



CHURCHILL SCHOOL NEWS



Cecelia Coffey
Principal
Tonya Morris
Assistant to the Principal

Living to Learn—Learning to Live

October, 2009
Churchill School
1300 West 190th Street
Homewood, Illinois 60430
708-798-3424

A Note From The Principal . . .



In the current national climate, it can sometimes be difficult to find the silver lining in what seems to be a persistent black cloud. But silver linings there are - with many to be found right here in our school community. For me, one of the most important silver linings is our community. We live in a community that has been and continues to be incredibly supportive of our schools and our students. This year, as in the past, as I talk with new families in our school, they tell me the same thing: We did our research and moved here because of the schools.

Our success can be attributed to many factors: a talented and dedicated group of teachers and support staff, students who come to school ready to learn and a community that supports the work of our schools. But what is it that sets us apart? Most schools would boast that they have talented teachers and eager students. What community would not say that they support their schools?

I believe that one of those things that sets us apart is the level of parent involvement we have in our schools. If you listed all of the things necessary in order to effectively educate children for the future, it would be crystal clear that this was a job far beyond the capabilities of a school staff. We cannot do this critical work alone. And, fortunately for us, we don't have to.

Parents help us every day in ways big and small. The simple act of checking an assignment notebook and daily homework sends the message to your children that we are in this together. Calling to clarify information about assignments, expectations, etc. is another simple way our parents support our work and their children. Our PTA is a consistent source of support for our work. Their work over the years has enriched the school experience of our students in dozens of ways. The Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence provides grant monies which encourage our teachers to explore and expand our offerings to students.

If you are a longtime Homewood resident, the value of these things may seem obvious. We sometimes forget or take for granted the worth of our collective involvement in our schools. I would encourage you to continue your involvement. Stay on top



of your child's work and activities. Make time in your schedule to become in-

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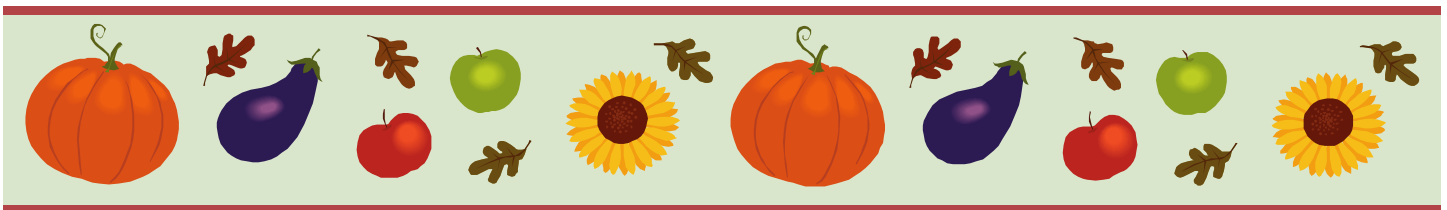
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involved in the PTA, the Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence, Parent SEED or the Parents Music Association. If you can't commit to regular volunteer time, call one of the organizations and find out about one-time opportunities that may only take an hour or two a few times a year. Links to parent organizations can be found on our district website - www.hsd153.org. Click on the "About Us" link, then on "Supporting Organizations."

If you are new to Homewood, you may be wondering where to start! The best advice I can give you is to pick one small thing and start there. Attend a school board or PTA meeting. Read every piece of communication that comes home—you never know when something will catch your interest. Most importantly, know that the very reason you chose to come to Homewood relies greatly on your engagement and involvement. Our reputation for great schools is built on the bedrock of parental involvement. We welcome you to our community and welcome your participation in our most important work - the education of our children.

Finally, there are two opportunities right around the corner! On Saturday, October 17th, the Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence will host their annual Pasta Palooza (see insert in this newsletter). This is a wonderful community event that raises money for the Foundation's grant program. In addition to a tasty pasta dinner, you will get a chance to see a variety of performances from our district's fine arts and extra-curricular programs. Our very own Churchill 4th Grade Choir will be performing.

And, on Wednesday, October 21st, Churchill will host a Parent Education Night. Staff will be presenting sessions on homework help, curriculum information and intervention programs. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to hear, firsthand, from your children's teachers about ways you can best help them achieve.



PLEASE SAVE YOUR POP TABS FOR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE!!!!

Churchill School continues to collect pop tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House near the University of Chicago Children's Hospital. Ronald McDonald Houses provide a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children who are receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. Since 1974 this program has helped over 10 million families!

You can help support this wonderful cause by removing the tabs from your aluminum pop cans, collecting them in baggies, envelopes, clean plastic milk jugs, etc., and sending them to school with your child. The children can then deposit the tabs in the red collection barrel in the school library. A Ronald McDonald House volunteer (and local mom!) collects the barrel, when full, and recycles the tabs, with all proceeds going to the House - and directly benefiting the families staying there.

Please consider helping with this project! It's a simple way to help your kids "get involved" and touch the lives of other children and their families!

THANK YOU!!!

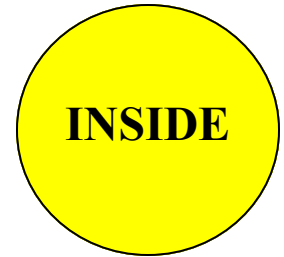


**CHICAGOLAND &
NORTHWEST INDIANA**

Look for the "Inside" Sign!

Walkers and Car Riders—Please Note!

