

October 31, 2014

Heads Up from the Head

I grew up in a one-square mile small town of about 600 people--very similar to Irvington. It was the kind of place back in the late fifties and early sixties where I knew everyone in town and everyone knew me. On the positive side, I felt surrounded by adults who cared about me. On the negative, if I misbehaved there was a 99.9% chance that my parents would know about it before I got home. As you might imagine, as a child I didn't much appreciate this interference. However, taking the time to reflect on my childhood, I realize how very fortunate I was and wish that today's children could experience the same thing.

Not only my parents, but the townsfolk guided me as I developed a social conscience. A social conscience helps people to do what is right even if no one is watching. At any time, a neighbor could see what I was doing (and have an opinion about it). Even when my parents were not present, I was visible in my community.

Neighbors never hesitated to tell me whether or not my conduct was appropriate. Therefore, I kept within the boundaries of acceptable behavior (most of the time).

This was not a restrictive childhood environment. The rules were not oppressive. They simply guided our behavior. We knew what was expected--be respectful and kind to everyone, tell the truth, play fairly, include any kids who want to play in our games, never leave anyone out of events and parties, never use "cuss" words, share, and use your words, not your fists to solve problems.

As children, we felt safe. We knew the rules and understood the consequences for breaking them. We were free to be young children without the complications of challenging adult authority. Instead of always trying to explain why we did what we did, we accepted the consequences of our behavior and moved on. How easy it was.

Through these lessons, we also learned how important it is to treat people with kindness. A short while ago, I discovered this quote by Denis Prager, "Goodness is about character: integrity, honesty, kindness, and generosity more than anything else. It is about the way we treat people," and it immediately brought me back to my home town and the lessons I learned there. Children today need this same kind of guidance.

My town had a common "right" for good behavior, and the neighborhood kids understood. Chesapeake Academy also has a common "right" for good behavior, and while we may come from many towns and counties, it is the school's community--parents, faculty and staff--who are responsible for guiding each child. As I look around....I think we are doing a good job!



This year the fourth through eighth graders traveled to see the Richmond Symphony at the Carpenter Center in Richmond. The theme was "Music Worth Investigating" and the focus composer was Bedrich Smetana from the Czech Republic (formerly Bohemia). Students prepared for this experience by exploring this composer's nationalistic writing.

Gleaning Fresh Produce for the NN Food Bank Most years, CA student government holds a food drive to collect non-perishable food for the Northern Neck Food Bank, and these drives are well supported by a very caring community. Towers of cans, boxes and bags of easily stored food develop in classrooms and are transported to the food bank every December. This year the experience was designed a little differently. A group of nine students traveled with Ms. Kim Dynia to a farm in Westmoreland to glean a field (pick the leftover food from the harvesting process) to donate to the NNFB. Northern Neck Food Bank Director, Lance Barton explained that his challenge is not simply combat hunger but to combat the obesity that results from an overly processed diet. Sadly, the least perishable food is often the least nutritious. The kale and broccoli harvested by the gleaning party will go a long way in making sure that families in our community have access to fresh, healthy food and the CA gleaners brought back a deeper understanding of the challenge of hunger and nutrition.



Marcus Sanders, the youngest volunteer, helping his mother, Marie, who donated an entire afternoon to preparing treats for the Oyster Roast!

Tonight's Halloween Bash Student Council hosts another exciting event for Middle School students tonight. They have prepared a night of Halloween fun, including treats, games and a screening of the movie *Coraline*, to complement a night of trick-or-treating. We hope to see everyone there starting at 7:30 p. m.! Parents must sign students in and out.

Athletic Wrap-up on the Fall Seasons The fall sports teams transformed themselves with hard work this year in every game and match. The athletes learned some valuable lessons about sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the season. The cross country team had great success in both of their meets with several runners placing in the top 20 each race. The golf team had players range from first to third place in each of their matches. The volleyball and soccer teams both won some great games and lost some very close ones. We will have our fall athletic awards on November 5 at 10:05 a.m. during regular assembly in the gym. Parents are invited to attend. The fourth and fifth grade soccer play day was a great success, and everyone enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of soccer with their friends. The fourth graders are already excited about the opportunity to play middle school soccer next fall. Basketball season will be starting on November 3.



Squeeze bottle rocket competition. Using measurement, and scientific investigation skills, our fourth graders had a blast with their rockets!

Parent Partnership Conference Appointments

Your child's teachers are preparing to do one of their favorite things in mid-November: partner with parents to benefit every student! Check your calendars and make your appointments now for conferences November 10-13. Be prepared to make the most of your conference time by noting some points to celebrate and some potential growth areas to discuss.

Real World Projects! Authentic Applications!

Awesome Opportunities!! Collaborating with interior designers, architects and library personnel, the sixth grade class will evaluate the role and effectiveness of both existing and proposed teen



Oneders tasted, shared opinions, voted, and graphed what else, but popcorn and marshmallows in first grade math!

and children's rooms at the Lancaster Community Library as they offer design input into the new public library spaces for children and teens. This collaboration began recently when students talked with Head Librarian Lindsay Gardner, visited the existing spaces and toured the library to see the overall use of space and flow of the library. At the new LCL building, students took a quick walk-through to gather impressions and begin to consider options. Sixth grade math will explore measurements relative to usability and design, and the arts classes will consider how aesthetics impact function. Once they talk to the architects and interior designers, students will measure and build models to scale and do color palettes to guide designers. Students will present their designs to a team of professionals who will offer feedback and will collect great ideas for the final design. The fifth grade will travel with this group to hone their library research skills!

