



# CHURCHILL SCHOOL NEWS



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Principal  
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*Living to Learn—Learning to Live*

January, 2010  
Churchill School  
1300 West 190th Street  
Homewood, Illinois 60430  
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## A Note From The Principal



One of my favorite purchases over the holidays was a new book about teaching. "Close Encounters of the Third-Grade Kind" is the second book I've read by Phillip Done. Mr. Done has spent more than twenty years teaching third-grade and writes beautifully of his experiences. He captures the daily humor, joy, frustration and fulfillment of being a teacher. One of the chapters talks about the fact that kids are kids—no different today than they were in past generations.

As each generation 'ages up,' I think we look nostalgically at the past and say something like "they don't make things like they used to." With regard to children, you will often hear people talk about how different children are today than when 'we' were young. I have to agree with Mr. Done on this one. I've spent my entire adult life working in elementary schools. While the faces and locations have changed, there is something very reassuring about the fact that 8-10 year olds are pretty much the same today as they have ever been.

As evidence, and with credit to Mr. Done for the inspiration, I would submit the following yearly comments and events:

- ❖ At least once every year, a child asks me if I live here or, more recently as a principal, if I 'own' the school.
- ❖ After every new hairdo, I'll hear the comment "What did you do to your hair?"
- ❖ Once the novelty of learning to tie one's shoes has worn off, they will never again notice that their shoes are untied.
- ❖ Ice packs cure 95% of all illness and injury reported to the nurse's office.
- ❖ Every Science Fair will have a volcano.
- ❖ The boys' bathroom provides more entertainment to third- and fourth-grade boys than any game system ever invented. Nintendo should find a way to replicate it for a new Wii game.
- ❖ No matter what the threat of punishment, snowballs will be made and thrown.
- ❖ Every third grader can't wait to write in cursive and every fourth-grader will

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## Inside this Issue. . .

\*\*\*\*Green Alert!\*\*\*\*

See inside for details about the new e-mail publication.

Never Give Up Awards

Winter Weather

January Assessments

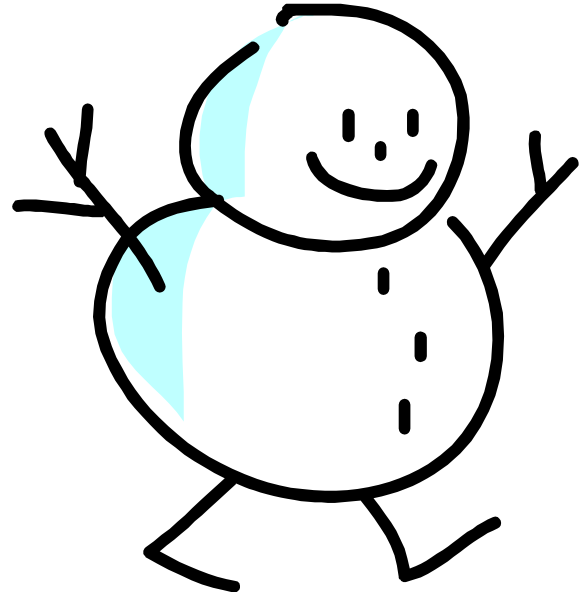
Science Fair

January Important  
Dates to Remember.....

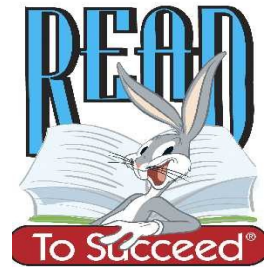


## Important Dates to Remember

Monday, January 11	<b>School Board Meeting</b> James Hart Media Center, 7 p.m.
Friday, January 15	Teacher Institute—No School
Monday, January 18	Martin Luther King Day No School
Friday, January 22	End of 2nd Quarter
Monday, January 25	<b>School Board Meeting</b> James Hart Media Center, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, January 27	PTA General Meeting, 7 p.m. James Hart Gym
Friday, January 29	Report Card Day



## 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 were sent home in December. Replacement forms are available on the school website or through the Churchill Office.

**Please note the deadline for forms is Wednesday, February 17th. No late forms will be accepted.**

## Winter Weather

The thermometer tells us that 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 nor on the way home from school.

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ask "Do we have to write in cursive?" Guaranteed. (Mr. Done has an entire chapter on cursive!)

Finally, the most reassuring certainty of all, children want to learn. They demonstrate it every hour of every day. They may not want to learn exactly what we are teaching or in the way that we are presenting it, but their unflinching desire to discover and learn has been evident in every school and in every child I've encountered. Our challenge, and reward, is in finding the best way to meet the needs of all the children who walk through our doors each day - shoes tied or untied!

Happy New Year!

### \*\*\*\*Green Alert\*\*\*\*

## This is the last full-school paper printing of the Churchill

**School News.** If you have registered an email address with the school district, you should receive an email notification that the Churchill School News for January is available to view online. The email will contain a direct link to our school website and this newsletter.

If you prefer to continue receiving paper copies of our monthly newsletter, please complete the attached form and return it to the school office.



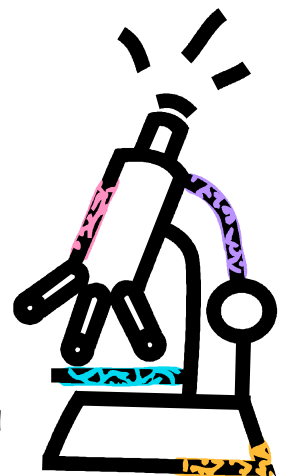
If you do not receive the email notification, this means we do not have an accurate email address on file for your family. Please complete the attached form and return it to the school office. We will send a test email to make sure we have the correct information and then add your new email to our files.