On mornings with inclement weather or wet/muddy playground conditions, the students should come inside upon arrival to school. On those mornings, each entrance will display a bright yellow, circular sign that says "INSIDE."



Churchill School
Parent Information Night
How We Help Your Child Achieve
and What You Can Do At Home!

Date: Wed. October 21st

Time:
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Please join us as we give an overview of our academic data and programs for the coming school year. Topics covered include:

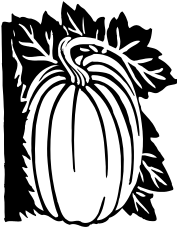
- Achievement Test Data
- Academic Intervention and Support Structures
- Curricular Programs
- Strategies for Parents - Reading, Math and On-line Study Aids

Watch your child's backpack next week for more information.

Important Dates to Remember

Wednesday, October 7	Market Day Pick-Up, James Hart 6:15—7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 9	Early Dismissal, 11:50 a.m.
Monday, October 12	Columbus Day, No School
Tuesday, October 13	School Board Meeting, James Hart Media Center 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 17	Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence—Pasta Palooza James Hart Cafetorium 5:00 -8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 21	Parent Information Night, Churchill School, 6:30—8:30 p.m.
Monday, October 26	School Board Meeting, James Hart Media Center 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 27	Churchill Picture Re-Takes
Friday, October 30	End of First Quarter Halloween Parade, 1:45 p.m. Room Parties following parade.

Halloween Is Coming. . .

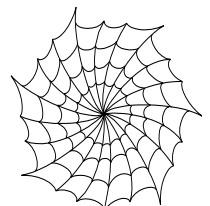


On Friday, October 30th, students at Churchill will participate in the annual Halloween parade beginning at 1:45 p.m. Weather permitting, the parade will be outdoors and begin at the rear (north) end of the building, proceed around the east side of the school on Center Avenue, turn and parade in front of the building on 190th Street and re-enter the building through the main entrance. If weather does not permit us to be outside, we will walk through the building and gym.

If you do not wish for your child to participate in Halloween festivities, please send a note to your child's teacher. If we do not receive any information to the contrary, students will participate in the Halloween activities.

Students are invited to bring a costume to school to wear during the parade and party. Students should not wear costumes to school. **Masks are a safety hazard when walking in the parade and will not be allowed.** If a costume is composed completely of a mask, please consider a different type of costume. Many students are disappointed when the time for the parade comes and they are not allowed to wear their masks. Other items students should not include in their costumes are toy weapons, large props and rollerblades. Excessively gory/bloody make-up and/or costumes are discouraged. Students will be given time before the parade to change into costumes and apply make-up, if necessary.

Room parties will be held immediately following the parade. Our Halloween party is the only party that includes a school-wide activity as a part of the celebration. Room parents should consider the parade to be a part of the party and plan activities accordingly. A brief game or activity and time to eat should fill the remaining time before dismissal. **Please remember that all treats need to be commercially prepared/pre-packaged items. If homemade items are sent to school, we will not be able to serve them to the students and will return them.**



Box Tops For Education 2009-2010

Happy fall to all Churchill families!

The cooler weather always makes me want to get into the kitchen and cook! The children enjoy helping as well. As you shop, please remember to look for General Mills products and save the Box Tops for Education rectangles. Box tops are also located on Avery office/school supplies this year as well as paper goods by Kleenex and baby supplies by Huggies. The school receives ten cents for each label and the dimes add up to hundreds of dollars. The funds we receive from Box Tops go directly to our teachers to purchase incentives for good work and behavior in the classroom.



Another way to earn funds for the school is by registering at the Box Tops Marketplace. Go to www.btfe.com when you shop online and click on your chosen store. Over 100 retailers such as Target, Staples and Lands End, participate in this program. A percentage of your purchase is credited to our Box Tops account. Please use this service as you do your holiday shopping.

A collection sheet is attached for your convenience or you may pick them up in the office. Better yet, students may design their own. Draw a picture with places for 10 or 25 Box Tops then fill up the spots! Turn in completed pages to your classroom teacher or to the office and receive a fancy pencil! Please set a goal for your family of one completed sheet each month.

Prizes will be awarded each month.

Looking forward to another great year!

Angie Brandt
Box Tops for Education Coordinator

Reminder!

Trading cards (Yu-Gi-Oh, baseball, Star Wars, etc.) and electronic games/toys are not allowed at school. Items of this nature brought to school will be held in the office until a parent claims them.

Thanks for your help in enforcing this rule.

The Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence presents...

3rd Annual Pasta Palooza



A benefit pasta dinner and
celebration of student talent

Saturday, October 17, 2009

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

James Hart Cafetorium/Gym

Showcasing Student Talent from:

The 4th-Grade Choir

The Homewood Children's
Choir

The Ensemble Choir

The Broadway Choir

The Pink Panthers

The Boys Next Door

James Hart Jazz Band

The Chamber Orchestra

James Hart Steppers

James Hart Poms

A Sneak Preview of the
James Hart Fall Play!

plus

Help us cut the ribbon to
celebrate the completion of
the James Hart
Environmental Courtyard at
5:00 p.m.

For Advance Tickets,
Call (708) 647-2390

Tickets: Dinner and Performances

Performances Only

	<u>Before Oct. 16</u>	<u>At the Door</u>	<u>At the Door</u>
Adults	\$12	\$15	\$5
Children (6th grade and under)	\$8	\$9	\$4

All proceeds will support the Homewood Foundation for Educational Excellence, a volunteer, not-for-profit corporation established to raise additional funds for special projects in District 153 schools.