



CHURCHILL SCHOOL NEWS



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Living to Learn—Learning to Live

January, 2008
Churchill School
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A Note From The Principal



I have had a few people ask me about the purple band I've been wearing on my wrist. I jumped on the bandwagon of a movement called "A Complaint-Free World." The purple band is supposed to be moved to the opposite wrist each time I catch myself complaining. The idea is to try and keep it on the same wrist (in other words, don't complain) for 21 days. I'll admit, there are some days when I don't think I've made it 21 minutes! I may wear this thing out in record time.

What I will also admit is that it has made me sit up and take notice of all the complaining that I do. My hope is that over time, it may change my perspective a bit and push me to react with compassion and a desire to solve problems rather than to judge and complain.

So when I was thinking about the 21-day challenge, it came to me that maybe this is the way to do those pesky New Year's Resolutions. Instead of tackling the idea that we're going to do something for the entire year, maybe we can try some things for just 21 days. Three weeks—that seems much more possible than 12 months—or the rest of time! So, parents, if you haven't come up with your annual New Year's Resolutions yet, here are some you might like to try, for 21 days, with your family:

- ❖ Read a chapter of a book together each night - for 21 days.
- ❖ No fast food - for 21 days.
- ❖ Eat dinner together - for 21 days.
- ❖ Do some form of exercise together - for 21 days.

They say it takes at least 21 days to build a habit. Here's hoping that my habit becomes less complaining and not just moving this plastic bracelet from wrist to wrist! Happy New Year!

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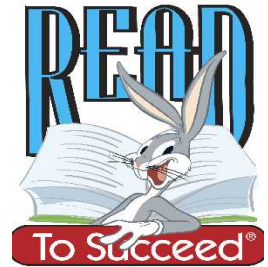


Important Dates to Remember

Monday, January 14	School Board Meeting James Hart Media Center, 7 p.m.
Thursday, January 17	End of 2nd Quarter
Monday, January 21	Martin Luther King Day No School
Friday, January 25	Report Card Day
Saturday, January 26	Market Day Pick-Up James Hart, 10:30 a.m. - Noon
Monday, January 28	School Board Meeting James Hart Media Center, 7 p.m.



Earn a Free Ticket to Six Flags with Read to Succeed



Once again, Churchill students will be participating in the Six Flags Great America Read to Succeed Program. Students who complete 6 hours of recreational reading will earn a free student admission to Six Flags Great America. This is a wonderful opportunity to increase your child's independent reading time while earning a reward for some summer fun. Forms are coming home today! Please check your child's backpack for full details.

Please note the deadline for forms is Wednesday, February 20th. No late forms will be accepted.

Winter Weather

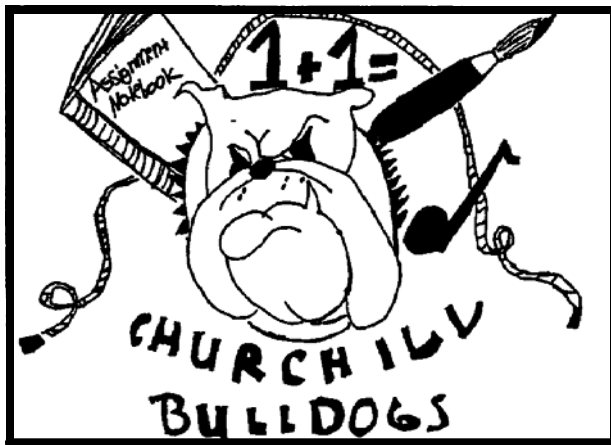
Even though we had a brief respite, winter is really here. Here are some winter weather reminders:

- ❖ Students will usually be indoors when the air temperature and/or wind chill is below 20 degrees. There may be an exceptional day when either temperature or wind chill is in the high teens and conditions are such that a brief recess outdoors is possible.
- ❖ Because temperatures and conditions can change drastically from early morning throughout the day, please dress your child as though (s)he will be going outdoors for noon recess. Hats, gloves and boots are necessary in order to enjoy a few minutes outdoors in the middle of the day.
- ❖ When there is snow on the ground, students will be allowed to play in it, **if they are wearing boots and snow pants.** Without boots and snow pants, students will be asked to remain on the blacktop areas of our playgrounds.
- ❖ **Snow is to remain on the ground at all times.** Students are not allowed to pick up snow, make snowballs, or play with chunks of ice or icicles. Throwing snow or ice is not allowed on school grounds.

