. Of course, we will continue to promote our T.H.I.N.K. before you speak (text or type) motto here at Cumberland. As a reminder, THINK stands for:

T – True

H - Helpful

I – Important

N – Necessary

K – Kind

Looking forward to a fabulous fall here at Cumberland,

Dr. Kelli (for the counseling team)



*When in doubt,
talk it out.
See your
counselor.*

New and Used Uniform Shirts for Sale at School

We have white short sleeve Cumberland Academy of Georgia polo shirts and blue 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

Hello, Parents! The school year is just underway and I hope you have had an incredible summer break with your children. We are excited about the new school year.

If any of you have questions regarding tuition, FACTS, SB10 or GOAL please do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to help.

Speaking of GOAL, how many of you would love to receive a state tax credit at the end of the year while filing your taxes AND help a student in need of financial assistance attend Cumberland? The Georgia GOAL Scholarship Organization is just the way to do it! You can contribute to the GOAL scholarship fund, which in turn will help a child in need attend Cumberland and receive the special attention and education he/she needs. **AND YOU GET A FULL TAX CREDIT FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION ON YOUR GEORGIA STATE TAX RETURN.** You also get a charitable tax deduction on your federal return! It's a win-win situation for everyone. Please contact me for more information on the GOAL scholarship fund. It's such a great opportunity to give AND receive.

Valerie Siciliano/CFO

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FYI...

Drivers' Education at Cumberland

Since there seems to be interest in Cumberland hosting a drivers' education program partnering with Mount Vernon Presbyterian School, we are proceeding to set up some specifics regarding the program. It would take place on Saturday morning/afternoon from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Cumberland on October 8, 22, 29 and November 5, 12 and 19(make up day). The cost would be \$409 which includes 30 class hours and 6 hours on the road training. Students must be 15 years of age or older. Before we have Nathan's Driving School set up a website where parents can register and pay for this program, I am asking that all parents interested in having their student participate in this program on the dates and times mentioned above again confirm with me via email at don.sasso@cumberlandacademy.org immediately so that we can proceed to set up the registration web site.

*Cumberland Academy of Georgia is 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!

*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.

Come out and support the Explorer and Pioneer Soccer Teams! Below is a shot of the Explorers at their first game.



School office hours are 7:30 - 4:30.

Wish List

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|---|----------------------------|
| * LCD Projector | *Large Color Copier |
| *Xbox 360 Games | *Digital Camera |
| *Dolly Hand Truck | *2 Nunchuk Wii Controllers |
| *Blinds, Lighting and Carpet for the High School Area | *Picnic Table |
| *Sectional Sofa for the High School Area | *Outside Bench |
| *Mac Computer for Yearbook | *Oreck Vacuum Cleaner |
| | *Metal storage shelving |

Cumberland Academy of Georgia is a 501c3 Organization



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!

Thank You Corner

Thanks to Ann Vitale for donating a printer.

Thanks to the Millers for the donation of a paper cutter.

Thanks to the Gellis family for donating 2 projectors.

Thanks to Kristy Gellis and Gailynn Gluth for office assistance.

Thanks to all of the library volunteers.

Thanks to Beau Murphey and Bob McWilliams for all of their handyman work.

Thanks to everyone who has donated books to the library.

A great big thanks to Lori Cora for all things too numerous to list!