National Writing Fair...Seventh Grade Competing

November is National Novel Writing Month! NaNoWriMo is a national event that encourages people to dream big and become novelists...in a single month. This year's seventh grade Writer's Workshop class is taking on the challenge. Throughout the month of November, students will be working to

reach their differentiated word goals and write their very own novel.

Seventh graders will be part of the NaNoWriMo movement, receiving pep talks from successful authors and tracking progress week by week. In addition to the satisfaction of accomplishing something so big, young novelists will have an opportunity to earn two free published copies of their novel through NaNoWriMo's Young Writers' Program if they reach their goal! If you decide to join us... the word count goal for adults is 50,000 words! Wow!

Third and Fourth Grade Travel to Colonial Williamsburg

Colonial Williamsburg is offering a guided tour that has been designed specifically for third and fourth graders to CA students on Wednesday, November 12. This tour is designed as an alternate reality spy game called, "RevQuest: Save the Revolution," that will engage students in learning about the Revolution by immersing them in the espionage that took place during the American Revolution. Students will be guided by Colonial Williamsburg's trained interpreters and will take on the role of spies as they solve a series of puzzles that will reveal information that General Lafayette needs in order to defeat the British General Cornwallis. This new RevQuest experience has been created with the needs of our student visitors in mind. Educational standards are addressed, and the students will work collaboratively to solve a series of puzzles and clues. Please note that this tour is a new experience, and it will be substantially different from



Spirit week brought out some wild interpretations of the Academy faculty! Guess Who? Ms. Keese and Ms. Parker!



Khloe and Bella enjoy a moment of satisfaction after successfully grappling with a STEAM challenge to design a boat that would carry five objects given minimal and specific materials.

other tours that our students may have taken in the past. Our path through town will largely be determined by gameplay, and the time will be primarily spent outside of the historic buildings.

Seventh Graders Design Public Service Campaigns After exploring S.E. Hinton's, *The Outsiders*, seventh graders analyzed issues facing today's teens and looked at a targeted way of tackling them. In marketing teams of four, the students created an advertising/public service campaign on an issue of their choice. Their final products were a proposal and two actual artifacts from their campaign. From an inspirational Tumblr page encouraging teens to avoid underage drinking pressure...to a factual presentation offering alternatives to teen gang involvement...students created some amazing products as they grappled with the real questions of how best to reach out to today's teens and make a difference.

Please Welcome Our Newest Osprey!!! **Quenton Harding** will join Kindergarten on Monday, November 3, as a new student at Chesapeake Academy. Please make a point of welcoming Quenton and his parents, James and Wanda, to the CA community. In addition, please add the following contact information to the CA Directory: James and Wanda Harding (parents of Quenton, Kindergarten) 184 Churchill Circle, White Stone, VA, 22578, Home 804.435.2091, Dad's cell 757.778.5525, Mom's cell 404.697.2357 Mom's email churchillwanda@yahoo.com, Dad's email jlharding70@aol.com.

An Attitude of Gratitude

☑ Middle School math students are loving a variety of games purchased with **Food Lion MVP** card rebates through the Food Lion MVP Rewards Program. (When you register your MVP for the program, you can earn a rebate for the school (in the form of "points" to spend at an online store).

☑ Here is a shout out to all those wonderful souls who give their time and talent to our classrooms! We are grateful to **Tonya Carter** from LCL and to **Jeannie Coyle, Cathy Mecke, and Chelsea Trotter** who are stretching our reach in EC and LS classrooms! **RWC collaborations** will enrich student experience by connecting older experts with young inquirers! Ms. Cook and Ms. Keesee working with RWC residents and staff anticipate future learning experiences.

☑ **Book Fair Fairies** assisted **Queen Macaulay of Reading** with a very successful Book Fair, and many **parents and grandparents donated books** to classrooms.

☑ Oyster Roast Parent Chair, Grover Branson, along with Debbie Cook, Head of School, and Catherine Emry, Development Associate, want to **thank the sponsors, donors and volunteers (parents, faculty and students) who made the 13th Annual Community Oyster Roast** a SOLD OUT success! It is because of the support of our parents, employees and community friends that we all enjoyed fabulous food, great music and the opportunity to enjoy our friends during Chesapeake Academy's fall festival fundraiser. Every student benefits from the proceeds of the Oyster Roast through the financial assistance program, the enhanced academic programs including the integration of current technology into the curriculum and increased educational opportunities both on and off campus. Again, thank you for your support.

Dates to Remember

10/31 End of First MP, Student Council Halloween Bash 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

11/3 VAIS Annual Meeting

11/5 Fall Athletics Awards Assembly, 10:05 a.m. (Parents welcomed!), Picture Retakes, Dress Uniform

11/6 Urbanna Oyster Education Day, St. Margaret's Admission visit

11/7 Report Cards, 5/6 to LMS, *Autompan, the Talking Drum (Drama Presentation and Workshop)*

11/8 Cotillion Begins, 6-8 p.m.

11/10-13 Parent Partnership Conferences

11/12 3rd-4th Colonial Williamsburg Field Trip, PALS *Bremen Town Band*

11/15 SSAT at Chesapeake Academy

11/17 Author, David Mark Lopez Workshop

11/19 Tag Day

11/21 Final Friday Box top Collection

11/25 School Community Lunch

11/26-28 Thanksgiving Break