Congratulations to Cobi Sabo

Student Council T-Shirt Design Contest Winner!

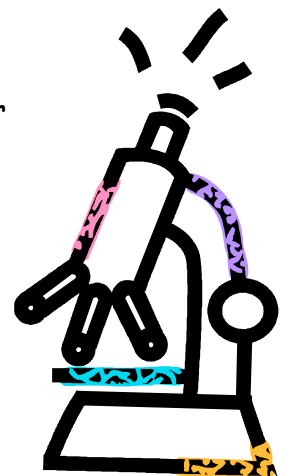
During the month of December, Churchill's Student Council conducted a T-Shirt Design Contest. Students were invited to submit an original design for this year's Churchill School spirit wear. A selection committee narrowed the submissions and the student body voted on their favorite design. Congratulations to 4th grader, Cobi Sabo on his winning drawing, pictured below. While a large order was filled in December, a second order will be placed this month. Students wishing to order a Churchill t-shirt should ask for an order form from their classroom teacher. Order forms and money are due no later than January 31st. Sorry, no late orders can be accepted.



Science Fair Permission Slips Due Monday!

It is Science Fair season! Packets were sent home this week. Any student interested in participating in the Science Fair must return a signed permission slip no later than Monday, January 14th. If your child has lost his/her permission slip, please go to our website www.hsd153.org. Click on 'Schools' and then 'Churchill.' You should see a link to the "Science Fair Permission Slip."

Part of the learning process in participating in the Science Fair is adhering to the steps, guidelines and deadlines of the event. You can help your child by reminding them of approaching due dates and planning a timeline for his/her project. The Science Fair is a huge undertaking, organized by Miss Klappauf. In order to make the process and the event work fairly for everyone, **deadlines are firm**. Late forms and work cannot be accepted. We appreciate your support and understanding of the process.



Churchill Welcomes New Staff Members

We would like to welcome some new faces to our Churchill School staff. **Christina Clark** joins us as our new general music teacher. Ms. Clark will be taking over the position vacated by Mrs. Rachowicz's retirement. A December graduate of Valparaiso University with a degree in music education, Ms. Clark is excited to begin her new duties with our 3rd and 4th graders. She will also be teaching general music one day a week at Willow School.

Melissa Romano joins us as an assistant working in Mrs. DeBoer's 4th grade class. She fills the position vacated by Ms. Essig. Not to worry about Ms. Essig—she didn't get far! She began her student teaching assignment this week—in Mrs. DeBoer's 4th grade class!

Finally, we'd like to welcome another student teacher, **Ms. Jennifer Miller**. Ms. Miller will be working with Mrs. Dodero and Mrs. Kozel in our learning resource centers.



L to R: Christina Clark, Melissa Romano, Jennifer Miller

Churchill School's Never Give Up Awards

At the end of the first quarter, an all-school awards assembly was held for our student body during which we unveiled the "Never Give Up" award. Winston Churchill, our school's namesake, was well-known for this philosophy. In an effort to award effort and persistence, teachers were asked to identify students they felt embodied this spirit. The student nominated should have demonstrated exceptional persistence and effort in the face of challenge. Outstanding achievement is not a requirement, but could be considered. Most important is the ability to keep trying even when things are hard.

Students receiving the award were announced at the assembly and given a certificate to acknowledge their hard work. Our second-quarter awards assembly will be held on Friday, February 1st. Teachers will again be asked to consider the work of their students over the past quarter and identify deserving students for this award. The names will be announced and certificates awarded at the February assembly.

Our first quarter winners were:

Third Grade: Kevin Beard, Nick Palanca, D'Nard Alfred, Henry Van Etten, Dare Okuneye, Joshua Bellamy, Delvon Kimbrough, Rakiah Muhammad, Hailey Coghlan, Felisha Davis, Maurice Scott, Courtney Commodore, Philip Donahue, Michael Easter, Jameisha Sandifer, Kirsten Washington

Fourth Grade: Jeremy Wexelberg, Gabby Prudeaux, Brooke Watson, Josh Coleman, Andy Christensen, Allison Flory, Joshua Ware, Kelly Rosenthal, Aaron Lopez, Tristan Donohoe, Raven Howell, Erin Lee, Lake Blocher, Anna Dunlavy, Hakeem Reed, Antonia DeFrance

Congratulations to these students for their hard work and achievement!