We are excited to be able to utilize our electronic resources and make a little dent in the amount of paper we use each month.

## Science Fair Permission Slips Due Monday!

It is Science Fair season! Permission slips were sent home this week. Any student interested in participating in the Science Fair must return a signed permission slip no later than Tuesday, January 12th. If your child has lost his/her permission slip, please go to our website [www.hsd153.org](http://www.hsd153.org). Click on 'Schools' and then 'Churchill.' Click on the "Extra-Curricular" link on the left side of the screen. All materials for the Science Fair will be available to download on this site.

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 him/her of approaching due dates and planning a timeline for his/her project. The Science Fair is a huge undertaking, organized by Miss Klappauf and Mrs. Lincoln. 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.



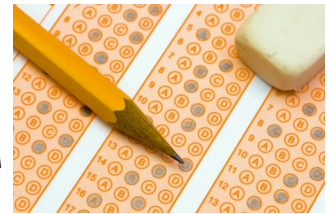
# January Assessments

During the month of January, we will be taking some time to check our progress. This is the perfect time to take stock of where we are and adjust our plans and programs accordingly. Student progress will be assessed in both Reading and Math using NWEA and our AimsWeb Universal Screening tools.

We are always working to increase the percentage of students reaching their target growth goals in reading. While a majority of our students reach their goals, we are always working to do better. January offers us the opportunity to do a mid-year check point of our progress toward the goal. During this month, students will spend some of their computer lab time taking a mid-year NWEA reading assessment. The results of this assessment will provide important information for our teachers as they plan instruction for the remainder of the year. It will also give students a chance to see how they are doing and refocus their efforts on their goal.

January also brings our mid-year universal screening. As I explained at our fall parent information night, in compliance with new federal regulations, our students are screened three times each year in both reading fluency and reading comprehension. The purpose of this screening is to ensure that all students are progressing and to identify those students who may be in need of more reading support. The screenings are very brief, each one taking less than five minutes and will be conducted by classroom teachers and support staff.

It is always important to monitor the amount of testing scheduled for our students. We don't want to 'overtest' our students, however, assessment is a critical piece of our programming. Without regular, reliable and valid assessment, we cannot be assured that we are meeting the varied needs of our students. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress or test results, please contact the classroom teacher.



## 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, January 29th. 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 January assembly.

Our first quarter winners were:

**Third Grade:** Taylor Ireland, Jeremy Jude, Cheynel Smith, Kayla Walz, Masai Love, Jeremiah James, Sammy Roh, Joseph Dunagan, Camm Pollmacher, Bailey Sheridan, Jessica Miller, Micha Anderson, Demetrois McGowan, Jack Anderson, Jacki Anderson, Brandon Prichard, Emily Mullins



**Fourth Grade:** Tierra Winters, Jaida Jude, Kierra Reeves, Byron Graham, Deona Casey, Dylan Aver, Ava Santefort, Samantha Gibbs, Liam O'Connor, Opeyemi Fatuki, Julian Allen, Kahlil Oatis, Emma Anderson, Duncan Moss, Noor Ryan, Jeremiah Davis, Justin Cosby, Raymond Flores, Grace Murray

**Congratulations to these students for their hard work and achievement!**

# Campbell's Soup Labels - Please Read!

For the last few years, we have collected Campbell's Soup Labels at Churchill. In the past, we have redeemed these for playground balls and other items for use in the school. The redemption catalog for the labels also includes dozens of items that are perfect for our school store - The Dog House. As you can imagine, stocking the store can be quite costly. We have received funds from our very generous PTA, but we have found that our students' good behavior has translated into many, many purchases being made with their good behavior tokens. Campbell's Soup Labels is just the thing we're looking for to help us maintain our school store.

If you have been saving your soup labels, please continue. If you have not in the past, please consider saving your labels for us. You can visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) for information on eligible products. The list includes many items in addition to Campbell's Soup. We appreciate your help in keeping our school store stocked!



**Effective January 1st, a new law makes it illegal to use a wireless phone (unless on voice-activated mode) while operating a motor vehicle in any school speed zone in Illinois. The Homewood Police Department will be enforcing this new law around our schools especially during our arrival and dismissal times when we have a great deal of vehicular traffic as well as students who are walking. Please be extra careful and put aside your cell phones.**



## Box Tops for Education News

Happy New Year Churchill families!

I hope everyone enjoyed their break. I brought back some sunshine from Florida for all of you but lost the fabulous warm weather somewhere in the mountains of Tennessee!! Hopefully some kind soul will find it and forward it up here to all of us!

Winter's a great time for cooking wonderful warm comfort foods. As you pull out those great recipes from your grandma's cookbook or try a new one from a close friend or magazine remember to incorporate items from the Box Tops list.

There are also many non food items so please check the website ([www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)) for these items or request a copy from the office. Avery, a company new to Box Tops this year, offers many paper products that can be used for school projects or in fun craft projects when the weather doesn't allow us out with our kiddos.

Please remember to qualify for prizes I need both first and last names on submissions. Five students submitted Box Tops with only first names this month.

Thanks to all that participate in this great program. Stay warm and on a bright note, with Homewood Baseball/ Softball registration coming at month's end spring must be coming shortly!

Angie Brandt  
Box Tops for Education Coordinator

**December winners of Culvers treats:**

Jack Davis  
Sydney Duntz

Ben Eng  
Emily McHale

Danny Wojslow  
Leia Fuentes



I would like to receive a paper copy of the Churchill School News each month.

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Child's Name

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Teacher

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Room #

I did not receive an email notification regarding the Churchill School News. I would like to receive the newsletter electronically. Please use the following email address for my notification:

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Child's Name

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Parent Name

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Parent Email Address

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Teacher

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Room #